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Alfred Greiner studied Economics at the University of Augsburg where graduated and where he received his PhD in 1993. From 1994-1996 he got a scholarship for Habilitation from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and he received his Habilitation in 1996. He was a visiting research fellow at the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, New York, in 1995 and in 1998. Since 2000 he holds a Chair for Economic Policy at the Department of Business Administration and Economics at Bielefeld University. In 2010 he declined an offer for a full professorship from the Technical University of Darmstadt.

Alfred Greiner's research interests are in dynamic macroeconomics and public finance with particular emphasis on public debt and environmental problems in the context of growing economies, including climate change, as well as in flexicurity capitalism. His research is both theoretical as well as empirical. He was a consultant to the World Bank and he was invited to author the survey article „Models of Economic Growth“ for the UNESCO Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems. In December 2010 he received an invitation from the EU Commission (Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs) to participate in the workshop „Public Debt and Economic Growth“. Alfred Greiner regularly presents at international conferences and he has published numerous articles in scholarly journals.