

Willem Sas

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Personal Information

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Nationality: Belgian (°1983)

Current positions: Lecturer (Early Career Fellow), Stirling University
Research Fellow, KU Leuven

Research fields: Fiscal Federalism · Political Economy · Public Economics

Education

2011-2016 **Ph.D. in Economics**, Department of Economics, KU Leuven (graduation October 3)
Thesis title: *'Efficient federalism: Taking taxation to another level of government.'*
Advisors: *André Decoster & Stef Proost*
Committee: *Susana Peralta, Albert Solé-Ollé & Joep Konings*

2009-2011 **M.Phil. in Economics**, KU Leuven

2007-2008 **Partial B.A. in Philosophy**, Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès

2005-2007 **M.Sc. in Business Engineering** KU Leuven

Research Output

Articles in internationally reviewed journals

Sas, W. (2017). *'Can fiscal equalisation mitigate tax competition? Ad valorem and residence-based taxation in a federation.'* *International Tax and Public Finance*, 24 (5): 817–853.

Dedeurwaerdere, T., Melindi-Ghidi, P. and Sas, W. (2017). *'Voluntary provision of public knowledge goods: group-based social preferences and coalition formation.'* *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, forthcoming.

Articles in academic books

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2012). *'Feiten en cijfers over de nieuwe financieringswet'* (Facts and figures on Belgium's new financing law). In Popelier P., Sinardet D., Velaers J., Cantillon B. (Eds.), *'België, quo vadis?'*, Chapt. 10, Intersentia, 311-340.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals in Belgium

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2015). *'Het nut van dotaties in gelaagde staatsvormen: een vergelijking van vereveningsmechanismen.'* (The aim of federal grants: a cross-country analysis of equalisation mechanisms). *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Sociale Zekerheid*, 57 (3), 561-595.

Working papers

Sas, W. (2016). *'Accountability and subnational tax autonomy: when do politicians lose fiscal interest?'* Discussion paper series, DPS16.03, Leuven: KU Leuven, Department of Economics.

Melindi-Ghidi, P. and Sas, W. (2015). *'Invest as you go: how public health investment keeps pension systems healthy.'* AMSE WP 2015-25, Marseille (France): Aix-Marseille School of Economics.

Work in progress

Piolatto, A., Sas, W. (2017). *'Who sent you? Strategic voting, transfers, and bailouts in a federation.'*

Sas, W. (2017). *'When to play the populist card? Accountability, tax autonomy, and regionalism.'*

Research Experience

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| 2017-... | Early Career Fellow , Economics Division, Stirling University. |
| 2016-2017 | Postdoctoral researcher , Department of Economics, KU Leuven. |
| 2010-2016 | Research assistant , Department of Economics, KU Leuven.
Policy-oriented research on Belgian federalism, state reform, and regional finance with prof. André Decoster. |
| 2009-2010 | Research assistant , Center for Economics and Ethics, KU Leuven.
Research on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in SME's with prof. Luc Van Liedekerke. |
| 2008-2009 | Researcher for the 'Co-creative entrepreneurship' project.
Financed by Cocom group and directed by prof. Luk Bouckaert, KU Leuven. |

Conferences

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| 2017 | AEA (Chicago); IIPF (Tokyo) |
| 2016 | SAEe (Bilbao); IIPF (Lake Tahoe); LAGV (Aix-en-Provence); ZEW (Mannheim) |
| 2015 | IIPF (Dublin); ERSA (Lisbon); IWH (Halle); Walter Eucken Institute (Freiburg) |
| 2014 | IIPF (Lugano); APET (Seattle) |
| 2013 | LAGV (Aix-en-Provence); AFSE (Aix-en-Provence); APET (Lisbon); IIPF (Taormina); ERSA (Palermo); IWH (Halle) |

Invited Seminars

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| 2016 | Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (Munich); Walter Eucken Institute (Freiburg) |
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International Research Visits

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| 2016/2017 | Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (IEB) , University of Barcelona, Spain.
Research with Amedeo Piolatto (July). |
| 2015 | Nova School of Business and Economics , Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal.
Host: Susana Peralta (September). |
| 2015 | Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (IEB) , University of Barcelona, Spain.
Host: Albert Solé-Ollé & Amedeo Piolatto (March-June). |

Teaching Experience

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| 2017-... | Module coordinator for the undergraduate program of Economics, Stirling University: Economic Policy. |
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- 2013-2017 Teaching assistant for the undergraduate program of Economics, KU Leuven: Public Economics and Macroeconomics.
- 2015 Teaching fellow for the master program of Public Policy & Economics, KU Leuven: Public Finance.
- 2012-2017 Thesis tutor for the undergraduate & graduate programs in Economics, KU Leuven.

International Summer/Winter Schools

- 2017 **EPICENTER Spring Course**, University of Maastricht, Netherlands:
Lectures on advanced and epistemic game theory, by Andrès Perea (June).
- 2016 **CEMMAP Micro-simulation winter course**, UCL/IFS, UK:
Lectures and practical sessions on micro-simulation techniques and behavioural response, by Alan Duncan (January).
- 2016 **EUROMOD winter school**, University of Antwerp, Belgium:
Lectures and practical sessions on micro-simulation using the tax-benefit model EUROMOD (January).
- 2012 **ERSA Summer School**, Umea University, Sweden:
Lectures on advanced theoretical methods in fiscal federalism, advanced panel data analysis, and advanced spatial econometric techniques (July).

Awards and Research Grants

- 2016 Research grant, 'fiscal transfers in Belgium', awarded by the Flemish government.
- 2015 'Maatschappijprijs Humane wetenschappen' (KU Leuven 'society award' for ex-ante evaluation of election programs in run-up to Belgian elections of 2014: 'Rekening14').
- 2012 Steunpunt Fiscaliteit en Begroting, research funding, Flemish government.
- 2011 Belgian Science Policy (BELSPO), research funding, BELDEBT project.

Other Activities

- Refereeing Occasional refereeing for the Journal of Public Economic Theory (JPET).
- Service Invited as expert for the IMF mission to Belgium (2013, 2015) & the TAIEX Workshop on EU fiscal acquis and governance (2016).
- MOOC Co-development of the 'Principles of Economics for Scientists' Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Faculty of Science, KU Leuven.

Skills

- Languages Dutch (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), German, Portuguese.
- Software Stata, LaTeX, Mathematica, EViews, EUROMOD.

Other Publications

Articles in other academic journals

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2015). 'De economische theorie van het federalisme: was de 6de staats hervorming een schot in de roos?' (*Fiscal federalism: The Belgian 6th Institutional Reform as a bull's-eye?*). Tijdschrift voor Bank- en Financien 2015 (2), 151-157.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2014). 'De 6de staatshervorming goedgekeurd. Is er nog een 7de staatshervorming nodig?' (*The sixth Belgian state reform: do we need a seventh?*). *Samenleving en Politiek*, 21(2), 30-41.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2012). 'De nieuwe financieringswet: anders en beter?' (*The new Belgian financing law: different and better?*). *Samenleving en Politiek*, 19(1), 12-22.

Sas, W., and Liedekerke, L. V. (2009). 'Driving forces behind CSR in a SME context: Internally driven CSR.' *European Business Ethics Network*, Athens.

Policy papers

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2017). 'Interregionale financiële stromen in België van 2000 tot 2020.' (*Interregional fiscal flows in Belgium from 2000 until 2020*). Department of Economics, KU Leuven.

Decoster, A., De Swerdt, K., Sas, W., Spiritus, K., van der Wielen, W., Vanheukelom, T., Vanleenhove, P. (2014). 'Rekening 14 - Een vergelijking tussen de partijprogramma's.' Eindrapport, CES, VRT, De Tijd, De Standaard.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2013). 'De herziening van de financieringswet: over het hoe, het waarom en het resultaat.' *Leuvense Economische Standpunten*, LES 2013/139, Leuven (Belgium): KU Leuven CES.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2013). 'De nieuwe bijzondere financieringswet van de 6de staatshervorming: werden de beloften ingelost?' FLEMOSI discussion paper 28, Leuven (Belgium): Flemsi project CES.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2012). 'De nieuwe financieringswet: anders, maar ook beter?' *Leuvense Economische Standpunten*, LES 2012/137, Leuven (Belgium): KU Leuven CES.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2011). 'De bijzondere financieringswet voor dummies.' FLEMOSI discussion paper 4, Leuven (Belgium): Flemsi project CES.

Van Liedekerke, L. and Sas, W. (2008). 'MVO en KMO, de rol van pioniers.' In 'Pioniers in Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen', UNIZO, 9-35.

In the Belgian press (Op-Eds/interviews)

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2017). 'De droom van Bourgeois is bedrog.' *De Standaard*, 11/7, 35-35.

Sas, W. (2015). 'Waarom verhoogt de Federal Reserve haar interestvoet?' Television interview for 'De Afspraak', Canvas (VRT), 16/12.

Sas, W. (2015). 'Bust and boom: geven we studenten de juiste vakken economie?' Television interview for 'De Afspraak', Canvas (VRT), 26/9.

Sas, W. and Spiritus, K. (2015). 'De Europese Centrale Bank kan de economie aanzwengelen met een beperkt monetair basisinkomen.' *De Tijd*, 9/4, 10-10.

Decoster, A., Sas, W. (2015). 'Geen lusten zonder lasten.' *De Standaard*, 3/4, 42-42.

Sas, W. (2014). 'Het Verenigd Koninkrijk 2.0.' *De Tijd*, 22/9, 56-56.

Sas, W. (2014). 'De Zweedse coalitie kan een stap zijn naar een volwassen federalisme.' *De Tijd*, 23/7, 10-10.

Sas, W. (2014). 'Met de overgeheveldde bevoegdheden kan Vlaanderen nu echt in actie komen.' *De Tijd*, 8/7, 9-9.

Sas, W. (2014). 'Een federale kieskring is cruciaal voor België.' *Apache*, 3/7, e-pub.

Sas, W. (2014). 'Waarom we confederalisme beter links laten liggen.' *Apache*, 23/5, e-pub.

Sas, W. (2014). 'Paul De Grauwe had toch gelijk.' *De Morgen*, 16/1, 30-30.

Sas, W. (2013). 'Confederaal is verre van ideaal.' *De Standaard*, 5/11, 26-26.

Decoster, A., Sas, W. (2012). 'Lijk uit de kast? Waar?' *De Standaard*, 19/1, 25-25.

Decoster, A., Sas, W. (2012). 'Geen lijk uit de kast met de nieuwe financieringswet.' *De Redactie*, 19/1, e-pub.

Decoster, A., Sas, W. (2011). 'Waarom het akkoord over de financieringswet een goed akkoord is.' *De Morgen*, 26/9, 27-27.

References

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