

# Willem Sas

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## Employment

2017 - Early Career Fellow (Assistant Professor), Economics Division, University of Stirling

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## Affiliations

2017 - Research Fellow, Centre on Constitutional Change, University of Edinburgh

2017 - Research Fellow, Department of Economics, KU Leuven

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## Fields of Interest

Research: Public Economics, Political Economy, Applied Micro Theory, Behavioural Economics

Teaching: Microeconomics, Public Economics, Political Economy

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## Education

2011-2016 Ph.D. in Economics, Department of Economics, KU Leuven  
*Thesis title:* 'Efficient federalism: Taking taxation to another level of government.'  
*Committee:* André Decoster & Stef Proost (advisors), 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

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## Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

"Can Fiscal Equalisation Mitigate Tax Competition? Ad Valorem and Residence-Based Taxation in a Federation", *International Tax and Public Finance*, 24 (5): 817–853, 2017.

"Networked Innovation and Coalition Formation: the Effect of Group-Based Social Preferences" (with Tom Dedeurwaerdere and Paolo Melindi-Ghidi), *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, 27 (7): 577-593 (2018).

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## Work in Progress

"Who Sent You? Strategic Voting, Transfers, and Bailouts in a Federation" (with [Amedeo Piolatto](#) and [Gianmarco Daniele](#)).

"No Taxation Without Decentralisation? Tax Autonomy and Vertical Yardstick Competition".

"Starting From Scratch: A New Approach to Subnational Public Finance" (with [David Bell](#)).

"The Role of Fiscal Interest in Local Policy: Evidence from a Tax Base Reform" (with [Sander Ramboer](#)).

"Invest-As-You-Go: Public Health Investment, Long-Term Care & Welfare" (with [Paolo Melindi-Ghidi](#)).

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## Visiting Positions & Short Visits

2018 Department of Economics; UAB Barcelona (July-August).

2018 Department of Economics; University of California, Irvine (April-June).

2016/2017 Institut d'Economia de Barcelona; University of Barcelona (July).

2016 ZEW; University of Mannheim (April).

2015 Nova School of Business and Economics; Universidade Nova de Lisboa (September).

2015 Institut d'Economia de Barcelona; University of Barcelona (March-June).

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## Conferences & Seminars

2019 LMU (Munich, invited); Walter Eucken Institute (Freiburg, invited)

2018	UQAM (Montreal, invited), Bruneck Workshop on Political Economy (Bruneck), IIPF (Tampere); ERSa (Cork); University of California, Irvine (invited)
2017	AEA (Chicago); IIPF (Tokyo)
2016	SAEe (Bilbao); IIPF (Lake Tahoe); LAGV (Aix-en-Provence); ZEW (Mannheim); Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (Munich, invited); Walter Eucken Institute (Freiburg, invited)
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)

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### ***Past Employment***

2017	Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Economics, KU Leuven.
2010-2016	Research assistant, Department of Economics, KU Leuven. Research on 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 in SME's with prof. Luc Van Liedekerke.
2008-2009	Researcher in the 'Co-creative entrepreneurship' project. Financed by Cocom group and directed by prof. Luk Bouckaert, KU Leuven.

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### ***Awards & Research Grants***

2016	Flemish government, "Fiscal transfers in Belgium" project (co-PI, €80.000).
2015	"Maatschappijprijs Humane Wetenschappen" (KU Leuven impact award for ex-ante evaluation of election programs in run-up to Belgian elections of 2014: "Rekening14").
2012	Flemish government, "Steunpunt Fiscaliteit en Begroting".
2011	Belgian Science Policy (BELSPO), "BELDEBT" project.

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### ***Teaching Experience***

#### **Courses at University of Stirling:**

2018 -	Advanced Microeconomics, undergrad course (instructor)
2017 -	Economic Policy, undergrad course (instructor)

#### **Courses at KU Leuven:**

2016	Principles of Economics for Scientists, undergrad MOOC (co-developer)
2013-2017	Public Economics & Macroeconomics, undergrad course (TA)
2015	Public Finance, MSc course (co-instructor)
2012-2017	Dissertation tutor for the undergrad & graduate programs in Economics

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### ***Other***

Refereeing Service	Journal of Public Economic Theory, International Tax and Public Finance, FinanzArchiv. IMF mission to Belgium (2013, 2015) & the TAIEX Workshop on EU fiscal acquis and governance (2016).
Memberships	American Economic Association, International Institute of Public Finance, European Regional Science Association.
Computing	Stata, LaTeX, Mathematica, EUROMOD.
Languages	Dutch (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), German, Portuguese.

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### ***Other Publications***

#### **Articles in peer-reviewed journals (in Dutch)**

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.

### Articles in peer-reviewed 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 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 Financieuzen* 2015 (2), 151-157.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2014). 'De 6de staats hervorming goedgekeurd. Is er nog een 7de staats hervorming 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 Swert, 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 staats hervorming: 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 press (Op-Eds/interviews/blogs)

Sas, W. (2018). 'Independence and dependence: Two sides of the same coin.' Centre on Constitutional Change.

Sas, W. (2017). 'Onafhankelijkheid maakt niet onafhankelijk.' *De Tijd*, 12/10, 11-11.

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 interestoet?' 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.

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## References

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### André Decoster

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