

Willem Sas

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Employment

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

Affiliations

2019 - CESifo Affiliate, LMU Munich

2018 - Research Fellow, Centre on Constitutional Change, University of Edinburgh

2017 - Research Fellow, Department of Economics, KU Leuven

Fields of Interest

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

Teaching: Microeconomics, Public Economics, Political Economy

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

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

"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; IF 1.53).

"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; IF 0.82).

Work in Progress

"Does the Winner Take It All? Redistributive Policies and Political Extremism" (with [Amedeo Piolatto](#) and [Gianmarco Daniele](#)).

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

"Starting From Scratch: A New Approach to Subnational Public Finance" (R&R in *Regional Studies*, with [David Bell](#)).

"Devolving the Productivity Puzzle: Tax Autonomy and Political Incentives" (*submitted*).

"Why Populism Is Popular: Keeping It Simple In a Complex World (with [Gianmarco Daniele](#), [Andrea Martinangeli](#), [Francesco Passarelli](#) and [Lisa Windsteiger](#)).

"Institutions in the Fast Lane: Strike Petitions and the Electoral Cycle in Mexico" (with [Hector Gutiérrez-Rufrancos](#)).

"No Taxation Without Decentralisation? Tax Autonomy and Vertical Yardstick Competition" (with [Susana Peralta](#)).

"Attitudes Towards Redistribution and Fiscal Austerity" (with [Sarah Brown](#), [Alberto Montagnoli](#) and [Mirko Moro](#)).

“Do Politicians Discriminate Against Scientists? Theory and Experimental Evidence on Information Sharing” (with [Ekkehard Köhler](#)).

“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](#)).

Visiting Positions & Short Visits

2020	Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (February, scheduled).
2019	Nova School of Business and Economics; Universidade Nova de Lisboa (June/Oct).
2019	Center for Economic Studies; LMU (April).
2019	Department of Economics; Bocconi University (Feb/Mar/May/Sep).
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).

Conferences & Seminars

2020	Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (Munich, scheduled), KU Leuven (Leuven, scheduled).
2019	LMU (Munich, invited); Walter Eucken Institute (Freiburg, invited); LAGV (Aix-en-Provence); APET (Strasbourg), IIPF (Glasgow), EP@B Workshop ULB (Brussels).
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)

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.

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.

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

Other

- Refereeing Canadian Journal of Economics, Journal of Public Economic Theory, International Tax and Public Finance, FinanzArchiv.
- Service IMF mission to Belgium (2013, 2015), the TAIEX Workshop on EU fiscal acquis and governance (2016), Evidence in policy workshop (Scottish government, 2018), [Constitution Reform Group](#) (ongoing).
- 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.

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 staatsvorming een schot in de roos?' (*Fiscal federalism: The Belgian 6th Institutional Reform as a bull's-eye?*). Tijdschrift voor Bank- en Financieuzen (2), 151-157.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2014). 'De 6de staatsvorming goedgekeurd. Is er nog een 7de staatsvorming 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 staatsvorming: werden de beloften ingelost?' FLEMOSI discussion paper 28, Leuven (Belgium): Femosi 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. (2019). *'Confederalisme is onze Brexit.'* De Tijd, 18/12.

Decoster, A. and Sas, W. (2019). *'Meten wat we weten.'* De Morgen, 09/07.

Sas, W. (2019). *'Geen confederalisme, maar een volwassener federalisme.'* De Standaard, 04/06.

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 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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