

Willem Sas

Economics Division – Stirling University
Stirling, FK9 4LA, United Kingdom
+44 (0)1 786 466 412

March 2021

willem.sas@stir.ac.uk
willemsas.com
[@willemsas](https://twitter.com/willemsas)

Employment

2020 - Lecturer (Assistant Professor with tenure), Economics Division, University of Stirling
2017 - 2020 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

"Starting From Scratch: A New Approach to Subnational Public Finance" (with [David Bell](#) and [John Houston](#)), forthcoming in *Regional Studies* (IF 3.3).

"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 1.6).

"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 1).

Work in Progress

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

"Wind of Change? Experimental Survey Evidence on the COVID-19 Shock and Socio-Political Attitudes in Europe" (with [Gianmarco Daniele](#), [Andrea Martinangeli](#), [Francesco Passarelli](#) and [Lisa Windsteiger](#)).

"When Distrust Goes Viral: Causal Effects of Covid-19 on European Political Attitudes" (with [Gianmarco Daniele](#), [Andrea Martinangeli](#), [Francesco Passarelli](#) and [Lisa Windsteiger](#)).

"Fear and Loathing in Times of Distress: Causal Impact of Social and Economic Insecurity on Anti-Immigration Sentiment" (with [Gianmarco Daniele](#), [Andrea Martinangeli](#), [Francesco Passarelli](#) and [Lisa Windsteiger](#)).

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

"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](#)).

“Devolving the Productivity Puzzle: Tax Autonomy and Political Incentives”.

“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, Munich (Feb). |
| 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/Dec). |
| 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 (Sep). |
| 2015 | Institut d’Economia de Barcelona; University of Barcelona (Mar-June). |

Conferences & Seminars

| | |
|------|--|
| 2020 | Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (Munich, invited); KU Leuven (Leuven, invited); ICEI & Ituna (Madrid, invited). |
| 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) |

Awards & Research Grants

| | |
|------|---|
| 2020 | “ Comparative Fiscal Federalism : Lessons to be learned for the EU”, co-PI. |
| 2016 | Flemish government, “Fiscal transfers in Belgium” project, co-PI. |
| 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 (6 ECTS, instructor) |
| 2017 - | Economic Policy, undergrad course (6 ECTS, 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 (6 ECTS, 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). |
| PhD | Nik Smits (PhD committee, University of Gent), Stefanie Vanneste (PhD committee, University of Gent, completed). |
| 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. |

In the Press (Op-Eds, Interviews, Blogs)

- 'Vier totaal gescheiden gewesten is onhaalbaar.'* De Standaard, 19/02/2021.
- 'How COVID-19 is shaping the way Europeans think about politicians.'* The Conversation, 28/10/2020.
- 'Regionaliseren kan, maar houd het crisisbeleid federaal.'* De Tijd, 14/11/2020.
- 'Covid-19 and socio-political attitudes in Europe: In competence we trust'*, VoxEU (CEPR Policy Portal), 1/10/2020.
- 'Gezondheidszorg hervormen? Betrek experts én zorgsector erbij.'* De Standaard, 31/7/2020.
- 'Veiligheidsraad zet het best eerst gemeenten in lockdown in plaats van hele land.'* De Tijd, 28/07/2020.
- 'Waarom niet enkel de staatsstructuur de Belgische corona-aanpak hindert.'* Interview for VRT, 30/05/2020.
- 'The rise of extreme politics in a federation'*, VoxEU (CEPR Policy Portal), 7/05/2020.
- 'Zuid-Europa in de steek laten komt als een boemerang terug.'* De Tijd, 31/03/2020.
- 'Waar blijft het echte cijferwerk, N-VA?'* De Standaard, 14/01/2020.
- 'Het geld is niet op.'* Interview in Knack, 1/01/2020.
- 'Confederalisme is onze Brexit.'* De Tijd, 18/12/2019.
- 'Meten wat we weten.'* De Morgen, 09/07/2019.
- 'Geen confederalisme, maar een volwassener federalisme.'* De Standaard, 04/06/2019.
- 'Onafhankelijkheid maakt niet onafhankelijk.'* De Tijd, 12/10/2017.
- 'De droom van Bourgeois is bedrog.'* De Standaard, 11/7/2017.
- 'Waarom verhoogt de Federal Reserve haar interestvoet?'* Television interview for 'De Afspraak', Canvas, 16/12/2015.
- 'Bust and boom: krijgen studenten de juiste vakken economie?'* Television interview for 'De Afspraak', Canvas, 26/9/2015.
- 'De Europese Centrale Bank kan de economie aanzwengelen met een beperkt monetair basisinkomen.'* De Tijd, 9/4/2015.
- 'Geen lusten zonder lasten.'* De Standaard, 3/4/2015.
- 'Het Verenigd Koninkrijk 2.0.'* De Tijd, 22/9/2014.
- 'De Zweedse coalitie kan een stap zijn naar een meer volwassen federalisme.'* De Tijd, 23/7/2014.
- 'Met de overgeheveldde bevoegdheden kan Vlaanderen nu echt in actie komen.'* De Tijd, 8/7/2014.
- 'Een federale kieskring is cruciaal voor België.'* Apache, 3/7/2014, e-pub.
- 'Paul De Grauwe had toch gelijk.'* De Morgen, 16/1/2014.
- 'Confederaal is verre van ideaal.'* De Standaard, 5/11/2013.
- 'Lijk uit de kast? Waar?'* De Standaard, 19/1/2012.
- 'Geen lijk uit de kast met de nieuwe financieringswet.'* De Redactie, 19/1/2020, e-pub.
- 'Waarom het akkoord over de financieringswet een goed akkoord is.'* De Morgen, 26/9/2011.

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 (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.

References

[André Decoster](#)

Department of Economics, KU Leuven
andre.decoster@kuleuven.be

[Stef Proost](#)

Department of Economics, KU Leuven
stef.proost@kuleuven.be

[Susana Peralta](#)

Nova school of Business and Economics
peralta@novasbe.pt

[Francesco Passarelli](#)

University of Turin & Bocconi
francesco.passarelli@unibocconi.it