

# Willem Sas

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## Employment

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

## Affiliations

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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

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

## Education

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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

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"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

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"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](#)).

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### *Visiting Positions & Short Visits*

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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).

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### *Conferences & Seminars*

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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)

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### *Awards & Research Grants*

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2020	“ <a href="#">Comparative Fiscal Federalism</a> : Lessons to be learned for the EU”, co-PI.
2016	Flemish government, “Fiscal transfers in Belgium” project.
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*

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#### **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)
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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

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### *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), <a href="#">Constitution Reform Group</a> (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.

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### *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.

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## Other Publications

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### 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.

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## References

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