

Sebastian Blesse

CV

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality German
Address ZEW Mannheim, Department of Corporate taxation and Public Finance,
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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

01/2021–Present Post-Doctoral Researcher, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim

AFFILIATIONS

01/2021–Present CESifo, Network Affiliate
06/2015–Present Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 884 “Political Economy of Reforms”, Mannheim/Germany, Member

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

06/2015–Present Researcher, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim
10/2013–05/2015 Research Assistant, Research Centre, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main
12/2012–03/2013 Student Assistant, Chair of Public Economics, Georg-August University, Göttingen
09/2012–10/2012 Intern, Department of Macroeconomic Country Analyses, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin
08/2010–10/2010 Intern, Department of Urban Economics, Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), Halle
04/2010–06/2010 Teaching Assistant, Chair of Public Economics, Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg

EDUCATION

- 12/2020 Dr. rer. pol. in Economics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main, Topic: “Public policy reforms and taxpayer preferences: Contributions to empirical public economics“, *Summa cum Laude*, 1st adviser: Prof. Dr. Alfons Weichenrieder, 2nd adviser: Daniel Gutknecht
- 04/2011–09/2013 Master of Arts, International Economics, Georg-August University, Göttingen
- 01/2012–06/2012 Erasmus exchange studies, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 10/2007–03/2011 Bachelor of Science, Economics, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Reingewertz, Y., Blesse, S., Baskaran, T. and A. Brender (2016). Revenue decentralization, central oversight and the political budget cycle: Evidence from Israel, in: *European Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 42, 1-16.

Blesse, S. und T. Baskaran (2016). Do municipal mergers reduce costs? Evidence from a German reform, in: *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, Vol. 56, 54-74.

Blesse, S., Boyer, P., Heinemann, F., Janeba, E. and A. Raj (2017). Intégration européenne et politiques du marché du travail: Quel consensus entre parlementaires français et allemands?, in: *Revue d'Economie Politique*, Vol. 127 (5), 737-759.

Blesse, S., Dörrenberg, P. and A. Rauch (2019). Higher taxes on less elastic goods? Evidence from German municipalities, in: *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, Vol. 75(1), 165-186.

Blesse, Sebastian and F. Rösel (2019). Merging county administrations — Cross-national evidence of fiscal and political effects, in: *Local Government Studies*, Vol. 45 (5), 611-631.

Blesse, S., Boyer, P., Heinemann, F., Janeba, E. and A. Raj (2019). European Monetary Union reform preferences of French and German parliamentarians, in: *European Union Politics*, Vol. 20 (3), 406-424.

Blesse, S., Havlik, A. and F. Heinemann (2020). Euro Area reform preferences of Central and Eastern European economic experts, in: *Empirica, Journal of European Integration*, 1-25.

Blesse, S. and F. Heinemann (2020). Citizens' trade-offs in state merger decisions: Evidence from a randomized survey experiment, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* Vol. 180 (2020), 438-471.

Blesse, S. und A. Diegmann (forthcoming). The Place-Based Effects of Police Stations on Crime: Evidence from Station Closures, *Journal of Public Economics*.

Blesse, S., Bordignon, M., Boyer, P. C., Carapella, P., Heinemann, F., Janeba, E. and A. Raj (accepted). *European Fiscal Reform Preferences of Parliamentarians in France, Germany, and Italy*. CEPR Discussion Paper No. 15021. ***European Union Politics***

Alpino, M., Asatryan, Z., Blesse, S., and N. Wehrhöfer (2020). *Austerity and distributional policy*. ZEW Discussion Paper No. 28, Mannheim. ***Conditional acceptance at Journal of Monetary Economics***

REFEREED GERMAN PUBLICATIONS

Berger, M., Blesse, S., Heinemann, F. and E. Janeba (2017). Förderalismuspräferenzen in der deutschen Bevölkerung, *Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik*, Vol. 18 (2), 145-158.

Blesse, S. and F. Rösel (2017). Was bringen kommunale Gebietsreformen? Kausale Evidenz zu Hoffnungen, Risiken und alternativen Instrumenten, *Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik*, Vol. 18(4), 307-324.

Blesse, S., Heinemann, F. and Janeba, E., Nover, J. (2021): Die Zukunft der Schuldenbremse nach der Pandemie: Einsichten aus einer Befragung aller 16 Landesparlamente, *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftspolitik*, Vol. 70(1), 1-16.

WORKING PAPERS

Blesse, S. and T. Baskaran (2018). Administrative border changes and economic growth: Evidence from Africa, *ZEW Discussion Paper No. 27*, Mannheim.

Blesse, S., Buhlmann, F. and P. Dörrenberg (2019). Do people really want a simple tax system? Evidence on preferences towards income tax simplification, *ZEW Discussion Paper No. 58*, Mannheim.

Janne Tukkiainen, Blesse, S., Giuffrida, L., Bohne, A., Jääskäläinen, J., Luukinen, A. and A. Sieppi (2021). What Are the Priorities of Bureaucrats? Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment with Procurement Officials. *ZEW Discussion Paper No. 33*, Mannheim.

Sebastian Blesse.(2021), Are Your Tax Problems an Opportunity Not to Pay Taxes? Evidence From a Randomized Survey Experiment. *ZEW Discussion Paper No. 40*, Mannheim.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Unbiased researchers or national advocates? European economists and their EMU reform preferences (with Annika Havlik and Friedrich Heinemann).

Automation, labor markets and redistributive preferences (with Philipp Dörrenberg and Melanie Arntz). [Link to Pre-registration](#)

The Social Welfare Functions of Elected Politicians (with Axel Ockenfels, Sandro Ambuehl, Philipp Doerrenberg, Christoph Feldhaus)

Yardstick competition in education policy: Experimental survey evidence from German citizens (with Katharina Werner, Philipp Lergetporer and Justus Nover). [Link to Pre-registration](#)

Attitudes towards science when its' results (don't) confirm people's priors (with Philipp Lergetporer). [Link to Pre-registration](#)

Cancelled Reforms, Social Identity and Populist Voting: Evidence from failed border reforms (joint with Felix Rösel and Tommy Krieger)

Do firms prefer better infrastructure over low corporate taxes? Experimental evidence from a large scale manager survey (with Florian Buhlmann and Davud Rostam-Afschar) [Link to Pre-registration](#)

Compensatory Payments as the end of NIMBY policies? Evidence from Wind Turbines

TEACHING

Topics in Applied Public Economics (Master level, summer term 2021), University of Frankfurt; average evaluation of 4.9 on a scale of 1-6 with 6 being the top grade

Public Finance and Economic Policy Issues in Rural Regions (Master level, summer term 2022), University of Frankfurt; average evaluation of 5.4 on a scale of 1-6 with 6 being the top grade

Applied Research Methodology, (Bachelor level, scheduled for winter term 2022), in German language, Frankfurt School of Finance

POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS

More than 20 policy contributions, mainly regarding fiscal federalism, municipal mergers as well as Euro area reform proposals (for more detail, see <https://sites.google.com/view/sebastianblesse/policy>).

Expert for Young Economic Summit (YES!) 2017 and 2018 (school challenge in economics)

Expert for Book a Scientist as well as Leibniz im Bundestag knowledge transfer formats in 2021 (on public service provision in rural areas)

PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 RGS Doctoral Conference, Dortmund; Ifo Workshop on Regional Economics, Dresden
- 2015 Ifo Workshop on Regional Economics, Dresden; Doctoral Meeting, University of Oxford, Oxford
- 2016 ZEW Public Finance Conference, Mannheim; Verein für Socialpolitik, Augsburg; Young Economists Spring Meeting, Lisbon; Trondheim (invited); Inequality and Fairness of Political reforms, Mannheim (Discussant)
- 2017 Ifo Workshop on Regional Economics, Dresden; European Public Choice Society, Budapest; Teacher education Lecture – Was the Euro a mistake?, Kassel (invited)

- 2018 VATT Institute for Economic Research, Helsinki; GT économie de la fiscalité, Paris; OECD ELS Seminar, Paris (invited); Heger Seminar at Aalto University, Helsinki; Workshop for Empirical Public Procurement, ZEW Mannheim (Discussant); Workshop in Geodata, Braunschweig; Regional Economics/Political Economy Workshop, Siegen (Discussant); International Institute of Public Finance, Tampere; European Economic Association, Cologne; Young Economists Spring Meeting, Palma de Mallorca; Workshop on municipal mergers, Helsinki (invited); Hochschule des Bundes für öffentliche Verwaltung, Mannheim; Matax Campus Meeting, Mannheim
- 2019 ZEW Public Finance Conference, Mannheim; European Public Choice Meeting, Jerusalem; ZEW Summer Workshop for Young Economists, Mannheim; Joint Walter Eucken-ZEW Workshop, Mannheim
- 2020 International Institute of Public Finance, Reykjavik; EconPol Europe Annual Conference, Munich
- 2021 Research Seminar, Labour Institute for Economic Research Helsinki (invited); Online Workshop on Current Topics in Political Economy, Mannheim; Spring Meeting of Young Economists, Bologna; ZEW Public Finance Conference, Mannheim; International Institute of Public Finance, Reykjavik; European Public Choice Meeting, Lille; Leibniz im Bundestag, Online; Book a Scientist, Online; Deutscher Vergabetag, Berlin; Elections, Institutional Reforms, and Public Policy (Discussant), Bochum; EconPol Europe Annual Conference, Munich; Hochschule des Bundes für öffentliche Verwaltung, Mannheim; Police Direction Mittelfranken, Nürnberg; Scientific Workshop Walter-Raymond Foundation, Berlin; University of Würzburg
- 2020 Technical University Dortmund; University of Turku, Research seminar (invited); Technical University, Dresden (invited); European Public Choice Meeting, Braga, Portugal; Integrierte Strategie für Daseinsvorsorge und Nachhaltigkeit in ländlichen Räumen Workshop, online (invited); Ifo Munich, Muenchen (invited)

REFEREEING SERVICE FOR JOURNALS

–present American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, Finanzarchiv/Public Finance Analysis (2x), Economic Inquiry, Regional Science and Urban Economics (2x), Public Finance Review, Public Finance and Management, Local Government Studies (4x), Publius – The Journal of Federalism, German Economic Review, Eastern European Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, Applied Economics, Papers in Regional Science, Journal of Evolutionary Economics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, The Annals of Regional Science, Focus on European Economic Integration - Österreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Socioeconomic Review

OTHER REFEREEING SERVICE

2016, 2019, 2021, ZEW Public Finance Conference
2022
2017, 2018, 2019, Spring Meeting of Young Economists
2020, 2021
2017, 2018 Young Economic Summit – YES!

RESEARCH STAYS

10/2018 VATT Institute for Economic Research, Helsinki, Finland

ORGANIZATION OF SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

2018 ZEW Public Finance Conference, Keynotes: Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Martin Hellwig
2018 Workshop in Geo-Data, Braunschweig, Keynote: Stelios Michalopoulos
2018 Workshop on Understanding policy preferences using experimental methods, Keynote: Stefanie Stantcheva
2019 ZEW Summer Workshop for Young Economists, Mannheim, Keynotes: Juan Carlos Suarez Serrato, David Agrawal, Eckhard Janeba
2021 Online Workshop on Current Topics in Political Economy, Mannheim
2021 Webinar “Wieviel Unwissen und Ignoranz verkraftet die Demokratie? Fehlinformationen und demokratische Entscheidungen, Bestandsaufnahme und Gegenstrategien”, Mannheim
2022 Workshop on Current Topics in Political Economy, Mannheim

HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, Participation grant

- 2018 Price for Federalism and Regional Science, Institute for Federalism, 4000€
- 2018 Travel grant, Verein für Sozialpolitik, 500€
- 2018 Travel grant from Collobarative Research Centre (SFB 884), 2000€
- 2021 Fürther Ludwig Erhard Price (2nd place), 1000€
- 2021 Matthias-Erzberger-Wissenschaftspreis, 1250€

GRANTS

MannheimTaxation project funding for the “Tax Collection and Enforcement in Germany: Evidence From Local Tax Authorities” (04/2016 – 03/2017, 24,232.00 Euro, with Zareh Asatryan and Philipp Dörrenberg).

Deutsche Bundesbank funding for the project “Determinants of monetary policy in German and French national parliaments” (06/2017 – 09/2018, 37.254,60 Euro, with Friedrich Heinemann).

SFB 884 “Political Economy of Reforms” project funding for “Understanding Public Attitudes and Political Preferences in the Context of Automatization of the Labor Force”(08/2017 – 09/2019, 30,500.00 Euro, with Melanie Arntz and Philipp Dörrenberg).

MannheimTaxation project funding for the “Preferences for tax simplification - Evidence from survey experiments” (01/2019 – 11/2019, 56,130.00 Euro, with Florian Buhlmann and Philipp Dörrenberg).

EconPol Europe: European Network for Economic and Fiscal Policy Research project funding for “What Are the Priorities of Bureaucrats? Evidence From Conjoint Experiments With Procurement Officials” (05/2020 – 03/2021, 20,280.00 Euro, with several coauthors).

Brigitte Strube Stiftung funding for the project “Die Präferenz für eine Wirtschaftspolitik der einfachen Lösungen: Ursachen und Gegenmittel” (09/2020 – 07/2021, 62,000.00 Euro, joint with Tommy Krieger and Friedrich Heinemann).

Stiftung Familienunternehmen funding for “Bundesländerindex Familienunternehmen - Machbarkeitsstudie” (05/2021 – 07/2021, 42,200.00 Euro, joint with Friedrich Heinemann).

Stiftung Familienunternehmen funding for “Bundesländerindex Familienunternehmen” (12/2021 – 06/2022, 61,500.00 Euro, joint with Friedrich Heinemann).

MannheimTaxation project funding for the “Does infrastructure compensate for higher taxes? Experimental evidence from a large-scale manager survey” (01/2022 – 12/2022, 58.094,90 Euro, with Davud Rostam-Afschar and Florian Buhlmann)