

# David Sonnewald

## Position and Affiliation

PhD candidate in Economics  
Center for Applied Public Economics (CAPE)  
UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles  
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## Contact Information

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🌐 David J. Sonnewald 🔄 dav-sonn

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Primary** Public Economics, Labour Economics.  
**Secondary** Taxation, Microsimulation Modelling.

## EDUCATION

2020-Present **UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels (BE)**. *PhD in Economics*.  
*Advisors:* Prof. Koen Declercq and Prof. Tom Truyts. *Other jury members:* Prof. Edoardo Ciscato, Prof. Benoit Dostie, and Prof. Gilles Grandjean. *Expected completion:* June 2025.

Aug.-Dec. 2023 **HEC Montréal (CA)**. *Visiting PhD Student*.  
*Host Professor:* Prof. Benoit Dostie.

2017-2020 **Bocconi University (IT)**. *MSc in Economics and Management of Government and International Organizations*. Magna cum laude.  
*Thesis:* The determinants of college graduates' income: Filed of Study and Academic Performance.  
*Advisor:* Prof. Massimo Anelli.

Sept.-Dec. 2018 **EMLYON Business School (FR)**. *Erasmus Program*.

2014-2017 **Bocconi University (IT)**. *BSc in Economics and Social Sciences*.  
*Thesis:* Decisions by Italian investors. Is “more” always preferable to “less”? When microeconomic statements clash against reality. *Advisor:* Prof. Michela Braga.

## WORKING PAPERS

Sonnewald, D. “Country of Birth and Wage Differentials: Evidence from Belgium”. *CEREC Working Paper Series* (2024).

Sonnewald, D. “Regional Labour Markets in Belgium: The Role of Education” (2024).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

**JMP:** Green, R. & Sonnewald, D. “Marginal Personal Income Tax Changes: Tax Revenue, Welfare, and Labour Supply Responses”.

Dostie, B. & Sonnewald, D. “Does Self-Employment Income Help Immigrants Close the Immigrant-Native Earnings Gap Faster?”.

Sonnewald, D. “There Are Some Things Money Can't Buy; For Everything Else, There's Saudi Pro League”.

## TEACHING

Feb.-June 2024 *Teaching Assistant*, Public Economics (EN), BECGE1215, Bachelor, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.  
Feb.-June 2023 *Teaching Assistant*, Public Economics (EN), ECGE1215, Bachelor, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present **Center for Applied Public Economics (CAPE)**, Brussels (BE), *Researcher*.  
Mar.-Jul. 2019 **European Commission**, DG for Economic and Financial Affairs, Brussels (BE), *Blue Book Program*.  
June-Sep. 2018 **GoVolt S.r.l.**, Milan (IT), *Intern*.  
June-Sep. 2016 **AcomeA SGR**, Milan (IT), *Intern*.

## PROJECTS

2024-Present **Flemish Government**: behavioural effects of regional surcharges in the personal income tax.  
2020-Present **Beamm**: online open-access microsimulation model for the tax-benefit system in Belgium.  
2020-Present **Beamm.Brussels**: Beamm version tailored for the Brussels Capital Region.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

**Programming** Git; Github; LaTeX; MatLab; R; Stata.  
**R Packages** blogdown; bookdown; ggplot2; shiny.  
**Languages** HTML; Go.

## AWARDS

2018 IREN Start-up Award 2018 powered by Intesa Sanpaolo Start Up Initiative: Designated for the training and selection phase (GoVolt).  
2017 Group project for the course “Strategic and hr management in public organizations” in cooperation with A2A S.p.A.

## OTHER INFORMATION

**Languages** *Italian* (Native); *English* (Proficient); *French* (Proficient); *Spanish* (Basic).  
**Memberships** Canadian Economic Association (CEA); Center for Research in Economics (CEREC); International Microsimulation Association (IMA). *Student Associations*: European Generation Student Association (2016-2018); TEDxBocconiU (2016-17).  
**Other experience** Expo Milano (2015); Working Gap Year (2013-2014).  
**Photography** Exhibition “La photographie de rue” (2024); Atelier UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (2023).  
**Volunteering** Permanence Douches (2024); Beteavon and Comunità di Sant’Egidio (2014-2019); Fondazione Bianca Garavaglia (2016-2017).

## PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2024 COMPIE Conference, June 24-26, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*; 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, May 30-June 1, *Toronto Metropolitan University*; 19<sup>th</sup> CIREQ PhD Students' Conference, May 23-24, *Concordia University*; 2024 RCEA International Conference in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, May 20-22, *Brunel University London*; IDEAS 2024, May 15-17, *Institut d'études européennes, ULB*; IAAEU Workshop on Labour Economics 2024, April 11-12, *Trier University*; Après-midi d'étude sur Bruxelles, February 20, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Microsimulation Association, January 8-10, *University of Vienna*.
- 2023 Department of Applied Economics Internal Seminars Series, December 6, *HEC Montréal*; Micro Breakfast Seminar, Department of Economics, October 20, *McGill University*; Department of Applied Economics Internal Seminars Series, September 13, *HEC Montréal*; 22<sup>nd</sup> LAGV Conference, June 28-30, *Palais du Pharo (Marseille)*; Doctoral Meeting of the Center for Research in Economics, June 20, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; XLII APHES Conference, June 16-17, *Porto University*; IAAEU Workshop on Labour Economics 2023, March 30-31, *Trier University*.
- 2022 Winter Doctoral Workshop in Economics 2022, December 9, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Belgian Day for Labour Economists (BDLE), October 7, *Federal Planning Bureau, Brussels*; Spring Doctoral Workshop in Economics 2022, May 23, *UCLouvain*; Doctoral Workshop of the Center for Research in Economics, March 8, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*.

## COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

- Jan. 2024 Beamm.Brussels Launch Event, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*.
- Feb. 2020 Welcome Week for exchange students, *Bocconi University*.
- Sep. 2019 Welcome Week for exchange students, *Bocconi University*.
- May 2018 European Youth Debate, *Lombardy Regional Council*.
- May 2017 European Youth Debate, *Lombardy Regional Council*.
- May 2017 TEDxBocconiU: Falling & Rising - L'arte di cadere e rialzarsi, *Bocconi University*.

## REFERENCES

- **Prof. Tom Truys**, Professor of Public Economics at *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; PhD advisor.
- **Prof. Koen Declerq**, Professor of Economics at *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; PhD advisor.
- **Prof. Benoit Dostie**, Professor of Econometrics at *HEC Montréal* and Academic director of the *QICSS*; coauthor.