

SAMUEL HÄFNER  
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Web3 Foundation  
Reiffergässli 4  
6300 Zug, Switzerland

Year of Birth: 1982.  
Citizenship: Swiss.  
Married, two children (2013, 2016).

## Current Position

2020– Research Economist, Web3 Foundation, Zug.

## Past Positions

2019–2021 Postdoc, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen.  
2017–19 Postdoc, Department of Economics, University of Zurich.  
2016–19 Laspeyres Fellow, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel.  
2016/17 Visiting Postdoc, Economics Department, Duke University, Durham, NC.  
Host: Curtis Taylor.  
2014–16 Postdoc, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel.  
SNSF-project: "Contests in Context and the Stability of Ownership".  
(Grant 146089. Main applicant: Georg Nöldeke).

## Teaching and Research Field

Primary: (Applied) microeconomic theory.  
Secondary: Contract theory, dynamic contests, structural estimation of auctions, blockchain economics, incentives in cryptographic protocols.

## Education

2014 Ph.D., University of Basel.  
*Advisors:* Yvan Lengwiler (1st), Georg Nöldeke (2nd).  
2010 Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, Study Center Gerzensee. *Series taken:* Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics.  
2009 M.Sc. Business and Economics, University of Basel.  
2007 B.A. Philosophy and Economics, University of Basel.

## Short Academic Visits

Apr 2019 Duke University, Durham, NC (1 month). Host: Curtis Taylor.  
Apr 2017 Chapman University, Orange, CA (3 weeks). Host: Dan Kovenock.  
Sep 2015 Max-Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich (1 week). Host: Kai Konrad.  
Nov 2013 Max-Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich (3 weeks). Host: Kai Konrad.

## Teaching Experience

*Contract Theory* (in English).

M.Sc. elective, University of Basel.

Spring terms 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 (except for 2014, Georg Nöldeke and I each taught half of the course).

*Introduction to Game Theory* (in English).

B.Sc., University of Zurich.

Fall terms 2017, 2018.

*Contest Theory* (“Ökonomische Theorie der Wettkämpfe”, in German).

M.Sc. elective, University of Basel.

Fall terms 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.

*Insurance Economics* (“Versicherungsökonomie”, in German).

B.Sc., University of Basel.

Spring terms 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 (except for 2019, Georg Nöldeke and I each taught half of the course).

*Microeconomics II* (“Mikroökonomie II”, in German, tutoring only).

B.Sc., University of St. Gallen.

Fall term 2020.

## Professional Activities

Talks      2021: Annual Meeting of Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Zurich, online). 2020: Econometric Society World Meeting (Milan, online); Annual Meeting of Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Zurich, canceled); IIOC (Philadelphia, canceled). 2019: UECE Meetings (Lisbon); Swiss Competition Commission (Berne); Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Xiamen). 2018: Seventeenth Annual Berkeley/Columbia/Duke/ MIT/Northwestern IO Theory Conference (Cambridge, MA), EARIE (Athens), Swiss Theory Day (Berne); Swiss IO Day (Berne); Annual Meeting of Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (St. Gallen). 2017: Bonn Junior Day, EARIE (Maastricht), ESEM (Lisbon), VfS-Jahrestagung (Wien), Chapman University. 2016: UNC (Chapel Hill); Duke; University of St. Gallen; Conference on the Current Frontiers in the Theory of Contest (Munich); Swiss Theory Day (Zurich); WZB (Berlin). 2015: Basel-Zurich Workshop in Micro Theory (Zurich); Annual Meeting of Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (Basel); XVII. Tax Day (Munich). 2014: Basel-Zurich Workshop in Micro Theory (Zurich); 25th Stony Brook Game Theory Festival (Stony Brook). 2013: X. Tax Day (Munich); EPCM2013 (Zurich); Young Swiss Economists Meeting (Berne). 2011: Young Researchers Workshop on Contests and Tournaments (Berlin); Tournaments, Contests and Relative Performance Evaluation (Raleigh). 2010: APET2010 (Istanbul); Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Luxembourg); 3rd Ruhr Graduate Doctoral Conference (Bochum); Young Swiss Economists Meeting (Berne).

Refereeing      Theoretical Economics, RAND Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Games and Economic Behavior, Economic Theory, Social Choice and Welfare, The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics, VfS

Jahrestagung (2017).

Other      Research Seminar, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St. Gallen (2020–2021, co-organizer).

2nd St. Gallen IO Workshop (2020, co-organizer).

SSES Annual Meeting, Zurich (2020, 2021, program committee).

Supervision of Master’s Theses (2015, 2020).

Elected Member of the Faculty Assembly (Faculty of Business and Economics, Basel, 2016–19).

## Fellowships & Awards

2016–19      Laspeyres Fellowship, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel.

2018      Scientific Exchange Grant, SNSF. (Grant IZSEZ0\_185538. Funding for the short visit to Duke University.)

2018      Forschungskredit UZH. (Salary granted for a 12 month part-time postdoc position.)

2016      Advanced Postdoc.Mobility, SNSF. (Grant P300P1\_167648. Funding for the visiting postdoc position at Duke University.)

2016      Johann Jakob Speiser-Scholarship. (Funding for the short visit to Chapman University.)

2014      Faculty Prize for best PhD-Thesis, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel.

2009      Best M.Sc.-Diploma in Business and Economics of the Academic Year (shared), University of Basel.

2009      Best M.Sc.-Thesis in Business and Economics of the Academic Year (shared), University of Basel.

## Publications

- [1] Häfner, S. and Taylor, C. (2021). On Young Turks and Yes Men: Optimal Contracting for Advice. *The RAND Journal of Economics* (Accepted for Publication). [[SSRN](#)]
- [2] Häfner, S. (2020). Eternal Peace in the Tug-of-War? *Economic Theory* (online first). [[link](#)]
- [3] Häfner, S. and Nöldeke, G. (2019). Sorting in Iterated Incumbency Contests. *Economic Theory* (online first). [[link](#)]
- [4] Häfner, S. (2018). Stable Biased Sampling. *Games and Economic Behavior*, 107:109–122. [[link](#)]
- [5] Häfner, S. (2017). A Tug-of-War Team Contest. *Games and Economic Behavior*, 104:372–391. [[link](#)]
- [6] Häfner, S. and Nöldeke, G. (2016). Payoff Shares in Two-Player Contests. *Games*, 7(3):25. [[link](#)]

## Research Papers

- [1] *Front-Running, Smart Contracts, and Candle Auctions* (with Alistair Stewart). First version: 2021. Latest Version: 2021. [[SSRN](#)].
- [2] *Working for References* (with Curtis Taylor). First version: 2020. Latest Version: 2021. [[SSRN](#)].
- [3] *On Shakeouts and Staggered Exit: An R&D Race with Moral Hazard and Multiple Prizes*. First version: 2020. Latest Version: 2021. [[SSRN](#)].
- [4] *Risk Aversion in Share Auctions: Estimating Import Rents from TRQs in Switzerland*. First version: 2019. Latest version: 2021 [[SSRN](#)].
- [5] *Allocating Tariff-Rate Quotas: The Case of Domestic Purchase Requirement* (with Yvan Lengwiler). First version: 2018. Latest Version: 2021 [[SSRN](#)].

## Research Papers in Progress

- [1] *Front-Running-Free Auctions* (with Marek Pycia, Alistair Stewart, and Haoyuan Zeng).
- [2] *An Experimental Analysis of the Combinatorial Candle Auction* (with Jonas Gerlein and Jörg Oechssler).
- [3] *Efficient Utility Token Design: A Trilemma*.

## Other Skills

Languages      German, English, French.

Programming    Maxima, Octave, R, Python, Julia.

## References

References are gladly provided upon request.

Zug, August 22, 2021