

# JOHANNES KOCHEMS

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Public Economics, Labor Economics, Regional Economics

## EDUCATION

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### Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

since 08/2020

*University of Cologne* (since 09/2022)

*University of Mannheim* (until 08/2022)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Sieglöcher, Prof. Dr. Felix Bierbrauer

### M.Sc. in International Economics and Public Policy

10/2017 – 08/2019

*Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz*

ERASMUS+ Semester at Université Catholique de Louvain (09/2018 – 01/2019)

### B.Sc. in Economics

10/2014 – 09/2017

*Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz*

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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### *Local Tax Havens,*

single-authored [Working Paper]

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes how (local) tax havens function. Using the German municipal business tax setting as a laboratory, I investigate the characteristics and emergence of local tax havens. I demonstrate that local tax havens are situated in close proximity to large agglomeration areas, while firms' profit-to-wage ratios in these jurisdictions are exceptionally high. I document that the amount of local profit shifting is substantial. The empirical results indicate that local profit shifting is of a similar magnitude to recent findings regarding international profit shifting by German multinationals. I deploy synthetic difference-in-differences methods, combined with administrative data sources and standard profit-shifting equations, to estimate the amount of profit shifting to local tax havens. Between 2013 and 2019, around 52 billion Euros of corporate profits were shifted to local tax havens. The results are driven by a small number of large firms that offer business and financial services. The direct fiscal cost to non-tax haven municipalities amounts to roughly 7.9 billion Euros, while tax haven municipalities gain around 4.3 billion Euros in tax revenues. I conduct a case study on the emergence of Germany's largest local tax havens. I estimate that between 2012 and 2019, around 20.5 billion was transferred to its jurisdiction. The increase in local tax revenues is used to reduce public debt burdens and finance a high level of public expenditures.

## WORKING PAPERS

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### *The Local Economic Impact of US Troop Withdrawals in Germany,*

joint with Jakob Schmidhäuser [Working Paper]

Abstract: This paper analyzes the local economic impacts of military troop deployments. We exploit variation from the historic large-scale US troop withdrawal from Germany triggered by the end of the Cold War, to estimate the effect on local labor markets and local public finances. We use administrative data provided by the US Department of Defense to precisely quantify the size of the troop withdrawal at the municipal level. Using a synthetic difference-in-differences estimator, we find negative effects on local labor markets. Per a withdrawn US soldier, the number of local jobs decreases by 0.56. The decrease in economic activity results in a reduction of revenues for affected municipalities. To balance decreased revenues, affected municipalities lower their expenditures, while increasing business and property tax multipliers. Viewed as a place-based policy, the US troop deployment was rather ineffective in creating local employment. We estimate the cost per job to be USD 110,400 of US military spending. We supplement the municipal-level results with a worker-level analysis. We document that workers displaced by the closure of a US military base have persistently lower employment rates. At the same time, their daily wages are around 9.2 percent lower fifteen years after their layoff. The negative impact on labor outcomes is particularly pronounced for women, older workers, and those employed in regions with more unfavorable initial labor market conditions.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### *Trade Shocks and Local Public Finance: Evidence from German Municipalities,*

joint with Adrian Lerche (Draft available soon)

Abstract: In this paper, we investigate the effect of import and export shocks on German municipalities' local business tax (LBT) bases and fiscal outcomes for the period from 1992 to 2012. Import shocks have a detrimental effect on local outcomes, while export shocks increase LBT bases as well as municipal revenues and expenditures. The effect on expenditure patterns depends on municipalities' initial fiscal and economic conditions. Results are stronger in the 2002 to 2012 period than in the 1992 to 2002 period. We find that our results are mostly driven by trade between municipalities located in West Germany and Eastern Europe. We supplement our municipal-level analysis with administrative data on corporate tax returns at the firm-level. We document that the aggregate results are driven by very large manufacturing companies. We do not find any spillover effect on the taxable profits of non-manufacturing firms.

### *Reducing Survivor Pension to Promote More Equal Labor Market Attachment of Women: Evidence from Sweden,*

joint with Nadja Dwenger, Martin Nybom and Sebastian Sieglöch

## RESEARCH STAYS

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**EU Tax Observatory, Paris**

*Hosted by Rémi Lei, PhD.*

09/2025

**Ifo Institute for Economic Research, Munich**

*Hosted by Prof. Andreas Peichl*

05/2025

**University of California, Berkeley**

*Hosted by Prof. Emmanuel Saez*

01/2025 – 05/2025

**University of California, Irvine**

*Hosted by Prof. David R. Agrawal*

04/2025 – 05/2025

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Supervision of Bachelor Theses</b> <i>University of Cologne</i>	since Winter 2023/24
<b>Fundamentals of Microeconomics</b> <i>University of Cologne</i>	Winter 2024/25
<b>Economics of Inequality</b> <i>University of Cologne</i>	Summer 2024
<b>Macroeconomics</b> <i>University of Cologne</i>	Winter 2022/23 – Winter 2023/24
<b>Empirical Economic Research</b> <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Summer 2018
<b>Macroeconomics I</b> <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Winter 2016/17
<b>Introduction to Economics</b> <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Winter 2015/16
All teaching at the undergraduate level.	

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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<b>YEP Funding - ECONtribute</b> <i>Research funding for data purchases and conferences</i>	since 09/2022
<b>Scholarship of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)</b> <i>Scholarship for a research stay at the University of California, Berkeley</i>	01/2025 – 05/2025
<b>Scholarship of the GESS - University of Mannheim</b> <i>Doctoral scholarship</i>	08/2020 – 08/2021
<b>Scholarship of the Peregrinus Foundation</b> <i>Scholarship for a semester abroad at the Université Catholique de Louvain</i>	09/2018 – 01/2019
<b>ERASMUS European Exchange Program Scholarship</b> <i>Scholarship for a semester abroad with the Erasmus exchange program</i>	09/2018 – 01/2019
<b>Deutschlandstipendium</b> <i>Scholarship holder</i>	10/2016 – 09/2018

## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

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### 2025

*Public Finance Seminar (UC Berkeley), IRLE Visiting Scholar seminar (UC Berkeley), Transportation, Urban and Environmental Seminar (UC Irvine), Applied Micro Workshop (UC Irvine), Public Economics Workshop (LMU Munich), Macroeconomics and Surveys Seminars (Ifo Munich), KIZ - Young Scholar Political Economy Workshop (Ifo Munich), Third Bonn-Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Conference (U Frankfurt), Local Public Finance and Fiscal Federalism Around the World (MPI Berlin), IIPF 2025 (Nairobi), Verein für Socialpolitik (Cologne), Mannheim Taxation Conference (Mannheim), 7th Swiss Workshop on Local Public Finance and Regional Economics (USI), Research Seminar in Public Economics (U Mannheim, scheduled), Brown-Bag-Seminar (U Mainz, scheduled)*

## 2024

*Second Bonn-Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Conference (U Bonn), Applied Microeconomics Seminar (U Cologne), Workshop on Regional Economics (ifo Dresden), Mannheim Taxation Conference (ZEW Mannheim)*

## 2023

*First Bonn-Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Conference (U Frankfurt), Summer School on Economics of Gender (PSE)*

## POLICY WRITINGS

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- Die Gewerbesteuerreform: Das Ende der Gewinnverlagerung in lokale Steueroasen?, ifo Schnelldienst, 2025, Vol. 78(8), 24-29.

## OTHER

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<b>Citizenship</b>	German
<b>Languages</b>	German (native), English (fluent), French (beginner)
<b>Software skills</b>	R, Stata, Python, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Matlab

## REFERENCES

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