

JOHANNES KOCHEMS

University of Cologne & ECONtribute
Universitätsstraße 22a
Office: 3.320
D-50937 Cologne

✉ johannes.kochems@wiso.uni-koeln.de
☎ +49 (0) 151 40396283
🐦 @JohannesKochems
🖱 Personal Website

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Regional Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics since 09/2022
University of Cologne Cologne, Germany

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Sieglösch

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics 08/2020 – 08/2022
University of Mannheim Mannheim, Germany

Joined my supervisor in his move to Cologne

M.Sc. in International Economics and Public Policy 10/2017 – 08/2019
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Mainz, Germany

ERASMUS+ Semester Abroad 09/2018 – 01/2019
Université Catholique de Louvain Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

B.Sc. in Economics 10/2014 – 09/2017
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Mainz, Germany

JOB MARKET PAPER

Local Tax Havens, single-authored (Draft available soon)

Abstract: This paper analyzes the fiscal impact of corporate profit shifting to local tax havens. Similar to international tax havens, subnational jurisdictions have an incentive to reduce their local business tax rate to attract corporate profits. I define local tax havens as low-tax municipalities with a large dependence on sectors that can be exploited for profit shifting. I document that local tax havens are situated in close proximity to large agglomerations, while the profit-to-wage ratios documented in these jurisdictions are exceptionally high. 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 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.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Local Economic Impact of US Troop Withdrawals in Germany,

joint with Jakob Schmidhäuser (Draft available soon)

Abstract: What are the local economic impacts of foreign troop deployments? To answer this question, we exploit variation from the historic large-scale US troop withdrawal from Germany triggered by the end of the Cold War. We use US Department of Defense administrative data to precisely quantify the troop withdrawal's size at the municipal level. Using a Synthetic Difference-in-Differences estimator, we find that there are negative effects on local labor markets. Per a withdrawn US soldier, the number of local jobs decreases by 0.69. 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 85,200 of US military spending. We supplement the municipal-level data 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.

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 Sieglösch

RESEARCH STAYS

University of California, Berkeley

Hosted by Prof. Emmanuel Saez

01/2025 – 05/2025

Berkeley, CA

University of California, Irvine

Hosted by Prof. David Agrawal

04/2025 – 05/2025

Irvine, CA

Ifo Institute for Economic Research, Munich

Hosted by Prof. Andreas Peichl

05/2025

Munich, Germany

EU Tax Observatory, Paris

Hosted by Rémi Lei, PhD.

09/2025

Paris, France

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fundamentals of Microeconomics

University of Cologne

Winter 2024/25

Cologne, Germany

Economics of Inequality <i>University of Cologne</i>	Summer 2024 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Supervision of Bachelor Theses <i>University of Cologne</i>	since Winter 2023/24 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Macroeconomics <i>University of Cologne</i>	Winter 2022/23 – Winter 2023/24 <i>Cologne, Germany</i>
Empirical Economic Research <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Summer 2018 <i>Mainz, Germany</i>
Macroeconomics I <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Winter 2016/17 <i>Mainz, Germany</i>
Introduction to Economics <i>Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</i>	Winter 2015/16 <i>Mainz, Germany</i>

AWARDS & GRANTS

Scholarship of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) <i>Scholarship for a research stay at the University of California, Berkeley in the USA</i>	01/2025 – 05/2025
Scholarship of the Peregrinus Foundation <i>Scholarship for a semester abroad to study Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium</i>	09/2018 – 01/2019
ERASMUS European Exchange Program Scholarship <i>Scholarship for a semester abroad with the Erasmus exchange program</i>	09/2018 – 01/2019
Deutschlandstipendium <i>Scholarship holder</i>	10/2016 – 09/2018

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

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), MannheimTaxation 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), MannheimTaxation Conference (ZEW Mannheim)

2023

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

POLICY WRITINGS

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

SKILLS

Languages	German (native), English (fluent), French (beginner)
Software skills	R, Stata, Python, L ^A T _E X, Matlab

OTHER

- Founder and organisator of the biannual Young ECONtribute Program (YEP) Workshop for PhD in Economics students of the University of Cologne and the University of Bonn (currently 5th edition)

REFERENCES

Prof. Sebastian Siegloch
siegloch@wiso.uni-koeln.de
University of Cologne

Prof. Felix Bierbrauer
bierbrauer@wiso.uni-koeln.de
University of Cologne

Prof. David R. Agrawal
david.agrawal@uci.edu
UC Irvine

Prof. Emmanuel Saez
esaez@berkeley.edu
UC Berkeley

Last update: June 1st, 2025