

# KRISHNA SRINIVASAN

## Contact Information

UniDistance Suisse  
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## References

Ernst Fehr  
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Christopher Roth  
University of Cologne  
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Dmitry Taubinsky  
University of California - Berkeley  
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Björn Bartling  
University of Zurich  
bjoern.bartling@econ.uzh.ch

## Professional Affiliations

Postdoctoral Researcher, UniDistance Suisse  
Advisor: Manuel Grieder  
Visiting Scholar, The Wharton School  
Host: Benjamin Lockwood

2024 -  
2025, Fall

## Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Zurich  
M.Sc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, Tilburg University  
B.Sc. Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, Christ University

2018 - 2024  
2016 - 2017  
2013 - 2016

## Research Visits

University of Zurich  
Norwegian School of Economics (Host: Bertil Tungodden)  
University of California - Berkeley (Host: Dmitry Taubinsky)

08/2024 - 08/2025  
08/2022 - 01/2023  
08/2021 - 12/2021

## Research and Teaching Fields

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Behavioral Economics  
Secondary Fields: Experimental Economics, Political Economy

## Job Market Papers

JMP1 “Preferences for Taxing Personal Characteristics” (with Julien Senn)

Tagging—conditioning taxes on income and personal characteristics correlated with earning ability—can improve efficiency. However, its social acceptability remains uncertain, as it may conflict with horizontal equity, the principle that “equals” should be treated equally. We study citizens’ support for tagging in an online vignette experiment with the U.S. general population ( $N = 3012$ ). Our design manipulates three theoretically relevant features of characteristics: immutability, correlation with ability, and correlation with needs. Characteristics correlated with ability and needs receive higher support, consistent with theoretical prescriptions, while immutability does not significantly predict support, contrary to theory. Fairness concerns, capturing both horizontal and vertical equity, are the strongest predictor of support; other concerns also matter, but less so. We incorporate fairness into our theoretical model, which can limit or amplify tagging relative to the canonical utilitarian model. Finally, we synthesize insights from theory, our experiment, and practice.

JMP2: “Who Should Get Money? Estimating Welfare Weights in the U.S.” (with Francesco Capozza). Reject and Resubmit, **American Economic Review** (resubmitted).

Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award in Public Economics 2024 (awarded to Francesco Capozza)

Evaluating the desirability of a reform typically involves weighing the gains of winners against the losses of losers using welfare weights, which measure the value that society places on a \$1 increase in an individual’s consumption. We elicit the welfare weights of the U.S. general population using experiments and show their robustness, validity, and temporal stability. We estimate an income elasticity of welfare weights between  $-0.78$  and  $-0.70$ , which is roughly 5-9 times more progressive than the weights implied by U.S. tax and transfer policies. We use the estimated welfare weights to derive optimal income taxes.

### Working Papers

“Fair (P)redistribution” (with Justin Valasek and Weijia Wang). Reject and Resubmit, **Journal of Public Economics**.

“Science by Consensus: Eliciting Citizens’ and Experts’ R&D Spending Priorities” (with Francesco Capozza and Mattie Toma)

“Paternalism: Determinants of Demand and Supply” (with Björn Bartling)

### Work in Progress

“Understanding Administrative Burden: A Field Experiment on the Hassle Costs of Tax Filing in Germany” (with Manuel Grieder and Michael Kurschilgen)

“The Externality Atlas” (with Max Müller and Christopher Roth)

“What Motivates Censorship?” (with George Beknazar-Yuzbashev, Francesco Capozza, and Mateusz Stalinski)

“Eliciting Welfare Weights Based on Socio-Economic Characteristics” (with Katy Bergstrom, Francesco Capozza, William Dodds, and Juan Rios)

### Research Grants

Diligentia Project Grant (with Manuel Grieder and Michael Kurschilgen): €33,248	2025
J-PAL Science for Progress Initiative (with Francesco Capozza and Mattie Toma): \$23,423	2025
UZH GRC Short Grant (with Julien Senn): CHF 5000	2023
UZH URPP ‘Equality of Opportunity’ Grant (with Francesco Capozza): CHF 8,680	2022
Russell Sage Foundation Small Grants (with Francesco Capozza): \$7,850	2018
UZH Director’s Grant (with Francesco Capozza): CHF 1,500	2021

### Scholarships

UZH Doc.Mobility	2022
UZH Departmental scholarship for Ph.D. students	2018 - 2024

### Teaching Experience

#### **Teaching Assistant at University of Zurich**

Behavioral Public Economics (master’s)	2022
Behavioral Economics (bachelor’s)	2021
Introduction to Behavioral Economics (master’s)	2020, 2021
The Economics of Paternalism (master’s)	2020
Behavioral Theory (master’s)	2019, 2020

**Tutorship at MAK - Tilburg University**

Statistics 2 for International Business Administration (master's)

2016, 2017

**Professional Activities**

Refereeing: Journal of Political Economy - Micro, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers

### Invited Seminars, Conferences, and Summer Schools (including scheduled)

**Invited Seminars: 2025:** Tulane University, Helmut Schmidt University – Hamburg, University of Cologne (C-SEB) **2023:** M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

**Conferences: 2025:** Lofoten International Symposium on Inequality and Taxation, Ludwig Erhard ifo Conference on Institutional Economics, CESifo Area Conference on Public Economics **2024:** Verein für Socialpolitik, ESA World Meeting (Bogota), URPP Taxation & Inequality Conference (poster) **2023:** Zurich Workshop in Economics and Psychology, EEA-ESEM Congress, Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF), Ludwig Erhard ifo Conference on Institutional Economics, Young Swiss Economist Meeting **2022:** BREW-ESA, Spring School in Behavioral Economics (poster), Fairness and the Moral Mind Workshop, In\_equality Conference

**Summer Schools: 2025:** Chicago School of Experimental Economics **2023:** briq Summer School in Behavioral Economics **2022:** Spring School in Behavioral Economics, HCEO-FAIR Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality

### Personal Details

Date of birth	04 December 1994
Citizenship	Indian
Languages	English (Native)