

KRISHNA SRINIVASAN

Contact Information

UniDistance Suisse
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References

Ernst Fehr
University of Zurich
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Christopher Roth
University of Cologne
roth@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Dmitry Taubinsky
University of California - Berkeley
dmitry.taubinsky@berkeley.edu

Björn Bartling
University of Zurich
bjoern.bartling@econ.uzh.ch

Professional Affiliations

Postdoctoral Researcher, UniDistance Suisse
Visiting Fellow, University of Zurich

2024 –
2024 –

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

The Wharton School (Host: Benjamin Lockwood)
Norwegian School of Economics (Host: Bertil Tungodden)
University of California - Berkeley (Host: Dmitry Taubinsky)

08/2025 – 12/2025
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)

While tagging—the conditioning of taxes on personal characteristics correlated with earning ability—can improve efficiency, it is often assumed to lack political support because it violates horizontal equity, which stipulates treating equals equally. To empirically test this view, we conducted an online vignette experiment with a U.S. general population sample ($N = 3,012$) and report three results that challenge it. First, support for tagging varies substantially across tags and individuals. Consistent with theoretical prescriptions, it is higher for characteristics with a strong correlation with ability or reflecting needs. However, the immutability of a tag does not predict support, contrary to theory. Second, variation in support reflects both horizontal and vertical equity concerns. Third, other considerations, such as efficiency, also matter but less so. Incorporating fairness can either limit or amplify optimal tagging relative to a canonical utilitarian benchmark. Finally, we compare our results with the tags used in the U.S. tax code and those discussed in the literature.

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. They can capture various normative ideals like utilitarianism and equality of opportunity. 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. The optimal marginal tax rates based on our estimates of welfare weights are 28-30 percentage points higher, on average, than the current tax rates in the U.S.

Working Papers

“Fair (P)redistribution” (with 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, Emanuel Hansen, and Michael Kurschilgen)

“How and When are Externalities Mitigated?” (with Max Müller, Charlie Rafkin, and Christopher Roth)

“What Motivates Moderation?” (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

Professional Activities

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

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant at UniDistance Suisse

Organisational Economics and Management (master's) 2024, 2025

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

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, Inequality 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)