

## **CV: Lauren Leek**

### **Personal information**

Nationalities: Dutch & Australian  
Date of Birth: 30-12-1998  
Languages: Dutch (native), English (native) and German (basic)  
Contact: [laurencaroline.leek@eui.eu](mailto:laurencaroline.leek@eui.eu) | +31615525150

### **Current positions:**

- **PhD researcher/candidate** at the European University Institute, Florence (from September 2021), working on (European) political economy, central banking, quantitative methods, EU studies and text-as-data (machine learning). Researching the political behaviour of central banks. PhD supervisors: prof. Simon Hix and prof. Waltraud Schelkle.
- **PhD trainee** at the European Central Bank, Fiscal Policy Department in DG Economics (started May, 2023). Working on the European fiscal rules, machine learning projects (including it in the official forecasting and debt sustainability analysis toolset), developing a research agenda on fiscal and monetary dominance using machine learning tools.
- **Incoming position: visiting researcher** at the London school of Economics European Institute (starting September, 2023).

### **Education:**

- **MSc Political Economy of Europe** (2020-2021) at the London School of Economics, European Institute, *with distinction and the Prize for Best Overall Performance and the Prize for Best Dissertation of the MSc.*
- **BSc Liberal Arts and Sciences** (2017-2020) at the Erasmus University College, Rotterdam with a major in Economics and minor in Learning from Big Data at the Rotterdam School of Management, *with summa cum laude distinction and Dean's list from 2017 to 2019.*
- **High school:** Dutch VWO and International Baccalaureate English (language A, higher level) at Jac. P. Thijssse College, Castricum (graduated 2017), *with a cum laude distinction and National Award for Social Sciences.*

### **Academic side-jobs:**

- Research Assistant to prof. Philipp Genschel: mainly visualizing and summarizing the YouGov survey results and assisting in gathering member state level data on changes in energy, defense and fiscal spending with regards to the Russian attack on Ukraine
- Dutch (qualitative) coder for the Solid Project (2021/2022, 80-hour contract)
- Academic & thesis intern at RaboResearch (the economics research department of Rabobank) examining the empirical relationship between the circular economy and financial performance (2019/2020)

### **Teaching experience:**

#### *BSc level:*

- TA Microeconomics at the Erasmus School of Economics, Rotterdam (2019/2020). Two times a week teaching a lab to BSc economics and business students (in Dutch)

#### *PhD level:*

- TA Introduction to Quantitative Methods (2022) at the EUI SPS department. Teaching a weekly lab in R to first year PhD students.

### **Working groups:**

- Co-organisier of the EU studies working group (2021/2022 & 2022/2023)

### **Published academic papers:**

- The Ukraine war and European integration: The Russian attack on Ukraine and the institutional development of the European Union European institution building during the

Ukraine crisis (with Philipp Genschel and Jordy Weyns) (Journal of European Integration  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2023.2183397>)

### **Ongoing projects:**

- Opening the ‘Black Box’ of Central Bank Responsiveness: ECB Responsiveness through National Central Banks (Working paper available)
- Europe’s Recovery Plan: From National to Local Policy Design (with Lorenzo Mascioli).
- Explaining the ECB climate change agenda: an actor-centered perspective (with Fabian Mushovel)
- European solidarity index (with Philipp Genschel). *Part of the EUI-YouGov data project and conference.*

### **Academic papers at conferences & presentations**

- The Political Economy and Society conference, Max Planck Institute, Cologne (2022)
- The European Governance and Politics Programme Seminar series, EUI, Florence (2022)
- The eurozone interdisciplinary working group, EUI, Florence (2022)
- The political economy working group, EUI, Florence (2022)
- YouGov-EUI data conference, Florence (2023)
- EUI Paradigm change in economic policy workshop (2023)
- How people think about the Economy, University College London (2023)
- European Studies Association (EUSA), Pittsburgh (2023)
- Council of European Studies conference, Reykjavik (2023)
- Analytical communication topic group, European Central Bank, Frankfurt (2023)

### **Non-academic work & board experience:**

- Head Exam Trainer (at Lyceo) for final year high school students in Economics and Accounting, coding lab instructor and substitute high school teacher (2017-2020)
- Fully qualified (level 3) youth sailing, keelboat and dingy CWO sailing instructor (2014-2022) and board member (from 2020 onwards) at Zeilschool het Uitgeestermeer (Uitgeest)
- Board member (secretary/treasurer) of the Socrates Student Association (2018/2019) and Committee member of the (political) events committee (2017/2018)
- Board member (treasurer) of the EUSCA Debating Committee (2019/2020)
- Organizer EUC BSc Brussel Seminar Series (2019/2020)
- Football trainer and coach (2013-2017).

### **Statistical/ programming skills**

Stata	advanced
Excel	advanced
R (markdown)	intermediate
Latex	intermediate
SPSS	intermediate
Python	basic