

## Renke Schmacker

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PERSONAL INFORMATION	DIW Berlin Mohrenstr. 58 10117 Berlin, Germany	<i>Phone:</i> +49 (176) 966 106 40 <i>E-mail:</i> rschmacker@diw.de <i>WWW:</i> <a href="https://rschmacker.github.io/">https://rschmacker.github.io/</a> <i>Citizenship:</i> German
INTERESTS	Public Economics, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics	
EDUCATION	<b>Berlin School of Economics (DIW Berlin and Free University Berlin)</b> Ph.D. Student, Economics <i>since 10/15</i> <b>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</b> M.Sc., Economics (ECTS Grade: A) <i>10/12-05/15</i> <b>University of Copenhagen</b> Exchange Semester <i>09/13-01/14</i> <b>Leuphana University, Lüneburg</b> B.Sc., Economics (with distinction, ECTS Grade: A) <i>10/09-09/12</i> B.Sc., Business Psychology (ECTS Grade: A) <i>10/08-09/12</i>	
RESEARCH VISITS	<b>New York University</b> , CESS, United States visiting Andrew Schotter <i>09/18-12/18</i> <i>Short Visits</i> CEBI and IFRO at University of Copenhagen, FAIR at NHH Bergen, IFS London	
REFERENCES	Prof. Dr. Peter Haan Head of Department “Public Economics” DIW Berlin phaan@diw.de	Prof. Dr. Dorothea Kübler Head of Unit “Market Behavior” WZB Berlin kuebler@wzb.eu  Prof. Georg Weizsäcker, Ph.D. Professor of Economics Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin weizsaecker@hu-berlin.de
		Prof. Andrew Schotter, Ph.D. Professor of Economics New York University andrew.schotter@nyu.edu
PUBLICATIONS	Social Image Concerns and Welfare Take-Up (with Jana Friedrichsen and Tobias König), <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> , 168, 2018, pp. 174-192	
JOB MARKET PAPER	Can Sin Taxes Help Consumers with Low Self-Control? Evidence from Soft Drink and Fat Tax Reforms (with Sinne Smed)  <i>Abstract:</i> “Sin taxes” can be welfare improving if they help people with low self-control reduce their consumption of unhealthy goods. A number of theoretical papers show that this requires consumers with low self-control to respond at least as strongly to a tax as people with high self-control. In this paper, we investigate this relationship in the context of two sets of sin tax reforms in Denmark: first, the increase of the soft drink tax in 2012 and its repeal in 2014, and, second, the fat tax introduction in 2011 and its repeal in 2013. We assess the consumption response empirically using the GfK Consumerscan household panel. With this data, we can separate the sample in consumers with low and high levels of self-control using a survey measure. We find that consumers with low self-control reduce consumption less strongly than consumers with high self-control when taxes go up, but increase consumption to a similar extent when taxes go down. Hence, we document an	

asymmetry in the responsiveness to increasing and decreasing prices. We show theoretically that these observations are consistent with a model of rational habit formation. The results suggest that price instruments may not be an effective tool for targeting self-control problems.

#### WORKING PAPERS

Earn More Tomorrow: Overconfident Income Expectations and Consumer Indebtedness (with Antonia Grohmann, Lukas Menkhoff and Christoph Merkle), *CRC TRR 190 Discussion Paper No. 152*, April 2019.

Do prices and purchases respond symmetrically to soft drink tax increases and cuts? Evidence from Danish tax reforms (with Sinne Smed), July 2019, *available upon request*.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

Matching and Voting. What Drives Preferences for Matching Mechanism? (with Tobias König, Dorothea Kübler and Lydia Mechtenberg)

Protecting the Ego: Information Selection and Updating (with Alessandro Castagnetti)

Soft Drink Taxation and Demand Persistence

#### POLICY REPORTS

Fear of Stigmatization Prevents Individuals from Claiming Benefits (with Jana Friedrichsen), DIW Weekly Report 26-27/2019, June 2019

Softdrinksteuer: Proportionale Steuer ist der vielversprechendste Ansatz, DIW Aktuell 10, May 2018

Eine Softdrinksteuer zur fiskalischen Konsumsteuerung, DIW Roundup 103, November 2016

#### MEDIA COVERAGE

NDR Info (radio, 06/18), WDR (TV, 04/18), Die Welt (newspaper, 04/18)

#### PRESENTATIONS

CEBI at University of Copenhagen

2019

FAIR at NHH, Bergen

EEA-ESEM Annual Congress 2019, Manchester

IIPF 2019, Glasgow

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), London

Applied Micro Workshop, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Retreat of the CRC TR 190 "Rationality and Competition", Schwanenwerder

Food and Health Economics Workshop 2018, Toulouse

2018

DIW Cluster Seminar, Berlin

Behavioral Welfare Economics Workshop, Berlin

2017

EEA-ESEM Annual Congress 2017, Lisbon

(Ce)2 Workshop 2017, Warsaw

University of Copenhagen

IMEBESS Meeting 2017, Barcelona

ESA 2016, Bergen

2016

Micro Reading Group, DIW Berlin

#### REFEREING

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)**, Berlin

*Research Associate*, Department "Public Economics"

since 10/16

**Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)**, Berlin

*Research Assistant*, Research Unit "Market Behavior"

01/13-09/15

**Lower Saxony Institute for Economic Research, Hannover**

*Intern*

*01/12-02/12*

**European Parliament, Brussels**

*Intern*

*09/11-12/11*

**Leuphana University, Lüneburg**

*Teaching and Research Assistant*

*10/09-09/11*

WORKSHOP  
ORGANIZATION

Workshop “Eating Meat 2019 - Determinants, Consequences, and Interventions”, October 8-9, 2019,  
DIW Berlin (joint with Jana Friedrichsen, Manja Gärtner, and Steffen Huck)

GRANTS, AWARDS  
AND AFFILIATIONS

Warwick University PhD Conference Grant for “Protecting the Ego” (with Alessandro Castagnetti),  
03/19

Team member of Collaborative Research Center SFB TRR 190 (DFG) “Rationality and Competi-  
tion: The Economic Performance of Individuals and Firms”, since 01/17

PhD Studies Scholarship of German Institute for Economic Research, 10/15-09/16

Basic Studies Scholarship (“Deutschlandstipendium”), 04/13-05/15

Scholarship of Lower Saxony for excellent course achievements, 12/09 & 12/10

SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (Fluent)

Software: Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

October 10, 2019