

Dóra Zsuzsanna Simon

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Research Interests: International Trade, Environmental Economics

Academic Positions

09/2021–present Assistant Professor, University of Stavanger Business School

Education

08/2015–05/2021 Ph.D., Economics, University of Zurich
Advisors: Ralph Ossa, Gregory Crawford
Main Fields: International Trade, Environmental Economics
08/2019–03/2020 Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley
Host: Meredith Fowlie
09/2013–07/2014 M.Sc. in International Trade, Finance and Development, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
10/2009–02/2013 B.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration, Goethe University Frankfurt

Working Papers

The Distributional Effects of Carbon Pricing: A Global View of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

M. Le Moigne, S. Lepot, D. Simon, M. Ritel, 2024

Abstract: We use a quantitative international trade model with climate policies to explore the idea of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), a leading principle of climate action. The principle recognizes that low- and middle-income countries are most affected by climate change despite their lower contributions to its causes. We ask what are the consequences for global equity of policies that ignore CBDR and explore the efficiency and feasibility of various policy schemes that comply with it. Our analysis delivers three main results. First, we document that efficient climate policies that ignore CBDR strongly exacerbate between-country inequality. Second, we show that equity can still be achieved with efficient climate policies when they are paired with realistic international transfers

that either equalize the costs of carbon taxation or account for historical emission patterns with both types having a modest impact on the population of high-income countries. Third, we show that carbon taxation schemes that rely on heterogeneous pricing with lower taxes for low and middle-income countries do not necessarily lead to fairer outcomes.

To Beef or Not To Beef: Trade, Meat, and the Environment

D. Simon, 2023

Abstract: The agricultural sector is the second largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. How can food consumption choices reduce emissions? I estimate a model of meat demand using purchasing data of meat and other protein rich products from a European retailer. I combine the purchasing data with data on production and transport emissions. In several counterfactual exercises, I analyze the reaction of consumers to some popular, supposedly eco-friendly food consumption policies. Contrary to popular belief, I find that buying local increases emissions by around 5% compared to the status quo. While vegetarianism decreases emissions by around 17%, consuming no beef and cheese yields the highest decrease in emissions of around 34%. My results show that consumer behavior can have a large impact on the emissions of food consumption.

Consumption Slowdown after the Great Recession

D. Simon, V. Sulaja, 2023

Abstract: The consumption growth in the US has considerably decreased since the last financial crisis. We argue that this happened due to controls imposed on banks that were facing foreclosure issues. Those banks that faced foreclosure issues have faced controls by government institutions, which increased their costs and decreased their supply of mortgage loans. As a result, counties more exposed to controlled banks faced a slower recovery of house prices and therefore wealth. Using data on employment and consumption we argue that it is the wealth effect originating from bank controls that decreased consumption growth. Banks decrease their mortgage loan origination by issuing lower number of loans and not by decreasing the average amount of loan.

Work in Progress

A Quantitative Analysis of Sustainable Globalization

M. Le Moigne, S. Lepot, R. Ossa, M. Ritel, D. Simon, 2024

Abstract: We analyze the economic effects of optimal climate action induced by a worldwide tax on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We conduct this analysis in the context of a modern quantitative trade model, with which we introduce the concept of environmental comparative advantage. We find that the environmental gains from trade account for 40 % of the overall emissions reductions brought about by a worldwide carbon tax. This result is surprisingly robust to limiting carbon taxes to a subset of sectors and regions.

Academic Presentations

2024	Meeting of Norwegian Economists (Norway), CEPR Sustainability and Public Policy Workshop (Switzerland), Economics Seminar (University of Wuerzburg), Economics Seminar (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)
2023	NHH Seminar (NHH Bergen), LISIT Conference (Norway), NOITS (Sweden), Workshop on Trade, Spatial Economics, and the Environment (online)
2022	Economics Seminar (University of Mainz), EAERE (Italy), Oslo Macro Group (Norway), ETSG (Netherlands), NAERE (Sweden), Samfunnsøkonomen (Norway), German Economists Abroad (Germany)
2021	NBER Summer Institute, NOITS (Iceland), Rare Voices in Economics (Switzerland)
2020	Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference (University of California, Berkeley), HSG-ZRH International Trade Workshop (University of Zurich), Doctoral Microeconomics Seminar (University of Zurich), Doctoral Macroeconomics Seminar (University of Zurich)
2019	Brown Bag Seminar (World Trade Institute, University of Bern), Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar University of California, Berkeley), Doctoral Macroeconomics Seminar (University of Zurich)

Teaching

2021-2024	Research Methods, Master Course	University of Stavanger
2021-present	Environmental Economics, Master Course	University of Stavanger
2021-2023	Data Analytics, Master Course	University of Stavanger
2017, 2018	International Trade, Bachelor Course	University of Zurich
2018	Programming Practices, PhD Course	University of Zurich
2018	Econometrics, Master Course	University of Zurich

Grants and Awards

2019	Doc.mobility	Swiss National Science Foundation
2015-2020	PhD Funding	University of Zurich
2013	Partial Tuition Waiver	Barcelona GSE

Work Experience

09/2014-05/2015	Trainee, European Central Bank	Frankfurt, Germany
04/2013-07/2013	Intern, German Council of Economic Experts	Wiesbaden, Germany
03/2013-04/2013	Intern, European Parliament	Brussels (Belgium)

Languages

- German, Hungarian - mother tongues
- English, Spanish, French - fluent
- Norwegian - hopefully soon fluent

Programming Skills

- R, Python, Git, Markdown
- Stata, Matlab, Latex

Extracurricular Activities

- Organizer of the weekly seminar series at the University of Stavanger
- Elected as delegate of the PostDocs and PhDs in the faculty meetings at the University of Zurich
- Founder Leader of the Stress Management Group for PhD Students of the University of Zurich