

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

Greening Ricardo: Environmental Comparative Advantage and the Environmental Gains from Trade

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

Abstract: We show that climate policy can unlock large environmental gains from trade by inducing countries to specialize according to their environmental comparative advantage. We make this point by exploring the effects of a carbon tax in a quantitative trade model. Our main result is that the environmental gains from trade account for over one-third of the total reduction in greenhouse gas emissions brought about by the carbon tax. This finding holds for a wide range of carbon tax rates and coverages.

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, 2024

Abstract: The agricultural sector is the second largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. How can food consumption choice 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 only decreases emissions by around 2% compared to the status quo. Free trade might increase emissions, while vegetarianism decreases emissions by more than 20%. Consuming no beef and cheese yields the highest decrease in emissions of around 33%. Pigouvian taxes lead to emissions reductions of 8-21%. These findings underscore the role of consumer choices in shaping food-related emissions.

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

Trump Tariffs and the Environment

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

Abstract: We analyze the economic and environmental effects of Trump's climate policy in case he gets elected. We conduct this analysis in the context of a modern quantitative trade model.

Tax incidence of carbon taxation

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

Abstract: We analyze the effect of producer vs. consumer carbon taxes. We conduct this analysis in the context of a modern quantitative trade model.

Academic Presentations

- 2024 Meeting of Norwegian Economists (University of Oslo), CEPR Sustainability and Public Policy Workshop (University of St. Gallen), Economics Seminar (University of Wuerzburg), Economics Seminar (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), International Trade and Investment Program Meeting Fall 2024 (Stanford University)
- 2023 NHH Seminar (NHH Bergen), LISIT Conference (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), NOITS (Stockholm University), Workshop on Trade, Spatial Economics, and the Environment (online)
- 2022 Economics Seminar (University of Mainz), EAERE (University of Bologna), Oslo Macro Conference (University of Oslo), ETSG (Groningen University), NAERE (Uppsala University), Meeting of Norwegian Economists (University of Stavanger), German Economists Abroad (DIW)
- 2021 NBER Summer Institute, NOITS (University of Akureyri), Rare Voices in Economics (Geneva Graduate Institute)
- 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-present	Environmental Economics, Master Course	University of Stavanger
2021-2024	Research Methods, 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 Waver	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