

SÉBASTIEN LAFFITTE

<https://sites.google.com/view/slaffitte/accueil>

slaffitte@gmail.com

sebastien.laffitte@ulb.be

Personal Information: 28/09/1994, male, French.

Pre-PhD Studies:

ENS Paris-Saclay, *normalien*

Master 2, ENS Paris-Saclay, ENSAE, École Polytechnique, Masters in Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2016

Graduate Studies:

ENS Paris-Saclay (Université Paris-Saclay), 09/2017 to 09/2022

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: "Essays on tax avoidance and tax havens"

Completion Date: 29th August 2022

Committee: Juan Carlos Suarez-Serrato (Referee), Gabriel Zucman (Referee), Pierre Boyer, Niels Johannesen, Nadine Riedel, Jose de Sousa, Farid Toubal (supervisor).

References:

Professor Farid TOUBAL (*supervisor*)
University of Paris-Dauphine – PSL, Place
du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, 75016
Paris
farid.toubal@dauphine.psl.eu

Professor Gabriel ZUCMAN
University of California Berkeley,
530 Evans Hall #3880
Berkeley, CA 94720
zucman@berkeley.edu

Professor Gianmarco OTTAVIANO
Bocconi University, Via Roetgen, 1
20136 Milano
gianmarco.ottaviano@unibocconi.it

Professor Mathieu PARENTI
Université Libre de Bruxelles,
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 50, 1050 Bruxelles
mparenti@ulb.ac.be

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Public Finance, International Economics.

Secondary fields: Public Economics, Economic history.

Research Experience:

2022- present ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles, post-doctoral researcher

2022- present EU Tax Observatory Research Fellow

2021-2022 UC Berkeley, Economic department, research visit, invited by Professor Gabriel Zucman, Fulbright Scholarship.

2020-2021 Sciences Po, Economic Department, Teaching and research officer.

Sept.-Dec. 2019 ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles, visiting graduate student invited by Professor Mathieu Parenti.

Jan.-Jun. 2019 External collaborator for the French Council of Economic Analysis on the Note "International Corporate Taxation: What Reforms? What Impact?" (Clemens Fuest, Mathieu Parenti, Farid Toubal).

2016-2017	London School of Economics (Centre for Economic Performance), Visiting student and research assistant for Professor Gianmarco Ottaviano.
2015-2016	CEPR, economist, intern.

Job Market Paper

The Market for Tax Havens

Why do some countries become tax havens? In this paper, I investigate the determinants of the development of tax havens. To do so, I create a novel database that tracks the building of tax havens' offshore institutions in 48 countries. This is the first database to make it possible to observe the moment when tax havens became so. After describing the development of tax havens in the 20th century and several key empirical patterns, I explore their causal determinants. Building on a theoretical framework and on the idea that tax havens are the suppliers in the market for offshore services, I explore two types of shocks. First, I show that demand shocks, identified through changes in tax rates in neighboring countries, explain why countries become tax havens. Second, I find that competition shocks, identified through changes in the number of tax havens in neighboring countries, explain why tax havens update their regulations. This reaction is facilitated by the diffusion of legal innovations between tax havens. Finally, I show that becoming a tax haven generates GDP per capita gains for countries adopting this status. My results suggest that policymakers should anticipate tax havens' responses to international tax reforms by making their potential legal innovations costly.

Publications:

"Multinationals' Sales and Profit Shifting in Tax Havens" (joint with Farid Toubal), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp.371-94, November 2022.

"Global banking: Endogenous competition and risk taking" (with Ester Faia, Maximilian Mayer, and Gianmarco Ottaviano), *European Economic Review*, Vol.133, 2021

"Foreign Expansion, Competition and Bank Risk" (with Ester Faia and Gianmarco Ottaviano), *Journal of International Economics*, Vol.118, pp.179-199, 2019

Book Chapters:

"Automation, Globalization and Vanishing Jobs: A Labor Market Sorting View" (with Ester Faia, Maximilian Mayer and Gianmarco Ottaviano), in "Robots and AI: A New Economic Era", Routledge, Editors Gene Grossman and Lili Yan Ing, 2022
Also CEPR Discussion Paper (14787) and CEP Discussion Paper (1695)

"The Emergence and Expansion of Tax Havens, 1850-2000: Insights From a New Dataset" Forthcoming in "Tax Evasion and Tax Havens since the Nineteenth Century in 2022", Palgrave Macmillan, Editors Sébastien Guex and Hadrien Buclin.

Work in Progress:

Profit Shifting Frictions and the Geography of Multinational Activity (with Alessandro Ferrari, Mathieu Parenti and Farid Toubal).

The Incidence of Corporate Income Tax: Evidence from France

Policy Notes and non-refereed publications:

International Taxation

“International Corporate Taxation after Covid-19: Minimum Taxation as the New Normal” (with Julien Martin, Mathieu Parenti, Baptiste Souillard and Farid Toubal), *Cepii Policy Brief* n°2020-30, 2020. Also available as a VoxEu column.

“L’argent caché : paradis fiscaux, optimisation et évasion fiscale”, *Regards croisés sur l’économie*, 24(1), 149-162, 2019

“Unitary Taxation in Light of the North American Experience” (with Samuel Delpeuch), *CAE Focus* n°37, 2019.

“Profit Shifting in France: Evidence from Firm-Level Administrative Databases” (with Mathieu Parenti, Baptiste Souillard and Farid Toubal), *CAE Focus* n°36, 2019

“Quel reporting pays par pays pour les futures réformes ?” (with Samuel Delpeuch, Hélène Paris, Mathieu Parenti, Baptiste Souillard and Farid Toubal), *CAE Focus* n°38, 2019

“L’évitement fiscal des multinationales : le rôle clé des plateformes de vente installées dans les paradis fiscaux” (with Farid Toubal), *Lettre du CEPII*, n°397, 2019

Other Topics

“Automation, globalisation, and vanishing jobs: A labour market sorting view” (with Ester Faia, Maximilian Mayer and Gianmarco Ottaviano), *VoxEu*, 2020 (17th June)

“Financial Fair Play: Globalisation and regulation in the European football industry” (with Ariela Caglio, Donato Masciandaro and Gianmarco Ottaviano), *VoxEu*, 2019 (19th December)

“Foreign expansion, competition, and bank risk” (with Ester Faia and Gianmarco Ottaviano), *VoxEu*, 2018 (20th September).

Professional Activity:

Referee reports	<i>Economica</i> , <i>European Economic Review</i> , <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , <i>PLoS One</i> , <i>Review of International Economics</i> .
Conferences / Seminars / Discussions	<p>2018: ENS Paris-Saclay, CREST PhD seminar, CESifo Global Economy annual conference, CEPII seminar, ETSG, 111th NTA’s Annual Conference on Taxation.</p> <p>2019: Paris working group on Taxation, Journées LAGV, RIEF meetings, ZEW Summer Workshop for Young Economists, ZEW MaTax, Oxford Centre for Business Taxation Doctoral Conference.</p> <p>2020: Université Libre de Bruxelles, CEPS internal virtual seminar (discussion).</p> <p>2021: ENS Paris-Saclay seminar, Tax Evasion or Avoidance and Tax Havens Conference (Lausanne), National Tax Association Congress.</p> <p>2022: AEA meetings (poster), UC Berkeley Public Finance seminar, UC Berkeley Economic History Lunch, Mannheim Taxation Conference.</p>
Seminars organization	2020: CEPS internal virtual seminar.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2021-2022	Fulbright scholarship (research visit to UC Berkeley, \$20k).
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2020-2022	BOOSTER (ENS Paris-Saclay), co-investigator (€30k)
2017-2020	French Ministry for Research, Full Ph.D. Fellowship.
2016-2017	École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay, ARPE scholarship to visit the London School of Economics.
2013-2017	École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay, Full Fellowship (<i>normalien</i>).

Teaching Experience:

2023 (planned)	Corporate Taxation in a globalized World (Ph.D.), ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles.
2023 (planned)	International Economics (master), ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles.
2020	International Economics, ENS Paris-Saclay, course of Prof. Toubal
2019	Intern recruitment and supervision, ENS Paris-Saclay with Prof. Toubal