

Stone Centre Conference on Optimal Taxation and Policy Design London, December 18-19, 2025

Organizers

Deniz Kattwinkel (UCL)

Alan Olivi (UCL)

Vasiliki Skreta (UT Austin, UCL, CEPR, NBER)

The conference aims to bring together **theorists and applied theorists in public finance**, all working on taxation from various perspectives. We also plan to include policymakers to share their insights.

The event will be structured around the following theme sessions:

- **Wealth Taxation**, with a particular focus on the issue of hidden wealth and costly verification models
- **Income taxation**, exploring how advancements in mechanism design (e.g. robustness, multidimensional screening of heterogeneous agents, bounded rationality) inform tax design
- **Fiscal Policies for Transforming Economies**, how to optimally finance societal changes (ecological transitions, war economies, innovation).
- **Redistribution without Taxes**: examining programs such as social housing, food stamps, and how to connect them with market design research.

Thursday December 18, 2025

- **8:30-9:00 Registration and breakfast**
- **9:00-9:10 Opening Remarks**
- **9:10 -- 10:00**
 - **Speaker:** Felix Bierbrauer (University of Cologne)
 - **Title:** Tax reforms with maximal support
 - **Discussant:** Francisco Poggi
- **10:05-- 10:55**
 - **Speaker:** Job Boerma (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - **Title:** Comparative Statics for Multidimensional Sorting
 - **Discussant:** Franz Ostrizek
- **10:55 -- 11:15 Coffee break**
- **11:15 -- 12:05**
 - **Speaker:** Pierre Boyer (CREST-'Ecole Polytechnique)
 - **Title:** The Political Economy of Joint Taxation
 - **Discussant:** Kevin Spiritus
- **12:10 -- 13:00**
 - **Speaker:** Piotr Dworzak (Northwestern University)
 - **Title:** Optimal Redistribution via Income Taxation and Market Design
 - **Discussant:** Victor Augias
- **13:00 -- 14:00**
 - **Lunch Break**
- **14:00 -- 14:50**
 - **Speaker:** Antoine Ferey (Sciences Po)
 - **Title:** Redistribution and Unemployment Insurance
 - **Discussant:** Pawel Doligalski
- **14:55 -- 15:45**
 - **Speaker:** Mikhail Golosov (University of Chicago)
 - **Title:** A Beckerian Theory of Taxation
 - **Discussant:** Krittanai Laohakunakorn
- **15:45 -- 16:00**
 - **Coffee Break**
- **16:00 -- 16:50**
 - **Speaker:** Christian Hellwig (Toulouse School of Economics)
 - **Title:** Dynamic Social Insurance with Non-Separable Preferences
 - **Discussant:** Karl Schulz
- **16:55 -- 17:45**
 - **Speaker:** Florian Scheuer (University of Zurich)
 - **Title:** "Putting the 'Finance' into 'Public Finance': A Theory of Capital Taxation"
 - **Discussant:** Matthew P Knowles
- **18:00 -- 21:00 Reception and dinner**

Friday December 19, 2025

- **8:30-9:00 Registration and breakfast**
- **9:00 -- 9:50**
 - **Speaker:** Chris Sleet (University of Rochester)
 - **Title:** Tax Design with Transition
 - **Discussant:** Eugenia Gonzalez-Aguado
- **9:55 -- 10:45**
 - **Speaker:** Maren Vairo (Princeton University)
 - **Title:** The Political Economy of Healthcare Reform
 - **Discussant:** Ian Ball
- **10:45 -- 11:15**
 - **Coffee Break**
- **11:15 -- 12:05**
 - **Speaker:** Nicolas Werquin (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)
 - **Title:** Extreme Poverty in Wealthy Nations: Evidence from France
 - **Discussant:** Pawel Doligalski
- **12:10 -- 13:00**
 - **Speaker:** Frank Yang (Stanford University)
 - **Title:** Comparison of Screening Devices
 - **Discussant:** Justus Preusser
- **13:00 --**
 - **Bagged lunch**