

Dr. Zareh Asatryan - Curriculum Vitae

Contact: Asatryan@zew.de; [Website](#); [Google-scholar](#)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Finance, Political Economics

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Employment

Since 2024	Professor of Empirical Economics, University of Münster, Germany
Since 2019	Deputy Head (Tenured), Department of Public Finance and Corporate Taxation ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim, Germany
2017 - 2018	Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Mannheim, Germany
2014 - 2017	Researcher, ZEW

Affiliations

Since 2022	Economic Policy Council of the Republic of Armenia, Board Member
Since 2022	Armenian Society of Fellows, Member
Since 2019	CESifo, Network Affiliate
Since 2014	Mannheim Taxation, Member
Since 2011	Armenian Economic Association, President; Since 2016 Executive Director

EDUCATION

2015	Dr. rer. pol. with distinction (summa cum laude), University of Freiburg Thesis: Direct Democracy and Local Public Finances in Germany (slides) Advisor: Prof. Lars P. Feld Coursework: Berlin Doctoral Program of Economics and Management Science
2010	MSc in Economics and Management Science, Humboldt University of Berlin
2007	BSc in Applied Mathematics and Statistics, State University of New York at Stony Brook

MAIN RESEARCH PAPERS

1. Political Consequences of Consumer Debt Relief. 2024. [Review of Economics and Statistics, conditionally accepted](#). (with Toke Aidt and Lusine Badalyan).
2. Nudging for Tax Compliance: A Meta-Analysis. 2024. [Economic Journal, accepted](#). (with Armenak Antinyan).
3. Austerity and Distributional Policy. 2022. [Journal of Monetary Economics](#) 131, 112-127. (with Matteo Alpino, Sebastian Blesse, Nils Wehrhöfer).
4. Vote Buying or (Political) Business (Cycles) as Usual? 2020. [Review of Economics and Statistics](#) 102(3), 409-425. (with Toke Aidt, Lusine Badalyan and Friedrich Heinemann).
5. Balanced Budget Rules and Fiscal Outcomes: Evidence from Historical Constitutions. 2018. [Journal of Public Economics](#) 167, 105-119. (with Cesar Castellon and Thomas Stratmann).
6. Remittances and Public Finances: Evidence from Oil-Price Shocks. 2017. [Journal of Public Economics](#) 155, 122-137. (with Benjamin Bittschi and Philipp Dörrenberg).

7. Direct Democracy and Local Public Finances under Cooperative Federalism. 2017. [Scandinavian Journal of Economics 119\(3\), 801–820](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran, Theodor Grigoriadis and Friedrich Heinemann).

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

8. Beyond Additionality: The Impact of EU Cohesion Policy on Investments by the Member States. [Slides available upon request](#). (with Carlo Birkholz).
9. Tax Competition Networks. [Slides available upon request](#). (with Johannes Gaul).
10. VAT Missing Trader Fraud in the EU: Evidence from Cross-Border Tax Audits. [Slides available upon request](#). (with Stefan Weck).
11. The Incidence of VAT Evasion: Evidence from Agricultural Markets. 2023. [ZEW Discussion Paper No. 20-027](#) (with David Gomtsyan).
12. Favoritism by the Governing Elite. 2023. [ZEW Discussion Paper No. 23-053](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran, Carlo Birkholz and Patrick Hufschmidt).
13. Favoritism and Firms: Micro Evidence and Macro Implications. 2021. [ZEW Discussion Paper No. 21-031](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran, Carlo Birkholz and David Gomtsyan).
14. Regional Favoritism and Human Capital Accumulation. 2021. [ZEW Discussion Paper No. 21-030](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran, Patrick Hufschmidt and Alexander Stöcker).
15. Responses of Firms to Tax, Administrative, and Accounting Rules: Evidence from Armenia. 2016. [ZEW Discussion Paper No. 16-065](#). (with Andreas Peichl).
16. Inverse December Fever: Evidence from Austria. (with Andreas Peichl, Thomas Schwab and Johannes Voget).

FURTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

17. Evidence-Based Policy or Beauty Contest? An LLM-Based Meta-Analysis of EU Cohesion Policy Evaluations. 2024. [International Tax and Public Finance, accepted](#). (with Carlo Birkholz and Friedrich Heinemann).
18. The Regional Economics of Mineral Resource Wealth in Africa. 2024. [Economica, accepted](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran, Carlo Birkholz and Patrick Hufschmidt).
19. Taxes and Business Philanthropy in Armenia. 2022. [Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 200, 914-930](#). (with David Joulfaian).
20. Does the Frequency of Reminders Matter for their Effectiveness? 2021. [Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 191, 752-764](#). (with Armenak Antinyan, Zhixin Dai, and Kezhi Wang).
21. Political Economy of Multilateral Lending to European Regions. 2020. [Review of International Organizations 15, 707-740](#). (with Anika Havlik).
22. Biases in Fiscal Multiplier Estimates. 2020. [European Journal of Political Economy 63, 1-25](#). (with Annika Havlik, Friedrich Heinemann and Justus Nover).
23. Reforming the Public Administration: The Role of Crisis and the Power of Bureaucracy. 2017. [European Journal of Political Economy 48, 128-143](#). (with Friedrich Heinemann and Hans Pitlik).
24. Vetoing and Inaugurating Policy Like Others Do: Evidence on Spatial Interactions in Voter Initiatives. 2017. [Public Choice 172\(3-4\), 525–544](#). (with Annika Havlik and Frank Streif).
25. The Effect of Direct Democracy on the Level and Structure of Local Taxes. 2017. [Regional Science and Urban Economics 65, 35-55](#). (with Thushyanthan Baskaran and Friedrich Heinemann).

26. The Indirect Effects of Direct Democracy: Local Government Size and Non-Budgetary Voter Initiatives in Germany. 2016. [International Tax and Public Finance](#) 23(3), 580-601.
27. Partial Fiscal Decentralization and Sub-National Government Fiscal Discipline: Empirical Evidence from OECD Countries. 2015. [Public Choice](#) 163(3-4), 307-320. (with Benny Geys and Lars P. Feld).
28. Direct Democracy and Local Government Efficiency. 2015. [European Journal of Political Economy](#) 39, 58-99. (with Kristof De Witte).
29. Revisiting the Link between Growth and Federalism: A Bayesian Model Averaging Approach. 2015. [Journal of Comparative Economics](#) 43(3), 772-781. (with Lars P. Feld).

POLICY PAPERS

- The Future of EU Cohesion Policy. [ZEW Policy Brief Final Report, Mannheim 2024](#). (with Carlo Birkholz and Friedrich Heinemann).
- The Other Government: State-Owned Enterprises in Germany and Their Implications for the Core Public Sector. [ZEW Expert Brief No 08, November 2022](#). (with Friedrich Heinemann and Justus Nover).
- Representing the Future in Aging Societies: Policy Implications of the Voting Age Reform in Germany. [ZEW Expert Brief No 04, April 2022](#).
- The European Fiscal Board: An Experiment at the Supranational Level. In Roel Beetsma and Xavier Debrun eds.: Independent Fiscal Councils: Watchdogs or Lapdogs? [VoxEU e-book](#), pp. 165-173, CEPR press, London, UK 2018. (with Friedrich Heinemann).
- Which Role for the European Minister of Economy and Finance in a European Fiscal Union. [EconPol Policy Report 05/2018\(2\)](#), Munich 2018. (with Xavier Debrun, Annika Havlik, Friedrich Heinemann, Martin Kocher and Roberto Tamborini).
- Making the Most of the European Fiscal Board. [ZEW policy brief No. 17-03](#), Mannheim 2017. (with Xavier Debrun, Friedrich Heinemann, Michal Horvath, Ludovít Ódor and Mustafa Yeter).
- Public Sector Reform: How the EU Budget is Used to Encourage It. [European Parliament, DG Internal Policies: Budgetary Affairs \(D\)](#). Brussels 2016. (with Friedrich Heinemann, Mustafa Yeter, Eulalia Rubio, David Rinaldi and Fabian Zuleeg).
- Better Fiscal Rules for Europe: Reflections Based on New Empirical Evidence. [ZEW policy brief No. 15-04](#), Mannheim 2015. (with Dirk Foremny, Friedrich Heinemann, Albert Solé-Ollé, Thomas Stratmann and Mustafa Yeter).
- Some Observations on the Economic Implications of Constitutional Reform in Armenia. [Caucasus Analytical Digest](#) 76, 10-14, 2015.
- The Political Economy of Pension Reform in Armenia. [Caucasus Analytical Digest](#) 60, 2-5, 2014.
- Compensating the Losers of Free Trade. [WWWforEurope Working Paper No 63](#), 2014. (with Sebastian Braun, Wolfgang Lechthaler, Mariya Mileva and Catia Montagna).

DISTINCTIONS

2022	IDEAS RePEc ranking of top 1% of young economists (with 10 or fewer years of research activity)
2016	Dissertation award, Friedrich-August-von-Hayek, University of Freiburg

FUNDING (SELECTED)

As (Co-)PI

2025 - 2027	DFG (German Science Foundation): Tax Reform Narratives. (≈300K€.)
2023 - 2024	BMF (German Federal Ministry of Finance): Reforming European Cohesion Policy. (with Friedrich Heinemann; ≈200K€.)
2023 - 2024	MannheimTaxation: Missing Trader Fraud in the EU. (with Stefan Weck; ≈56K€.)
2021 - 2022	BMBF (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research): Economic and Social Mobility in Transition Economies. (with Vahagn Jerbashian; ≈40K€.)
2020 - 2022	MannheimTaxation: Nudging for Tax Compliance. (≈36K€.)
2020 - 2021	DFG (German Science Foundation): Regional Favoritism. (with Thushyanthan Baskaran; ≈200K€.)
2019 - 2020	SEEK: Political Biases in EU Spending. (with Friedrich Heinemann; ≈260K€.)

Other

2018 - 2021	Leibniz-Excellence: Market Design by Public Authorities.
2016 - 2019	SEEK: European Network of Better Institutions.
2014 - 2015	SEEK: Fiscal Governance in the EU under Crisis Conditions.
2012 - 2016	Leibniz-Excellence: Tax Policy in the EU in an Environment of New Fiscal Institutions.
2011 - 2012	PhD Scholarship. Leibniz. The Future of Fiscal Federalism in Germany & Europe.
2008 - 2010	Masters Scholarship. DAAD.

TEACHING

2018 Spring	Fiscal Federalism, Syllabus , University of Mannheim.
2017 Fall	Topics in Applied Public Finance, Syllabus , University of Mannheim.

TALKS (SELECTED)

Invited Seminars	University of Exeter (TARC), Goethe University of Frankfurt, Walter Eucken Institut (Freiburg), VATT Helsinki, University of Cagliari, University of Innsbruck, WZB (Berlin), Ifo (Munich, Fuerth), LMU (Munich), University of Barcelona, University of Siegen, OSF (Cambridge), DIW (Berlin), University of Zurich, EconPol (Brussels), University of Bayreuth, National Bank of Denmark, ECB (Frankfurt).
Annual Conferences	ASSA (Atlanta, Boston), EEA (Lisbon, Mannheim, Toulouse, Gothenburg), IIPF (Tampere, Taormina, Dresden, Glasgow), NTA (Detroit, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore), SEA (Washington, DC), EPCS (Vienna, Braga, Budapest, Freiburg, Groningen, Cambridge, Zurich), PCS (Miami), Silvaplane Political Economy Workshop, Public Finance in Developing Countries (Zurich).
Public Lectures	Evaluating EU Cohesion: Evidence-Based Policy or Beauty Contest? (2023, slides), Direct Democracy and Public Policy in Germany (2019, slides), Tax and Fiscal Policy in Armenia (2018, slides and video), Tax Evasion and Avoidance (2018), Evidence-Driven Public Policy Design in Armenia (2017, slides).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing	Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Economic Journal, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Political Science Review, Journal of Economic Growth, European Economic Review, Journal of Econometrics, International Tax and Public Finance, European Journal of Political Economy, Public Choice, Experimental Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Review of International Organizations, Journal of Comparative Economics, Economics of Transition, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Regional Studies, Review of Development Economics, Finanzarchiv Public Finance Analysis, PLOS ONE, among others.
Conference (Co)Organization	ZEW Public Finance Annual Conference, 2015-2024; Armenian Economic Association Annual Meetings, 2011-2024; Workshop on Fiscal Governance in the Eurozone, 2016 program ; Workshop on the Economics of Public Procurement, 2018 program ; Politics of Favoritism and Its Economic Implications, 2021 program ; Workshop on Redistributive Taxation: Optimal Design and Political Economy Forces 2021 program .

PERSONAL

Languages	Armenian (native), English (fluent), Russian (good), German (conversational).
Citizenship	Armenia.