


# David Sonnewald

## Position and Affiliation

Senior Research Officer  
Centre for Microsimulation and Policy Analysis  
(CeMPA)  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Primary** Public Economics, Labour Economics.  
**Secondary** Taxation, Microsimulation Modelling.

## EDUCATION

2020-2025 **UCLouvain** (BE). *PhD in Economics.*  
*Thesis:* Essays on Labour Economics: Taxation, Migration, and Education. *Advisors:* Prof. Koen Declercq, Prof. Tom Truyts. *Thesis Jury:* Prof. Bart Capéau, Prof. Benoit Dostie, Prof. Edoardo Ciscato, Prof. Gilles Grandjean.

Aug.-Dec. 2023 **HEC Montréal** (CA). *Visiting PhD Student.*  
*Host Professor:* Prof. Benoit Dostie.

2017-2020 **Bocconi University** (IT). *MSc in Economics and Management of Government and International Organizations.* Magna cum laude.  
*Thesis:* The determinants of college graduates' income: Filed of Study and Academic Performance.  
*Advisor:* Prof. Massimo Anelli.

Sept.-Dec. 2018 **EMLYON Business School** (FR). *Erasmus Program.*

2014-2017 **Bocconi University** (IT). *BSc in Economics and Social Sciences.*  
*Thesis:* Decisions by Italian investors. Is “more” always preferable to “less”? When microeconomic statements clash against reality. *Advisor:* Prof. Michela Braga.

## PUBLICATIONS

Sonnewald, D. “Country of Birth and Wage Differentials: Evidence from Belgium”. *The American Economist* (2025).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Dostie, B. & Sonnewald, D. “Does Self-Employment Income Help Immigrants Close the Immigrant-Native Earnings Gap Faster?”.

Green, R. & Sonnewald, D. “Marginal Personal Income Tax Changes: Tax Revenue, Welfare, and Labour Supply Responses”.

Richiardi, M., Sonnewald, D. & Van De Ven, J. “Demand and Supply of Care Over the Life Course”.

Sonnewald, D. “There Are Some Things Money Can’t Buy; For Everything Else, There’s Saudi Pro League”.

Sonnewald, D. “Regional Labour Markets in Belgium: The Role of Education”. *Working Paper* (2025).

## TEACHING

Feb.-June 2025	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Public Economics (EN), BECGE1215, Bachelor, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.
Feb.-June 2024	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Public Economics (EN), BECGE1215, Bachelor, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.
Feb.-June 2023	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Public Economics (EN), ECGE1215, Bachelor, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	<b>Centre for Microsimulation and Policy Analysis</b> , Colchester (UK), <i>Senior Research Officer</i> .
2020-2025	<b>Center for Applied Public Economics</b> , Brussels (BE), <i>Researcher</i> .
Mar.-Jul. 2019	<b>European Commission</b> , DG for Economic and Financial Affairs, Brussels (BE), <i>Blue Book Program</i> .
June-Sep. 2018	<b>GoVolt S.r.l.</b> , Milan (IT), <i>Intern</i> .
June-Sep. 2016	<b>AcomeA SGR</b> , Milan (IT), <i>Intern</i> .

## PROJECTS

2025-Present	<b>HealthMod</b> : innovative computational models for public health.
2025-Present	<b>WELLSIM</b> : life course microsimulation perspective on multi-dimensional well-being.
2024-2025	<b>Flemish Government</b> : behavioural effects of regional surcharges in the personal income tax.
2020-2025	<b>Beamm</b> : online open-access microsimulation model for the tax-benefit system in Belgium.
2020-2025	<b>Beamm.Brussels</b> : Beamm version tailored for the Brussels Capital Region.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

<b>Programming</b>	Git; GitHub; Java; LaTeX; MatLab; R; Stata.
<b>R Packages</b>	blogdown; bookdown; ggplot2; shiny.
<b>Languages</b>	HTML; Go.

## OTHER INFORMATION

<b>Languages</b>	<i>Italian</i> (Native); <i>English</i> (Proficient); <i>French</i> (Proficient); <i>Spanish</i> (Basic).
<b>Memberships</b>	Canadian Economic Association (CEA); Center for Research in Economics (CEREC); European Economic Association (EEA); International Microsimulation Association (IMA); British Academy Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN). <i>Student Associations</i> : European Generation Student Association (2016-2018); TEDxBocconiU (2016-17).
<b>Other experience</b>	Expo Milano (2015); Working Gap Year (2013-2014).
<b>Photography</b>	Atelier UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (2025); Exhibition “La poésie de l’espace urbain” (2025); Exhibition “La photographie de rue” (2024); Atelier UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles (2023).
<b>Volunteering</b>	YJJC (2025-present); Permanence Douches (2024-2025); Beteavon and Comunità di Sant’Egidio (2014-2019); Fondazione Bianca Garavaglia (2016-2017).

## PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2026            2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Microsimulation Workshop: Modelling behaviour in dynamic microsimulation models, February 26, *Università di Torino*.
- 2025            European Meeting of the International Microsimulation Association, June 24-25, *University of Galway*; 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, May 30-31, *Université du Québec à Montréal*; Spring Doctoral Workshop in Economics, May 23, *UCLouvain*; 2<sup>nd</sup> Welfare and Policy Conference, May 5-6, *Bordeaux School of Economics*; DeFiPP Workshop Series, February 18, *Université de Namur*.
- 2024            COMPIE Conference, June 24-26, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*; 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, May 30-June 1, *Toronto Metropolitan University*; 19<sup>th</sup> CIREQ PhD Students' Conference, May 23-24, *Concordia University*; RCEA International Conference in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, May 20-22, *Brunel University London*; IDEAS 2024, May 15-17, *Institut d'études européennes, ULB*; IAAEU Workshop on Labour Economics, April 11-12, *Trier University*; Après-midi d'étude sur Bruxelles, February 20, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Microsimulation Association, January 8-10, *University of Vienna*.
- 2023            Department of Applied Economics Internal Seminars Series, December 6, *HEC Montréal*; Micro Breakfast Seminar, Department of Economics, October 20, *McGill University*; Department of Applied Economics Internal Seminars Series, September 13, *HEC Montréal*; 22<sup>nd</sup> LAGV Conference, June 28-30, *Palais du Pharo (Marseille)*; Doctoral Meeting of the Center for Research in Economics, June 20, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; XLII APHES Conference, June 16-17, *Porto University*; IAAEU Workshop on Labour Economics, March 30-31, *Trier University*.
- 2022            Winter Doctoral Workshop in Economics, December 9, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*; 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Belgian Day for Labour Economists (BDLE), October 7, *Federal Planning Bureau, Brussels*; Spring Doctoral Workshop in Economics, May 23, *UCLouvain*; Doctoral Workshop of the Center for Research in Economics, March 8, *UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles*.

## COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

- May 2025            BEAMM.CONF2025, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.
- Jan. 2024            Beamm.Brussels Launch Event, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.
- Feb. 2020            Welcome Week for exchange students, Bocconi University.
- Sep. 2019            Welcome Week for exchange students, Bocconi University.
- May 2018            European Youth Debate, Lombardy Regional Council.
- May 2017            European Youth Debate, Lombardy Regional Council.
- May 2017            TEDxBocconiU: Falling & Rising - L'arte di cadere e rialzarsi, Bocconi University.

## AWARDS

- 2018            IREN Start-up Award 2018 powered by Intesa Sanpaolo Start Up Initiative: Designated for the training and selection phase (GoVolt).
- 2017            Group project for the course "Strategic and hr management in public organizations" in cooperation with A2A S.p.A.