UWE THÜMMEL

PhD Candidate in Economics
Erasmus University Rotterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Tinbergen Institute

Erasmus School of Economics
Postbus 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 68 359 33 88
Email: thuemmel@ese.eur.nl
Web: uwethuemmel.com

Doctoral Studies

2013– ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM, TINBERGEN INSTITUTE
PhD, Economics, Expected Completion: June 2018
Dissertation: "Essays on Technological Change and Inequality"

Dissertation Committee

Prof. Bas Jacobs
Department of Economics
School of Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 10 4089666
Email: bjacobs@ese.eur.nl

Prof. Björn Brügemann
Department of Economics
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 5987503
Email: b.a.brugemann@vu.nl

Prior Education

2013 TINBERGEN INSTITUTE
MPhil in Economics (Distinction), August 2013

2011 UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
MSc in Multidisciplinary Economics (Distinction), August 2011

2009 UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM
BSc in Economics (Minor in Sociology), July 2009

Fields

PRIMARY Public Finance

SECONDARY Macroeconomics, Labor Economics

Teaching Experience

2017 SEMINAR ECONOMIC POLICY: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBALIZATION, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
Co-Lecturer, Master Level

2016 SEMINAR ECONOMIC POLICY: THE EUROZONE CRISIS AND ITS AFTERMATH, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
Co-Lecturer, Master Level

2015 MACROECONOMIC POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM
Lecturer, Master Level

2015 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM
Teaching Assistant, Bachelor Level

2015 SEMINAR ECONOMIC POLICY: THE EUROZONE CRISIS, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
Co-Lecturer, Master Level

2014 POLICY COORDINATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM
Lecturer, Master Level

2014 SEMINAR ECONOMIC POLICY: THE EUROZONE CRISIS, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
Co-Lecturer, Master Level

2013 MACROECONOMICS I, TINBERGEN INSTITUTE
Teaching Assistant to Björn Brügemann, Master Level

Relevant Positions

2009 CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ZEW), MANNHEIM
Research Assistant

2008 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, BERLIN
Internship

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2007-2012 GERMAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC FOUNDATION
(Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

Presentations

2015 Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Mannheim, Germany)

2014 IIPF Conference 2014 (Lugano, Switzerland)

Research Visits

2016/17 Stanford University, Economics Department (hosted by Florian Scheuer)

Work in Progress

"Optimal Taxation of Robots" (Job Market Paper)

I study optimal taxation of robots and labor income in a model in which robots substitute for routine work and complement non-routine work. The model features intensive-margin labor supply, endogenous wages and occupational choice. I show that the optimal robot tax is in general not zero, violating production efficiency. The robot tax is used to exploit general equilibrium effects to relax incentive constraints, making redistribution with the income tax less distortive, thereby increasing welfare. The sign of the robot tax is ambiguous if routine workers are found in the middle of the wage distribution. Using the model for quantitative analysis based on US data, I find that the optimal robot tax is small.

"Optimal Taxation and Education Policy with Skill-Biased Technological Change"
(with Bas Jacobs)

This paper studies optimal linear income taxation and education subsidies in a model with heterogeneous individuals that acquire human capital on the extensive margin and supply labor on the intensive margin. Optimal income taxes trade off distributional benefits against tax distortions on both labor supply and skill formation. Human capital is optimally taxed on a net basis as taxes on ability rents from infra-marginal skilled workers are traded off against distortions on skill formation of marginal skilled workers. Distributional benefits of income taxes and net taxes on education decrease in general equilibrium, since both policies raise pre-tax wage inequality. Although education is optimally taxed on a net basis, optimal education subsidies can be positive as they reduce tax distortions on skill formation. Skill-biased technological change raises earnings inequality and therefore requires higher optimal income taxes and higher net taxes on skill formation. The effect on education subsidies is ambiguous.

"Globalization or skill-biased technical change? Exploring the proximate causes for rising wage inequality in the Dutch manufacturing sector."
Using matched employer-employee data for the Netherlands, this paper studies the proximate causes of increasing wage inequality associated with globalization and skill-biased technical change: it investigates the extent to which changes in the employment share of exporters and the exporter premium, as well as changes in the share of college graduates and the college premium have contributed to rising wage inequality in the Dutch manufacturing sector between 2001 and 2005. Decomposition techniques are used to attribute changes in the wage distribution to three components: changes in returns to characteristics, composition changes, and changes in the distribution of residuals. The main findings are as follows: first, the exporter premium changed only slightly between 2001 and 2005, thus contributing little to rising inequality; second, an increasing exporter-employment share modestly decreased overall wage dispersion; third, a rising college premium contributed between 8% and 16% to inequality growth; fourth, the contribution of a rising share of college graduates to inequality explains more than 30% of the increase in dispersion. It is concluded that if globalization contributed to wage inequality, it did so via the skill- rather than the exporter premium.

Other Information

CITIZENSHIP
German

GENDER
Male

DATE OF BIRTH
October 1st, 1985

LANGUAGES
German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Dutch (intermediate), Polish (intermediate)

SKILLS
Matlab, Mathematica, R, Stata, Python, SAS, SQL