

# David Leite

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## Education

**Ph.D. in Economics**, Paris School of Economics, France, 2024.

*Supervisor:* Antoine Bozio

*Jury:* Mário Centeno, Joana Naritomi, Joel Slemrod, Gabriel Zucman, Eric Zwick

**M.Sc. in Analysis and Policy in Economics**, Paris School of Economics, France, 2019

**M.Sc. in Econometrics**, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 2013

**B.A. in Economics**, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 2011

## Employment

*Economist* at OECD Economics Department, 2018-2019

*Economist* at the Office of the Portuguese Finance Minister, 2016-2017

*Junior Economist* at the Research Department of the Portuguese Central Bank, 2014-2015

*Trainee* at the Research Department of the Portuguese Central Bank, 2013

## Refereeing

*International Tax and Public Finance*

## Selected presentations

Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation Doctoral Conference, Oxford, September 09–10, 2024 [[link](#)]

80th Annual Congress of the IIPF, Prague, August 21–23, 2024 [[link](#)]

NBER Public Economics Program Meeting, Spring 2024, April 18-19, 2024 [[link](#)]

CESifo Conference on Public Economics 2024, Munich, March 21-23, 2024 [[link](#)]

CEPR Policy Forum, Paris, June 26-30, 2023 [[link](#)]

Workshop on the Economics of Taxation, University of Barcelona, May 31, 2023 [[link](#)]

Applied Economics Lunch Seminar, Paris School of Economics, Paris, June 7, 2022 [[link](#)]

8th Annual Mannheim Taxation Conference, Virtual Edition, September 9-10, 2021 [[link](#)]

Online Public Finance Seminar (OPFS), Online, April 08, 2021 [[link](#)]

76th Annual Congress of the IIPF, Virtual Edition, August 19-21, 2020 [[link](#)]

## Working Papers

### ***The Firm as Tax Shelter: Micro Evidence and Aggregate Implications of Consumption Through the Firm*** [[Link to the paper](#)]

This paper presents evidence that firms might serve as tax-free consumption vehicles. Drawing on a unique combination of data from an electronic invoicing program in Portugal (“e-Fatura”) we show that individuals who control firms shift 36% of their monthly personal expenditures to firms and 31% of their household expenditures. The effects are driven by owner-managers of small closely-held firms through expenditure categories that lie on the border between business and final consumption, but spread among business managers all over the income distribution. Government revenue losses due to consumption through the firm amount to 1% of the GDP. Reallocating tax savings and personal expenditures hidden within firms to reported household income of business managers increases the Gini by one percentage point, and the top 1% income share by half percentage point.

This paper was awarded the:

- *Peggy and Richard Musgrave Award 2024* by the International Institute of Public Finance
- *Best Paper Award* of the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation Doctoral Conference 2024.

### ***Tax Withholding and Earnings Supply: Evidence from Bunching at the Withholding Eligibility.*** [[Link to the paper](#)]

This paper reveals taxpayers’ responses to the threshold for tax withholding. Relying on a large dataset of Portuguese tax returns for fiscal year 2017, I use bunching techniques to identify responses to effective or perceived tax incentives. First, I find no excess mass at the kinks in the tax schedule for wage earners and self-employed taxpayers. Second, I find that wage earners and self-employed workers in de facto employer–employee relationships strongly bunch at the annual values of the full-time minimum wage. Third, I find that “purely” self-employed taxpayers – those deriving their income from many different payers – significantly bunch at the tax withholding eligibility threshold. I interpret these findings as revealing misperceptions about the tax system, as the withholding threshold is neutral with respect to the final tax liability. My results contribute to the design of optimal tax collection systems, particularly in contexts with progressive taxation and uncertain income.

## Work in progress

***Consumption Through the Firm: Evidence from Norway*** (with A. Alstadsæter, T. Heiene, and W. Kopczuk)

## Policy Papers

*"Housing, wealth accumulation and wealth distribution: Evidence and stylized facts"*  
(with O. Causa and N. Woloszko), OECD Economics Department Working Papers, 2019,  
No.1588, OECD Publishing, Paris [\[link\]](#)

## Software

*Statistical Software:* Stata (excellent)  
*Programming Languages* R (very good) and Julia (good)  
*Typesetting:* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and Microsoft Word

## Languages

Native language: *Portuguese*

Foreign languages:

	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
<i>English</i>	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<i>Castilian</i>	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Very good
<i>French</i>	Excellent	Very good	Good	Good

## References

Antoine Bozio  
Professor of Economics  
Paris School of Economics

Eric Zwick  
Professor of Economics  
University of Chicago

Gabriel Zucman  
Professor of Economics  
Paris School of Economics

Thomas Piketty  
Professor of Economics  
Paris School of Economics