

## Anasuya RAJ

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## DOCTORAL STUDIES

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2015 – present                      Ecole Polytechnique, CREST. PhD Candidate.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Primary fields: Public economics, Taxation.

Secondary fields: Networks, Political economy.

## REFERENCES

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Pierre Boyer  
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## VISITING POSITIONS

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October 2019                      Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich.

September 2019                      Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Marseille.

Spring 2019                      Columbia University, New York.

October 2017                      Ifo Institute for Economic Research, Munich.

## PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

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2010 – 2012                      Paris School of Economics, Master « Analysis and Policy in Economics ».

2007 – 2010                      Cambridge University (Trinity College), Mathematical Tripos, BA (Bachelor of Arts).

## RESEARCH PAPERS

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**JOB MARKET PAPER:** "Optimal income taxation in the presence of networks of altruism", 2019.

Following the tradition of Mirrlees (1971), static optimal income taxation problems are typically concerned with public redistribution by the State between independent individuals or couples. This paper is the first to depart from this independence assumption and to account for the interaction between public redistribution and private transfers occurring between individuals within their familial and social networks. Here, individuals value the private utilities of their group's members and differ in their productivity levels. As a result, they have two dimensions of choice: their productive effort and the transfers they make to other members of their network. I characterize theoretically the optimal linear and non-linear income tax schemes in this context and provide sufficient statistics formulas for both, which highlight how tax design is affected by the existence of altruistic private transfers. I show that public and private redistribution are substitutes but at the optimum, private transfers are only partially crowded-out: the government may rely on these transfers to achieve its equity objective. Depending on the structure of groups, taking into account private redistribution may induce large efficiency gains -- a finding I illustrate using numerical simulations. These novel insights can then be applied to a variety of settings, such as those of family taxation and of taxation in developing countries, for which I document the structure and nature of informal transfers using the World Bank's Living Standard Measurement Surveys.

"On the Political Economy of the Income-Tax Threshold", with Pierre BOYER, 2018.

The income-tax threshold constitutes an important policy instrument in the taxation systems of many modern democracies. Indeed, in many western countries, the proportion of the income-tax paying population has remained surprisingly stable in the past thirty years. We develop a conceptual framework to analyze the political forces affecting the income-tax threshold in non-linear tax systems. First, we study theoretically how reforms of a status quo tax schedule affecting marginal tax rates and the income-tax threshold can be politically feasible. Our main theoretical results show the relationship between the types of reforms considered and the identity of the decisive voters who make them politically feasible. Second, in order to study real-world reforms of the income-tax threshold we derive an empirically applicable formula, which we then apply to the case of France. Simulations of tax reforms reveal that an increase in the number of taxpayers from the status quo is hard to sustain politically and that the observed stability of the French taxpaying population around 50% is a by-product of political constraints.

## PUBLICATIONS

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"European Economic and Monetary Union reform preferences of French and German parliamentarians", with Sebastian BLESSE, Pierre BOYER, Friedrich HEINEMANN and Eckhard JANEBA, 2019. *European Union Politics*, 20(3), 406-424.

"On the Design of Optimal Health Insurance Contracts under Ex Post Moral Hazard", with Pierre PICARD and Pierre MARTINON, 2018. *The Geneva Risk and Insurance Review*, 43(2), 137-185.

"Intégration européenne et politiques du marché du travail : Quel consensus entre parlementaires français et allemands ?", with Pierre BOYER, Sebastian BLESSE, Friedrich HEINEMANN and Eckhart JANEBA, 2017. *Revue d'économie politique*, 127(5), 737-759.

## SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| 2019 | CRED Fiscal workshop (Paris, January), Columbia microeconomics colloquium (New York, February), Wharton School (Philadelphia, April), CTN « Coalition Theory Network » conference (Aix-en-Provence, May), CREST microeconomics seminar (Palaiseau, June), IIPF « International Institute of Public Finance » (Glasgow, August), EEA « European Economic Association » (Manchester, August), TTW « Transatlantic Theory Workshop » (Oxford, September), Max Planck Institute Workshop in Advances in Political Economy and Public Economics (Munich, September), Collège de France Innovation Lab (Paris, September), AMSE Interaction seminar (Marseille, September), University of Munich Public Economics seminar (Munich, October). |
| 2018 | CREST microeconomics seminar (Palaiseau, March), CREST junior workshop in Political Economy (Palaiseau, April), AFSE « Association Française de Science Economique » (Paris, May), CRED  |

Fiscal workshop (Paris, May), LAGV « Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet » (Aix-en-Provence, June), IIPF « International Institute of Public Finance » (Tampere, August), EEA « European Economic Association » (Cologne, August).

2017 AFSE « Association Française des Sciences économiques » (Nice, June), PET « Public Economic Theory » (Paris, July).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2018-2019 Teaching Assistant, Econometrics 1 at ENSAE (Graduate level). Professor: Michael VISSER.  
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics 1 at ENSAE (Graduate level). Professor: Philippe CHONÉ.

2017-2018 Teaching Assistant, Econometrics 1 at ENSAE (Graduate level). Professor: Michael VISSER.  
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics 1 at ENSAE (Graduate level). Professor: Philippe CHONÉ.  
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Microeconomics at ENSAE (Undergraduate level). Professor: Thibaud VERGÉ.

2016 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Economics (Petites Classes, ECO311) at Ecole Polytechnique (Undergraduate level). Professor: Pierre CAHUC.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Referee for: *Journal of Public Economic Theory*.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Consultant for Developing Trade Consultants, under the direction of Ben SHEPHERD.  
(August – September 2014, November 2014, March 2015)

Consultant at the World Bank, under the direction of Jean-François ARVIS in the PRMTR team (International Trade and Transport).  
(January 2013 – September 2015)

Internship, MAPP Conseil (Applied Microeconomics), under the direction of David SPECTOR.  
(July – November 2011)

## LANGUAGES

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Languages French (first language), English (fluent), German (reading and writing).