NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation

Jakob Brounstein

UC Berkeley Department of Economics

Dear Professors Auerbach, Poterba, and Zidar,

My name is Jakob Brounstein. I am a fourth-year PhD Candidate in economics at the UC Berkeley Department of Economics. I study public and labor economics with a particular emphasis on tax avoidance and labor responses to business taxation.

My current work focuses on estimating the impact on multinational profit shifting of changes in the basis of the tax regime as well as how the earnings and employment status of workers responds to changes in business and payroll taxes.

My main advisors are Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, with Professor Zucman writing my letter of recommendation. You can contact me by email (preferred) at *jakob.brounstein@berkeley.edu* or by phone at +1-702-858-0905. Thank you for considering me for admission to the Graduate Student Workshop.

Best regards,

Jakob Brounstein



PhD Candidate in Economics, UC Berkeley

Motivation

In attending the NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation, I seek both to deepen my understanding of contemporary research methods in public finance and to expand my network of up-and-coming researchers who share my fields-of-interest in economics. The opportunity to discuss novel and innovative research in an in-depth manner with other graduate students suggests a excellent prospect to gain new technical skills and fresh perspectives on topics within the field of business taxation. Moreover, it is highly likely that I will go on to interact with my fellow workshop-goers as future collaborators, colleagues, and referees, and the NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation will prove an excellent setting in which to make these acquaintances.

My current research focuses mainly on the tax avoidance and wage bill responses to business taxation. Currently, I am pursuing two main projects in this vein. First, I am studying the book-tax gaps of UK multinational corporations (MNCs) that report precisely zero profits and decomposing their book-tax gaps into constituent revenue, cost, and residual margins in order to study more closely the precise mechanisms that facilitate profit shifting. In a second project, I am using US Census Bureau data to measure the impacts on worker earnings and employment status of changes in state and federal Payroll Tax and CIT regimes in the US.

As is the case with many public economists hoping to make use of administrative data, I am presently laying much groundwork for my future work in business taxation. Currently, I am preparing an IRS JSRP application that seeks to match US corporate income tax declarations with MNC ownership data from Bureau van Dijk. Similarly to as in my work on UK profit shifting, I will use this data to learn about the relationship between the book-tax gap and profit shifting activity, as well as how this relationship changes in response to the international tax regime provisions of the TCJA (namely GILTI). Lastly, I have additional work set to begin in the summer of 2021 that aims to leverage unique administrative data in Ecuador on foreign transactions to study how firms establish affiliates in tax havens. In the future, I hope to continue pursuing research that focuses on the efficiency and equity impacts of taxation and tax avoidance and evasion.

JAKOB BROUNSTEIN

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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, UC Berkeley — Expected 2023

Primary field: Public economics
Secondary field: Labor economics

Second-year graduate courseware in economics

Applied econometrics (requirement for Labor field)
Econometrics B (second-semester Econometrics field course)
Industrial organization A & B (complete field sequence)
Labor economics A & B (complete field sequence)
Public economics A & B (complete field sequence)

First-year graduate courseware in economics

Econometrics
Economic history
Macroeconomics
Microeconomics

Bachelor of Arts, Columbia University — 2017
Bachelor of Arts, L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) — 2016

PUBLICATIONS

"What Happens When you Give Money to Panhandlers? The Case of Downtown Manhattan". Dordick G., O'Flaherty B., Brounstein J., Sinha, S., Yoo J.. Journal of Urban Economics 108. p. 107-123. 2018.

"Good Panhandling and Bad: How to Encourage the Good and Discourage the Bad". Dordick G., O'Flaherty B., Brounstein J., Sinha, S.. European Journal of Homelessness 12:1. p. 87-112. 2018.

RESEARCH/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Gabriel Zucman, UC Berkeley — August 2018-August 2020

Research Assistant to Anne Brockmeyer, World Bank Group — June 2018-June 2020

Short-term Tax Consultant, International Monetary Fund — January 2020

Research Assistant to Professor Claudio Agostini, Universidad Adolfo Ibañez — Summer 2018

Research Assistant to Elliott Ash, Princeton University — March 2016-May 2017

Research Assistant to Professor Brendan O'Flaherty, Columbia University — May 2016-May 2017

TEACHING, TUTORING, AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Econometrics (Econ 141), *as teaching assistant* — Fall 2020

Economic Analysis–Micro (Econ 100), *as tutor* — Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

UC Berkeley Undergraduate Mentorship Program, *as graduate student mentor* — Summer 2019 - Fall 2020

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2019:

Center for Effective Global Action Development Economics Challenge Award

Institute of International Studies Summer Research Grant

National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works Grant

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention

Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance Grant

2018:

All-UC Group in Economic History Exploratory Travel and Data Grant

Exploratory Research Grant from Emmanuel Saez: National Endowment for the Arts Grant Cost-share

Exploratory Research Grant from Gabriel Zucman: National Endowment for the Arts Grant Cost-share

Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance Grant: National Endowment for the Arts Grant

2017:

Economics Department Fellowship, UC Berkeley

OTHER INFORMATION

Language: English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (basic), Turkish (basic)
Citizenship: United States of America

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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September 4, 2020

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to recommend **Jakob Brounstein** for the NBER Graduate Student Workshop on Business Income Taxation that will take place on October 1st, 2020.

Jakob is a fourth-year graduate student in the economics department at Berkeley and I am a member of his PhD dissertation committee. Jakob is an extremely promising young scholar with interest in taxation, industrial organization and applied microeconomics. He has a particular interest for international business taxation and questions related to profit shifting. He is currently working on several projects on this issue using data in Israel and the United Kingdom.

Jakob would benefit immensely from the workshop and I recommend him to you in the strongest possible terms.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Zucman