Xiansai Zhang

Updated: Nov 2026

x.s.zhang@ese.eur.nl
https://xiansaizhang.github.io/
www.linkedin.com/in/xiansaizhang

Education

PhD in Economics
Erasmus School of Economics 2026 – Present
Supervisors: Enrico Pennings and Jolanda Hessels.

MSc Quantitative Economics
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich 2023 – 2026
Supervisors: Andreas Haufler and Georg Thunecke.

BSc (Hons) Economics
University of Manchester 2020 – 2023

Research Interests

Public Economics, Industrial Organization, Corporate Taxation, Policy Evaluation, Firm Behaviour.

Work in Progress

Firm Responses to Tax Disincentives: Evidence from Denmark
Examines firm responses to Denmark's 2008 depreciation allowance reform using firm-level Orbis data and a difference-in-differences design. Finds a decline in reported depreciation following the reform, concentrated among smaller and domestic firms, with patterns consistent with a high degree of tax-book conformity.

Energy Support Policies and Firm Responses in the Netherlands
(with Enrico Pennings and Jolanda Hessels)
Using firm-level microdata from Statistics Netherlands (CBS), this study aims to identify the causal effects of the 2022 Dutch energy-support measure by exploiting its eligibility threshold as a source of quasi-experimental variation, while also examining the determinants of subsidy take-up as a secondary research objective.

Experience

Research Assistant
Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance 2023 – 2026
Supervisors: Kai A. Konrad and Georg Thunecke.
Constructed a cross-country dataset on tax depreciation methods and statutory allowance rates. Investigated cross-country determinants of compulsory military service. Reviewed the empirical literature on the effects of foreign corporate income tax rates on domestic firms.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Economics of Strategy (Graduate Level)
Erasmus School of Economics 2026

Honors and Awards

The Faculty of Humanities Dean's Award for Achievement
University of Manchester 2023
Awarded to students in the top 0.5% of the Faculty of Humanities undergraduate graduating cohort.

Additional Training

Summer School in Business Analytics and Business Strategy & Consulting
Imperial College London 2022

Skills and Additional Information

Technical: R (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), SQL (basic)

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

GRE General Test (2021): Quantitative 170/170, Verbal 167/170