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**Tax 730: Seminar in Taxation
Real Effects and Design of Tax Policy (Fall 2026)**

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Topic 1: The Real Effects of Anti-Tax-Avoidance Rules on the Location and Quality of Investment – A Critical Review of the Literature

Description:

Description: Over the past decade, anti-tax-avoidance regulation — from the BEPS project to the EU Anti-Tax-Avoidance Directive (ATAD), controlled-foreign-company and interest-limitation rules, and most recently the global minimum tax — has sought to better align the location of economic activity with the location of taxable income. In response, multinationals do not only adjust where they report profits; empirical evidence indicates that they may also relocate real capital and labor toward jurisdictions that remain comparatively tax-favored.

This raises a question whether the tax-induced reallocation of real activity comes at the cost of investment quality and productivity, as firms might accept lower pre-tax returns in exchange for tax savings. The objective of this seminar thesis is to critically review the existing literature on the real effects of anti-avoidance regulation, with particular attention to this reallocation–efficiency trade-off — whether such rules, while improving alignment, distort the allocation of real activity and lower its productivity. The review should clearly separate what is empirically established from what remains open.

Further readings:

Bilicka, K., Qi, Y., Xing, J., 2022. Real responses to anti-tax avoidance: Evidence from the UK Worldwide Debt Cap. *Journal of Public Economics* 214, 104742.

De Simone, L., Giese, H., Koch, R., Rehl, C., 2025. Arqus Discussion Paper, No. 306 (September 2025), available at <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/325832/1/193623212X.pdf> (01.06.2026).

De Simone, L., Klassen, K., Seidman, J., 2022. The effect of income-shifting aggressiveness on corporate investment. *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 74(1), 101491.

De Simone, L., Olbert, M., 2022. Real Effects of Private Country-by-Country Disclosure. *The Accounting Review* 97(6), p. 201–232.

Topic 2: Verfassungsrechtliche Grenzen der Steuerpolitik am Beispiel der Grundsteuerreform

Beschreibung:

Die Grundsteuer zählt zu den bedeutendsten Realsteuern deutscher Gemeinden und steht seit der Rechtsprechung des Bundesverfassungsgerichts aus dem Jahr 2018 im Zentrum der steuerpolitischen und verfassungsrechtlichen Diskussion. Als Reaktion auf das Urteil, das die bisherigen Bewertungsregeln als unvereinbar mit dem allgemeinen Gleichheitssatz (Art. 3 Abs. 1 GG) verwarf, verabschiedete der Bundesgesetzgeber eine umfassende Grundsteuerreform, deren Kern das sogenannte Bundesmodell bildet. Trotz dieser Neuregelung bestehen weiterhin verfassungsrechtliche Bedenken. Zwar hat das Bundesmodell einer Überprüfung durch den Bundesfinanzhof Ende 2025 standgehalten, die abschließende verfassungsrechtliche Bewertung steht jedoch noch aus.

Die Grundsteuerreform zeigt exemplarisch die verfassungsrechtlichen Grenzen und Gestaltungsspielräume des deutschen Gesetzgebers im Bereich der Steuerpolitik auf. Vor diesem Hintergrund untersucht die Seminararbeit, in welchem Umfang der Gesetzgeber bei der Ausgestaltung steuerrechtlicher Belastungsentscheidungen an die Vorgaben des Gleichheitssatzes gebunden ist und welche Typisierungs-, Vereinfachungs- und Bewertungsspielräume ihm dabei verbleiben. Ausgangspunkt der Untersuchung bildet die Analyse der Entscheidung des Bundesverfassungsgerichts zur früheren Grundsteuerregelung sowie der hierauf folgenden Reformgesetzgebung. Darauf aufbauend werden das Bundesmodell sowie die hierzu vertretenen verfassungsrechtlichen Positionen in der Literatur und insbesondere der jüngeren Rechtsprechung kritisch gewürdigt. Ziel der Arbeit ist es, die verfassungsrechtlichen Maßstäbe für steuerpolitische Gestaltungsentscheidungen anhand der Grundsteuerreform exemplarisch herauszuarbeiten.

Einführende Literatur:

Graf, G., 2024. Grundsteuer-Reform – auch für das Bundesmodell keine Verfassungskonformität. *Wirtschaftsdienst*, 104(4), S. 275-279.

Kirchhof, G., 2025. Grundsteuer: Die verfassungsrechtlichen Einwände gegen die Bodenwertsteuer und das Bundesmodell bleiben (Teil I). *Der Betrieb*, S. 277-287.

Kirchhof, G., 2025. Grundsteuer: Die verfassungsrechtlichen Einwände gegen die Bodenwertsteuer und das Bundesmodell bleiben (Teil II). *Der Betrieb*, S. 351-358.

Krumm, M., 2026. Aktuelle Entwicklungen im Bereich des Grundsteuerrechts. *Deutsches Steuerrecht*, S. 505-511.

Schmid, S., Hardeck, I., 2026. Das Ertragswertverfahren zur Grundsteuer im Bundesmodell - Anmerkungen zum Urteil des BFH v. 12.11.2025 - II R 31/24. *FinanzRundschau*, S. 257-263.

Topic 3: Das Ehegattensplitting auf dem Prüfstand – Wirkungen, Kritik und Reformalternativen

Beschreibung

Das Ehegattensplitting bildet einen zentralen Bestandteil der deutschen Ehe- und Familienbesteuerung und wird insbesondere mit dem besonderen verfassungsrechtlichen Schutz von Ehe und Familie gemäß Art. 6 Abs. 1 GG begründet. Erfüllen Ehegatten die Voraussetzungen des § 26 Abs. 1 Satz 1 EStG, können sie zwischen der Einzelveranlagung (§ 26a EStG) und der Zusammenveranlagung (§ 26b EStG) wählen. Der Zusammenveranlagung kommt in der Praxis besondere Bedeutung zu, da sie die Anwendung des Splittingverfahrens gemäß § 32a Abs. 5 EStG eröffnet und die überwiegend gewählte Form der Ehegattenveranlagung darstellt.

Das Ehegattensplitting ist jedoch seit Jahren Gegenstand kontroverser Diskussionen in Literatur, Politik und Gesellschaft. Kritisiert werden insbesondere die verfassungsrechtlichen, ökonomischen und gesellschaftlichen Wirkungen des Ehegattensplittings sowie die damit verbundenen Aufkommens- und Verteilungswirkungen. Insbesondere vor dem Hintergrund des Fachkräftemangels wird regelmäßig die Anreizwirkung des Ehegattensplittings auf die Erwerbstätigkeit des geringer verdienenden Ehepartners diskutiert. Vor diesem Hintergrund bestehen zahlreiche Reformüberlegungen zur Ehe- und Familienbesteuerung. Diskutiert werden unter anderem Modelle der Individualbesteuerung, des Realsplittings sowie eine Erweiterung des Ehegattensplittings zu einem Familiensplitting. Ziel der Seminararbeit ist es, die bestehenden Regelungen des Ehegattensplittings kritisch zu würdigen sowie mögliche Reformalternativen und deren steuerliche Wirkungen zu analysieren.

Einführende Literatur

Bernhardt, S., Eichfelder, S., Selle, S., 2020. Wer profitiert vom Ehegattensplitting? – Simulationsergebnisse und Anmerkungen zu Arbeitsanreizen. Deutsches Steuerrecht, S. 198.

Birk, M., Glaub, V., 2024. Das Besteuerungsprinzip des Ehegattensplittings - Eine kritische Würdigung der bestehenden steuerlichen Regelungen. Deutsches Steuerrecht, S. 2299.

Lammers, L., 2026. In: Kirchhof, G., Kulosa, E., Ratschow, E. (Hrsg.). Beck'scher Online -Kommentar EStG. C.H. Beck, München. § 32a EStG.

Wagner, T, 2026. In: Kirchhof, G., Kulosa, E., Ratschow, E. (Hrsg.). Beck'scher Online -Kommentar EStG. C.H. Beck, München. § 26, § 26a, § 26b EStG.

Topic 4: Wartime Tax Policy: Evidence from Ukraine since 2022

Description:

This seminar paper examines the role of tax policy during wartime, combining insights from the literature on crisis taxation with recent developments in Ukraine since 2022. The first part reviews the literature on wartime taxation and identifies key principles of effective crisis tax policy, including rapid revenue generation, administrative feasibility, distributional fairness, and the preservation of economic incentives. Based on these insights, the paper develops a small analytical framework for evaluating wartime tax measures from a tax policy perspective.

The second part applies this framework to Ukraine's recent tax reforms and emergency tax measures. The analysis focuses on policies such as temporary tax relief, simplified taxation for businesses, increases in military levies, and higher taxation of selected sectors. The paper evaluates how Ukraine's tax policy evolved throughout the war and discusses the trade-offs between short-term economic stabilization and long-term fiscal sustainability.

Further readings:

Besley, T., Persson, T., 2008. Wars and state capacity. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 6(2-3), p. 522-530.

Frizell, J., 2023. Rallying Fiscal Patriotism: War Taxes in the Contemporary World. *Comparative Political Studies*, 57(8), p. 1375-1405.

D'Souza, A., Mampilly, Z. C., 2024. Conflict, Taxation, and Development. UNU-WIDER Working Paper No. 2024/60, available at <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/306768/1/1906193509.pdf> (01.06.2026).

Tian, N., Lopes da Silva, D., Liang, X., 2023. Using Taxation to Fund Military Spending. SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security, No. 2023/01, available at https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/2023_01_using_taxation_to_fund_military_spending.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwiy6Yioi9mUAX4gP0HHbyAB-EQFnoECBkQAQ&usq=AOvVaw2TyCM6A9RcSJ9yNI-FJwSg (01.06.2026).

EY, 2025. Tax Agenda Ukraine. EY, October 2025, available at https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.ey.com/content/dam/ey-unified-site/ey-com/en-gl/services/tax/documents/en-gl-tax-agenda-ukraine.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjlie-Vi9mUAxVm9bsIHY9iKhkQFnoECB0QAQ&usg=AOvVaw3rHQo_jDPXsBLKUCyEZPQ (01.06.2026). (for an overview of fiscal policy changes)

Topic 5: Gemeinnützigkeit als Wettbewerbsvorteil? Der Zweckbetrieb zwischen Steuerprivileg und Konkurrentenschutz

Description:

Diese Seminararbeit untersucht vor dem Hintergrund der steuerrechtlichen Konstruktion des Zweckbetriebs bei gemeinnützigen Organisationen nach §§ 65 ff. AO dessen Auswirkungen auf Wettbewerbsschutz und Konkurrentenschutz im Verhältnis zu privatwirtschaftlichen Marktteilnehmern. Im Mittelpunkt steht die Frage, in welchem Umfang steuerliche Privilegierungen gemeinnütziger Körperschaften zu Wettbewerbsverzerrungen führen können, wenn diese Leistungen auf regulären Märkten anbieten. Dabei soll geprüft werden, ob der Zweckbetrieb als Instrument steuerlicher Gestaltung genutzt werden kann, um wirtschaftliche Vorteile gegenüber kommerziellen Wettbewerbern zu erzielen oder Marktpositionen gezielt auszubauen.

Ziel der Seminararbeit ist es, die Spannungsfelder zwischen Gemeinnützigkeitsförderung, Steuerprivilegierung und fairem Wettbewerb systematisch herauszuarbeiten und kritisch zu bewerten.

Further readings:

BFH, 18.08.2022, V R 49/19, BFHE 277, 57.

European Commission, 2025. Tax incentives for donations to social economy entities. Models, trends and challenges. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Fischer, P., 2025. Beihilfeprüfung und steuerrechtliche Gemeinnützigkeit von Servicekörperschaften. FinanzRundschau, 107, S. 900-912.

Koenig & Hagena, 2026, § 65 AO.

OECD, 2020. Taxation and Philanthropy. OECD Tax Policy Studies, No. 27, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Schauhoff & Kirchhain, 2023. Gemeinnützigkeits-HdB. § 7, Rn. 160 – 282.

Topic 6: SME Scheme's Potential for VAT Harmonization within the EU - A Critical Analysis of the EU Council Directive 2020/285

Description:

In its endeavor to ensure VAT harmonization within the EU, the European Council has passed the directive 2020/285, especially targeting small enterprises with the goal to reduce their administrative and compliance burden. This seminar paper should outline this new SME scheme resulting from the EU council directive, its motivation as well as its potential for a higher degree of European VAT harmonization. In a consecutive step, an overview of national implementations should be provided before drawing upon the German small business VAT regulation as a case study example. This analysis should be followed by a side-by-side comparison of the German rule with the one of two different European countries. Finally, this comparative study should be used to provide a differentiated answer to the research question.

Further readings:

Council Directive (EU) 2020/285 of 18 February 2020 amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the special scheme for small enterprises, Official Journal of the European Union, p. OJ L 62/13-23.

Institute for Fiscal Studies, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, CAPP, CASE, CEPII, ETLA, IFO, HIS, 2011. A retrospective evaluation of elements of the EU VAT system: Final report (TAXUD/2010/DE/328), available at https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2016-09/report_evaluation_vat.pdf (01.06.2026). (for historic VAT system evaluation)

European Parliament, 2021. VAT gap, reduced VAT rates and their impact on compliance costs for businesses and on consumers, available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2861/76928> (01.06.2026).

Bundesministerium der Finanzen, 2025. Sonderregelung für Kleinunternehmer; Neufassung des § 19 UStG und Neueinführung des § 19a UStG durch das Jahressteuergesetz 2024 (JStG 2024) zum 1. Januar 2025 (GZ: III C 3 – S 7360/00027/044/ 105).

European Commission, 2025. VAT gap in Europe: Report 2025, available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2778/7868422> (01.06.2026).

Topic 7: Real-Time Taxation in the EU: Promise and Pitfalls or the ViDA Reform

Description:

The EU's "VAT in the Digital Age" (ViDA) reform represents an ambitious attempt to modernize the European VAT system for a digitalized economy. Its central elements include mandatory digital reporting based on e-invoicing, the extension of VAT obligations to platform-based business models, and the simplification of cross-border compliance through a single EU VAT registration. The reform is motivated by persistent VAT gaps across Member States, inefficiencies arising from fragmented reporting systems, and the growing importance of digital intermediation in consumption markets. At the same time, ViDA reflects a broader shift toward standardized and data-intensive tax administration at the EU level, with implications for firms' compliance systems and Member State tax autonomy.

This thesis could analyze ViDA as a move toward real-time, data-driven VAT enforcement, explicitly incorporating both the perspective of tax authorities and firms as compliance actors. It could first outline the key elements of the reform and situate them within the existing VAT framework and prior harmonization efforts. The analysis could then examine how e-invoicing and centralized reporting reshape the interaction between tax administrations and firms' internal information and compliance systems. From the perspective of tax authorities, the focus lies on gains in data availability, enforcement capacity, and cross-border coordination, while from the firm perspective it centers on changes in reporting processes, investments in digital infrastructure, and compliance costs. The thesis could ultimately assess whether ViDA achieves a balanced improvement in VAT enforcement or instead shifts compliance burdens onto firms without commensurate gains in simplicity or legal certainty.

Further readings:

Ainsworth, R., Madzharova, B. 2012. Real-Time Collection of the Value-Added Tax: Some Business and Legal Implications. Boston University School of Law Working Paper No. 12-51 (October 2012), available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2166316 (12.05.2026).

De la Feria, R. 2021. On the Evolving VAT Concept of Fixed Establishment. *EC Tax Review*, 30(5/6), p. 201–206.

Council of the European Union, 2025. Council Directive (EU) 2025/516 of 11 March 2025 amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards VAT rules for the digital age, available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500516 (12.05.2026).

Topic 8: Corporate Tax Cuts and Investment – A Critical Literature Review

Description:

Corporate investment shapes long-run economic growth, productivity, and a country's attractiveness as a business location. Corporate taxation is one of the most debated policy instruments in this context, with proponents arguing that lower rates stimulate investment and critics questioning whether the evidence justifies the fiscal cost. Against this backdrop, Germany has recently decided on a stepwise reduction of its corporate tax rate, one of the most significant corporate tax reforms in the country's recent history.

This raises a fundamental question: what does the empirical literature actually tell us about the effects of corporate taxation on investment? This thesis should critically review the existing evidence, assessing both the conditions under which corporate tax cuts stimulate investment and the limitations of the literature, in order to evaluate the extent to which current research can inform the design and expected effectiveness of reforms such as in Germany.

Further readings:

Gechert, S., Heimberger, P., 2022. Do corporate tax cuts boost economic growth? *European Economic Review* 147, 104157.

Hall, R.E., Jorgenson, D.W., 1967. Tax Policy and Investment Behavior. *American Economic Review* 57 (3), p. 391-414.

Jacob, M., 2022. Real Effects of Corporate Taxation: A Review. *European Accounting Review* 31(1), p. 269-296.

Topic 9: Coordinating Environmental and Tax Policy – Lessons from the EU ETS

Description:

Carbon pricing through cap-and-trade systems like the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is widely regarded as a cornerstone of modern climate policy. By making emissions costly, such systems are designed to incentivize firms to reduce their carbon footprint and invest in cleaner technologies. However, the effectiveness of carbon pricing depends critically on the assumption that firms actually bear the cost of their emissions. Recent evidence by Chen et al. (2025) challenges this assumption by documenting that multinational enterprises systematically exploit the interaction between EU ETS rules and corporate tax law to shift profits to low-tax jurisdictions, effectively reducing the net carbon price they face. This suggests a coordination failure between environmental and tax policy. Against this backdrop, this seminar thesis critically evaluates to what extent the current tax system creates incentives that undermine the environmental objectives of the EU ETS and whether there are suitable reform options to address this conflict.

Further readings:

Campagnie, V., Struyfs, K., Torsin, W., 2023. Tax avoidance as an unintended consequence of environmental regulation: Evidence from the EU ETS. *Journal of Corporate Finance* 82, 102463.

Chen, Z., Jacob, M., Zheng, X., 2026. Environmental-Unfriendly Tax Avoidance. Working Paper, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6187120 (29.05.2026).

Wilde, J., Wilson, R.J., 2018. Perspectives on Corporate Tax Planning: Observations from the Past Decade. *Journal of the American Taxation Association* 40(2), p. 63-81.

Topic 10: Digital Services Taxes and Consumer Welfare – A Critical Literature Review

Description:

Digital Services Taxes (DSTs) have emerged as a temporary and national policy response to the tax challenges posed by highly digitalized business models, particularly in the context of ongoing delays and uncertainty surrounding the implementation of Pillar One under the OECD/G20 BEPS framework. While these taxes are formally levied on large multinational platforms, recent empirical evidence suggests that the economic burden may be partly shifted to consumers through higher prices, increased platform fees, or changes in market structure. This seminar thesis will critically review theoretical arguments and empirical research on the incidence of DSTs, focusing specifically on how these taxes affect consumer welfare in digital marketplaces. It will examine how price pass-through, online competition and platform power shape the welfare consequences of DSTs on consumers.

Further readings:

- Langenmayr, D. & Muddasani, R., 2025. Navigating the Amazon: The Incidence of Digital Service Taxes, Working Paper (June 2025), available at https://research.wu.ac.at/ws/portalfiles/portal/76680012/2025_05_DST_2_.pdf (27.11.2025).
- Borders, K., Balladares, S., Barake, M., Baselgia, E., 2023. Digital service taxes. EU Tax Observatory.
- Cui, W., 2019. The superiority of the digital services tax over significant digital presence proposals. *National Tax Journal* 72. P. 839–856.
- Cui, W., Hashimzade, N., 2019. The Digital Services Tax as a Tax on Location-Specific Rent. CESifo Working Paper No. 7737 (February 2019), available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3321393 (01.06.2026).
- Copenhagen Economics, 2018. The Proposed EU Digital Services Tax: Effects on Welfare, Growth and Revenues. Copenhagen Economics Report for the European Policy Centre.

Topic 11: The Global Minimum Tax and its Real Effects – What do we know so far?Description:

The OECD/G20's global minimum tax marks the most significant reform of international corporate taxation in decades. Since 2024, large EU firms with revenues above €750 million face a minimum effective tax rate of 15% in every jurisdiction in which they operate, aiming to curb profit shifting and reduce harmful tax competition. The OECD estimates additional corporate tax revenues of USD 155-192 billion per year.

Despite rapid implementation, evidence on the effects of the global minimum tax is rare. Most existing studies rely on simulation-based methodologies, while ex-post evidence of behavioral responses by firms and governments is only beginning to emerge. Key questions include: Does the global minimum tax meaningfully reduce profit shifting? Does the Substance-Based Income Exclusion (SBIE) distort real investment incentives? How do low-tax jurisdictions respond? And what are the distributional consequences for developing countries?

This seminar thesis shall critically review the existing literature on the real effects of the global minimum tax, distinguishing between simulation-based estimates, theoretical models of investment and tax competition, and early empirical evidence post-implementation (where available). The review should identify what is well-established, what remains contested, and where key research gaps persist.

Further readings:

Chen, X., Sun, R., 2025. The Global Minimum Tax, Investment Incentives and Asymmetric Tax Competition. Working Paper (December 2025), available at: https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/127090/1/MPRA_paper_126495.pdf (29.05.2026).

Haufler, A., Okoshi, H., Schindler, D., 2025. Will the Global Minimum Tax Hurt Developing Countries? Working Paper (July 2025), available at: <https://www.cirje.e.u-to-kyo.ac.jp/research/workshops/public/paper2025/public0711.pdf> (29.05.2026).

Hebous, S., Hillier, C., Mengistu, A., 2024. Deciphering the GloBE in a Low-Tax Jurisdiction. IMF Working Paper No. 24/57 (February 2024), available at: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/WP/2024/English/wpiea2024057-print-pdf.ashx> (29.05.2026).

Hebous, S., Keen, M., 2023. Pareto Improving Minimum Corporate Taxation. *Journal of Public Economics* 225, 104952.

Hugger, F., Gonzalez Cabral, A., Bucci, M., Gesualdo, M., O'Reilly, P., 2024. The Global Minimum Tax and the Taxation of MNE Profit. OECD Taxation Working Papers No. 68, OECD Publishing, Paris, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9a815d6b-en> (29.05.2026).

Janeba, E., Schjelderup, G., 2023. The Global Minimum Tax Raises More Revenue Than You Think, or Much Less. *Journal of International Economics* 145, 103837.

Johannesen, N., 2022. The Global Minimum Tax. *Journal of Public Economics* 212, 104709.

Torslov, T., Wier, L., Zucman, G., 2023. The Missing Profits of Nations. *Review of Economic Studies* 90(3), p. 1499-1534.

Topic 12: Beyond Disclosure - Lessons from the Real Effects of Tax Transparency

Description:

Tax transparency regulations requiring reporting to the public or to tax authorities have expanded significantly worldwide in recent years. Prominent examples in the EU are the private and public Country-by-Country reporting initiatives. The primary objectives of such initiatives include deterring aggressive tax avoidance, enhancing corporate accountability, and enabling more effective tax enforcement. However, tax transparency regulation can also trigger unintended real effects on corporate behaviour, such as changes in investment decisions or operational restructuring. A growing body of qualitative and quantitative research documents the real effects of tax transparency regulation, analysing both their effectiveness in achieving their objectives and their consequences for corporate behaviour. A critical examination of this evidence can deliver valuable lessons for policy design, addressing questions of scope, disclosure mechanisms, and implementation strategies to enhance the effectiveness of tax transparency regulation.

Further readings:

Joshi, P., Outslay, E., Persson, A., Shevlin, T. and Venkat, A., 2020. Does Public Country-by-Country Reporting Deter Tax Avoidance and Income Shifting? Evidence from the European Banking Industry. *Contemporary Accounting Research* 37, p. 2357-2397.

De Simone, L., Olbert, M., 2021. Real Effects of Private Country-by-Country Disclosure. SSRN Working Paper 3398116 (December 2021), available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3398116> (04.05.2026).

Gundert, H., Spengel, C., Weck, S., 2024. Levelling the Playing Field? A Qualitative and Quantitative Examination of the EU Directive on Public Country-By-Country Reporting, ZEW Discussion Paper Nr. 24-019 (March 2024), available at <https://www.zew.de/publikationen/leveling-the-playing-field-a-qualitative-and-quantitative-examination-of-the-eu-directive-on-public-country-by-country-reporting> (04.05.2026).

Nessa, M. L., Persson, A., Song, J., Towery, E., Vernon, M., 2024. The Effect of U.S. Country-by-Country Reporting on U.S. Multinationals' Tax-Motivated Income Shifting and Real Activities, SSRN Working Paper 4130818 (October 2024), available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4130818> (04.05.2026).

Topic 13: Redistribution Within the Firm: A Critical Review of Mandatory Profit Sharing and Its Tax-Like Effects on Corporate Profits

Description:

In recent years, mandatory profit-sharing schemes have attracted growing attention as instruments of intra-firm redistribution and employee participation. By requiring firms to distribute part of their surplus to employees, such schemes effectively impose a state-contingent claim on profits that may alter firm behavior in ways similar to corporate taxation. At the same time, mandatory profit sharing differs fundamentally from conventional corporate taxes in its institutional design, incidence, and incentive structure. This seminar thesis examines whether mandatory profit-sharing regimes generate behavioral distortions and efficiency costs comparable to those associated with corporate taxes. It analyzes how these schemes affect investment, productivity, wage formation, outsourcing, and profit allocation, and compares their incidence effects with those of corporate income taxation. Drawing on evidence from countries such as France and Mexico, the paper investigates the conditions under which mandatory profit sharing creates distortions and assesses how these effects compare to those of corporate taxation.

Further readings:

Aliprandi, G., Chiocchetti, A., Francois, M., Heidmann, L., 2025. Shift or Share? Anatomy of Profit Shifting and Distributional Effects on Workers, SSRN Working Paper 12202 (October 2025), available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5637574 (01.06.2026).

Angelovski, A., Brandts, J., Solà, C, 2021. Equal and unequal profit sharing in highly interdependent work groups: A laboratory experiment. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 184, p. 232-252.

Cahuc, P., Dormont, B., 1997. Profit-sharing: Does it increase productivity and employment? A theoretical model and empirical evidence on French micro data. *Labour economics* 4(3), p. 293-31.

Colonna, A., Aldeco Leo, L., 2025. Outsourcing, labor regulations and profit-sharing: Evidence from Mexico, Working Paper (October 2025), available at <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/336476/1/1938655354.pdf> (01.06.2026).

Nimier-David, E., Sraer, D., Thesmar, D., 2026. The effects of mandatory profit-sharing on workers and firms: evidence from France. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2026), p. 1-57.