

# Sam Desiere

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Ghent University  
Sint-Pietersplein 6  
BE-9000 Gent  
+32 488 46 59 22  
sam.desiere@ugent.be  
Sam Desiere

## About me

I am a postdoctoral researcher in labour economics at Ghent University. My research is centred around evaluating labour market policies in Belgium, with a focus on analysing administrative data using advanced microeconomic methods.

## Education

- 2012–2015 **PhD Agricultural Economics**, *Ghent University*  
Title: From raw numbers to robust evidence: finding fact, avoiding fiction.  
Promotor: Prof. dr. ir. Marijke D'Haese  
Award: Biennial prize of best dissertation in agricultural economics in Belgium (€2,500)
- 2010–2012 **Master in Economics**, *Ghent University*  
Award: Best master's dissertation in economics at Ghent University (€1,000)
- 2007–2010 **Bachelor in Engineering (applied physics)**, *Ghent University*

## Research experience

- 2020–current **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Ghent University*
- 2022 **Research visit (4 months)**, *VU Amsterdam*
- 2016–2020 **Senior researcher**, *HIVA-KU Leuven*
- 2018 **World Bank consultant (40%)**
- 2016 **Research visit (4 months)**, *World Bank*, Washington, D.C.

## Teaching experience

- 2021–2025 **Applied Microeconometrics II/Microeconometrics**  
Lecturer-in-charge, 3 ECTS, 50-60 bachelor and master students, in English
- 2024–2025 **Methodologie van het Algemeen Economisch Onderzoek**  
Co-lecturer, 6 ECTS, 15 master students, in Dutch

## Research funding

**I include research fundin, for which I contributed to writing the proposal and conducted the research.**

- 2022 **FWO travel grant**: research visit VU Amsterdam, €3,366
- 2022 **National Bank of Belgium**: Shift Work: Facts, Value, and (Hidden) Costs, €4,500
- 2021 **3-year FWO postdoctoral fellowship**: Shift Work: Facts, Value, and (Hidden) Costs, ± €360,000
- 2020 **4-year FWO research project**: Payroll Tax Reductions: Incidence on Employment, Wages and Firm Performance, ± €450,000, with Bart Cockx (promotor)
- 2018 **VIONA** (Flemish Government): Evaluation of hiring subsidies in Flanders, €120,000, with Ludo Struyven (promotor), Sofie Cabus, Bart Cockx, Tim Goesaert
- 2018 **Flemish government**: An evaluation of the Belgian Service Voucher Scheme, €30,000

- 2018 **VIONA** (Flemish Government): An evaluation of Active Labour Market Policies in Flanders, €120,000, with Ludo Struyven (promotor), Bert Van Landeghem
- 2018 **OECD Research Project**: Statistical profiling of unemployed jobseekers, €8,775

## PhD students

Co-promotor Haotian Deng (2021-current)

Jury Jinkai Li (2024), Natalia Bermúdez-Barrezueta (expected: 2025), Giulia Tarullo (expected: 2025)

## Academic publications (selection)

**18 peer-reviewed publications since 2015, see Google Scholar for a full list.**

**Google Scholar: citations 1,711, h-index: 17.**

**RePEc World Rankings for publications in economics within last 10 year: top 10%.**

1. Cockx, B., & Desiere, S. (2024). Labour costs and the decision to hire the first employee. *European Economic Review*, 104859
2. Desiere, S., & Struyven, L. (2021). Using artificial intelligence to classify jobseekers: The accuracy-equity trade-off. *Journal of Social Policy*, 50(2), 367–385
3. Desiere, S., Hung, Y., Verbeke, W., & D'Haese, M. (2018). Assessing current and future meat and fish consumption in Sub-Sahara Africa: Learnings from FAO Food Balance Sheets and LSMS household survey data. *Global Food Security*, 16, 116–126
4. Desiere, S., & Jolliffe, D. (2018). Land productivity and plot size: Is measurement error driving the inverse relationship? *Journal of Development Economics*, 130, 84–98
5. Ton, G., Vellema, W., Desiere, S., Weituschat, S., & D'Haese, M. (2018). Contract farming for improving smallholder incomes: What can we learn from effectiveness studies? *World Development*, 104, 46–64

## Policy-oriented journals (selection)

1. Van Landeghem, B., Desiere, S., & Struyven, L. (2021). Statistical profiling of unemployed jobseekers. *IZA World of Labor*
2. Desiere, S., Cabus, S., & Cockx, B. (2020). De (on)zin van doelgroepverminderingen. *Over.Werk*, 30(2), 144–151
3. Desiere, S., Langenbucher, K., & Struyven, L. (2019). *Statistical profiling in public employment services: An international comparison*. OECD

## Work in Progress

1. Desiere, S., & Christian, W. (2023). *The shift premium: Evidence from a discrete choice experiment*. IZA Discussion Paper 16460. R&R British Journal of Industrial Relations.
2. Bermúdez-Barrezueta, N., Desiere, S., & Tarullo, G. *Hiring subsidies and temporary work agencies*. Draft available upon request.
3. Deng, H., Desiere, S., Cockx, B., & Bijmens, G. *Uncovering the growth of start-ups: Effects of hiring subsidies on firm performance*. Draft available upon request.
4. Desiere, S., Toniolo, T., & Bijmens, G. *Too much of a good thing? The macro implications of massive firm entry*. Draft available upon request.

## Press coverage (most important)

- 2023 Het Nieuwsblad (Atypische werkuren hebben een negatieve impact op de gezondheid van werknemers)

- 2019 Financial Times (Rwanda: where even poverty data must toe Kagame's line), The Economist (Has Rwanda been fiddling its numbers?), De Standaard (VDAB bereikt nieuwe werkzoekenden te weinig)

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## Presentations (last three years)

- 2024 ESPE (Rotterdam), ROA Maastricht  
2023 Belgian Day of Labour Economists, EALE (Prague), UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels  
2022 IZA Workshop: Labour Market Institutions, University of Antwerp, VU Amsterdam

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## Refereeing

American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, De Economist, IZA Journal of Labor Policy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of European Social Policy, Journal for Labour Market Research, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A.

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## Affiliations

IZA Research Affiliate, EALE, UGent @ Work

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## References

**Prof. Dr. Bart Cockx**, *Ghent University*, bart.cockx@ugent.be

**Prof. Dr. ir. Marijke D'Haese**, *Ghent University*, marijke.dhaese@ugent.be

**Prof. Dr. Bruno Van der Linden**, *Ghent University*, bruno.vanderlinden@uclouvain.be