Heike Vethaak | Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics (website)
Leiden University
Steenschuur 25
2311 ES Leiden
The Netherlands
+31 71 527 7825
h.t.vethaak@law.leidenuniv.nl

Current position

I am an assistant professor at the department of Economics of Leiden University and IZA@LISER research affiliate.

Research interests

Applied micro-econometrics, Labor economics and Public economics.

Education

- August 2018 - October 2023: Ph.D. candidate at the department of Economics of Leiden University under supervision of Pierre W.C. Koning and Koen L.J. Caminada. My Ph.D. thesis is titled 'Empirical Analysis of Social Insurance, Work Incentives and Employment Outcomes'. Date of defence: January 24, 2024.
- September 2017 - July 2018: Master Economics, specialisation: 'International and Macroeconomic Policy' at the VU University Amsterdam. I wrote my thesis titled 'Randomized Evaluation of a Job Search Assistance Programme' under supervision of Bas van der Klaauw.
- September 2014 - July 2017: Bachelor Economics en Business Economics, specialisation: 'General Economics'.

Refereed publications

- Ziliak, J. et al. (2026). Unpacking Trans-Atlantic Income Inequality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 123*(45), e2625474123.
- De Bruijn, E-J., Vethaak, H., Koning, P. & Knoef, M. (2026). Welfare Debt Relief: Impact on Employment, Benefit Receipt, and Mental Health. *Journal of Public Economics, 260*, 105695
- Been, J., Knoef, M. & Vethaak, H. (2026) How Important is Selection into Full-time and Part-time Employment? A New Panel Data Sample Selection Model for Estimating Wage Profiles. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, 44*(1), 215-226
- Jongen, E., Been, J., Caminada, C. & Vethaak, H. (2024). Labour market and income inequalities in the Netherlands, 1977–2022. *Fiscal Studies, 21*(4), 1217-1255.
- Koning, P., & Vethaak, H. (2021). Decomposing employment trends of disabled workers. *The BE Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, 45*(3), 343–357.

Working papers

- De Bruijn, E-J., Vethaak, H. & Knoef, M. (2026). Health Effects of a Welfare Benefit Cut among Low-Income Retired Migrants. Netspar Discussion Paper nr. 2026-003. Tilburg: Netpsar.
- Vethaak, H., De Bruijn, E-J., Knoef, M. & Koning, P. (2025). Deter and Deteriorate: The Effects of Application Processing Times on Welfare Receipt and

Employment. IZA Discussion Paper Series nr. 17839. Bonn: IZA Institute of Labor Economics.

- Van der Klaauw, B., & Vethaak, H. (2022). Empirical Evaluation of Broader Job Search Requirements for Unemployed Workers. IZA Discussion Paper Series nr. 15698. Bonn: IZA Institute of Labor Economics.

Work in progress

- Immigration and income inequality: evidence from 13 European and North American countries – with Jonathan Cribb and Egbert Jongen
- Still Waters Run Deep: The Income Distribution in The Netherlands, 1981-2021. – with Egbert Jongen

Non-refereed publications

- Vethaak, H., De Bruijn, E-J., Knoef, M. & Koning, P. (2025). Waiting for welfare: How processing times affect benefit receipt and employment, *wol.iza.org* (May 13)
- Jongen, E., Been, J., Caminada, C. & Vethaak, H. (2023). Inequality in the Netherlands, 1977-2022. In: Deaton Review Country Studies: Inequalities in Europe and North America: A parallel study to the IFS Deaton Review. London: Institute for Fiscal Studies.
- Vethaak, H. & Klaauw, B. van der, (2022). Mandatory broader job searches for unemployed workers, *VoxEU.org* (December 16)

Publications in Dutch

- De Bruijn E-J., Vethaak H. & Knoef M. (2026), Kostendelersnorm schaadt gezondheid van ouderen met migratieachtergrond, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 111*(4860): 388-391.
- Jongen E. & Vethaak H. (2026), Ons kent ons? Een analyse voor 1990 en 2019. In: Caminada K., Donders J., de Kam C. & van Vliet O. (red.) *Bestaanszekerheid voor allen – Sleutelen aan de sociale zekerheid in theorie en praktijk* Leiden: Universiteit Leiden. 77-83.
- De Bruijn E-J. & Vethaak H. (2026), Grote verschillen in bijstandsschulden tussen G4-gemeenten, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 111*(4854): 066-069.
- Vethaak H., De Bruijn E-J., Knoef M. & Koning P. (2025), Langere aanvraag leidt tot langere bijstand en kleinere kans op werk, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 110*(4845): 210-213.
- De Bruijn E-J., Vethaak H., Koning P. & Knoef M. (2024), Bijstand veelvoorkomende bron van schulden, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 109*(4837): 420-423.
- Vethaak H. & Jongen E. (2024), Wat is er met onze mannen aan de hand?, *Socialisme & Democratie, 81*(4): 46-59
- De Bruijn E-J., Vethaak H., Koning P. & Knoef M. (2023), Afboeking bijstandsschuld nauwelijks effect op werk en mentale gezondheid, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 108*(4825): 428-431.
- Vethaak H., Been J. & Jongen E. (2021), Inkomenspositie partners steeds vaker vergelijkbaar, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 106*(4802): 462-463.
- Caminada C., Been J., Gidding K., Vethaak H. & Jongen E. (2021), Belastingdrukverdeling. In: Caminada K., Jongen E., Bos W., Brakel M. van den & Otten F. (Eds.) *Inkomen verdeeld, trends 1977-2019.* Heerlen / Leiden: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) / Universiteit Leiden. 57-68.

- Caminada C., Brakel M. van den, Goudswaard K., Vethaak H. & Been J. (2021), Inkomensongelijkheid en het effect van herverdeling. In: Caminada K., Jongen E., Bos W., Brakel M. van den & Otten F. (Eds.) *Inkomen verdeeld, trends 1977-2019.* Heerlen / Leiden: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) / Universiteit Leiden. 41-56.
- Caminada C., Been J., Goudswaard K., Nieuweboer J. & Vethaak H. (2021), De samenstelling en verdeling van inkomen. In: Caminada K., Jongen E., Bos W., Brakel M. van den & Otten F. (Eds.) *Inkomen verdeeld, trends 1977-2019.* Heerlen / Leiden: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) / Universiteit Leiden. 23-40.
- Koning P. & Vethaak H. (2020), WIA-aanvragers hebben steeds grotere afstand tot de arbeidsmarkt, *Economisch Statistische Berichten, 105*(4784): 160-163.

Reports

- Jongen E., Kraaij A. & Vethaak H. (2026), Waardoor verandert de ongelijkheid in marktinkomens?: De rol van inkomen uit loon, winst en vermogen in de periode 1977-2024. Department of Economics Research Memorandum 2026.01. Leiden: Universiteit Leiden.
- Vethaak H. & Jongen E. (2024), Stille wateren hebben diepe gronden: Een analyse van de inkomensverdeling en haar determinanten over de afgelopen veertig jaar. Department of Economics Research Memorandum 2024.01. Leiden: Universiteit Leiden.
- De Bruijn E-J., Vethaak H., Koning P. & Knoef M. (2023), Het ontstaan, kwijtschelden en afboeken van bijstandsschulden bij de gemeente Rotterdam. Leiden: Universiteit Leiden.

Presentations at conferences

- Annual Meeting of the European Economic Association and the Econometric Society European Meeting (EEA-ESEM) (online 2021, Barcelona 2023, Bordeaux 2025)
- Annual Meeting of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) (online 2020, online 2021)
- International Panel Data Conference (IPDC) (Bertinoro 2022)
- IZA/University of Sheffield Workshop: Evaluation of Labor Market Policies: New Data and New Approaches (online 2020)
- IZA/CREST Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation (online 2021)
- IZA Workshop: Labor Market Institutions (online 2022)
- Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (COMPIE) conference (online 2021)
- Welfare & Policy (WAP) conference (Bordeaux 2023)
- Workshop on 'Applied Health Economics and Policy Evaluation' (Nantes 2019)
- Dutch Economist Day (Amsterdam 2019, The Hague 2023)
- KVS New Paper Sessions (The Hague 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2026).
- Netspar Pension Day (Utrecht 2021, 2025)
- Dutch Labor Market Day (Utrecht 2019)
- LolaHESG conference (online 2020)
- Various presentations at the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS), Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), the Dutch Employees Insurance Agency (UWV), the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW), and Leiden University.

Refereeing

European Economic Review, ILR Review, Social Science and Medicine – Mental Health, Comparative Economic Studies.

PhD students

- Arvid Mikkers (daily supervisor): The Role of Professionals in Public Policy and the Effects on Socioeconomic Outcomes

Teaching experience

- Thesis supervision (Master Public Administration track 'Economics & Governance', Leiden University).
- Thesis supervision (Bachelor Public Administration track 'Economics, Public Administration and Management', Leiden University).
- Microeconomics (Bachelor Public Administration track 'Economics, Public Administration and Management', Leiden University).
- Macroeconomics (incl. coordination) (Bachelor Public Administration track 'Economics, Public Administration and Management', Leiden University).
- Applied Economic Analysis (incl. coordination) (Minor 'Economics', Leiden University).
- Social-Economic Policy: Empirical Analysis (Bachelor Public Administration track 'Economics, Public Administration and Management', Leiden University).
- Public Economics (Bachelor Public Administration track 'Economics, Public Administration and Management', Leiden University).
- Principles of Economics (Bachelor Law track 'International Business Law', Leiden University).

Miscellaneous

- Position paper 'Elementen Inkomensnota' for the Dutch House of Representatives Roundtable Discussion on Income Policy (September 11, 2025).
- Organization of the annual KVS New Paper Sessions (The Hague 2021–2026).
- Organization of the Nederlandse Economendag (The Hague 2024).
- Guest editor *De Economist* for the special issues 'KVS New Paper Sessions 2023', 'KVS New Paper Sessions 2024' and 'KVS New Paper Sessions 2025'.
- Member advisory committee 'Begeleidingscommissie WODC-onderzoek Wet Herziening Partneralimentatie'.

Grants

- 251,457.36 Euro from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) with Egbert Jongen for research on trends in primary income and income inequality in the Netherlands (2025). Grant number: 201865005.014.540
- 26,300 Euro (maximum) from Leids Universiteits Fonds (LUF) for research on the effects of access to formal care on the employment and health outcomes of potential informal care givers (2025). Grant number: W253019-4-065
- 320,000 Euro 'Starting Grant' with Ernst-Jan de Bruijn for research on the the role of professionals in public policy decision making and the effects of their choices on socio-economic outcomes (2024).
- 45,000 Euro from Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV) with Egbert Jongen for research on trends in income inequality in the Netherlands (2023).
- 162,335 Euro from Municipality Rotterdam with Ernst-Jan de Bruijn, Marike Knoef and Pierre Koning for research on the effects of welfare receipt and welfare debts (2021).

Media

- The report *Waardoor verandert de ongelijkheid in marktinkomens?: De rol van inkomen uit loon, winst en vermogen in de periode 1977-2024* was discussed by Trouw.
- The article *Bijstand veelvoorkomende bron van schulden* was discussed by De Telegraaf.
- The report *Stille wateren hebben diepe gronden: Een analyse van de inkomensverdeling en haar determinanten over de afgelopen veertig jaar* was discussed by Trouw, De Telegraaf, NRC, Nu.nl, RTL Nieuws, Nederlands Dagblad, De Groene Amsterdammer, and Mare.
- The book *Inkomen verdeeld, trends 1977-2019* was discussed by Nieuwsuur, De Telegraaf, and NRC.