Konstantin Poensgen

PhD student in Economics, Harvard University
Littauer Center, 1805 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

konstantinpoensgen@fas.harvard.edu
konstantinpoensgen.github.io

Updated: November 2026

Education

Harvard University since 2023
PhD student, Department of Economics

London School of Economics and Political Science 08/2020 – 07/2021
MSc Econometrics and Mathematical Economics (distinction)

University of Mannheim 09/2015 – 08/2018
BSc Economics (distinction)

University of Nottingham 09/2017 – 01/2018
Erasmus+ exchange semester, Department of Economics

Research Positions

University of Zurich 07/2021 – 06/2023
Predoctoral Research Fellow for Professor Dina Pomeranz, Department of Economics

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 09/2018 – 09/2020
Junior Economist (Young Associates Programm), Development Co-operation Directorate

University of Mannheim 03/2018 – 08/2018
Research Assistant for Professor Ulrich Wagner, Chair of Quantitative Economics

Hamburg Institute for International Economics (HWWI) 01/2017 – 02/2017
Research Internship with Dr. André Wolf

Teaching & Related Professional Experience

Teaching Fellow at Harvard University since 09/2025
ECON 2450A Public Economics and Fiscal Policy I (Professor Stefanie Stantcheva)
ECON 2450B Public Economics and Fiscal Policy II (Professors Raj Chetty, Rebecca Diamond)
HKS DEV-215 Public Finance in International Perspective (Professor Anders Jensen)

University of Mannheim 02/2017 – 06/2017
Teaching Assistant in Statistics I (undergraduate level)

Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) 03/2016 – 12/2016
Student Assistant in the division 'Knowledge Transfer and Qualification Programmes'

Working Papers

- Knowledge without Taxation? Experimental Evidence from a Tax Education Program *with Anders Jensen and Nikhil Kumar* (November 2026)
- Statutory Incidence of Ad Valorem Taxes: Revisiting Classical Theory and Policy Implications *with Lukas Rodrian*; SSRN Working Paper 5232926 (June 2026)
- Applying to International Opportunity: Financial Assistance and Mentorship for Graduate School Applicants from Africa *with Samira Adhar and Frank Odhiambo* (April 2026)

Seminars & Conferences

2026: Tax Justice Network (Accra), University of Ghana
2025: NTA 118th Annual Conference on Taxation (Boston), Inclusive Development Research Working Group (Virtual)

Academic Service

Referee for *AEJ: Applied Economics*, *International Tax and Public Finance*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of International Development*
Conference discussions at *9th Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries (2024)*

Organizer for Graduate Student Workshop in Economic Development at Harvard ("Dev Lunch") 2025 – 2026
Organizer for Public Finance Reading Group at Harvard with Professor Stefanie Stantcheva 2025, 2026

Grants and Awards

- **Grants:** Warburg Fund 2023 ($5,000); Chae Family Economics Research Funds 2024 ($10,000), Ross Garon and Anna Suh Family Foundation Economics Research Fund ($10,000 in 2025; $10,000 in 2026); Kenneth C. Griffin Economics Research Funds 2026 ($10,000)
- Scholar of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung) 2015 – 2021
- Abitur (A-levels/high school) prizes for economics, history, and social volunteering 2014
- Award for outstanding social commitment by the City of Herrenberg, Germany 2012

Extracurricular Activities

- Co-running Salma AgroTrade, an agribusiness in northern Ghana since 2025
- Vice President of the Graduate Economics Association (GEA) at Harvard 06/2024 – 05/2025
- Organizer and mentor of the Economics Mentoring Program (EMP) 2023 – 2026
- Founder and chairperson of an educational non-profit (Bildungschancen Sukuru e.V.) since 07/2023
- Mentoring program lead at the Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN) 09/2021 – 07/2023
- Chairperson of the Economics Students' Association at the University of Mannheim 04/2016 – 05/2017
- Teaching assistant and orphanage supervisor in Ghana (with Experiment e.V.) 10/2014 – 05/2015
- Founder and lead of an eco-fair fashion brand (Natural Urge U.G.) 08/2014 – 12/2018

Policy Papers

Global Landscape of Financing for Sustainable Development

- OECD (2020), Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2021: A New Way to Invest for People and Planet, OECD Publishing [Chapter 2]
- OECD (2020), The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis on development finance, *OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19)* [with Thomas Rieger]

Health Sector Financing in Developing Economies

- OECD (2021), Financing transition in the health sector: What can Development Assistance Committee members do?, *OECD Development Policy Papers*, No. 37, OECD Publishing, Paris [with Jieun Kim and Martin Kessler]
- OECD (2020), Strengthening health systems during a pandemic: The role of development finance, *OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19)* [with Jieun Kim and Martin Kessler]

Financing Transitions across Development Stages

- Cattaneo, O., C. Piemonte and K. Poensgen (2020), Transition finance country study of Chile: Better managing graduation from ODA eligibility, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 70
- Chiofalo, E., K. Poensgen and Y. Rockenfeller (2019), Transition finance country study of Lebanon: Global public goods and the response to adverse shocks, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 61
- Kim, J. and K. Poensgen (2019), Transition Finance Country Study Viet Nam: On the threshold of transition, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 60
- Kim, J., et al. (2018), Transition Finance Challenges for Commodity-based Least Developed Countries: The example of Zambia, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 49
- Morris, R., O. Cattaneo and K. Poensgen (2018), Cabo Verde Transition Finance Country Pilot, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 46
- OECD (2020), Transition finance ABC methodology: A user's guide to transition finance diagnostics, *OECD Development Policy Papers*, No. 26 [with Abdoulaye Fabregas]
- Piemonte, C., et al. (2019), Transition Finance: Introducing a new concept, *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 54

Miscellaneous

Coding skills:	Stata, Python, R, Julia, Matlab, ArcGIS, SQL
Languages:	German (native), English (proficient), French (beginner)
General interests:	Sports (climbing, running, football, and tennis), traveling, politics