

Monika Bütler

Monika Bütler is a Professor of Economics and Public Policy and a Director at the Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research at the University of St. Gallen. She has degrees in Mathematics/Physics and Economics as well as a PhD in Economics. Before joining the University of St. Gallen, Monika Bütler was an assistant professor at Tilburg University and a full professor at the University of Lausanne. She is senior editor of the *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, an Associate Investigator at both CESifo (Munich) and CEPAR (Sydney), and a member of several boards of directors of national and international companies.

Personal Information

Born October 9, 1961 in Brugg (AG, Switzerland)

Swiss citizen (Auw AG)

Married to Urs Birchler, 2 children

Languages: German (mother tongue), English, French, Italian, Dutch

University Address:

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Research Fields

Social Insurance, Annuity, Political Economics, Economic Policy

Education

PhD University of St.Gallen (1997)

Licentiate in Economics, University of St.Gallen (1994)

Diploma in Mathematics/Physics, University of Zürich (1989)

Current Positions

Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of St.Gallen (2004-),
part time from 2015

Director, Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research (2008-)

President, Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (2014-)

Senior Editor *The Journal of Pension Economics and Finance* (2010-)

Bank Council (Bankrat) Swiss National Bank (2010-)

Board of directors (non-executive member) Schindler Holding AG (2013-)

Board of directors (non-executive member) Huber & Suhner AG (2014-)

Other Affiliations and Board Memberships

- Vice President Board of Management IIPF (member 2009-, vice president 2015-)
- Research Fellow, CESifo München (2001-)
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR), University of New South Wales, Australia (Associated Investigator)
- President Board of Management Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research, SIAW-HSG (2011-)
- Weiterbildungskommission University of St.Gallen (Executive School, 2011-)
- Scientific Council, Center for Disability and Integration CDI-HSG (2009-)
- Vorstand & Ausschuss Socialpolitik, Verein für Socialpolitik

Major Past Positions (Economics)

- Dean School of Economics and Political Science SEPS (2009-2013)
- Visiting Professor, University of Auckland (2013)
- Visiting Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney (2008, 2011, 2014)
- Advisor, The World Bank, Washington (2004-2006)
- Mitglied Kommission für Konjunkturfragen/Commission pour les questions conjoncturelles (2000-2004)
- Full Professor, Université de Lausanne (2001-2004)
- Assistant Professor, Université de Lausanne (1999-2001)
- Assistant Professor (tenure track), CentER & Department of Economics, Tilburg University, the Netherlands (1997-2001)
- Researcher University of St.Gallen (1996-1997)
- Visiting Scholar; University of Virginia USA & Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (1995-1996, sponsored by SNF)

Sponsored academic visits: University of New South Wales (2011), Dutch Central Bank (2009), Cerge Economic Institute Prague (2006), CESifo Institute Munich (2001), Marshall School University of Southern California (1999)

Publications

Books

- Information Economics, (with Urs Birchler), Routledge Advanced Texts in Economics and Finance, 480 pages, 2007
- IV - Eine Krankengeschichte, (with Katja Gentinetta, Avenir Suisse), publisher NZZ, 250 pages, 2007

Main Publications in Refereed Academic Journals

- "Lessons from a Randomized Field Experiment", (mit Eva Deuchert, Michael Lechner, Stefan Staubli und Petra Thiemann, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, 2015.
- "How Much Does Annuity Demand React to a Large Price Change?", (with Stefan Staubli and Maria Grazia Zito), *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 2013
- "Die Auswirkungen bedarfsabhängiger Leistungen: Ergänzungsleistungen in der Schweiz", (with Lukas Inderbitzin, Jonathan Schulz and Stefan Staubli), *Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik*, 2012

- "Switzerland: High Replacement Rates and Generous Subsistence as a Barrier to Work in Old Age", *The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance - Issues and Practice*, October 2009
- "The Choice Between an Annuity and a Lump-Sum: Results from Swiss Pension Funds", (with Federica Teppa), *Journal of Public Economics*, 91, pages 1944 - 1966, November 2007
- "Arbeiten lohnt sich nicht - ein zweites Kind noch weniger. Zum Einfluss einkommensabhängiger Tarife in der Kinderbetreuung", *Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik*, 8(1), 1-19, 2007 (lead article)
Most popular article in the PWP in November and December 2007 (based on the number of full text downloads in the preceeding 12 months)
- "Tax-Benefit Linkages in Public Pension Systems: A Note", *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, 4(3), pages 405-415, 2002
- "Flexibility and Redistribution in Old Age Insurance", *Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics*, 138(4), pages 427-437, 2002
- "The Political Feasibility of Increasing the Retirement Age: Lessons from a Ballot on the Female Retirement Age", *International Tax and Public Finance*, 9, pages 349-365, 2002
- "The Political Feasibility of Pension Reforms Options: The Case of Switzerland", *Journal of Public Economics*, 75(3), pages 389-416, February 2000
- "The WTO Dispute Settlement System: A First Assessment from an Economic Perspective", (with Heinz Hauser, University of St.Gallen), *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 16(2), pages 503-533, October 2000.
Reprinted in:
 - International Institutions in the New Global Economy, Lisa L. Martin editor, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, 2005.
 - The WTO and International Trade Law / Dispute Settlement, Petros C. Mavroidis & Alan O. Sykes editors, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, 2005.
- "Neoclassical Life-Cycle Consumption: A Textbook Example", *Economic Theory*, 17(1), pages 209-221, January 2001
- "Milestones in the History of the Swiss Pension System: A Politico-Economic Analysis", *Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics*, 135(3), pages 369-385, 1999
- "Anticipation Effects of Looming Public Pension Reforms", *Carnegie Rochester Series on Public Policy / Journal of Monetary Economics*, 50(0), pages 119-159, 1999
- "Avalanche forecast by the nearest neighbor method", (with Othmar Buser and Walter Good), *International Association of Hydrological Sciences*, 1987, 162, pp 557-570

Contributions to Books (Selection)

- "Insights from Switzerland's Pension System", in *Reimagining Pensions: The Next 40 Years* edited by Olivia Mitchell, and Richard Shea, Oxford University Press, 2015

- "Staatliche Steuern und Transfers und ihre Folgen für den Mittelstand", (with Christian Marti), in *"Der strapazierte Mittelstand"*, *Avenir Suisse*, pages 149-178, 2012
- "Payouts in Switzerland: Explaining Developments in Annuity", (with Stefan Staubli), in *"Revisiting Pension Payouts"* edited by Olivia Mitchell, John Piggott and Noriyuki Takayama, Oxford University Press, 2011
- "Arbeitsangebot und Sozialer Ausgleich", (with Monika Engler), in *Wirtschaftspolitik nach der Krise*, *Avenir Suisse* und Studienzentrum Gerzensee, 2010
- "Mandated Annuities in Switzerland", in *Developing and Annuity Market in Europe*, edited by Elsa Fornero & Elisa Luciano, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., 2004

Completed and Submitted Working Papers

- "Transparency in Parliamentary Voting", (with Christine Benesch & Katharina Jaronicki) CESifo Working Paper Series No. 5682 (2016)
- "Ready to Reform: How Popular Initiatives Can Be Successful ", (with Katharina Jaronicki & Christian Marti Discussion paper 2014.19 University of St. Gallen.
- "How Much Do Means-Tested Benefits Reduce the Demand for Annuities?", (with Kim Peijnenburg and Stefan Staubli), CESifo Working Paper 3493 (2014)
- "Framing Effects in Political Decision Making: Results from an Unusual Voting Experiment", (with Michel André Maréchal), (2008), previous version CEPR discussion paper 6200

Work in Progress

- "Did the Financial Crisis Affect Annuity Demand", (with Alma Ramsden)
- "Taxing Annuities", (with Alma Ramsden)
- "Announcement Periods and Annuity Decisions" (with Alma Ramsden)

Other Publications, Reports and recent Book Reviews (selection)

- "Evaluation Startkapital", (mit Michael Lechner, Eva Deuchert, Stefan Staubli & Petra Thiemann), *Bundesamt für Sozialversicherungen*, 150 pages (2012)
- Book Review: "Social Security Programs and Retirement around the World: Fiscal Implications of Reform", Jonathan Gruber and David A. Wise eds. *The Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, 2009, pages pp. 400-401
- Book Review: "Social Security Programs and Retirement around the World: Micro Estimation", Jonathan Gruber and David A. Wise eds. *The Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, 2009, pages pp. 213-215
- "Ergänzungsleistungen: Eine Analyse der Fehlanreize in der Erwerbsphase, bei der Pensionierung und im hohen Alter", *Avenir Suisse*, 66 pages, 2009

Conferences organized

- IIPF international congress, Paris, Lugano August 2014 (*scientific organizer together with Kerstin Schneider, 500 participants*)
- Netspar "International Workshop on Pensions", Venice (2014), Frankfurt (2013), Paris (2012), Torino (2011), Zürich (2010) (*main organizer, ~100 participants*)

- Netspar "Workshop on Pensions", Amsterdam (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010) (*co-organizer, ~120 participants*)
- WDA/scala Workshop "Pension Challenges and the Financial Crisis", St. Gallen, October 2009 (*co-organizer, 30 participants*)
- End of Year Conference "Swiss Economists Abroad", St. Gallen, December 2007 (*main organizer 40 participants*)
- CEPR & NETSPAR Conference "Transforming European Pension Systems", Zürich, October 2007 (*co-organizer, 40 participants*)
- CEPR & NETSPAR Conference "Transforming European Pension Systems", London GB, September 2006 (*co-organizer, 50 participants*)
- European Economic Association (EEA), Lausanne, August 2001 (*member of local organizing committee, 600 participants*)
- Econometric Society European Meeting (ESEM), Lausanne, August 2001 (*member of local organizing committee, 600 participants*)

Major Grants, Awards and Contracts (since 2009)

- The Swiss Confederation: A Natural Laboratory for Research on Fiscal and Political Decentralization (SNF Sinergia Project, together with Marius Brülhart, Mario Jametti and Kurt Schmidheiny), 2011-2017.
- Center for Pensions and Superannuation, University of New South Wales, Australia, Paper Grant (with Stefan Staubli & Kim Peijnenburg)
- Familienbildung und Arbeitsmarktpartizipation im Lichte von Sozialversicherungsreformen/Social Security and Equality (SNF, together with Franz Schultheiss HSG), 2010-2012
- Bundesamt für Sozialversicherungen/Federal Social Insurance Office, Pilotprojekt Startkapital / Pilot Project Seed Capital (with Michael Lechner), 2009-2013
- Iconomix, Swiss National Bank, Education Module Insurance, 2009-2011

Referee (selection)

American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, European Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of International Economics, German Economic Review, Labour, Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik, Cambridge University Press, MIT Press, SNF

Numerous articles, interviews (TV, radio, newspapers), and a great number of statements and citations of published research or public speeches.

Monika Bütler, March 2016