

# Nina Weber

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## Research Interests

**Primary:** Behavioural Economics, Experimental Economics, Political Economy

**Secondary:** Income Inequality, Social Mobility

## Education

09/2019 - **PhD Political Economy**, King's College London  
PGR Research Award 2022  
Thesis: 'Essays on procedural fairness and distributive preferences'

09/2019 **MA Political Economy**, King's College London  
Distinction, 1st in class, and best dissertation prize  
Thesis: 'Does social mobility impact support for redistribution? - A cross-country analysis' (83)

08/2017 **BSc Political Economy**, King's College London  
First-class honours  
Thesis: 'Do we choose the difference principle? - Preferences for redistribution under an experimental veil of ignorance' (74)

## Research Visits

05/2022 - 06/2022 **Visiting PhD Student**, WZB Berlin, Research Unit 'Economics of Change'  
Host: Prof. Steffen Huck

10/2021 - 12/2021 **Visiting PhD Student**, FAIR Centre, Norwegian School of Economics  
Host: Prof. Bertil Tungodden

## Past Employment

2019 - 2020 **Research Assistant**, CESS Nuffield, University of Oxford

2017 - 2018 **Analyst**, BlackRock, London, UK

## Main Working Papers

### **Experience of Social Mobility and Support for Redistribution: Beating the Odds or Blaming the System?**

How does the experience of social mobility affect people's distributive preferences? Using cross-country survey data and a survey experiment, I examine the effects of experienced social mobility on support for redistribution. The results indicate an asymmetric relationship – experiencing downward mobility

increases support for redistribution while experiencing upward mobility does not affect distributive preferences. This finding suggests a potential demand-side explanation for the Great Gatsby Curve: As overall absolute mobility decreases (increases), *ceteris paribus*, demand for redistribution also decreases (increases).

**Non-selfish behavior: Are social preferences or social norms revealed in distribution decisions?** *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap and Konstantinos Matakos*

People frequently choose to reduce own payoffs to help others. This non-selfish behavior is typically assumed to arise because people are motivated by social preferences. An alternative explanation is that they follow social norms. We test which of these two accounts can better explain subjects' decisions in a simple distribution game. We find that norm-following explains people's distributive choices better than social preferences, and lack of confidence in one's social preference predicts norm-following.

**Why do (some) ordinary Americans support tax cuts for the rich? Evidence from a randomized survey experiment** *with David Hope and Julian Limberg*

Why do (some) ordinary citizens support tax cuts for the rich? We use a randomized survey experiment in the US to identify the drivers of preferences for cutting taxes on the rich. We find that preferences for taxing the rich are fundamentally affected by information that shifts citizens' core fairness beliefs, as well as information on the past trajectory of top tax rates.

**Social preferences and the Value of Life: Evidence fairness matters** *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*

In an online survey we elicit and compare the value of statistical life (VSL) using a standard willingness-to-pay (WTP) for a reduction in the personal chances of death with an analogous social planner type question that we design to engage better with people's social preferences. Our results indicate that standard figures significantly underestimate the VSL that is appropriate for major policy interventions. Taking social preferences into account doubles the VSL.

## Covid-19 Research

"Good news reduces trust in government and its efficacy: The case of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine announcement" *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*. **PLOS ONE**, 2021, 16 (12).

"COVID-19 and People's Health-Wealth Preferences: Information Effects and Policy Implications" *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*. **Covid Economics**, Issue 22 (2020).

## Conferences and invited seminar presentations

**2022 (scheduled):** In\_equality Conference, Konstanz; Berlin BBE Colloquium, M-BEES, Maastricht; Online Social Influence Workshop, Dublin; ECONtribute and C-Seb Design & Behavior Seminar, University of Cologne; European Economic Association Congress, Milan; American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

**2021:** FAIR NHH Seminar, Bergen; Monash-Warwick Applied Young Economist Webinar; 'Memory, Narratives and Belief Formation' Workshop, Munich; Young Economist Meeting, Brno; REXCon21 Conference on Social Preferences and Social Norms; ESA Global Online Meeting; NoBeC Early Career Researcher Talk; BEADS Seminar – University of Birmingham; HEIRS 'The Illusion of Merit' Workshop; NYU-CES Annual Experimental Political Science Conference; JHU-LSE Conference on Experimental Insights from Behavioural Economics on Covid-19.

**2020:** Institutions and Political Inequality Seminar – WZB; Young Economist Meeting (cancelled due to Covid-19); ESA Global Online Meeting; Social BRIDGES Conference on COVID-19; Oxford-LSE Political Economy Graduate Conference.

## Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

2022 Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, BRIQ Institute.  
 2022 Spring School in Behavioural Economics, San Diego.  
 2022 Postgraduate Research Award, School of Politics & Economics, King's College London.  
 2020 Behavioural Game Theory Summer School, University of East Anglia.  
 2020 Best MA Political Economy Dissertation, King's College London.  
 2020 Best MA Political Economy overall performance, King's College London.  
 2019 LISS DTP 1+3 Scholarship, Economic and Social Research Council: about £85,000.  
 2017 King's Experience Research Award, King's College London.

## Grants

2020 King's Together Rapid COVID-19 call (with Shaun Hargreaves Heap (PI), Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan): £18,424.  
 2020 Comparative Time Sharing Experiments, CESS Nuffield, University of Oxford.  
 2019 Templeton Foundation Grant, John Templeton Foundation (with Shaun Hargreaves Heap and Konstantinos Matakos): £10,000.

## Refereeing

Southern Economic Journal, Eurasian Economic Review.

## Teaching

2022 Behavioural Political Economy (TA), King's College London  
 2022 Political Economy of Inequality (TA), King's College London  
 2021/22 Research Design (TA), London School of Economics  
 2021 Intermediate Microeconomics (TA), King's College London

2021 Behavioural Political Economy (TA), King's College London  
 2021 Political Economy of Inequality (TA), King's College London  
 2020/21 Research Design (TA), London School of Economics  
*Nominated for LSE Inclusive Teaching Award*  
 2020 Intermediate Microeconomics (TA), King's College London

## Academic Service

2021 - Executive Committee Member, Public Policy Research Network  
 2019 - Postgraduate Research Student Representative, King's College London

## Professional Affiliations

2021 - American Economic Association  
2021 - Royal Economic Society  
2021 - Society for Judgement and Decision Making  
2020 - Economic Science Association

## Other Information

**Software Skills:** R, Stata, LaTeX, Z-tree, oTree, Python

**Language Skills:** German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

**Nationality:** German

## References

### **Shaun Hargreaves Heap**

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### **Bertil Tungodden**

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