Thomas Lebbe

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Profile

PhD researcher in macroeconomics specialising in policy-relevant general equilibrium modelling, with a focus on climate policy, fiscal sustainability, and the energy transition. Experienced in combining macroeconomic modelling, econometric analysis, and panel data to generate quantitative policy insights. Strong interest in European economic policy and energy transition strategies.

Education

PhD in Economics Ghent University
Defence expected spring 2027

- Research: climate policy, energy transition, public debt dynamics
- Methods: DSGE and OLG modelling, simulation-based policy analysis

Research MSc in Economics Université Catholique de Louvain
Cum Laude — 2021

- Specialisation: macroeconomics, family economics, dynamic methods

MSc in Economics Ghent University
Magna Cum Laude — 2019

- Specialisation: macroeconomics, econometrics, social policy

Professional Experience

FWO PhD Fellow — Macroeconomics Ghent University
Nov 2021 – Nov 2025 (competitive, salaried research fellowship)

- Developed structural macroeconomic models to evaluate climate and energy policies
- Simulated policy scenarios (carbon taxes, subsidies, public investment) and assessed macroeconomic impacts
- Conducted panel econometric analysis on energy prices and energy mix dynamics
- Applied instrumental variable methods to address endogeneity in energy markets
- Drafted policy-oriented research papers on growth, energy transition, and fiscal sustainability
- Presented at academic conferences and to professionals in the field (e.g. FIR — Forum pour l'Investissement Responsable)

Research & Working Papers

- **The Energy Transition in Long-Run Macroeconomics** — job market paper, draft available on request
- **On the Elasticity of Substitution between Clean and Dirty Energy: Reconciling Empirical Estimates and Their Implications for Model Calibration** (with Freddy Heylen) — UGent FEB Working Paper 26/1140
- **Heat Distributed Unequally in the Sovereign Bond Market** (with Azzam Santosa) — working paper, 2026
- **Green Fiscal Policy in a High-Debt, Ageing Society** — work in progress

Core Skills

- **Macro-fiscal analysis:** fiscal policy, public finance, debt sustainability analysis, growth and structural policy

- **Macroeconomic modelling:** DSGE, OLG, HANK, life-cycle models; forecasting-model maintenance
- **Econometrics:** panel data, IV/2SLS, synthetic control, DiD, SMM, time series
- **Numerical methods:** calibration, endogenous grid method, value/policy function iteration
- **Data:** macroeconomic, fiscal & energy panel data, sectoral data, EU KLEMS
- **Policy focus:** energy transition, fiscal policy, public debt sustainability, pension reform (PAYG)

Technical Skills

MATLAB • Dynare • Stata • Python • LaTeX • Excel

Languages

Dutch (native) • English (fluent) • French (working proficiency)

Additional Information

- FWO doctoral fellowship (competitive research grant)
- Research aligned with EU Green Deal and energy transition policy
- Podcast host for the economics department of Ghent University — translating policy-focused economics research into an accessible format
- Twice elected to the faculty board — advocating better support for PhD students with little or no funding