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NOVEMBER 2012 / N°3

Institute for Economic and Social Research

FOCUS



New IRES Research Director



Since 1st September 2012, William Parienté has succeeded Frédéric Docquier as IRES Research Director. William has been professor at the Université catholique de Louvain since 2009. He is member of IRES and affiliated to the Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). He holds a PhD from Paris I Sorbonne. He teaches microeconometrics and empirical methods for policy evaluation at the master level. William's fields of interest are development economics, labor economics and policy evaluation. William brings a new evaluation method in the team of policy evaluation at IRES: randomized experiments. Randomized experiments consist in assigning randomly a program or intervention of interest to only one part of a population (treatment) while another part remains unaffected (control). The advantage of this method is to remove selection bias by construction (and not by assumption unlike many other evaluation methods). Randomized experiments are more and more used to evaluate social and public policies in the world. Most of William's research is based on this methodology. One part of his work focuses on the microeconomic effects of relaxing financial or human capital constraints at the firm or household levels. This research is implemented through several randomized experiments in Morocco, Pakistan and France, analysing separately the effect of policies improving access to credit, delivering grants or training. Another part of William's research focuses on discrimination in the labor market. Discrimination research often attempts to distinguish between two sources of discrimination: statistical discrimination and taste-based discrimination. This research explores a third source: it tests whether managers' initial beliefs on specific categories of workers can affect their performance. It looks at whether discrimination is a "self-fulfilling prophecy".

William's webpage: http://perso.uclouvain.be/william.pariente/.



New Academic Member



Luca Pensieroso has been professor at the Université catholique de Louvain since September 2012. Luca was born in Bologna, Italy, in 1978. In 2001, he graduated with honour in Economics and Business at the Università di Roma 3, Italy. In 2007, he took a PhD in Economics at the Université catholique de Louvain. Before his appointment to IRES, Luca has been intern at the National Bank of Belgium, post-doc researcher at the Université de Strasbourg, France, and FRS-FNRS post-doc researcher at the Université catholique de Louvain. Luca's research interests are quite wide and cover both short-run and long-run macroeconomics, economic history and history of economic thought. The bulk of his research concerns the Great Depression of the 1930s. In several articles, Luca produces a general equilibrium analysis of the Great Depression and a critical assessment of the



Dynamic General Equilibrium methodology. Luca is also working on the comparison between the economic crisis started in 2008 and the Great Depression of the 1930s, with a particular focus on international links and the prevailing monetary systems (the Gold Standard and the Euro). A second major project in Luca's research aims at deepening our understanding of the interconnection between the working of the economy and the family structure. In particular, Luca makes use of dynamic general equilibrium models to study the secular evolution of the family structure in Western societies and the influence that it has exerted on, and has received by the process of economic development. A major contribution of this project will be to highlight and quantify mechanisms relating together economic growth, changes in the distribution of income among different generations, changes in the structure of the production system and changes in the type of family relations. On top of the two main axes of research mentioned above, Luca has several other projects on different issues, including the enlargement of the European Union, illegal immigration and the history of macroeconomics.

Luca's webpage: http://perso.uclouvain.be/luca.pensieroso

PEOPLE



New members and visitors



Morgane Laouenan joined IRES for a one-year postdoc position in October 2012. She will defend her PhD next month at the Université de la Mediterranée at Aix-Marseille. From 2010 to 2012, she was also a research scholar at Sciences-Po (Paris). Morgane conducts research on discrimination against ethnic minorities in the labor market. In her PhD thesis, she has used individual-level data to study the impact of racial prejudice on labor market outcomes of minorities, such as employment, wages and probability of occupying a job in contact with consumers. Her research focuses both on African immigrants in France and on Afro-Americans in the US. At IRES, she is taking part of the ARC project on "Geographical mobility of workers and firms" and works on the links between labor market institutions, unemployment and labor mobility between regions.

Morgane's webpage: https://sites.google.com/site/morganelaouenan/



Lara Lebedinski has joined IRES for a one-year postdoc position in October 2012. She obtained her PhD from University Bocconi in Italy. Lara's research interests are in the field of applied labor economics, with focus on education, residential segregation and gender. During her PhD studies she worked on the evaluation of a remedial education programme targeting Roma children in primary schools. Lara also worked on the effect of residential segregation on labor market outcomes. At IRES, Lara uses firm-level data to investigate issues such as relationship between human capital and productivity, and gender wage discrimination in the labor market.

Lara's webpage: http://www.uclouvain.be/lara.lebedinski



IRES is hosting **Marion Mercier** from 1st October to 31st December 2012. Marion is a PhD student at Paris School of Economics and at *Ecole normale supérieur de Cachan*. She is also a research associate at DIAL, a joint research unit of Paris-Dauphine University and IRD (*Institut de Recherche pour le Développement*). Marion's doctoral research, supervised by Thierry Verdier, focuses on development and political economics. In particular, she is interested in the analysis of international migration and its impact on the political behavior and the emergence of elites in sending countries.



They have defended their PhD:

Youyou Baende Bofota

Youyou defended his PhD thesis on "Social Capital, Human Capital and Economic Development: theoretical model" in September 14. He was supervised by Raouf Boucekkine (IRES, UCLouvain). The other members of the jury were: Frédéric Docquier (IRES, UCLouvain), Romain Houssa (FUNDP), Jean-Pierre Lafargue (Université de Paris I, France), William Parienté (IRES, UCLouvain).

Laura Rovegno

Laura defended her PhD thesis on "Trade Policy and Firm Behavior" in October 26. She was supervised by Hylke Vanden-

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bussche (IRES, UCLouvain). The other members of the jury were: Florian Mayneris (IRES, UCLouvain), Tom Prusa (Rutgers University, US), Maurizio Zanardi (ULBrussels). Laura's webpage: https://sites.google.com/site/lrovegno/



They are on the job market this year

Olivier Sterck: Olivier is expected to defend his PhD thesis on "Five essays on development economics and sustainable growth: conflicts, epidemics and climate change" in February 2013. He is supervised by Raouf Boucekkine and William Parienté. Based on data he collected in Africa, his thesis studies the post-conflict transition in Burundi, legal pluralism in Uganda and HIV/AIDS knowledge and behavior.

Olivier's webpage: http://oliviersterck.wordpress.com

Julien Martin: Julien joined IRES in October 2011 as a postdoctoral researcher. He received his PhD from Paris School of Economics in 2011. His research interests include international trade, multinational firms, applied microeconomics, and macroeconomics. He uses firm-level data to understand how firm-level behavior shapes macro-economic outcomes such as trade flows or business fluctuations. He will be available for interviews during the AEA meetings in San Diego.

Julien's webpage: http://www.julienmartin.eu/

Chrysovalantis Vasilakis: Chrysovalantis is expected to defend his PhD thesis on "Essays on development, health economics and International migration" during this academic year. He is supervised by Raouf Boucekkine and Frederic Docquier. His research interests include economic growth, development economics, migration, theoretical and applied econometrics. He will be present in ASSA Meeting in San Diego. Chrysovalantis's webpage: https://sites.google.com/site/vasilakischrysovalantis99/

Aminata Sissoko: Aminata has completed her Master in Economics at Université Libre de Bruxelles. She is expected to defend her PhD thesis on "Essays on R&D subsidy policy" in the Spring 2013. She is supervised by Hylke Vandenbussche. Her research interests include program evaluation, innovation, microeconometrics and international trade. Aminata's webpage: http://www.uclouvain.be/aminata.sissoko/

Visitors

- Carlo Altomonte, Bocconi University
- Arnaud Chevalier, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Marion Mercier, Paris School of Economics
- Gilles Saint-Paul, Toulouse School of Economics

New PhD Students

- Sotirios Blanas, supervised by Prof. Hylke Vandenbussche
- Marco Delogu, supervised by Prof. Frédéric Docquier
- Lucia Granelli, supervised by Prof. David de la Croix
- Maïté Le Polain, supervised by Prof. Marthe Nyssens
- Guzman Ourens, supervised by Prof. Raouf Boucekkine and Carmen Camacho
- Giulia Specchia, supervised by Prof. Vincent Vandenberghe

IRES IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE



Regards économiques

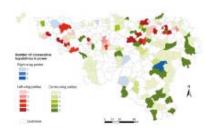




A new issue of the IRES free on-line review *Regards économiques* has been published in September 2012 by **Mikael Petitjean** (Louvain School of Management, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve and Mons, Belgium): "On the (dis)utility of rating companies". This article shows that rating agencies have not usurped their power. The oligopolistic position that rating agencies enjoy has been much strengthened by the regulatory agencies themselves. The official rating agencies should not be considered as the only way to increase transparency and reduce information asymmetry between debtors and creditors. Current reforms should make rating agencies more independent from debtors, encourage creditors to rely on different credit risk measures and promote the use of more conservative credit notations, be they delivered by the official rating agencies, other financial institutions or even by the credit market itself. The article is downloadable in French on: http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/Regards/Archives/RE098.pdf.

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Forum de politique économique



Marcel Gérard (Louvain School of Management, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve and Mons, Belgium) presented on October 19, 2012 a seminar at the IRES Forum de politique économique on "Tax interaction among Walloon Municipalities: is there room for yardstick competition, intellectual trend and partisan monopoly effect?". The talk was based on a paper co-authored with Laurent van Malderen. It uses Walloon municipal data and spatial econometrics to cope with three questions. First, do we observe tax or yardstick competition? Second is there an "intellectual trend": mimicking occurs among municipalities of the same partisan obedience? And third, does the behavior of municipalities governed by the same party over several legislatures support that partisan monopoly leads to inefficiency or that it enables tax policies more in line with partisan ideology? The paper and the slides of the talk are available on: http://www.uclouvain.be/en-284538.html.

Reports for external institutions



Florence DEGAVRE & **Marthe NYSSENS** (2012). Care regimes on the move: Comparing home care for dependent older people in Belgium, England, Germany and Italy.

Taking the reforms of the 1990s as its starting point, this report examines the dynamics of change experienced by Belgium, England, Germany and Italy in their home care sectors. Central to our analysis is the process of "marketisation". This constitutes one of the major trends in all these four countries, yet its nature and impact show important national variations. Even if public expenditure on Long Term Care is relatively low in all the countries under study compared to health care expenditure or pensions, the extent of the reforms as well as the public budgets involved since two decades do not indicate a quantitative retrenchment of the state in the home care sector. In this context, this report illustrates extensively that there exist a number of options to policymakers to support dependent older people in the community. How these support systems are implemented depends on the nature and range of the policy objectives, which can range from merely providing a safety net, to maintaining older dependent people in their own homes for as long as possible, or even to the creation of employment in the care economy. Report available on: https://www.uclouvain.be/cirtes.html.



Florian MAYNERIS & Clément MALGOUYRES & Thierry MAYER & Loriane PY (2012). Évaluation des effets des politiques ciblées sur les territoires : le cas des Zones Franches Urbaines, French Ministry of Labor.

Florian Mayneris participated, together with Clément Malgouyres (European University Institute), Thierry Mayer (Sciences Po, Paris) and Loriane Py (Banque de France) to a public report on the French "Zones Franches Urbaines" (ZFU), for the French Ministry of Labor. The policy consists in fiscal incentives to favor plants creations and employment in distressed French suburbs. The authors studied the impact on plants locations, wages and commercial rents. Among other things, they find that the policy succeeds in attracting plants in targeted zones, but most of the effect is linked to displacement of existing small plants. The impact is stronger for initially less distressed areas and for industries in which plants are more mobile (physicians and nurses for example). Their results point at the existence of opportunistic behavior of benefiting firms and suggest that the impact on the employment of local residents might be low. Report available on the webpage of Florian Mayneris: http://perso.uclouvain.be/florian.mayneris/research.html



Vincent VANDENBERGHE (2012). *Ageing Workforces and the Productivity of Belgian Firms,* Report to BELSPO (Belgian Science Policy).

Most decision-makers believe that, in Belgium, the main barriers to raising the employment rate among individuals aged 50+ are on the supply-side: generous welfare (early retirement schemes) has lowered the supply of old labor. But our research delivers robust evidence that Belgium's low employment rate beyond 50 is also demand-driven. In Belgium, firms face financial disincentives to (re)employing older workers. In the short run, those that increase their share of older workers experience a drop of their productivity and profitability. This is conducive to a low demand for older individuals. There is thus a need for policy initiatives aimed at boosting the employability of older individuals; by raising their productivity, reducing their labor cost, or a combination of both. Otherwise, in a context of rising supply of older individuals on the labor market due to demography or restricted access to (early) retirement benefits there is a risk of rising unemployment, more systematic use of disability benefits, or even poverty. Report available on the webpage of Vincent Vandenberghe: http://perso.uclouvain.be/vincent.vandenberghe/.

PUBLICATIONS

Macroeconomics

Journal articles



Mauro BAMBI & Giorgio FABBRI & Fausto GOZZI, 2012. "Optimal Policy and Consumption Smoothing Effects in the Time-to-build AK Model", *Economic Theory*, vol. 50(3), 635-669.

Thomas BAUDIN, 2012. "The Optimal Trade-Off Between Quality and Quantity with Unknown Number of Survivors", *Mathematical Population Studies, Taylor and Francis Journals*, vol. 19(2), 94-113.

David DE LA CROIX & Axel GOSSERIES, 2012. "The natalist bias of pollution control", *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, vol. 63(2), 271-287.

David DE LA CROIX & Pierre PESTIEAU & Grégory PONTHIERE, 2012. "How Powerful is Demography? The Serendipity Theorem revisited", *Journal of Population Economics*, vol. 25(3), 899-922.

Frédéric DOCQUIER & Hillel RAPOPORT, 2012. "Globalization, Brain Drain, and Development", *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 50(3), 681-730.

Chrysovalantis VASILAKIS, 2012. "The Social Economic Impact of AIDS: Accounting for Intergenerational Transmission, Productivity and Fertility", *Economic Modelling*, vol. 29(2), 369-381.

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2012/21 Jean-François FAGNART & Marc GERMAIN, "Macroéconomie du court terme et politique climatique : quelques leçons d'un modèle d'offre et demande globales", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012021.pdf.
- 2012/17 Giorgio FABBRI & Francesco RUSSO, "Infinite Dimensional Weak Dirichlet Processes, Stochastic PDEs and Optimal Control", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012017.pdf.
- 2012/13 Thomas BAUDIN & David DE LA CROIX & Paula GOBBI, "DINKs, DEWKs & Co. Marriage, Fertility and Childlessness in United States", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012013.pdf.

International Economics

Journal articles



Julien MARTIN, 2012. "Markups, Quality, and Transport Costs", European Economic Review, vol. 56(4), 777-791.

Filip DE BEULE & Ilke VAN BEVEREN, 2012. "Does Firm Agglomeration Drive Product Innovation And Renewal? An Application For Belgium", *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, vol. 103(4), 457-472.

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2012/20 Andrew B. BERNARD & Emily J. BLANCHARD & Ilke VAN BEVEREN & Hylke VANDEN-BUSSCHE, "Carry-Along Trade", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012020.pdf.
- 2012/19 Thierry MAYER & Florian MAYNERIS & Lorian PY, "The Impact of Urban Enterprise Zones on Establishments' Location Decisions: Evidence from French ZFUs", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012019.pdf.
- 2012/18 Hélène LATZER & Florian MAYNERIS, "Income Distribution and Vertical Comparative Advantage. Theory and Evidence", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012018.pdf.

Labor economics, social policies and policy evaluations



Journal articles

Bart COCKX & Muriel DEJEMEPPE, 2012. "Monitoring Job Search Effort: An Evaluation Based on a Regression Discontinuity Design", *Labour Economics*, vol. 19(5), 729–737

Bart COCKX & Muriel DEJEMEPPE & Bruno VAN DER LINDEN, 2012. "Le Contrôle de la Recherche d'Emploi est-il Efficace?", Revue française d'économie, vol. 27(1), 65-106.

Florencia DEVOTO & Esther DUFLO & Pascaline DUPAS & William PARIENTE & Vincent PONS, 2012. "Happiness on Tap: Piped Water Adoption in Urban Morocco", *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, vol. 4(4), 68-99.

PUBLICATIONS

Ana Maria DIAZ, 2012. "Informal Referrals, Employment, and Wages: Seeking Causal Relationships", *Labour*, vol. 26(1), 1-30.

Alejandro DONADO & Klaus WÄLDE, 2012. "How Trade Unions increase Welfare", *Economic Journal*, vol. 122(563), 990-1009.

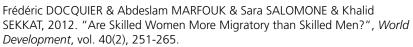
Matteo PICCHIO, 2012. "Lagged Duration Dependence in Mixed Proportional Hazard Models", *Economics Letters*, vol. 115(1), 108-110.

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2012/16 Vincent VANDENBERGHE, "Are Firms Willing to employ a Greying and Feminizing Workforce?", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012016.pdf.
- 2012/14 Marco PECORARO, "The Incidence and Wage Effects of Overeducation using the Worker's self-assessment of Skill Utilization", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012014.pdf.
- 2012/12 Stijn BAERT & Bart COCKX & Didier VERHAEST, "Overeducation at the Start of the Career stepping Stone or Trap", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012012.pdf.
- 2012/11 Mariann RIGO & Vincent VANDENBERGHE & Fabio WALTENBERG, "Ageing and Employability. Evidence from Belgian Firm-Level Data", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012011pdf.

Interdisciplinary topics

Journal articles





IRES Discussion Papers

2012/15 Olivier STERCK & Olivia D'AOUST, "Who Benefits from Customary Justice? Rent-seeking, Bribery and Criminality in Sub-Saharan Africa", http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2012015.pdf

PAST SEMINARS

IRES Research Seminar (2012)

Seminar's webpage: http://www.uclouvain.be/en-284532.html

September 28 Arnaud Chevalier (Royal Holloway, London)

"Children of the Wall: Criminal Behaviour after a Fertility Shock"

October 4 Carlo Almonte (Bocconi University)

"Business Groups as Hierarchies of Firms: Determinants of Vertical Integration and Performance"

18 Gilles Saint-Paul (Toulouse School of Economics)

"The possibility of ideological bias in structural macroeconomic models"

Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar (2012)

The Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar is an informal forum where researchers present their work in progress in details and receive criticism and feedback from colleagues. Presentations on the blackboard are also welcome. PhD students entering the job market this year are strongly encouraged to present their job market paper.

Organizers: Hélène Latzer (helene.latzer@uclouvain.be) & Luca Pensieroso (luca.pensieroso@uclouvain.be)

Seminar's webpage: http://www.uclouvain.be/en-284743.html



PAST SEMINARS

September 25 David de la Croix (IRES-CORE)

"The Mean Lifetime of Famous People from Hammurabi to Einstein"

October

9 Chrysovalantis Vasilakis (IRES)

"Globalized Market for Talents and Inequality: what can be learnt from European Football?"

16 Marion Mercier (Paris School of Economics) "Return Migrants and Elections in Mali"

23 Vanessa Lutgen (IRES)

"Regional Equilibrium Unemployment Theory"

30 Julien Martin (IRES)

"The Few leading the Many: Foreign Affiliates and Business Cycle Comovement" (Job Market Seminar)

NBB Seminar (2012)

• Seminar on firm-level analysis

Started during the academic year 2011-2012, the series of seminars on firm-level analysis is renewed for 2012-2013. It is organized by the National Bank of Belgium, in collaboration with KULeuven, UCLouvain (IRES), UGent, ULBrussels

and UMons.

Seminar's webpage:

http://www.nbb.be/pub/06_00_00_00_00/06_03_01_00_00/06_03_01_01_00/07_02_01_09_00+sfa.htm?l=en

October

5 James Harrigan (University of Virginia)

"Export prices of US firms"

• Macroeconomics seminar

This seminar on macroeconomic and monetary issue is organized by the National Bank of Belgium, in collaboration with KULeuven, UCLouvain (IRES) and ULBrussels.

Seminar's webpage:

http://www.nbb.be/pub/06_00_00_00_00/06_03_01_00_00/06_03_01_01_00/07_02_01_04_08+macroeconomic+seminar.htm?l=en

October 24

24 Chris Erceg (Federal Reserve Board)

"Fiscal Consolidation in a Currency Union: Spending Cuts vs. Tax Hikes"

Trade and Economic Geography Seminar (2012)

The Trade and Economic Geography seminar aims at favoring the presentation of recent research in international trade, economic geography and urban economics, by both experienced and more junior researchers. It is regularly organized jointly with the IRES Research Seminar, and the Economic Theory and the Econometrics seminars at CORE.

Seminar's webpage: http://www.uclouvain.be/en-44418.html

October

1 Julie le Gallo (Université de Franche-Comté)

"Exploring scan methods to test spatial dependence with an application to housing prices in Madrid" (Joint Econometrics seminar CORE)

4 Carlo Altomonte (Bocconi University)

"Business Groups as Hierarchies of Firms: Determinants of Vertical Integration and Performance" (Joint IRES Research Seminar)



DON'T MISS

Events

- 13 December, 2012: BELGIAN DAY FOR LABOR ECONOMISTS

The 11th edition of the Belgian Day for Labor Economists is hosted by the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Leuven (KUL) on 13 December 2012. This day aims at improving contacts between labor economists located in and around Belgium. Throughout the day sessions will be organised in which researchers get the opportunity to present their work. This year's invited speaker is <u>Alan Manning</u>, Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science, who will present a lecture on "Labor Market Imperfections".

Organizer: Prof. Maarten Goos (Maarten.Goos@kuleuven.be)

- 21 December, 2012: CHRISTMAS MEETING OF BELGIAN ECONOMISTS

The 3rd edition of the Christmas meeting of Belgian economists is this year a joint initiative of the KUL and IRES and is hosted by the University of Leuven (KUL) on 21 December 2012. The idea is to have a relaxed day of presentations and exchanges. This year's keynote speakers are Hanno Lustig, Professor at UCLA Anderson School of Management, and Mathias Dewatripont, Professor at ULBrussels. There will also be 8 additional presentations of 30 minutes.

Organizer: **Prof. Michele Belot** (michele.belot@ed.ac.uk)

Job opening at IRES

IRES invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship, starting in January or November 2013. The fellowship will be granted for 12 months and could be extended to 18 months (without guarantee at this stage). The research interests of the candidate should be "Macroeconomics of Human Migration". The candidate should have conducted promising doctoral research and be interested in fields such as macroeconomics, population economics, regional and urban economics, economic geography. (S)he should have a taste for quantitative theory (calibration of micro-founded models and use of numerical methods). (S)he will be expected to work on the links between economic performance and human mobility at various spatial scales. The candidate will be recruited under the ARC convention on "Geographical mobility of workers and firms" (http://www.uclouvain.be/en-328668.html), and should have successfully defended their PhD thesis before starting the fellowship.

Applicants should send an e-mail to Prof. Frédéric Docquier not later than November 31, 2012 (frederic.docquier@uclouvain.be).

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