FOCUS

Christmas meeting

The idea of the Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists is to gather Belgian economists based in Belgium and abroad for a nice and relaxed day, giving them the opportunity to present and discuss their research, without any restrictions in terms of methodology and research fields.

The Christmas Meeting of 2010 was a great success. For its second edition, organized in LLN on December 23, 2011, we have been again able to put together a very interesting program (available at http://www.uclouvain.be/en-350605.html), with 10 “regular” presentations (by speakers from NYU, Oxford, Columbia, etc.) and 2 keynote lectures given by Jean-Marie Baland and Jan Eeckhout. Jean-Marie Baland, who is Professor at the University of Namur (Belgium), and is a leading scholar in the field of development economics, presented the output of a broad research project on «Forest degradation in the Himalayas: Determinants and policy options». Jan Eeckhout, a world renowned microeconomist from the University College London, discussed his cutting-edge research on “Matching information”.

ARC mid-term workshop on “Geographical Mobility of Factors”

A mid-term workshop on “Geographical Mobility of Workers and Firms” was organized at IRES on January 17-18, 2012. This workshop is part of the ARC convention 09/14-019, a five year interdisciplinary project analyzing the determinants and consequences of mobility of workers and firms, interdependencies with public policies and economic performances, as well as analysis of mobility at various geographic scales. The workshop included 12 presentations by invited senior economists and junior ARC fellows. Michel Beine (University of Luxembourg) and Pierre Picard (University of Luxembourg) gave presentations on international migration. Annette Schminke (KULeuven, Belgium) and Hillel Rapoport (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) gave presentations on trade and firms’ mobility. Jos van Ommeren (VU Amsterdam) and Bruno Van der Linden (IRES) gave presentations on regional labor mobility and labor market outcomes. Junior presentations were discussed by Tobias Müller (University of Geneva), Henri Sneessens (University of Luxembourg), Florian Mayneris (IRES) and Olivier Pierrard (Bank of Luxembourg).

The keynote address was given by Yves Zenou, Professor of economics at the University of Stockholm. After obtaining his PhD from University Pantheon-Assas (Paris), Yves spent two years at CORE in 1994-96. Since then, he has made outstanding contributions to many fields such as urban economics, public economics, labor economics or international
economics. Yves has published in many top-field and major journals such as *Econometrica*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, etc. He is Editor in Chief of *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and Associate Editor of other important journals. At the ARC workshop, he gave a fascinating presentation on the structure of criminal networks, showing how to identify key players, i.e. criminals who once removed generate the highest possible reduction in crime level. Yves’s work on social networks opens new research avenues for our ARC project. Indeed, network theory has been widely used to explain the dynamics of migration or the links between movements of goods, people and firms. And disentangling networks’ structure is key to understand interactions between trade, FDI and migration.

### Visitors and new members

IRES hosted **Tobias Müller** between October 1 and 31, 2011. Tobias is an associate Professor of applied economics at the University of Geneva. After completing his PhD at the University of Geneva, he was invited Professor at the University Laval in Québec. He has also served as a consultant for the World Bank and the Swiss federal government. His research focuses on different aspects of migration (temporary migration, political economy of migration, trade and migration networks) and on the analysis of tax-benefit reforms and their impact on income distribution and the labor market. His past research also includes studies on European integration using computable general equilibrium models. Tobias gave a presentation on «The political economy of naturalization: the Swiss case» at the IRES Research seminar and interacted with our migration team. We started new projects on trade and migration, attitudes towards immigrants, and the effects of informality on development.

**Julien Martin** joined IRES for a two-year postdoc position in October 2011. Julien earned a Master degree in economics in 2008, and a PhD in 2011 - both from the Paris School of Economics. From 2008 to 2011, he was also a research scholar at CREST-ENSAE (Paris). Julien conducts research on international trade and international macroeconomics. In his PhD thesis, he has used firm-level data to study questions such as the impact of transport costs on the pricing policy of exporting firms, the impact of the Euro on price dispersion, the consequences of low-wage countries competition on the quality content of developed nations’ exports, or the transmission of import prices changes into domestic prices. At IRES, he plans to examine the links between the quality/sophistication of exports and the aggregate volatility of production, and the aggregate consequences of the heterogeneity of price rigidity across firms.

**Isabelle Cassiers awarded for « redéfinir la prospérité »**

Isabelle Cassiers (Professor of economics and Research Associate F.R.S.-FNRS, UCL) is one of the prize-winner of the 2011 International Wernaers Fund for Research and knowledge spread award.(http://www1.frs-fnrs.be/frfinancer-les-chercheurs/prix-scientifiques/prix-societe/349-fonds-isdt-wernaers.html)

### Visitors

**From Belgium**

- Gani Aldashev (FUNDP, Namur)

**From Europe**

- Castia Batista (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
- Herbert Brucker (IAB Nuremberg, Germany)
- Italo Colantone (ERASMUS Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
- Ignacio Falgeras Sorauren (University of Malaga, Spain)
- Elise Huillery (Sciences Po Paris, France)
- Tobias Müller (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
- David Opromolla (Bank of Portugal)
- Bard Ter Weel (Central Planning Bureau, The Netherlands)
- Jackie Wahba (University of Southampton, UK)

**They have defended their PhD and are on the job market:**

**Hélène Latzer:** Hélène defended her PhD “Three essays on growth and development” in 2010. She was supervised by Raouf Boucekkine. Her research interests are macroeconomics, growth, international trade, innovation and market structures. She is currently a FNRS researcher and is working on issues linked to income distribution and innovation and income distribution and trade in quality. 


**Luca Pensieroso:** Luca defended his PhD “Real Business Cycle Models of the Great Depression” in 2007. He was supervised by Michel de Vroey. His research interests are mac-
People

Jean-François Carpentier: Jean-François is expected to defend in April 2011 his PhD “Four empirical essays on commodity prices”. He is supervised by Professors Luc Bauwens and Vincent Bodart. His research interests include the natural resource curse, international economics, financial stability and volatility modeling. Webpage: http://perso.uclouvain.be/jean-francois.carpentier/

Visitors

Outside Europe
- Oded Galor (Brown University, US)
- Rodrigo Soares (PUC Rio, Brazil)
- Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA, US)

New members
- Pieterjan Debergh, Doctoral researcher
- Julien Martin, Postdoctoral researcher

IRES IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE

Regards économiques

A new issue of the IRES free on-line review Regards économiques has been published in November 2011 by Raouf Boucekkine (GREQAM, Université Aix-Marseille & IRES-CORE, UCLouvain; http://perso.uclouvain.be/raouf.boucekkine/) and Rafik Boukilia-Hassane (University of Oran & CEPN, University of Paris XIII). Their article reflects on the socio-economic determinants and chronology of the Arab Spring, the wave of uprisings which have affected the Arab world since December 2010. It is argued that economic liberalization without political reforms has favored the development of massive rent-seeking in these countries to the benefit of ethnic, economic and religious minorities close to the ruling parties, leading to fragile politico-economic equilibria. Demographic pressure and the rising educational attainments in the majority of Arab countries have definitely undermined these equilibria. Several dramatic institutional and economic issues are however still to be settled for the Arab Spring to have permanent political and economic effects. The article is downloadable in French on http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/Regards/Archives/RE092.pdf.

Forum de politique économique

Ronald Anderson (London School of Economics; http://personal.lse.ac.uk/ANDERSOR/), who was President of IRES from 1998 to 2000, has presented on December 9, 2011 a seminar at the IRES Forum de Politique économique on “Which lessons to draw from the great financial crisis of our time?”. Relying on his expertise and knowledge regarding financial markets and products, R. Anderson draws from this unprecedented financial crisis some useful lessons for implementing reforms in banking management and prudential regulation.

Two other forums have been organized since September 2011:
- October 14th: Etienne de Callatay (Bank Degroof, FUNDP & UCLouvain), “La réforme du financement des Régions et Communautés : première analyse”.

Research projects

Three permanent and one associated members of IRES have been awarded two research projects financed by the Belgian Science Policy Office within the programme “Society and Future” and covering the 2012-2015 period:
- Bart Cockx (Sherppa, Ghent U & IRES, UCLouvain), Muriel Dejemeppe (IRES, UCLouvain) and Bruno Van der Linden (IRES, UCLouvain & FNRS): “Age, women and employment: An evaluation”;
- François Ryck (ULB), Vincent Vandenberghe (IRES, UCLouvain) and Josef Konings (KUL): “Employment, wage discrimination and poverty”.

Roecconomics, business cycle and growth theory, economic history, history of economic thought. He is currently a FNRS researcher and is working on several topics: the Great Depression, the Gold Standard, growth and the family structure, illegal immigration. Webpage: http://perso.uclouvain.be/luca.pensieroso/Luca/Home.html
Macroeconomics

Journal articles

IRES Discussion Papers

Interdisciplinary topics

IRES Discussion Papers

International Economics

Journal articles

IRES Discussion Papers
2011/033 Aysegul KAYAOGLU, Ayhan KAYA. «Is National Citizenship Withering Away?: So-
cial Affiliations and Labor Market Integration of Turkish Origin Immigrants in Germany and France». (http://fmserver6.sipr.ucl.ac.be/volpf/ires/DPs/browserecord.php?-action=browse&recid=6147)

Labor economics, social policies and policy evaluations

Journal articles


IRES Discussion Papers


PAST SEMINARS

IRES Research Seminar (2011)

- October 13th: Elise Huillery (Sciences Po Paris): “Understanding Community Participation to Make Services Wo”.
- October 20th: Jackie Wahba (University of Southampton): “Welfare Magnet Hypothesis, Fiscal Burden and Immigration Skill Selectivity”.
- October 27th: Gani Aldashev (FUNDP, Namur): “Deadly Anchor: Gender Bias under Russian Colonization of Kazakhstan, 1898-1908”.
- November 3rd: Herbert Brucker (IAB-Nuremberg): “Migration and Imperfect Labor Markets: Theory and Comparative Evidence from Denmark, Germany and the UK”.
- November 10th: Italo Colantone (ERASMUS, Rotterdam): “New Imported Inputs, New Domestic Products”.
- November 17th: Nico Voigtländer (UCLA): “How the West Invented Fertility Restriction”.

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Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar (2011)

- September 21st: Olivier Sterk (IRES): “Sustainability of the peace process in Burundi: who benefits from the demobilization program?”.  
- October 11th: Paolo Melindi Ghidi (IRES): “Income Inequality, School Choice and the Endogenous Gentrification of U.S. Cities”.  
- October 25th: Julio Davila (CORE): “Implementing the first-best steady state TFP”.  
- November 8th: Fabio Mariani (IRES): “From Polygamy to Serial Monogamy: a Unified Theory of Marriage Institutions”.  
- November 22th: Julien Martin (IRES): “Low-Wage Countries’ Competition, Reallocation Across Firms and the Quality Content of Exports”.  
- December 6th: Andrea Ariu (IRES): Brain Deficit: How Corruption Keeps High-Skilled Away”.  

DON’T MISS

- May 21st -22nd, 2012: Workshop on sustainability and population change