First issue of Journal of Demographic Economics

As announced in IRES news n°6, the team headed by Prof. de la Croix launched the Journal of Demographic Economics (JODE), the successor of Louvain Economic Review, and its first issue was released in March. The objective of JODE is to exploit the complementarities between theory and empirics in understanding demographic phenomena and to encourage interdisciplinary collaborations between demographers and economists.

Last spring a conference was organized to commemorate Professor Gary Becker, one of the most influential scientists of the 20th century who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1992. Economists have been studying interactions between population and economic growth for a long time. Though after the Malthusian view on population checks was contradicted by the large decline in birth after the industrialization, most of economists abandoned demographics. This is reflected in the neoclassical growth model that takes population growth as exogenous and given. Becker's work revived economists' interest in demographic topics such as fertility and population, marriage and divorce, and the intra-family dynamics among husband and wives, parents and children.

This inaugural issue of JODE contains nine mini essays all penned by highly prominent academics, some of whom former Becker students, to dissect Becker's influence on and legacy in various different subfields of demographic economics. The special section in honour of Becker is followed by two research papers that are representative of how one can combine theory with data by various degrees to assess mechanisms underlying choices made by individuals.

More information can be found on:
http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=DEM

“Labor Markets in the Macroeconomy: a Tribute to Henri Sneessens”

IRES organized a conference on “Labor Markets in Macroeconomy: a Tribute to Henri Sneessens” on May 18, 2015 in Louvain-la-Neuve. With this conference, the Institute wanted to honor the Prof. Sneessens on the occasion of his emeritus status by inviting his former PhD students to present their recent research on labor markets in the macroeconomy. The conference included 7 presentations by Anna Batyra (Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey), Bertrand Candelon (IPAG Business School, France), David de la Croix (IRES, UCL) Jean-François Fagnart (Université Saint-Louis, Bruxelles), Raquel Fonseca (Université du Québec, Montréal, Canada), Omar Licandro (Barcelona Graduate School of Economics,
**PEOPLE**

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### New Visitors

**Tom Vogl** visited IRES between May 19 and 21. He got his PhD at Harvard University in 2011 and moved as an Assistant Professor to Princeton University afterwards. His fields of expertise are Development Economics, Economic Demography, Health Economics and Political Economy. He is a young academician with important contributions in economics. He contributed to the Handbook of Economics and Human Biology and the Elsevier Encyclopedia of Health Economics. He has also publications in top journals such as the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Development Economics, and Journal of Public Economics. During his stay at IRES, he discussed with Professors David de la Croix, Fabio Mariani, Luca Pensieroso, William Pariente, and Rigas Oikonomou. He also gave feedback to post-docs and PhD students regarding their research.

Tom’s website is [http://www.princeton.edu/~tvogl/](http://www.princeton.edu/~tvogl/)

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### New IRES Research Associates

**Stijn Baert** has been a research associate with IRES since December 2014. In 2006, he became Master of Science in Computer Science Engineering, in 2008 Master of Science in Economics and in 2013 Doctor of Economic Sciences from UGent (Bart Cockx supervised his PhD). Currently, he is working as Post-doctoral assistant at the same university and as Guest professor at University of Antwerp. His research is situated in the field of labour economics with a focus on discrimination on the one hand and transitions in youth on the other hand. He employs both microeconometric modelling strategies and experimental research designs. In 2012 and 2013, he worked as a visiting researcher at VU University Amsterdam (on the invitation of Bas van der Klauuw) and at Aarhus University (on the invitation of Michael Rosholm) respectively. For the moment, he is working on a joint project on cultural discrimination with Muriel Dejemeppe. His former studies have been published in journals such as Labour Economics, Economics of Education Review, Industrial Relations, Industrial & Labor Relations Review and European Journal of Health Economics. In addition, Stijn’s research has been mentioned more than 100 times in Flemish media. In 2013, Stijn was also elected president of the European Association of Young Economists.

Stijn’s website is [http://users.ugent.be/~sbaert/](http://users.ugent.be/~sbaert/)

**François Rycx** has been a research associate with IRES since May 2015. He is Professor of Economics at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He is a Research Fellow of the Centre Emile Bernheim (CEB), the Department of Applied Economics of ULB (DULBEA) and the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). He obtained his PhD in Economics in 2001 from the ULB. His research is in the area of empirical labour economics, in particular the analysis of matched employer-employee data and the determinants of earnings inequality and firm productivity. He does also research on the economics of trade unions, education economics, income inequality, minimum wages, and personnel economics. He has advised various organisations including the European Central Bank, the European Trade Union Institute, the National Bank of Spain, Eva Moreno Galbis (Université d’Angers, France) and one plenary talk by Raouf Boucekkine (Aix-Marseille University, France).

Henri Sneessens completed his PhD in Economics at CORE (UCL) in 1980. He was lecturer at the London School of Economics (1980-82) and professor of economics at the Université catholique de Lille (1982-85), before moving back to Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL) where he became full professor in 1993. He was chairman of IRES in 1994-1998 and 2004-2007. From 2003-2007, he was also head of the Economics Department. His contributions to research include the estimation of quantity rationing models, the introduction of imperfect competitive pricing into these models, and the development of macroeconomic models including search and matching frictions, with a focus on mismatch across geographical regions, skill composition of the workforce, and age structure of the population.
Belgium, the European Commission and the OECD. He co-edited a dozen of books (Palgrave) and special issues of scientific journals, and published in journals such as Applied Economics, Economics of Education Review, Economics of Transition, Empirica, European Journal of Industrial Relations, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, International Journal of Manpower, Journal of Sports Economics and Review of International Economics. He is co-Editor of the Brussels Economic Review and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal of Manpower. He visited IRES and has been visiting professor at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) in 2014-2015. During his stay at IRES, he worked with Vincent Vandenberghe on a major research project, funded by the Belgian Federal Scientific Policy Office (BELSPO), entitled ‘Employment, wage discrimination and poverty’. He also met various professors and PhD students including Bart Cockx, Muriel Dejemeppe, Anaïs Perilleux and Bruno Van der Linden. François’ website is http://homepages.ulb.ac.be/~frycx/

They have Defended their PhD

Amandine Aubry
Amandine defended her PhD “Gains and costs from an increasing integration of output and labor markets: An analysis of market size and transnational networks” on December 9, 2014.
She was supervised by Frédéric Docquier (IRES, UCL). The other members of the jury were: Michel Beine (University of Luxembourg), Fabio Mariani (IRES, UCL), Dominique Peeters (CORE, UCL), Giovanni Peri (UCDavis, United-States).

Emeline Bezin
She was supervised by David de la Croix (IRES, UCL) and Fabien Moizeau (Université de Rennes 1, France). The other members of the jury were: Katheline Schubert (Université Paris 1, France), Philippe le Goffe (AGROCOMPUS OUEST, Rennes, France), Fabio Mariani (IRES, UCL), François Salané (Laboratoire d’Economie des Ressources Naturelles, Toulouse, France) and Thierry Verdier (Paris School of Economics, France).
Emeline’s website is https://sites.google.com/site/emelinebezin/

Corinna Ghirelli
Corinna defended her PhD “Unemployment: Scars and Preferences” on December 23, 2014.
She was supervised by Bart Cockx (UGent). The other members of the jury were: Marc De Clercq (UGent), William Parienté (IRES, UCL), Matteo Picchio (Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy), Bruno Van der Linden (IRES, UCL), Patrick Van Kenhove (UGent) and Dieter Verhaest (KULeuven).
Corinna’s website is https://sites.google.com/site/corinnaghirelli/

Erica Perego
She was supervised by Vincent Bodart (IRES, UCL) and Henri Sneessens (Université du Luxembourg, Luxembourg). The other members of the jury were: Michel Beine (Université du Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Luca Pensieroso (IRES, UCL), Olivier Pierrard (Banque centrale du Luxembourg, Luxembourg) and Céline Poilly (Université de Lausanne, Switzerland).
Erica’s website is https://sites.google.com/site/ericaritaperego/
Job Market Placement

Amandine Aubry moved to the OECD (Paris), where she serves as an economist.

In 2015-2016, Emeline Bezin will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Paris School of Economics.

In 2015-2016, Olivier Brolis will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Université de Lille-Telecom.

In 2015-2016, Joël Machado will be a FNR Postdoctoral Fellow at CREA, University of Luxembourg.

Appointments

• Since June 2015, Muriel Dejemeppe has been appointed member of the board of the Belgian Royal Society of Political Economy.

• IRES has now two academicians among its members. Indeed, Marthe Nyssens has been appointed member of the Belgian Royal Academy, class “Technology and Society”, where she will join Isabelle Cassiers who was elected in 2011.

IRES IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE

Regards économiques

2 new issues of the IRES free on-line review Regards économiques has been published since November 2014:
• Issue 115: “Perspectives économiques 2015” by Rytis Bagdziunas (CORE, UCL), Vincent Bodart (IRES, UCL), Sébastien Fontenay (IRES, UCL), Vanessa Lutgen (IRES, UCL), Joël Machado (IRES, UCL) and Alexandre Ounnas (IRES, UCL).
• Issue 116: “La taxe sur la terre : principes, concept et enjeux” by Marc Germain (Université de Lille 3, France – IRES, UCL).

On the top of that, two «focus» (short articles) of Regards économiques have been published since November 2014:
• 18 December 2014: “L’électricité à quel coût pour la société ?” by Thierry Bréchet (CORE, UCL).
• 25 mars 2015: “Faut-il payer le train plus cher à l’heure de pointe ?” by Axel Gautier (ULg – CORE, UCL).

All these issues and focus are downloadable in French on: http://www.regards-economiques.be.

Other contributions

• Banerjee, Abhijit ; Duflo, Esther ; Goldberg, Nathanael ; Karlan, Dean ; Osei, Robert ; Parienté, William ; Shapiro, Jeremy ; Thuytsbaert, Bram ; Udny, Christopher. A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries. In: Science, Vol. 348, no.6236, p. 772-788 (15 May 2015).

This article presents results from six randomized control trials of an integrated approach to improve livelihoods among the very poor. The approach combines the transfer of a productive asset with consumption support, training, and coaching plus savings encouragement and health education and/or services. Results from the implementation of the same basic program adapted to a wide
variety of geographic and institutional contexts and with multiple implementing partners, show statistically significant cost-effective impacts on consumption (fueled mostly by increases in self-employment income) and psychosocial status of the targeted households. The impact on the poor households lasted at least a year after all implementation ended. It is possible to make sustainable improvements in the economic status of the poor with a relatively short-term intervention.

A report of this article is published in the New York Times on May 21, 2015, and in Le Monde (French newspaper) on May 16, 2015.


The goal of this chapter is to describe the links existing in Belgium between the way the labour market works and monetary poverty in the working age population. Although people are on average less at risk of poverty when employed than when unemployed, the share of unemployed at risk who escape poverty by getting a job is about one half only. Wages do not seem to be the main culprit. Belgium has a relatively low share of low-paid workers and the mobility rate out of low pay is above average in the EU. The main problem is the low share of time spent in employment. Moreover, the unemployment risk is not evenly distributed but highly concentrated within households. Another major source of concern is the very high share of long-term unemployed in particular in Brussels and in Wallonia.

Some selected media appearances

- Chômage et contrôles : “Le système génère en soi des effets pervers”
  Bruno Van der Linden (IRES, UCL) signed this article published in L’Avenir (Belgian newspaper) on May 5, 2015.

- Journée internationale du bonheur : il n’y a pas que l’argent dans la vie
  Isabelle Cassiers (IRES, UCL) gave an interview in La Libre Belgique (Belgian newspaper) within the framework of the international Day of the Happiness on March 20, 2015.

- La BCE n’a-t-elle pas trop tardé à réagir ?
  Vincent Bodart (IRES, UCL) gave an interview in La Libre Belgique (Belgian newspaper) on January 20, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Macroeconomics

Journal articles


Books chapters


IRES Discussion Papers


Labor Economics, Social Policies and Policy Evaluations

Journal articles

Banerjee, Abhijit ; Duflo, Esther ; Goldberg, Nathanael ; Karlan, Dean ; Osei, Robert ; Parienté, William ; Shapiro, Jeremy ; Thuytsbaert, Bram ; Udry, Christopher. A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries. In: Science, Vol. 348, no.6236, p. 772-788 (15 May 2015).


Book chapters


Nyssens, Marthe ; Petrella, Francesca. The Social and Solidarity Economy and Ostrom’s approach to common pool resources: Towards a better understanding of institutional diversity? In: Jean-Louis Laville, Denis Young, Philippe Eynaud, Civil Society, the Third Sector and Social Enterprise: Governance and Democracy (Routledge Frontiers of Political Economy), Routledge: Oxford, 2015, p. 178-190.

IRES Discussion Papers


International Economics

Journal articles


IRES Discussion Papers


Interdisciplinary Topics

Journal articles


IRES Discussion Papers
PAST SEMINARS

IMMAQ Trade and Economic Geography Seminar

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.


December 2014
11 Dennis Novy (Warwick University, United-Kingdom)
“Estimating Border Effects: The Impact of Geographic Aggregation”
(Joint with IRES Research Seminar)

February 2015
27 Christian Haedo (University di Bologna, Italy) and Michel Mouchart (ISBA, UCL)
“Specialized agglomerations with lattice data: model and detection”

March
19 Frédéric Robert-Nicoud (Université de Genève, Switzerland)
“Are cities too small? Equilibrium and optimal urban systems with heterogeneous land”
(Joint with IRES Research Seminar)

26 Holger Breinlich (University of Essex, United-Kingdom)
“Information and Attitudes towards Exporting - Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial”
(Joint with IRES Research Seminar)

IRES Research Seminar


December 2014
4 Benjamin Elsner (IZA-Bonn, Switzerland)
“Let’s be selective about migrant self-selection”
11 Dennis Novy (Warwick University, United-Kingdom)
“Estimating Border Effects: The Impact of Geographic Aggregation”
(Joint with IMMAQ Trade and Economic Geography Seminar)

February 2015
5 Chris Parsons (Oxford University, United-Kingdom)
“The Efficacy of High Skilled Migration Policies”
12 Carlos Carrillo-Tudela (University of Essex, United-Kingdom)
19 Jacob Weisdorf (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)
“Malthus in the Bedroom: Birth Spacing as Birth Control in Early Modern England?”

26 Frank Verboven (KULeuven)
“Enrollment and degree completion in higher education without ex ante admission standards”

March
5 Jan Van Ours (Tilburg University)
“How to Stimulate Single Mothers on Welfare to Find a Job: Evidence from a Natural Experiment”
12 Oksana Leukhina (University of Washington, United-States)
“How Risky Is College Investment?”
19 Frédéric Robert-Nicoud (Université de Genève, Switzerland)
“Are cities too small? Equilibrium and optimal urban systems with heterogeneous land”
(Joint with IMMAQ Trade and Economic Geography Seminar)

26 Holger Breinlich (University of Essex, United-Kingdom)
“Information and Attitudes towards Exporting - Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial”
(Joint with IMMAQ Trade and Economic Geography Seminar)

April
2 Petros Milionis (University of Groningen, Netherlands)
“Regional TFP differences in Europe and what we can learn from them”
30 Rachel Ngai (London School of Economics, United-Kingdom)
“Moving House”

May
7 Marie-Anne Valfort (Paris School of Economics, United-Kingdom)
“Religious discrimination in the French labour market”
21 Tom Vogl (Princeton University, United-States)
“Intergenerational Dynamics and the Fertility Transition”
28 Nicolas Roys (University of Wisconsin, United-States)
“Economic Development and the Organization of Production”
### Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar

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: Paula Gobbi (paula.gobbi@uclouvain.be)
Luca Pensieroso (luca.pensieroso@uclouvain.be)

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<td>16 David de la Croix (IRES, UCL)</td>
<td>“Religion, Fertility and Growth in South-East Asia”</td>
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<td>January 2015</td>
<td>13 Paula Gobbi (IRES, UCL)</td>
<td>“Development Policies when Accounting for the Extensive Margin of Fertility”</td>
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<td>27 Guzman Ourens (IRES, UCL)</td>
<td>“The Long-term Impact of Trade with Firm Heterogeneity”</td>
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<td>February 2015</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>3 Brahim Boualam (Université de Genève, Switzerland)</td>
<td>“The role of transport and speed on housing vacancies”</td>
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<td>24 Bertrand Achou (IRES, UCL – Paris School of Economics, France)</td>
<td>“Disability and home production in retirement”</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>28 Victor Hiller (Université Paris-Est Créteil, France)</td>
<td>“The rise and fall of factory discipline: Control vs incentives in the course of industrialization”</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>6 Liza Archanskaia (KULeuven)</td>
<td>“Why Aren’t Welfare Gains from Trade Increasing?”</td>
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<td>“Downward Occupational Mobility and Unemployment”</td>
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<td>9 Martin Guzman (Columbia University, United-States)</td>
<td>“Pseudo-wealth Fluctuations and Aggregate Demand Effects”</td>
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### NBB Seminar

**Seminar on firm-level analysis**

Started during the academic year 2011-2012, the series of seminars on firm-level analysis is renewed for 2013-2014. The seminar is organized by the National Bank of Belgium, in collaboration with KULeuven, UCL (IRES), UGent, ULB and UMons.


| February 2015  | 4 Andrei Levchenko (University of Michigan, United-States) | “Multinational Firms and International Business Cycle Transmission” |
| March          | 5 Peter Debaeren (University of Virginia, United-States) | “Outsourcing vs. Integration in the Mutual Fund Industry: An Incomplete Contracting Perspective” |
| April          | 30 Thomas Zwick (Wuerzburg University, Germany) | “Work-Related Ability as Source of Information Advantages of Training Employers” |
Macroeconomics seminar

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

Seminar’s webpage:

December 2014 1 Matteo Iacoviello (Federal Reserve Board, Washington, United-States) “Collateral Constraints and Macroeconomic Asymmetries”

March 2015 19 James Harold (Princeton University, United-States) “Karl-Otto Pöhl, the Budesbank, and EMU”

May 4 Mark Watson (Princeton University, United-States) “Core and Trend Inflation”

DON’T MISS

• “3rd Belgian Macroeconomics Workshop” Louvain-la-Neuve, September 11th, 2015

The 3rd Belgian Macroeconomics Workshop will take place at the UCL on Friday, September 11th, 2015. The workshop aims at creating a network of researchers working in closely related fields, and is primarily targeted at junior macroeconomists active in Belgium (i.e. junior Faculty members, postdocs or advanced PhD students). This workshop will be organized by Vive Lewis (KULeuven), Luca Pensieroso (IRES, UCL) and Joris Wauters (UGent).

A call for papers is currently open. Each paper selected for presentation will have a discussant. Senior macroeconomists from the most important Belgian universities will be present to provide feedback. Interested authors are invited to send a paper in pdf-format to belgianmacroworkshop@gmail.com before July 15th 2015.