



I R E S N E W S



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Institute for Economic
and Social Research
Université catholique de Louvain

FOCUS

ARC project “Family transformation, incentives and norms”

Over the last century, marriage and the family have undergone radical evolutions. New patterns such as blended families or same-sex couples have emerged, divorce rates have increased, and fertility has gone down. These trends are both the cause and the outcome of value changes. By gathering economists from IRES and demographers from DEMO, this project aims at shedding light on the mechanisms that drive this type of family transformations, and on their consequences. Two main research directions will be developed. The first concerns the formation of the couple. It will notably investigate the evolution, drivers and consequences of the matching between partners; the emergence of new forms of marriages and their coexistence with old ones; and the interactions between the degree of endogamy in the society and economic development across time and space. The second part of the project focuses on the construction of the family and choices in terms of fertility, and will notably document the phenomenon of childlessness, the optimal age for pregnancy, and the interactions between religion and fertility. Across these various issues and following the full route of the family cycle – from the formation of the couple to the enlargement of the family –, interactions and complementarities between the two disciplines and their different methodologies are expected to be very beneficial. This has already been the case during the first internal workshop of the project, held in Durbuy in January 2016, when the members of the team got the opportunity to present their ongoing work and to start stimulating interactions over the different topics of the project. In addition to economists and demographers, philosophers are

also expected to intervene at specific stages of the project related to norms, involving ethical issues or potential consequences in terms of social justice. In a transdisciplinary perspective, this new ARC project will thus allow to provide a comprehensive understanding of the drivers and consequences of multiple dimensions of the transformation of the family that have occurred over the last century. It is promoted by David de la Croix as porte-parole (IRES), along with Fabio Mariani (IRES) and Ester Rizzi (DEMO, UCL), and two junior professors, Thomas Baudin (DEMO, UCL) and Luca Pensieroso (IRES), and also involves a team of eight doctoral students and eight post-docs either in economics or in demography.

More information is available [here](#).



● Chaire “Les Petits Riens” at UCL: “The social economy as a way to tackle poverty”



This Chaire is a five-year project developed by Marthe Nyssens (IRES-CIRTES, UCL) and Anaïs Périlleux (IRES-CIRTES, UCL) in partnership with the Belgian social enterprise Les Petits Riens. The aim of this project is twofold: to shed some light, through scientific research, on the complexity of the social economy and to provide tools to promote the social and environmental sustainability of enterprises.

Les Petits Riens collects, selects and sells second hand clothes. Although less well known, it also implements a wide range of social actions. Indeed, among others, Les Petits Riens host and support more than 300 homeless people every year. Engaged in this Chaire, this social enterprise has chosen a scientific approach to formalize and improve its actions and to share the knowledge acquired during more than 75 years of activity. It believes, indeed, that changing the way enterprises are organized from a social, economic and environmental perspective is a key factor to tackle poverty and exclusion.

Every year, the Chaire will choose a different topic relevant for both social enterprises and the academic researchers in the field. This first year, it will investigate the issues and the complexity of social impact measurement. This topic is crucial for social enterprises as they face an increasing pressure from public bodies and private investors in order to prove their social impact. It is also a relevant subject for academic research as social impact measurement raises important theoretical and methodological questions.

The main objective of this year is to create a tool to allow Les Petits Riens to monitor the different effects of their activity on the beneficiaries. Not only the change of the socio-economic situation both in the short and the long run, but also the evolution of technical and social skills, health and psychological conditions such as self-esteem. This tool will also be useful to build a database in order to investigate empirically what the key factors for an effective re-integration of the beneficiaries are.

Chaire's Webpage: <https://www.uclouvain.be/515272.html>

IRES IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE

● Regards économiques



5 issues of the IRES free on-line review *Regards économiques* have been published since November 2015:

- Issue 120: “Disparités et convergence économique : rattrapage économique wallon?” by Mattéo Godin (UNamur) and Jean Hindriks (CORE, UCL).
- Issue 121: “Perspectives économiques 2016” by Gautier Attanasi (CORE, UCL), Rytis Bagdziunas (CORE, UCL), Vincent Bodart (IRES, UCL), Sébastien Fontenay (IRES, UCL), Vanessa Lutgen (IRES, UCL) and Alexandre Ounnas (IRES, UCL).
- Issue 122: “Les Belges propriétaires de leur logement restent-ils plus longtemps au chômage ?” by Stijn Baert (UGent), Freddy Heylen (UGent) and Daan Isebaert (UGent).
- Issue 123: “‘Le chômage au plus bas depuis 1992’ : remettons les pendules à l’heure” by Muriel Dejemepe (IRES, UCL) and Bruno Van der Linden (IRES, UCL).
- Issue 124: “Mesurer l’effet des politiques publiques : l’essor des évaluations aléatoires” by William Parienté (IRES, UCL).

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

IRES in the debate on the “refugee crisis”

In an issue of *Regards économiques* published in 2015, Frédéric Docquier (IRES, UCL; <http://perso.uclouvain.be/frederic.docquier/>) and Joël Machado (University of Luxembourg; <http://www.joelmachado.eu>) gave «Some clarifications on the refugee crisis ». In 2015, about 35,500 asylum seekers from Syria, Irak and Aghanistan crossed into Europe and applied for refugee status. This crisis raised legitimate concerns about the economic implications for the host-country population. The article has three objectives. First, it puts the current inflow of asylum seekers in perspective with the past flows of refugees and with the level of economic immigration to Belgium. Second, it summarizes the academic literature on the economic effects of immigration and compares the main findings with the public opinion. Third, it discusses the differences between economic migrants and asylum seekers in terms of economic costs and benefits. A few policy recommendations are provided to reduce the costs - or to increase the gains - for the Belgian economy.

The article is downloadable in French on:
<http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/Regards/Archives/RE098.pdf>.

Some selected media appearances

- ***Démocratie économique et économie sociale***

On October 2015, Marthe Nyssens (IRES-CIRTES) was interviewed by the Belgian Academy for Science, Letters and Art about her work on social economy.

- ***Taxer les importations***

On 7 December 2015, Gonzague Vannoorenberghe (IRES) gave an interview to the French-Speaking Belgian Radio *RTBF* on the idea of increasing taxes on Asian imports.

- ***La diversité fragilisée***

On 5 January 2016, an article published in the French newspaper *Le Monde* cited the paper of William Parienté (IRES) et al. (2015), *Discrimination as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Evidence from French Grocery Stores*.

- ***La Belgique est-elle sur la bonne voie pour réduire le chômage ?***

On 18 March 2016, Bruno Van der Linden gave an interview to the French-Speaking Belgian Radio *RTBF* on the evolution of unemployment in Belgium.

PUBLICATIONS

Macroeconomics

Journal articles

Artuc, Erhan; Docquier, Frédéric; Özden, Çağlar; Parsons, Christopher. *A Global Assessment of Human Capital Mobility: The Role of Non-OECD Destinations*. In: *World Development*, Vol. 65, p. 6-26 (2015).

Docquier, Frédéric; Lodigiani, Elisabetta; Rapoport, Hillel; Schiff, Maurice. *Emigration and Democracy*. In: *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 120, p. 209-223 (2016).

Bertoli, Simon; Docquier, Frédéric. *International Migration and Inequality Across Nations*. In: *The World Economy*, p. 1-2 (2015).





Book

De Keuleneer, Eric; Rentier, Bernard; Artige, Lionel; Boulanger, Paul-Marie; Bréchet, Thierry; Cassiers, Isabelle; de la Croix, David; Donnay, Philippe; Maréchal, Kevin; Touzri, Abdelfattah. *La croissance, réalités et perspectives : Actes du 21e Congrès des économistes belges de langue française*. Éditions de l'Université Ouverte: Charleroi, 721 p. (2015).

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2016/7 de la Croix, David; Perrin, Faustine. *French Fertility and Education Transition: Rational Choice vs. Cultural Diffusion*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2016007.pdf>
- 2016/6 Oikonomou, Rigas. *Unemployment Insurance with Limited Commitment Wage Contracts and Savings*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2016006.pdf>
- 2016/5 Bouakez, Hafedh; Oikonomou, Rigas; Priftis, Romanos. *Optimal Debt Management in a Liquidity Trap*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2016005.pdf>
- 2016/4 Roca Fernandez, Eric. *Inheritance Systems and the Dynamics of State Capacity in Medieval Europe*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2016004.pdf>
- 2016/3 de la Croix, David; Gobbi, Paula. *Population Density, Fertility and Demographic Convergence in Developing Countries*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2016003.pdf>
- 2015/21 de la Croix, David; Baudin, Thomas. *La croissance économique*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015021.pdf>
- 2015/20 Gobbi, Paula; Parys, Juliane; Schwerhoff, Gregor. *Intra-Household Allocation of Parental Leave*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015020.pdf>
- 2015/19 McGowan, Danny; Vasilakis, Chrysovalantis. *Reap What You Sow: Agricultural Productivity, Structural Change and Urbanization*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015019.pdf>

Labor Economics, Social Policies and Policy Evaluations



Journal articles

Dejemeppe, Muriel; Smith, Catherine; Van der Linden, Bruno. *Did the Intergenerational Solidarity Pact increase the employment rate of older workers in Belgium? A macro-econometric evaluation*. In: *IZA: Journal of Labor Policy*, Vol. 4, no. 17, p. 1-23 (2015).

Dejemeppe, Muriel; Van der Linden, Bruno. *Réduire le coût du travail. Oui mais comment ?* In: *Dynamiques régionales*, no.3, p. 15-28 (2016).

Lehmann, Etienne; Montero Ledezma, Paola Liliana; Van der Linden, Bruno. *Workforce location and equilibrium unemployment in a duocentric economy with matching frictions*. In: *Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 91, p. 26-44 (2016).

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2015/24 Albanese, Andrea; Cockx, Bart; Thuy, Yannick. *Working Time Reductions at the End of the Career. Do they Prolong the Time Spent in Employment*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015024.pdf>
- 2015/23 Baert, Stijn; Cockx, Bart; Picchio, Matteo. *Modeling the Effects of Grade Retention in High School*. <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015023.pdf>
- 2015/22 Baert, Stijn; Cockx, Bart. *Contracting Out Mandatory Counselling and Training for Long Term Unemployed. Private For-Profit or Non-Profit, or Keep it Public?* <http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2015022.pdf>

Interdisciplinary topics

*Journal articles*

Brolis, Olivier; Nyssens, Marthe. *La qualité des emplois peu qualifiés dans l'ESS: la mission de l'entreprise fait-elle la différence ?*. In: *Economies et Societes. Serie AB. Economie du Travail*, no.37, p. 1047-1077 (2015).

Book chapters

Cassiers, Isabelle; Thiry, Géraldine. *Indicateurs et modes de vie durables*. In: Dominique Bourg, Carine Dartiguepeyrou, Caroline Gervais, Olivier Perrin, *Les nouveaux modes de vie durables : s'engager autrement dans la durabilité*, Éditions Le Bord de l'Eau: Lormont, 2016. 978-2-35687-442-9.

Defourny, Jacques; Nyssens, Marthe; Thys, Séverine. *Venture philanthropy: When philanthropy meets social entrepreneurship*. In: Tobias Jung, Susan D. Philipps, Jenny Harrow, *The Routledge Companion to Philanthropy*, Routledge: London, 2016, p. 348-361. 9780415783255.

IRES Discussion Papers

- 2016/2 Perilleux, Anaïs; Nyssens, Marthe. *Understanding Cooperative Finance as a New Common?*
<http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/201602.pdf>
- 2016/1 Perilleux, Anaïs; Vanroose, Annabel; D'Espallier, Bert. *Are financial cooperatives crowded out by commercial banks in the process of financial sector development?*
<http://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/201601.pdf>

PAST CONFERENCE



On the 28th and 29th January 2016 the **Macroeconomics in Perspective Workshop** was organized in Lille by a team of organizers including Michel De Vroey (IRES) and Luca Pensieroso (IRES). The programme of this edition included 11 presentations and 2 round tables. This international conference crossed the views of macroeconomists and historians of macroeconomics on the evolution of the discipline. Three guest speakers, Martin Guzman (Columbia University), Rigas Oikonomou (IRES, UCL) and Henri Sneesens (University of Luxembourg) introduced the latest developments of macroeconomics

after 2008. A round table was held on the book Michel De Vroey published on January 2016, entitled *A History of Macroeconomics from Keynes to Lucas and Beyond* (CUP).

The **5th Annual Christmas Meeting of Belgian Economists** was organized in Louvain-la-Neuve on December 21, 2015 by Michèle Belot (University of Oxford, United Kingdom), Fabio Mariani (IRES, UCL) and Gonzague Vannoorenberghe (IRES, UCL). The idea of this meeting 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 program of the 2015 Meeting included 10 presentations of 30 minutes and 2 keynote lectures given by Jan De Loecker and Frédéric Docquier. Jan De Loecker, who is Professor at the Princeton University, gave a presentation entitled "Firm Performance in a Global Economy". Frédéric Docquier, Professor at IRES (UCL), gave a presentation on "The welfare Impact of Global Migration in OECD Countries".

PAST SEMINARS

IRES Research Seminar



- Seminar's webpage: <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-284532.html>
- December
- 3 Sarolta Laczó (University of Surrey, United-Kingdom)
"Pareto-Improving Optimal Capital and Labor Taxes"
 - 10 Morgane Laouenan (Science Po, Paris, France)
"Ethnic Discrimination on an Online Marketplace of Vacation rentals"
 - 17 Clément Imbert (University of Warwick, United-Kingdom)
"Short-term Migration, Rural Workfare Programs and urban Labor Markets: Evidence from India"
- February
- 4 Andrea Weber (Vienna university, Austria)
"The Effects of Increasing the Early Retirement Age on Employment of Older Workers"
 - 11 Xavier Mateos Planas (Queen Mary University of London, United-Kingdom)
"Partial Default"
 - 18 Thomas Sampson (London School of Economics, United-Kingdom)
"Balanced Growth Despite Uzawa"
 - 25 Uwe Sunde (University of Munich, Germany)
"Malaria Risk and Civil Violence"
- March
- 3 Luisa Lambertini (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland)
"Monetary Commitment and the Level of Public Debt"
 - 10 Arne Uhlendorff (CREST – CNRS, Paris, France)
"The Role of Sickness in the Evaluation of Job Search Assistance and Sanctions"
 - 17 Slobodan Djajic (Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland)
"Transit Migration"
 - 24 Pascaline Dupas (Stanford University, United-States)
"Decentralization and Efficiency of Subsidy Targeting: Evidence from Chiefs in Rural Malawi"

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.
- Seminar's webpage: <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-284743.html>
Organizers: Paula Gobbi (paula.gobbi@uclouvain.be)
Luca Pensieroso (luca.pensieroso@uclouvain.be)
- December
- 1 Bastien Chabé-Ferret (IRES, UCL)
"The role of economic uncertainty on fertility cycles"
 - 8 Hamze Arabzadeh (IRES, UCL – PSE, France)
"The political economy of twin deficits and wage setting centralization"
 - 9 Paula Gobbi (IRES, UCL)
"Development policies when accounting for the extensive margin of fertility"
 - 15 Marc Goni (University of Vienna, Austria)
"Assortative matching and persistent inequality: Evidence from the world's most exclusive marriage market"
- February
- 16 Michel Devroey (IRES, UCL) and Luca Pensieroso (IRES, UCL)
"The evolving facets of mainstream economics"
Joint with a "Mardi intime de la Chaire Hoover".
- March
- 1 Elie Murard (IZA and PSE, France)
"Less welfare of fewer foreigners? Immigrant inflows and public opinion towards redistribution and migration policy"

- 8 Marion Mercier (IRES, UCL)
"Diasporas and conflict"
- 15 Marijke Bos (Tilburg University, The Netherlands)
"Farm Profits, Consumption and Asset Allocation in Indonesia"
- 22 Mara Squicciarini (KULeuven – Northwestern University, United-States)
"Religiosity, Education, and Economic Development: Evidence from 19th Century France"

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.

Seminar's webpage:
<https://www.nbb.be/fr/publications-et-recherche/recherche-collaborations/seminaire-sur-lanalyse-des-donnees-dentreprises-0>

December	17 Dave Donaldson (MIT, United-States) "Nonparametric Counterfactual Predictions in Neoclassical Models of International Trade"
March	17 Jean Imbs (PSE, France) "Why Do Risky Sectors Grow Fast?"

- 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:
<https://www.nbb.be/fr/publications-et-recherche/recherche-collaborations/seminaire-macroeconomique-organise-conjointement-0>

December	2 Gisela Rua (Federal Reserve Bank) "Inflation Expectations and Recovery from the Depression in 1933: Evidence from the Narrative Record"
February	9 Lars Peter Hansen (University of Chicago, United-States) "Set Models and Prices of Uncertainty"

DON'T MISS

- "13th Belgian Day of Labor Economists"**
Antwerp, May 27, 2016

On May 27, the 13th edition of the Belgian Day for Labor Economists (BDLE) will be hosted at the University of Antwerp. The BDLE aims at improving contacts and exchange of expertise between labor economists located in and around Belgium. This year's keynote speaker is Erik Plug, Professor of Economics at the University of Amsterdam.

The organizing committee is comprised of Stijn Baert (UGent) and Sunčica Vujić (UAntwerp). The scientific committee is made up of Stijn Baert (UGent), Bart Cockx (UGent), Muriel Dejemeppe (IRES, UCL), François Rycx (ULB), Bruno Van der Linden (IRES, UCL), Nick Deschacht (KULeuven), Sunčica Vujić (UAntwerp) and Walter Nonneman (UAntwerp).

Registration is obligatory before May 15 here.

• **“Firms in developing countries: Which challenges in a globalized world?”**
Louvain-la-Neuve, May 30-31, 2016

On May 30-31, Florian Mayneris (IRES, UCL), William Pariente (IRES, UCL) and Gonzague Vannoorenberghe (IRES, UCL), together with Jean-Marie Balland from Namur, are organizing a workshop on “Firms in developing countries: Which challenges in a globalized world?”. Firms in developing countries generally remain small sized and their contribution to employment is limited. They face particularly strong challenges, from credit constraints to inadequate infrastructure or labor force. The concern is all the more important that globalization has had a profound impact on the development path of these countries, affecting their firms’ growth potential, as well as the ability of workers to benefit from it.

The workshop aims at bringing together leading scholars in development and international trade to identify the specific constraints faced by firms in developing countries and to discuss the possible policies to tackle them.

Speakers include Gharad Bryan (LSE), Paula Bustos (CEMFI), Ann Harrison (Wharton), Beata Javorcik (Oxford), Dean Karlan (Yale – to be confirmed), Rocco Macchiavello (Warwick), David McKenzie (World Bank), Veronica Rappoport (LSE), Adam Szeidl (Central European University) and Eric Verhoogen (Columbia).

The workshop benefits from the financial support of the Chaire Jacquemin.

More information and registration here.

• **“The Importance of Elites and their Demography for knowledge and Development”**
Louvain-la-Neuve, June 22-23, 2016

On June 22-23, David de la Croix (IRES, UCL), Jean-François Fagnard (FUSL), Morganne Laouenan (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Paula Gobbi (IRES, UCL) are organizing a workshop on “The importance of Elites and their Demography for Knowledge and Development”. Speakers include Professors Joel Mokyr (Northwestern University, United-States), Neil Cummins (LES, United-Kingdom), Gregory Clark (UC-Davis, United-States), Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA, United-States), Etienne Wasmer (Sciences Po, Paris, France), Francesco Cinnirella (IFP), Marc Goni (University of Vienna, Austria) and Felipe Valencia (Bonn Graduate School of Economics, Switzerland). The objective of the workshop is to have an interaction between economic historians having analyzed the role of elites for development and growth together with economists interested in the demographics of these elites. The objective from this interaction is to have a better understanding on how the demography of the elites mattered for their role in the development of societies.

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