European Research Projects. **Conferences**

6th July, 2010,

- **Final conference of the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme project “Intangible Assets and Regional Economic Growth” (IAREG).**

The conference, held in Brussels, was led by the **Regional Quantitative Analysis (AQR-IREA)** research group.

- **Jordi Suriñach** was invited to the conference “Building a Systemic Approach to Innovation: Analysis and Policy”, organized by the European Commission, held on 20 November 2009.

The conference brought together experts from international organizations, financial institutions, companies and universities to discuss their role in achieving economic recovery and to debate finance and innovation in the context of the current recession.

- **Rosina Moreno** was invited to the preparatory meeting “EU-2020 strategy insights from European research in socio-economic sciences”, held in Brussels on 28 January. She presented the main policy implications of the European project IAREG.

- **Rosina Moreno** gave a paper at the conference “Europe 2020 Strategy: innovation insights from European research in socio-economic sciences”, held on 1 June 2010.

**Josep Lluís Carrió-i-Silvestre i Germà Bel Queralt, ICREA**

**Academia Award winners**

**Josep Lluís Carrió-i-Silvestre**, researcher at UB-IREA and member of the Regional Quantitative Analysis (AQR-IREA) research group, and **Germà Bel Queralt**, member of the Governments and Markets (GIM-IREA) research group, were awarded the ICREA Academia Program 2009 and 2010 prize.

This Program aims to foster research excellence in the work of teaching and research staff (PDI) who have permanent links to public universities in Catalonia. ICREA Academia researchers focus on research activities in Catalan public universities during the five years of the Program.
Recent Events Organized by UB-IREA

Workshop “Intangible Assets and Regional Economic Growth”
14 and 15 January, 2010

It took place as a part of the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme.

It was led by the University of Barcelona’s AQR-IREA research group, with the participation of centres and universities from the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Finland, Germany and Estonia. The aim of the workshop was to analyse intangible assets and the role they play in innovation, competitiveness, economic growth and regional increases in productivity. In particular, the workshop focused on the geographical space in which these processes take place.

- KNOWLEDGE ACCUMULATION PROCESSES AND REGIONAL GROWTH
- KNOWLEDGE FLOWS AND REGIONAL PRODUCTIVITY
- INTANGIBLE ASSETS, FIRMS LOCATION AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Luis Delgado Martinez. Deputy Director-General for the Modernization and Promotion of University Research. Spanish Ministry of Education.

Summer School Barcelona Insurance and Risk Management
12, 13 and 14 July 2010

It was organized by the Research group on Risk in Finance and Insurance (RFA-IREA) and the Institute of Law and Finance (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main).

This seminar first will cover Poisson processes and extensions that are useful in modelling insurance claim counts. Then the theory of discrete Markov Chains will be developed, leading to numerous practical examples of applications in insurance, finance, and medical sciences.

It is designed for actuarial and statistics students, as well as practicing actuaries. Insurance professionals and future actuaries will learn new models to apply to their fields. Students majoring in statistics may find in this seminar an intriguing blend of practical applications of stochastic processes.

Third Annual Conference of UB-IREA and Fourth Internal Workshop
4th February 2010

The conference opened with the welcome by the Director of the Institute, Jordi Surinach, followed with two papers presented by UB-IREA researchers and was brought to a close with a talk by Xavier Freixas (from the Pompeu Fabra University) titled “Post Crisis Challenges to Bank Regulation”.

PROGRAM

- “Economic and social convergence in Colombia”
  Author: Vicente Royuela AQR-IREA

- "Versioning when customers can buy both versions: An application to intertemporal movie distribution”
  Author: Joan Calzada GIM-IREA

- “Post Crisis Challenges to Bank Regulation”
  Author: Xavier Freixas
  Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Jordi Surinach (UB-IREA)

Xavier Freixas
Competitive projects awarded in 2010

National Projects

• As part of the National Research, Development and Innovation Plan, the Science and Innovation Ministry has agreed to fund the following research projects for the period 2010-2012.
  
  • “ECO2010-21787-C03-01 Gestión del Riesgo de Longevidad y de Dependencia” supervised by Montserrat Guillén.
  
  • “ECO2010-16006 Regional economic growth and inequality in Spain” supervised by Raúl Ramos.

International Projects

• The research group on Risk in Finance and Insurance has signed a collaboration agreement with the London School of Economics and Political Science to carry out research on insurance for dependent people. The project is financed by the AXA Research Fund, and entitled: “How can private long-term care insurance supplement state systems? The UK as a case study”. It is supervised by Raphael Wittenberg from the Social Personal Services Research Unit.

• The Research group AQR-IREA has been awarded the KIT (Knowledge, Innovation, Territory) project, in conjunction with other European Universities and research centres. This is part of the European Commission’s European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) program.

International Publications

• Josep Lluís Carrión-i-Silvestre, a member of AQR-IREA, jointly with Jushan Bai (New York University) have published the paper “Structural changes, common stochastic trends, and unit roots in panel data” in The Review of Economic Studies (2009), a journal among the top five in the world, Volume 76, Issue 2, pages 471-501.
International and National Publications

- The impact of traffic violations on the estimated cost of traffic accidents with victims. Ayuso, M.; Guillén, M.; Alcariz, M. Accident Analysis and Prevention, 42, 709-717.
- Choosing between service fees and budget funding to pay for local services: Empirical evidence from Spain. Bel, G.; Miralles, A. Government & Policy, 28(1), 54-71.

For further information: http://www.ub.edu/irea/pub_papers.htm

To check and consult forthcoming articles and studies: http://www.ub.edu/irea/publications/en_premsa.htm

Press summary: first half

“Fiasco y rituales de supervisión financiera”
Antón Costas
El País 7/01/2010

“Aeropuertos: Poder y Querer”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 13/01/2010

“Sin balanza de cambio, aceite ni gasolina”
Antón Costas
El País 7/02/2010

“Crisis de la crítica y crisis económica”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 17/02/2010

“El paciente español”
Antón Costas
El País 28/02/2010

“Capital Total”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 16/03/2010

“Fracasomanía”
Antón Costas
El País 21/03/2010

“Delirios de éxito”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 05/04/2010

“La extraña pareja”
Antón Costas
El País 11/04/2010

“Velocidad y contaminación”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 27/04/2010

“Humillación griega, altivez alemana”
Antón Costas
El País. 02/05/2010

“El Ave: Una productividad precaria”
Germa Bel
El País 20/05/2010

“Para que la economía vuelva a funcionar”
Antón Costas
El País 23/05/2010

“Jugando con fuego”
Antón Costas
El País 13/06/2010

“Corregir el rumbo”
Germa Bel
La Vanguardia 18/06/2010

“Estem pitjor que fa un any?”
Raul Ramos
L’Econòmic 19/06/2010
Press summary: second half

“Haga trampas, le irá bien”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 01/07/2010

“Síndrome del alcohólico rehabilitado”
Antón Costas
El País 04/07/2010

“Canvi abrupte en infraestructures”
Germà Bel
L’Económico 10/07/2010

“El mundial de futbol i el PIB”
Raúl Ramos
L’Económico 15/07/2010

“Productividad... ¿de verdad?”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 08/08/2010

“El fin de la inocencia”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 15/08/2010

“Quién tirará de la economía y el empleo?”
Antón Costas
El País 17/08/2010

“¿Qué podemos esperar de la actual reforma laboral?”
Raúl Ramos
L’Económico 18/08/2010

“Potenciar el tráfico por negocios o por turismo”
Xavier Fageda
El Periódico de Catalunya 22/08/2010

“Gaste hoy y pague en cómodos plazos”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 25/08/2010

“Amanece, que no es poco”
Antón Costas
El País 05/09/2010

“¿Welcome Ryanair?”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 07/09/2010

“Capitalismo amamantado y pedigüeño”
Antón Costas
El País 19/09/2010

“Y ahora, las pensiones”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 28/09/2010

“Infraestructuras fantasma”
Daniel Albalate
L’Económico 02/10/2010

“Las reinversiones de la ciudad”
Antón Costas
El País 10/10/2010

“Zapatero, 1 ; Sindicatos, 1”
Antón Costas
El País (Negocios) 10/10/10

“Una Medicina Amb Efectes Secundaris”
Raúl Ramos
L’Económico 16/10/10

“Esas pequeñas cosas”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 18/10/2010

“El Fracas de la ¿Liberalització? Ferrovíària A Europa”
Daniel Albalate
L’Económico 30/10/10

“Manual Para Reformadores Sensatos”
Antón Costas
El País (Negocios) 31/10/10

“¿Washington o Paris?”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 05/11/2010

“I Ara, la Crisi Canviària?”
Raúl Ramos
L’Económico 13/11/10

“La Última Estación Del Via Crucis”
Antón Costas
El País (Negocios) 21/11/10

“Perdoneu, Però Algú Ho Haurà de Pagar”
Daniel Albalate
L’Económico 27/11/10

“Reptes econòmics del nou govern”
Germà Bel
Público 29/11/2010

“Al rescate de Madrid”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 30/11/2010

“Quina Política d’Infrastructures?”
Germà Bel
ARA 02/12/2010

“El Ave Español Es ‘Farolillo Rojo’ en Utilización”
Germà Bel
El Correo Espanol (Bizkaia) 02/12/10

“Una Privatització en Clau Financera”
Xavier Fageda
El Periódico de Catalunya 03/12/10

“¿Gestión Central? Colapso Global”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 05/12/2010

“Més Deute Públic (Millor Dit, Més Sobre El Deute Públic)”
Raúl Ramos
L’Económico 11/12/10

“Tráfico, aeropuertos y privatización”
Germà Bel
El Mundo 12/12/2010

“Quo vadis” Alemania”
Antón Costas
El País 12/12/2010

“Privatització Del Control I Centralització Europea”
Xavier Fageda
El Periódico de Catalunya 15/12/10

“¡Viva la unidad de mercado!”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 16/12/2010

“AVE radial, xarxa artificial”
Daniel Albalate
El Periódico de Catalunya 19/12/2010

“Un paso en la buena dirección”
Germà Bel
La Vanguardia 21/12/2010

“El model Euromed, ben fet, hauria estat molt més útil que el de l’AVE”
Germà Bel
El Triangle 22/12/2010

“Rendibilitat del’ave”
Daniel Albalate
L’Económico 24/12/10

“Invertir en capital humà”
Elisabet Molallón
L’Económico 31/12/2010
The research group on Risk in Finance and Insurance worked on the document “Estudio sobre el Sector Asegurador en España”, which has been published by the Financial Studies Foundation and was presented at the Rafael del Pino Foundation on 11 March 2010. The event was chaired by Ricardo Lozano, head of insurance and pension funds. The Foundation considers that this study should continue, to address the qualitative impact of a new directive, Solvencia II, on insurance entities.

The researcher Sergi Tejero Cano received a Fulbright grant to continue his studies at the University of Vanderbilt, USA. Tejero is associated with the Risk in Finance and Insurance research group and is former president of the Official College of Economists of Andorra (COEA).

XIV Trobada d’Economia in S’Agaró

Germà Bel was invited as a speaker to the XIV Trobada d’Economia which took place in S’Agaró on 27–28 November. The main conference theme was “Crisis and Recuperation”. Germà Bel participated in the talk on “Conditions for Economic Recuperation”.

UB-IREA 2010 Working Papers

The Institute publishes periodically a series of Working Papers showing the research undertaken by its members. Up to now we have the following ones:

WP2010/01: Research Networks and Inventors’ Mobility as Drivers of Innovation Evidence from Europe. Miguélez, E.; Moreno, R.

WP2010/02: Speed limit laws in America: Economics, politics and geography. Albala, D.; Bel, G.

WP2010/03: High-Speed Rail: Lessons for Policy Makers from Experiences Abroad. Albala, D.; Bel, G.


WP2010/05: Discrete distributions when modeling the disability severity score of motor victims. Boucher, J.F.; Santolino, M.

WP2010/06: La reforma de la contratación en el mercado de trabajo: entre la flexibilidad y la seguridad. Royuela V.; Sanchis M.


WP2010/08: Cómo (no) adaptar una asignatura al EEES: Lecciones desde la experiencia comparada en España. Florido, C.; Jiménez, J.L.; Perdiguero, J.


WP2010/12: Ownership, Incentives and Hospitals. Fageda, X.; Fiz, E.

WP2010/13: Symmetric or asymmetric gasoline prices? A meta-analysis approach. Perdiguero, J.

WP2010/14: Economic and social convergence in Colombia. Royuela, V.; Adolfo Garcia, G.


WP2010/16: Infrastructure and nation building: The regulation and financing of network transportation infrastructures in Spain (1720-2010). Bel, G.
WORKSHOP

On 9-10th September, the research group on Regional Quantitative Analysis (AQR-IREA) held the “2010 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics” at the UB Faculty of Economics and Business.

For more information, see: http://www.pcb.ub.es/aqr/workshop/.

PRE/POST DOC PROGRAM

- The Research Institute of Applied Economics (UB-IREA) has announced the UB-IREA pre/post doc program for external researchers. This program is for researchers from other universities or financial institutions worldwide who wish to study for a short period at our Research Institute.

For more information on this award, see: http://www.ub.edu/irea/jobsncareers/visitors.htm

National Publications

The research group on Risk in Finance and Insurance worked on the document “Estudio sobre el Sector Asegurador en España”, which has been published by the Financial Studies Foundation and was presented at the Rafael del Pino Foundation on 11 March 2010. The event was chaired by Ricardo Lozano, head of insurance and pension funds. The Foundation considers that this study should continue, to address the qualitative impact of a new directive, Solvencia II, on insurance entities.

Mercedes Ayuso (UB-IREA, second from right)

UB-IREA Seminars: Second half

2 July 2010 - Research group GIM-IREA
Zhang, Anming (University of British Columbia)
“Regulation, Privatization, and Aeronautical Charges: Panel Data Evidence from European Airports”

15 July 2010 - Research group GIM-IREA
Fiz Querol, Eva (Universitat de Barcelona)
“Hospital Privatization. Is there a trade off between costs and quality?”

15 July 2010 - Research group GIM-IREA
Sort, Lluïsa (Universitat de Barcelona)
“El fracaso de la liberalización ferroviaria en Europa: Una aplicación empírica al caso de las mercancías”

1 October 2010 - Research Group AQR-IREA
Westerlund, Joackim (University of Gothenburg)
“What Determines Local Power of Panel Unit Root Tests?”

4 October 2010 - Research Group GIM-AQR-IREA
Cassó, Carlos (Universitat de Barcelona)
“Social inefficiency of territorial entry regulations: An structural approach”

6 October 2010 - Research Group AQR-IREA
Ordaz, Diana (Universitat de Barcelona)
“Los precios de la vivienda en España: Análisis de presencia de volatilidad y spillovers espaciales”

15 October 2010 - Research Group AQR-IREA
Kluve, Jochen (Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung)
“New evidence on training programs: evidence from meta-analysis and dose-response functions”

18 October 2010 - Research Group AQR-IREA
Partridge, Mark (Ohio State University)
“Dwinding U.S. Internal Migration: Evidence of a Spatial Equilibrium?”

22 October 2010 - Research Group AQR-IREA
Balalia, Alina (Academy of Economic Studies from Bucharest)
“Models Of Interdependence Between The Public Sector And Business Community In Services”
Visiting Professors

Linda L. Golden
Professor at the Red McCombs School of Business in the Department of Marketing, University of Texas at Austin, USA. One of her articles is ‘Biological and Psychobehavioral Correlates of Credit Scores and Automobile Insurance Losses: Toward an Explanation of Why Credit Scoring Works’.

Gareth Leeves
Senior Lecturer at School of Economics in the University of Queensland. His fields of Research are Labour economics, Econometric and Statistical methods and Economic Development and Growth. He has publications as ‘Declining US output volatility and its effect on labour flow volatility an MGARCH analysis’.

Patrick Brockett
Director of the Risk Management and Insurance Program. His fields of Research are risk management, insurance, actuarial science, risk theory, statistics, and operations research. He has Publications as ‘Deregulation, Pricing, And Availability: Issues In The Texas Homeowners’ Insurance Market’.

Jens Perch Nielsen
Professor of Actuarial Science at the Faculty of Actuarial Science and Insurance at the City University London. His fields of Research are Actuarial Science, Finance, Econometrics and Pension Funds, among others.

Sandy Tubeuf
Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Science, Urban Planning Program. His fields of Research are City Planning, Regional Planning, Sustainable Tourism and Urban Tourism. One example of her working papers is ‘Europeans travel behaviour in Istanbul and Turkey’.

Gareth Leeves
Associate professor at the Polytechnique School in the University of Paris. His fields or Research are Microeconometrics insurance and analysis of major risks. And he has publications as ‘Incentive Mechanisms for Safe Driving: A Comparative Analysis with Dynamic Data’ and ‘On the Link Between Credibility and Frequency Premium’.

Matthew Potoski
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Department of Political Science at Iowa State University. He has articles in journals as ‘Environmental Federalism Revisited: Second-Order Devolution in Air Quality Regulation’.

Elena Rubio
PhD Student Universidad de Cartagena. She has articles as ‘Empirical Testing of the Fisher Effect in the European Union Applying Cointegration Techniques’.

Erik Bolviken
Professor of applied statistics and actuarial science department at the University of Oslo, Norway. He has articles as ‘Modeling joint, hidden volatility processes: A semiparametric approach’ and ‘Monte-Carlo filters for non-linear state estimation’, among others.

Sandy Tubeuf
Research Fellow of the Academic Unit of Health Economics in the University of Leeds. Her fields of Research are the Health in adulthood and changes in income-related health inequalities, among others.

Pål Nicolai Henriksen
Professor or University of Oslo, Norway, in the Department of Mathematics. He has articles as ‘Pricing interest rate guarantees in a defined benefit pension system’ and ‘Lognormal moment matching and pricing of basket’.

Juan Carlos Duque
Professor at EAFIT University, Colombia, at the Economics Department. He has working papers as ‘Is The Wage Curve Formal Or Informal? Evidence For Colombia’ and ‘Research networks and scientific production in Economics, The recent Spanish Experience’. Also, he has articles as ‘Forecasting business and consumer surveys indicators-a time-series models competition’.

Burhan Can Karahasan
Professor at the Faculty of Economics & Administrative Sciences in Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey, at the Department of International Finance. He has papers as ‘Spatial distribution of education and regional inequalities in Turkey’ and ‘The Rules, Norms and Standards on Knowledge Exchange’.