Recent Events

**VII IREA Annual Seminar**

The VII IREA Annual Seminar was held on 10 January 2014 (10:20 to 13:45) in the Sala de Graus Ernest Lluch at the UB Faculty of Business and Economics. Mikel Landabaso from the European Commission, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, was this year’s guest lecturer. The effectiveness of closer, more personal benefit systems was a constant topic of discussion throughout the meeting. Here, the experience of the Independent Living Center, which collaborates with Riskcenter-UB via the RecerCaixa program, was presented as an example of dependency prevention. Finally, the possibility of establishing an Observatory to Evaluate Long-Term Care Policies was explored.

**Speakers:**

- **Lídia Farré (GiM-IREA)**
  “New Evidence on the Healthy Immigrant Effect”

- **Mercedes Ayuso (Riskcenter-IREA)**
  “Sostenibilidad del sistema de pensiones en España desde la perspectiva de la equidad y la eficiencia”

- **Rosina Moreno (AQR-IREA)**
  “Mobility, networks and innovation: The role of regions’ absorptive capacity”

- **Mikel Landabaso (European Commission, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth)**
  “Políticas de Innovación como estrategias de salida de la crisis: el caso de las estrategias regionales de especialización inteligente”

**Joan Ramon Borrell (GiM-IREA)** in collaboration with Luis Jesús Sánchez Tembleque (Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones), Rafael Gómez Elvira (Operador del Mercado Ibérico-Polo Español), Institut de Recerca en Energia de Catalunya (Miguel Cruz) and Arseni Gibert (president of Autoritat Catalana de la Competència) organized the Workshop on Telecommunications Economics on April 7th-11th in the Aula Joan Sardà-Dexeus at the UB Faculty of Economics and Management.

**Program (+)**

**AQR-Lab presents its study of the economic, cultural and social impact of the Ministry of Defense activities.**

On the 29th May, Drs. Jordi Suriñach, José Ramón Garcia, Joaquim Murillo, Javier Romaní and Esther Vayá, members of AQR-Lab, presented a study entitled “Impacto Económico, Cultural y Social de la Defensa”, aimed at identifying and quantifying the economic, cultural and social impact of the activities of the Ministry of Defense and its independent institutions. The study comprises two main sections. The first quantifies the economic impact in terms of production, gross value added (GVA), occupied population and the tax revenues associated with the Ministry of Defense’s activities. The second analyzes the effects of a more intangible or immaterial nature which are not so readily quantifiable.

**GiM-IREA hosted the Workshop on Energy Economics**

Dr. Joan Ramon Borrell (GiM-IREA) in collaboration with Luis Jesús Sánchez Tembleque (Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones), Rafael Gómez Elvira (Operador del Mercado Ibérico-Polo Español), Institut de Recerca en Energia de Catalunya (Miguel Cruz) and Arseni Gibert (president of Autoritat Catalana de la Competència) organized the Workshop on Telecommunications Economics on April 7th-11th in the Aula Joan Sardà-Dexeus at the UB Faculty of Economics and Management.

**Program (+)**

**GiM-IREA hosted the Workshop on Telecommunications Economics**

Dr. Joan Calzada (GiM-IREA) and Dr Alejandro Estruch (GiM-IREA) in collaboration with Dr Iñigo Herguera (Comisión Nacional de los Mercado y la Competencia) organized the Workshop on Telecommunications Economics on March 7-14 in the Sala de Graus at the UB Faculty of Economics and Management.

**Program (+)**

**Dr. Daniel Albalate (GiM-IREA)** has published the book “The Privatisation and Nationalisation of European Roads: Success and Failure in Public Private Partnerships”

Dr. Daniel Albalate (GiM-IREA) has published the book "The Privatisation and Nationalisation of European Roads: Success and Failure in Public Private Partnerships", Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK. This distinctive book examines the current state and trends in the ownership, management and financing of European high capacity roads. Offering an analysis of three pioneer countries in road privatization, Spain, France and Italy, from their origins to their recent developments, it evaluates how the design of privatization policies may lead to their success or failure.
Jenifer Ruiz-Valenzuela, XI Prize “ALdE jóvenes investigadores”

Jenifer Ruiz-Valenzuela, AQR-IREA associated researcher, has been awarded with the XI Prize “ALdE jóvenes investigadores” in the “XVII Encuentro de Economía Aplicada”, by her paper entitled “Job loss at home: Children’s grades during the great recession in Spain”.

For further information please visit (+)

---

Final SEARCH Policy Conference

How can the European Neighbourhood Policy strengthen integration between the European Union and Neighbourhood Countries? Exploring the policy options for the European Neighbourhood Policy

2nd-3rd June 2014, Istanbul


The policy best-practices and policy guidelines carried out along the project were presented to policy makers and stakeholders from different government levels.

The SEARCH project is a 7th Framework Programme Project whose main objective is to strengthen the integration process between the EU and the Neighbourhood Countries (NCs) by focusing on the European Research Neighbourhood (ERN). This will facilitate the understanding of the institutional framework conditions of the ENP countries and their economic interactions with the EU in terms of people, capital, trade, knowledge, and innovation. SEARCH aims at improving the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy taking into account that “one size fits all” policy recommendation will not be appropriate due to the bilateral nature of the EU-ENP countries agreements.

For more details of the project and the Conference, please visit (+)

---

Special issue in Spatial Economic Analysis

(from the AQR 2011 Workshop)

Spatial Economic Analysis has recently published a special issue with selected papers from the 2011 AQR workshop on Inequality and Regional Growth and Cohesion.

The first two articles in the special issue, by De Dominicis and by Monastiriotis, focus on the analysis of regional growth and examine the influence of agglomeration and national developments on inequality, respectively. The article by Ezcurra and Rodríguez-Pose looks instead at how trade openness impacts on within-country regional disparities, while the article by Kyriacou and Rocasagálas examines in turn how regional disparities impact on the quality of government at the national level. The final article by Sacchi and Salotti examines the impact of different forms of decentralisation on income inequalities at the household level.

For further information (+)

---

Education for All Global Monitoring Report

Sandra Nieto and Raúl Ramos have collaborated in the 2013/4 Education for All Global Monitoring Report elaborated by UNESCO. The report explains how to invest wisely in teachers and other reforms aimed at strengthening equitable learning and transform the long-term prospects of people and societies.

For further information (+)

---

WAGE DISPERSION IN THE EU.

European Parliament

Jordi Surriñach, Enrique López-Bazo, Raul Ramos and Vicente Royuela are conducting the WAGE DISPERSION IN THE EU study for the European Parliament.

The objectives of the project are:

- To describe the recent evolution of wage dispersion across the EU member states using different labour earnings and inequality measures;
- To analyse the relationship between wage dispersion and different labour market institutions related to collective bargaining and minimum wages taking into account recent policy reforms; and
- To evaluate the impact of these reforms on low wage work and the overall income distribution in Europe.
On January 23, Vicente Royuela (AQR-IREA) acted as a panelist at the OECD Workshop “How’s Life in Your Region? Measuring Regional and Local Well-being for Policy Making”. In this Expert Workshop, a selected group of OECD and international experts, policy makers and practitioners from OECD regions shared their insights and discuss key options for moving the well-being measurement and policy agenda forward in regions and cities.

On January, Mercedes Ayuso (RISKCENTER-IREA) has been appointed member of the forum of experts for the BBVA Institute of Pensions, which will be sponsored by BBVA research. This forum will conduct research on social security systems with a solid academic background. The Institute will also contribute to the dissemination of findings on pensions and retirement to the society and will help to clarify the financial and demographic insights of existing pension schemes. Other distinguished members are Jose Antonio Herce, Robert Holzmann, Javier Diaz Jimenez and Jorge Bravo.

On 12-14 June, Vicente Royuela (AQR-IREA) acted as a keynote speaker at the 2014 Uddevalla Symposium (Sweden). He presented a work devoted to the analysis of Regional Inequalities, Agglomeration and Economic Growth in OECD Countries.

Doctoral Thesis Defense:
- Laura Surdeanu (January 9): “Essays on Non-stationary panel Analysis”, directed by Dr. Lluís Carrion i Silvestre.
- Antonio Cristóbal Cebolla (June 26): “Debilidades de la gestión de la calidad en las empresas occidentales. Importancia de los costes de calidad”, directed by Dra. Ana M. Gil Lafuente and Dr. José Merigó Lindahl.

The “Ernest Lluch” Santander Summer Workshop
GIM-IREA is to host the Workshop on Public Service Management Reform on August 11-12 in Santander (UIMP). The aim of this workshop is to undertake an in-depth study of policies of privatization, nationalization and mixed/hybrid alternatives based on cooperation between public institutions or between the public and private sectors. The focus sectors are to include local services, transport infrastructure and the health services. The workshop will adopt a methodology in which data from the latest research in these fields can be pooled. This will lead to a discussion of possible scenarios for present and future public policy.

Registration: June 25th, 2014
Program (+)

2014 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics: Agglomeration Economies
AQR-IREA will host the Workshop on Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Urban Development on November 27th-28th 2014 in Barcelona. The aim of this workshop is to deeply analyse the relationship among cultural tourism, heritage and economic growth. The regional/local dimension will be one of the topics to consider. Also the relationship between cultural tourism and sustainable urban development will be analyzed.

The 2014 AQR-IREA workshop is also the 5th international ERSA Workshop.

Registration: November 17th, 2014
For further information (+)
INTERNATIONAL


What hurts the dominant airlines at hub airports. Fageda, X. Transportation Research-E, 70, 177-189.


NATIONAL


Efectos en la formación de los precios y en la competencia de la regulación y la financiación pública en el mercado de productos farmacéuticos. Borrell, J.R. In Estudios sobre los Efectos en los Precios. Serie Estudios Núm. 10, Agen-cia de Defensa de la Competencia de Andalucía.


Books and book chapters

21 February 2014 – AQR-IREA
Paolo Veneri (OECD)
Urban spatial structure in the OECD: characteristics and trends 2001 to 2011.

7 March 2014 – AQR-IREA
David Castells (Universitat de Barcelona)
Malthus living in a slum: Urban concentration, infrastructures and economic growth

12 March 2014 – RISKCENTER-IREA
Svein-Arne Persson (NHH- Norwegian School of Economics)
Why bankers are boring: Asset substitution (risk shifting) and incentives for banks

13 March 2014 – GIM-IREA
Marta Gonzalez-Aregall (Universitat de Barcelona)
On the spatial effects of transportation on manufacturing employment

14 March 2014 – AQR-IREA
Barbara Rossi (UFU-CREI)
Forecast Optimality Tests in the Presence of Instabilities, with T. Sekhposyan

28 March 2014 – AQR-IREA
Ada Ferrer-i-Carbonell (IAB-CSIC)
Immigrant Locations and Native Residential Preferences in Spain: New Ghettoes

1 April 2014 – GIM-IREA
Volodymyr Bilotkach (Newcastle University)
Causes and Effects of Air Traffic Delays: Evidence from Aggregated Data

2 April 2014 – AQR-IREA
Maria Reyna Hernández (Universitat de Barcelona)
Investment on Children’s Education and Conspicuous Consumption

25 April 2014 – AQR-IREA
Stefano Usai (Università degli studi di Cagliari and CRENoS)
Networks, proximities and inter-firm knowledge exchanges

30 April 2014 – AQR-IREA
Oya Kent (Okan University)
Geographic Concentration in Turkish Manufacturing Industries

14 May 2014 – AQR-IREA
Luciana Méndez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Schooling Progression in Uruguay: Why some child stay behind

22 May 2014 – GIM-IREA
Anastasiya Yarygina (Universitat de Barcelona)
Road Safety determinants: do institutions matter?

28 May 2014 – AQR-IREA
Pedro Triviñ (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Labour Market Dynamics in Spanish Regions: Evaluating Asymmetries in Troublesome Times

25 June 2014 – AQR-IREA
Laura Carabotta (Universitat de Barcelona)
Improving fiscal accuracy with a combination of deficit forecasts
### IREA-UB 2014 WORKING PAPERS

| WP 2014/01 | Tracking positive and negative effects of inequality on long-run growth | WP 2014/06 | Dollarization and the Relationship Between EMBI and Fundamentals Latin American Countries


| WP 2014/03 | Causality and Contagion in EMU Sovereign Debt Markets Gómez-Puig, M. and Sosvilla-Rivero, S. | WP 2014/08 | Decomposition of Differences in PISA Results in Middle Income Countries

| WP 2014/04 | A panel data analysis of FDI and informal labor markets Baez, A. | WP 2014/09 | When supply travels far beyond demand: Causes of oversupply in Spain’s transport infrastructure


### Press Summary

<p>| Antón Costas | Carta a los Reyes Magos 02/01/2014 El Periódico | Germà Bel | Mort el gos… 28/01/2014 La Vanguardia |
| Raül Ramos | Un altra congelació del salari mínim 04/01/2014 L’Econòmic | Germà Bel | Economia esquizoide 30/01/2014 El Periódico |
| Germà Bel | Interessos creats i excés d’infraestructures 11/01/2014 La Vanguardia | Germà Bel | El part de les muntanyes 01/02/2014 La Vanguardia |
| Antòn Costas | La UE como factor de riesgo político 12/01/2014 El País | Antòn Costas | El riesgo, ahora, es la crisis social 02/02/2014 El País |
| Germà Bel | Nacionalisme völkish i sociologia kitsch 14/01/2014 La Vanguardia | Daniel Albalate | Els alemanyss del PP 15/02/2014 L’Econòmic |
| Daniel Albalate | Sacyr, marca Espanya? 18/01/2014 L’Econòmic | Antòn Costas | Exceso de capitalismo concesional y rentista 23/02/2014 El País |
| Germà Bel | Bloqueig 25/02/2014 La Vanguardia | Antòn Costas | El pegamento que evita la fractura 27/02/2014 El Periódico |
| Raül Ramos | Millors perspectives pel 2014? 01/03/2014 L’Econòmic | Daniel Albalate | Borrell, Punset i el deute 15/03/2014 L’Econòmic |
| Antòn Costas | Algo va mal con la Unión Europea 16/03/2014 El País | Germà Bel | Fantasies margallianes 25/03/2014 La Vanguardia |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abad, P.; Chuliá, H.</td>
<td>European Government Bond Markets and Monetary Policy Surprises: Returns, Volatility and Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The 12th INFINITI Conference on International Finance, Prato, Italy (June 9-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcañiz, M.; Chuliá, H.; Pérez-Marín, A.M.; Riera, M.C.; Sarabia, J.M.</td>
<td>La superación de las deficiencias competenciales en el estudiante universitario: factor clave para su futuro rendimiento laboral V Congreso Nacional sobre mercado de trabajo y relaciones laborales, Palencia, Spain (April 3-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcañiz, M.; Chuliá, H.; Pérez-Marín, A.M.; Riera, M.C.; Sarabia, J.M.</td>
<td>La superación de las deficiencias competenciales en el estudiante universitario: factor clave para su futuro rendimiento laboral V Congreso Nacional sobre mercado de trabajo y relaciones laborales, Palencia, Spain (April 3-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arroyo-Cañada, F.J., Argila-Irurita, A.M.</td>
<td>Avaluació per competències del Treball de Final de Grau seguint la metodologia del International Virtual Consulting Firm Jornada sobre l’avaluació de les competències transversals de la UB a la Facultat d’Economia i Empresa, Barcelona, Spain (February 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayuso, M.; Bermudez, L.; Santolino, M.</td>
<td>The dynamics of one-sided incomplete information in motor disputes XVII Encuentro de Economía Aplicada, Gran Canarias, Spain (June 5-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badillo, E.R.; Moreno, R.</td>
<td>The scale of R&amp;D cooperation: empirical evidence for the Spanish case. XVII Encuentros de Economía Aplicada, Gran Canaria, Spain. (June 5-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banerjee, A.; Carrion-i-Silvestre, J.L.</td>
<td>Testing for panel cointegration using common correlated effects estimators Workshop in Time Series Analysis in Macro and Finance, Barcelona, Spain (June 19-20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bel, G.; Rosell, J.</td>
<td>The role of transaction cost on mixed delivery analysis: Evidence from the Barcelona local bus system XXI Encuentro de Economía Pública, Girona, Spain (January 30-31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bel, G.; Warner, M.</td>
<td>Explaining Inter-municipal Cooperation in Service Delivery: A Meta-Regression Analysis XXI Encuentro de Economía Pública, Girona, Spain (January 30-31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrion-i-Silvestre, J.L.</td>
<td>Fiscal deficit sustainability of the Spanish regions XVII Encuentro de Economía Aplicada, Gran Canarias, Spain (June 5-6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Di Paolo, A; Matas, A; Raymond, J.L. Job Accessibility, Employment and Job-Education Mismatch in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona The Spatial Dimensions of the Labour Market: the reallocation of jobs, Nuremberg, Germany (March 13-14)


Gómez-Puig, M.; Sosvilla-Rivero, S. “EMU sovereign debt markets crisis: Fundamental-based or pure contagion?” 12th INFINITI Conference on International Finance, Prato, Italy (June 9-10)

Gómez-Puig, M.; Sosvilla-Rivero, S. Causality and Contagion in EMU Sovereign Debt Markets European Financial Management Annual Meetings, Rome, Italy (June 25-28)


Gómez-Puig, M.; Sosvilla-Rivero, S.;Ramos-Herrera, M.C. “An update on EMU sovereign yield spreads drivers in times of crisis: A panel data analysis” XVII Encuentros Economía Aplicada, Gran Canarias, Spain (June 5-6)

Matano, A.; Naticchioni P. What Drives the Urban Wage Premium? Evidence along the Wage Distribution Invited Seminar at OFCE-Science Po, Nice, France (May 23)

Miguélez, E.; Moreno, R., “Mobility, networks and innovation: The role of regions’ absorptive capacity”. XVII Encuentros de Economía Aplicada (EEA2014), Gran Canaria, Spain. (June 5-6, 2014)

Nieto, S.; Matano, A.; Ramos, R. Skill Mismatches in the EU: Immigrants vs Natives XVII Encuentro de Economía Aplicada, Gran Canarias, Spain (June 5-6)

Nonell, R. A Comparative Analysis of institutional Incentives and Organizational Adjustment of Social Actors in eight European Countries ICOPEAI 2014 III International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions, Baiona, Spain (April 23-25)

Ramos, R.; Sanroma, E.; Simón, H. Diferencias salariales entre sector público y privado según tipo de contrato: evidencia para España XVI Encuentro de Economía Pública, Girona, Spain (January 30-31)

Ramos, R.; Sanroma, E.; Simón, H. Diferencias salariales entre sector público y privado según tipo de contrato: evidencia para España XVII Encuentro de Economía Aplicada, Gran Canarias, Spain (June 5-6)

Singh, M.K.; Gómez-Puig, M.; Sosvilla-Rivero, S. Evidence of banking systemic risk behaviour in EMU countries 6th International Finance and Banking and Society (IFABS), Lisbon, Portugal (June 18-20)