

Recent Events

International Workshop on “Advances in Research on Surface Transportation: Motorways and High Speed Rail”

On 23 and 24 November 2015, the Governments and Markets Research Group (GiM-IREA) hosted the workshop entitled “Advances in Research on Surface Transportation: Motorways and High Speed Rail”. The workshop was organized in conjunction with the Cornell Program in Infrastructure Policy, the Pasqual Maragall Chair of Economics and Territory and the *Xarxa de Referència en Economia Aplicada i Pública* (XREAP). Among other topics, motorway privatizations and the effectiveness of the high-speed rail systems in Italy and France were examined in depth.

Program: [+]



Jordi Suriñach inaugurates the Master’s in Economics of Culture and Cultural Management

The initial session of the Master’s in Economics of Culture and Cultural Management was celebrated in the Auditorium *Rector Tejerina* of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Valladolid on 23 October.

Jordi Suriñach Caralt, the Director of IREA, inaugurated the course with a speech entitled “Urban Tourism: Congestion or Profitability? Impact of Cruise Tourism on the Catalan economy?”.



Silvia Clemente Municio, President of the Villalar Foundation and President of the Castilla y León Courts, attended the opening ceremony, in a clear demonstration of institutional commitment to this educational project.

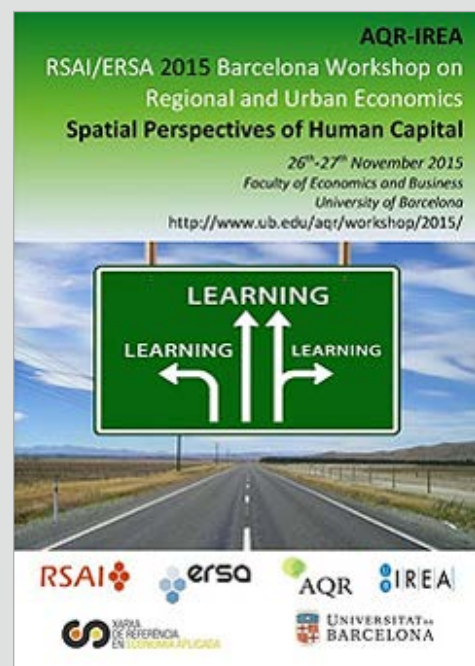
RSAI/ERSA 2015 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics: “Spatial Perspectives of Human Capital”

On 26 and 27 November 2015, AQR-IREA hosted the ERSA/RSAl 2015 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics entitled “Spatial Perspectives of Human Capital”. The workshop was supported by the Regional Science Association International (RSAl), under the “Nurturing New Talent Initiative”, and the European Regional Science Association (ERSA).

Its aim was to bring together researchers in urban and regional economics, as well as in other interrelated disciplines such as labour and education economics. This year the AQR’s workshop focused on the broad concept of human capital and the fundamental role played by its interrelations with space.

Over two days, twelve cutting-edge research papers, presented by both senior and young researchers, examined the interconnections between space and human capital. Stephen Gibbons (Department of Geography and Environment, SERC and CEP, LSE) addressed the workshop in the keynote speech, in which he provided expert insights into the subject. Overall, some 60 scholars and researchers from around the world attended the workshop, which proved to be a most stimulating occasion.

Program: [+]



## IREA-UB News

**Royal Academy of Economics and Finance receives new numerary member: Montserrat Guillén**

On 15 October 2015, Montserrat Guillén, professor of the Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Spanish Economy and Director of the Group RiskCenter - IREA, was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Economics and Finance (RACEF).

In her acceptance lecture, entitled "Risk and Insurance in Economics", she highlighted the singular nature of this field of study and the need to promote the use of econometrics, that branch of economics concerned with building statistical models, in a new era in which big data bases will have to be used in a digital framework. She also stressed the importance of incorporating risk in economic decision-making and the need for these new approximations to form part of the analysis of pension systems.



For further information: [+]

**Several members of the AQR research group among the leading authors in regional science**

Dan S. Rickman and John V. Winters (University of Oklahoma), in their working paper *Ranking Authors and Institutions by Publications in Regional Science Journals: 2010-2014*, ranked authors and institutions according to the number of publications in ten core regional science journals during the period 2010-2014.

They place the University of Barcelona among the top five institutions by publications in Regional Science journals. Moreover, Dr. Rosina Moreno is ranked among the top ten authors according to these same criteria of classification. Two other members of AQR-IREA, Dr. Ernest Miguélez and Dr. Enrique López Bazo, are also among the top 100 authors.

For further information: [+]

**Dr. Ernest Miguélez wins the José Manuel Blecuá Prize of the Social Council of the UB**

Dr. Ernest Miguélez, associate researcher of the research group AQR-IREA, has been awarded the *José Manuel Blecuá* Prize for the best article published in a recognized journal in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. His article is entitled: "What Attracts Knowledge Workers? The Role of Space and Social Networks" in the *Journal of Regional Science*.



For further information: [+]

**Sandra Nieto (AQR-IREA) receives first prize in the "XXIV Jornadas de la Asociación de Economía de la Educación (AEDE)"**

Dr. Sandra Nieto (AQR-IREA) was awarded the *María Jesús San Segundo* Award for the best paper by a young author, presented at the XXIV Meeting 2015 of the Association of Economics Education (AEDE), held on 25 and 26 June in Madrid, for her paper entitled "Overeducation, skills and wage penalty: Evidence for Spain using PIAAC data". This award, now in its fourth year, is given in honor of María Jesús San Segundo, former Minister of Education and Science and former vice president of the AEDE. More information can be found about this award and Sandra Nieto's paper on the AEDE website:



<http://www.economicsofeducation.com/en/awards-grants/san-segundo-en>

**Thesis defenses**

- Arely Ornellas (July, 17): "Mortality and longevity for insured populations in Mexico", directed by Dr. Montserrat Guillén.
- Jaume Belles-Sampera, (July, 18) "Quantitative risk assessment, aggregation functions and capital allocation problems", directed by Dr. Miguel Angel Santolino Prieto and Dr. Montserrat Guillén.
- Antonio Baez (November, 05) "Three Empirical Essays on Informality", directed by Dr. Raul Ramos,

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****IX IREA-UB Annual Seminar**

The IX UB-IREA Annual Seminar will be held on 15 January 2015 at the Faculty of Economics and Business, where the invited speaker will be Rafael Doménech (BBVA Research). Program: Programa 2016 Seminario Anual final.doc

## UB-IREA Management

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