

## The Quantitative Regional Analysis (AQR-IREA) research group will advise the European Parliament on economic and monetary topics



The **European Parliament** has signed an agreement with the Quantitative Regional Analysis Group (AQR-IREA) of the UB's Institute for Research on Applied Regional and Public Economies (UB-IREA), the German Institute for Economic Research (Berlin, Germany) and the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). Through this agreement, the Parliament will commission specific studies on economic and monetary topics for one year, with the opportunity to extend this period for a further two years. Specifically, the three research groups will advise the European Parliament on topics related to:

- The general economic policy of the European Union
- Monetary policy and the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union, as well as the European Central Bank's policy and relations
- Tax policy, particularly in relation to aspects of coordination of the European Monetary Union (the Stability and Growth Pact, etc)

- Economic governance of the EU and the Eurozone
- The international monetary and financial system (the following aspects will be addressed, among others: exchange rates, deficits or surpluses in current account balances, including relations with financial and monetary institutions and with other organizations such as the International Monetary Fund)

This contract highlights **the European nature of the research** that is carried out by the Regional Quantitative Analysis Group. The AQR-IREA Research Group has already been involved in research projects and contracts for the General-Directorate in Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). It has also led two Seventh Framework Programme projects: "Intangible Assets and Regional Economic Growth" (IAREG) and "Sharing Knowledge Assets: Interregionally Cohesive Neighbourhoods" (SEARCH). The group has also participated in the ESPON project "Knowledge, Innovation, Territory" (KIT).

## GiM-IREA WORKSHOP

The Research Group on Governments and Markets (GiM-IREA) and the Pasqual Maragall Chair organized a workshop entitled "Public Private Partnerships", which was held on 26 May in the Sala de Graus of the University of Barcelona's Faculty of Economics and Business.

The workshop was also coordinated by the Center for Management Studies (Technical University of Lisbon).

The main participants included Daniel Albalate, Germà Bel, Xavier Fageda and Joan Calzada, who are members of the GiM-IREA group.



### PROGRAM

#### SESSION 1: INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION

##### *Renegotiation in PPPs. Does it matter?*

Carlos Cruz (Technical University of Lisbon), Tony Gómez-Ibáñez (Harvard University) and Rui Cunha Marques (Technical University of Lisbon)

##### *Public-Private Partnerships contract choice in the United States*

Daniel Albalate (University of Barcelona), Germà Bel (University of Barcelona) and Richard Geddes (Cornell University)

##### *The More the Merrier? Number of Bidders, Information Dispersion, Renegotiation and Winner's Curse in Toll Road Concessions*

Laure Athias (University of Lausanne) and Antonio Nuñez (University of Lyon).

##### *Reform of governance and regulation of local transportation: Using partial privatization to get the best of two worlds*

Daniel Albalate (University of Barcelona), Germà Bel (University of Barcelona) and Joan Calzada (University of Barcelona).

#### SESSION 2: LOCAL SERVICES

##### *Privatization and cooperation in the management of urban waste in Aragonese municipalities*

Germà Bel (University of Barcelona), Xavier Fageda (University of Barcelona) and Melania Mur (University of Zaragoza)

##### *Market structure of urban solid waste. Different models different results*

Pedro Simões (Technical University of Lisbon), Pedro Carvalho (Technical University of Lisbon) and Rui Cunha Marques (Technical University of Lisbon).

##### *Contracting out, an empirical study on motives*

Matheus Wassenaar (Free University, Amsterdam) Raymond Gradus (Free University, Amsterdam)

##### *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - Public Private Partnerships in Ireland*

Eoin Reeves (University of Limerick)

##### *Does the mixed company model provide value for money? An analyse of different local infrastructure sectors?*

Nuno Cruz (Technical University of Lisbon) and Rui Cunha Marques (Technical University of Lisbon)

## Barcelona Insurance and Risk Management Summer School 2011

June 13-14th, 2011

The Barcelona Insurance and Risk Management Summer School held in 2011 will be devoted to **Financial and Insurance Applications of Markov Chains**. It was a two-day workshop on the fundamentals of discrete processes and applications to finance, risk management and insurance. The invited intensive seminar will be given by **Prof. Jean Lemaire** from the **Wharton School** (University of Pennsylvania). The Summer School is organized by RFA-IREA and it is sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Science / FEDER

In parallel to this central seminar two additional short courses are organized in two highly relevant topics:

- **“Claims Reserving Methods in General Insurance”**: state-of-the-art and recent developments’ given by Dr. Katrien Antonio (University of Amsterdam and K.U.Leuven), April 26-27, 2011.
- **“Computational Statistics”** given by Dr. Dimitris Karlis (Athens University of Economics and Business), July 4-8, 2011.

This seminar first covered Poisson processes and extensions that are useful in modeling insurance claim counts. Then the theory of discrete Markov Chains was developed, leading to numerous practical examples of applications in insurance,

finance, and medical sciences. Examples include: 1. Bonus-Malus Systems in automobile insurance, including a full analysis of a Spanish system; 2. A credit scoring model; 3. A model for genetic diseases; 4. Adverse selection in insurance due to genetic testing; 5. A model for cash flows in a retirement community.

The seminar was addressed to actuarial and statistics students, as well as practicing actuaries. Insurance professionals and future actuaries learnt 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.

While every effort was made to make the seminar self-contained, a pre-requisite was some basic knowledge of probability and statistics, typically covered in a two-semester undergraduate statistics course. The seminar included two hands-on computer sessions, during which students solved in small groups a cash flow problem, and studied a Spanish bonus-malus system using Excel. The material was illustrated by numerous practice questions from past actuarial exams. Class material, consisting in a study note about Markov Chains, an article on bonus-malus systems, and a package of past exam questions, were distributed at the beginning of the seminar.

### Academic information

The seminar was taught in English by Prof. Jean Lemaire, Director of the Actuarial Science Program at the Wharton School. Dr. Lemaire has published over 100 articles in non-life actuarial science. His books “Automobile Insurance” and “Bonus-Malus Systems in Automobile Insurance” have won insurance “Book-of-the-Year” awards both in Europe and the US, and have been translated in Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Russian, French, and Spanish. Dr. Lemaire has taught this and other seminars in over 60 countries around the world. He is an Honorary Chairman of ASTIN, the non-life section of the International Actuarial Association. In 2008, he was voted best Professor of the Wharton School.



## UB-IREA IN FIGURES

Below are various research indicators related to the Institute UB-IREA

- Number 12 in the REPEC ranking of research centres
- 79 researchers (2010)
- 127 UB-IREA seminars (2000-2010)
- 88 UB-IREA working papers (2006-2010)
- 154 conference papers
- 49 companies with which UB-IREA has links
- 32 Spanish competitive research projects (2008-2010)
- 11 European competitive research projects (2005-2010)
- 114 international journals in which UB-IREA publishes
- 31 national journals in which UB-IREA publishes
- 82 visiting lecturers and seminars given (2007-2010)
- 12 post-doctoral internships (2002-2007)
- 25 congresses and conferences organized by UB-IREA (2007-2010)
- 404 working papers added to REPEC (2000-2010)
- 124 papers added to REPEC (2000-2010)
- 270 papers announced on the NEP (New Economic Papers)
- 2 awards given by ICREA (Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies)
- 364 citations in REPEC papers (2000-2010)
- 1110 citations in ISI papers (2000-2010)
- 18 theses supervised (2005-2011)
- 10 editions of master's degrees organized (2005-2010)
- 98 agreements with the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (2006-2011)

## Second Economic Conference of the North-West Mediterranean

On 6 and 7 June, the Second Economic Conference of the north-west Mediterranean was held in Barcelona in the Barcelona Contemporary Culture Centre (CCCB). The UB-IREA was one of the driving forces behind the conference.

The conference focused on Regional Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean and had three objectives: internal regional cooperation, cooperation with the European Union and cooperation with the southern Mediterranean.

The Conference was organized into 11 round tables, comprised of four speakers, a moderator, a secretary and experts on the topic under discussion. The topics were:

- Migration and labour mobility
- Management of coastal areas
- Regional development and innovation
- The challenges of insularity
- North-South cooperation and development
- Management of water resources

- Transport systems
- Landscape management
- Local cooperation and city networks
- Regional cooperation (Euroregions and Macroregions)
- Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation

Jordi Suriñach, AQR-IREA, was a speaker at this conference. He gave a presentation entitled: *Alguns elements claus pel Desenvolupament Regional i Innovació* (Some key elements of regional development and innovation).



Dr. Jordi Suriñach, AQR-IREA

## Awards for Drs. Bel and Fageda

Germà Bel and Xavier Fageda, together with Mildred Warner, won an award from the **US Academy of Management** for the best academic paper in 2010.

The paper entitled *Private production of public services cheaper than public production? A meta-regression analysis of solid waste and water services*, by Germà Bel, Xavier Fageda and Mildred Warner, won an award for the best academic paper in 2010. The award was given by the US Academy of Management, in the section "Public and Non-Profit".

The awards ceremony was held on the 14 August 2011 in San Juan (Texas), during the US Academy of Management Conference.



Germà Bel, GiM-IREA



Xavier Fageda, GiM-IREA





## Dr. Albalate, finalist

**Daniel Albalate**, a member of the Research Group on Governments and Markets (GiM-IREA), reached the finals in a competition for young transport researchers, held by the International Transport Forum.

The aim of this competition is to highlight the importance of transport research for drawing up and implementing transport policies and fostering closer links between transport policy and research.

The title of Daniel Albalate's study is *Shifting death to their alternatives: the case of toll motorways*. In this paper, he analyses whether paying to use a road has a negative impact on road safety in the motorway industries, in which optimum prices are not applied.



Daniel Albalate, GiM-IREA



## Raül Ramos and Daniel Albalate have been appointed to the ARA Control Advisory Council

**Raül Ramos**, coordinator of the AQR-IREA Research Group, and **Daniel Albalate**, GiM-IREA Research Group, have been appointed to the ARA Control Advisory Council, whose aim is to validate the assessment of the new government's compliance with its pledges. Specifically, this council will supervise policies drawn up by the Catalan Government's Ministry of Enterprise and Labour.



Daniel Albalate, GiM-IREA



Raül Ramos, AQR-IREA



## The report

### ***Overeducation, non-formal education and salaries: evidence from Spain***

**Sandra Nieto** and **Raül Ramos**, who are researchers in the Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (AQR-IREA) have carried out a study entitled *Sobreeducació, educació no formal i salaris: evidència per a Espanya* (Overeducation, non-formal education and salaries: evidence from Spain). Among other conclusions, this report indicates that the number of overeducated people in Spain may be due to the particular characteristics of the Spanish education system. Spain has more higher universities than most OECD countries, but its labour market has not created job positions that require this educational level.



Raül Ramos, AQR-IREA



Sandra Nieto, AQR-IREA

## UB-IREA Seminars

12 January 2011 - RISC-IREA

**Pitt, David** (Macquarie University, Sydney)

*Matrix-form recursive evaluation of the aggregate claims distribution revisited*

31 January 2011- AQR-IREA

**Jaymovich, Dany** (Institute of International and Development Studies -IHEID, Geneva)

*Macrostructure and microstructure: evidence from overlapping village networks in The Gambia*

31 January 2011 - AQR-IREA

**Kaplanis, Ioannis** (London School of Economics, United Kingdom)

*Wage effects from changes in local human capital in Britain*

2 February 2011 - AQR-IREA

**Rossi, Francesca** (London School of Economics, United Kingdom)

*Improved test statistics for pure spatial autoregressive models*

9 February 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Vall, Judith** (Maastricht University, The Netherlands, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain)

*Business cycle effects on labour force transitions for older people in Spain*

14 February 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Matano, Alessia** (Università di Roma La Sapienza, Italy)

*Wage Distribution and the spatial sorting of workers and firms*

16 February 2011 - **RISC-IREA**

**Valdesogo, Alfonso** (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

*Asymmetric CAPM dependence for large dimensions: the canonical vine autoregressive model*

25 February 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Paredes, Dusan** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States)

*Can the NEG explain the spatial distribution of wages in Chile?*

4 March 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Van Oort, Frank** (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

*Collaboration networks as carriers of knowledge spillovers: evidence from EU27 regions*

4 March 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Thissen, Mark** (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Netherlands)

*Competitiveness and European regional economic development*

9 March 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Di Paolo, Antonio** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

*Exploring educational mobility in Europe*

16 March 2011 - **RISC-IREA**

**Díaz, Ana Carmen** (Universidad del País Vasco, Spain)

*The efficiency of performance-based-fee mutual funds*

23 March 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Roig-Casanova, Marta** (Universitat Jaume I, Spain)

*Spatial location patterns of Spanish manufacturing firms*

1 April 2011- **AQR-IREA**

**Breitung, Jörg** (University of Bonn, Germany)

*Robust inference in dynamic regression models with persistent regressors*

4 April 2010 - **RISC-IREA**

**Keese, Matthias** (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

*Are you well prepared for long-term care? Assessing financial gaps in private German care provision*

6 April 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Ayllon, Sara** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain)

*Poverty, employment and parental home emancipation among European youth*

6 April 2011 - **RISC-IREA**

**Steinorth, Petra** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany)

*Valuing variable annuities with guaranteed minimum lifetime withdrawal benefits*

14 April 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Ortega-Argilés, Raquel** (IN+ Center for Innovation, Technology and Policy Research, Instituto Superior Técnico, Spain)

*The transatlantic productivity gap: is R&D the main culprit?*

14 April 2011 - **GiM-IREA**

**Vitorino, Maria Ana** (Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, United States)

*Efficiency gains from removing entry and price controls: evidence from a change in regulation*

4 May 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Tello, Claudia** (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)

*Inequalities and economic growth in Mexican regions*

12 May 2011 - **GiM-IREA**

**Gil, Ricard** (University of California, Santa Cruz, United States)

*What Does Vertical (dis)integration Do? Evidence from the Paramount Antitrust Case of 1948*

18 May 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Martori, Joan Carles** (Universitat de Vic & AQR-IREA, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)

*Income, distance and spatial effects in the Monocentric model. The Barcelona Metropolitan Area case*

20 May 2010 - **RISC-IREA**

**Londoño, Juan Miguel** (Tilburg University, The Netherlands)

*The variance risk premium around the world*

20 May 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Psycharis, Yannis** (University of Thessaly and Panteion University, Greece)

*Regional inequalities in public investment spending across Greek prefectures: decentralization, inter-regional redistribution, and convergence*

27 May 2011 - **AQR-IREA**

**Silva, Olmo** (London School of Economics, United Kingdom)

*Spatial disparities in entrepreneurship and the relative (un-)importance of area effects: evidence from Britain*

## Publications

### International Publications

*Can complementary pensions plans take on the role of improving retirement pensions in the Dominican Republic?* Ayuso, M.; Valero, D. **International Social Security Review**, **64 (2)**, 65-89.

*Big guys eat big cakes: firm size and contracting In urban and rural areas.* Bel, G.; Fageda, X. **International Public Management Journal**, **14 (1)**, 4-26.

*Regime shifts in stock-flow I(2)-I(1) systems: the case of US fiscal sustainability.* Berenguer-Rico, V.; Carrión-i-Silvestre, J. L. **Journal of Applied Econometrics**, **26**, 298-321.

*Bayesian multivariate Poisson models for insurance ratemaking.* Bermúdez, L.; Karlis, D. **Insurance: Mathematics and Economics**, **48**, 226-236.

*A semi-nonparametric approach to model panel count data.* Boucher, J.P.; Guillén, M. **Communications in Statistics – Theory and Methods**, **40 (4)**, 622-634.

*A missing spatial link in institutional quality.* Claeys, P.; Manca, F. **Applied Economics Letters**, **18**, 223-227.

*Multivariate density estimation using dimension reducing information and tail flattening transformations.* Guillén, M.; Linton, O.; Nielsen, J.P.; Buch-Kromann, T. **Insurance: Mathematics and Economics**, **48**, 99-110.

*The role of the EU Internal Market on the adoption of innovation.* Manca F.; Moreno R.; Suriñach J. **European Planning Studies**, **19 (6)**, 1091-1116.

*Sell or not sell biodiesel: local competition and government measures.* Perdiguero, J.; Jiménez, J.L. **Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews**, **15 (3)**, 1525-1532.

*Modelling quality of life and population growth. The case of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area.* Royuela, V. **Spatial Economic Analysis**, **6 (1)**, 83-109.

### National Publications

*Cuando la economía no importa: Auge y esplendor de la alta velocidad en España.* Albalade, D.; Bel, G. **Revista de Economía Aplicada**, **55 (19)**, 171-190.

*La reforma del modelo de gestión de aeropuertos en España: ¿Gestión conjunta o individual?* Bel, G.; Fageda, X. **Hacienda Pública Española/Revista de Economía Pública**, **196 (1/2011)**, 109-130.

*Nuevas tendencias en las políticas de innovación.* Callejón, M.; García-Quevedo, J. **Papeles de Economía Española**, **127**, 176-192.

*La diversificación del riesgo en los mercados de deuda pública de la zona euro.* Gómez-Puig, M.; Cuñado, J. **Cuadernos de Economía**, **34**, 1-8.

### Books and Book Chapters



Ayuso, M., Guillén, M. *El coste de la los cuidados de larga duración en España bajo criterios actuariales: es sostenible su financiación?* in *El Estado del Bienestar en la encrucijada: nuevos retos ante la crisis global*, Colección Ekonomi Gerizan XVIII, Federación de Cajas de Ahorro Vasco-Navarra, 213-228, Victoria-Gasteiz, ISBN: 978-84-934289-6-9. Legal deposit: BI-308-2011, First edition.

Ayuso, M., Guillén, M. *La mediación dentro de la pirámide de litigiosidad para Cataluña: análisis de costes*, in *Libro Blanco de la Mediación en Cataluña*, Departament de Justícia, Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona, 895-942

## Press Summary

**Anton Costas**

*Reducir el déficit sin que paguen los débiles*  
30-06-2011 El Periódico

**Raül Ramos**

*Estem pitjor que fa un any?*  
25-06-2011 L'Econòmic

**Germà Bel**

*Reformas o elecciones*  
21-06-2011 La Vanguardia

**Daniel Albalade**

*Eurovinyeta, eficiència i proteccionisme*  
11-06-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Germà Bel**

*3P*  
07-06-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*La política, rehén de la banca*  
02-06-2011 El Periódico

**Anton Costas**

*Santificación del sufrimiento inútil*  
29-05-2011 El País

**Raül Ramos**

*Cicle econòmic i cicle polític*  
28-05-2011 L'Econòmic

**Germà Bel**

*Independencia y boicot*  
24-05-2011 La Vanguardia

**Daniel Albalade**

*Tots ens la juguem a Badalona*  
14-05-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Germà Bel**

*¿Fusión o Cooperación?*  
10-05-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*Hegemonía o liderazgo: ¿cómo usará Alemania su poder?*  
05-05-2011 El País

**Anton Costas**

*Volver a empezar... y corregir el rumbo*  
05-05-2011 El Periódico

**Daniel Albalade**

*Radars a Catalunya: ¿Recaptar o Servir?*  
05-05-2011 El Periódico de Catalunya

**Germà Bel**

*Un mercado laboral dual*  
01-05-2011 La Vanguardia

**Raül Ramos**

*Sr. Mas, són retallades i cal explicar el com i el perquè*  
30-04-2011 L'Econòmic

**Germà Bel**

*Randstad*  
26-04-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*Quiebra moral de la economía de mercado*  
18-04-2011 El País

**Anton Costas**

*Corrupción inocente*  
17-04-2011 El País

**Daniel Albalade**

*Còctel letal*  
16-04-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Germà Bel**

*Público ¿O? Privado*  
12-04-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*Estamos mal, pero vamos bien*  
07-04-2011 El Periódico

**Joan-Ramon Borrell**

*Una mort anunciada*  
06-04-2011 El Periódico de Catalunya

**Xavier Fageda**

*¿Aeroports necessaris?*  
05-04-2011 El Periódico de Catalunya

**Raül Ramos**

*Riscos per a l'economia mundial i per a nosaltres*  
02-04-2011 L'Econòmic

**Germà Bel**

*Sucesiones y compromisos*  
29-03-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*El error Merkel*  
27-03-2011 El País

**Daniel Albalade**

*Velocitat i energia, de Nixon a Rubalcabal*  
19-03-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Germà Bel**

*Capital Total, Competencia Desleal*  
08-03-2011 El País

**Anton Costas**

*Un olvido inesperado*  
06-03-2011 El País

**Anton Costas**

*Esperando el recorte*  
03-03-2011 El Periódico

**Germà Bel**

*¿Ricos? ¿quiénes?*  
25-02-2011 La Vanguardia

**Daniel Albalade**

*Alguaire, l'elefant blanc*  
19-02-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Xavier Fageda**

*Qui gestionará el Prat?*  
14-02-2011 Avui

**Germà Bel**

*Carpeta cerrada*  
10-02-2011 La Vanguardia

**Xavier Fageda**

*Canvis en la gestió dels aeroports*  
09-02-2011 El Periódico de Catalunya

**Raül Ramos**

*La formació no sobra mai*  
05-02-2011 L'Econòmic

**Germà Bel**

*Dinasties o Dinamisme?*  
03-02-2011 ARA

**Germà Bel**

*Obsesión con los "pinganillos"*  
03-02-2011 La Vanguardia

**Anton Costas**

*Las pensiones de nuestros nietos*  
03-02-2011 El Periódico

**Anton Costas**

*Política y capitalismo subsidiado*  
02-01-2011 El País

**Germà Bel**

*3B*  
05-01-2011 La Vanguardia

**Germà Bel**

*De l'urgent i de l'important*  
06-01-2011 ARA

**Raül Ramos**

*La competitivitat, l'euro i l'antiga pesseta*  
08-01-2011 L'Econòmic

**Daniel Albalade**

*Promesa*  
22-01-2011 L'Econòmic i Avui/El Punt

**Anton Costas**

*Vale más acuerdo regular que buen pleito*  
23-01-2011 El País

**Anton Costas**

*El mayor desmán financiero de nuestra historia*  
28-01-2011 El País



## UB-IREA 2011 WORKING PAPERS

- WP2011/01** If you want me to stay, pay. *Claeys, P.; Martire, F.*
- WP2011/02** The Spatial Distribution of Human Capital: Can It Really Be Explained by Regional Differences in Market Access? *Karahasan, B.C.; López-Bazo, E.*
- WP2011/03** The Transatlantic Productivity Gap: Is R&D the Main Culprit? *Ortega-Argilés, R.; Piva, M.; Vivarelli, M.*
- WP2011/04** ¿La sobreeducación de los padres afecta al rendimiento académico de sus hijos? *Nieto, S.; Ramos, R.*
- WP2011/05** Singling out individual inventors from patent data. *Miguélez, E.; Gómez-Miguélez, I.*
- WP2011/06** How Important to a City Are Tourists and Daytrippers? The Economic Impact of Tourism on The City of Barcelona. *Murillo, J.; Vayá, E.; Romaní, J.; Suriñach, J.*
- WP2011/07** Geography of talent and regional differences in Spain. *Karahasan, B.C.; Kerimoglu, E.*
- WP2011/08** Influence of the claimant's behavioural features on motor compensation outcomes. *Ayuso, M.; Bermúdez, L.; Santolino, M.*
- WP2011/09** Debating as a classroom tool for adapting learning outcomes to the European higher education area. *Jiménez, J.L.; Perdiguero, J.; Suárez, A.*
- WP2011/10** Privatization and PPPs in transportation infrastructure: Network effects of increasing user fees. *Albalade, D.; Bel, G.*
- WP2011/11** Privatization, cooperation and costs of solid waste services in small towns. *Bel, G.; Fageda, X.; Mur, M.*
- WP2011/12** Assessing agglomeration economies in a spatial framework with endogenous regressors. *Artis, M. J.; Miguélez, E.; Moreno, R.*

## Participation in Conferences

Ayuso, M., Bermúdez, L. and Santolino, M. *Evidences of victims' risk aversion in motor compensation settlements. 15th International Congress on Insurance: Mathematics and Economics.* Trieste, Italy. (June 14-16)

Ayuso, M; Guillén, M.; Pérez-Marín, A.M. *Metodología para el cálculo de escenarios de caída de cartera en Solvencia II en presencia de contagio entre cancelaciones.* III Congreso Ibérico de Actuarios. Madrid, Spain. (June 16-18)

Bel, G. *Joint versus Single Management of Large Transport Infrastructures.* 2011 Public Management Research Conference. Syracuse, New York. (June 2-4)

Bel, G. *Does competition affect prices in the urban water industry? Empirical evidence from Spain.* Workshop on water pricing and roles of public and private sectors in efficient urban water management. Universidad de Granada and Global Water Intelligence, Granada, Spain. (May 9-11)

Bel, G. *First International Workshop Barcelona-Lisbon.* Barcelona, Spain.

Bermúdez, L.; Ferri, A.; Guillén, M. *A correlation analysis for non life underwriting module SC.* 40th ASTIN Colloquium. International Actuarial Association. Madrid, Spain. (June 19-22)

Bolancé, C.; Ayuso, M.; Guillén M. *Non parametric approach to analyzing operational risk losses.* 40th ASTIN Colloquium. International Actuarial Association. Madrid, Spain. (June 19-22)

Miguélez, E.; Moreno, R. *A gravity approach to cross-regional mobility of inventors: Evidence from Europe.* Western Regional Science Association 50th Anniversary Meeting. Monterey, California. (February 27 - March 2)

Perdiguero, J. *Entry under quality uncertainty : Lessons from supermarket.* INRA-IDEI Seminar "Competition and Strategics in the Retailing Industry". Toulouse, France. (May 16-17)

Perdiguero, J. *Symmetric or asymmetric gasoline prices? A meta-analysis approach.* VI Congreso de la Asociación Española para la Economía Energética. Barcelona, Spain. (January 20-21)

Santolino, M., Bermúdez, L. and Ayuso, M. *Risk-confrontation aversion evidences of claimants in motor injury compensations.* Memorable Actuarial Research Conference. Leuven, Belgium. (June 13)

Suriñach, J. *Alguns elements claus pel Desenvolupament Regional i Innovació.* Second Economic Conference of the North-West Mediterranean. Barcelona, Spain (June 6-7)

Valero, D., Artís, M., Ayuso, M., García, J. *Una propuesta de reforma del sistema de pensiones español basada en un modelo de contribución definida nocional.* III Congreso Ibérico de Actuarios. Madrid, Spain. (June 16-18)



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SEARCH

The AQR-IREA research group is to lead a new European Commission Seventh Framework Programme project.

Once the European project IAREG, which is part of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, has been completed, the University of Barcelona's AQR-IREA group will once more lead a European project. This new project is called SEARCH (Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeighbourHoods)



### 4th Workshop on Risk Management and Insurance

The Pablo de Olavide University of Seville's Business Management Department, in conjunction with the University of Barcelona's Research Group on Risk in Finance and Insurance, is organizing the 4th Workshop on Risk Management and Insurance Research (RISK 2011). The meeting will be held in Seville, Spain, on 20 and 21 October, at the Cultural and Research Centre "Olavide en Carmona". As in the previous editions in Barcelona (2005), Cantabria (2007) and Madrid (2009), RISK 2011 provides a springboard for discussion about new research in the fields of finance and insurance.



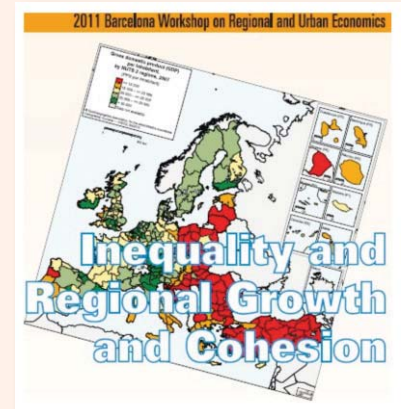
### 2011 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics

AQR-IREA will host the **Workshop on Inequality and Regional Growth and Cohesion** on November 24th-25th 2011 in Barcelona.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together original research papers that cast some light on the evolution and determinants of economic and social inequality and its impact on regional growth and cohesion.

José Enrique Garcilazo (OECD) and Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (LSE, IMDEA) will be the keynote speakers of the workshop.

Although the Workshop focuses on empirical papers, theoretical studies are also welcome. The accepted papers (around 8) will be presented in plenary sessions that will complement the two keynote speakers' presentations.



## Research Projects

**2011 - 2013.** CRECIMIENTO ECONOMICO REGIONAL Y DESIGUALDAD EN ESPAÑA. Ministry of Science and Innovation. Ref. ECO2010-16006. IP: Raül Ramos

**2011 - 2012.** Aid in action ARAFI-projects: 'Assimilació, integració laboral, domini de l'idioma i segregació residencial'. Generalitat de Catalunya, AGAUR. Ref. 2010 ARF1 00044. IP: Raül Ramos Lobo

**2011 - 2014.** Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeighBorhoods (SEARCH). DG of Science, Research and Development, of the European Commission, FP7-SSH-2010-2.2-1 (266834). IP: Jordi Suriñach Caralt

## Visiting lecturers



### Raquel Ortega Argilés

Post-doctoral researcher at the IN+ Center for Innovation, Technology and Policy Research, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST). She is interested in the following topics, among others: microeconometrics, R&D, innovation, capital and ownership structure, industrial organization, industrial dynamics. One paper that she has published is entitled: *Ownership structure and innovation: Is there a real link?*

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### Alina Balalia

Postgraduate assistant in the Faculty of Trade, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies and researcher for the Romanian Regional Science Association. Two of her most notable publications are: *Public marketing in supporting the tourist destinations* and *The involvement of the European Union in funding the member states during the economic crisis period.*

## How UB-IREA's scientist rank Ranking of the most cited articles on RePEc



Ranking	Citations	Paper
1	38	<b>Author:</b> Carrion-i-Silvestre, J.LI.; del Barrio, T.; López-Bazo, E. <b>Title:</b> Breaking the panels: An application to the GDP per capita <b>Journal:</b> <i>Econometrics Journal</i> , Royal Economic Society, 8 (2): 159-175, 07; (2005)
2	30	<b>Author:</b> López-Bazo, E.; Vayá, E.; Artis, M <b>Title:</b> Regional Externalities And Growth: Evidence From European Regions <b>Journal:</b> <i>Journal of Regional Science</i> , Wiley Blackwell, 44(1): 43-73; (2004)
3	19	<b>Author:</b> Fingleton, B.; López-Bazo, E. <b>Title:</b> Empirical growth models with spatial effects <b>Journal:</b> <i>Papers in Regional Science</i> , Wiley Blackwell, 85(2): 177-198; (2006)
4	18	<b>Author:</b> Gómez-Puig, M. <b>Title:</b> Size matters for liquidity: Evidence from EMU sovereign yield spreads <b>Journal:</b> <i>Economics Letters</i> , Elsevier, 90(2), 156-162; (2006)
5	16	<b>Author:</b> Moreno, R.; Paci, R.; Usai, S. <b>Title:</b> Spatial spillovers and innovation activity in European regions <b>Journal:</b> <i>Environment and Planning A</i> , Pion Ltd, London, 37(10): 1793-1812; (2005)
6	14	<b>Author:</b> Carrion-i-Silvestre, J.LI.; Sansó, A. <b>Title:</b> A guide to the computation of stationarity tests <b>Journal:</b> <i>Empirical Economics</i> , Springer, 31(2): 433-448; (2006)
7	13	<b>Author:</b> López-Bazo, E.; del Barrio, T.; Artis, M. <b>Title:</b> The regional distribution of Spanish unemployment: A spatial analysis <b>Journal:</b> <i>Papers in Regional Science</i> , Springer, 81(3): 365-389; (2002)
8	12	<b>Author:</b> Carrion-i-Silvestre, J. LI. <b>Title:</b> Health care expenditure and GDP: Are they broken stationary? <b>Journal:</b> <i>Journal of Health Economics</i> , Elsevier, 24(5): 839-854 (2005)
9	12	<b>Author:</b> Anselin, L.; Moreno, R. <b>Title:</b> Properties of tests for spatial error components <b>Journal:</b> <i>Regional Science and Urban Economics</i> , Elsevier, 33(5): 595-618; (2003)
10	11	<b>Author:</b> Callejon, M.; Segarra, A. <b>Title:</b> New Firms' Survival and Market Turbulence: New Evidence from Spain <b>Journal:</b> <i>Review of Industrial Organization</i> , Springer, 20(1): 1-14; (2002)



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