NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

A paper of Jan Rouwendal, Jasper Dekkers (Dept of Spatial Economics) and Martin Micheli (RWI Essen) on ‘Border Effect in House Prices’ has been picked up in blog The Economist in its free exchange blog, see here: http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2014/11/house-prices-border (November 26, 2014).

The authors studied the difference in the behaviour of house prices between the Netherlands and Germany. According to The Economist the results of the research in the TI discussion paper is an indication of how cultural differences may run counter to the logic of European integration.

Harmen Verbruggen represented our department at the prestigious TBLI Conference on ‘Building a global community of ESG and Impact Investors’. The conference was held on October 28-29, 2014, hosted by FEWEB/VU. Harmen Verbruggen acted as moderator in a workshop on ‘Managing Sustainability Risks for Investors’. More information can be found on http://www.feweb.vu.nl/nl/nieuws-agenda/nieuwsarchief/2014/report-of-the-tbli-conference.asp#.VG3ZC9JgW70

Hugo Silva Montalva won the Best PhD Paper Award for his paper on ‘Input third-degree price discrimination by congested facilities’. The prize was awarded during the 3rd Symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation, held at the Institute for Transport Studies of the University of Leeds from 10-12 September 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ERC-OPTION Conference on Industrial Organization in Transport Network Markets

OPTION researchers from our department will present work carried out within the framework of the project. Another 24 foreign experts will present research related to the theme of the project: “Optimizing Policies for Transport: accounting for Industrial Organization in Network markets”.

Date:       April 9 & 10, 2015
Location:  Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam

PhD Defenses

January, 9, 2015, 15.45 hrs, Aula – VU University
Martijn Kobus: “Economic studies on public facility use”
Promotors: Prof.dr. P. Rietveld (†) & Prof.dr. J.N. van Ommeren
January 13, 2015, 11.45 hrs, Aula – VU University
**Jorge R. Ridderstaat**: “Studies on Determinants of Tourism Demand Dynamics in a Small Island Destination – The Case of Aruba”
Promotors: Prof. dr. P. Nijkamp & Prof. dr. R. Croes

January 14, 2015, 11.45 hrs, Aula – VU University
**Masood A.G. Gheasi**: “Social Economic Aspects of the Diaspora World”
Promotors: Prof.dr. P. Nijkamp & Prof. dr. P. Rietveld (†)

February 9, 2015, 13.45 hrs, Aula – VU University
**Sergej Gubins**: “Information technologies and travel”
Promotors: Erik Verhoef & Dr. Thomas de Graaff

**Eureka Seminars**

December 11, 2014
Thomas de Graaff
Jan Möhlmann
Location: Room 1B-5/6. Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs, lunch included

January 8, 2015
Erik Verhoef
Jesper de Groote: “Parking Policy”
Location: Room 7A-06. Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs, lunch included.

Titles, if not given: TBA
More information: [H.R.A.Koster@vu.nl](mailto:H.R.A.Koster@vu.nl) or [G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl](mailto:G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl)

**Spatial Economics Seminars at the Tinbergen Institute**

(Location: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, Gustav Mahlerplein 117, 1082 MS Amsterdam, Time: 12.00-13.00 hrs)

December 15, 2014
Jacques Thisse (UC Louvain)

January 9, 2015
Eren Inci (Sabanci University)

January 12, 2015
Elisabet Vial decans Marsal (University of Barcelona & IEB)

February 23, 2015
Matti Liski (Aalto University)

March 2, 2015
Ruud de Mooij (IMF)
March 9, 2015
Harry Garretsen (University of Groningen)

March 30, 2015
Rob Hart (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

May 18, 2015
Guy Michaels (London School of Economics)

June 1, 2015
George Filis (Bournemouth University)

Titles: TBA
More information: S.Poelhekke@vu.nl

TE-Lunch Seminars

(Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs)

December 12, 2014
Christiaan Behrens (VU University, Dept. of Spatial Economics): “Consumer surplus: does it need an apology?”
Location: room 8A-14

January 23, 2015
Oded Cats (Delft University): “How do public transport systems evolve? From theory to applications”
Location: room 7A-09

February 23, 2015
Yu Morimoto (Kyoto University)
Title and location: TBA

March 27, 2015
Maria Dementyeva
Title and location: TBA

More information: P.R.Koster@vu.nl

STAFF

Welcome...

Jamie Chen started working at the VU on 1st September, 2014. Her research interests are Cruise Tourism Economics and Cruise Ports Development. Earlier, she researched at Xiamen University on Cruise Tourism Education and worked for Costa Cruise for several years.
Zeynep Elburz is a Ph.D. student at Dokuz Eylul University in İzmir/Turkey. She will stay as a visiting scholar at the VU until September 2015. Her dissertation is on public transport infrastructure investment and regional/spatial disparities in Turkish regions.

Yuan Gu graduated this summer from the Tinbergen Institute and started as a PhD at VU on September 1st 2014. Steven Poelhekke is her supervisor who provides great help in her mphil thesis. Yuan’s plan for her PhD is to continue working on the mining sector and expropriation risk, which is pretty empirical, as well as on further topics in resource and environmental economics. Yuan is Chinese with a bachelor obtained in Singapore. Her hobbies include swimming, badminton and cooking.

Joris Klingen is a new student assistant. He studied STREEM, and graduated last August with a thesis on optimal fuel taxation. Currently, Joris is assistant for the course Regional Economics and for the course Structural Policy, part of the minor economics. His research interests cover spatial, transport and environmental economics with a focus on optimal corrective taxation.

Arda Riedijk started to work at FEWEB in November. Her task is to improve marketing efforts and the online presence of UNIGIS Amsterdam. UNIGIS is the distant learning program in Geographical Information Science provided here at VU University and in nine other universities around the world. Previously Arda worked among others as a communication specialist for Geodan and Geonovum.

Bahareh Moradi obtained her Bachelor of Science in civil engineering at K.N.Toosi University in Tehran, Iran. Since 2008 she is living in The Netherlands. Currently, Bahareh follows the MSc in UNIGIS. She is working on her thesis and at the same time she is supporting the coordination and administration of the MSc Geographical Information Science(UNIGIS), for two days a week.

Rectification:

Ting Zhou (China) started her PhD in November, 2013 at the Earth Sciences and Economics Department, and will continue her research at the Spatial Economics Department from this August on. Her research interest is ‘The provision of ecosystem services by the urban rural fringe: opportunities for optimization’.
Goodbye...

As of January 1, 2015, **Jessie Bakens** will start working as a researcher at the Sheffield Methods Institute at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield. Jessie's research will focus on location choices, owner occupation, and ethnicity in Scotland.

**Harry van der Weijde** left our department and is now Chancellor's Fellow in Energy Policy at the School of Engineering, University of Edinburgh. Harry's currently works on complex market representations; and risk and uncertainty. Harry started working in Edinburgh on 1 October, 2014.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES AND WORKING PAPERS August 31-November 30, 2014**

**Journal articles**


**Working papers**


The next *Spatial Economics Newsletter* will appear in March 2015.

Are your publications not in the above list? Register – if you have not done yet – at METIS and add your publications:

[https://metis.vu.nl/metis/personal/login/login.view%3bjsessionid=2Qt1J8GH21VrQXG0R39DK6qkyNb7wtJpQpJrfH8gKhsIQ1S1qln61732445808?moduleOfOrigin=personal](https://metis.vu.nl/metis/personal/login/login.view%3bjsessionid=2Qt1J8GH21VrQXG0R39DK6qkyNb7wtJpQpJrfH8gKhsIQ1S1qln61732445808?moduleOfOrigin=personal)