News from the Department

Since December, **Henri de Groot** is Crown-appointed member of the Social Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER). The SER is the main advisory body to the Dutch government and the parliament on national and international social and economic policy. [More information]

As per January 1, **Eveline van Leeuwen** was appointed Associate Professor at our department. Since 2001 she has been working at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam as a researcher on several European and national research projects, focusing on towns, tourism, rural development and sustainability. In addition, she has been an active member of the Dutch (as board member) and International Regional Science Association. Her current research interest lies in community satisfaction and social networks and how local facilities play a role in improving these.

**Ceren Ozgen** was granted the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (€ 200 000) for her research “Making Sense of Education and Skills in a World of Super-Mobility”. Her research assesses the price of skills mismatch of immigrant employees, and the subsequent incidence of this mismatch on workers in the labour market. She will spend most of the research time at the Department of Economics and IRiS of University of Birmingham in the UK.

On April 22 at 15.45hrs in the aula of Vrije Universiteit, **Cees Withagen**, professor of environmental economic at our department, will give his public valedictory lecture entitled “Green and Grey paradoxes”. A reception will take place after the lecture.

Upcoming Events

**Conference**

“Combating Climate Change: Lessons from Macroeconomics, Political Economy, and Public Finance”

Date: April 21-22  
Location: Tinbergen Institute

The conference covers a wide range of topics in the area of climate change and resource economics, and is also designed to mark the completion of the ERC Advanced Grant ‘Political Economics of Green Paradoxes’, directed by Rick van der Ploeg and Cees Withagen.

Keynote speakers: Geoffrey Heal (Columbia Business School) and Hans-Werner Sinn (CESifo)
If you are interested in attending, please visit: http://www.tinbergen.nl/conference/combating-climate-change-lessons-macroeconomics-political-economy-public-finance/

NB: conference is almost fully booked

**PhD Defenses**

April 20, 11:45 hrs  Karolina Ryszka  
“Resource extraction and the Green Paradox: Accounting for political economy issues and climate policies in a heterogeneous world”  
Promotors: Prof. dr. C.A.A.M. Withagen & Dr. G. van der Meijden  
Location: Aula

April 20, 13.45 hrs  Mark Kagan  
Promotors: Prof. dr. C.A.A.M. Withagen & Prof. dr. F. van der Ploeg  
Location: Aula

**Eureka Seminars**

March 17  Duco de Vos: “Highways”  
Mikhail Andriyanov  
Location: 14A-20

April 28  Moutaz Altaghlibi  
Paul Pelzl  
Location: Room 14A-20

May 26  Eveline van Leeuwen  
Francis Ostermeijer  
Location: 14A-20

June 23  Ioulia Ossokina  
Xinying Fu  
Location: 14A-20

Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs, lunch included.

More information: H.R.A.Koster@vu.nl or G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl

**Spatial Economics Seminars at the Tinbergen Institute**

Please note:  
As of 2016, Spatial Economics Seminars at the Ti will usually take place on Thursdays from 12.15-13.15 pm

March 10, 2016  Kyle Meng (UC Santa Barbara)

May 9, 2016  Steve Gibbons (LSE)
Titles: TBA
Time: 12.15-13.15 hrs
Location: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, Gustav Mahlerplein 117, 1082 MS Amsterdam

More information: S.Poelhekke@vu.nl

TE-Lunch Seminars

March 31 Kees van Ommeren (Decisio): “Cost benefit analysis of cycling projects”
Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs, lunch included
Location: TBA

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

Staff

Welcome...

Francis Ostermeijer comes from an international background (having lived in Australia, Azerbaijan, Portugal and Indonesia). Currently he is doing an MSc in STREEM and is working together with Eveline van Leeuwen on developing a dynamic micro simulation model to forecast demographic trends in the Netherlands. His economic interests are in the urban structure of cities and in his free time he likes to play team sports (particularly football and basketball) and go hiking. After graduation he is keen on doing a PhD.

Moutaz Altaghlibi is from Syria and working on a PhD degree in economics at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne as well as the Universiteit van Amsterdam. He will be working at our department on a part-time, visiting basis, until the end of August. The focus of Moutaz’ research is on the relation between environmental damage, trade, and growth in developing and least developed countries. The orientation of his work is mainly theoretical, but he is anxious to broaden his outlook towards more data-based approaches.

Jenny Montanus is student assistant and helps Eveline van Leeuwen doing research on the determinants of community satisfaction in the Netherlands. Jenny completed the bachelor programme Earth and Economics last year, and is currently enrolled in the master programme STREEM.

Mohammadsaeed (short: Saeed) Zabihidan is a PhD student from Razi University, Iran. He will be staying at our department for six months, doing research on land use policies. Saeeds supervisors are Hans Koster and Jos van Ommeren. His fields of interest are spatial, urban and regional economics.
Journal Articles


Working Papers


The next Spatial Economics Newsletter will appear in June 2016.

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%3bsessionid=2Qt1J8GH21VrQXG0R39DK6qkyNb7wtJpQpJrfH8gKhsLQ1S1qln6I732445808?moduleOfOrigin=personal