



XARXA
DE REFERÈNCIA
EN **ECONOMIA APLICADA**

Newsletter (1/2009)

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Editorial

The Reference Network for Research in Applied Economics (Catalan acronym XREAP) was set up in 2006 as the result of a contract with the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprises of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia (the Generalitat), and the evolution of its antecedent, the Reference Centre for Research in Applied Economics (Catalan acronym CREAP). This new centre is home to a network of research groups in applied economics at Catalan universities.

The XREAP promotes collaboration between these groups with common objectives and the interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary, serving as a point of collaboration with different institutions promoting the companies participation and the Research Centres of Catalonia and increasing the capacity to propose and to work together in relevant research and innovation projects.

Its objectives are:

- To carry out high quality research in the area of applied economics.
- To promote the integration and the diffusion of research in applied economics in Catalonia.
- To design and develop joint projects in applied economics.
- To collaborate with foreign research institutes and groups
- To participate in national and international R+D+I programmes.
- To intervene actively in staff training.
- To promote service and technology transfer.

The XREAP currently comprises seven research groups from different Catalan universities, with the Ministry of Economics and Finance of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia also participating in the Direction Council.

The management organization of the XREAP is the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG).



XREAP

Management organisation:
Bosch i Gimpera Foundation

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Newsletter (1/2009)

Activities - Symposium

Innovation at the firm level

(1st of July 2008)

[<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=42&valores=,any,2008#>]

PRESENTATION

Innovation is nowadays as one of the main driving forces in countries' economic competitiveness. Differences across regions and countries in their level of innovative activities have been proven to be crucial in explaining economic growth patterns and prosperity. Innovation has therefore become a priority for European countries which want to sustain the engine of economic growth as postulated in the Lisbon strategy. This symposium is therefore aimed at shedding some lights in these crucial topics from an academic policy making point of view.

SUMMARY

The objective of the symposium was to shed light on some of the main questions related to the real effect of innovation on firm activity in a double perspective: academic and policy-oriented. Although there is a wide consensus to recognize innovation as one of the main mechanisms to promote competitiveness, the available empirical evidence suggests that differences in innovative activity between countries and regions are crucial to understand their different patterns of growth and welfare. For this reason, innovation is a priority for the European Union and its Member States

The symposium took place in the Aula Magna of the Facultat d'Economia i Empresa of the Universitat de Barcelona on the 1st of July of 2008. Some internationally recognized experts as Jacques Mairesse (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, University of Maastricht), Corinne Autant-Bernard (University of Saint-Étienne, CREUSET) and Andrea Conte (DG2, ECFIN, European Commission) were the key speakers of the conference. Other personalities from the academia and public administrations also participated in the discussion: Rosina Moreno (UB, AQR-IREA, XREAP), Maria Callejón (UB, PPRE-IREA, XREAP), Agustí Segarra (URV, GRIT-XREAP) and Antoni Soy (Departament d'Indústria de la Generalitat de Catalunya).

For a more detailed summary see:

[http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/innov_firm_en.pdf]



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Activities - Symposium

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(1st of July 2008)

PRESENTATIONS:

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=42&valores=,any,2008>]

Determinants of innovation at the firm level

Corinne Autant-Bernard (U. Saint-Etienne, CREUSET)

Determinants of Innovation. A firm-level analysis based on CIS data

Andrea Conte (DG2, ECFIN. European Commission)

Innovation and productivity in France: a firm-level analysis for Manufacturing and Services (1998-2000 and 2002-2004)

Jacques Mairesse (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, U. Maastricht)

Innovations and firms

Maria Callejón (UB, PPRE-IREA, XREAP)

Pacte nacional per a la recerca i la innovació a Catalunya

Jordi Cartanyà (Generalitat de Catalunya)



Newsletter (1/2009)

Activities - Symposium

Business Dynamics and Innovation: The role of space

(8th of October 2008)

PRESENTATION

The purpose of this symposium is to debate the effects of business dynamics – entry, exit, firm growth, selection processes and learning – on economic growth. The symposium will look at how new businesses affect market structure and the role of the entrepreneur as an agent of change and innovation in order to open up new perspectives for adaptation to the new coordinates of international markets. Business dynamics and R&D activities are related not only to market structures but also to the geographical environment of new initiatives.

SUMMARY

The second symposium organized by the XREAP during 2008 analyzed the effects of firm dynamics on economic growth and the relationship between innovation, efficiency and competitiveness. The symposium took place in the Aula Magna of the Facultat d'Economia i Empresa of the Universitat de Barcelona on the 8th of October of 2008.

Two internationally recognized experts as David Audretsch (Max Planck Institute of Economics) and John Sutton (London School of Economics) were the key speakers of the symposium. The rest of the symposium was organized in three different, but clearly interrelated, sessions where several experts discussed the role of new firms on market structure and the impact of the territory on their activity. The role of entrepreneurship as a relevant actor for innovation and for opening markets was also considered.

The symposium was co-organized together with the Asociación Española de Ciencia Regional, an association with a long trajectory that has the objective of promoting regional and urban analysis from a multi-disciplinary framework. It constitutes a perfect environment for the exchange of ideas, the promotion of research and the diffusion of methods, techniques and tools for spatial analysis. One of its main activities is the annual organisation of the “Reunión de Estudios Regionales”.

For a more detailed summary see:

[<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/catala.pdf>].



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Activities - Symposium

Business Dynamics and Innovation: The role of space

(8th of October 2008)

PRESENTATIONS

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=42&valores=,any,2008#>]

Innovació i Diferenciació de Producte en l'Economia Global

John Sutton, London School of Economics

Processos de Selecció i Iniciativa Empresarial

Maria Callejón, Universitat de Barcelona

Innovacions organitzatives i productivitat: el paper del outsourcing estranger

Juan Carlos Fariñas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Efectes de l'estructura de propietat sobre el comportament innovador de les empreses

Raquel Ortega-Argilés, Institut Europeu de Prospectiva Tecnològica

Localització empresarial i aglomeracions urbanes. Una aproximació amb imatges de satèl·lit

Federico Pablo, Universitat d'Alcalá

Creació de noves empreses en els clusters industrials metropolitans de Madrid

Simon Sanchez Moral, Consell Superior d'Investigacions Científiques (CSIC)

Creixement empresarial i immigració a les ciutats espanyoles

Mercedes Teruel, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Coneixement, Emprenedoria, i Creixement Econòmic: el Rol de l'Espai

David B. Audretsch, Institut d'Economia Max-Planck.

Finançament Públic i Emprenedoria

Antonio García Tabuenca, Universitat d'Alcalá

Evaluació de les Polítiques Regionals de foment de la Innovació

Jose García, Universitat de Barcelona

Creació d'empreses i Sistemes d'Innovació

Iñaki Peña, Institut Basc de Competitivitat, Universitat de Deusto



Newsletter (1/2009)

Activities - Seminars (2008/1)

[seminars available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=41&valores=,any,2008>]

School Choice: The case for the Boston Mechanism

Antoni Miralles (Boston University)

16/12/2008

Remittances and Temporary Migration

Josep Mestres (University College London and Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration CReAM)

15/12/2008

La relatividad del concepto legal de dependiente: efecto de la elección de distintos baremos de valoración europeos sobre la población española

Irene Albarrán (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

12/12/2008

Combining Underreported Internal and External Data

For Operational Risk Measurement

Jens Perch Nielsen (Cass Business School, City University London)

12/12/2008

Low-Cost Airlines and on-line Price Dispersion

Claudio Piga (Loughborough University)

01/12/2008

Welfare Effects of Salary Caps in Sports Leagues with Win-Maximizing Clubs

Markus Lang (University of Zurich)

27/11/2008

Pro-poor Economic Growth, Inequality and Fiscal Policy:

The Case of Spanish Regions

Luís Ayala (IEF, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos)

24/11/2008

Hubs versus Airport Dominance

Volodymyr Bilotkach (University of California, Irvine)

17/11/2008

Understanding the US housing boom and bust

Carlos Garriga (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis)

14/10/2008



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Activities - Seminars (2008/2)

[seminars available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=41&valores=,any,2008>]

Modelling housing and mortgage finance

Carlos Garriga (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis)

13/10/2008

Private provision of highways: A review of economic issues

Kenneth A. Small (University of California, Irvine)

03/10/2008

Spatial Hedonics and the Willingness to Pay for Residential Amenities

Kenneth A. Small (University of California, Irvine)

02/10/2008

New Technologies, Political Effects, and Unresolved Questions:

The Challenges Facing Media Economics

Steve Wildman (Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law)

02/10/2008

Should Urban Transit Subsidies Be Reduced?

Kenneth A. Small (University of California, Irvine)

01/10/2008

Explaining Prices Paid for Television Ad Time: The Purchasing Profile Model

Steve Wildman (Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law)

30/09/2008

The Cost of Contract Renegotiation In French Urban Transport Systems

Marc Ivaldi (IDEI)

30/09/2008

Monitoring Flypaper Effects and Local Government Technical (In)Efficiency:

Evidence from Flemish Municipalities

Benny Geys (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

29/09/2008

Contract Requirements and Costs: The Impact of State Level Contract Requirements on the Costs of Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Site Remediation

Trevor Brown (Ohio State University)

17/09/2008

Contracting for Complex Products

Trevor Brown (Ohio State University)

16/09/2008



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Activities - Seminars (2008/3)

[seminars available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=41&valores=,any,2008>]

Path Forecast Evaluation

Òscar Jordà (University of California Davis)

08/09/2008

Distance to Frontier and appropriate business strategy

Alex Coad, Max Planck Institute of Economics

04/09/2008

Self-enforced collusion through comparative cheap talk in simultaneous auctions with entry

Antoni Miralles (Boston University)

18/07/2008

Disability insurance: a life-cycle analysis

Jean Pinquet (Laboratoire d'Économétrie, École Polytechnique, Paris)

17/07/2008

Federalism, regional distribution and country stability

Enrico Spolaore (Tufts University)

20/06/2008

The determinants of regional transport investment across Europe

Achim Kemmerling (WZB Berlin)

20/06/2008

Balance-sheet federalism: case studies

Massimo Bordignon (Università Cattolica, Milano) joint with F. Cemiglia

19/06/2008

The political economy of regional fiscal flows

Jonathan Rodden (Stanford University)

19/06/2008

Identification of network-based industry clusters using I-O tables

Juan Carlos Duque (RISE, EAFIT)

13/06/2008

A new GIS-based methodology to analyze transitional economic patterns

Juan Carlos Duque (RISE, EAFIT)

09/06/2008



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Activities - Next Seminars (2009)

[seminars available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=41&valores=,any,2009>]

El impacto socioeconómico del deporte: métodos de análisis y evaluación

José M^a Otero (Universidad de Málaga)

25/05/2009

T.B.A.

Daniel Wilson (Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco)

08/05/2009

Agglomeration, Tax Competition and Fiscal Equalization

Matthias Wrede (University of Marburg)

03/04/2009

Diffusion with Dueling Platforms: Technology Spillovers in the Cable - Telco Broadband Race

Glenn Woroch (University of California at Berkeley)

27/03/2009

CURS: Eines informàtiques per a l'exploració de dades geogràfiques

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

18/03/2009

The Max-p region problem

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

16/03/2009

CURS: Models d'agregació espacial

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

09/03/2009

Cheaper Child Care - More Children

Eva Mörk (IFAU & Uppsala University)

27/02/2009

No country for Old Men (and Women): Do State Taxes Drive Away the Elderly?

John Rork (Andrew Young School of Public Studies)

23/01/2009



Newsletter (1/2009)

XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2008/1)

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=46>]

XREAP 2008-09

A priori ratemaking using bivariate Poisson regression models

Bermúdez, LL. (RFA-IREA)

Abstract: In automobile insurance, it is useful to achieve a priori ratemaking by resorting to generalized linear models, and here the Poisson regression model constitutes the most widely accepted basis. However, insurance companies distinguish between claims with or without bodily injuries, or claims with full or partial liability of the insured driver. This paper examines an a priori ratemaking procedure when including two different types of claim. When assuming independence between claim types, the premium can be obtained by summing the premiums for each type of guarantee and is dependent on the rating factors chosen. If the independence assumption is relaxed, then it is unclear as to how the tariff system might be affected. In order to answer this question, bivariate Poisson regression models, suitable for paired count data exhibiting correlation, are introduced. It is shown that the usual independence assumption is unrealistic here. These models are applied to an automobile insurance claims database containing 80,994 contracts belonging to a Spanish insurance company. Finally, the consequences for pure and loaded premiums when the independence assumption is relaxed by using a bivariate Poisson regression model are analysed.

Keywords: Bivariate Poisson regression models, Zero-inflated models, Automobile insurance, Bootstrap methods, *A priori* ratemaking.

XREAP 2008-10

Does urban sprawl increase the costs of providing local public services?

Evidence from Spanish municipalities

Solé-Ollé, A. (IEB); Hortas-Rico, M. (IEB)

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of urban sprawl, a phenomenon of particular interest in Spain, which is currently experiencing this process of rapid, low-density urban expansion. Many adverse consequences are attributed to urban sprawl (e.g., traffic congestion, air pollution and social segregation), though here we are concerned primarily with the rising costs of providing local public services. Our initial aim is to develop an accurate measure of urban sprawl so that we might empirically test its impact on municipal budgets. Then, we undertake an empirical analysis using a cross-sectional data set of 2,500 Spanish municipalities for the year 2003 and a piecewise linear function to account for the potentially nonlinear relationship between sprawl and local costs. The estimations derived from the expenditure equations for both aggregate and six disaggregated spending categories indicate that low-density development patterns lead to greater provision costs of local public services

Keywords: Urban sprawl, local public spending.



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2008/2)

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=46>]

XREAP 2008-11

Immigration and Firm Growth: evidence from Spanish cities

Teruel-Carrizosa, M. (GRIT); Segarra-Blasco, A. (GRIT)

[<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2008-11.pdf>]

Abstract: This article analyses the effect of immigration flows on the growth and efficiency of manufacturing firms in Spanish cities. To date, most studies have tended to focus on the effect immigrants have on labour markets at an aggregate level. Here, however, we undertake an exhaustive analysis at the firm level and report conclusive empirical findings. Ten years ago, Spain began to register massive immigration flows, concentrated above all on its most dynamic and advanced regions. Here, therefore, rather than focusing on the impact this has had on Spain's labour market (changes to the skill structure of the workforce, increase in labour supply, the displacement of native workers, etc.), we examine the arrival of immigrants in terms of the changes this has meant to the structure of the country's cities and their amenities. Thus, we argue that the impact of immigration on firm performance should not only be considered in terms of the labour market, but also in terms of how a city's amenities can affect the performance of firms. Employing a panel data methodology, we show that the increasing pressure brought to bear by immigrants has a positive effect on the evolution of labour productivity and wages and a negative effect on the job evolution of these manufacturing firms. In addition, both small and new firms are more sensitive to the pressures of such immigrant inflows, while foreign market oriented firms report higher productivity levels and a less marked impact of immigration than their counterparts. In this paper, we also present a set of instruments to correct the endogeneity bias, which confirms the effect of local immigration flows on the performance of manufacturing firms.

Key words: firm growth, firm location, regional effects

XREAP 2008-12

Assessing the assignation of public subsidies:

Do the experts choose the most efficient R&D projects?

Duch-Brown, N. (IEB); García-Quevedo, J. (IEB); Montolio, D. (IEB)

(www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2008-12.pdf)

Abstract: The implementation of public programs to support business R&D projects requires the establishment of a selection process. This selection process faces various difficulties, which include the measurement of the impact of the R&D projects as well as selection process optimization among projects with multiple, and sometimes incomparable, performance indicators. To this end, public agencies generally use the peer review method, which, while presenting some advantages, also demonstrates significant drawbacks. Private firms, on the other hand, tend toward more quantitative methods, such as Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), in their pursuit of R&D investment optimization. In this paper, the performance of a public agency peer review method of project selection is compared with an alternative DEA method.

Keywords: Subsidies, R&D, DEA, Multi Criteria Decision Analysis, "peer review".



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2008/3)

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=46>]

XREAP 2008-13

Scheduled service versus personal transportation: the role of distance

Bilotkach, V., Fageda, X. (PPRE-IREA), Flores-Fillol, R.

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2008-13.pdf>)

Abstract: This paper presents a theoretical and empirical analysis of the relationship between frequency of scheduled transportation services and their substitutability with personal transportation (using distance as a proxy). We study the interaction between a monopoly firm providing a high-speed scheduled service and private transportation (i.e., car). Interestingly, the carrier chooses to increase the frequency of service on longer routes when competing with personal transportation because by providing higher frequency (at extra cost) it can also charge higher fares which can boost its profits. However, in line with the results of earlier studies, frequency decreases for longer flights when driving is not a viable option. An empirical application of our analysis to the European airline industry confirms the predictions of our theoretical model.

Keywords: short-haul routes; long-haul routes; flight frequency; distance

XREAP 2008-14

Tourism and urban transport: Holding demand pressure under supply constraints

Albalade, D. (PPRE-IREA), Bel, G. (PPRE-IREA)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2008-14.pdf>)

Abstract: Scholars and local planners are becoming increasingly interested in the contribution of tourism to economic and social development. In the European cities that currently lead the world rankings for tourist arrivals, local governments have actively promoted tourism. Mobility is an essential issue for tourists visiting large cities, since it is a crucial factor for their comfort. It also facilitates the spread of benefits across the city. This study uses an international database of European cities to examine whether city planners respond to the additional demand for urban transport by extending service supply. Our results confirm that tourism intensity is a demand-enhancing factor in urban transport. However, cities do not seem to address this pressure by increasing services. Tourism appears to exert a positive externality on public transport, since it provides additional funding for these services, but it also imposes external costs on resident users because of the congestion caused by supply constraints.

Keywords: Tourism, Urban Transport, Local government.



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2009/1)

[available at <http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/web/plantilla1.php?Id=46>]

XREAP 2009-1

A theoretical and practical study on linear reforms of dual taxes

Samuel Calonge (CREB), Oriol Tejada

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-1.pdf>)

Abstract: We extend the linear reforms introduced by Pfähler (1984) to the case of dual taxes. We study the relative effect that linear dual tax cuts have on the inequality of income distribution -a symmetrical study can be made for dual linear tax hikes-. We also introduce measures of the degree of progressivity for dual taxes and show that they can be connected to the Lorenz dominance criterion. Additionally, we study the tax liability elasticity of each of the reforms proposed. Finally, by means of a microsimulation model and a considerably large data set of taxpayers drawn from 2004 Spanish Income Tax Return population, 1) we compare different yield-equivalent tax cuts applied to the Spanish dual income tax and 2) we investigate how much income redistribution the dual tax reform (Act '35/2006') introduced with respect to the previous tax.

Keywords: Dual taxes, linear reforms, Lorenz domination, lattices



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XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers

also available at



[<http://www.recercat.net/handle/2072/12897>]



[http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/revista?tipo_busqueda=CODIGO&clave_revista=9345]



[<http://ideas.repec.org/s/xrp/wpaper.html>]