



XARXA
DE REFERÈNCIA
EN **ECONOMIA APLICADA**

Newsletter (2/2009)

30th October 2009

Newsletter (2/2009)

EDITORIAL

This is the second bulletin of the Reference Network in Applied Economics (XREAP). The objective of the bulletin is to share with you all the activities of research and technology transfer of the groups forming XREAP. These activities are reflected regularly on our web site www.pcb.ub.es/xreap from where you can access information on our seminars, conferences and congresses as well as to the full text of our working papers through which we disseminate the main results of our research.

During the second half of 2009, the activity of the network continued with impulses renewed thanks to the success achieved by the Research Groups in the network in the Call to support the activities of the research groups of Catalunya on the part of AGAUR (Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca de la Generalitat de Catalunya). In particular, the 7 groups comprising XREAP have achieved the recognition of the Catalan Government and have obtained additional funds to conduct their activities that virtually stands at 220,000 Euro. More details on the call can be found in the following website:

http://www10.gencat.net/agaur_web/AppJava/a_beca.jsp?categoria=recerca&id_beca=13601



Another achievement that we want to stress is the recent publication of a special issue of the journal *Investigaciones Regionales* (one of the top national journals in the economic field - <http://ec3.ugr.es/in-recs/acumulados/Economia-5agnos-5.htm>) with the papers presented at the “Symposium on Dynamic Entrepreneurship and Innovation: The incidence of space” co-organised by XREAP together with the Spanish Association of Regional Science (www.aecr.org) and held in Barcelona last October 8th, 2008. More details can be found on the journal’s website:

http://www.investigacionesregionales.org/web/revista_articulo.asp?IdRevista=28



Finally, we do not want to miss the opportunity to invite you to participate in the next symposium of XREAP to be held in the Facultat d'Economia i Empresa of the University of Barcelona next November 13th 2009 and related to the railway regulation in metropolitan areas, a burning issue. You can consult the detailed program and download the registration form from our website:

<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/simposi>

Martí Parellada (Director XREAP)
Raül Ramos (Secretary XREAP)



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Activities - Next Symposium (2009)

Railway Regulation in Metropolitan Areas

13th Novembre 2009

Aula Magna, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Barcelona

Avda. Diagonal 690, Barcelona

PRESENTATION

In the context of the process of liberalisation and reform of European railways, different regulatory options can be applied to the metropolitan railway systems. The main objective of the Symposium is to contribute to the debate about this reform in the context of the changes of the Spanish railway model, making it possible to connect the academic analysis with the discussion of the public policy options regarding management, finance and the introduction of competitive mechanisms.

Programme

9:30-10:00 *Registration*

10:00-10:30 *Welcome and presentation*

Martí Parellada, Director of the Reference Network in Applied Economics (XREAP)

Manel Nadal, Secretary for Mobility, Generalitat de Catalunya

Javier Asensio, Applied Economic Analysis Group (GEAP)

10:30- 11:15. *First session*

Chris Nash (Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds):

“Competitive tendering of rail passenger services - a comparison of Britain and Sweden”

11:15-12:00 *Discussió i debat*

Gustavo Nombela, Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada (FEDEA)

12:00-12:30 *Coffee break*

12:30-13:15. *Second session*

Rosario Macário (Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa):

“Adjusting Institutions and Governance for the Reform of Metropolitan Railways Systems”

13:15-14:00 *Discussion and debate*

Francesc Trillas, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

14:00-15:00 *Lunch*

15:00-17:30 *Roundtable:*

“The view of different agents about the regulation and financing of metropolitan railway services”

Javier Campos, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (*Moderador*)

Javier Carbajo, Chief Executive ALSA Group (National Express)

José Carbajo, Associate Director, Frontier Economics

Eva Granados, Vice-General Secretary, Unión General de Trabajadores de Catalunya.

Manel Villalante, General Director for Ground Transport, Generalitat de Catalunya

Un representant del Ministerio de Fomento

17:30-18:00 *Concluding remarks*

Manel Villalante, General Director for Ground Transport, Generalitat de Catalunya

Registration is free [http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/simposi/?Simposi_2009:Inscripci%F3] and it can be done at the beginning of the conference.

Simultaneous translation English-Spanish will be available.



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Activities - Seminars (2009/1)

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

Cheaper Child Care - More Children

Eva Mörk (IFAU & Uppsala University)

27/02/2009

The Max-p region problem

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

09/03/2009

CURS: Models d'agregació espacial

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

16/03/2009

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

Juan Carlos Duque (Universidad EAFIT)

23/03/2009

Federalisme Regulatori

Frances Trillas (Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona)

25/03/2009

International technological spillovers and manufacturing productivity: a panel data analysis

Jaime Sanaú (Universidad de Zaragoza)

27/03/2009

Agglomeration, Tax Competition and Fiscal Equalization

Matthias Wrede (University of Marburg)

03/04/2009

Does Tax Competetion Tame the Leviathan?

Maro Jametti (University of Lugano)

17/04/2009

Tax Competition Among U.S.States: racing to the Bottom or Riding on a Seesaw?

Daniel Wilson (Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco)

08/05/2009



Newsletter (2/2009)

Activities - Seminars (2009/2)

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

Disentangling the effects of oil shocks: the role of rigidities and monetary policy

Jesús Ruiz Andújar (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

21/05/2009

El impacto socioeconómico del deporte: métodos de análisis y evaluación

José M^a Otero (Universidad de Málaga)

25/05/2009

Federal aid and state economies: evaluating the Obama stimulus

Robert Inman (University of Pennsylvania)

18/06/2009

Competition for FDI with Vintage Investment and Agglomeration Advantages

Kai Konrad (WZB Berlin)

18/06/2009

Life cycle dynamics within metropolitan communities

Dennis Epple (Carnegie Mellon University)

19/06/2009

The economics of airport congestion

Jan K. Brueckner (University of California, Irvine)

07/07/2009

Airlines schedule competition revisited

Jan K. Brueckner (University of California, Irvine)

08/07/2009

Long-term insurance applied to health and life risks

Jean Pinquet (École Polytechnique & Université de Paris X)

10/07/2009

Indicadores de capital humano y calidad institucional

Gregorio Giménez Esteban (Universidad de Zaragoza)

23/07/2009

Delocation in the manufacturing sectors in the EU. A regional overview

Rafael Myro (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

23/07/2009



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Activities - Seminars (2009/3)

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

Una nueva metodología para medir el capital humano y las instituciones

Jaime Sanaú (Universidad de Zaragoza)

23/07/2009

CURS: Mètodes de Solució Numèrics i Anàlisi de Simulació per a Models d'Equilibri General Dinàmic i Estocàstic (DSGE)

Jesús Ruiz Andújar (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

07/09/2009

A hierarchical model for micro-level stochastic loss reserving

Katrien Antonio (Amsterdam University)

01/10/2009

Do Re-election Probabilities Influence Public Investment?

Jon H. Fiva (Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco)

02/10/2009

Innovación, educación, infraestructuras y crecimiento regional en Europa

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics & IMDEA)

16/10/2009

From public service to commodity: The de-municipalization (and re-municipalization?) of energy provision in Germany, Italy, France, the UK and Norway.

Helmut Wollman (Humboldt University)

19/10/2009

Foreign sourcing and productivity: evidence at firm level

José Carlos Fariñas (Universitat Complutense de Madrid)

23/10/2009



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Activities - Next Seminars (2009)

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

Family Types and the persistence of regional disparities in Europe

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics)

28/10/2009

Assignació justa i eficient a les escoles públiques

Antonio Miralles (European University Institute)

03/11/2009

Participating insurance contracts and the Rothschild-Stiglitz equilibrium puzzle

Pierre Picard (École Polytechnique Paris)

06/11/2009

Why do profit seeking firms do more for the environment than government laws require?.

Mathew Potoski (Iowa State University)

10/11/2009

Public services privatization and contracting out

Mathew Potoski (Iowa State University)

11/11/2009

T.B.A.

David López Rodríguez (Department of Economics - Columbia University)

24/12/2009



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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

Calonge, S. (CREB), Tejada, O.

(<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

XREAP 2009-2:

Exploring Determinants of Urban Motorcycle Accident Severity: The Case of Barcelona

Albalade, D. (PPRE-IREA), Fernández-Villadangos, L. (PPRE-IREA)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-2.pdf>)

Abstract: Public authorities and road users alike are increasingly concerned by recent trends in road safety outcomes in Barcelona, which is the European city with the highest number of registered Powered Two-Wheel (PTW) vehicles per inhabitant,. In this study we explore the determinants of motorcycle and moped accident severity in a large urban area, drawing on Barcelona's local police database (2002-2008). We apply non-parametric regression techniques to characterize PTW accidents and parametric methods to investigate the factors influencing their severity. Our results show that PTW accident victims are more vulnerable, showing greater degrees of accident severity, than other traffic victims. Speed violations and alcohol consumption provide the worst health outcomes. Demographic and environment-related risk factors, in addition to helmet use, play an important role in determining accident severity. Thus, this study furthers our understanding of the most vulnerable vehicle types, while our results have direct implications for local policy makers in their fight to reduce the severity of PTW accidents in large urban areas.



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers(2009/2)

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

XREAP 2009-3:

Assessing excess profits from different entry regulations

Borrell, J. R. (PPRE-IREA), Fernández-Villadangos, L. (PPRE-IREA)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-3.pdf>)

Abstract: Entry regulations affecting professional services such as pharmacies are common practice in many European countries. We assess the impact of entry regulations on profits estimating a structural model of entry using the information provided by a policy experiment. We use the case of different regional policies governing the opening of new pharmacies in Spain to show that structural models of entry ought to be estimated with data from policy experiments to pin down how entry regulations change payoffs functions of the incumbents. Contrary to the public interest rationales, regulations are not boosting only small town pharmacies payoffs nor increasing all pharmacies payoffs alike. The gains from regulations are very unevenly distributed, suggesting that private interests are shaping the current mix of entry and markup regulations

XREAP 2009-4:

Los salarios de los inmigrantes en el mercado de trabajo español. ¿Importa el origen del capital humano?

Sanromá, E. (IEB), Ramos, R. (AQR-IREA), Simón, H.

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

Abstract: El objetivo del trabajo es analizar el papel de los diferentes componentes del capital humano como determinantes de los ingresos de los inmigrantes recientes en el mercado de trabajo español. A partir de los microdatos de la Encuesta Nacional de Inmigrantes 2007, se examina la rentabilidad del capital humano de este colectivo, distinguiendo el adquirido en origen del acumulado en destino, así como el impacto salarial de la situación documental. La evidencia obtenida muestra que el capital humano adquirido en España tiene una mayor rentabilidad marginal que el acumulado en origen, lo que refleja la limitada transferibilidad de este último. La única excepción se da en el caso de los inmigrantes procedentes de países desarrollados o que han estudiado en España, independientemente de su procedencia, los cuales obtienen una rentabilidad de sus estudios –incluso de aquéllos cursados en origen– comparativamente elevada. Una situación legal en España está asociada, por su parte, con una sustancial prima salarial positiva (15%). Por último, el conjunto de la evidencia confirma la presencia de una fuerte heterogeneidad, tanto en la rentabilidad de las diferentes formas de capital humano como en la magnitud de la prima por trabajar legalmente, en función de la zona de origen de los inmigrantes.



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Working Papers (2009/3)

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

XREAP 2009-5:

(No)competition in the Spanish retailing gasoline market: a variance filter approach

Jiménez, J. L.; Perdiguero, J. (PPRE-IREA, XREAP)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-5.pdf>)

Abstract: Various methodologies in economic literature have been used to analyse the international hydrocarbon retail sector. Nevertheless at a Spanish level these studies are much more recent and most conclude that generally there is no effective competition present in this market, regardless of the approach used. In this paper, in order to analyse the price levels in the Spanish petrol market, our starting hypothesis is that in uncompetitive markets the prices are higher and the standard deviation is lower. We use weekly retail petrol price data from the ten biggest Spanish cities, and apply Markov chains to fill the missing values for petrol 95 and diesel, and we also employ a variance filter. We conclude that this market demonstrates reduced price dispersion, regardless of brand or city.

XREAP 2009-6:

The international trade as the sole engine of growth for an economy

Alvárez-Albelo, C.D. (CREB), Manresa, A. (CREB), Pigem-Vigo, M. (CREB)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-6.pdf>)

Abstract: Can international trade act as the sole engine of growth for an economy? If yes, what are the mechanisms through which trade operates in transmitting permanent growth? This paper answers these questions with two simple two-country models, in which only one country enjoys sustained growth in autarky. The models differ in the assumptions on technical change, which is either labour- or capital-augmenting. In both cases, the stagnant economy imports growth by trading. In the first model, growth is transmitted because of permanent increases in the trade volume. In the alternative framework, the stagnant economy imports sustained growth because its terms of trade permanently improve.



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2009/4)

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

XREAP 2009-7:

The Black Box of Business Dynamics

Callejón, M. (PPRE-IREA), Ortún, V

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-7.pdf>)

Abstract: Research in business dynamics has been advancing rapidly in the last years but the translation of the new knowledge to industrial policy design is slow. One striking aspect in the policy area is that although research and analysis do not identify the existence of an specific optimal rate of business creation and business exit, governments everywhere have adopted business start-up support programs with the implicit principle that the more the better. The purpose of this article is to contribute to understand the implications of the available research for policy design. Economic analysis has identified firm heterogeneity as being the most salient characteristic of industrial dynamics, and so a better knowledge of the different types of entrepreneur, their behavior and their specific contribution to innovation and growth would enable us to see into the 'black box' of business dynamics and improve the design of appropriate public policies. The empirical analysis performed here shows that not all new business have the same impact on relevant economic variables, and that self-employment is of quite a different economic nature to that of firms with employees. It is argued that public programs should not promote indiscriminate entry but rather give priority to able entrants with survival capacities. Survival of entrants is positively related to their size at birth. Innovation and investment improve the likelihood of survival of new manufacturing start-ups. Investment in R&D increases the risk of failure in new firms, although it improves the competitiveness of incumbents.

XREAP 2009-8:

The antecedents and innovation consequences of organizational search: empirical evidence for Spain

Lucena, A. (CREB)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-8.pdf>)

Abstract: This paper examines the antecedents and innovation consequences of the methods firms adopt in organizing their search strategies. From a theoretical perspective, organizational search is described using a typology that shows how firms implement exploration and exploitation search activities that span their organizational boundaries. This typology includes three models of implementation: ambidextrous, specialized, and diversified implementation. From an empirical perspective, the paper examines the performance consequences when applying these models, and compares their capacity to produce complementarities. Additionally, since firms' choices in matters of organizational search are viewed as endogenous variables, the paper examines the drivers affecting them and identifies the importance of firms' absorptive capacity and diversified technological opportunities in determining these choices. The empirical design of the paper draws on new data for manufacturing firms in Spain, surveyed between 2003 and 2006.



XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2009/5)

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

XREAP 2009-9:

Competition between TV Platforms

Domènech Campmajó, L. (PPRE-IREA)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-9.pdf>)

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to identify the factors that affect the market penetration of pay television by studying the competition that exists between three types of technology (satellite, cable and ADSL). We distinguish three groups of factors: the level of market competition, the level of competition in the industry and the quality of the product being offered. Our results seem to indicate that as market concentration increases, the television service can achieve greater penetration. This relationship is specifically captured by the level of intra- and inter-platform competition. We also examine the relationship between free television channels and pay television and find that as the amount of time dedicated to the broadcasting of advertising by the former increases, the number of subscribers to pay TV rises. Finally, we examine product quality by introducing the effect of holding the rights to broadcast Professional Football League matches and an HBO or Showtime produced series. Our results suggest that these variables are critical for the penetration of pay television.

XREAP 2009-10:

Health care utilization among immigrants and native-born populations in 11 European countries.

Results from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

Solé-Auró, A. (RFA-IREA); Guillén, M. (RFA-IREA); Crimmins, E. M.

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-10.pdf>)

Abstract:

Objective: This study examines health care utilization of immigrants relative to the native-born populations aged 50 years and older in eleven European countries.

Methods. We analyzed data from the Survey of Health Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) from 2004 for a sample of 27,444 individuals in 11 European countries. Negative Binomial regression was conducted to examine the difference in number of doctor visits, visits to General Practitioners (GPs), and hospital stays between immigrants and the native-born individuals.

Results: We find evidence those immigrants above age 50 use health services on average more than the native-born populations with the same characteristics. Our models show immigrants have between 6% and 27% more expected visits to the doctor, GP or hospital stays when compared to native-born populations in a number of European countries.

Discussion: Elderly immigrant populations might be using health services more intensively due to cultural reasons.



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XREAP - Joint Publications

Working Papers (2009/6)

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

XREAP 2009-11:

Small firms, growth and financial constraints

Segarra, A. (GRIT); Teruel, M. (GRIT)

(<http://www.pcb.ub.es/xreap/aplicacio/fitxers/XREAP2009-11.pdf>)

Abstract: This paper analyses the impact of different sources of finance on the growth of firms. Using panel data from Spanish manufacturing firms for the period 2000-2006, we investigate the effects of internal and external finances on firm growth. In particular, we examine three dimensions of these financial sources: a) the performance of the firms' capital structure in accordance with firm size; b) the effects of internal and external financial sources on growth performance; c) the combined effect of equity, external debt and cash flow on firm growth. We find that low-growth firms are sensitive to cash flow and short-term bank debt, while high-growth firms are more sensitive to long-term debt. Furthermore, equity capital seems to reduce barriers to external finance. Our main conclusion is that during the start-up phase, firms are unable to increase their financial leverage and so their capital structure fails to promote correct investment strategies. However, as their equity capital increases, alternative financial mechanisms, in particular long-term debt, become available, which have a positive impact on firm growth.



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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>]



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Grups of XREAP



Grup d'Anàlisi Econòmica Aplicada (GEAP)
<http://www.uab.es/>



Grup d'Anàlisi Quantitativa Regional (AQR-IREA)
<http://www.pcb.ub.es/aqr>



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Centre de Recerca en Economia del Benestar (CREB)
<http://www.eco.ub.es/~creb>



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<http://gandalf.fcee.urv.es/departaments/economia/web/english/recerca/grups/grit/>



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<http://www.ub.es/dpees/risk>

Management organisation



Fundació Bosch i Gimpera
<http://www.fbg.ub.es>



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