

THE IRISH ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IRISH ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION: BLARNEY GOLF RESORT HOTEL, BLARNEY CO CORK: 24 -26APRIL, 2009

Booking for the conference is now open: the booking form may be downloaded from the IEA Website: www.iea.ie Those who have submitted papers will be contacted by the Programme Committee before the end of February.

There will be two plenary guest lecture sessions and a special invited paper session on issues in environmental economics:

The Edgeworth Lecture (sponsored by the Central Bank of Ireland and Financial Services Authority of Ireland): Professor Paul Collier (University of Oxford): *The Political Economy of State Failure*.

The DEW/ESR Lecture: Professor James Heckman (University of Chicago and UCD Geary Institute. Title to be announced.

Full details of the conference programme will be posted on the IEA Website (www.iea.ie) as they become available.

Notice of AGM: The annual general meeting of the IEA will be held on Saturday April 25th (provisional time, 6pm) in the Blarney Golf Resort Hotel, Blarney, Co.Cork. Further details, including the agenda will be available at the conference prior to the meeting. Communications, queries to the Secretary, before Friday, March 20th .

Nominating Committee: In accordance with Article 16 of the Association's Constitution, a Nominating Committee consisting of the President, Vice-president and immediate past President will receive nominations for two council members to serve from 2009-2015, to replace Brian Lucey (TCD) and Liam Gallagher (DCU). Communications should be addressed to the Secretary before March 20th .

APPOINTMENTS, LEAVES OF ABSENCE, PROMOTIONS

Paul Gorecki has been appointed Research Professor in the ESRI, having been previously with the Competition Authority

Haiyan Wang has resigned from TCD to take a position in the Competition Authority.

Francis O'Toole is on leave from TCD from January

2009 until the end of the academic year.

Philip Lane is on leave from TCD for the academic year 2008-09

2009 IEA MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES: ANNOUNCEMENT

A new initiative by the *Economic and Social Review* to publish a policy-paper section is being supported by the

Irish Economic Association, both editorially and financially. The IEA's resources will have to be increased to meet this new commitment. While this may not seem to be an auspicious time to increase subscription rates, we should point out that these have not increased for almost 20 years. Moreover, the current economic circumstances have enhanced the need for the publication of timely and policy-relevant research.

Academic corporate members are being contacted separately about the new financial arrangements. For individuals, the subscription rate for 2009 will be increased to 60 (Stg£50), and this will include a subscription to the newly-augmented *Economic and Social Review*. The subscription renewal forms currently being sent to individual members will reflect these changes.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REVIEW: ANNOUNCEMENT

A note from Professor Karl Whelan, Editor, ESR.

Since its establishment in 1970, the *ESR* has published original academic research. However, starting this year, the Review will also publish policy-related articles. The articles in the policy section will be distinct from regular *ESR* articles in being focused, not on developing new academic findings, but on using existing research and other evidence to contribute to debates on key issues related to economic and social policy. The articles should be evidence based, rather than opinion pieces, and will go through a full refereeing process.

The need for a forum for academic debate on policy issues has long been recognised in other countries. In the US, there is a wide range of different publications that meet this need, such as the *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*. For the UK, there is also a range of such publications, such as the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*. In recent years we have also seen new developments in other countries to meet this perceived need.

In smaller countries, it is more difficult to run a publication which is restricted purely to policy because there are fewer professional economists and social policy analysts working on domestic policy issues and the smaller scale makes it difficult to support successfully multiple outlets for relevant policy papers of good quality. However, in such countries there is still a need for at least one high quality forum for papers on economic and social policy that will provide proper quality control through a peer-review process. This is particularly true for Ireland at this point in its history. As we confront enormous economic and social challenges resulting from the sharp downturn in economic activity, there is

a clear need for careful analysis of public policy.

Previously, outlets such as the *Irish Banking Review* and the ESRI's *Quarterly Economic Commentary* provided outlets for policy-focused papers in Ireland. However, the *IBR* ceased publication a number of years ago. More recently, the ESRI communicated a desire to transfer its role in this area to a non-ESRI publication outlet. Given these developments, it seemed appropriate that the *ESR* should expand its remit to include the publication of policy-focused papers. This was discussed at the Councils of the *ESR* and the IEA during 2008, and a decision was reached to introduce policy papers into the *Review* starting this year.

In expanding the journal's remit, I would stress that the core value of high academic standards will remain and that the peer review process will continue to be rigorously applied.

DOCTORAL STUDIES IN ECONOMICS

Dublin Economics PhD

The TCD Department of Economics, the UCD School of Economics, and the NUIM Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting are launching a joint PhD programme in Economics. This programme, financed in part by the generosity of IRCHSS/GREP and SIF2/DRHEA grants, harnesses the strengths of the three institutions by providing students pursuing a PhD in Economics.

The programme will feature the combined expertise of the participating departments, a broad range of PhD level courses in both core and field areas, specialist research seminars, master classes conducted by local and international experts, skill seminars tailored specifically to needs, the possibility of inter-university supervision, and a large community of peers and colleagues.

Those interested in pursuing a Dublin Economics PhD can apply either to our individual programs through the usual channels, or directly to the Dublin Economics Programme. A website with additional information is under construction and will go live in March

RECENT WORKING PAPERS.

UCD CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

Working Papers represent preliminary reports on research in progress and should not be cited without permission from the authors. Papers may be downloaded from the School of Economics website:
<http://www.ucd.ie/economics/research.htm>

WP08/22: Cormac Ó Gráda: "How the Poor (and not-so-poor) Saved: Savings Banks in Mid-Nineteenth Century Ireland and America", October 2008

WP08/23: Fergal McCann: "Business Networks and Inward FDI Policy", November 2008. WP08/24: Cormac Ó Gráda: "Researching the Early History of Savings Banks in New York and in Ireland", December 2008.

WP09/01: Derek Bond, Michael J Harrison and Edward J O'Brien: "Exploring Long Memory and Nonlinearity in Irish Real Exchange Rates using Tests based on Semiparametric Estimation", January 2009.

WP09/02: José J Escarce and Kanika Kapur: "Do Patients Bypass Rural Hospitals? Determinants of Inpatient Hospital Choice in Rural California", January 2009.

WP09/03: Robert W Fairlie, Kanika Kapur and Susan Gates: "Is Employer-Based Health Insurance a Barrier to Entrepreneurship?", January 2009.

WP09/04: Ronald B Davies and Johannes Voget: "Tax Competition in an Expanding European Union", January 2009.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

No 279, February 2009: "International Transmission of Business Cycles Between Ireland and its Trading Partners", Jean Goggin, Iulia Siedschlag.

No 277, February 2009: "Energy Use and Appliance Ownership in Ireland", Eimear Leahy, Sean Lyons.

No 278, February 2009: "Optimal Global Dynamic Carbon Taxation", David Anthoff.

No 276, January 2009: "Discounting for Climate Change", David Anthoff, Richard S J Tol, Gary W Yohe (Wesleyan University, USA)

No 275, January 2009: "Projecting the Future Numbers of Migrant Workers in the Health and Social Care Sectors in Ireland", Alan Barrett, Anna Rust (NUIG).

No 274, January 2009: "Economic Costs of Extratropical Storms Under Climate Change: An Application of FUND", Daju Narita, Daju (Kiel Institute for the World Economy), Richard S J Tol, David Anthoff.

No 273, January 2009: "The Macro-Economic Impact of Changing the Rate of Corporation Tax", Thomas Conefrey, John Fitz Gerald.

No 272, January 2009: "The Games We Used to Play: An Application of Survival Analysis to the Sporting Life-course", Pete Lunn.

No 271, December 2008: "Exploring the Economic Geography of Ireland", Edgar Morgenroth.

No 270, December 2008: "Benchmarking, Social Partnership and Higher Remuneration: Wage Settling Institutions and the Public-Private Sector Wage Gap in Ireland", Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Philip J O'Connell.

No 269, December 2008: "A Dynamic Analysis of Household Car Ownership in Ireland" Anne Nolan.

No 268, December 2008: "The Determinants of Mode of Transport to Work in the Greater Dublin Area", Nicola Commins, Anne Nolan.

No 267, December 2008: "Resonances from "Economic Development" for Current Economic Policymaking", Frances Ruane.

No 266, December 2008: "The Impact of Wage Bargaining Regime on Firm-Level Competitiveness and Wage Inequality: The Case of Ireland", Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly, Philip J O'Connell.

No 265, November 2008: "Poverty in Ireland in Comparative European Perspective", Christopher T Whelan, Bertrand Maitre.

TRINITY ECONOMIC PAPERS

TCD economic papers may be downloaded from:
<http://econpapers.repec.org/paper/tcdtcduee/>

TCD IIS discussion papers may be downloaded from:
<http://www.tcd.ie/iis/pages/publications/discpaperseries.php>

The IIS DP Series is an electronic-only discussion paper series. Papers in the series can be downloaded from the IIS website in Acrobat PDF format. This is a 'pre-publication' series: it is expected that papers will subsequently be submitted for publication in an academic journal or other final destination. It is nonexclusive: you are free to also release a submitted paper in other outlets (e.g. a departmental series, an external series, or on your personal web page.) The IIS DP series is also distributed via a number of internet-based libraries of electronic discussion papers.

UCC WORKING PAPERS.

These may be downloaded from:
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/economics/research/workingpaperseries/downloads/>

Recent papers:

No 08-06: Robert Butler, Meadhbh Sherman:

"Government Support for Horse Racing Ireland: The Allocation and Distribution of Public Funds". No 08-02:

Edward Shinnick, Brian Turner: "The Development of the Irish Private Health Insurance Market and Evidence of Selection Effects Therein".

No 08-01: José Antonio Carrasco-Gallego: "The Spanish Autarky and the Marshall Plan. A Welfare Loss Analysis".

CENTRAL BANK TECHNICAL PAPERS

Technical papers are available on:

http://www.centralbank.ie/frame_main.asp?pg=pub_tech.asp&nv=pub_nav.asp

Recent Technical Papers:

November 2008, 9/RT/08: "Now-casting Irish GDP", Antonello D'Agostino, Kieran McQuinn and Derry O'Brien.

November 2008, 8/RT/08: "Quantifying the Impact of Oil Prices on Inflation" Colin Bermingham.

October 2008, 7/RT/08: "Wage Inflation and Structural Unemployment in Ireland", Mary J. Keeney.

September 2008, 6/RT/08 Where do Firms Export, How Much and Why? (293.43 KB PDF)
Martina Lawless and Karl Whelan

NUI MAYNOOTH WORKING PAPER SERIES

Available from:

<http://economics.nuim.ie/research/workingpapers/index.shtml>

Recent papers:

N1991208: Ivan Pastine, Tuvana Pastine, "Politician Preferences, Law-Abiding Lobbyists and Caps on Political Lobbying", December 2008.

N1981108: Thomas J. Flavin, Ekaterini Panopoulou, Deren Unalmis: "On the stability of domestic financial market linkages in the presence of time-varying volatility", November 2008.

N1971108: Gerda Dewit, Dermot Leahy: "Tax uniformity: A commitment device for restraining opportunistic behaviour", November 2008.

ECONOMICS WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

While seminar speakers and times may be scheduled several weeks or months in advance, details of topics and paper titles tend to be announced at relatively short notice. Details are usually available on Departmental or other relevant websites. Instead of listing a large number of untitled seminars, we will provide a guide to normal meeting times and venues as well as information on the relevant web addresses from which up-to-date information may be obtained.

UCD: Seminars are normally on Fridays at 3.30 pm in Room G214, Arts Building, Belfield. The organiser for 2008-09 is Professor Ron Davies (ronald.davies@ucd.ie). Seminar schedule is on the UCD website at:

<http://www.ucd.ie/economics/semweb/Sem%200809/Seminar%20Schedule%200809%20Sem%20II.htm>

TCD SEMINARS

Seminars are held from 1 to 2 pm in IIIS Seminar Room, unless otherwise indicated

<http://www.tcd.ie/Economics/Seminars/>

NUI MAYNOOTH.

Seminars are normally held in The Edgeworth Room, Department of Economics:

Visiting, Fridays at 3.30pm

Internal: Mondays 1pm

<http://economics.nuim.ie/seminars/DeptSeminars0809.shtml>

UCC SEMINARS

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/economics/research/seminars/>

NUI, GALWAY SEMINARS.

<http://www.economics.nuig.ie/whatsnew/newslist.php>

Seminars are normally held on Fridays at 2pm in Lecture Hall 1, St. Anthony's, Cairnes Building.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK SEMINARS

All seminars will take place from 2pm to 3pm in room E1 017 in UL.

ESRI SEMINARS

Venue: ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin

CONFERENCES

23-24 April, 2009: Conference on Culture, the State and the Wealth of Nations: Case Studies of Ireland and Scotland. Further information from Professor John O'Hagan (johagan@tcd.ie)

June 16th to 20th, 2009: 10th annual meeting of the Association for Public Economic Theory (PET 09) will be held at NUI Galway. Keynote speakers will be: Ehud Kalai (Northwestern University) Hubert Kempf (Banque de France) Andreu Mas-Colell (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) (to be confirmed)

While a strong percentage of the papers presented will be in public economic theory, there will also be presentations from other areas, such as macro-economics, experimental economics, environmental economics, game theory, international trade, industrial organization, etc.

Submissions are invited in all areas of public economics at the following web

address:<http://www.accessecon.com/pubs/PET09/>

October 13th, 2009: ESRI/FFS conference: Budget Perspectives 2010: Call for Papers. Abstracts must be received by Friday 13th February, and will be reviewed by an editorial committee comprising Frances Ruane (Director, ESRI), Donal de Buitelir (Chair, FFS Projects Committee) and Tim Callan (Editor, Budget Perspectives). Full draft papers will be due by Friday 29th May. Submissions should be sent to: Tim Callan (tim.callan@esri.ie), ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

INFORMATION FOR FUTURE ISSUES:

Contact John Sheehan: e-mail john.sheehan@ucd.ie