News from the Department

• Hans Koster won the *JOEG* (Journal of Economic Geography) Best Referee Award 2016. This award is given annually to the referees used in the previous year who, in the views of the Editors, have made an outstanding contribution to *JOEG* in terms of the number of reviews provided, speed of response, and quality and helpfulness of the comments.

• On October 27-28, the departmental ‘Heidag’ took place at hotel Kontakt der Kontinenten in Soesterberg. Main topics were data & research integrity, innovative teaching, and research cooperation. The evening programme consisted of a pop quiz. The morning after, department strategies – the RE-SWOT – were discussed. The results will be presented at the next departmental meeting.

• Visit our website and read former STREEM student Jos de Vries’ blog on associations of entrepreneurs and the free-rider problem, based on his master thesis *Should we allow Business Districts to raise their own Taxes? The Economic Impacts of Business Improvement Districts in the Netherlands*.

• You are cordially invited for Christmas Dinner at 13 December. If you did not sign up yet, please do – 6 December is the deadline.

In the Media

Research on the growing costs of soil subsidence (authored by among others Bart Rijken, Eric Koomen and Vasco Diogo) was discussed in the 8 o’clock news of 24 November 2016 (starting at 3:29). Download the report itself.

Solutions for traffic jams - Erik Verhoef in the 8 o’clock news of 23 November, 2016 (starting at 9:15).
Eric Pels spoke on the new strategy of Air France-KLM in the 8 o'clock news of 3 November, 2016 (item starts at 17:00).

Request: Spreading the word about our Master

Dear Colleagues,

We hope to increase the number of (international and Dutch) students for our master. It would be great if all of you could make an effort in spreading the word about our MSc Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics, for example by contacting colleagues with whom you cooperate at other universities, or by posting on social media. Especially for our Asian colleagues: I would like you to act as ambassadors for our Master, since western media not always reach your countries. Please note that the official program name STREEM is still in place, but we have plans to replace the confusing word "spatial" with a more known phrase "urban and regional". Another small change which we plan to make to the programme is that students can specialise in one of the three main disciplines.

Kind regards, Jos van Ommeren

Upcoming Events

- **PhD Defense**
  9 January, 13:45, Aula
  Ioannis Tikoudis: “Urban second-best road pricing: spatial general equilibrium perspectives”
  Promotors: Prof. dr. Erik Verhoef and Prof. dr. Jos van Ommeren

- **Eureka Seminars**
  12 January, 13:00-14:00
  Eveline van Leeuwen & Erik Ansink

  9 February, 13:00-14:00
  Bo Andree & Hans Koster

More information: G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl

- **Spatial Economics Seminar at the Tinbergen Institute**
  8 December, 12:15-13.15. Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01
  Stephane Straub (Toulouse 1 University Capitole, France)
15 December, 12:15-13:15. Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01
Antoine Dechezlepretre (London School of Economics, UK)

19 January, 12:15-13:15. Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01
Corrado Di Maria (University of East Anglia, UK)

16 February, 12:15-13:15. Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01
Rainald Borck (University of Potsdam, Germany)

23 February, 12:15-13:15. Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01
Arthur van Benthum (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

More information: S.Poelhekke@vu.nl

Staff

Welcome!

**Mustafa Kızıltan** is a PhD candidate from Hacettepe University, Turkey. He will stay for 6 months as a visiting researcher under the supervision of Jos van Ommeren. Mustafa’s research interests cover agglomerations, regional disparities and their relationships with public policies.

**Teodóra Szép** is from Hungary and finished her MSc in Economics at VU University. She joined our department as researcher on the topic pf the taxation of electric company cars under monopolistic competition and welfare effects in the medium run. Her supervisor is Paul Koster.

**Guangwen Song** is a visiting PhD student from Sun Yat-sen University, Guang Zhou, China. He will be staying for one year, and works under the supervision of Wim Bernasco on the relationship between citizens’ routine activities and thefts.
Goodbye...

Kenmei Tsubota left for his home country Japan. He spent a one year sabbatical at our department. Kenmei is research fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO (Chiba, Japan).

In line with the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Fellowship, Ceren Ozgen took up a joint position at the Department of Economics and IRiS, University of Birmingham, UK.

Upcoming Conferences: Dates & Deadlines

The 7th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association will be held in Copenhagen on May 26-27. Deadline for paper submission: 15 January, 2017

The NECTAR 2017 Conference on ‘Transport in a Networked Society’ will be held in Madrid from 31 May-2 June. Deadline for abstract submissions: 16 January, 2017

The EAERE 2017 Conference will be held in Athens, Greece, from 28 June to 1 July. Deadline for paper submissions: 31 January, 2017

The 57th ERSA Congress on ‘Social Progress for Resilient Regions’ will be held in Groningen from 29 August-1 September. Deadline for submission of draft papers and extended abstracts: February 10, 2017

The ITEA Annual Conference and School on Transportation Economics will be held in Barcelona on 19-21 June (School) and 21-23 June (Conference), 2017.

Publications

In the Spotlight

Wim Bernasco, Thomas de Graaff, Jan Rouwendal and Wouter Steenbeek had their paper on Social Interactions and Crime Revisited: An Investigation Using Individual Offender Data accepted for publication in Review of Economics and Statistics. An earlier version of the paper can be found here.
Journal Articles (1 September – 2 December 2016)


Berg, V.A.C. van den & Rouwendal, J. (2016). Tender auctions with existing operators bidding. Economics of Transportation, 6 (June), 1-10. doi: 10.1016/j.ecotra.2016.05.001


Ploeg, F. van der (2016). *Climate Change Economics Reacting to multiple tipping points. Nature Climate Change, 6* (5), 442-443. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2962


Tol, R.S.J. (2016). The impacts of climate change according to the IPCC. *Climate Change Economics, 7* (1). doi: 10.1142/S2010007816400042


**Working Papers (1 September – 2 December 2016)**

