News from the Department

The Master in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics (STREEM) scores 4.2 (on a five-point scale) according to the results of the NSE (National Student Questionnaire) 2016. Students are particularly pleased with the teaching staff, the scientific training, and the group size. The score indicates that STREEM is one of the best performing masters in the Netherlands. [Read more.]

Gerard van der Meijden obtained tenure as Assistant Professor as of May 1, 2016. He started working at VU Amsterdam in December 2011 as postdoctoral researcher on climate change economics within the ERC advanced Grant project on Green Paradoxes. He got a PhD from Tilburg University on his dissertation ‘The macroeconomic dynamics of trade liberalization, resource exploitation, and backstop technologies’.

On April 21-22, the TI/ERC Conference on Combating Climate Change, Lessons from Macroeconomics, Political Economy and Public Finance was held at the Tinbergen Institute. The conference marked the completion of the ERC Advanced Grant ‘Combating Climate Change – Political Economy of Green Paradoxes’, directed by Cees Withagen and Rick van der Ploeg. Key note lectures were given by Geoffrey Heal (Columbia University) and Hans-Werner Sinn (CESifo). There were 54 presentations altogether and around 70 people attended the conference. The European Economic Review and Environmental and Resource Economics will devote special issues to the conference. Cees Withagen’s valedictory lecture on ‘Green and Gray Paradoxes’ concluded the conference.

Henk Scholten, Scientific Director of the Spatial Information laboratory (SPINlab) at the Department of Spatial Economics of VU Amsterdam, has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Geospatial Media and Communications for the year 2015. Having very unique social characteristics and instincts, Henk has immensely contributed in overall development of GIS and geospatial community worldwide. [Continue reading.]

On May 23, 2016, a special issue of Tijdschrift Vervoerswetenschap (vol. 52, no. 1, in Dutch) appeared on the results of the I-PR hi-PRiSM (Innovative Pricing for Sustainable Mobility) project, of which Erik Verhoef is programme leader. The special issue covers a number of subjects:
- psychological effects of price incentives;
- the role of national newspapers in the policy debate on road pricing and kilometre charge
- modelling transport pricing with multiple actors;
- road pricing, why urban labour- and housing markets matter.
On May 26, the Spatial Economics sports event took place. Under guidance of running expert Theo, a hash run was held in the Amsterdamse Bos. Afterwards drinks and dinner were served at Restaurant De Bosbaan. With special thanks to Cooky Monster (Jesper de Groote and Jamie Chen) for organizing this event. Click to see more pictures.

Upcoming Events

Save the date: RE Away-day on 27-28 October
The RE Away-day (Heidag) is scheduled for Thursday 27 – Friday 28 October. So please save the date! Preparations have now started, in a small task force consisting of Thomas de Graaff, Gerard van der Meijden, Eveline van Leeuwen and Erik Verhoef. Further information will follow well on time.

Spatial Economics Seminars at the Tinbergen Institute

September 29

Maria Sanchez-Vidal (LSE)

Title: TBA
Time: 12.15-13.15 hrs
Location: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, Gustav Mahlerplein 117, 1082 MS Amsterdam

More information: S.Poelhekke@vu.nl

Staff

Welcome...

As of April 1, 2016, Mathias Schläffer started working as PhD within the project U-Smile (Urban Smart Measures and Incentives for quality of Life Enhancement) under supervision of Erik Verhoef. Mathias worked as part-time research assistant at our department this year, and completed the master’s programme of STREEM in 2015. He studied Business administration and Economics in Berlin before.

Devi Brands joined the department as a PhD student with the project IP-SUNTAN (Innovative Policies for Sustainable Urban TrAnsportation). He will be working on behavioural modelling of commuters, under supervision of Erik Verhoef. He obtained a master’s degree in Spatial, Transport & Environmental Economics and one in Earth Science & Economics, both here at VU University.
**Rixt Bijker** joined our department as a postdoc researcher. She will work together with Eveline van Leeuwen on a project studying the effect of dynamic social networks on community participation using a discrete choice experiment. She obtained a PhD in Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen with a thesis on migration to rural areas. She holds a Msc in Sociology and a Msc in Cultural Geography, both from the University of Groningen.

As of April, **Heleen Duinker** is working as researcher for SPINlab in the field of digital humanities. Graduated in Mediterranean Archaeology and Ancient History in Groningen, she started to work on several research projects conducted within the framework of **CLUE+** (Research Institute for Culture, History and Heritage).

**Jacques Poot** is Professor of Population Economics, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato, New Zealand. Every year Jacques visits our university. He will be here from June to August.

**Gilberto Mahumane** is researcher and lecturer at the Eduardo Mondlane University, department of Energy Planning and & Environment, Maputo, Mozambique. Gilberto will visit our department from June to August.

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**Publications** January-June 2016


The next *Spatial Economics Newsletter* will appear in September 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=2Qt1j8GH21VrQXG0R39DK6qkyNb7wtJpQpJrHF8gKhsIQ151qln6I732445808?moduleOfOrigin=personal