New posts on spatialeconomics.nl

The influence of Airbnb on the housing market

Mozambiques’ energy future

Detecting and anticipating early signs of famines

News from the Department

Erik Verhoef, Jos van Ommeren and Jan Rouwendal in ESB Top 40

In the ESB Top 40 Best Dutch economists, our department is well represented: Erik Verhoef occupies the 12th, Jos van Ommeren the 13th, and Jan Rouwendal the 36th place. Not only our department, but also VU in general is doing exceptionally well. Of all universities in the Netherlands, VU has the most economists (10) in the ESB Top 40 Best Dutch Economists, followed by Erasmus University Rotterdam (9), and Tilburg University (6). The Top 40 is published annually by Economisch Statistische Berichten (ESB). More information.

New research project: U-PASS

The research project U-PASS (Urban Public Administration and ServiceS innovation for Innovative Urban Mobility Management and Policy) brings together researchers from VU, Leeds University, Beijing Jiaotong University, Zhejiang University, and the Beijing Transport Research Institute. U-PASS, led by Erik Verhoef, addresses the world-wide shared desire and need for more efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable urban transport, with a focus on policies and services such as tradable credits schemes, automated vehicles, electric driving, ride sharing, car sharing, and cycling. The project will last for four years and is funded by the NSFC JPI Urban Europe programme.
New research project: SIMETRI
The research project SIMETRI (SustaInable Mobility and Equality in mega-ciTy Regions: patterns, mechanisms and governance) brings together researchers from UCL, Birkbeck University of London, King’s College London, VU Spatial Economics, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen Institute of Research and Innovation, The University of Hong Kong and Sun Yat-sen University. SIMETRI will develop a world-class science platform relevant to political decision-makers responsible for housing, transport, employment and urban development in the world’s biggest mega-city region, the Pearl River Delta Greater Bay Area. The platform integrates work on inequality indicators and predicting future land use and transport developed in western Europe in London and the Randstad with related work in Shenzhen and Guangzhou, producing a system that will use state-of-the-art simulation models, big data from routine transport, and new ways of using information technology for participatory governance. Within the project, Eric Koomen is responsible for developing the land use and transport modelling environment. SIMETRI is funded by the NSFC JPI Urban Europe programme.

Vanguard Fellowship for Hans Koster and Ceren Ozgen
This autumn, Hans Koster and former colleague Ceren Ozgen were awarded the IAS (Institute of Advanced Studies) Vanguard Fellowship of the University of Birmingham for their research proposal on ‘Skills Mismatch’. The Vanguard Fellowship Programme aims to attract outstanding early and mid-career researchers from global leading institutions, operating at the cutting edge of their disciplines, to work collaboratively with colleagues at the University of Birmingham. Research focuses on new and existing areas - topics that are timely, relevant, address national and international priorities, and cross disciplinary boundaries. >> Read more.

Climate policy publication
This year, the Royal Association of Economics (Koninklijke Vereniging voor de Staathuishoudkunde, KVS) devoted its annual ‘Preadviezen’ to Climate Policy. The book presents accessible policy oriented contributions to the consequences of climate change and associated policy challenges in a national and international context. With this publication, the authors – among which Henri de Groot, Marjan Hofkes, Steven Poelhekke, Cees Withagen, Gerard van der Meijden, Jeroen van den Bergh, Rick van der Ploeg, and former colleague Daan van Soest – aim to contribute to effective climate policy making for current and future generations.

New job and Maurice Strong Legacy Scholarship for Jamie Chen
Jamie Chen started to work as researcher at Sun Yat-sen University (Shuhai, China) in November, but she will continue her position as visiting researcher at our department. More good news about Jamie: she was awarded the Maurice Strong Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship amounts to 9000 euros, intended to mainly cover travel expenses and other research-related costs, allowing Jamie to work at the CNR-IRISS institute in Naples (Italy) on a research project entitled ‘social media big data and knowledge transfer to the tourism economy’. 
Upcoming Events

Eureka Seminars
(held on Thursdays from 12:15-13:15, location flexible)

20 December, room HG-01A32
Cees Withagen: ‘The social cost of the Ramsey Rule’
Mathieu Steijn: ‘Dynamic coagglomeration’

21 February:
Peter Mulder: ‘Does a growing population density impedes the renewable energy transition in developing countries? A spatial model and evidence for Indonesia’
Arjen Trinks: ‘Climate policy uncertainty & risk management’

21 March:
Francis Ostermeijer

Titles and locations, if not given: TBA
More information: G.C.vanderMeijden@vu.nl

Spatial Economics Seminar at the Tinbergen Institute
(Location: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, room 1.01)

10 January, 12:15-13:15 Tim Rogers (University of Bath, UK)
24 January, 13:15-14:15: Mathias Thoenig (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Titles: TBA
More information: H.Koster@vu.nl or M.D.Konig@vu.nl

Staff

Welcome…

Leon Bremer is student assistant for the Master's program in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics, supervised by Jos van Ommeren. In addition, Leon is second-year MPhil student at the Tinbergen Institute. His research focuses on technological change and the environment.
Eva Geerlings is master student in geo-information at Utrecht University and joined EduGIS – a platform for geo-information technologies in education – as student assistant for one day a week. She is responsible for adding relevant data to the map-application and for performing promotional activities.

Fenneke van der Poll, a recent STREEM graduate, joined the department as research assistant under supervision of Peter Mulder. Her research covers two topics: how does the spatial distribution of energy affects economic growth? Secondly, she investigates Zipf’s law.

In October Elisa Binnerts joined our department. Elisa assists Eric Pels with organizing the 23rd ATRS (Air Transport Research Society) World Conference, which will take place at VU Amsterdam from 2-5 July 2019.

Apeksha Tare joined our department as researcher under supervision of Jan Rouwendal. Her research relates to the evolution of commercial real estate prices in big cities and the impact of the Noord-Zuid Lijn on the retail character in Amsterdam. She recently obtained her Master’s degree (cum laude) in Spatial Economics from the VU. She holds a Master’s degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Qing Li will join our department as visiting scholar for 12 months under supervision of Erik Verhoef. She received her doctor’s degree in systems science from Beijing Jiaotong University (Beijing) and is now associate professor at Shandong University of Science and Technology, (Qingdao). Her research focuses on transportation big data and reliability.
Goodbye…

Steven Poelhekke has moved to New Zealand to take up a position as Professor of Economics at the University of Auckland. Among his new duties is to teach master and PhD level development economics and a bachelor course in international finance, and direct the economics PhD program. He will also become director of New Zealand’s APEC Study Centre, a government-funded research centre hosted by the University of Auckland and dedicated to the member economies of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). He will stay affiliated to the Department of Spatial Economics at the VU.

Party crew member and researcher Jesper de Groote found a job at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment as data analyst per 12 November. Besides researcher with a focus on parking and chess player, he is also Formula 1 expert, witness his recent book, published by Epsilon. Jesper can be contacted on jdgroote@minszw.nl.

In the media (in Dutch)

✓ ‘Onzinnige getallen rond opwarming aarde’ (Richard Tol in De Telegraaf, 3 December, 2018)
✓ Nederlandse economen pleiten voor CO2-taks, anders is het klimaatakkoord verloren (Jeroen van den Bergh, Steven Poelhekke, Rick van der Ploeg, Marjan Hofkes, Henri de Groot, Cees Withagen, 29 November, 2018)
✓ Over het project U-SMILE (Erik Verhoef, Verdus.nl, 26 November, 2018)
✓ Files en rekeningrijden (Erik Verhoef in Zondag met Lubach, 11 November 2018)
✓ ‘Voer belasting op CO2 uitstoot geleidelijk in’ (Steven Poelhekke in Financieel Dagblad, 15 November, 2018)
✓ Help beam asphalt this time as well? (Erik Verhoef in NRC, 13 November, 2018)
✓ Het aantal files zal alleen nog meer groeien. Wat te doen? (Erik Verhoef on NOS Journaal, 30 October, 2018)
✓ Probeer het gedrag van automobilisten te veranderen om het fileprobleem op te lossen (Erik Verhoef on RTL Nieuws Half Acht, 30 October, 2018, item starting on 16:53)
✓ Recept tegen verkeersinfarct: aan het eind van de file gas erop (Erik Verhoef in Financieel Dagblad, 29 October, 2018)
✓ Vanuit Spangen: de effecten van het Vogelaarwijkenbeleid (interview with Hans Koster on Radio Een Vandaag, 17 September, 2018)
Key publications (21 June-21 November, 2019)

Journal articles


**Working papers**


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