NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

STREEM scores high according to the results of the NSE 2015
The Master programme Spatial Transport and Environmental Economics (STREEM) has received a very favourable overall judgement of 4.43 (on a five-point scale) in the latest NSE (National Student Questionnaire). Students expressed in particular that they are pleased with the scientific training in the master (4.37), and with the teaching staff (4.18).

Henk Scholten has been invited to accept the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science of the Manchester Metropolitan University. This invitation is in recognition of his distinguished achievements in the fields of education, business and research. The official ceremony will take place on July, 22, 2015 in Manchester.

On June, 22, 2015, Hans Koster and Jos van Ommeren will be awarded the Urban Land Institute Award for their paper "Is the sky the limit? High-rise buildings and office rents". The ceremony will take place in London. The prize (£5,000), generously funded by the ULI, is awarded annually to the authors of the best paper published in the Journal of Economic Geography in the previous calendar year. The paper can be downloaded here: http://joeg.oxfordjournals.org/content/14/1/125.short

On April 9 and 10, a successful ERC-OPTION Conference was held at the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam on the theme of “Industrial Organization in Transport Network Markets”. The conference marked the end of the OPTION (Optimizing Policies for Transport: accounting for Industrial Organization in Network markets) project, which run from May 1, 2010 to May 1, 2015. The research was financed by the ERC (European Research Council), Advanced Grant. The conference programme consisted of 36 presentations related to the theme of OPTION. All OPTION researchers from our department presented their work carried out within the framework of the project. Another 23 world leading experts in the field presented their research along the lines of the theme of the programme. More information – including the papers presented – can be found here.
On March 1, 2015, **Martin Adler** won the GfR Böventer Prize for his presentation on “Does public transport reduce car travel externalities?” The prize was awarded during the **49th Gesellschaft fuer Regionalforschung GfR Conference in Igls, Austria** and is given for the best presentation by a young author.

In March, 2015, **Raymond Florax** (Associate Professor) and **Jacques Poot** (Visiting Professor) were elected Fellow of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) in recognition of their lifetime contributions to the scholarship of regional science. The RSAI Fellows are distinguished scholars, selected in recognition of a proven and recognized research record in the field of Regional Science during a considerable part of their scientific career. Jacques Poot and Raymond Florax are two out of the three scholars from around the globe who have been selected for this honour this year. More information can be found at [http://www.regionalscience.org](http://www.regionalscience.org)

**IN THE MEDIA...**

**Erik Verhoef** explained the growing number of traffic jams despite an increase in asphalt in the **NOS News** of April 1, 2015 (in Dutch, starting after 7.45 minutes). According to Erik, the economy is growing, leading to an increase in goods transport and commuter traffic. In addition, when extra capacity reduces traffic jams in the short run, this diminishes incentives to avoid the rush hours in the longer run.


**Jesper de Groote** published a book on the technologies in Formula 1 in May. It contains tables, formulas and computations that should allow better informed discussions on Formula 1 racing. An interview with Jesper on his book appeared in **Gooi en Eemlander** on May 21 (in Dutch).
UPCOMING EVENTS

PhD Defenses

June 24, 2015, 9.45 hrs, Aula – VU University
**Tessa Eikelboom**: “Interactive geodesign tools to support regional adaptation planning”

Eureka Seminars

11 June, 2015
**Raymond Florax**: Difference-in-Differences Techniques for Spatial Data: Local Autocorrelation and Spatial Interaction
**Rick van der Ploeg**: Simple Rules for the Optimal Price of Carbon and Cumulative Carbon Budget
Location: 9A-32. Time: 12.30-13.30 hrs, lunch included

More information: H.R.A.Koster@vu.nl or G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl

Spatial Economics Seminars at the Tinbergen Institute

(Location: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, Gustav Mahlerplein 117, 1082 MS Amsterdam, Time: 12.00-13.00 hrs)

October 12, 2015
**David Genesove** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Titles: TBA
More information: S.Poelhekke@vu.nl

TE-Lunch Seminars

June 25, 2015
Time: 13.00-14.00 hrs
**Caspar Chorus** (TU Delft)

Title and location: TBA
More information: P.R.Koster@vu.nl

STAFF

Welcome...

**Jorge Díaz-Lanchas** is a PhD Student from Madrid (Economic Analysis Department, Autonomous University of Madrid). He is a visiting researcher at our department, and will stay until mid-August. Jorge’s research topics are city-trade flows and spatial development.
Gerben de Jong will officially start as a PhD Student on September 1, 2015, but will be around already this summer. His PhD is a multidisciplinary project, covering both spatial economics and marketing. Gerben’s research focuses on the modelling of consumer choice in air travel markets, in particular with the influence of latent attitudes and perceptions on choice outcomes along with the related modelling challenges.

Achim Vogt is part-time PhD candidate, supervised by Henri de Groot. His research topic relates to cost-benefit aspects of non-tariff measures (NTMs) in international trade. In addition to the VU, Achim works at Ecorys, where he coordinates the FP7 project PRONTO – related to his PhD topic.

Sanne Hettinga joined our department to work on making mathematical environmental models in a 3D environment. She obtained a bachelor degree in physics at the AUC in Amsterdam and specialized in Energy Science during her masters in Utrecht.

Elena Calegari is from Piacenza (Italy). She took the STREEM Master’s degree last year and is now a PhD student at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. Her research interests are Spatial Interaction Models for commuting flows. Elena will stay at our department until the end of October.

Goodbye...

Achim Czerny will leave our department and start a new position as Associate Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies in July this year.

BLOGS

Hans Koster has a monthly blog on www.economie.nl. Topics are: urban economics, space, transport, environment. For example: http://www.economie.nl/weblog/onze-steden-de-wereldtop-over-%E2%80%98agenda-stad%E2%80%99-ruimtelijk-beleid-en-leefbaarheid-van-steden.

Do you have a blog on an interesting topic? Then please share this through the Spatial Economics Newsletter.

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Journal articles


Bernasco, W., Johnson, S.D. & Ruiter, S. (2015). Learning where to offend: Effects of past on future burglary locations. Applied Geography, 60(June), 120-129. 10.1016/j.apgeog.2015.03.014


Dementyeva, M., Koster, P.R. & Verhoef, E.T. (2015). Regulation of road accident externalities when insurance companies have market power. Journal of Urban Economics, 86(March), 1-8. 10.1016/j.jue.2014.11.001


**Working papers / Preprints**


The next *Spatial Economics Newsletter* will appear in September 2015.

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?3b%3bsessionid=2Qt1J8GH21VrQXG0R39DK6qkyNb7wtJpQPjRfH8gKhsIQ151qln6L732445808?moduleOfOrigin=personal