A liveable, safe, fair, sustainable, accessible and inclusive city. That was the topic of the ‘Inclusive Smart Cities by Design’ conference, which took place on Thursday 20 June in the Johan Cruijff ArenA in Amsterdam. Speakers from the government, the corporate world, education, research institutes and city residents gathered in order to discuss how to create a better and nicer place to live in - together. The department of Spatial Economics was well represented by SpinLab’s director Henk Scholten, who was one of the initiators of the conference and lead a workshop on Smart Energy Transition. In addition, Erik Verhoef was keynote speaker at the Smart City Tech workshop, and spoke on ‘How do we keep Amsterdam Southeast Accessible.’ More info about the conference programme (in Dutch)
On June 17, the second edition of *State of the Region* took place in Theater Amsterdam. During this event, **Henri de Groot** presented the Economic Outlook Metropolitan Region Amsterdam 2019 (Economische Verkenningen Metropoolregio Amsterdam 2019). The event brings together key players from the business community, knowledge institutions, cultural organizations and regional authorities from the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area in order to discuss the metropolitan challenges and possible solutions. [More information](in Dutch).

**Hans Koster** advised the Mayor’s Office of Bogotá on the integration of Bogotá and its surrounding municipalities during the official launch of the Observatorio de Dinámicas Urbano Regionales (ODUR, Regional Urban Dynamics Observatory) on 8 May. Bogotá – capital of Colombia, with some 8 mln inhabitants – faces enormous challenges, when it comes to urban growth and regional cooperation. [More information](in Spanish).

On May 31 and June 1, 2019, the Urban Economics Association (UEA) held its 9th European meeting at the Tinbergen Institute, attended by no less than some 200 international participants. Local organizers were **Jos van Ommeren**, **Jan Rouwendal**, and **Hans Koster**, with the excellent support of **Elfie Bonke** and six STREEM students. The Urban Economics Association has annual meetings in North America and Europe. This year European conference attracted 192 presentations including many about transport economics. Keynote speakers were Alan Manning (LSE) and Diego Puga (CEMFI).

**Upcoming Events**

**PhD defense**
1 July, 13:45, Aula
Gerben de Jong: ‘National carriers, market power and consumer loyalty’
(Co-)Promotors: Hester van Herk, Erik Verhoef, Christian Behrens

**Eureka Seminars**
11 July, 12:15-13:15, room 8A-37
Raoul van Maarseveen: ‘Agglomeration economies in education’
Jacques Poot: ‘Valuing cultural diversity’

More information: [G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl](mailto:G.C.van.der.Meijden@vu.nl)
Save the date:

23rd World Conference of the Air Transport Society
Held at VU Amsterdam, July 2-5
Organizers: Eric Pels, Marc Lijesen, Jaap de Wit (UvA)
More information >>>

In the Media

✓ Onderzoek rekeningrijden niet meer dan vertragingstactiek (Erik Verhoef, NPO radio 1, 29 June)
✓ Groei Amsterdam geremd door verduurzaming, vergrijzing en huizenprijzen (Henri de Groot, NRC, 20 June)
✓ Groei economie regio Amsterdam loopt tegen grenzen aan (Henri de Groot in Het Parool, 17 June)
✓ De oplossing tegen files: rekeningrijden (Erik Verhoef, Oh oh Den Haag Podcast, 14 June)
✓ Mobiliteit (Erik Verhoef, BNR Podcast, 12 June)
✓ Meerderheid van de Nederlanders nog steeds tegen rekeningrijden (Erik Verhoef, tv programme Hart van Nederland, 12 June)
✓ ‘Het draagvlak binnen de samenleving voor rekeningrijden is aan het groeien. Misschien loopt de politiek daarin wel een beetje achter’ (Erik Verhoef, Avro-Tros tv series Strijd tegen de File, episode 'Grote drukte', 30 May).
✓ Hoe blijven we rijden? (Erik Verhoef on BNR Big Five, 22 May)
✓ Kabinet: zorg dat iedere ton CO2 uitstoot dezelfde prijs krijgt (appeal to the government, NRC, 24 April, signed by Carolyn Fischer, Marjan Hofkes, Gerard van der Meijden, Rick van der Ploeg, Erik Verhoef, Harmen Verbruggen and Cees Withagen).
✓ Why Air France KLM makes losses (Eric Pels on BNR Nieuwsradio, 3 May)
✓ ‘Zuidas moet auto uit’ (Erik Verhoef’s comments in De Telegraaf (2 May).
✓ A Marketplace of Miles (interview with Erik Verhoef, JPI-URBAN Europe, 8 April, 2019)
✓ About flight safety (Eric Pels on NOS.nl, 26 March, 2019)

Staff

Benjamin Wache started his PhD at VU Amsterdam in January, under supervision of Steven Poelhekke and Eric Bartelsman. Previously, he obtained a MPhil in Economics at Tinbergen Institute and studied Economics in Bayreuth, Munich, and Kiel in Germany. His research interests cover international economics, macroeconomics, and historical economics. His MPhil thesis analyses the impact of telegraph cables on UK capital exports in the 19th century.
Diego Candia Riquelme will start a PhD on innovative policy instruments for urban transportation on 15 July, supervised by Erik Verhoef. Diego is from Chile, and obtained an industrial engineering and master’s degree on transportation engineering at the University of Chile. He specialized in transportation economics.

Dewi Westra (left) will take over Loes Derikx’ (right) duties as UNIGIS student assistant as of September. Dewi currently studies Earth Sciences and Economics and will start the Earth Sciences master at the VU next year. Among other things she is interested in GIS and sustainability. We wish Loes all the best!

Recent publications

Journal articles


