

Goodbye, Pescara! Welcome, Bedfordshire!



Dear INFER friends,

The INFER Annual Conference 2014, that took place from May 28 till May 31 at the University of Pescara (Italy), was a great success! The INFER board was very pleased with the number and quality of submissions. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all participants and in particular to the local conference organisers, the team led by professor Alberto Bagnai. We enjoyed the cooperation with the Department of Economics of the Gabriele d'Annunzio University and with the Association for the Study of Economic Asymmetries (a/simmetrie). The keynote speeches by Josef Brada (Arizona State University), Gary Jefferson (Brandeis University), Dominick Salvatore (Fordham University), Gianni De Fraja (Nottingham University, Tor Vergata and CEPR) and Mathias Thoenig (HEC, Lausanne) have been very much appreciated.

We already look forward to the INFER Annual Conference in 2015. We will move from Italy to the United Kingdom, more precisely to the University of Bedfordshire, in Luton, close to London. More information will follow soon!

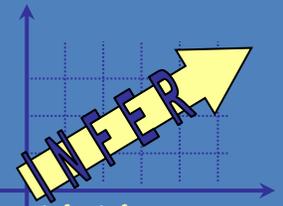
We wish you all very pleasant holidays and hope to see you again at one or more of the upcoming INFER events.

Jan Van Hove
Chair of INFER

...and the Winners are...

The International Network for Economic Research awards two prizes each year during the Annual Conference. *The Young Economist Prize* is awarded for the best paper presented at the Annual Conference by a researcher under the age of 30 and the *Joint Research Prize* is awarded for the best co-authored paper by at least one INFER member.

The winners of the 16th INFER AC in Pescara are:



- ❖ **Svetlana Fedoseeva** (Center for International Development and Environmental Research, University of Giessen) won the INFER Young Economist Prize for the joint work *Asymmetry and Hysteresis: Two Perspectives on Pricing-to-Market Nonlinearity* with Laura M. Werner (Center for International Development and Environmental Research, University of Giessen). Svetlana graduated in Economics and Business Administration from Samara State University of Economics (Russia) and she holds a Master Degree in Economics from the University of Giessen (Germany). Since March 2012, she works as a research assistant at the Center for International Development and Environmental Research (ZEU) for the DFG project *What Explains Agricultural Trade of the EU and Germany? Theoretical and Econometrical Analyses on Liberalization, Macro Effects and Hysteresis*. Her research interests are in International Trade, Industrial Organisation, Applied Econometrics, Agricultural Economics and Economic Asymmetries.



- ❖ **Armand Fouejieu** (University of Orleans, CNRS, LEO) won the INFER Joint Research Prize for the paper *Monetary Policy and Financial Stability: In Search of Tradeoffs* which is a joint paper with Alexandra Popescu and Patrick Villieu of the University of Orleans. Armand is a researcher at LEO (Laboratoire d'Economie d'Orléans). He has recently published in *International Economics* and in the *IMF Working Paper Series*. His research interests are in Monetary Policy, International Economics and Political Economics.

Congratulations to both winners!

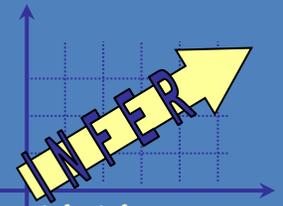
The Young Economics Prize has been awarded since 2007 while the INFER Joint Research prize has been awarded since 2012. For further information on INFER awards, including links to previous prize winning papers, you can visit the webpage at: <http://www.infer-research.net/index.php?id=10>.

INFER Member Interviews

In this newsletter issue we would like to introduce a new section on members thoughts and experiences at INFER events. The interviews are also a good way for INFER members to learn more about each other and will hopefully help stimulate network activities. In this current issue we have taken the opportunity to interview, Svetlana and Armand, our most recent INFER research prize winners.

INFER: What does this award mean to you with respect to your academic career and further development of your research?

Svetlana: I was very surprised to receive such an award. Somehow I could not believe that a quite specific paper on asymmetries and nonlinearities in international trade can have a chance competing with other studies which are traditionally considered to be more policy relevant. It was very motivating though. The best paper award showed me that I'm on the right track and should go on. It has also inspired me with a lot of new ideas and projects. And of course it made my parents proud



and my co-author happy!

Armand: First of all, my co-authors and I are delighted to receive this year's INFER Joint Research Price. And we would like to thank INFER for this initiative aiming to encourage high quality research work. Beyond the personal satisfaction, this award is a sign of the recognition of our work by our peers.

INFER: When becoming an INFER member what were your expectations from this network?

Svetlana: Honestly, when becoming an INFER member I barely had any expectations. My prior goal was to attend the annual conference, which due to inclusion of many sessions on economic asymmetries, sounded very appealing to me. In Pescara I was positively surprised to find out how established the Network actually is and how it serves as a great platform for its members to share the results of their research, receive tough but honest criticism and to discuss possible collaborations.

Armand: Being an INFER member gives the opportunity to share research experiences with other members of the network around the world. Moreover, the INFER events (workshops and conferences) and publication opportunities promote research activities and provide more visibility to members' work.

INFER: How do you plan in getting involved in the network's activities (i.e. organizing workshops, involving in network's working groups etc.)?

Svetlana: My plan so far is to get involved as actively as possible. I find the ideas behind the workshops and conferences organized by INFER very interesting. It would be great to be a part of it also in the future. During the Annual Conference I have learned a lot and met interesting people, so I truly hope that the plans that were discussed during coffee breaks will turn to real joint projects.

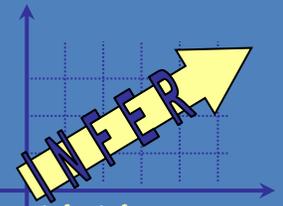
Armand: Based on my experience so far, I will continue to be involved in the network and I will strengthen my participation to the INFER events.

INFER: What would be your message to the other young researchers participating at INFER events?

Svetlana: I would definitely advise young researchers to participate in the INFER events. INFER gathers a perfect combination of established senior researches and new colleagues, who have just entered academia. Both groups often have different ideas of how things should be done properly, which results in the most helpful feedback. Also the wide coverage of research areas within the INFER groups might bring such insight in your own work, you have never thought about. And of course one should dare to do something new and be ready to defend it. But that is the most exciting part of the academic career, isn't it?

Armand: Nothing but encouraging them in their work and their involvement in the INFER network to give more visibility to their research.

INFER: Thank you for your time and willingness in sharing your thoughts with us!



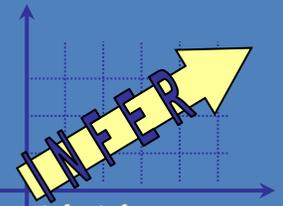
INFER General Meeting

The General Meeting (GM) of the network takes place annually during the INFER Annual Conference. This year's GM was organised in Pescara (Italy) on Friday May 30th, 2014. Jan Van Hove, chair of INFER, presented an overview of the most recent developments in the network. Our network is growing in many ways, including in terms of the number of INFER members, new institutional members, new strategic partners, the number of workshops and the number of publications. Moreover, the INFER board intends to launch several new initiatives shortly that will strengthen INFER's role as a research dissemination partner in INFER members' research projects. A new INFER scientific board has been set up that will advise the INFER board on new publications. The GM relieved the outgoing INFER board and elected a new INFER board. All board members of the previous INFER board will continue their engagement for another year. More detailed information on the GM can be found in the report that will shortly be published on the INFER website.

New Logo

As part of ongoing re-branding and extension of INFER activities INFER have decided to change its logo to better represent the networks dynamism and activities. We believe the new logo is more relevant for the network's aims and scope, it is an expression of our dynamism and brings more freshness to our image. We remain devoted to the network's core values but we are also currently initiating new ways for the network's evolution. The new Logo was launched at this year's General Meeting. It will appear on future INFER newsletters and is introduced below.





INFER Workshops Opened Call for Papers and Supported Events

INFER is currently inviting submissions to several forthcoming workshops and supported events. See below for details.

INFER Workshop “Regions, FDI and Firms”

Ghent (Belgium), August 21th -22th 2014

This workshop is jointly organized by INFER and Ghent University - Department of Economics. The invited keynote speakers are Nathalie Chen (University of Warwick) and Harry Garretsen (University of Groningen). Deadline for registration and payment is **July 15**. For more information, please visit the INFER website:

http://www.infer-research.net/file/Call_Regions,%20firms,%20and%20FDI-workshop-Gent2014.pdf

INFER Workshop “Urban and Regional Economics”

Reus (Spain), September 4th-5th 2014

This workshop is jointly organized by INFER, CREIP (Research Centre in Industrial and Public Economics) and Universitat Rovira i Virgili. The invited keynote speakers are Philip McCann (University of Groningen) and Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economic). Deadline for registration and payment is **July 10**. For more information, please visit the INFER website and the workshop website :

http://events.urv.cat/event_detail/1173/detail/infer-workshop-in-urban-and-regional-economics.html

INFER Workshop “Banking in Europe: Current Challenges”

Prague (Czech Republic), September 26th 2014

The workshop is jointly organized by INFER and IES (Institute of Economic Studies) - Charles University in Prague. The invited keynote speaker is Fabrizio Coricelli (Paris School of Economics). Deadline for registration and payment is **July 31**. For more information, please visit the INFER website:

<http://ies.fsv.cuni.cz/cs/node/493>

INFER Workshop « Monetary Policy, Asset Prices and the Real Economy in Central and Eastern Europe »

Timisoara (Romania), December 12th-13th 2014

This workshop is jointly organized by INFER, RCEM (Research Centre for Engineering and Management) and ECREB (East-European Centre for Research in Economics and Business). The invited guest speakers are Ansgar Belke (University of Duisburg – Essen, DIW), Jarko Fidrmuc (Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen) and László Halpern (Institute of Economics - Hungarian Academy of Sciences, CEPR). You can submit your papers by **September 1st, 2014**. For more information, please download the Call for Papers at:

http://www.infer-research.net/files/Call%20for%20papers_INFER%20Workshop%20Timisoara%202014.pdf

INFER Supported Event « International Finance and Banking Conference (FIBA 2015) »

Bucharest (Romania), March 26th-27th 2015

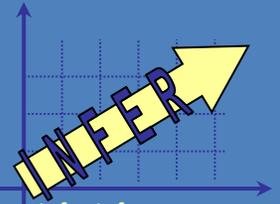
The conference is jointly organized by Faculty of Finance, Insurance, Banking and Stock Exchange (Bucharest University of Economic Studies), SIF Banat-Crisana, Romanian Association of Finance and Banking (RoFIBA), Center for Financial and Monetary Research (CEFIMO) and is supported by INFER. The invited guest speakers are Erich Kirchler (University of Vienna), Alberto Bagnai (Gabriele d'Annunzio University) and Rui Henrique Alves (University of Porto). You can submit your papers by **January 18th, 2015**. For more information, please download the Call for Papers at:

<http://www.fin.ase.ro/FIBA2015/index.asp>

If you want to organize a workshop at your university, contact Camelia Turcu, Chair of the Workshop Committee, who will be willing to give advice and guidance.

Camelia Turcu, camelia.turcu@univ-orleans.fr

NEWSLETTER



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INFER Debate Series

INFER is continuing its recently launched *Debate Series* with a new round table which took place at ISEG – UL, Lisbon (Portugal), on June 20th, during the INFER Workshop “European Economic Integration: Present and Future Challenges”. The topic under discussion was “European Union integration and its disequilibria: The best way to cope with facts”. The invited speakers were João de Sousa Andrade (University of Coimbra), Gabriel Felbermayr (CESIFO), Stuart Holland (University of Coimbra), Elias Soukiazis (University of Coimbra) and Jan Van Hove (University of Leuven). The discussion was moderated by Camelia Turcu (University of Orléans). During the debate many issues were discussed, including the banking union project, the reinforcement of fiscal and monetary reforms, the growth and trade perspectives in Europe as well as the policies to be implemented in the EU in response to the crisis.

Further INFER debates will be organized in the near future. It is envisaged that the Debate Series will act as a platform to assist INFER members to disseminate their research to a wider audience across Europe.