

4th PhD Conference

RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS:
Reappraising Economics as an Empirically Disciplined Science



7-9 September 2006

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

SIAF Campus, Volterra (Pisa), Italy

Research in Economics is a series of international conferences organized by Italian junior researchers in order to gather international PhD students and few keynote speakers to discuss major “foundational” issues in economics. At the same time young scholars are given the opportunity of presenting their research works with a particular emphasis on the methodological implications of their research.

The theme of the conference is: **to what extent is economics an empirically disciplined science?**

We would like to reappraise Herbert Simon's concern about the capacity of economic methods and models to grasp any features of the real world. The issues of 'realism' and 'empirically grounded research' have never faded. In particular, the recent growing availability of data has favoured the collection of facts potentially challenging the hypotheses and the predictions of proposed theories. Leading scholars in various fields will be discussing the relations between theory and empirics in economics starting from their experience as researchers. The conference will alternate two sessions. In a first plenary session this theme will be addressed from a macroeconomic point of view, while in a second session from a microeconomic one. In the parallel sessions PhD students will present their works, followed by comments by senior discussants.

This edition of the conference will host also a round table dedicated to **The Future of European Graduate Education in Economics**. The issues we will address are: How can Europe attract the best PhD students? Is there a common trend toward strengthening graduate economics teaching in European Universities? Do different institutional features of European Universities (within Europe and vis-a-vis the US) represent a constraint or an opportunity? Which European Job Market for European doctors in Economics?

CALL FOR PAPERS

PhD students and junior researchers are invited to submit theoretical and applied contributions in all areas of economics for presentation at the Conference.

A one-page abstract is required. Besides summarizing the paper, the document submitted should also contain contact information (name, affiliation and an e-mail address) together with three keywords and JEL classification codes. A statement in which the author highlights some methodological issues of the research and connects them with the topic of the conference is also required.

Contributions can only be submitted sending a single PDF file with a maximum size of 2MB to confeco@sssup.it. No other format will be accepted (in particular MS Word). The **deadline** for submitting the abstract is **May 15**. The authors will be informed about the acceptance decision by June 15, 2006. A final version of the paper should be submitted by July 31 sending a single pdf file to confeco@sssup.it. Accepted papers will be discussed by a junior and a senior discussant in parallel sessions.

Papers and presentations must be in English.

Invited Speakers:

Orazio Attanasio (University College London) (to be confirmed)

Eric Bartelsman (Free University, Amsterdam)

Massimo Bordignon (Catholic University “Sacro Cuore”, Milan) (to be confirmed)

Giulio Bottazzi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa)

Giovanni Dosi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa)

Steven Durlauf (University of Wisconsin Madison)

Carlo Favero (Bocconi University, Milan)

Marco Li Calzi (University “Ca' Foscari”, Venice) (to be confirmed)

Marco Lippi (University “La Sapienza”, Rome)

Luigi Marengo (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa)

Fulvio Ortu (Bocconi University, Milan)

Scientific Committee: Carlo Bianchi (University of Pisa), Giulio Bottazzi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Domenico Delli Gatti (Catholic University “Sacro Cuore”), Giovanni Dosi, (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Giorgio Fagiolo (University of Verona), Marco Lippi (University of Rome "La Sapienza"), Luigi Marengo (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Salvatore Modica (University of Palermo), Enrico Zaninotto (University of Trento).

Organizing Committee: Marco Grazzi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Alessio Moneta (Max Planck Institute of Economics), Mauro Napoletano (ETH Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Sandro Sapio (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Angelo Secchi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Mauro Sylos Labini (University of Alicante), Federico Tamagni (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), Chiara Tomasi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies).

Accommodation

Accommodation are guaranteed and offered (free of charge) to all participants presenting a paper. Travel expenses are not included and no support is available. We encourage students who are not presenting a paper to participate to the conference debate, although we cannot guarantee accommodation (please keep an eye on the website for up-to-date information on the issue). There are no conference fees.

Important dates:

May 15, 2006: Submission of extended abstract;

June 15, 2006: Notification of acceptance;

July 31, 2006: Submission of paper ready for presentation and registration;

September 7-9, 2006: Conference in Volterra (Pisa).

For further information:

Visit our web site <http://cafim.sssup.it/~confeco/> or write to confeco@sssup.it.