

2nd End-Of-Year Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad

December 21, 2007
Universität St. Gallen

Organizers: Stephan Meier, Dina Pomeranz, Kurt Schmidheiny

Local Organizer: Monika Bütler

Sponsored by the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics and the Swiss National Bank

Learn more about our network at www.swisseeconomistsabroad.org

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Conference Program

9:15 – 9:45	Arrival, Registration, Refreshments (Room A206)
9:45 – 10:15	Plenary Welcome Session (Room A206)
Organizers	Welcome
Ulrich Kohli	Chief Economist of the Swiss National Bank
10:15 – 11:45	Session 1: Development Economics (Room B213)
Stephan Litschig	The impact of intergovernmental transfers on local spending, schooling and literacy: quasi-experimental evidence from Brazil
Patrick Premand	Hurricane Mitch and consumption growth of Nicaraguan agricultural households
Sebastián Waelti	Recovering from bond market distress: domestic policies and IMF programs
10:15 – 11:45	Session 2: Behavioral Economics (Room B215)
Markus Schaffner	Relative Income Position, Reference Groups, and Performance
Stephan Meier	Long-Run Effects of Fundraising Activities: Evidence from a Field Experiment
Lorenz Goette	Loss Aversion and Effort: Evidence from a Field Experiment
11:45 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 12:45	Plenary Talk (Room B112)
Simon Gaechter	TBA
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch Buffet (Room V14B/C)
14:15 – 14:45	Plenary Info Session (Room B112)
	How to apply for a PhD abroad?
14:45 – 15:45	Session 3: Financial Economics (Room B112)
Iwan Meier	What Can We Learn From Empirical Tests of the Pecking Order Theory?
Thomas Flury	Estimating time varying volatility with a smooth particle filter
14:45 – 15:45	Session 4: PhD Projects (Room B215)
Dina Pomeranz	Determinants and Impacts of Microsavings in Chile
Pierre-Yves Yanni	An Intergenerational Model of Educational Attainment Transmission
Simeon Alder	The Big Effect of Small Change
15:45 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	Session 5: Macro/Urban Economics (Room B112)
Johannes Binswanger	Life-Cycle Decision Making without Backward Induction: A Model with Feasibility Goals
Kurt Schmidheiny	The Effect of Information and Communication Technologies on Urban Structure
Christian Hilber	Why are Homeownership Rates so different across Europe?
16:00 – 17:30	Session 6: Economic History / Game Theory (Room B215)
Lorenz Kueng	The Revival of the Note Issue Paradox - Free Banking in Switzerland between 1872 and 1881
Dominic Rohner	Reputation, Group Structure and Social Tensions
Andreas Fuster	TBA
18:00 – ca. 20:00	Dinner (David 38, Davidstrasse 38)