

THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. THE SOCIETY

THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY IS AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION that promotes research in economics using quantitative approaches, both theoretical and empirical. In pursuit of these objectives, the Society organizes meetings throughout the world, sponsors various lectures and workshops, and publishes three journals, *Econometrica*, *Quantitative Economics*, and *Theoretical Economics*. Regional meetings take place annually and a World Congress meets every five years. The Econometric Society operates as a purely scientific organization, without any political, financial or national allegiance or bias, and is a self-supporting non-profit organization.

2. EDITORIAL

The society publishes three journals and a monograph series, and is indebted to the editorial boards for the work they do, as well as the referees and authors. **Mary Beth Bellando-Zaniboni** continues in her invaluable role as Publications Manager, and I am happy to take this opportunity to express the Society's deep gratitude to her.

Econometrica is the cornerstone of the contribution of the Society to economic research. It is a leading journal that publishes high-quality papers in economic theory, econometrics, and empirical economics. The submission pool continues to increase (for the second year in a row surpassing 900 submissions in 2016) and strengthen, and the turnaround time continued to be excellent with a second year in which 80% of submissions were decided upon with 4 months, and *over 90% in 5*. **Joel Sobel** (UC San Diego) continued as Editor, with the help of six Co-Editors and fifty Associate Editors. The continuing Co-Editors were **Dirk Bergemann** (Yale University), **Itzhak Gilboa** (Tel Aviv University and HEC, Paris), **Giovanni Violante** (Princeton University), **Ulrich Müller** (Princeton University), and **Fabrizio Zilibotti** (Yale University). **Liran Einav's** (Stanford University) term ended in July 2017, and he has been replaced by **Aviv Nevo** (University of Pennsylvania). The Society is extremely grateful to Liran for his service, to Aviv for agreeing to join, and to the board for their continued hard work.

Quantitative Economics is the Society's field journal with a focus on quantitative methods and empirical research. I am extremely with the success of the journal. One measure of the journal's success can be seen by its article influence measure (see eigenfactor.org)¹ that places it as tied with the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, ahead of all econometrics field journals, and the only related field journal that it is behind is *AEJ: Applied micro*. Another measure is the increased submissions: for the second year submissions went up by 20%, and despite the significant increase in workload the turnaround time improved to 71% of incoming papers being decided upon within 5 months. An important task this year was to replace **Rosa Matzkin** (UC Los Angeles) as Editor. The Society is grateful that **Christopher Taber** (UW Madison) agreed to serve as the next Editor and started July 2017. The continuing Co-Editors were **Peter Arcidiacono** (Duke University) and **Frank Schorfheide** (University of Pennsylvania). **Karl Schmedders'** (Kellogg, Northwestern) term ended in June 2017, and **Andres Santos** (UC Los Angeles) and **Kjetil Storesletten** (University of Oslo) started their terms as coeditor in July 2017. On behalf of the Society I am very grateful to Rosa for her exceptional service as editor and to Karl

¹The most recent data available is from 2015.

for his dedicated service as coeditor, and the board for their important contribution to the success of the journal. Thanks to Chris, Andres and Kjetil for joining this important endeavor.

Theoretical Economics is the Society's field journal in economic theory. I am delighted by the journal's success. Its article influence (see eigenfactor.org)² is tied with *AEJ: Micro* and ahead of *all* other theory field journals. In terms of submissions the numbers continue to increase, and the turnaround time is an impressive 88% within four months, and 96% *within five!* A crucial task this year was to replace **George Mailath** (University of Pennsylvania) as Editor. The Society is fortunate that **Ran Spiegler** (Tel Aviv University) agreed to serve as the next Editor and started July 2017. The continuing Co-Editors are **Thomas Mariotti** (Toulouse School of Economics), **Dilip Mookherjee** (Boston University), and **Giuseppe Moscarini** (Yale University). **Simon Board** replaced Rani Spiegler as coeditor starting July 2017. The Society thanks George for his dedicated service as editor, the board for their excellent work and Rani for undertaking the role of editor.

The Monograph Series has 3 promising proposals under review and 4 exciting manuscripts in process. In January 2016, *Revealed Preference Theory*, Christopher Chambers and Federico Echenique was published, and in November 2016 the final version of *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Colleagues Remember Suzanne Scotchmer's Contributions to Economics*, Stephen M. Maurer, ed. was submitted to the publisher and appeared in 2017. The Society is very grateful to **Don Andrews** and **Jeff Ely** for editing the monograph series.

3. REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Society's world-wide membership is organized in regions, whose number and composition is determined by the Council. In 2016 there were six regions: Africa, Australasia, Europe and Other Areas, Latin America, North America, and Asia. (The Far East and the South and Southeast Asia regions have held joint meetings for a number of years and were combined into one region in October 2015.) Each region typically has one or more meeting in years in which there is no World Congress. Some regions have two meetings, or a country-focused meeting, or a "school" more oriented towards younger academics. The list below shows the remarkable level of activity of the society demonstrated through these various meetings.

The President is expected to participate and present an address in a meeting in each region; in his absence a Vice President or the Past President must participate in a region's meeting. In 2016 I had the pleasure to present an address at the Fall Latin America meetings, the Summer African, Asian, and European meetings, and the January 2017 North American regions (where traditionally the year- t North American Presidential address is given in the January, $t + 1$, meeting.) The first Vice President, then Drew Fudenberg, represented the officers at the 2016 Australasian meeting, and I represented the officers as Past President in the 2017 Asian meetings.

These meetings are a testimony to the intellectual vigor of the ES members throughout the world. I found talks at every conference to be stimulating and they were all exemplary instances of the academic goals of the Society at work. The meetings and lectures demonstrate the important role the Society plays in promoting independent research of high standards in economics.

²The most recent data available is from 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the hard work of everyone who made all these meetings a success: the program chairs, the local organizers, the program committees, and the members who participated. Below is a list of the 2016 meetings and the local and program committee chairs, to whom the society is especially indebted.

In addition to the excellent invited and contributed lectures at these many conferences, the ES has three named lectures that are presented at the regional meetings, and some of the regions have their own named lectures. Furthermore, 2016 was the first year in which the new lecture series, reported on by Manuel Arellano (CEMFI) in his 2014 Presidential report, took place. Finally, several awards were presented at these meetings. I list these named lectures and awards separately below.

2016 North American Winter Meeting, January 3–5, San Francisco, USA, Program Chair: **Nicolas Bloom** (Stanford University)

2016 Latin American Workshop in Econometrics, March 11–12 Montevideo, Uruguay, Program Chair: **Graciela Sanroman** (DECON-UDELAR), Local Organizing Chair: **Sergio Firpo** (Sao Paulo School of Economics, FGV)

2016 North American Summer Meeting, June 16–19, Philadelphia, USA, Program Chairs: **George Mailath** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Ulrich Doraszelski** (University of Pennsylvania)

2016 China Meeting, June 25–27, Chengdu (Sichuan), China, Program Chairs: **Li Gan** (Texas A&M University) and **Lung-Fei Lee** (Ohio State University), Local Organizing Chair: **Han Li**

2016 Australasia Meeting, July 5–8, Sydney, Australasia, Program Chairs: **Jacob Goeree** (UNSW Sydney) and **Elizabeth Savage** (UTS)

2016 Africa Meeting, June 25–28, Pretoria, South Africa, Program Chair: **Victor Murinde** (University of Birmingham), **Steve Koch** (University of Pretoria), Local Organizing Chairs: **Reneé van Eyden** (University of Pretoria) and **Steven Koch**

2016 ES Summer School, August 6–10, Kyoto, Japan, Program Chair: **In-Koo Cho** (University of Illinois), Local Organizing Chair: **Atsushi Kajii** (Kyoto University), **Takehito Masuda** (Kyoto University), **Akihiko Matsui** (University of Tokyo)

2016 Asia Meeting, August 9–13, Kyoto, Japan, Program Chair: **Atsushi Kajii** (Kyoto University), **Yoshihiko Nishiyama** (Kyoto University), Local Organizing Chair: **Tadashi Yagi** (Doshisha University)

2016 European Meeting, August 22–26, Geneva, Switzerland, Program Chair: **Gilat Levy** (LSE), **Barbara Rossi** (ICREA-Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Local Organizing Chair: **Stefan Sperlich** (University of Geneva)

2016 ES Conference on the Economics of Networks, Nov 8–9, Medellin, Columbia. Directors: **Aureo de Paula** (University College of London) and Sanjeev Goyal (Cambridge); Local Organizers: **Juan Felipe Mejía** and **Gustavo Canavire-Bacarreza** (both from EAFIT University)

2016 Latin America Meeting, November 10–12, Medellin, Colombia, Program Chair: **Myrna Wooders** (Vanderbilt University), **Sergio Firpo** (Insper), and **Gustavo Canavire-**

Bacarreza (EAFIT University), Local Organizing Chair: **Juan Felipe Mejía Mejía** (EAFIT University)

2016 European Winter Meeting, December 10–11, Edinburgh, Scotland, Program Chair: **Kjetil Storesletten** (University of Oslo), Local Organizing Chair: **Ed Hopkins** (University of Edinburgh)

4. NAMED LECTURES, LECTURE SERIES AND AWARDS

There are several named lectures and awards given by the society and its regions.

4.1. Awards

The *Frisch medal* is awarded biannually for the best applied (theoretical or empirical) paper published in the preceding five years in *Econometrica*. The Frisch Medal Committee consisting of Costas Meghir (Yale University), chair; Elhanan Helpman (Harvard University), and Alessandro Lizzeri (NYU) awarded the Medal to **Benjamin Handel** (UC Berkeley), **Igal Hendel** (Northwestern University) and **Michael Whinston** (MIT) for their article, "Equilibria in Health Exchanges: Adverse Selection versus Reclassification Risk", *Econometrica*, 83(4), July 2015, 1261–1313.

Theoretical Economics and *Quantitative Economics* have a *best-paper award* each year.

In 2016 the QE award was given to **Brendan Kline** (University of Texas) and **Elie Tamer** (Harvard University), "Bayesian inference in a class of partially identified models," *Quantitative Economics*, Volume 7, Issue 2, 329–366.

The TE award was received by **Alexander Wolitzky** (MIT), "Mechanism design with maxmin agents: theory and an application to bilateral trade," *Theoretical Economics*, Volume 11, Issue 3, 971–1004.

The Summer European meetings awarded the *best applied papers by young economists* in 2016 to **Daniel Quigley** (Oxford University), "Crowding out disclosure: Amplification and stress test design"; **Barbara Biais** (Stanford University), "Unions, Salaries, and The Market for Teachers: Evidence from Wisconsin" and **Matthias Meier** (Bonn University), "Delta Method Inference for a Class of Set-Identified SVARs."

In 2016 the executive committee decided to commemorate with a special award *distinguished service* to the Society. The Society relies on the willingness of its members for a great many committee and editorial tasks, but some have gone far beyond the norm in terms of service; the following three stand out.

Maxwell King (Monash University) received this award for his critical role in establishing the Australasia region of the Society his devoted service as Secretary of the region for thirty-four years, from its inception through 2016. An award was also given to **Enrique Sentana** (CEMFI) for his devoted service as Treasurer of the European region for ten years, from 2005 through 2014. The third recipient of this exceptional award was **Martin Osborne** (University of Toronto) for his leadership and dedication in the creation of *Theoretical Economics* and his devoted service in developing and maintaining the software that is crucial for the journal's function.

4.2. Named Lectures

The *Jacob Marschak lecture* rotates among the regional meetings held outside North America and Europe. In 2016 the Australasia meeting invited **Yeon-Koo-Che** (Columbia University) who presented the lecture at the University of Technology Sydney meetings.

The *Walras Bowley lecture* is given by a non-North American member at the North American Summer Meeting. The committee of Patrick Bayer, Uli Doraszelski, Mikhail Golosov, George Mailath, Elie Tamer invited **Fabrizio Zilibotti** (University of Zurich) for the 2016 lecture.

The *Fisher–Shultz lecture* is given by a non-European member at the European Summer Meeting; the ESEM program committee invited **Mark Watson** (Princeton University) for the lecture in 2016.

The new series of lectures in three topics alternates across the regions. In 2016 the first *Hotelling Lectures* in Economic Theory was given by **Matthew Jackson** at the Latin American Meeting, the first *Griliches Lectures* in Applied Economics was presented by **Ariel Pakes** (Harvard University) and in Sydney **Peter Philips** (Yale University) gave the first *Sargan Lectures* in Econometrics. The Hotelling Lectures were also the keystone for the mini-conference on Networks that took place in Medellin.

Some regions have their own named lectures. These include the following.

European meetings in Geneva: The *Laffont lecture* was given by **Debraj Ray** (New York University) in Geneva.

Australiasian meetings in Sydney: The *Phillips lecture* was presented by **Robert Porter** (Northwestern University), the *Clark lecture* by **Thomas Palfrey** (CalTech) and the *Hannan lecture* by **Victor Chernozhukov** (MIT).

North American summer meetings in Philadelphia: The *Cowles Lecture* was given by **Rosa Matzkin** (UC Los Angeles) and the *Cass Lecture* was given by **Andrzej Skrzypacz** (Stanford).

Latin American meetings in Medellin: The *Simonsen Lecture* was presented by **Carlos Viana de Carvalho** (PUC Rio) and **Irene Brambilla** (UNLP and UdeSA).

5. REGIONS

The Africa region was created less than 2.5 years before I started as President. It's level of activity and organization is very impressive for such a recently created region. The society is grateful to **Victor Murinde**, **Nour Meddahi**, **Kaddour Hadri**, former Chair, **Yaw Nyarko**, and former Secretary, **Moses Kiptui**, for their important role in creating and sustaining the regional activities and the enthusiasm for and supply of high quality academic work.

The Asia region which has now been combined from two distinct regions has to deal with an unusually large geographic dispersion and I the appreciate the efforts of the regional standing committee, and especially the Chair, **Atsushi Kajii**, in coordinating the excellent and diverse activities in the region, including the summer school, the Asia regional meeting and the China meetings. This region is growing in terms of membership and activities at a remarkable pace.

The Latin American region has had great success in coordinating with the local regional society, LACEA and here too the RSC, chaired by **Eduardo Engel**, has been extremely valuable in maintaining an exceptionally high level of academic work in the region.

As First-Vice President and President I also served as chair of the European regional standing committee in 2015 and 2016. I am greatly indebted to **Sven Rady** (Bonn University), the secretary of the region and **Olivier Scaillet** (Geneva Finance research Institute), the treasurer for invaluable advice and guidance during my term; I also benefitted from help from the previous secretary (**Thierry Magnac**, University of Toulouse) and treasurer (**Enrique Sentana**, CEMFI). The European region of the ES, together with the EEA, has exceptionally high quality summer meetings every (non-world-congress) year. I was

impressed by the excellent invited and contributed talks at Geneva in 2016 and Lisbon in 2017. The RSC, jointly with the EEA, decided to host the next summer meetings in Cologne; I am looking forward to another great conference. The EEA and the European region also now collaborate on a WinE (women in economics) retreat at the joint meetings. In addition to the joint summer meeting, the European region has a winter meeting; it was expanded from a small invitation-only meeting primarily for PhD students to a larger (open submission) meeting, retaining an emphasis on younger scholars, at the 2014 Madrid meeting. The 2015 meeting in Milan, and the 2016 meeting in Edinburgh, both continued this successful new format, and the 2017 meeting will soon be hosted by the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics.

6. COMMITTEES

The President is responsible for appointing several committees. Some are discussed elsewhere in this report. In addition to those, in 2016 the following individuals generously assisted the society in the roles specified; I thank them for this important contribution to the Society.

Nominating Committee for Fellows: **Eduardo Engel** (University of Chile), **Itzhak Gilboa** (Tel Aviv University and HEC, Paris, Chair), **Pinelopi Goldberg** (Yale University), **Per Krusell** (Stockholm University), **Hitoshi Matsushima** (University of Tokyo), **Whitney Newey** (MIT), and **Arunava Sen** (ISI Delhi).

Nominating Committee for Officers and Council: **Drew Fudenberg** (MIT), **Robert Porter** (Northwestern University, Chair), **Elie Tamer** (Harvard University), **Robert Townsend** (MIT), and **Juuso Valimaki** (Aalto University).

Lecture Series Committee: **Roger Guesnerie** (Paris School of Economics, Chair), **Hidehiko Ichimura** (University of Tokyo), **Stephen Morris** (Princeton University), **Jeff Ely** (Northwestern University), **Don Andrews** (Yale University).

7. ELECTIONS

Each year the society elects fellows, council members, regional standing committee members, and executive committee members. I am grateful to all those who accepted the nomination to run for these various elections, and offer my congratulations to those elected and thanks for the service they are willing to provide.

Fellows: In 2016 there were 74 nominations, 46 by members and 28 by the Nominating Committee, and 30 candidates were rolled over from previous nominations. 356 (out of 437) active fellows voted to elect 16 Fellows of whom 8 were nominated by the Fellows Nominating Committee, 1 by a member and 7 were rollover candidates. While I am pleased to report that *5 of the 16 elected fellows were women*, this was still too small a number of fellows elected and none were from outside of Europe and North America. The executive committee discussed how to possibly address this at subsequent meetings and the total number and geographic dispersion seems better this year.

Executive committee:

Drew Fudenberg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was elected President.
Timothy Besley, London School of Economics, was elected First Vice-President.
Stephen Morris, Princeton University, was elected Second Vice-President.
Bernard Salanié, Columbia University, was elected Executive Vice-President.

Penny Goldberg, Yale University and **Whitney Newey**, MIT, were elected to serve as at-large members of the executive committee.

Council:

Europe and Other Areas: **Martin Cripps**, University College London and **Jörgen Weibull**, Stockholm School of Economics joined the council. I thank them for agreeing to serve, and **Itzhak Gilboa** (Tel Aviv University and HEC, Paris) who completed his term, for his service on the council.

North America: **Liran Einav**, Stanford University and NBER, and **Harald Uhlig**, University of Chicago joined the council. The society is grateful to them for their contributions as members of the council. They replaced **Matthew Jackson**, Stanford University and **Stephen Morris**, Princeton University. I thank them both for their service (and Stephen for agreeing to continue his service as Second Vice-President).

Regional Standing Committees:

The third elections of voting members of the Regional Standing Committees by members of the Society took place in 2016. Ten new members were elected. I appreciate their willingness to help the society's activities in their region.

Africa:

Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, International Food Policy Research Institute

Asia:

Jin-Chuan Duan, National University of Singapore

Jinwoo Kim, Seoul National University

Wing Chuen Suen, The University of Hong Kong

Australasia:

Richard Holden, UNSW Australia

Claudio Mezzetti, University of Queensland

Europe:

Gilat Levy, London School of Economics & Political Science

Latin America:

Rosa Matzkin, University of California, Los Angeles

Marco Bonomo, Insper

North America:

Joseph Altonji, Yale University

8. FUNDRAISING

The Society launched its first fundraising appeal in November 2016. This campaign targeted the Fellows, but our website is also set up to collect donations from the committee more widely. Close to fifty donations were received, for a total of more than \$160,000. The Society is especially grateful to **Gregory and Paula Chow** for a very generous donation, and for **José Scheinkman** who headed our fund-raising committee.

The **Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics** generously funded the Cowles Lecture, and, jointly with the generosity of **Cemmap** (the Center for microdata methods and practice), funded the ES conference on Networks that was centered around the Hotelling Lectures at the Latin America meetings. The Society is very grateful to Cowles and Cemmap for their continued support.

9. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have benefitted from the hard work of many, and am extremely grateful for the many contributions to the Society by its members. Some who have helped me have been mentioned above. I also thank the members of the executive committee during my term for their serious deliberations on how to improve the society, and the members of the European standing committee for their thoughtful input into how to improve the activities of the society in the region. I am especially indebted to the EVP, **Bernard Salanie** (Columbia University), for his careful guidance (and forgiveness when I made mistakes). **Claire Sashi** provided important assistance at many critical stages; I am very grateful for her help.

Eddie Dekel
PRESIDENT IN 2016