

THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY 2017 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 to 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 gratitude for her work.

Econometrica is the cornerstone of the Society's contribution 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 (917 in 2016 and 961 in 2017) and strengthen, and the turn-around time remains exceptional, with a third year in which 85% of submissions were decided on within 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 Ulrich Müller (Princeton University), Aviv Nevo (University of Pennsylvania), Giovanni L. Violante (Princeton University), and Fabrizio Zilibotti (Yale University). Dirk Bergemann's (Yale University) and Itzhak Gilboa's (Tel Aviv University and HEC, Paris) terms ended in June 2018, and they have been replaced by Barton L. Lipman (Boston University) and Alessandro Lizzeri (New York University). The Society is extremely grateful to Dirk and Itzhak for their service, to Bart and Alessandro 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. One measure of the journal's success is its increased submissions: submissions went up from 149 in 2016 to 173 in 2017, with 82% of incoming papers being decided on within 6 months. Christopher Taber continued as Editor, along with Co-Editors Peter Arcidiacono, Andres Santos and Kjetil Storesletten. After an extended term (Term: 2011–2019) Frank Schorfheide stepped down as Co-editor in June 2018, and Tao Zha started his term as Co-editor in July 2018.

Theoretical Economics is the Society's field journal in economic theory. In terms of submissions, the numbers continue to increase, and the turnaround time is an impressive 91% within four months, and 97% within five. Ran Spiegler continued as Editor, with the help of the continuing Co-Editors Simon Board, Thomas Mariotti, and Dilip Mookherjee. Giuseppe Moscarini stepped down as Co-editor in June 2018 and Florian Scheuer started his term as Co-editor starting July 2018.

The Monograph Series, with Don Andrews and Jeff Ely as Co-Editors, published the two-volume set of World Congress proceedings, *Advances in Economics and Econometrics: Eleventh World Congress*, in September 2017. The volumes were edited by Bo Honoré, Ariel Pakes, Monika Piazzesi, and Larry Samuelson. *On the Shoulders of Giants: Colleagues Remember Suzanne Scotchmer's Contributions to Economics*, edited by Stephen

Maurer, was published October, 2017. Stéphane Bonhomme and Andrea Prat took over from Don Andrews and Jeff Ely in July 2018.

3. REGIONS AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Society's world-wide membership is organized in regions, whose number and composition is determined by the Council. In 2017 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 meetings in years in which there is no World Congress.

Africa is our newest region, and as I saw at the Society's meeting in Algiers, it is off to a good start. The Society is very grateful to the current Chair, Victor Murinde, and Secretary, Nour Meddahi, as well as to the previous ones, for their hard work. The Asia region is growing rapidly, and the Society appreciates the efforts of its regional standing committee, chaired by Atsushi Kajii, in coordinating an increasing number of activities, which include the China meetings and three summer schools in addition to the regional meeting. The Latin American region, chaired by Eduardo Engel, organizes its regional conference jointly with the Latin America and Caribbean Economic Association; the Society appreciates his help and dedication. The European region is chaired by Tim Besley, with Secretary Sven Rady and Treasurer Olivier Scaillet. This region conducts a joint summer meeting with the European Economic Association (non-world-congress years) and an annual winter meeting. The region also now collaborates on an annual WinE (Women in Economics, Mentoring and Networking) retreat at the joint meetings.

The Australasia region, Chaired by Andrew McLennan, is relatively small, and was unable to host a meeting in 2017, but one took place in 2018, and the region's membership continues to grow.

As President, I was chair of the North American region in 2016 and 2017. On behalf of that committee I would like to thank Jeff Ely for organizing the 2017 winter program and Leeat Yariv for organizing the winter program in 2018.

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. As President, I presented addresses at the summer Africa meeting in Algiers, the summer European meeting in Lisbon, the fall Latin American meeting in Buenos Aires, and the North American meeting in Chicago. I also presented at the 2016 Australasian meeting in place of the then-president Eddie Dekel, who presented in my place at the 2017 Asian meeting in Hong Kong.

The meetings and lectures demonstrate the important role the Society plays in promoting independent research of high standards in economics.

Below is a list of the 2017 meetings and the local and program committee chairs who helped organize them.

The schedule of the meetings in 2017 was as follows:

North American Winter Meeting, January 6–8, 2017, Chicago, USA

Jeff Ely, Program Committee Chair

Asia Meeting, June 3–5, 2017, Hong Kong

Program Chairs: Chris Pissarides, Mark Rosenzweig, Zheng Michael Song, and Junsen Zhang

Local Organizing Chairs: Zheng Michael Song and Junsen Zhang

China Meeting, June 9–11, 2017, Wuhan, China

Program Chairs: Danyang Xie, Xiaodong Zu, Yixiao Sun, and Xiang Sun
North American Summer Meeting, June 15–18, 2017, St-Louis, USA

Program Chairs: Marcus Berliant and John Nachbar
Local Organizers: Marcus Berliant and John Nachbar
Africa Meeting, June 29–July 1, 2017, Algiers, Algeria

Program Chairs: Kaddour Hadri and Nour Meddahi
Local Organizing Chair: Djamel Ben Belkacem
European Meeting, August 21–25, 2017, Lisbon, Portugal

Program Chairs: Kfir Eliaz and Imran Rasul
Local Organizing Committee: Mario Centeno, Vitor Escaria, Alexander Ferreira Lopes, Francisco Lima, and Luis Martins

Latin American Meeting, November 9–11, 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Program Chairs: Marcello Moreira and Mariano Tommasi
Local Organizing Chair: Federico Weinschelbaum

European Winter Meeting, December 12–13, 2017, Barcelona, Spain
Program Chair: Mark Armstrong
Local Organizing Chair: Julian di Giovanni

The Executive Committee approved two new schools to complement the existing school in economic theory, which took place in Seoul, South Korea in 2017. The Summer School in Econometrics and Statistics recently took place in China in Xiamen; the Delhi Winter School will take place at the Delhi School of Economics.

4. NAMED LECTURES, LECTURE SERIES AND AWARDS

The Society has incorporated several invited and contributed lectures into its Bylaws. The Society has three named lectures that are presented at the regional meetings and some of the regions have their own named lectures. In addition, several awards were presented at these meetings. Following is a list of these named lectures and awards.

Awards

The Frisch Medal is awarded biennially. The last medal was awarded in 2016 so there was no medal awarded in 2017. The 2018 selection committee of Torsten Persson, Dave Donaldson and Igal Hendel awarded the 2018 Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society to Gabriel Ahlfeldt, Stephen Redding, Daniel Sturm, and Nikolaus Wolf for their paper, “The Economics of Density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall”, (*Econometrica*, Vol. 83, No. 6, November 2015, 2127–2189).

The 2017 winners of the “Best Paper Prize” for its two journals *Quantitative Economics* and *Theoretical Economics* are William Diamond and Nikhil Agarwal, “Latent indices in assortative matching models,” *Quantitative Economics*, Volume 8, Issue 3, 685–728. Péter Eső and Balázs Szentes, “Dynamic contracting: An irrelevance theorem,” *Theoretical Economics*, Volume 12, Issue 1, 109–139.

These awards highlight the best paper published in each of the journals in the areas of quantitative economics and economic theory. The journals’ Editors and Co-Editors select a list of nominees, from which the Associate Editors elect the winning paper.

The Summer European meetings awarded the best applied papers by young economists in 2017 to Christoph Koenig, University of Bristol and David Schindler for “Dynamics in Gun Ownership and Crime-Evidence from the Aftermath of Sandy Hook” and Lerby M. Ergun, “Markets: Evidence from a Consensus Pricing Service”.

Named Lectures

In non-World Congress years, the Society's Marschak fund supports a lecture that rotates among all regions outside of Europe and North America. In 2017, organizers of the summer Asia meeting in Hong Kong invited James Heckman to present the Jacob Marschak Lecture.

The Walras-Bowley Lecture is an annual lecture given by a non-North-American member at the summer North American meeting or, in World Congress years, at the World Congress. In 2017 it was given by Paul Klemperer.

The Fisher-Schultz Lecture is an annual lecture given by a non-European member at the European meeting or, in World Congress years, at the World Congress. In 2017 it was given by Janet Currie.

The lecture series on Economic Theory (Hotelling), Applied Economics (Griliches), and Econometrics (Sargan), were begun in 2016. They rotate among all regions in non-World Congress years, and are scheduled for one or two days before or after the respective regional meeting.

The rotation of upcoming lectures from the series is set as follows:

In 2018, the Griliches lecture will be in Australasia, the Hotelling in Asia, and the Sargan in Latin America. In 2019, Griliches will be in Europe, Hotelling in North America, and Sargan in Africa.

In 2017, the second Hotelling Lectures in Economic Theory was given at the 2017 European Meeting by Tomasz Strzalecki. The 2017 Griliches Lectures in Applied Economics was presented by Pierre André Chiappori at the summer Africa meeting. The 2017 Sargan Lectures in Econometrics was given by Victor Chernozhukov at the summer North American Meeting.

Some regions have their own named lectures. The Laffont lecture was given at the European meetings in Lisbon by Patrick Kehoe. At the North American Summer meetings in St. Louis, the North lecture was given by Robert Townsend, the Weidenbaum lecture by Susanne Schennach and the Cowles lecture by Yuliy Sannikov. At the Latin American meetings in Buenos Aires, the Simonsen Lecture was presented by Emanuel Ornelas and Enrique Seira.

5. COMMITTEES

The President is responsible for appointing several committees. Some are discussed elsewhere in this report. In addition to those, in 2017 the following individuals assisted the society in the roles specified:

The members of the 2017 Fellows Nominating Committee were Daron Acemoglu, Liran Einav, Françoise Forges, Fumio Hayashi, Whitney Newey (Chair), Rafael Repullo and Juuso Valimaki.

The members of the 2017 Nominating Committee for Officers were Eddie Dekel (Chair), Mark Armstrong, Tim Besley, Eduardo Engel, Drew Fudenberg, Penny Goldberg, and Elie Tamer.

The members of the Lecture Series Committee were Roger Guesnerie (Chair), Don Andrews, Jeff Ely, Hidehiko Ichimura, and Stephen Morris.

6. ELECTIONS

Each year the Society elects fellows, council members, regional standing committee members, and executive committee members.

20 new Fellows were elected on the 2017 ballot, a higher number than in recent years. 374 Fellows voted, resulting in slightly more than 80% participation of active Fellows. This was an improvement from past years when participation had dropped to as low as 70%. A rollover rule was adopted in 2015: Rules and Procedures 5.2, “Any candidate nominated in one of the previous three elections receiving at least 20% of the vote in that year will automatically appear on the ballot”. In addition, the Fellows Nominating Committee (FNC) was encouraged in 2016 and then required in 2017 to nominate at least six women, and at least six members from outside Europe and North America.

The 2017 FNC consulted the Chairs of the Regional Standing Committees, who suggested nominations for underrepresented areas and provided feedback on suggestions from the committee. The FNC also nominated a few people from a list compiled of those with 3 or more publications in “top five” journals in the last 2 1/2 years. From the list of suggestions, 26 individuals were nominated, including five women and six individuals from underrepresented areas. Of those nominated by the FNC, 17 were elected (including 5 of the 6 it nominated from underrepresented regions, and 4 of the 5 women).¹

On the Executive committee, Timothy Besley was elected President, Stephen Morris, First Vice-President, and Orazio Attanasio, Second Vice-President; they started those roles in 2018. In addition, Penny Goldberg and Whitney Newey were elected to the committee, replacing Matt Jackson and Stephen Morris, and Enrique Sentana was elected Executive Vice-President replacing Bernard Salanie.

The following were elected to the Council: In Asia, Dilip Mookherjee, and in Latin America, Ignacio N. Lobato.

The third elections of voting members of the Regional Standing Committees by members of the Society took place in 2017. Prosper Donovan and Nour Meddahi were elected from Africa; Valetina Corradi and Rafaella Giacomini from Europe and Other Areas; Xi-aohong Chen from Asia; and Marcela Eslava and Jeanne Lafortune from Latin America.

7. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2017 and 2018 saw major transitions on the administrative side of the Society, as NYU ended our arrangement to use their space, and Bernard Salanie stepped down as Executive Vice President due to his increasing duties as chair of his department. Happily, the Cowles Foundation at Yale provided us a furnished office and administrative oversight of the staff and new headquarters, thus re-establishing a link that goes back to the launch of *Econometrica*. Enrique Sentana agreed to become the next EVP, starting May 1 2018, and Lyn Hogan has taken over the role of General Manager from Claire Sashi. The Executive Committee and I thank Bernard and Claire for their years of devoted service to the Society, and we are very grateful to Enrique and Lyn for agreeing to take on their roles. We thank both Yale and NYU for their support, and Bernard, Enrique, and Mary Beth Bellando-Zaniboni for organizing a smooth transition.

Drew Fudenberg
PRESIDENT IN 2017

¹A number of these 17 were rollovers from previous years: the FNC thought that a stronger list of candidates might be elected if it did not exclude past rollovers from its nominations.