



NEWSLETTER

No. 2

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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CURRENT EVENTS

More information can be found here:
http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/events_en.php

- 9 – 11 February 2012 **Haindorf Seminar 2012**
Location: Haindorf, Czech Republic
[More information](#)
- 16 – 18 February 2012 **CRC 649 Conference**
Location: Motzen

REGULAR RESEARCH SEMINARS

An overview is available at:
<http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/seminars.php>

ECONOMIC RISK SEMINAR

Location: Spandauer Str. 1, room 22
Time: every Monday, 2 – 4 p.m.

- 6 February 2012 **Julia Schaumburg**
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
"Interrelation of Extreme Market and Credit Risks"

SCHUMPETER SEMINAR

Location: Spandauer Str. 1, room 23
Time: every Tuesday, 4 – 6 p.m.

- 14 February 2012 **Guillaume Hollard**
(Sorbonne, CNRS & Paris School of Economics)
"Do Level-0 players really exist?"

WIAS RESEARCH SEMINAR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

Location: Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and
Stochastics, Mohrenstraße 39, 10117 Berlin
Erhard-Schmidt-Hörsaal
Time: every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

- 8 February 2012 **Paul von Büнау and Franz Kiraly**
(TU Berlin)
"Stationary Subspace Analysis and ideal regression"

REVIEW ABOUT CRC 649 EVENTS

27 – 28 January 2012 **Distinguished Lecture Series 2012**



Jürg Hüsler

This year's C.A.S.E. Distinguished Lecture Series, entitled "The Impact of Rare Extreme Events", took place on Friday, January 27th and Saturday, January 28th, in the Heilig-Geist Kapelle. The organizers could welcome approximately 80 participants from several European countries and from overseas.

On Friday, Prof. Jürg Hüsler (University of Bern, Switzerland) gave four lectures on "Extreme Value Statistics and Applications". He provided a concise mathematical framework for analyzing extremes and illustrated his presentations with real-life datasets from several scientific fields, including ecology and finance.

In Saturday's morning session, Prof. Nassim Nicholas Taleb (New York Polytech) lectured on "How to measure fragility". In the first unit, he summarized some of his findings from the international bestseller "The Black Swan", while in the second unit he presented brand new material from his forthcoming new book on "Antifragility". The common thread in Prof. Taleb's lectures was how economic agents can be "fooled by randomness", and he showed the massive impact of their resulting decisions by analyzing a comprehensive dataset of all financial transactions in various countries over a period of several years.



Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Saturday's afternoon session was devoted to "Practical Implications and Examples". Prof. Ute Werner and Dr. Claas Menny from KIT Karlsruhe gave an introduction into prospect theory and semiotics to model the subjective assessment of the impact of extreme events, in particular with respect to insurance choices. They presented data from insurance companies illustrating how people's individual risk assessment strategies can deviate from what would be optimal from an objective point of view. Concrete examples comprised earthquakes in Turkey, the post-9/11 terror threat and climate change. (TD)

12 – 13 January 2012 **Energy Finance Workshop 2012**

The energy markets are developing rapidly, with new marketplaces emerging globally for electricity, weather and emission. The Energy Finance workshop Stolberg 2012 focused on recent trends in modelling and management of risk in the energy markets. The topics included, but were not limited to Weather Derivative trading, electricity price, weather modeling and forecasting, quantile regression applications, time series and copulae applications, and Energy Finance.



Participants of the workshop

The event was organized jointly between Department of Statistics, Humboldt University of Berlin and the Department of Energy Finance, University of Duisburg Essen Agder, and it will be part of the annual series of conferences on energy finance. The next workshop will take place again in Stolberg April 2013. All presentations and more information can be found [here](#).

5 – 8 January 2012 **Econ Boot Camp 2012**

This year the 5th Econ Boot Camp was held from 6 to 8 January 2012. It was organized by the CRC 649 and sponsored by the Society for Economics and Management at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Society of the Humboldt-Universität. The Econ Boot Camp is a three-day workshop for 30 high-school students from all over Germany who got the opportunity to get to know the world of economics and statistics.

The first day started with an introduction to statistics, presented by Prof. Axel Werwatz. Afterwards five professors gave insights into various themes like: economic growth (Prof. Michael Burda), labor economics (Hanna Wielandt), financial markets (Prof. Nikolaus Hautsch), accounting & capital markets (Prof. Joachim Gassen) and real estate industry (Prof. Axel Werwatz).

After a lot of new information in the morning, our students got the chance to find out more about the Humboldt-Universität. Taking part in a guided tour they learned much about the history of the university and other interesting facts.

Later that day Prof. Axel Werwatz divided the participants into five different groups, according to the five topics presented at the lectures. Each group got the statistical data and a question that they were supposed to solve. Supported by research assistants the students worked all day Saturday on their presentations.

On Sunday the groups presented their results and conclusions to the jury, which consisted of Prof. Ulrich Rendtel (TU) und Dr. Sibylle Schmerbach (HU). Though the final decision was made in favor of the labor economics group, all five works were of high quality. The six members of the winning group received the winning certificates and books as a present. To show that all 30 students worked really hard and deserve to be the winners, Prof. Axel Werwatz gave small presents to all participants of the Econ Boot Camp 2012.

After the presentation ceremony the day was topped off by an excursion to the Bundestag. This guided tour explained the composition of Parliament and provided information regarding the history and architecture of the Reichstag Building. The highlight was the visit to the dome of the building, which allowed the students a spectacular view over Berlin.

As in the past four years, this 5th Econ Boot Camp was a total success. Although the students had to cope with a lot of new material, they all rose to the challenge, so that their presentations set high standards for the next year. (EK)



Participants of the Econ Boot Camp 2012

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

Roland Strausz (A8) gave a talk about "The Benefits of Sequential Screening" at Oxford University on 31 January 2012.

Alexandra Spitz-Oener (A9) attended the Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (AEA) from 6 to 9 January 2012 in Chicago. She presented the paper "The Impact of Immigration on Natives' Wages: Heterogeneity resulting from Product and Labor Market Regulation".

Alexandra Fedorets (A9) participated in T.A.S.K.S. 2 at the BIBB Institute in Bonn from 16 to 18 January 2012. She presented her paper "Time-Varying Occupational Contents: An Additional Link between Occupational Task Profiles and Individual Wages".

Wolfgang Härdle (B1) gave talks about "Localising Temperature Risk" on 19 January 2012 and about "Time Varying Independent Component Analysis" on 21 January 2012 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Further, Prof. Härdle gave a talk on "Microeconomic explanation of the EPK paradox" at the Center for Risk Management and Insurance Research at Georgia State University on 20 January 2012.

Brenda López-Cabrera (B1) gave a talk about "State Price Densities for Weather Derivatives" at the Energy Finance Workshop 2012 in Stolberg on 13 January 2012.

Mengmeng Guo (B1) gave a talk about "Functional Principle Component Analysis for Generalized Quantile Regression" at the Energy Finance Workshop 2012 in Stolberg on 13 January 2012.

Martin Wersing (B3) presented the paper "A Slab in the Face: Building Quality and Neighborhood Effects" (joint work with Rainer Schulz, University of Aberdeen) at the AREUEA/ASSA Meeting in Chicago on 8 January 2012.

Julia Schaumburg (B8) attended the Campus for Finance Research Conference at WHU Vallendar from 11 to 12 January 2012 and gave a talk about "Financial Network Systemic Risk Contributions".

Ostap Okhrin (B10) gave a talk about "Systemic Weather Risk and Crop Insurance: The Case of China" at the Energy Finance Workshop 2012 in Stolberg on 13 January 2012.

Matthias Ritter (C11) gave a talk about "The Influence of Meteorological Forecasts on the Pricing of Weather Derivatives" at the Energy Finance Workshop 2012 in Stolberg on 12 January 2012.

Dieter Nautz (C14) has been a visiting fellow at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, from 24-29 January. During his stay he gave a talk on "Central bank communication and the perception of monetary policy by financial market experts".

GUESTS OF THE CRC 649

You find a summary about all guests here:
http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/guests_en.php

Current Guests of the CRC 649 "Economic Risk":

06.02.2012 -
21.03.2012

Toshio Honda
 Hitotsubashi University, Japan
 Project: Research on quantile and nonparametric regression
 Spandauer Str. 1, room 312, phone 2093 5748



30.01.2012 -
29.02.2012

Florian Brodersen

Universität St. Gallen

Project: The Effects of Cost and Asset
Retrenchment on Firm Performance

Spandauer Str. 1, room 318, phone 2093 5895



01.01.2012 -
31.03.2012

Andreas Stephan

Jönköping University

Project: The impact of Private Equity on Firm
Performance: A European Cross-Country
Comparison

Spandauer Str. 1, room 318, phone 2093 5895



24.10.2011 -
29.02.2012

Kathrin Haberle

Zeppelin University & University of Passau

Project: Cognitive Processes of CEOs between
1980 and 2005

Spandauer Str. 1, room 318, phone 2093 5895



19.09.2011 -
31.03.2012

Andreas Venus

RWTH Aachen & TU Dortmund

Project: The power of CFOs and their impact on
corporate strategy and performance

Spandauer Str. 1, room 318, phone 2093 5895



21.06.2010 -
31.12.2012

Magdalena Tchikov

Freie Universität Berlin

Project: Empirical analysis of CDS pricings;
Consistency to prevalent pricing models

Spandauer Str. 1, room 318, phone 2093 5895



NEW DISCUSSION PAPERS

You find all discussion papers here:

http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/discussionPapers_en.php

- 2012-002** **Shiyi Chen, Wolfgang Karl Härdle**
 "Dynamic Activity Analysis Model Based Win-Win Development Forecasting Under the Environmental Regulation in China"
- 2012-003** **Richard Nickl, Markus Reiß**
 "A Donsker Theorem for Lévy Measures"
- 2012-004** **Wolfgang Karl Härdle, Yuichi Mori, Jürgen Symanzik**
 "Computational Statistics (Journal)"
- 2012-005** **Sebastian Braun, Nadja Dwenger, Dorothea Kübler, Alexander Westkamp**
 "Implementing quotas in university admissions: An experimental analysis"
- 2012-006** **Shih-Kang Chao, Wolfgang Karl Härdle, Weining Wang**
 "Quantile Regression in Risk Calibration"

PUBLICATIONS

Y. Xia, W. Härdle and O. Linton (2012)

Optimal Smoothing for a Computationally and Statistically Efficient Single Index Estimator, in: I. Van Keilegom und P. W. Wilson: Exploring Research Frontiers in Contemporary Statistics and Econometrics, Springer Verlag, p. 229 – 261.
 DOI: 10.1007/978-3-7908-2349-3_11

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Goals are dreams with deadlines."

Diana Scharf Hunt

Please also note that the newsletter is published on the homepage of the CRC 649.

**The CRC 649 – Newsletter is published at the beginning of each month.
 Editorial deadline for the third Newsletter 2012 is 28.02.2012.**