



NEWSLETTER

No. 1
3 January 2014

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Collaborative Research Center 649
Spandauer Straße 1
10178 Berlin – Germany**

**Editorial:
CRC 649 Office
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2093 5708
Fax: +49 (0) 30 2093 5617
E-Mail: sfb649@wiwi.hu-berlin.de**

Office: Room 309

<http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de>

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 23
Time: every Monday, 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

13 January 2014

Theo Berger
(Universität Bremen)
"On the Information Content of Decomposed Financial Return Series"

SCHUMPETER SEMINAR

Location: Spandauer Str. 1, room 23
Time: every Tuesday, 4.00 – 6.00 p.m.

28 January 2014

Peter Karadi
(European Central Bank)
"Monetary Policy Surprises, Credit Costs and Economic Activity"

WIAS RESEARCH SEMINAR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

Location: Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics,
Mohrenstraße 39, 10117 Berlin, Erhard-Schmidt-Hörsaal
Time: every Wednesday, 10.00 – 12.30 a.m.

08 January 2014

Angelika Rohde
(Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
"Adaptation to lowest density regions with application to support recovery"

29 January 2014

Axel Bücher
(Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
"When uniform weak convergence fails: empirical processes for dependence functions via epi- and hypographs"

CURRENT EVENTS

More information can be found here:

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

09 to 12 January 2014

Econ Boot Camp 2014 (workshop for high school students)

Location: Faculty of Business and Economics, Spandauer Str. 1
Time: all-day

20 and 21 January 2014

C.A.S.E. - Distinguished Lecture Series 2014 "A Course in Causal Inference" (Lecturer: Guido Imbens)

Location: Faculty of Business and Economics, Spandauer Str. 1, room 23
Time: 20 Jan:
10.30 – 12.00 a.m. (Lecture 1)
13.00 – 14.30 p.m. (Lecture 2)
15.00 – 16.30 p.m. (Lecture 3)
21 Jan:
10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (Lecture 4)

More information can be found here:

http://www.case.hu-berlin.de/events/2014/DLS/index_html

22 January 2014

Jour Fixe winter

Location: Faculty of Business and Economics, Spandauer Str. 1, room 125
Time: 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.
For CRC members only

NEWS OF THE CRC

4 December 2013

Nobel Price Lecture 2013

On Wednesday 4 December 2013 the CRC 649 hosted the Nobel Prize Lecture 2013, which took place in the Heilig-Geist-chapel at the Economics faculty of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. This 8th annual Nobel Prize Lecture was kindly supported by the registered association "Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft e.V.". The event was well-attended and also perceived very positively among the guests.



Audience during the Nobel Price Lecture

As implied by the title "Wie funktioniert Wirtschaft?" the aim was to present the main ideas of the Nobel Laureates, Eugene Fama, Lars Peter Hansen and Robert Shiller, and more specifically their empirical analysis of asset prices. Official welcome and presentation was conducted by Prof. Tim Adam, Ph.D. (HU Berlin, chair for corporate finance).

The key lecture "Markteffizienz: der Boxkampf" was held by Prof. Alex Stomper, Ph.D. (HU Berlin, chair for financial economics) who gave a very concise as well as illustrative talk on the Laureates' work. Their research work focuses on the question of whether financial markets are predictable and if so for what possible reasons. By empirically analyzing the development of stock prices the researchers come to rather diverging conclusions. The hypothesis of market efficiency is advocated strongly by Fama, whereas Shiller is more inclined to reject this position. The different arguments relate to the two crucial questions of whether profits can



Sofa discussion with Tim Adam, Alex Stomper, Wolfgang Härdle and Georg Weizsäcker (left to right)

be predictable implying that an optimal time to invest in shares exists and whether financial markets are volatile. The discussion entailed and the researchers' different approaches to the topic present a major contribution to economics.

The event was concluded by a sofa discussion among Tim Adam, Alex Stomper, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Härdle (HU Berlin, chair for statistics) and Prof. Georg Weizsäcker, Ph.D. (HU Berlin, chair for microeconomic theory) as well as the audience. A broad range of topics were discussed but particular focus was given to the practical implications of the Laureates' work.

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

David N. Danz (A6) defended his thesis on "Three Essays on Irrational Beliefs" at the TU Berlin on 5 December 2013. Congratulations!

Dorothea Kübler (A6) participated in the workshop "Politische Ökonomie – Die Übersetzung ökonomischen Wissens in die Politik" of the IASS in Potsdam on 4 December 2013 and in the workshop "Matching in Practice", held in Paris from 16 to 17 December 2013. She also attended the workshop "Mind and culture: the behavioural and social foundations of economic development – from research framework to practice" (in preparation of the World Bank's World Development Report), hosted by the Development Policy Forum of GIZ, Berlin, from 4 to 5 December 2013 and gave a talk on "Monetary Incentives and Social Norms".

Michael C. Burda (C7) participated at the 17th RWI-Economic talks "Economic perspectives for the new Federal Government" at Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Essen on 2 December 2013. He also attended the conference "10th Christmas meeting of German economists abroad" at the University of Konstanz from 18 to 20 December 2013 and gave a lecture on "Recent Developments in the Verein für Socialpolitik and the German Economics".

Gunda-Alexandra Detmers (C14) presented the paper "How Stale Central Bank Interest Rate Projections Affect Interest Rate Uncertainty" at the 14th IWH-CIREQ Macroeconometric Workshop on "Forecasting and Big Data" on 2 December 2013 in Halle (Saale).

Till Strohsal (C14) has successfully defended his dissertation with the title "The Term Structure of Interest Rates and Monetary Policy: An Empirical Assessment" on 9 December 2013. Congratulations! From 14 to 16 December he attended the 7th CSDA International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics (CFE 2013) in London and presented his paper "Testing the Preferred-Habitat Theory: The Role of Time-Varying Risk Aversion".

Lars Winkelmann (C14) presented the joint paper with Aleksei Netšunajev (C15) "Inflation Expectations Spillovers between the United States and Euro Area" at the Computational and Financial Econometrics Conference in London from 14 to 16 December 2013.

AWARDS

Wolfgang Härdle (B1) has been conferred the title "Honorary Member of the Scientific Council" by the Scientific Council of the Institute for Economic Forecasting of the Romanian Academy "Costin C. Kiritescu".

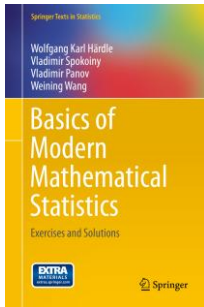
GUESTS OF THE CRC 649

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

Current Guests of the CRC 649 "Economic Risk":

18.03.2013 – 28.02.2014	<p>Dia, Xianhua Wuhan Institute of Technology</p> <p>Project: <i>Nonparametric Techniques in Economics</i></p> <p>Spandauer Str. 1, room 318 phone: 2093 5748</p>	
16.09.2013 – 28.02.2014	<p>Weil, Richard HWR Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht</p> <p>Project: <i>The Return Performance to Merger Arbitrage in Germany</i></p> <p>Spandauer Str. 1, room 318 phone: 2093 5895</p>	

PUBLICATIONS



Härdle, W., Spokoiny, V., Panov, V. and Wang, W. (2013)

"Basics of Modern Mathematical Statistics - Exercises and Solutions", ISBN 978-3-642-36849-3 (224p).

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-36850-9

Guo, M.M., Zhou, L, Huang, J.Z. and Härdle, W. (2013)

"Functional Data Analysis of Generalized Regression Quantiles", *Statistics and Computing*.

DOI: 10.1007/s11222-013-9425-1

Angelova, V., Armantier, O., Attanasi, G. and Hiriart, Y. (2013)

"Relative performance of liability rules: experimental evidence", *Theory and Decision*.

DOI: 10.1007/s11238-013-9405-0

Liu, R., Yang, L.Y. and Härdle, W. (2013)

"Oracally Efficient Two-Step Estimation of Generalized Additive Model", *Journal of the American Statistical Association*.

DOI: 10.1080/01621459.2013.763726

Rainer Schulz, Martin Wersing & Axel Werwatz (2013)

"Automated valuation modelling: a specification exercise", *Journal of Property Research*.

DOI: 10.1080/09599916.2013.846930

Lütkepohl, H., Staszewska-Bystrova, A. and Winker, P. (2013)

"Comparison of Methods for Constructing Joint Confidence Bands for Impulse Response Functions", *International Journal of Forecasting*

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijforecast.2013.08.003>

CRC STAFF

At this point the Collaborative Research Center 649 "Economic Risk" wants to present Petra Burdejová, former guest and new staff member of project B1 "Dynamic Semi-parametric Modeling" and Raphael Schöttler, staff member of project B3 "The Local Incidence of Shocks – the Role of Real Estate".

Petra Burdejová graduated from Charles University in Prague in Probability, Mathematical Statistics and Econometrics. During her studies she also worked as Junior Portfolio Manager in a bank. In 2010 Petra spent one year at HU as Erasmus exchange student and thus had a chance to know the faculty and, as she claims herself, fell in love with Berlin. As a new member of the CRC team she will focus mainly on dynamic semiparametric factor models, project B1, under the supervision of Prof. Härdle. In her free time she likes to refresh her brain by inline-skating and playing board games with friends. (PB)



Raphael joined the SFB in September 2013 after completing the BDPEMS course work. In his dissertation he will focus on the economic effects of German reunification along two dimensions, real estate and labour markets.

His supervisor Nikolaus Wolf, chair of Economic History at Humboldt, already oversaw his master thesis on the role of the ECB in the built-up of the euro crisis.

During his masters degree at Humboldt University he spent a semester in Beijing while he received his BSc from the London School of Economics. He spent two years training as a banker at Sal. Oppenheim before they were bought by Deutsche Bank.

Raphael takes a great interest in football, squash and chess while during the summer months he is a keen golfer. (RS)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

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 second Newsletter 2014 is 28.01.2014.**