BGPE course: Regional and Urban Economics

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Objectives: This course will explore a range of topics related to current research in urban and regional economics: the modelling and estimation of agglomeration economies; the costs of cities and their internal structure with emphasis on land use regulations and transportation; amenities and the local supply of labour; the sizes and functions of cities. Both theory and empirics will be covered. Special attention will be devoted to building bridges with other fields including labour, international, public, IO, and development.

Schedule:

Sunday 25 March
19.00  Welcome meeting and dinner

Monday 26 March
9.00-10.30  Lecture: agglomeration theory (part 1)
10.30-11.00  Break
11.00-12.30  Lecture: agglomeration theory (part 2)
12.30-14.00  Lunch
14.00-15.30  Lecture: Agglomeration empirics (part 1)
15.30-16.00  Break
16.00-17.30  Lecture: Agglomeration empirics (part 2)
19.00  Dinner

Tuesday 27 March
9.00-10.30  Paper presentation: Ahfeldt et al. (2015)
10.30-11.00  Break
11.00-12.30  Paper presentation: De la Roca and Puga (2017)
12.30-14.00  Lunch
14.00-15.30  Lecture: Monocentric model (part 1)
15.30-16.00  Break
16.00-17.30  Lecture: Monocentric model (part 2)
19.00  Dinner
**Wednesday 28 March**
- 9.00-10.30 Lecture: dispersion empirics (part 1)
- 10.30-11.00 Break
- 11.00-12.30 Lecture: dispersion empirics (part 2)
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 15.30-16.00 Break
- 16.00-17.30 Paper presentation: Akbar and Duranton (2018)
- 19.00 Dinner

**Thursday 29 March**
- 9.00-10.30 Lecture: quality of life and mobility (part 1)
- 10.30-11.00 Break
- 11.00-12.30 Lecture: quality of life and mobility (part 2)
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 15.30-16.00 Break
- 16.00-17.30 Lecture: urban systems, growth, and Zipf’s law (part 1)
- 19.00 Dinner

**Friday 30 March**
- 9.00-10.30 Lecture: urban systems, growth, and Zipf’s law (part 2)
- 10.30-11.00 Break
- 11.00-12.30 Lecture: urban systems, growth, and Zipf’s law (part 3)
- 12.30-14.00 End of course and lunch
General issues:

1. This course hopes to achieve several objectives:
   - Provide you with substantive knowledge about the economics of cities and regions.
   - Foster your technical knowledge about a number of modelling aspects, econometrics techniques, and the link between the two.
   - Make you think critically (and hopefully creatively) about existing research.

2. The course builds on standard microeconomic theory (adapted to the complications introduced by space) and econometrics. Familiarity with standard first year PhD microeconomics and empirical methods will be assumed. Given the range of problems that urban and regional economists face, no single empirical approach is expected to fully dominate.

3. The assessment will consist in:
   - One 90 minutes open-book exam, scheduled on April 13th (100%)
Syllabus:

(“+” => compulsory reading)

**Agglomeration: Theory**


**Agglomeration: Empirics**


IV:  

Quasi-Experiments:  

**Agglomeration: Empirics part 2**

Structural:  


Identifying the sources of agglomeration:  


**Dispersion: Theory**


**Dispersion: Empirics**


**Dispersion: Empirics, part 2**


**Local labour supply and amenities: Theory**


Local labour supply and amenities: Empirics


Systems of cities, growth and Zipf’s law
