

katesh Sundararaman in a paper called “Contract teachers: Experimental evidence from India” try to address a controversial policy question if it is more efficient to use well-educated well-paid contract teachers or more teachers without professional training using renewable contracts.

Pamela Jakiela (“How Fair Shares Compare: Experimental Evidence from Two Cultures”) uses abstract experiments to estimate willingness to reward effort in US and Kenya. She finds that US subjects and educated Kenyan subjects value effort more than uneducated Kenyan subjects who do not distinguish if the income is a result of luck or effort. Bruce Wydick and Alessandra Cassar (“Does social capital matter? Evidence from a five-country group lending experiment”) study differences in dynamics of microcredit borrowing depending on group heterogeneity and availability of information on actions of other agents.

The success of microcredit around the world inspires academicians and prac-

tioners to test its various extensions. Jonathan Robinson and Pascaline Dupaz (“Savings Constraints and Microenterprise Development: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya”) designed a new savings account for a local village bank in rural Kenya. Despite the fact that the savings accounts paid no interest and featured substantial withdrawal fees, take-up and usage was high among women. The savings accounts had substantial, positive impacts on productive investment levels and expenditures. However, not every field experiment delivers promising results. Jaikishan Dessai and Alessandro Tarozzi (“Microcredit, family planning programs and contraceptive behavior: Evidence from a field experiment in Ethiopia”) estimate synergies in providing family planning programs bundled with microcredit. They show that neither type of program, combined or in isolation, led to an increase in contraceptive use.

More questions and a few answers are available on the conference website: <http://www.bu.edu/econ/neudc/>.

The 5th Czech Economic Society Biennial Conference 2008

Prague, 29 November, 2008

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The Czech Economic Society (CES) is an association of scholars working or interested in the field of economics, and the Czech Economic Society’s biennial conference is the key event of the Society.

The main mission of the Society is to enhance the development and promote

knowledge of economics in the Czech Republic in a way that fully respects and supports autonomy of different streams of economics scholarship. To achieve this aim, the Society regularly organizes lectures and seminars, awards young economists, and publishes papers in economics. Every two years, it holds a bien-

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nial conference, and each odd year, it organizes the general assembly of the Czech Economic Society.

The 5th biennial conference was held at the University of Economics, Prague on 29th November 2008. The organization committee of the conference was chaired by Luboš Komárek; the other members were Tomáš Holub, Petr Jakubík, Jitka Koderová, Patricie Mederová and Daniel Münich. Contributed papers sessions were selected by the program committee chaired by Michal Skořepa and consisting of Tomáš Cahlík, Karel Janda, Štěpán Jurajda and Pavel Mertlík. The conference was sponsored by CERGE-EI Foundation and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Two opening speeches of the conference were delivered by Luboš Komárek, President of the Society, and Petr Dvořák, Dean of the Faculty of Finance and Accounting of the University of Economics. The keynote lecture “Is Transition over? Possible Definitions and Some Measurements” was given by Professor Oleh Havrylyshyn (University of Toronto). The next part of the conference was a prize-giving ceremony of awards granted by the Society: “Young Economist of 2008” (sponsored by Československá obchodní banka, a.s.), “Karel Engliš Prize” (sponsored by the business weekly EKONOM) and “CES President’s Recognition for a Young Economist below 25 Years of Age”. The results were as follows.

Young Economist 1st place	Michaela Krčínková, Jan Zápál	OCA Cubed: Mundell in 3D
Young Economist 2nd place	Lenka Štastná	Spatial Interdependence of Local Public Expenditures. Evidence from the Czech Republic
Young Economist 3rd place	Filip Matějka	Rationally Inattentive Seller: Sales and Discrete Pricing
CSE President’s Recognition	Tomáš Havránek, Zuzana Iršová	Meta-Analysis of Intra-Industry FDI Spillovers: Updated Evidence
Prize of Karel Engliš	Branislav Saxa	Learning-by-Exporting or Managerial Quality? Evidence from the Czech Republic

Occasionally, the Society’s Board of Directors grants the “Prize for the Long Term Contribution to Czech Economics”. This year, the Board decided to award Professor Milan Sojka for the long-time teaching and publication especially within the field of Keynesian and institutional economics. The lecture of the laureate was mainly focused on the importance of teaching history of economic thought at Czech universities.

Morning and afternoon sessions were the essential parts of the conference program. The program committee selected 63 ar-

ticles into 19 sections. An extra non-research section was devoted to the teaching of economics issues at the Czech secondary schools.

The closing item on the conference programme is traditionally a panel discussion. The topic of the panel at the 5th biennial conference was “Teaching Macroeconomics at the Czech Universities”. The panel was chaired by Luboš Komárek, with members Petr Bartoň (Faculty of Economics and Public Administration, University of Economics), Jindřich Soukup (Faculty of Business Ad-

ministration, University of Economics), Tomáš Holub (Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University Prague), Martin Macháček (Faculty of Economics, Technical University Ostrava), Michal Kejak (CERGE-EI), and Michal Kvasnička (Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University). Each speaker

mainly described how macroeconomics is taught at his home institution with emphasis on the Master level.

More information about the conference as well as the Czech Economic Society is available on the Society's homepage: <http://www.cse.cz>