Dissertation Topics 2014–2015

Key

E	=	**MSc Economics**
EnvE	=	**MSc in Economics (Environmental Pathway)**
DE	=	**MSc in Development Economics**
FE	=	**MSc in Financial Economics**
EE	=	**MSc in Economics & Econometrics**
EM	=	**MSc in Econometrics**
HE	=	**MSc in Economics (Economics of Health Pathway)**

Agenor, E, E –

1. Shadow Banking: Size, Determinants, and Implications for Monetary Policy
2. Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure: Growth and Welfare Effects

Backus, EE, EE –

1. Applied Microeconomics
2. Public Economics
3. Anything to do with charities, charitable giving, volunteering
4. Preference Formation
5. Gender issues

Berardi, E, E –

I'm interested in supervising students willing to work in the area of macroeconomics and monetary economics and that want to focus on:

i) the impact of expectations on macroeconomic outcomes and their relevance for policy implementation;
ii) the role of learning dynamics in macroeconomics;
iii) heterogeneous expectations models.

While I encourage students to come up with their own specific topic (within the areas mentioned above), possible suggestions are:

- The role of expectations in macroeconomic models (survey dissertation)
- Determinacy, learning and monetary policy: the Taylor principle and beyond.
- Heterogeneity in expectations and monetary policy.
- Heterogeneous learning dynamics and equilibrium stability.

These studies are theoretical in nature, conducted with analytical tools and/or simulations. For reference,students can have a look at my research papers, available at:
http://ideas.repec.org/f/pbe224.html

Blackburn, E, E –

- Inequality and Income Distribution
- Institutions, Governance and Corruption
- Demographic Transition

Bratsiotis, E,E –

Monetary and Fiscal Policy and the Business Cycles
New Keynesian Stochastic Dynamic General Equilibrium (DSGE) Models
Credit Market Imperfections, Bank regulation and Macroeconomic Policy
Wage and Price Setting, Unemployment and Business Cycles

Chan, FE, FE –

- Energy market
- Policy issues within environmental and energy economics
- Gravity models of international trade
- Firm productivity and industry dynamics

Cheng, DE, DE –

1. Labour markets
2. Institutions and market reform outcomes
3. Trade liberalisation

Cho, FE, E –

- Probabilistic assignment
- Matching
- school choice
- group identification,
- resource allocation in exchange economy

Chouliarakis, E, E –

- Labour Markets
- Unemployment
- Wage Rigidities

Cortes, E, E –

Labour Economics: wages, employment, wage inequality, unemployment, occupation and job transitions, skill formation and skill transferability. More details here: http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/economics/postgraduate-research/phd-areas/matias-cortes/

Dutta, DE, DE –

- Inequality
- Poverty
- Multi-dimensional Deprivation
- Conflict.

Edhan, E, E –

1. Repeated games with stochastic signals
2. Cost sharing with atoms.
3. Coalitions, Production, and Growth.
4. Sex and ploidity.
5. Online optimization and competitive equilibrium.

Evstigneev, FE, FE –

- Growth optimal investments.
- Asset market games.
- Evolutionary finance.

Fichera, HE, HE, HE, HE –

1. **Happy doctors, happy patients? The impact of GP job satisfaction on patient satisfaction with their GP experience.**
   Research Question: The aim of the project is to investigate the relationship between GP worklife satisfaction and the patients satisfaction with their GP.
   Data: The project will use econometric methods to relate patient experiences from the GP Patient Survey (https://gp-patient.co.uk/) to the job satisfaction reported by GPs in the National GP Worklife Survey

   Reference: DeVoe, J, et al. "Congruent satisfaction: Is there geographic correlation between patient and physician satisfaction?." Medical care 45.1 (2007): 88-94.

   Supervisors: Dr Jon Gibson, Prof Matt Sutton
   Contact: jon.m.gibson@manchester.ac.uk

2. **Exploring the relationship between income and health in low-income settings**

   To date there is inconclusive evidence on the effect of income inequalities on health inequalities. The limited evidence existing on low-income settings suggests that income has only an indirect effect on health status. The thesis should investigate what are the pathways through which economic status influences health (Or what are the inputs to the health production function that can be influenced by economic status and how).

Data: KHDS (Kagera Health and Development Survey) is a rich panel data-set which contains data from a multi-topic household questionnaire including a variety of health related question. The questionnaires were administered to the sample households in 1991-1994 and to all split-off households originating from the baseline households in 2004 and in 2010. A number of additional constructed data-sets are available.
Downloadable at: http://www.edi-africa.com/research/khds/introduction.htm

Reference:
O'Donnell, O., Doorslaer, E.V., Ourti, T.V., 2014. Health and inequality. In: Atkinson, A.B., Bourguignon, F.J. (Eds.), Handbook of Income Distribution, vol. 2 Part B. Elsevier, Amsterdam (section 4 and 4.5 in particular)
Discussion paper version available at:
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2340545
Examples of empirical studies are reported in the reference provided.

Supervisors: Dr Laura Anselmi, Dr. Søren Rud Kristensen
Contact: laura.anselmi@manchester.ac.uk

3. The relation between relative wealth and health. The case of house prices in England.

This study will use longitudinal data from Understanding Society to investigate the relationship between relative house prices and health in England. The exact measure of health is at this stage left vague, and will be in part determined by the student's own interests. We will define relative house price as the difference between own house price and the average house price in a small geographical area, such as a Lower Super Output Area. Using relative house prices as an indicator of economic conditions is relatively novel, as most existing studies focus on absolute housing wealth. Exploring relative prices will allow us to observe how individuals compare themselves with their neighbours. Other measures of health care and socioeconomic characteristics will be included in the analysis sourced from the Department of Health and Office for National Statistics in England.

References:
Clark A., Frijters P. and Shields M.A. (2008) Relative income, happiness and utility: an explanation for the Easterlin Paradox and other puzzles. Journal of the Economic Literature, 46(1), 95-144.
Gravelle H. and Sutton M. (2009) Income, relative income, and self-reported health in Britain 1979-2000. Health Economics, 18(2), 125 – 145
Ruhm Chris (2000) Are recessions good for your health? Quarterly Journal of Economics, 115(2): 617-650
Please note that because of the data sensitivity, the student will be required to perform the analysis at the Manchester Centre for Health Economics (University Place, in front of Arthur Lewis Building). The student will be based at the Centre and will be able to use our computer facilities.

Supervisors: Dr. Luke Munford, Dr. Eleonora Fichera
Contact: luke.munford@manchester.ac.uk

4. **The relation between "subjective" and "objective" measures of health in England. An analysis of the English ageing population.**

   Economists use subjective measures of health to examine the relation between income and health. Although some studies (Johnston et al., 2009) have found that measures of self-reported health are likely to lead to an under-estimate of income-related inequalities in health, such studies heavily rely on cross-sectional data. We will use the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) to directly compare objective health measured at nurse visits with a number of self-reported conditions. ELSA also allows us to consider a number of socioeconomic characteristics.

   Reference:
   Johnston, D., Propper, C. and Shields, M. (2009). Comparing subjective and objective health measures: Implications from hypertension for the estimated income/health gradient. Journal of Health Economics, 28, pp. 540-552.

   Supervisors: Dr. Luke Munford, Dr. Eleonora Fichera
   Contact: luke.munford@manchester.ac.uk

Golan*, DE, DE –
(Xiaobing Wang and Ed Amann will cover until Jennifer Golan returns in June 2015)*

Applied development microeconomics, including topics in:
Intra-household resource allocation, and, in particular, gender differences in household farm and firm productivity, factors affecting income generation in rural households and topics in development policy.

Grant, E, FE -

- Theoretical econometrics (Identification in non-linear models, GMM Estimation, Testing and inference)
- Applied Microeconometrics- IV estimation.

Gwatipedza, EnvE, EnvE –

- International Trade and Environmental Externalities
- Political Economy and the Provision of Public Goods
- Foreign Land Purchases and Taxation
- Economics of Government Predation

Himmels, E, E -

- Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- International Macroeconomics.

Isopi, DE, DE, DE –

Development aid and contract theory application to the agricultural sector

Macnamara, FE, FE –

1. The welfare cost of business cycles
2. Optimum currency areas
3. The Employer-Size Wage Effect – i.e., the positive relationship in the data between employer size and wages.
4. Macroeconomic implications of firm-level substitution between corporate bonds and bank loans

Manderson, E, E –

Any empirical study on the linkages between the environment and the economy. Examples include:

1. Environmental regulations and economic performance (e.g. productivity, innovation)
2. Pollution haven hypothesis
3. Impact of trade, investment or growth on the environment

Mazza, EM, EM –

- applied microeconometrics
- labour economics
- economics of education

A good working knowledge of modern micreconometric techniques such as Instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, selection models, difference in difference estimation and the ability to handle statistical packages (especially Stata) is highly recommended.

Mermer, E, E –

1. Experimental Economics
2. Behavioural Economics

Middleditch, E, E –

Constructing long run measures of economic activity: The recent financial crisis has brought a revived interest and a search for new instruments with which to conduct demand management policies or output smoothing. One such way to measure the success or otherwise of these instruments is through the construction and analysis of long run economic variables such as the natural rates of unemployment and output. This area of research will include the use of modern empirical methodologies such as the Kalman filter and recent causality testing. The student will hope to successfully construct their own long run measures of economic activity and utilise them in tests on standard macroeconomic theory, see Staiger, Stock and Watson (1996) for assistance with your research proposal. It is anticipated that the project will have a strong econometrics component.

Air pollution and macroeconomic time series: What information can we extract from more recently available time series such as for air pollution? For instance, does air pollution contain information about economic activity such as the level or growth of gross domestic product in the United Kingdom. An empirical investigation will draw on various econometric techniques to investigate the possibility that pollution could provide a high frequency proxy for gross domestic product, see Hanna and Garcia (2008) for a similar application using a spline regression and Mexican data for help with your research proposal. It is anticipated that the project will have a strong econometrics component.

Nicolo, E, E –

1. Mechanism design for public good provision
2. Contract theory when agents have other regarding preferences.
3. Allocations of indivisible goods (with applications to Kidney Exchange Programs)
4. Reciprocity models
5. Political economy models of electoral campaigns

Oryshchenko, EM –

- Econometric theory (semi- and non-parametric methods, including GMM and GEL, and time series methods);
- I'm also happy to supervise any topic that fits under the wide umbrella of `applied econometrics', with emphasis on econometric methodology.

(Any preliminary proposals within this category must be discussed with me prior to making a non-rescindable commitment.)

Pezzino, FE, FE –

1. Theories of product differentiation
2. Mixed oligopoly, Private VS public competition
3. Industrial organization of hospitals

Reggiani, FE, FE –

My tentative topics (to be discussed with eventual students) are:

1. "Pricing in the digital economy: privacy, price discrimination and advertising "
2. "Innovation on the web: the economics of net neutrality "
3. "The role of managers in firms and its economic consequences"

Rigby,

Topic suitable for MSc Economics, MSc Economics (Environmental Pathway), MSc Economics and Econometrics and MSc in Economics (Economics of Health Pathway) students.

The Economic Costs of Infectious Intestinal Disease

Foodborne infectious intestinal disease (IID) represents a major economic burden to the UK with 11 million working days lost annually. The costs of this illness have been estimated by the Food Standards Agency to be £2 billion. This project involves reviewing the theoretical approaches to valuing these costs of disease and, primarily, empirical analysis of disease costs. The analysis will be based on a new national dataset of disease, and will contribute to Research Councils funded project (http://enigmaproject.org.uk)

Russell, EnvE, EnvE –

Any study on theoretical, empirical or policy issues related to costs/benefits of ecosystem services and/or agricultural intensification. I am particularly interested in studies that seek to combine theoretical and empirical analysis of these issues.

Salter, E, E –

1. Topics in the History of Economic Thought
2. Economic Crises, Bubbles and Crashes
3. Financial Regulation

Shenke-Hoppe, FE, FE –

Students may propose specific topics in the following areas:

1. Financial Market Microstructure
2. Trading and Investment
3. Market Selection Hypothesis in Financial Markets

Sinko, E. E –

- High-frequency Volatility Forecasting
- Estimation of Diffusion processes
- Forecast averaging

Wang, DE, DE. –

- **Theoretical**: structural change and development, Dual economy models, the Chinese economy.
- **Empirical**: labour market segmentation and integration in China, inequality and the urban-rural divide in China, and the welfare of those in rural China

Waseem, EM, DE –

1. Applied Microeconomics
2. Public Finance
3. Anything to do with taxation.

Whittaker, HE, HE, HE, HE –

1. **An incentive a day keeps the patient ok?**

   The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is a pay for performance scheme aimed at improving the quality of General Practice in England. Although GP practices perform highly in the scheme, little is known on how the scheme affects patients perception of practices. Using the GP Patient Survey and Practice QOF scores the research will seek to identify how practice performance correlates with patient satisfaction. The methods will involve data linkage, and panel data econometrics.

   Supervisor: William Whittaker
   Contact: william.whittaker@manchester.ac.uk

2. **The determinants of dental check-up use**
   The research will seek to identify characteristics that explain dental check-up use, and in particular, whether these are different for private and public dental use. Panel data (British Household Panel Survey) and respective modelling techniques will be used.

   Supervisor: William Whittaker
   Contact: william.whittaker@manchester.ac.uk