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Maastricht Graduate School of Governance



E-Gazette

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Close to the Fire

Hao Yu: PhD Fellow currently doing research at the Dutch National Bank

Currently I am working in the DNB (De Nederlandsche Bank or the Dutch National Bank) for a research project on Dutch pension funds' investment. This consists of the core part of my PhD dissertation. My first paper has investigated how the interaction between monetary policy and fiscal policy could influence a term structure of market interest rates. With the current research, I can look deeply into each of pension funds' portfolio and its rebalance with respect to their expectation on the evolvment of market interest rates. Thus, I can form my opinion on how government policies influence pension funds' interest rates risk

management. It is very beneficial to work in the DNB. People are very passionate and involved in their work. Even in the lunch, you can always hear that people frankly exchange their knowledge and opinions-currently, most is about the financial crisis...I learn a lot of know-how knowledge from the experts here.

Hao Yu, PhD Fellow 2006-2009

Solutions for a complex world

Governance, Conflict and Crisis, and Aid Effectiveness

Research Conference, 24-25 November 2008

The European PhD Programme in Social Protection Policy (ESPP) and the Dual Career PhD Programme in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC2) of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance invite junior and senior researchers to participate in a research conference on "Governance, Aid Effectiveness, Conflict and Crisis" on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November 2008 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

The Research Conference will be held in Maastricht, and brings together senior and junior researchers with a diverse academic background to share ideas on the relation between governance, aid effectiveness and conflict and crisis studied from various angles. [Read more >>](#)

Nice to meet you ...

PhD Fellow Derya Findik

My name is Derya . I am a new PhD fellow. Before coming here, I was working as a research assistant at the department of Science and Technology Policy Studies at Middle East Technical University which is located in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey. My educational background is really diverse: Public finance, science and technology policy studies, social network analysis, e-government, and industrial clusters. I am also interested in wage differentiation with respect to gender and the effect of technology on this. Currently I am working on female participation in manufacturing industry. Research networks which are built on research projects with the increasing number of European Union funds also attract my attention. The reason which brings me here is not only to work in a different atmosphere but also to be a part of this. I am planning to conduct research on the effect of governance indicators on productivity of manufacturing industry and how these indicators play role in shaping the industry` s wage structure.



Baseline study of early childhood investments in the region of Limburg *Robert Bauchmüller's PhD project*

When you come to this region (Limburg) you often hear enthusiastic remarks on that living in this region would be special - different from 'Holland', somewhat Burgundian, that people would have a strong regional identity, that it would be European heartland and that it is evolving out of a serious economic transition. Eight years ago I came to Maastricht to study economics, also hearing those remarks. The birthplace of the EU treaty made me soon

enthusiastic about European integration. I appreciated that integration at the macro level (Euro, open borders, single market etc.) was also accompanied by an integration at the micro level. Originating from the German city of Düren I curiously looked out for the common elements of Limburger and Rhenish identity – some of the more visible denominators are the carnival, the similarities in dialects and economic situations, shared histories and catholic spirits. I started considering myself not only as a European but also as a Limburger. Today I am enjoying that those spirits can be linked within my PhD at the School's European programme on Social Protection Policy. While benefiting from the international research environment at the school I am doing research on data collected in Limburg.

In Limburg provisions of early care and education arrangements are extended as in other European regions. At the same time there is a severe occurrence of children growing up in impoverished and less stimulating social environments but educational attainments are of growing importance in the labour market. Until recently the Dutch government put more financial attention to the situation of children in the big cities than children on the countryside of outer provinces. These days, the government supports with substantial financial investments the regional 'Moelejaan' process which shall result in 57 new kindergarten groups running programmes stimulating early language development of disadvantaged children. The need for such programmes in the region seems obvious; however, there is still limited evidence of the actual state of deprivations and chances of children growing up in our region. With the ambition to do more evidence based policymaking the government links their investments to research on what works in Limburg's care and education sector and what could be improved. Hence a new research institute called SJOANS (Limburg term for 'chance' or 'opportunity') was established at the beginning of the year. It deems to push research on the regional agenda under the umbrella of the Network of Social Innovation, initiating research from researchers at both Maastricht University and the Zuyd University.



The institute gave me the opportunity to influence the data collection for the Moelejaan project so that I could fit part of the data collection to my own research interests. Since March I got involved in preparing questionnaires and procedures for the data collection consulting many researchers and practitioners in the South of Limburg. We collect language and mathematics test scores, information about family backgrounds and about various investments that are made during early childhood. In early summer I collected such data from a number of schools and kindergartens as well as parents in

Maastricht. With this data our SJOANS research team is now addressing the question: Does the early educational programme of 'Speelplezier' ('joy to play') that is used at kindergartens in Maastricht actually work? 'Speelplezier' is developed and predominantly used in the South of Limburg; therefore the results of this study will inform policymakers whether this programme will be the right choice for their investments. (First results are soon available at my new blog: <http://robert.bauchmueller.de>) In a next step feedback from my Maastricht data collection is taken on by CONSENT (regional service provider for the education sector) and MEMIC (UM Centre for Data and Information management) to extend the data collection to all children in the South of Limburg. The collected data will be used for a SJOANS baseline study of early childhood investments in the region and I will address additional scientific research questions for my PhD. The guidance and coursework within the Governance School helps me to use the best research strategies in such an applied research setting – matching the needs of the practitioners and policymakers with what is demanded from a scientific perspective.

Iron Man versus Iron Ladies



On September 7, 2008 MGSOG's Britta Augsborg and Melissa Siegel completed the Cologne Half Iron Man (CologneClassic) in Cologne, Germany. This triathlon consisted of 2.5 kilometers swimming, 90 kilometers biking and 21 kilometers running. Both finished within six and a half hours. The day before, September 6, Pascal Beckers completed the quarter triathlon consisting of 1 kilometer swimming, 40 kilometers biking and 10 kilometers running. Pascal was an astounding 6th man out of the water!!

Citizenship and Integration Policies in EU Member States

Report of seminar from 22nd to 24th of September by [Metka Hercog](#)

From 22 to 24 September, a seminar on EU policies and Inter-European Cooperation was held at the premises of the European Institute of Public Administration, as part of the Masters Programme in European Migration Policies.

This seminar is the first in a series of seven seminars concerned with a range of migration issues. It gave an introduction to the *Acquis Communautaire* in the field of EU migration law and policies, ranging from policies on students, researchers, family members to asylum seekers. As Natasja Reslow, researcher at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in Maastricht, explains "the seminar provided a very useful overview of legal aspects of migration to and within the EU through engaging and stimulating sessions. The invited practitioners and experts elaborated on case law and proposed policies on migration, and brought participants much closer to the situation of third country nationals wanting to migrate to and within the EU, something which most EU nationals may not always stop to consider". Natasja is just one of the participants at the seminar that was very satisfied with the information provided in this seminar. Melissa Siegel, a researcher fellow in the School of Governance also agrees that the seminar "was extremely informative". In addition, Melissa appreciated the diverse backgrounds of participants as "it brought together people working in different areas which made for very interesting interaction". The participants came from institutions like the IND (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Netherlands, European Court of Justice, European Commission and ministries of the German Länder. Various backgrounds and experiences of participants were conducive to high-level discussions which were further supported by the speakers at the seminar. Most of them stayed even after their presentations and in that way further contributed to a remarkable interaction.

The highlight of the three-day seminar was the visit of the Executive Director of FRONTEX, Iikka Laitinen. As the agency in general attracts a lot of attention and criticism, the debate at the seminar also touched upon the controversial joint operations at the external borders on the EU. Violeta Moreno Lax, a researcher on asylum law from the Université catholique de Louvain, for example, pointed out that FRONTEX's measures of 'remote border control' force the refugees "to make recourse to illegal means of migration since they are prevented from reaching the territory of EU Member states where they could claim asylum".

Vibrant discussions continued even during the coffee and lunch breaks. Some of the participants at the seminar are also enrolled in the Masters Programme in European Migration Policies and will therefore be in constant contact with each other and with the course coordinators. The next opportunity to meet again in Maastricht is coming up already in the beginning of December. The coming seminar on Citizenship and Integration Policies in EU Member States will be held from 1 to 3 December. Seeing integration as a hot topic, we expect a lot of interest from policy makers and other public officials in the European Union and

its partner countries to join the seminar with an aim to identify a good integration policy. The seminar is designed to meet their needs and to enable participants to look at the influence of EU policies and instruments on integration within the Member States, study integration practices in comparative perspective, and discuss the issue of how to assess best practices.

For more on the seminar on Citizenship and Integration Policies in EU Member States and on the Master programme on European Migration Policies, [click here](#).

Upcoming events:

- [Easy Living in Maastricht, Information Market for International Professional Community \(October 6th\)](#)

- [U.S. Debate: Who's best for Europe \(October 7th\)](#)

- [Aid Effectiveness Puzzle: "A Complicated Picture and Some Missing Pieces \(14 & 15 October\)](#)

- [MGSoG Movie Series: When the Levees Broke \(October 20th\)](#)

For more upcoming events, please [click here](#)

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