

1. Nikolas Thomopoulos
2. 2004
3. PhD student - Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds / Part-time Lecturer in Economics & Business – Leeds Metropolitan Business School
10. Intended presentation title: Results of an equity analysis of large transport infrastructure projects: a TEN-T case study

4. Motivation letter – 6.Current research – 7.Career plans

Dear Administrator of the Organising Committee,

I am contacting you to apply for the 23rd ERSA 2010 summer school in Productivity and Financing of Regional Infrastructure.

Currently I am at the submission stage of my PhD at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds. My research is about the appraisal of large transport infrastructure projects and I am using two Trans-European Transport Network projects as case studies to assess implications on equity and regional development of those projects. Within my research I am conducting an ex-post analysis of the spatial impacts of those projects, applying an MCA framework in contrast to the conventional CBA evaluation. As one of my main research aims is the construction and application of a composite indicator, I view this summer school as potentially very useful as I will have the opportunity to become familiar with SCGE models and spatial econometrics.

During my undergraduate studies in economics I first became familiar with statistics and econometrics. Later, during my post-graduate studies at Oxford, I had the opportunity to build on those skills attending a social statistics course. Furthermore, during my doctoral studies at Leeds I have attended various seminars about transport economics and the application of indicators in this field. However, I acknowledge that am lacking extensive awareness regarding tools to measure the productivity effects of regional infrastructure investment. By attending such a specialised summer school I believe that I will be able to benefit not only by the experience and knowledge of the lecturers, but also by exchanging knowledge with other participating researchers. This may lead to useful collaborations in the future, especially with researchers from other disciplines, which would be valuable for my future career plans.

Following the completion of my PhD, I plan to embark on a post-doc remaining in the regional economics field within academia. For the time being, I am also gaining lecturing experience, as a part-time lecturer in economics at the Leeds Metropolitan Business School. Thus, I am keen in attending an international summer school to acquire useful expertise, learn from leading experts in the field and also take advantage of the networking potential.

Therefore, I would like to reiterate my interest for applying for the ERSA 2010 summer school in Sweden. Please find all required information in this document. In case you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Nikolas Thomopoulos

NIKOLAOS THOMOPOULOS

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EDUCATION

- 11/2005 – to date *Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, UK*
Doctoral Researcher
- PhD research at the Marie Curie training site on Policy Economics and Appraisal in Transport
 - research aim includes the incorporation of equity considerations in transport appraisal by applying an MCA approach and using a range of transport, socio-economic and environmental indicators
 - two TEN-T projects have been selected to be used as case studies for this research and several stakeholders and policy makers have been involved
- 10/2003 – 9/2004 *School of Geography & the Environment, University of Oxford, UK*
MSc in Nature, Society & Environmental Policy
- conducted research about a proposed road user charging scheme in a UK National Park by developing a Stated Preference questionnaire and interviewing 15 stakeholders. Distinction in MSc Dissertation.
 - attended various seminars by international experts and submitted coursework in sustainable transport, global and local, environmental management and participatory methods, quantitative research techniques, environmental policy
- 2/2002 – 7/2002 *Department of Business, Aachen University of Applied Sciences, Germany*
Business studies within the Erasmus programme
- took various business courses, including business management, political economy of the EU, e-commerce, human resources management
 - improved communication skills attending lectures and seminars in German and English
- 9/1998 – 9/2002 *Department of Economics , University of Macedonia , Greece*
BSc in Economic Sciences *Graduation mark: 75.4 %*
- courses included macroeconomics, microeconomics, fiscal policy, financial economics, advanced mathematics and statistics
 - specialized in regional economics and conducted research about labour migration policies in the EU. Distinction in BSc dissertation.
- 9/1993 – 6/1998 *Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, Greece*
Apolitirio Likeiou *Highschool graduation mark: 18.4 / 20*

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 9/2009 – to date *Leeds Business School, Leeds Metropolitan University*
Part-time Lecturer in Economics & Business
- taught undergraduate seminars in Economics and Business
- 11/2005 – 11/2008 *Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds*
Marie Curie EST Research Fellow
- conducted research in transport appraisal, including an extensive review of assessment frameworks in EU member states
 - reviewed various MCA and CBA applications in transport appraisal
 - presented results at national and international conferences
- 11/2004 – 10/2005 *Regional Development & Policy Research Unit, University of Macedonia*
Research Assistant
- conducted research in employment, migration and industrial location policies
 - contributed in two EU funded research projects: MOVE and HERMES by conducting literature review, drafting reports and assisting in administrative matters as a member of the project coordinating team

- 9/2001- 10/2001 *Hellenic National Statistics Service*
Interrogator for the National Census
- managed a team of 4 interrogators
 - detailed processing of demographic data

PUBLISHED WORK

- **Thomopoulos, N.**, Grant-Muller, S., Tight, M. (2009) Incorporating equity considerations in transport infrastructure evaluation: Current practice and a proposed methodology, *Journal of Evaluation and Program Planning: Special Issue on Evaluating impacts of transport projects*, 32(4), pp. 351-359.
- **Thomopoulos, N.**, Takama, T. (2010) Road use charging in UK National Parks: the Upper Derwent valley case, *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Transport, Special Issue on Road user charging* (forthcoming).
- Labrianidis, L., Kalogeressis, T., Kourtesis, A., **Thomopoulos, N.** (2006) *MOVE: The changing geography of labour intensive industries in Europe*. Final report, FP6 STREP research project, Brussels.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- *European Regional Policy Workshop*, Strathclyde University, Glasgow, December 2008
- *European Transport Conference*, Leeuwenhorst, The Netherlands, October 2008
- *3rd International Conference on Funding Transport Infrastructure*, Paris, June 2008
- *NECTAR bi-annual conference*, Porto, May 2007
- *Aegean Koine Graduate Conference*, Oxford, April 2005

LANGUAGES

Greek	<i>native</i>
English	<i>fluent</i>
German	<i>advanced</i>
French	<i>beginner</i>
Mandarin	<i>beginner</i>

IT SKILLS

- basic GIS knowledge: *MapInfo, Accession-GIS*
- statistical software: *SPSS, R*
- webpage design: *Dreamweaver MX/8*
- *general:* *Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Corel*

MEMBERSHIP

- European Regional Science Association
- Royal Economic Society
- European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
- Network on European Communications and Transport Activities Research

ACTIVITIES

- Member of the Organising Committee of the 2007 and 2008 ENVIRONMENT Faculty Conference: Manager of the sponsorship and fundraising team
- Marie Curie Cancer Care: fundraiser during various runs/half-marathons
- Leeds Hellenic Society: President (2008)
- ITS: Research students representative (2007)
- YMCA Leadership School: Instructor
- Certified First Aider

8. PhD supervisor – 9. Referees

REFERENCES

Dr Susan Grant-Muller
Director of Research / Senior Lecturer / PhD Supervisor

Institute for Transport Studies – University of Leeds

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Research Fellow

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