

MSc Dissertation Supervision 2015/2016 - Research interests and topics					
Name	Research Interests	Suggested Topics			Is this a proposal for a funded project? Y / N
		Title	Description	References	
Akerlof, Robert	Behavioural economics				
	Contract theory/Organizational Economics				
	Cultural and Social Norms				
Almunia, Miguel	Priority for MSFE students	Policy Evaluations using the synthetic control method		Abadie, Diamond and Hainmueller (2010) 'Synthetic Control Methods for Comparative Case Studies', Journal of the American Statistical Association.	Not eligible unless the student needs to purchase some dataset
	Public Economics				
	Development Economics				
Aquaro, Michele	Priority for MSFE students				
	Panel data econometrics				
	Spatial econometrics				
	Robust statistics				
Arulampalam, Wiji	Applied Econometrics				
	Labour economics				
Becker, Sacha	Labour Economics				
	Education Economics				
	Economic History				
	Applied Econometrics				
Boero, Gianna	Priority for MSFE students				
Brollo, Fernanda	Political economics				
	Public finance				
	Development economics				
Cave, Jonathan	Economic Theory				
	Industrial Economics				
	Financial economics				
	Game theory (esp. on networks) and complexity				
	Regulation (consumer protection and antitrust) and standardisation				
	ICT-related issues (e.g. cloud computing, net neutrality, telecom regulation, eCommerce, privacy)				
Chen, Mingli	Econometrics				
	Time Series Econometrics				
	Financial Econometrics				
	Industrial Organization				
Chen, Natalie	International trade				
	International macroeconomics.				
Choy, James	Priority for MSFE students				
Coutto, Tatiana	International Relations				
	Institutional Analysis				
	EU Politics and Policy-making				
	Brazilian Foreign Policy				
	Qualitative Methods				
Crafts, Nick	The Industrial Revolution				
	British relative economic decline				
	The history of general purpose technologies				
	Why growth rates differ				

Crawford, Claire	Economics of Education, Labour Economics	Why are ethnic minorities, on average, more likely to go to university than White British children?	This could be split into two projects:		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first would use the original Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE), which follows a cohort of young people attending schools in England from Year 9 (age 13/14) in 2004 for seven years. This project would take as its starting point the gaps in higher education participation between ethnic minorities and White British pupils and seek to explain these gaps using earlier measures of attainment, family background, and attitudes, expectations and behaviours. 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second would use both the original LSYPE cohort and the new LSYPE cohort, which started following a new group of young people aged 13/14 in 2012-13. The aim would be to show how the gaps between ethnic minorities and White British pupils in terms of potentially important factors explaining future HE participation decisions (e.g. attitudes and behaviours) have changed over time, to inform how we might expect HE participation gaps to change as these pupils move into university. (This could build on the model used in project 1, or a separate model could be developed.) 		
		In which schools do month of birth differences in attainment fall most rapidly as children get older?	There are large differences in attainment between children born at the start and end of the academic year. (In England, this means that those born in August – at the end of the academic year – perform worse, on average, than those born in September – at the start of the academic year.) These differences fall – but remain statistically and economically significant – by the time young people take exams at the end of compulsory schooling. This project would seek to identify the characteristics of schools that are most successful at reducing these gaps, most likely using the Millennium Cohort Study.		
		How effective are private secondary schools?	The government regularly publishes information on the “value-added” of state schools: this is an indicator of how much progress pupils make between various education stages. They do not publish information on the value-added of private secondary schools, however, as a substantial minority of pupils in private secondary schools do not sit the tests taken at the end of primary school which are used as the baseline measure of attainment in these value-added calculations. This project would use data on the 60% of private secondary school pupils for which we do observe this information to estimate the value-added by private secondary schools between ages 11 and 16, and assess how this compares to the value-added by state schools. This would require access to Tier 4 NPQ data (which should be relatively straightforward, in principle.) An extension of this project could consider whether value-added differs by private-school characteristics (which might necessitate some data collection).		
De Chaisemartin, Clement	Econometrics				
	Economics of Education				
Dobson, Alex					
Doyle, Chris	Competition policy topics (almost any)	Policy analyses in relation to addictive goods (e.g. illicit drugs)			
	IO models in relation to sports	Crime and drugs			
	Economic impact assessments of major sporting events	Testing for mixed strategies using data from sporting contests (e.g. tennis serves, penalty kicks. or by looking at senior managers decision making).			
	Regulation topics (esp. telecoms)	1 and 2 are related whereas 3 is distinct			
	Spectrum auctions – empirical assessments				
Dutta, Bhaskar	Game Theory				
	Applications of Microeconomics				
Epifanio, Mariaelisa	International and comparative politics				
	Political consequences of counterterrorist reforms				

Fetzer, Thiemo	Development economics	Are Illegal Migrants Rational about their choice of route?	This research project would explore and contribute to the understanding of the current migrant/ refugee crisis in Europe. In particular, the thesis will explore the following set of questions: Do shocks in origin or along the 'optimal route'/ shocks to the (perceived) riskiness of individual routes/ policy shocks along routes affect the choice of migrants? Two data sources will be provided. 1. A panel covering the number of illegal border crossings as detected by Frontex by origin country by route; 2. an event level database on migrant deaths while en route.	some relevant references are "Get rich or die tryin": Exploiting imperfect information to estimate the value of statistical life of potential work-migrants from Nepal" and others here http://economics.mit.edu/grad/maresh/research
	Political economy and Resource Economics	Is national identity as a choice variable?	Is identity an endogenous choice variable? There is a growing literature that suggests this to be the case. WW1 and the associated propaganda made identity an economically salient feature; in particular, it could have driven up the cost of being perceived to be German in the US, which may induce individuals to alter their identity to avoid being discriminated. Naturally, this is more likely to be relevant for migrants of German descent who are self employed and less likely to occur in places with a large German migrant population. Census data for the US for 1870-1930 provides the names of individuals in the public data releases. The thesis would study patterns of identity change using forensic econometrics techniques, mainly by studying how population shares of individual surnames change in relation to self reported origin country across location across the US.	Identity Based Policies and Identity Manipulation: Evidence from Colonial Punjab (http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/Cassan2014.pdf)
		Can Agglomeration Backfire? Exploring the economic development of Russian Monotowns	The Soviet style planned economy gave rise to a large number of single industry towns. These so-called monotowns had an extreme concentration in a single industrial sector. The economic geography literature is particularly interested in understanding the extent to which positive agglomeration externalities do exist. Monotowns can be thought of as the extremest forms of specialization. Following the collapse of the Soviet union, many monotowns suffered as they are naturally very vulnerable to demand and supply shocks. This research project would explore how and why different monotowns fared better compared to others. I will be able to provide some data on russian monotowns; ideally, this work is done by somebody who speaks Russian.	Looking for Multiple Equilibria in Russian Urban System (see http://www.gwu.edu/~ieresgwu/assets/docs/Crowley_Monotowns_GW.pdf http://lup.lub.lu.se/luur/download?func=downloadFile&recordId=7374168&fileId=7374174 and a few others
Fuentes, Stefania	Priority for MSFE students			
Gadonne, Lucie	Public Finance Development Economics Political Economy			
Glazer, Jacob	Health Economics Theoretical Industrial Organization Game Theory			
Gozzi Valdez, Juan Carlos	International Finance Banking and Financial Institutions Corporate Finance			
Gupta, Bishnu	Economic History of Developing countries Economic Development Economic Demography			
Hammond, Peter	Economic theory, especially decision and game theory, social choice, and mechanism design together with their relationship to maths, philosophy, probability and statistics.			
Harrison, Mark	Applied Macro (not finance or trade) Policy Making Historical Economics of Development			
	I have interests in defence, conflict and security but deficient background knowledge and data problems are usually a fatal combination - students will not be considered if they have no previous formal study of the topic			
Hidir, Sinem	Contract Theory Information Economics Game Theory			
Hughes, Niall	Political Economy Game Theory	Coalition government formation Committee decision-making		
	Information Economics Experimental Economics	Voting and elections		

Imbert, Clement	Development	Immigration policy and asylum applications: Evidence from Europe 1985-2013	This research project would explore and contribute to the understanding of the current migrant/ refugee crisis in Europe. In particular, the thesis will use variation over time and across countries to estimate the response of asylum applications to immigration policy. It will also investigate the relationship between asylum applications and other types of migration (e.g. work migration).	Three datasets will be provided: 1/ asylum applications by year, country of origin and country of application 2/ total immigration flows by year, origin and destination and 3/ immigration policy changes by country and type of migrants targeted.	
	Labour	Permanent and seasonal migration: Evidence from rural India.	This research project would study the determinants of and interaction between permanent and seasonal migration in India. It will use weather conditions at origin as shocks to rural households' income and study their effect on both types of migration. It will also explore whether permanent and seasonal migration are complements or substitutes in household strategies to cope with risk.	Two nationally representative datasets will be provided: 1/ A nationally representative survey with detailed information on migrants, their trips, origins and destinations. 2/ Historical data on rainfall and temperature at origin.	
	Political Economy				
Jackson, Nick					
Jelonek, Piotr	Modelling risk arising from:	Any topic in the broad area of economics or finance involving uncertainty or risk.			
	Heterogeneity, interaction and dependence: systemic stability, multi-agent systems, heavy-tailed econometrics				
Jones, Elizabeth	Education markets, the returns to education and developments in educational policy – both school and higher. Healthcare markets, government intervention and implications for policy. Not econometrics.				
Karalis Isaac, Alex	Applied macro and econometrics, especially time-varying and non-linear models of business cycles and monetary policy. Some experience of discrete choice models in health applications				
Kelishomi, Ali	Labour Economics				
	Macroeconomic Fluctuations (not open economy)				
Kremer, Ilan	Finance, game theory, general equilibrium theory, auction theory, option pricing				
Lavy, Victor	Labour Economics				
	Education Economics				
	Economic Development				
	Policy Evaluation				
Lockwood, Ben	Political Economy (theoretical and empirical)				
	Local public finance, fiscal federalism				
	Behavioural economics and public policy				
	Economics of taxation, including taxation and growth				
Macchiavello, Rocco	Development Economics (Particularly Industrial Organisation and Agriculture)	Datasets may be available for use for suitable topics, by negotiation			
	Organized Crime				
	Drug Trafficking				
Martin, Tom	Development and applied microeconomics	Economic poverty, inequality and mobility			
		Microfinance			
		Economics of Education			
Menzel, Andreas	Priority for MSFE students				
Miller, Marcus	Pecuniary externalities and boom/bust in asset markets				
	Economics of austerity in Europe and alternatives				
	Sovereign debt restructuring in Europe and Latin America				
	Monetary policy issues including Forward Guidance and QE				

Moleka, Elvis	Monetary Policy and Inflation				
	Macroeconomic Dynamics and Open Economy Issues				
	Time-Series Econometrics and Statistics				
	Non-Linear Models				
	Changes in Persistence and Structural Breaks				
	Analytical Development Economics				
Mukand, Sharun	Political Economy				
	Development Economics				
	Economics of Globalization				
	Behavioural Economics				
Muthoo, Abhinav	Any area of Economics				
Naylor, Robin	Returns to Education	New evidence on young people's behaviour, attitudes and outcomes from LSYPE cohort data	The project will look at the first wave from the new LSYPE survey of young people starting at age 14, which will include information on their attitudes and behaviours at age 14 (e.g. attitudes to education and work, locus of control, experiences of bullying, smoking, drinking) as well as self-reported health outcomes and some information about schools and GCSE choices, plus detailed information on family background and prior attainment (in primary school). Comparison could also be made to the previous LSYPE cohort (about 10 years ago) in which many of the same questions were asked.		
	Intergenerational Mobility	Why do graduates from private school students outperform their state school peers in the labour market?	This project would explore which types of private schools appear to confer the largest benefits, updating Naylor, Smith and McKnight (2002). The student would need to collect information on private school characteristics over the last 10-15 years. We would also need to secure access to Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) data (for which a fee needs to be paid) (unless they could run it on internal Warwick data only, which may be suitable and is likely to be easily accessible).		
	Educational Choice	Is there a grammar school premium in the labour market?	This project would extend Crawford and Vignoles (2014) to examine whether graduates who previously attended grammar schools earn more, on average, than their non-selective state school counterparts. Again, the student would ideally need to access DLHE data (nr. if not internal Warwick data).		
	Educational Attainment	Do equivalently qualified state school pupils out-perform pupils from all private schools?	Previous research has found that, conditional on attainment, state school pupils go on to outperform their private school counterparts once at university (Smith and Naylor, 2001a,b; Crawford, 2014). This project would investigate whether the same is true of students from all private schools. It would require similar data on the characteristics of private schools as project 1) – so the students could join forces to collect the data – and would also necessitate access to linked schools and universities administrative data (the NPD-HESA data). Again, this may be problematic in terms of access, but internal Warwick data could be a viable alternative. (This project could also be split into two, with one looking at drop-out/degree completion and the other at degree class.)		
		How effective are private secondary schools?	The government regularly publishes information on the “value-added” of state schools: this is an indicator of how much progress pupils make between various education stages. They do not publish information on the value-added of private secondary schools, however, as a substantial minority of pupils in private secondary schools do not sit the tests taken at the end of primary school which are used as the baseline measure of attainment in these value-added calculations. This project would use data on the 60% of private secondary school pupils for which we do observe this information to estimate the value-added by private secondary schools between ages 11 and 16, and assess how this compares to the value-added by state schools. This would require access to NPD data (which should be relatively straightforward, in principle.) An extension of this project could consider whether value-added differs by private-school characteristics (using similar data to that collected for projects 1 and 3).		
	How much does missing data matter for estimates of the link between school characteristics and university outcomes?	In some of the datasets used for previous research on this topic (e.g. the NPD), there is only very limited information available on the characteristics of private school students. In order to be able to control for such factors in regression analysis, one therefore needs to “fill in” this missing data in some way. Many previous papers have used missing dummies to do so, but there is growing evidence that this can lead to bias (e.g. Allison, 2009). This project would investigate the extent to which the results and conclusions of the research would vary if alternative methods of dealing with this missing data were used. This project would require access to NPD data (and preferably NPD-HESA data). (Again, this project could be split if required, with students looking variously at HE participation, drop-out/degree completion, and degree class.)			

Novy, Dennis	Should Caribbean form a Monetary Union/ Evidence from Trade Flows				
	Has International Trade Become more Regionalized? Evidence from OECD Countries, 1960-2007				
	Why Does Africa Trade So Little?				
	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Eastern Europe - Who Invests and What are the Effects? Is The European Union As Well Integrated as the United States? Evidence from Intra-regional Trade Trade in Services				
Oswald, Andrew	Applied Economics and Quantitative Social Science				
Pancrazi, Roberto	Quantitative and Applied Macroeconomics	Food Security			See: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/jmvanrens/msc for a list of joint topics with Thijs Van Rens and Maria Vukotic
	International Macroeconomics				
	International Finance				
Pascali, Luigi					
Perroni, Carlo	Taxation & Income Distribution				
	Education Contracts				
	I/O & Development				
	Family Economics				
Perry, Motty	Game Theory				
	Economic Theory				
	Mechanism Design				
	Auction Theory				
	Social Choice				
	Information Economics Internet Economics				
Pogorelskiy, Kirill	Political economy				
	Game theory				
	Mechanism design				
	Experiments				
Polemarchakis, Herakles	Borrowing : The Enforcement of Intertemporal Budget Constraints	The theory of practice of monetary and fiscal policy			
	Information vs Communication	Financial markets and economic activity			
	Partial Implementation	The rationality of individuals and groups?			
	Comprehensive Monetary Policy: the Determination of the Price Level (in an open economy)				
	Does Myopia Cause Business Cycles? First Impressions				
Postel-Vinay, Natasha	Economic history				
	Financial history and development				
	Financial crises and panics				
	The Great Depression The Great Recession				
Proto, Eugenio	Priority for MSc BES students				
Rathelot, Roland	Labour Economics				
	Econometrics				
Redoano, Michela	Tax competition				
	Fiscal Federalism				
	Empirical political economy				
	Globalisation and government performance				
Ricco, Giovanni	Applied Macroeconomics				
	Fiscal Policy				
	Monetary Policy				
	Models of Imperfect Information				
Sgroi, Daniel	Priority for MSc BES students				
Serodio, Pedro	Priority for MSFE students				
Sims, Peter	Economic history, business history, trade, and political economy, focusing on Britain and Latin America.				

Smith, Jennifer	Labour-Macro: Mismatch, Migration, Wages, Unemployment	Impact of migration	Evaluate impact of migration on any of (1) wages; (2) employment; (3) unemployment; (4) labour market dynamics in general; (5) "social cohesion" (local wellbeing measures). Use BHPS/Understanding Society or LFS datasets, which can be provided by negotiation.		
		Hollowing out	Estimates of employment change by skill / occupation / earnings. To what extent have middle-skill workers suffered? Could use BHPS/Understanding Society data to follow individual workers since 1990 to track their career paths. Or could estimate hollowing out using LFS data.		
			Estimate the extent of wage rigidity (nominal and real). Has the UK labour market become more flexible, and in which dimensions? Use LFS data.		
		Mismatch	Estimate the extent of mismatch by occupation / industry / region. Can the UK's low productivity and poor productivity growth be attributed to mismatch? Use LFS data.		
Smith, Jeremy	Economics of Education	Joint Topics with Robin Naylor			
	Applied time series (macro based topics as long as they have a substantial applied aspect)				
Soegaard, Christian	International Trade				
	Industrial Organisation				
	Political Economy				
	Labour Economics				
Squintani, Francesco	Political Economy Theory				
	Theoretical Models of Communication				
	Theoretical Models of Asymmetric Information.				
Thomadakis, Apostolos	Priority for MSFE students				
Troeger, Vera	Comparative Political Economy				
	Quantitative Political Methodology				
Van Rens, Thijs	Macroeconomics of the labour market (Please note that I am NOT interested in banking or international finance)	Skills gap in the UK	Is there a skills gap in the UK? How large is it? What is causing this problem and what can we do about it? Is the skills gap, or skills mismatch more generally, responsible for unemployment? How much?	http://thijsvanrens.com/su/SMF-CAGE-Policy-Briefing-Skills-Gap-081215.pdf	N
	Applied econometrics (both time series and applied)				N
	Food security	Effects of the sugar tax	There is pressure on the UK government, including from the NHS, to tax sugar, or sugary	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/u	N
Vukotic, Marija	Macroeconomics	Macroeconomics of Business Cycle, for example Expectations Driven Business Cycles			
	Real Business Cycles	International Macroeconomics, for example Sovereign Debt/Default.			
	Monetary Economics				
Waldinger, Fabian	Empirical projects in Labour Economics	Empirical projects in the following broad research areas:			
	Economics of Education	Economics of Science and Innovation			
	Economics of Innovation	Economics of Education			
	Economics of Science	Economic History			
Waterson, Mike	Supermarket Pricing Behaviour	Confusion in supermarket pricing	Analysis of price behaviour across firms and time	Chakraborty et al, J Monetary Econ, 2014	N
	Energy Storage	The economics of longer-term energy storage	Examining potential benefits and costs of storage over time, given cost structure		Probably not
	Bus contracting	The role of bus garages in determining competition	Looking at the effects of winning bidders over time in relation to the bus garages they		N
Woodruff, Chris	Microenterprise				
	Microfinance				
	Productivity dispersion in low-income countries				
	Informality				
Zammit, Nick	Economic History				
	Development Economics				
	Long-Run Growth				
	Models of Imperfect Information				
External Topics					
Lord Gus O'Donnell		In 2021 the BBC will take control of the policy of giving TV licences to over 75s. If they do nothing this will take around £700m out of their budget. What should they do?			Supervisor: SMITH, Jennifer (Director of PGT)
		If cannabis were legalised how should it be taxed? Lessons from other jurisdictions.		See recent economist article http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21692881-argument-legalisation-cannabis-has-been-won-now-difficult-bit-right	Supervisor: DOYLE, Chris
		How should alcohol be taxed?		See recent ifs green budget on why current system is a mess. http://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/gb/2016/gb2016ch9.pdf	Supervisor: LOCKWOOD, Ben
		How could behavioural economics improve online dating ?		Tim Harford wrote about this http://timharford.com/2016/02/online-dating-swipe-left/	Supervisor: MUTHOO, Abhinay

Frontier Economics (via Lord O'Donnell)		There are various issues around water company cost benchmarking that could be interesting as a lot of the data is publicly available and there are some cost relationships that are not fully explored. These topics would be quite detailed so not suited for people that want to do high level research but good for empirical work.	Research questions could include: 1. To what extent do past costs predict future costs in water? 2. Is there a relationship between retail and wholesale efficiency? Or between water and sewerage efficiency? 3. Can the cost data reveal any information on the trade-off between opex, capitol maintenance and enhancement expenditure?		Supervisor: WATERSON, Mike
		Bloc chain technology is an interesting innovation with the potential to change economic transactions.	How might block chain technology affect the economics of trust relationships and value transactions?		Supervisor: CAVE, Jonathan
Angus Armstrong, NISER		The EU is a single market (the largest in the world) but with two major central banks, two major currencies and two different views of political sovereignty.	What would a cooperative outcome look like and can it be expected?		Supervisor: MILLER, Marcus
		Is it time for a single payments (or clearing) system for the whole of the EU?		See a speech by Shafik, Deputy Governor of Bank of England 27 Jan 2016. http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/news/2016/878.pdf	Supervisor: GOZZI VALDEZ, Juan
		Should we change how we tax housing?			Supervisor: SMITH, Jennifer Smith (Director of PGT)
		What would be the optimal way to finance housing in the UK drawing on best practices from overseas?			Supervisor: SMITH, Jennifer Smith (Director of PGT)
Tom Goodwin and BIS trade colleagues		How best to combine trade and environment policies?	One example might be a literature review of the impact of border carbon adjustments on a) environmental and b) trade policy objectives. Alternatively, something around whether carbon leakage is a significant problem and how best to deal with it.		Supervisor: NOVY, Dennis (Director of PGT)
		Can a growing number of plurilaterals lead to the liberalisation of world trade or simply lead to more complex trading blocs?			Supervisor: PARADES FUENTES, Steffie
		Evidence of the impact of investment treaties on FDI flows, ie how important are investment treaties?	Are BITs more relevant for some sectors than others, and if so, what are the characteristic to help identify where they are needed? Does the existence of a BIT change investor behaviour?		Supervisor: NOVY, Dennis (Director of PGT)
		The future of the WTO	Would mega regional trade deals render the WTO's functions (apart from dispute settlements) useless in the coming decades?		Supervisor: PARADES FUENTES, Steffie
		New ideas for trade in e-commerce	How do we measure it? What rules are required?		Supervisor: NOVY, Dennis (Director of PGT)
		Technology transfers through Global Value Chains	How does technology transfer help emerging and developing economies move up the 'value chain ladder' (again TIVA data will be very useful). In fact - anything which mines the Trade in Value Added database, to examine the extent of linkages in UK trade with other countries.		Supervisor: PARADES FUENTES, Steffie
		Is the use of trade protection measures, ie Anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures, good for industry, or does it delay necessary reform?"			Supervisor: NOVY, Dennis (Director of PGT)