



## About (EC)<sup>2</sup>

EC-squared (<https://sites.google.com/site/ecpower2/>) is a series of annual international conferences on research in quantitative economics and econometrics, launched in 1990. The acronym (EC)<sup>2</sup> stands for European Conferences of the Econom[etr]ics Community. The (EC)<sup>2</sup> is one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarly society in econometrics. Each annual conference focuses on a specific area of theoretical and/or applied econometrics and usually attracts about 50 top academics worldwide. About 5 of these are selected as invited speakers. From the contributory submissions, about 15 are selected for plenary presentations, and another 30 or thereabouts for poster presentations. There are no parallel sessions.

The conference is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year and this is the third time it is being organised in the UK (first time in Scotland). Previous occasions were Oxford University (1993, Programme Chair Professor Sir David Hendry, Organiser Professor Neil Shephard) and Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice, University College London (2003, Programme Chair Professor Geert Dhaene, Organiser Professor Andrew Chesher).

The programme chair this year will be Dr Sean Holly, University of Cambridge. Following Scottish tradition in economics, local organisation will be shared across the Scottish universities. The invited speakers are among the topmost in the field worldwide, and the scientific committee likewise. This year, we propose to increase the posters by about 10, and will use this to promote the work of doctoral students and early career researchers. We also intend to give a token prize to the best poster by an early career researcher.

## About SEEC

There is a fairly established view, within the discipline of spatial econometrics and outwith, that empirical work in the area does not relate closely to economic theory. Further, in the main, economic theory provides very little insights into how spatial structure should be modeled in applied spatial economic problems. This growing concern led to the establishment of a new research centre, The Spatial Economics & Econometrics Centre (SEEC), in Heriot-Watt University in 2013. The primary objectives of SEEC are to develop, support and conduct high-impact theoretical, applied and policy-relevant research on spatial econometrics, focusing on economics as the core discipline, but building upon research synergies with other subjects: statistics, demography, urban studies, regional studies, fluid mechanics, management sciences, geography, history and philosophy. The idea was to develop SEEC into a world-leading research centre focusing on theoretical and empirical research on spatial social sciences, with impact on business, society and policy. Actively engaging academics and practitioners, and engaging in inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research programmes, the aims of SEEC were not only to provide research leadership at the frontier, but also to develop itself as a repository of domain knowledge for all researchers in the area, across universities and research institutions in the UK, but also through visitor and outreach programmes and a working paper series, for researchers working in similar areas anywhere in the world. For more information, see <http://seec.hw.ac.uk/>

Substantial progress has been made on the above ambitious objectives. In the two years of its existence, SEEC has emerged as a world leading centre for research on unknown and endogenous spatial structure. Applied contexts have been drawn from a range of areas: monetary policy committees, housing and urban economics, health economics, demographic change, conflict, migration, supply chain management, and regional economic growth. Substantial policy implications have been generated. Outreach has been promoted by organisation of major conferences, such as the (EC)<sup>2</sup> Conference on '*Theory and Practice of Spatial Econometrics*' (Heriot-Watt University, 2015) and the ENHR (European Network for Housing Research) Annual Conference (Lisbon 2015), and invited sessions at the American Statistical Association Joint Statistical Meetings (Boston, 2014) and Spatial Econometrics Association Annual Conference (Washington DC, 2013). Close collaboration and exchange programmes, for doctoral students and researchers, have been developed with several institutions, including: Center for Business and Social Analytics (Michigan State University, USA), Centre for International Money and Finance (University of Cambridge, UK), Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), Spatial Economics Research Centre (London School of Economics, UK) and University of Aveiro (Portugal). Leading researchers from across the world are visiting SEEC, together with junior researchers from several leading institutions, working in collaboration and disseminating their work through the SEEC Working Paper Series.

SEEC has developed a rich agenda for future research in the spatial sciences. While some progress has been made on achieving its ambitious objectives, much more is required. Many exciting research problems have been identified, both theoretical and applied. SEEC is above all a space to facilitate the meeting of minds interested in the analysis of spatial phenomena, whatever the discipline or application area. Please engage with SEEC in whatever way you can. There are lots of spatial issues that we together can help address.