



**Newsletter – Fall 2019**

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## 1. 2019 Executive Committee and Council

### Executive Committee 2019

<i>President</i>	Shelly Lundberg	University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
<i>President-Elect</i>	Kjell G. Salvanes	Norwegian School of Economics, Norway
<i>Treasurer</i>	Marco Caliendo	University of Potsdam, Germany
<i>Secretary</i>	Priscila Ferreira	University of Minho, Portugal

### Council Members 2019

Ghazala Azmat	Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies), France
Adeline Delavande	University of Essex, UK
Paul Devereux	University College Dublin, Ireland
Libertad González	Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Randi Hjalmarsson	University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Kristiina Huttunen	Institute for Economic Research, Finland
Olivier Marie	Erasmus School of Economics, The Netherlands
Marianne Simonsen	Aarhus University, Denmark
Marian Vidal-Fernandez	University of Sydney, Australia
Michèle Belot	European University Institute

## **2. Message from the President, Shelly Lundberg**

ESPE's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference took place from June 20 to June 22, 2019 at the Apex City of Bath Hotel in Bath, UK. As always, it was a unique and stimulating gathering of junior and senior scholars studying questions within the broad field of population economics: education, labor, health, migration, fertility, gender, crime, discrimination, and ageing and retirement. More than 275 papers were presented in as many as nine concurrent sessions over three days. I was delighted to have a chance to meet so many new young researchers as well as touch base with many old friends.

The program was selected and organized by ESPE President-Elect Kjell Salvanes, with the assistance of a team of expert reviewers. The result was a large set of topically coherent sessions that covered a wide range of issues on the cutting edge of economics, with varied methodological approaches. I often found it difficult to choose which concurrent session to attend.

The introductory keynote lecture was given by Oriana Bandiera of the London School of Economics to a packed room. "Why Do People Stay Poor?" was an inspiring and policy-relevant look into her recent work on poverty traps. On Friday, Kevin Lang of Boston University sparked a lot of discussion throughout the conference with his keynote "Ordinal Scales in Empirical Economics: Test Score Gaps, Happiness and Other Tales of Woe." His investigations of the fragility of many empirical results that rely on ordinal scales have upended the conventional wisdom in several areas of economics.

The local organizing committee from the University of Bath – Joanna Clifton-Sprigg, Maria Cubel, Matt Dickson, Eleonora Fichera, Jonathan James, and Kerry Papps – ensured that conference events at the main venue went smoothly, assisted by a cadre of welcoming and efficient students. Some variety and fresh air were provided by sessions located nearby in the picturesque Bath Brew House and the Bath Function Room. They also put together an outstanding social program in this historic city. A walking tour of the city, with its beautiful Georgian architecture, ended on Friday at a drinks reception in the Pump Rooms, where the fashionable have gathered since the early 1800s to drink the medicinal spa water. Our excellent conference dinner on Saturday was provided in the elegant Assembly Rooms. Both locations feature, of course, in the novels of Jane Austen.

ESPE depends heavily on the efforts and judgement of the Council, and particular thanks go to our Treasurer, Marco Caliendo, and Secretary, Priscila Ferreira, who do so much for the Society. Marco is completing his term as Treasurer, and we are grateful that Thomas Siedler has agreed to step in. We are also grateful for the work of Paul Devereux, who is completing his final year on the Council.

I'm looking forward to the 2020 ESPE Conference, which will be held in Barcelona from June 18 to June 20. Wilbert van der Klaauw will serve as program chair, and the keynote speakers will be Anna Aizer (Brown University) and Magne Mogstad (University of Chicago). The local organizing committee consists of Antonio Di Paolo, Lidia Farré, Libertad González, and Judit Vall, and great things are expected. For more information, see: [www.especonferences.org](http://www.especonferences.org). I hope to see you in Barcelona!

**Shelly Lundberg**

ESPE President 2019

### **3. 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Bath**

a) The 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the European Society for Population Economics was held on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2019, at the Lansdown room, Apex Hotel, Bath, UK. The President of the Society, Shelly Lundberg, chaired the meeting.

Shelly started by thanking the local organizing team and their student crew for having done such a great job in hosting ESPE 2019's annual conference. She also thanked all the researchers who accepted to be part of the 2019 Scientific Program Committee, and the two keynote speakers for such inspirational talks.

The President thanked all researchers that accepted taking part on the elections for Council members, welcomed the new members (Kristiina Huttunen, Olivier Marie, and Marian Vidal-Fernandez) and bid farewell to Paul Devereux who will leave the Council of ESPE after six years in office. Words of appreciation were also given to Marco Caliendo who completed his 6-year term as ESPE Treasurer and Thomas Siedler was welcomed as the new Treasurer of the Society from 2020 onwards. Shelly also informed that in 2020 Kjell Salvanes will step up as President of the Society, while Wilbert van der Klaauw will be the President-elect thus acting as program chair of the 2020 conference in Barcelona.

b) Marco Caliendo, Treasurer of ESPE, presented the 2018 accounts. The accounts have been audited and approved by David Ribar and Manuela Prieto. The participants in the General Assembly approved the accounts.

c) Barcelona is the host city of the annual conference of ESPE in 2020, June 18-20. The local organizing team presented their plans for 2020. The audience cheered the venue!

d) Shelly Lundberg announced that the annual conference of ESPE in 2021 will be in Calabria, Italy.

#### 4. 2019 Elections: President-elect and Council Members

Online-elections will take place in November 2020. The e-voting system will be provided to all ESPE members for whom we have a valid e-mail address. We will elect the new President-elect and two new Council members. One candidate for President-elect and three candidates for the Council are proposed and their biographical details are listed alphabetically below.

#### Candidate for President of ESPE in 2022:

**Libertad González**, [Libertad.Gonzalez@upf.edu](mailto:Libertad.Gonzalez@upf.edu)



**Libertad González** is an Associate Professor of Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain) and an affiliated professor at the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics. She is currently the holder of an ERC Consolidator grant. She received her PhD from Northwestern University in 2003, and has been a visiting scholar at CREST (Paris), UBC (Vancouver), Columbia University (New York), and Boston University. Her fields of research include labor, public, health, and demographic economics, and she has worked on topics related to migration, female labor supply, divorce, fertility, and infant health. She has published in the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Public Economics*,

*American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *European Economic Review*, *Labour Economics*, etc.

More info here: <https://www.upf.edu/web/libertad-gonzalez>

## Candidates for the Council of ESPE (2020-2022)

Dinand Webbink, [webbink@ese.eur.nl](mailto:webbink@ese.eur.nl)



**Dinand Webbink** is a longtime fan of ESPE and ESPE-conferences. He is Professor of Policy Evaluation at The Erasmus School of Economics in Rotterdam, Research Fellow at the Tinbergen Institute, IZA and ROA Maastricht and co-editor of the Economics of Education Review. His main research interests are in empirical labour economics with a special focus on the economics of education, as well as on topics in crime, health, and migration. He received his PhD from the University of Amsterdam. His work has been published in international journals such as the Review of Economics and Statistics, Economic Journal, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Health Economics and Journal of Applied Econometrics.

More information here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/dinandwebbink/>

Martin Halla, [martin.halla@jku.at](mailto:martin.halla@jku.at)



**Martin Halla** is currently Full Professor of Economics at the Johannes Kepler University (JKU) Linz, Austria; a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany; and a Permanent Scientific Consultant at the Austrian Public Health Institute in Vienna.

He studied economics at the JKU Linz. After receiving his doctorate, he was a visiting scholar at Stockholm University and the University of California, Berkeley. After his habilitation he was Full Professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and the University of Innsbruck. In 2017, he returned to the JKU Linz, where he is now Head of the Institute of Economic Policy at the Department of Economics.

In his research, he applies microeconomic methods to answer questions in the areas of family, labor, and health. His research has been published in leading general-interest (e.g., AEJ-Applied and JEEA)

and leading field journals (e.g. JHE and Demography).

More information here: <https://sites.google.com/site/mhalla1980/>

Randi Hjalmarsson, [Randi.Hjalmarsson@economics.gu.se](mailto:Randi.Hjalmarsson@economics.gu.se)



**Randi Hjalmarsson** is a Professor of Economics at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and a CEPR Research Fellow. She has previously been a Professor at Queen Mary University of London and an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Public Policy. She received her Ph.D. in 2005 from Yale University. She has done extensive research on the economics of crime and the criminal justice system. Her current research emphasizes (i) the determinants of crime, including education, military service and the role of the family, neighborhood and peers, (ii) the impact of jury composition on trial verdicts and sentences and the dynamics of jury decision making, and (iii) racial biases in the criminal justice system. She studies these questions taking advantage of unique criminal justice data sets in the United States, administrative records in Sweden, and historical archives from the UK. Previously, she has studied the effects of prison, the death penalty, and gun

shows on crime. Her work has been published in leading academic journals including the Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the European Economic Association, The Economic Journal, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Law and Economics, and Journal of Population Economics. She is currently funded as a Distinguished Young Researcher by the Swedish Research Council, and has received funding from the National Science Foundation and other Swedish agencies in the past.

More information here: <https://sites.google.com/site/randihjalmarsson/>

## 5. Call for Papers: 2020 ESPE Meeting in Barcelona

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) will take place on June 18-20, 2020, in Barcelona. Antonio Di Paolo, Lídia Farré, Libertad González and Judit Vall are the local organizing team. Wilbert van der Klaauw (Federal Reserve Bank, NY) will serve as the program chair. The keynote speakers will be Anna Aizer (Brown University) and Magne Mogstad (University of Chicago). The presidential address will be given by Kjell Salvanes (Norwegian School of Economics).

Papers must be submitted on-line at <http://editorialexpress.com/conference/ESPE2020/>

Each participant may present at most one paper but can co-author more than one paper in the program.

### Important deadlines

The paper submission site will open by November 1, 2019.

The submission deadline is February 1, 2020.

Acceptance decisions will be announced by March 9, 2020.

Accepted papers will only be included in the final programme if presenting authors have registered by April 1, 2020.

The conference program will be available from May 1, 2020.

For further information please visit: [www.especonferences.org](http://www.especonferences.org)

## 6. Call for Contributions to the ESPE website

The ESPE website provide information on the society's activities, and contains links to related institutions and organizations. All members are kindly invited to use the ESPE website to make announcements of **events** in the field of population economics. Please send all contributions to the Secretary by email to [info@espe.org](mailto:info@espe.org)