

RECENT PhDs: Thanassis Kazanas and Frago Kourandi



Thanassis Kazanas completed his Doctoral studies in May 2011 under the supervision of Professors E. Tzavalis (principal advisor), A. Philippopoulos and Asst. Professor V. Vassilatos. His areas of expertise are macroeconometrics, monetary and fiscal policy. His thesis entitled “Essays on Monetary Policy Rules Allowing for Structural Breaks” has four chapters. Using an endogenous backward-looking threshold model and data on three large economies, the US, the UK and Japan, the first chapter investigates if monetary policy changes depend on business cycle conditions, i.e. recessions and expansions of the economy. The results indicate that, while during expansions these countries follow the Taylor rule, during recessions they tend to abandon it. Version of this work is published in the Manchester School Journal. The second chapter examines empirically in a forward-looking environment whether the above major central banks have monetary policy reaction functions that change depending on the actual state of the economy. The model allows for endogenous variables and an exogenous or endogenous threshold variable and the results give evidence of nonlinearity in the policy reaction functions which is associated with large output gap or high level of unemployment rate. The third chapter, using a forward-looking threshold monetary policy rule, finds that the euro-area monetary policy authorities react more strongly to positive inflation and/or output deviations from their target levels rather than to the negative often occurring during recession periods. The study also indicates that the no reaction of the euro-area monetary authorities to negative output deviations reduces the efficiency of their policy rule to dampen the effects of negative demand shocks on the economy. Version of this work is published in the Working Paper series of the Bank of Greece. The fourth chapter suggests an open economy forward looking threshold monetary policy rule model for Japan. This model assumes that, in addition to inflation rate and real output deviations, the short term nominal interest rate of the central bank of Japan responds to nominal (or real) exchange rate deviations from their target levels. The results show that this happens only when the economy lies in the recession regime.

Since May 2011 Dr. Kazanas is a research fellow at the Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE). His current research is focused on the study of structural breaks in fiscal policy rules and the building of a DSGE model for Greece. He is also a laboratory associate in Technological Educational Institute of Athens since October 2002.



Frago Kourandi completed her Doctoral studies in June 2010 under the supervision of Professors N. Vettas (principal advisor), K. Gatsios and Y. Katsoulacos. Her areas of expertise are industrial organization, microeconomics and game theory. Her thesis entitled “Essays on Strategic Vertical Relations” has three chapters. The first chapter studies a dynamic vertical contracting framework with learning-by-doing production technologies and analyzes the possibility of upstream foreclosure. Exclusivity may arise in equilibrium and be welfare enhancing. Versions of this work have been presented at conferences such as EARIE 2011, the 26th Meetings of the European Economic Association and the CEPR 2011 Applied IO School. The second chapter examines a linear-city model with successive duopolies where all pricing and location decisions, upstream and downstream, are endogenous. The upstream firms commit to locations closer to the centre of the line to strengthen the strategic position of their own retailers. Versions of this work have been presented at CEPR 2010 Applied IO School and EARIE 2010. The third chapter studies different vertical trading structures (non discriminatory vs. discriminatory tariffs) in a linear-city model, where firms are located within the unit interval.

Additional work of Dr. Kourandi examines the strategic timing of licensing and technology transfer in a vertical chain with an endogenous market structure. She has also co-authored a paper “On the Economics of Non Horizontal Mergers,” published in *The Reform of EU Competition Law – new challenges*, Wolters Kluwer, 2010.

Since January 2010 Dr. Kourandi is a post-doctoral fellow in Paris, at the University Telecom ParisTech, participating in the Chair on "Innovation and Regulation of digital services" under the guidance of Prof. Tommaso Valletti. Her current research is focused on the study of ‘net neutrality’ in a framework with competing Internet Service Providers. Further information and research papers can be found at: <http://sites.google.com/site/fragokourandi/>