Final Program
February 6, 2005 version

SSHRC International Conference on Index Number Theory and the Measurement of Prices and Productivity

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Vancouver, June 30 - July 3, 2004

Tuesday June 29, 2004

RECEPTION 5:30-10:00 Princess Louisa Suite (2nd floor) Soft drinks, all-evening light buffet supper, cash bar

June 30-July 3, 2004

This conference is being funded in part by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to Alice Nakamura and Erwin Diewert as an approved part of their Rethinking Productivity Strategic Grant project.

The University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia, Finance Canada, Industry Canada and Statistics Canada, as well as the Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis of the University of Queensland in Australia, and Meyrick and Associates, also based in Australia, have also helped with the funding of this conference.

Wednesday, JUNE 30

THE BEGINNING 8:45-9:00 Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia

SESSION 1: Topics in Index Number and Measurement Theory Chair: Alice Nakamura, University of Alberta

Paper 1: 9:00-9:45 Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia, "Index Number Theory: Past Progress and Future Challenges"


COFFEE 10:30-11:00

SESSION 2: Quality Change and Hedonic Regression Methods I Chair: Charles Hulten, University of Maryland


LUNCH 12:30-1:30

Luncheon Speech: Paul Armknecht, IMF, Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia and Mick Silver, Cardiff University, “The New Price Index Manuals”

SESSION 3: Measuring Changes in the Cost of Living and in Wellbeing Chair: Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales


SESSION 4: The Measurement of Output, Input and Productivity I Chair: Bert Balk, Statistics Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam


Paper 8: 2:15-3:00 Paul Schreyer, OECD, “Measuring Multi-Factor Productivity when Rates of Return Are Exogenous”, Discussant: Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia

COFFEE 3:00-3:30


Paper 9: 3:30-4:15 Laura Blow and Ian Crawford, Institute for Fiscal Studies, UK, and Martin Browning, Institute of Economics, Copenhagen University, “Nonparametric
Methods for the Consumer Characteristics Model”, Discussant: Jan de Haan, Statistics Netherlands


Paper 11: 5:00-5:45 Breige Allan-Greer, D.S. Prasada Rao and Chris O’Donnel, University of Queensland, “Constructing Divisia Indexes from Retail Scanner Data using Wavelet Methods”, Discussant: Bert Balk, Statistics Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam

SESSION 6: Difficult to Measure Outputs I Chair: Dennis Fixler, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Paper 12: 3:30-4:15 Carol Corrado, Wendy Dunn, and Maria Otoo, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, “Incentives and Prices for Motor Vehicles: What has been Happening in Recent Years?”, Discussant: Jan van Dalen, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Paper 13: 4:15-5:00 David Paton, Nottingham University Business School, Donald Siegel, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Leighton Vaughan Williams, Nottingham Trent University, “Productivity Measurement in a Service Industry: Plant-Level Evidence from Gambling Establishments in the United Kingdom”, Discussant: Kam Yu, Lakehead University

Paper 14: 5:00-5:45 Tarek Harchaoui and Faouzi Tarkhani, Statistics Canada, “Integrating Natural Capital in the Canadian Productivity Accounts”, Discussant: Denis Lawrence, Meyrick and Associates, Australia

DINNER 6:30-9:30 The Princess Louisa Suite, Waterfront Hotel, level 2 (pre-paid special ticket required for those not on the CRIW/SSHRC programs; not included in conference fee)

Dinner Speech: Andrew Sharpe, Center for the Study of Living Standards, Ottawa, “Ten Productivity Puzzles Facing Researchers”

Thursday, JULY 1

SESSION 7: Quality Change and Hedonic Regression Methods II Chair: Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia


Paper 17: 10:00-10:30 Jan van Dalen and Ben Bode, Erasmus University Rotterdam, “Estimation Biases in Quality-Adjusted Hedonic Price Indices”, Discussant: Mick Silver, Cardiff Business School

COFFEE 10:30-11:00

SESSION 8: Difficult to Measure Outputs II Chair: Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales

Paper 18: 11:00-11:30 Denis Lawrence, Meyrick and Associates, Australia and Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia, “Measuring Output and Productivity in Electricity Networks”, Discussant: Tarek Harchaoui, Statistics Canada


LUNCH 12:30-1:30

Luncheon Speech: George Beelen, Statistics Canada, "Improving Business Services Price Indexes in Canada"

SESSION 9: Quality Change and Hedonic Regression Methods III Chair: Alice Nakamura, University of Alberta


Paper 22: 2:15-3:00, Adrian Ball and David Fenwick, the Office of National Statistics, UK: "Static Samples in a Dynamic Universe: The Potential Use of Scanner Data and Hedonic Regression in the Compilation of Consumer Price Indices", Discussant: Jörgen Dalén, Consultant for Eurostat and Statistics Sweden
SESSION 10: Price Indexes for Internationally Traded Goods and Services Chair: Ulrich Kohli, Swiss National Bank


COFFEE 3:00-3:30

SESSION 11: Quality Change and Hedonic Regression Methods IV Chair: Mick Silver, Cardiff Business School


SESSION 12: The Measurement of Contributions to Productivity Growth I Chair: Bert Balk, Statistics Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam


Paper 30: 5:00-5:45 Denis Lawrence, Meyrick and Associates, Australia, Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia and Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales, “The Contributions of Productivity, Price Changes and Firm Size to Profitability”, Discussant:
Paul Schreyer, OECD

DINNER 6:30-11:30 Evening event at Grouse Mountain hosted, as a private party, by Alice, Emi and Masao Nakamura (pre-paid special ticket required for those not on the CRIW/SSHRC programs; this event is not included in the conferences fee)

Friday, JULY 2

SESSION 13: Inter Area and Cross Country Comparisons of Prices I Chair: Alan Heston, University of Maryland


Paper 33: 10:00-10:30 Keir Armstrong, Carleton University, “Hyperextended-Real-Valued Indexes of Absolute Dissimilarity”, Discussant: D.S. Prasada Rao, University of Queensland

10:30-11:00 COFFEE

SESSION 14: Problems in the Measurement of Housing Services and Prices I Chair: Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales

Paper 34: 11:00-11:30 Alan Heston, University of Maryland, “Spatial Comparisons of Costs of Housing Services”, Discussant: Johannes Hoffmann, Deutsche Bundesbank


Paper 36: 12:00-12:30 Claudia Kurz and Johannes Hoffmann, Deutsche Bundesbank, “A Rental-Equivalence Index for Owner-Occupied Housing in West Germany, 1985 to 1998”, Discussant: Richard Voith, Econsult

LUNCH 12:30-1:30

SESSION 15: Inter Area and Cross Country Comparisons of Prices II Chair: Ulrich Kohli, Swiss National Bank


SESSION 16: Issues in the Measurement of Capital and Depreciation Chair: Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia


COFFEE 3:00-3:30


SESSION 18: The Measurement of Output, Input and Productivity II Chair: Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales

Paper 44: 3:30-4:15 Robert G. Chambers, University of Maryland and University of Western Australia, “Productivity Measurement under Uncertainty”, Discussant: Rolf Färe, Oregon State University


DINNER 6:30-11:30 Evening costal cruise, dinner, reception and dance hosted as a private party by Christina Wang and Susanto Basu (pre-paid special ticket required for those not on the CRIW/SSHRC programs; this event is not included in the conferences fee)

Saturday, JULY 3


SESSION 20: Seasonal Adjustment and Price Indexes I Chair: Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia


Paper 50: 9:45-10:30 Peter Hein van Mulligen and May Hua Oei, Statistics Netherlands, “The Use of Scanner Data in the CPI: A Curse in Disguise?”, Discussant: Yoel Finkel,
Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel

COFFEE 10:30-11:00

SESSION 21: Seasonal Adjustment and Price Indexes II and the Receipts Approach  
Chair: Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia


SESSION 22: The Measurement of Output, Input and Productivity III Chair: Bert Balk, Statistics Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam


LUNCH: 12:30-1:30

SESSION 23: Canadian and US Productivity Growth Chair: Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales


COFFEE 2:30-3:00

SESSION 24: The Measurement of Contributions to Productivity Growth II Chair: Dennis
Fixler, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Paper 57: 3:00-3:30 Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia and Kevin J. Fox, University of New South Wales, “On the Estimation of Returns to Scale, Technical Progress and Monopolistic Markups”, Discussant: Susanto Basu, Harvard University and the University of Michigan

Paper 58: 3:30-4:00 Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia, Alice Nakamura, University of Alberta, Emi Nakamura, Harvard University, and Masao Nakamura, University of British Columbia, “Measuring the Price and Quantity of Labor: Theory and Practice in Canada, Japan and the United States”, Discussant: Ernst Berndt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology


DINNER 6:30-12:00 Dinner and party in the Cypress Room of the Pan Pacific Hotel (directly across from the conference hotel), beginning with a reception, followed by dinner from about 7:30 and then drinks, dancing for those who'd enjoy that, and a relaxed atmosphere for sitting and chatting on this final night. All conference participants and their partners are welcome. This evening is hosted as a private party by Frank and Jane Wykoff.

Master of Ceremonies for the Evening: Jeff Bernstein, Carlton University

THE END 4:30-4:45 Alice Nakamura, University of Alberta

Notes to authors and discussants

With the exception of the first session, all non parallel sessions are one hour in duration, with a half hour allocated per paper. For these non parallel sessions, authors will get 15 minutes to present the highlights of their results, the discussants will get 5 minutes to either point out what they see as the major problems with the paper or if there are no major problems, then they can give an indication of where future generalizations or extensions of the paper may lie. This leaves 10 minutes for discussion from the floor.

For the parallel sessions, authors will get 25 minutes to present the highlights of their results, the discussants will get 5 minutes to either point out what they see as the major problems or if there are no major problems, then they can give an indication of where future generalizations or extensions of the paper may lie. This leaves 15 minutes for discussion from the floor.

However, discussants may (if they wish) provide more extensive written comments on
the papers that they discuss. These will be posted on the conference website: http://www.ipeer.ca/conferences.htm. The program committee wishes to apologize to authors and discussants for limiting their time so drastically but we did not expect so many submissions; we were expecting perhaps 40 submissions at the most but we received over 125.

Authors must submit their paper to Erwin Diewert (diewert@econ.ubc.ca) by June 1, 2004 in a PDF or Word file, and also to Alice Nakamura (alice.nakamura@ualberta.ca) so that it can be posted on the conference website and so that discussants will have a chance to prepare their comments in advance. Copies of the conference papers will be made available at the conference site but we anticipate that participants will be downloading and reading the papers of particular interest to them so that they can ask thought provoking questions of the authors and discussants.

The program committee intends to publish the proceedings of the conference (as two or three volumes) but the details have not yet been finalized. Authors are free to publish their papers elsewhere if they desire. We hope that the program will advance the state of the art in index number theory and measurement economics.