Master CoDe News

4th October 2018

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Erasmus Mundus Master Code Website
www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/

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Master CoDe Team Budapest
master-code@uni-corvinus.hu

A European Master Programme accredited by European Consortium for Accreditation
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GRADUATION

EM Master CoDe Edition 2016/2018

Budapest, 8th September 2018

Graduation of the EM Master CoDe edition 2016/2018 took place at Corvinus University of Budapest on 8th September 2018 .

On the previous day, the graduating students had successfully defended their Project Works in front of the Defence Committees consisting of representatives of the partner universities.

The Ceremony was opened by Prof. Zoltán Szántó, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University of Budapest and Master CoDe EM Coordinator.

Prof. Szantó outlined briefly the history of the programme which started in Trento in 2001 as the European Master in Comparative Local Development for the Balkans and other areas in transformation. To become, in 2004, the EM Master Course "Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development", first coordinated by University of Trento, and now by Corvinus Budapest. Coordination of the programme is now in the process of passing to the University of Ljubljana.

The movement of students from one partner university to another during their two years of study has been described as a "travelling circus"! But a successful one as can be seen in this Ceremony, with graduating students from nine different countries .

Graduation EM Master CoDe 2016/2018

Prof. Zoltán Szántó, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University Budapest welcomes graduating students, their families and friends present at the ceremony

Prof. Ladislav Cabada, Vice-Rector for Research and Creative Activities of the Metropole University of Prague (https://www.mup.cz/en/) presented the *Lectio magistralis* entitled "Local Development between Theory and Practice: New Challenges for the CoDe graduates"

Prof. Péter Futó, Academic Director of the program, comments on the success and special qualities of the students of this edition of Master CoDe

Countries of origin of newly graduated students:

Bangladesh | Canada | Ethiopia | Ghana | India

Krygyzstan | Philippines | Ukraine | United Kingdom

SOCIAL FUTURING CENTER

MULTI-DISCIPLINARIAN RESEARCH UNIT
CORVINUS INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

The Social Futuring Center (SFC), a multi-disciplinary research unit, was established at Corvinus University of Budapest in February 2017.

The SFC Executive Team is led by Prof. Dr. Zoltán Oszkár Szántó, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University of Budapest, with the Team made up of a staff of senior and junior research fellows.

Social futuring is a term and method formulated by the Social Futuring Center whose aims are to develop the conceptual and normative framework of social futuring studies, to construct the **Social Futuring Index** (SFI) and to manage the **ConNext 2050** research project in partnership with the following associations:

Barabási Lab (Boston, MA, USA) https://www.barabasilab.com/

Geopolitical Futures (Austin, TX, USA) https://geopoliticalfutures.com/

Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing, China) http://16plus1-thinktank.com/4/20151124/832.html

Social futuring is the feature of a social entity signifying its capacity, ability and fitness to envision and enact changes and so to prepare itself for the beneficial managing of the future.

To read more about the Social Futuring Center and the research project ConNext 2050, please visit:

http://socialfuturing.com/

Petar Kojic (Master CoDe 2014/16) was selected as the Professional Development Coordinator within the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) – European Chapter. The chapter unites EMA members from EU member states, Albania, Andorra, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo*, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

There are several important goals European Chapter is trying to achieve. First of all, it is constantly aiming to provide necessary information and to increase overall support to Erasmus Mundus (EM) students who are starting the EM programme in Europe. Additionally, the European Chapter is in charge of supporting both – EM students and alumni from European countries or currently residing in Europe. The promotion of the EMA and the EM programme among European students, universities and in the labor market, as well as raising the awareness around the programme among prospective students and employers is one of the most significant goals in the Chapter. Finally, an expansion of the European social, academic and professional networks by cooperating with different student organizations and national contact points is both the consequence of previously mentioned activities, as well as the sustainable, noble goal the Chapter is trying to reach, sustain and improve.

More about European Chapter and EMA can be found here:
https://bit.ly/2zJ9j2z

The Professional Development Coordinator, among other activities, is in charge of supporting EC members in their professional development by making relevant and appropriate resources available, advertising the EM programme among local and regional employers, in job fairs and lists, at governmental level and through the EU diplomatic channels, as well as identifying traineeship schemes with interested private and public institutions.

Currently, EC Board is working on the series of webinars that are fostering entrepreneurial skills, as well as the other skills that are in great demand. We invite Master CoDe students and alumni to participate by sharing ideas, suggestions or experience about the topics they would like to hear more.

Here is how you can get in touch with Petar:
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/petarkojic/
E-mail: network.european.chapter@em-a.eu
and petar85kojic@gmail.com

Master CoDe 2017/2019 at the University of Regensburg

After completing their first semester in Budapest, the 2017/2019 edition of Master Code moved on to the University of Regensburg for the continuation of the programme.

While at Regensburg, among the courses attended was a course on **Sustainable Local Development** presented by Don Elliott, FAICP.

The lectures were organized in four course sessions of three hours each, which covered the following topics:

Class 1
1. What is Sustainable Development? 2. The U.S. Context for Sustainable Local Development.
3. Three Key Challenges: A Global Economy, Efficient Administration, and Citizen Participation.

Class 2
4. The U.S. Context at the Local Level – Denver, Colorado. 5. Promoting Local Economic Growth.
6. Case Study of Local Economic Development Strategies in Chester, Pennsylvania. 7. Promoting Local Sustainable Job Growth. 8. Case Study of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture for Employment in the U.S.

Class 3
9. Local Reduction of Greenhouse Gasses. 10. Local Promotion of Renewable Energy and Water Conservation.
11. Local Promotion of Climate Change Resilience. 12. Effective Drafting and Advocacy.

Class 4
13. Local Promotion of Water Conservation. 14. Case Study of Water Conservation and Social Development in Ahmadabad, India. 15. Local Management of Solid Waste. 16. Case Study of Local Solid Waste Management in Monrovia, Liberia. 17. Social Inclusion Policy in the U.S. 18. Emerging Best Practices, and the Need for Stability During Periods of Regulatory Change.

Don Elliott (centre, seated) with CoDe students

Donald L. Elliott is a Director with Clarion Associates, LLC, (http://www.clarionassociates.com/) a land use consulting firm with offices in Denver and Chapel Hill, and affiliate offices in Cincinnati and Philadelphia. His practice focuses on land planning and zoning, growth management, and international land and urban development issues.

He has a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and Policy Analysis from Yale University, a law degree from Harvard Law School, and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Master CoDe 2017/2019 at the University of Regensburg

On 9th July the students attended a lecture by Kenmei Tsubota of the Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO (http://www.ide.go.jp/English.html)

The title of Dr. Tsubota's lecture was "**Spatial Discontinuity and Local Development**".

In his lecture "Spatial Discontinuity and Local Development", Dr Tsubota talked about the scope of Borderlands studies and his focus and perspectives from Economics and Economic Geography. He discussed the impacts of regional integration or disintegration over the borders and borderlands.

Dr Tsubota (second from right) with students

Kenmei Tsubota's Research Fields are Spatial Economics, and Urban and Regional Economics.

He has a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Economics, Yokohama National University; M.A. from the Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University; Visiting Doctoral Student, Center for Operations Research and Econometrics, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, 2008-2009; and a Ph.D., Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University.

Master CoDe students Maksym Koltunov and Muhammad Ubaid Iqbal interview Dr. Joachim Möller, Master CoDe Representative at the University of Regensburg

The evening sun delivers its soft orange glow to the narrow streets of the old Bavarian Reichstag city, Regensburg, very pleasurable today. For me this ancient town on the Danube river is associated with its medieval atmosphere and knowledge. Knowledge has always been carried by people who transfer it throughout generations and add their own contribution. Today I interview a very smart and intelligent person, Dr. Joachim Möller, Director of the Federal Institute for Employment Research in Nuremberg, Professor of Economics in the University of Regensburg, and member of several economic associations in Germany. We discuss with Dr. Moller his professional life, hobbies, family and plans for the future.

Mr. Möller, first of all, thank you for coming. To begin our interview, I want ask when and why did you decide to become a scientist?
My interest in science started during a one-year program for social sciences in Tübingen University. We were about 50 young students from different European countries: France, Norway, etc. In the early 70s studying in such a diverse group was a big privilege and a very unique thing. We were gathering together almost every evening and discussed all sorts of issues in our countries and they were very long and inspiring conversations. I think that I started to realize that science was interesting for me at that time. Afterwards, I studied in Strasbourg and Konstanz. In Konstanz, my former supervisor offered me my first job in the research field.

Why did you decide to devote your career to regional economics and not to some other field of economics?
In the beginning, I was more into macroeconomics, then I started to be interested in labour issues. Regional economics did not come at once. Before the late 80s regional economics had the image of a discipline that only adds a new index to economic variables. So, it was not considered an exciting scientific field. Only once the famous works of Paul Krugman appeared at the end of the 80s, regional economics developed considerably as a innovative field. Also, apparently paradoxical, the triumph of globalization raised the interest in regions. For instance, if locations for a new production site are chosen on a global scale then it is the regional factor that comes into play. A lot of economic nature can be explained by exploring the regions, comparisons among them, interactions etc.
My interest increased very much when I started to live in Regensburg. I chose this city because, as well as its awesome architecture and mood, it is also an excellent example of economic and social renovation from the poor declining city to a very prosperous one. And one of my particular interests was devoted to clusters which could be observed here. First of all, automotive and electronics clusters, which existed and still grow successfully in Regensburg and the county. The phenomenon of economic clustering and its influence on major social issues of localities was my considerable interest during a long period of time.

What are the difficulties and impact of the Institute for Employment Research?
In our institute, we should consider the interaction between science and politics. Typically, politics are considered completely another sphere which works by other laws than science, and decision taking is based not very much on scientific evidence. In Germany, labour market politics can be seen as a

Cont.

counter-example. As we, in our institute, give advice and scientific explanations to policy makers, we communicate and are in close contact with policy makers. Of course, there are sometimes also conflict of interests, but by and large it is a well-functioning partnership
To mention some considerable impact, I could say that, for instance, we did a study on the employment effect of a minimum wage in the German construction sector and found out that a minimum wage of a reasonable amount increases earnings in the low-wage sector without destroying a significant number of jobs. This convinced policy makers and they decided to establish a statutory minimum wage for the whole German economy. Every two years the national minimum wages are adjusted according to the law. We are observing the development very closely.
It is quite natural that not all stakeholders agree with our studies and analysis. But we do our best to explain our calculations to them and the factors our results are based on.

How did the Joint European Master Program in Comparative Local Development (Master CoDe) appear in your life?
Well, it was at the beginning of the 2000s. I knew Bruno Dallago from University of Trento in Italy. He had good ties with the president of Regensburg University then. So, we had opportunities to meet at different conferences and so on. Once, he asked me to coordinate the Master Program in Comparative Local Development at Regensburg University. The program was very much correlated to my field of research, to regional economics. That's why I was very interested in such a project under the Erasmus Mundus program. I agreed. Since then, lots of students from various countries have visited Regensburg to study local development.

Mr. Möller talks about the Master CODE program with a big smile on his face. And my next questions are going to be about his personal life and hobbies.

Mr. Möller, we know that you play the guitar and rock music. Why this hobby and not others?
In late 1960s rock music, hippies were a big trend. If you are a rocker — you are a cool guy! Everybody had long hair and wore leather jackets. So did I. I started playing the guitar at the age of 15 and played in a band as well, up to 18. After that, I switched my attention to science more and due to lack of time returned to the guitar pretty rarely - just for friends and relatives. 20 years later and once I found that some of my university colleagues were former rockers also. And, moreover, they were playing different musical instruments. With them, we organized the rock band «Wise Noise». We are 7 university professors playing rock. One of our colleagues is from America, the rest are Germans.

Sorry for interrupting, I am just very interested, whether you had as well long rock hair style when a youngster?
Ahah, of course.

Professor smiles and shows the length considerably lower than shoulders noticing: «Hair was like that. Look! »
And how often do you gather to play with friends now?
Mostly, once a month, sometimes two or three times, we have repetitions. Of course, not all of the guys have enough time, so often we skip. And on stage we try to perform a few times per year. For example, this year we are invited to play at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Economists. Unfortunately, one of the colleagues from America has some other obligations. I think we will perform there next year definitely.

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Can you say a few words about Bavaria? How do you compare it to other German regions?
Originally I am from northern Germany, from Lüneburg, which is close to Hamburg. But, yes, for 18 years I have lived in the south. Speaking particularly about Bavaria, I can say that the education system here is considered as one of the best in Germany, especially such establishments as the Technical University of Munich which is one of the best European institutes of technology. Also I like Bavaria because of nature: green hills, woods, clean rivers. Especially I enjoy Regensburg, cause of its rich history and not ruined architecture. For instance, Nuremberg was totally destroyed during World War II. But Regensburg which is not too far from Nuremberg in distance was almost untouched. By the way, my home town, Lüneburg, was undestroyed as well. Pretty curious coincidence. But, in Lüneburg, brick state buildings dominate, in Regensburg – not. Generally speaking, north of Germany changed as well in the last decades. Now it's much more vivid, — like in Regensburg — you can see lots of youth on the streets hanging out till very late at night. That brings life. Also, my elder sister lives in the north still.

You have a family. What do your son, your daughters do? Do you have grandchildren?
My elder daughter is 36. She lives in Wiesbaden currently, working as an economist. She plans to do PhD work in the statistical office. She has two handsome twin boys.
My son lives in Nuremberg. Works in a company which provides supplies for the automotive industry. He is a real estate manager there, looking for the best properties around the world where their clients can open new entities. He studied MBA and real estate economics as well. By the way, he has a boy, 1 and a half years old, the same as my elder daughter's twins. These guys are extremely similar; sometimes even parents fail to recognize who is who. (**Mr. Möller`s face becomes very pleasant while speaking about his grandchildren, obvious that he loves them a lot**)
My younger daughter is 30, soon to marry. She is working for an electrical engineering company. She researches innovations there. For instance, at this moment they design head up displays for cars. These are car functional indicators such as speedometer, fuel sensors etc. which are situated or projected to the windshield of the car directly on the glass.

Are these innovations only at the stage of designing?
No, you can already buy it, but on the large scale autos with such systems will be on the market in the following years.

We know this year you are going to retire. One of your plans is to travel. Can you tell us a bit more about this?
Yes, you are right. In autumn I plan to go to Brazil, in spring to Japan and Jordan. But I prefer to travel not as a usual tourist, just looking at architecture and that's it. For me, people and communication with them are crucial, because you can immerse into culture of the country, get to know the realities of life in certain places, people's hopes and griefs.
As well I plan to build an academic cooperation with countries I will go to. I am excited very much about a future visit to Jordan. It is one of the oldest states in the region, and a friend of mine used to be one of the main archaeologists during the excavations of old Petra Town. **(Petra is considered one of the new 7 Wonders of the World)**

Are you going to visit Master CODE students?
Surely, I should. For doing that only, I can spend 20 more years. **(Professor starts smiling as always when I mention Master CODE)**

Cont.

Dr. Joachim Möller with Master CoDe 2017/19 students

In research, which topic are you going to do next?
Well, I was always doing the empirical work. For that very important thing is to have an access to the microdata. Fortunately, IAB possesses very rich microdata: all the workers' employment and wages data since 1975. It is possible to investigate a lot of things based on data which is available in the institute. So, future topics I think will be connected to the development of inequalities, dynamics of earnings. For instance, I plan to explore whether people who tend to earn less and were poor in youth stay poor with age, or maybe, some of them change their social and financial statuses with getting older. What are the characteristics and patterns of such wage dynamics and etc.? For now, I feel, for instance, that former generations could improve their financial status much faster than now. But these are yet only guesses.

What do you consider as most challenges for Europe nowadays?
Unity of European Union. I am convinced that we need to sit altogether and elaborate a new stabilization policy, which will again unite all the states on our general values and not on our contradictions. We need to have a uniform policy to tackle successfully all the world challenges we face and will face.

Thank you for these answers, professor. Now a few last questions which are important to motivate our subscribers. What inspiring books can you recommend?
The last book I have read which inspired me a lot is «Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow» by Israel philosopher Yuval Noah Harari. In this work, he describes and argues how our world would look like in the future with all of the technological progress speed we observe nowadays. And, of course, the consequences for nature and humanity. Great advice to read it!

Any inspiring movie?
Yes, I have one. Please, watch «WEIT. Die Geschichte von einem Weg um die Welt». This is a documentary film about the hitchhiking trip of a German couple, Patrick and Gwen, from Freiburg to the East through Balkans, Ukraine, Russia, Caucuses region, Mongolia, China, Nepal, Iran, Pakistan, Mexico, all of Latin America and then the route through the Atlantic Ocean back home. They returned with a 3 year old kid who was born on the way, in Mexico. It's extremely interesting to see interaction with people they encounter, the perception of life in different countries. In addition, Patrick was carrying with him a professional camera. So, the film would be definitely enjoyable and motivative.

If you would have a chance to recommend only one place in Bavaria to visit, what would it be?
Regensburg!

Now we both laugh. Such a short and confident answer I, honestly saying, did not expect. Regensburg is indeed an awesome destination!

Maksym Koltunov
Muhammad Ubaid Iqbal
Master CODE 2017-2019
«Motivation Academy» Project

IMPORTANT!!
Master CoDe Alumni please note!!

Hello fellow alumni!

I'm Carla McKirdy --formerly known as Carla Avenia Koency-- and a proud graduate of the 2008/2010 edition of Master CODE.

I recently passed the UN YPP examination for Public Information and I am on the roster ready to join the organization as an international civil servant. I was hoping to reach out to fellow alumni who either work or have worked for the United Nations in any shape or form (consultants, staffers, temps, interns).

The goal is to form a network of Master CODE alumni at the UN and come up with ideas for helping other alumni interested in eventually joining the organization.

If that sounds like you, don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can find me at cc.mckirdy@gmail.com, on Facebook and on LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/in/carlamckirdy/).

Look forward to hearing from you!

NOTICE BOARD

Joint European Master in

Comparative Local Development Workshop

"The Dimensions of Local Sustainable Development"
16th November 2018 | University of Trento, Italy

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline: 15th October 2018

The Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development (CoDe), University of Trento (Department of Economics and Management), in collaboration with Corvinus University of Budapest, University of Ljubljana, and University of Regensburg announces an international workshop on:

The Dimensions of Local Sustainable Development

The workshop focuses on the diverse aspects of sustainable local development in the various disciplinary frameworks, therefore contributions are welcome from a wide spectrum of different disciplines.

The workshop shall take place at the **Department of Economics and Management** of the University of Trento (Italy), on 16th November 2018.

For further information, contact: master-code@unitn.it

Webpage: http://www.economia.unitn.it/

NOTICE BOARD

2019 Annual IAABD Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

20TH ANNUAL IAABD CONFERENCE 2019

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF AFRICAN BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

8th to 11th May 2019

The 2019 International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD) annual conference to be hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam Business School, Tanzania welcomes papers from scholars, graduate students, managers and policy makers on issues relevant to Africa's business and development. The conference aims at facilitating multidisciplinary research by stimulating collaborations between Africa based researchers and their counterparts around the world, by broadening and deepening global understanding of various issues relevant to Africa's business and development, as well as advancing possible solutions to some of her challenges.

Conference Theme

TOWARDS INDUSTRIALIZED AFRICA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

With particular attention to Track 13:
The Path to Local and Community Development

More information can be found on:
https://iaabd.org/2019-annual-iaabd-conference/

NOTICE BOARD

AN ANALYSIS OF URBAN PLANNING IN POSTSOCIALIST SOCIETIES THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
Evidences from Budapest and Belgrade

by
Carlos ZEPEDA GIL, PhD candidate, University of Bath, Great Britain
Sinisa ZARIC, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade

Carlos Zepeda Gil (Master Code 2013/2015) has published this paper based on his Master CoDe thesis together with his thesis advisor Prof. Sinisa Zaric.

The paper can be downloaded on the following link:
http://www.limesplus.rs/images/2017-3/Limes---From-Theory---3-2017---za-tampu-2.5.pdf

Among the Central and Eastern European Countries of the European Union, Who Gained and Who Lost?

by
Miroslav N. Jovanovic, University of Geneva, Global Studies Institute
Jelena Damnjanovic, Novi Sad Business School
Jovan Njegić, Novi Sad Business School

This article is available on the following link:
https://ssrn.com/abstract=3225571

Master CoDe students and alumni have a Facebook group of their own:

Have a look at:

COMPARATIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CoDe)

Erasmus Mundus Master Code Website
www.erasmusmundus-code.eu/

Master CoDe Newsletter
mastercode.news@gmail.com

Thank you to all collaborators and contributors to Master CoDe News.

Scientific Coordinator: Dr. Péter Futó, Corvinus University of Budapest.
Editor: Helen Licata