Public Lecture Series Spring 2016
Income, Population and Migration Flows in the 21st Century
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Prof. Frédéric Docquier
Institute for Economic and Social Research, Université Catholique de Louvain

Discussant: Prof. Martina Viarengo, Department of Economics / Global Migration Center, Graduate Institute Geneva

18:15 – 19:45 h, University of Geneva, Unimail, Bd du Pont-d‘Arve 40, Room M R060

Abstract
Since World War II, immigration rates have drastically increased in high-income countries, and the control of immigration has become a major policy issue. I provide worldwide projections of international migration flows for the 21st century. To do so, I develop and parameterize a dynamic, stylized model of the world economy that accounts for the complex interactions between population growth, the evolution of educational attainment, income disparities, and migration flows. My baseline scenario extrapolates the historical trends in TFP (total factor productivity) disparities and matches the “high-fertility” population prospects of the United Nations. Under this scenario, the demographic
share of Africa and the income gap between Africa and high-income countries will drastically increase over the 21st century. At constant immigration policy, I predict that immigration rates will remain stable in most high-income countries, except in the fifteen Member States of the European Union (EU15), where the average proportion of immigrants will rise from 7.5 to 17.2 percent. Then I assess the sensitivity of our projections to changes in migration policies in other regions, TFP disparities, fertility and education policies in developing countries. The rise in the European migration pressure could be alleviated if Africa economically takes off or restrains its population growth rates. However, the qualitative predictions for future migration flows hold in all the scenarios.

Curriculum Vitae
Frédéric Docquier is Research Associate at the National Fund for Economic Research and Professor of Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Aix-Marseille II. His research interests are in quantitative development theory, economic growth and international migration. He has been acting as a ST Consultant for the World Bank since 2004 and served as Research Director of the Institute de recherches économiques et sociales (IRES) at UCLouvain between 2008 and 2012. He edited four books and published articles in the Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economic Literature, Economic Journal, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Growth and many others.

Selected Publications