

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

Oscar BAJO-RUBIO and Burcu BERKE
“International Trade and Finance: A Review”
Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 23-38

The emphasis of international trade theories shifted in the last forty years, from comparative advantage, to scale economies and product differentiation. More recently, the “new” new trade theories have stressed the role of firm heterogeneity, which has led to a renewed interest on the study of how credit constraints may hamper the export activities of firms. In this paper, we provide a brief survey of the relationship between international trade and finance, a field that only recently has been the subject of systematic analysis in the economic literature, from both a theoretical and empirical point of view. In general, barriers to external financing play a significant role as an obstacle to the exporting activity of firms, especially for younger and smaller firms; and these results would have been reinforced by the global financial crisis.

Carmen DÍAZ ROLDÁN, José María PÉREZ DE LA CRUZ and María del Carmen RAMOS-HERRERA
“New Technologies and Competitiveness: Implications in a Monetary Union”
Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 39-56

This paper analyses the way in which the adoption of New Technologies (NTs) can influence labour productivity, price differentials and, therefore, economic competitiveness. To that end, are briefly surveyed the explanatory theories on productivity and price differentials, as well as the empirical contributions on these issues. Finally, using the data provided by Eurostat, the effects of the use of NTs for the Eurozone countries are illustrated. The empirical analysis focuses on two of the main ways in which NTs could contribute to improve labour productivity: through the externalities coming from expenditure on research and development, and employment in NTs-intensive sectors. The main result is that the price differentials observed in the euro area are not explained by productivity differentials.

José GARCÍA SOLANES, Fernando TORREJÓN FLORES and Carlos RUÍZ SÁNCHEZ

“The Current Account Reversals in the Peripheral Countries of the Eurozone”
Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 57-78

We analyze the current-account reversals in the peripheral countries of the euro zone (ZES), Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland, during the financial crisis episode. After determining the trend and start date of reversals, we investigate the involved economic costs in each country using a Keynesian model for open economies. We estimate the model with panel data of the period 1999-2013. Our results indicate that each country of the sample suffered significant costs in terms of GDP losses, going from 32% in Greece to 6% in Ireland. Results allow us to derive policy prescriptions for the governments of both peripheral and northern economies of the Eurozone.

Vicente ORTS and Josep MARTÍ

“Firm Heterogeneity and Export Activity of European Firms: A Quantile Analysis”

Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 79-102

This paper examines the extent to which firms' characteristics are related to export activity behaviour. Using a dataset comprised of harmonized and detailed firm-level data from six European countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom) for the period 2007-2009 (EFIGE dataset), we analyse the effects of firms' characteristics on two different measures of export activity: export intensity and market scope. Firstly, we estimate OLS regressions to analyse this relationship. Our empirical results show that there is a positive relationship between firms' characteristics and export activity. Secondly, quantile regressions are performed in order to observe whether there are any heterogeneous effects along the conditional distribution of the two measures of export activity. The quantile regressions reveal the existence of heterogeneous effects and nonlinearities among firms' characteristics and both export intensity and market scope. Moreover, the quantile analysis also shows that, for some cases, the effects of firms' characteristics on export intensity and market scope differ greatly.

Pedro ATIENZA MONTERO and José Antonio BLANCO MELLADO

“The Effect of Inequality of Income and Redistribution on the Economic Growth of the OECD Countries”

Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 105-126

This paper presents an empirical analysis of the effect of inequality and redistribution on the economic growth of 25 OECD countries for the period 1986-

2014. The novelty of this work is that, in addition to an econometric specification derived from the neoclassical model of growth, which is common in the empirical literature, it also estimates a specification derived from post-Keynesian theory of growth from the Thirwall's Law. This is intended to give greater robustness to the results. The econometric technique used is the estimator of the Generalized Method of the Moments in first differences of Arellano and Bond (1991), in addition to fixed effects by generalized least squares and standard errors corrected for panel. The results show that both in the neoclassical specification and in the post-Keynesian one, inequality and the redistributive effect have a negative effect on the economic growth of the countries in the sample. Now, while in the neoclassical specification the coefficients are statistically significant, in the derivative of the Thirwall Law they are not. These results are consistent with the accumulated empirical evidence, where in most cases the results show a negative effect of inequality on growth.

Juan Miguel BÁEZ MELIÁN

“The Effects of Fiscal Policy on Inequality”

Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 127-148

The objective of this paper is exploring the possibilities to reduce economic inequality through fiscal policy. The empirical analyses focuses on the period 2007-2014 and the OECD countries. Our quantitative analyses is based on data from OECD dataset and offers the following results. On the one side, the most redistributive capacity corresponds to taxes; and on the other side, that the most redistributive transfers are family transfers, pensions and unemployment subsidies.

Marta PASCUAL SÁEZ, David CANTARERO-PRIETO and Jose R. PIRES MANSO
“Gross Inland Energy Consumption Inequality in Europe: An Empirical Approach”

Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 149-164

The aim of this paper is to analyse gross inland energy consumption (EC) in the EU-15 - European Union countries over the period 2005-2014. The standard tools in the measurement of income inequality such as Lorenz Curve, Gini Index, and Generalized Entropy and Atkinson indices are applied. The empirical results confirm that EC inequality has decreased (the Gini coefficient falls from 44.27% in 2005 to 42.16% in 2014), that there are a small inward shift in the corresponding Lorenz Curve and there are huge differences among the four European clusters of countries (Mediterranean, Continental, Nordic and Anglo-Saxon ones).

Aitor MARCOS and Sara URIONABARRENETXEA
“Is the Dollar’s Hegemonic Role in the International Monetary System Sustainable?”

Revista de Economía Mundial 49, 2018, 165-184

Since the signing of the Bretton Woods Agreements, the US dollar has formed the central axis of the International Monetary System (IMS). However, is this hegemonic situation sustainable in the medium to long term? This study seeks to answer that question using a prospective approach based on the Complex Adaptive Systems (CASs) underlying Complexity Economics. The greatest danger facing the current IMS as a CAS lies in its endogenous evolution. The modern Triffin dilemma and a tendency towards multipolarity in the economic system –as opposed to the continued unipolarity of the monetary system– make it essential to adapt the system. However, no such adaptation is currently taking place. Thus, with no need for any external shock, the very nature of the IMS leads to an eroding of confidence in the dollar in the medium/long term. In order for the IMS to adapt and reconstruct itself, co-operation between interactive agents participating in the system is essential.

