

## **Thijs van Rens**

Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREI)  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
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### **CURRENT POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS**

Junior Researcher (tenure-track), CREI, September 2005 – present  
Adjunct Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, September 2005 – present  
Affiliated Professor, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, July 2006 – present  
Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR),  
International Macroeconomics: July 2007 – present  
Labour Economics: January 2010 – present  
Research Fellow, IZA Institute for the Study of Labor, November 2007 – present

### **EDUCATION**

Princeton University, Ph.D., Economics, 31 May 2005  
Fields: Macroeconomics and labor economics  
Principal advisor: Prof. Robert Shimer  
Princeton University, M.A., Economics, November 2001  
University of Amsterdam, doctoraal (M.A.), Economics, *cum laude*, August 1999  
University of Amsterdam, propedeuse, Econometrics, 1998  
University of Amsterdam, propedeuse, Political Science, 1997  
University of Amsterdam, propedeuse, Physics, 1992

### **PAST POSITIONS**

Visiting Scholar, Northwestern University, Spring 2011  
Consultant, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2010-2011  
Research and Teaching Assistantships, Princeton University, 2001 – 2004  
Research and Teaching Assistantships, University of Chicago, 2004 – 2005  
Economic Advisor, Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1999

### **PUBLICATIONS**

How Important is the Intensive Margin of Labor Adjustment? Discussion of “Aggregate Hours Worked in OECD Countries” by Lee Ohanian and Andrea Raffo, prepared for the April 2011 Carnegie-Rochester Conference at NYU, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 59(1), forthcoming 2012  
Heterogeneous Life-Cycle Profiles, Income Risk and Consumption Inequality, with Giorgio Primiceri, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 56(1), pp.20-39, 2009  
Education, Growth and Income Inequality, with Coen Teulings, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 90(1), pp.89-104, 2008  
Should Higher Education Subsidies Depend on Parental Income?, with Robert Dur and Coen Teulings, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 20(2), pp.284-297, 2004

## WORKING PAPERS

### *Recent working papers*

- Selective Hiring and Welfare Analysis in Labor Market Models, with Christian Merkl, 2011, presented at the CEPR European Summer Symposium in Labour Economics (ESSLE), Buch am Ammersee, September 2011
- Structural Unemployment, with Benedikt Herz, 2011, presented at the NBER Summer Institute (EF-RSW), Cambridge, MA, July 2011
- Search with Diminishing Returns to Labor, with Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau, 2011

### *Submitted papers*

- The Vanishing Procyclicality of Labor Productivity, with Jordi Gali, 2010, revise and resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*
- Skill-Biased Technological Change and the Business Cycle, with Almut Balleer, 2011, revise and resubmit, *Review of Economics and Statistics*
- Wage Rigidity and Job Creation, with Christian Haefke and Marcus Sonntag, 2008, revise and resubmit, *Journal of Monetary Economics*

### *Older working papers*

- Organizational Capital and Employment Fluctuations, 2004
- Inequality over the Business Cycle: Estimating Income Risk using Consumption Data, with Giorgio Primiceri, 2004

## DISCUSSIONS

- The Cyclical Behavior of Equilibrium Unemployment and Vacancies in the US and Europe, by Alejandro Justiniano and Claudio Michelacci, Annual Workshop of the NBER Macro Perspectives Group (Rogerson, Shimer and Wright), November 2011
- Hours Worked over the Business Cycle in OECD Countries, 1960-2010, by Lee Ohanian and Andrea Raffo, Carnegie-Rochester-NYU Conference, April 2011
- The Propagation of Technology Shocks: Do Good, Labor and Credit Market Imperfections Matter and How Much? by Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau and Etienne Wasmer, 7th ECB/CEPR Labour Market Workshop, December 2010
- Roundtable discussion on Spanish Labor Market Reform, 8<sup>th</sup> Trobada of the Barcelona GSE, October 2010
- Sectoral labour market effects of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, by Arne Feddersen and Wolfgang Maennig, IESE-FCBarça Workshop on Sports Economics, October 2010
- Housing Market Spillovers: Evidence from an Estimated DSGE Model, by Matteo Iacoviello and Stefano Neri, CREI-EABCN conference, November 2008
- Efficient Search on the Job and the Business Cycle, by Shouyong Shi, Vienna Macroeconomics Workshop, October 2008
- The Missing Swedish Skill Premium by David Domeij and Lars Ljungqvist, Conference on the Macroeconomics of Labor markets in Europe and the US, Madrid, May 2008
- Not All Oil Shocks Are Alike by Lutz Kilian, CREI and CEPR 3d Annual Workshop on Global Interdependence, Barcelona, March 2008
- Peer Influence in Higher Education in China by Li Han and Tao Li, Workshop on Human Capital, Inequality and Gender, Barcelona, June 2007
- Gold Rush Fever in Business Cycles, by Paul Beaudry, Fabrice Collard and Franck Portier, 3<sup>d</sup> meeting of the AMeN at UPF, Barcelona, November 2006

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2011/12: AEA (Chicago, Jan 2012), ECB Labour Market Workshop (Frankfurt, Dec 2011), CESifo Conference “Macroeconomics and Survey Data” (Munich, Nov 2011), NBER Macro Perspectives Workshop (Aarhus, Nov 2011, discussant), Vienna Macro Workshop (Oct 2011), REDg Workshop (Barcelona, Sept 2011), ENSAI Economic Day “Search, Mismatch, Entrepreneurs and Unemployment” (Rennes, Sept 2011)
- 2010/11: NBER-SI Macro Perspectives Workshop (Cambridge, July 2011), Carnegie-Rochester Conference on Public Policy “Advances in Labor Market Dynamics” (Apr 2011, discussant), 7th ECB/CEPR Labour Market Workshop “Unemployment Developments after the Crisis” (Dec 2010, discussant), CREI-CEPR Workshop on Changes in Labor Market Dynamics (Nov 2010), Barcelona GSE 8<sup>th</sup> Trobada (roundtable on Spanish Labor Market Reform, Oct 2010), European Summer Symposium in Labour Economics (ESSLE, Buch am Ammersee, Sept 2010)
- 2009/10: SED (Montreal, July 2010), ESSIM - European Summer Symposium in International Macroeconomics (Tarragona, May 2010), 6th ECB/CEPR Labour Market Workshop: European Labour Market Adjustment (Dec 2009)
- 2008/09: Malaga Workshop on Labor Market Frictions (Mar 2009), Kiel Institute Workshop “Ensuring Economic and Employment Stability” (Mar 2009), CREI and EABCN Conference on Business Cycle Developments, Financial Fragility, Housing and Commodity Prices (Nov 2008, discussant), Vienna Macroeconomics Workshop (Oct 2008, discussant)
- 2007/08: NBER-SI Impulse and Propagation Mechanisms Workshop (Cambridge, July 2008), 5th Bank of Portugal Conference on Monetary Economics (June 2008), The Macroeconomics of labor markets in Europe and the US (Madrid, May 2008), Carnegie-Rochester Conference on Public Policy (Rochester, Apr 2008), CREI and CEPR 3d Annual Workshop on Global Interdependence (Barcelona, Mar 2008)
- 2006/07: NBER-SI Macro Perspectives Workshop (Cambridge, July 2007), SED (Prague, June 2007), Workshop on Human Capital, Inequality and Gender (Barcelona, June 2007, discussant), ESSIM - European Summer Symposium in International Macroeconomics (Izmir, May 2007), AMeN (Barcelona, Nov 2006, discussant), Vienna Macroeconomics Workshop (Oct 2006)
- 2005/06: EEA (Vienna, Aug 2006), SED (Vancouver, July 2006), AMeN (Milan, May 2006), Growth and Welfare Effects of Macroeconomic Volatility (Barcelona, Mar 2006)
- 2004/05: EEA (Amsterdam, Aug 2005), SED (Budapest, June 2005)
- 2002/03: EEA (Stockholm, Aug 2003), Midwest (Chicago, May 2003), Inter-University Student Conference (Yale, Apr 2003), SED (New York, June 2002)

## SEMINARS

- 2011/12: Humboldt Berlin (Dec 2011), Riksbank Sweden (Nov 2011), Universitat de Barcelona (Oct 2011), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Oct 2011), University of Amsterdam (Sep 2011)
- 2010/11: Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Jun 2011), Bank of Canada (May 2011), University of Chicago (May 2011), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (May 2011), Federal Reserve Board (Apr 2011), CUNY Queens College (Apr 2011), Stockholm School of Economics (Dec 2010), Paris School of Economics (Dec 2010), LUISS Rome (Nov 2010), Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance Rome (Nov 2010), Carlos III Madrid (Oct 2010)

2009/10: IIES Stockholm University (Jun 2010), Sabanci University Istanbul (Dec 2009), CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (Dec 2009), Erasmus University Rotterdam (Nov 2009), University of Oslo (Oct 2009), Norges Bank (Oct 2009)

2008/09: Kiel Institute (Jun 2009), ECB (Jun 2009), NHH Bergen (May 2009), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Oct 2008)

2007/08: CEMFI/Carlos III Madrid (June 2008), Humboldt Berlin (May 2008), New York Fed (Apr 2008), Columbia (Apr 2008), Rochester (Apr 2008), Boston University (Apr 2008), National Bank of Belgium (Apr 2008), Toulouse (Mar 2008), LSE (Feb 2008), IZA Bonn (Nov 2007), Bilkent University Ankara (Nov 2007), Northwestern University (Oct 2007), Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (Sep 2007)

2006/07: Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam (Dec 2006), CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (Dec 2006), University of Alicante (Oct 2006), Universidad Carlos III (Oct 2006), Bank of Spain (Oct 2006)

2004/05: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Mar 2005), Koç University (Feb 2005), Sabanci University (Feb 2005), University of Oslo (Feb 2005), Erasmus University (Feb 2005), ECB (Feb 2005), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Feb 2005), Bocconi University (Feb 2005), Florida State University (Feb 2005), UQAM (Feb 2005), Université de Montréal (Jan 2005), Brown University (Jan 2005), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Jan 2005), University of Western Ontario (Jan 2005), Princeton University (Nov 2004), Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam (Sept 2004)

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

José Castillejo fellowship for research visits, Spanish Ministry of Education, 2011  
 Consolider-Ingenio grant (CREI), Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, 2010-  
 Grant 2009SGR1157 (CREI), Generalitat de Catalunya, 2009-  
 Juan de la Cierva fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Education and Sciences, 2008-2011  
 Research grant ECO2008-01665 on “Labor Market Frictions, Monetary Policy and  
 Economic Fluctuations” (principal investigator: Jordi Gali), Spanish Ministry of  
 Science and Innovation, 2008-2011  
 Excellence Award, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, 2009  
 Beatriu de Pinós fellowship, Generalitat de Catalunya, 2006-2008  
 Research grant SEJ2006-02235 on “Structural Change and Public Policy” (principal  
 invest.: Fabio Canova), Spanish Ministry of Education and Sciences, 2006-2009  
 Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching, Princeton University, 2004  
 Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching, Princeton University, 2003  
 Graduate School Summer Stipend, Princeton University, 2001-2003  
 International Economics Section fellowship, Princeton University, 2001-2003  
 Industrial Relations Section fellowship, Princeton University, 1999-2001  
 Netherlands America Foundation (NAF-Fulbright) fellowship, 1999-2001  
 Dutch government ‘Talent Program’ fellowship, 1999-2000

## **LANGUAGES**

Fluent (speaking, reading, writing): English, Dutch  
 Good (speaking, reading, writing): Spanish, Catalan, French, German, Turkish

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee: American Economic Review, AEJ Macro, BE Journals in Macroeconomics, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economica, Economics of Education Review, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of the European Economic Association, Labour Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, World Development

Session Organizer, “Mismatch and Structural Unemployment”, AEA Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 2012

Conference organizer, “Understanding Jobless Recoveries”, Barcelona, December 2011

Conference organizer, “Changes in Labor Market Dynamics”, Barcelona, November 2010

Conference organizer, “Macroeconomic Fluctuations and the Labor Market”, Barcelona, October 2009

Program committee, 21th annual congress of the European Economic Association, 2006

Seminar organizer: Macro breakfast student seminar, CREI/UPF, 2008-2011; Macro Faculty Lunch Seminar, CREI/UPF, 2006-2011; Applied Lunch Seminar, UPF, 2006-2007 and Macro Student Seminar, Princeton University, 2003

Junior Recruiting, CREI, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Visiting student, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, Spring 2002

## TEACHING

Advanced Macroeconomics II (1st year Ph.D.), Barcelona GSE / Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Winter 2008, Spring 2009, 2010, 2012

Macroeconomics (M.A.), Barcelona GSE / Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Winter 2011, 2012

Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics (2nd year Ph.D.), Northwestern, Spring 2011

Advanced Macroeconomics I (1st year Ph.D.), Barcelona GSE / Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Fall 2005, 2006, Winter 2011

Advanced Applied Econometrics (practitioners), OECD, Paris, Nov-Dec 2010, Jan 2011

Topics in Macroeconomics II (2nd year Ph.D.), Barcelona GSE / Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Winter 2009, 2010

Topics in Macroeconomics (undergraduate), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Winter 2009, 2010

Topics in Applied Economics I (2nd year Ph.D.), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Fall 2008

Labor Economics (2nd year Ph.D.), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Winter 2007

TA for Prof. Robert Shimer, Search theory, University of Chicago, Spring 2005

Senior thesis writing group leader, Princeton University, Spring 2004

TA for Dr. Martin Cherkes, Econometrics, Princeton University, Spring 2003, 2004

Junior paper advisor, Princeton University, Fall 2003 and Spring 2004

TA for Prof. Han Hong, Statistics and Data Analysis, Princeton University, Fall 2002

TA for Prof. Noah Williams and Prof. Robert Shimer, Macroeconomic Theory (graduate), Princeton University, Fall 2001

Tutor Junior Summer Institute, Princeton University, Summer 2001

TA, Electronics, Optics and Nuclear Physics, University of Amsterdam, 1992-1993

## STUDENT ADVISING

### *Principal advisor Ph.D. thesis*

Benedikt Herz, Ph.D. candidate, Cross-Industry Wage Differentials and Mismatch  
Isabel Cairó Blanco, Ph.D. candidate, Financing Frictions and Employment Fluctuations  
Paula Garda, Ph.D. candidate, Informal Employment and Labor Market Volatility  
Ozan Eksi, Ph.D. June 2010, Lower Inequality, Higher Volatility: Are They Related?, first  
job: TOBB University of Economics and Technology (Ankara)  
Miguel Angel Carpio, Ph.D. July 2008, Does Pension Saving Crowd Out Voluntary  
Saving? Evidence from Social Security Privatization in Peru, first job: Reserve  
Bank of Peru

### *Thesis committee member and/or letter writer*

Tomaz Cajner, Ph.D. candidate, Labor Market Frictions, Human Capital and  
Unemployment Dynamics, advisor: Jordi Galí  
Ainhoa Aparicio, Ph.D. July 2010, The Spanish Labor Market: Temporary Employment,  
Immigration and the Construction Boom, advisor: Libertad Gonzalez, first job:  
Collegio Carlo Alberto (Torino)  
Martina Cecioni, Ph.D. January 2010, Essays on Inflation Dynamics and Monetary Policy  
in Currency Areas, advisor: Jordi Galí, first job: Bank of Italy  
Chiara Forlati, Ph.D. October 2009, Essays on Monetary, Fiscal and Trade Policy, advisor:  
Jordi Galí, first job: Polytechnique de Lausanne  
Almut Balleer, job market 2008/09, New Evidence, Old Puzzles: Technology Shocks and  
Labor Market Fluctuations, advisor: Monika Merz (University of Bonn), first job:  
IIES Stockholm University  
Juan Manuel Puerta, job market 2008/09, The Fewer, the Merrier: Compulsory Schooling  
Laws, Human Capital, and Fertility in the United States, advisor: Joachim Voth,  
first job: Central European University  
Margherita Comola, Ph.D. June 2008, Network Externalities in Developing Economies,  
advisor: Antonio Cabrales, first job: Paris School of Economics  
Stefano Gnocchi, Ph.D. February 2008, Essays on Monetary Policy, Wage Bargaining and  
Fiscal Policy, advisor: Jordi Galí, first job: Universitat Autònoma Barcelona  
Jose Dorich, job market 2007/08, The Welfare Losses of Price Rigidities, advisor: Jordi  
Galí, first job: Bank of Canada  
Anton Nakov, Ph.D. November 2007, Essays on the Liquidity Trap, Oil Shocks, and the  
Great Moderation, advisor: Jordi Galí, first job: Bank of Spain  
Luca Gambetti, Ph.D. June 2006, Evolving Macroeconomic Dynamics and Structural  
Change: Applications and Policy Implications, advisor: Fabio Canova, first job:  
Universitat Autònoma Barcelona  
Krisztina Molnar, Ph.D. May 2006, Essays on Monetary Policy and Learning, advisor:  
Albert Marcet, first job: University of Bergen  
Marek Jarocinski, Ph.D. May 2006, Essays on Bayesian and Classical Econometrics with  
Small Samples, advisor: Albert Marcet, first job: ECB

### *Principal advisor M.A. thesis*

Priscilla Fialho, M.A.S. September 2010, Fluctuations in the Labor Market with Search  
Frictions and Collective Bargaining  
Vanessa Banchemo, M.A. November 2007, Are Better Workers Taking Worse Jobs in  
Recessions?