

BERTRAND GRUSS

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Economics**, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. expected 08/2010
Supervisors: Prof. Giancarlo Corsetti and Prof. Ramon Marimon.
- Visiting Student**, University of Maryland at College Park. Fall 2008
Advisor: Prof. Carlos A. Végh.
- M.A. in Economics**, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (GPA: A). 06/2007
- B.A. in Economics**, Universidad de la República, Uruguay. 01/2004

RESEARCH

FIELDS OF INTEREST:

International Macroeconomics / International Finance / Business Cycles / Applied and Quantitative macroeconomics / Computational Economics.

WORKING PAPERS:

- Regime Switching Interest Rates and Fluctuations in Emerging Markets (Job Market paper), joint with Karel Mertens. ([link to full text](#))
Presented in 2009 at: XXV Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (Buenos Aires, October); XXIV Jornadas Anuales de Economía, Central Bank of Uruguay (Montevideo, October); XIV Workshop on Dynamic Macroeconomics (Vigo, July); XXXIV Simposio de la Asociación Española de Economía (Valencia, December, scheduled).
- The Volatility Costs of Procyclical Lending Standards: An Assessment Using a DSGE Model, joint with Silvia Sgherri, IMF Working Papers 09/35. ([link to full text](#))
Presented at: International Monetary Fund, EUR Seminar (October 2008).

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- Disruptions in access to foreign lending and real exchange rate dynamics in emerging markets
- Occasionally binding vs. always binding collateral constraints, joint with Javier Bianchi.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- 2008: International Monetary Fund, European Department (Summer Internship)
2004-2006: Central Bank of Uruguay, Research Department (Researcher)

OTHER PAPERS:

- Depositors' discipline in Uruguayan banks, joint with Virginia Goday and Jorge Ponce, *Revista de Economía*, Vol. 12 N°2, Central Bank of Uruguay, November 2005.
 - Dolarización y fragilidad financiera del sistema de pensiones: el caso de Uruguay, joint with Florencia Carriquiry, *Revista de Economía*, Vol. 11 N°1, Central Bank of Uruguay, May 2004.
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TEACHING

- Interests: Macroeconomics / International Finance / Computational Economics / Time Series Econometrics.
- Experience:
Topics in Time Series Analysis, EUI Graduate Course (Spring 2009). Teaching Assistant for Prof. Massimiliano Marcellino. ([teaching evaluation](#))

AWARDS

- Bourse Lavoisier, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2006-2008, for the Ph.D. program at the European University Institute.
- European University Institute, fourth academic year grant.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2002-2004: Junior Consultant, Estudio Ramela & Regules Rucker, Uruguay. Participated in consultancy projects on corporate debt restructuring after the 2002 financial crisis and on issuing structured financial products.
- 2001-2002: Junior Consultant, Estudio Assandri & Co., Uruguay. Main duties: economic and financial assessment of investment projects.
- 2000-2001: Assistant to management of investment project, MovieCenter, Uruguay. Main duties: accounting and financial controller.

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (native) / English (fluent) / French (fluent) / Italian (intermediate).
Computer skills: Matlab / GAUSS / STATA / EVIEWS / Demetra / JMulti / LaTeX

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: French - Uruguayan
Place of birth: Paysandú, Uruguay
Date of birth: 11/11/1978

REFERENCES

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“Regime Switching Interest Rates and Fluctuations in Emerging Markets”, with Karel Mertens

Many emerging economies have experienced infrequent but traumatic current-account reversals typically followed by unusually large declines in economic activity. These sudden stops are reflected in their real interest rates, which alternate between tranquil times, when the level is relatively low and stable, and infrequent crisis periods, during which interest rates become more volatile and jump to much higher levels. We embed an estimated regime switching process of interest rates into a neoclassical small open economy model with financial frictions. Our model nests infrequent dramatic crises within regular business cycle fluctuations and successfully matches the key second moments of the macroeconomic aggregates. But it also accounts well for the higher order properties of the data and produces plausible endogenous dynamics during crises. The nonlinear behavior of interest rates and the occurrence of crises proves to be key in understanding emerging market business cycles. Our findings suggest that financial frictions are essential for explaining emerging market fluctuations, but almost exclusively because of their effects in crisis episodes.

[\(link to full text\)](#)