

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIGHER EDUCATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Tuesday, 27th. Lecture by Celia Melguizo y Vicente Royuela, AQR-IREA.  
University of Barcelona. Barcelona (Spain)**

## **What drives migration moves across urban areas in Spain? Evidence from the Great Recession**

Migratory flows have generally occurred as a result of the pursuit of personal improvement. In Spain, as in many European countries, the large economic disparities between regions have led to disequilibrium factors have traditionally played a relevant role in the migration decision. Nevertheless, during the previous high-instability period, which took place in eighties and early nineties, analyses provided inconclusive results about the effect of labour market factors on the migration decision in Spain. Therefore, in this work, we aim to determine the role that labour market variables play on internal migration during the recent economic downturn, paying special attention to the migration response of the different collectives that may have heterogeneous motivations. In order to do so, we resort to an extended gravity model for the 2008-2014 period and we consider the 45 Spanish Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) defined by the Urban Audit project as a territorial unit, which prove to be the best approximation to the concept of local labour markets. Results point towards a high influence of real income as migration motivation, especially for non-returned and foreigners. But also, employment rate, although to a lesser extent, attract national and non-return migration. This contrast with the pushing effect that employment rate is generating on foreigners and returned migrants, who probably constitute the collectives more affected by this generalized economic recession.

Organized by:

**UVIC**  
UNIVERSITAT DE VIC  
UNIVERSITAT CENTRAL  
DE CATALUNYA

Escola  
de Doctorat

Unitat de  
Divulgació  
Científica

Sponsored by:



**Obra Social "la Caixa"**