Position: PhD

The Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw is seeking to fill a position of a PhD candidate (full-time, fixed-term) under the supervision of prof. Safarzynska. The project will be carried out in collaboration with prof. Raberto (University of Genoa).

Economists have studied the possibility of de-linking economic activity from energy and material use for years. Yet, we’ve failed to achieved this so far. Recently, the circular economy has achieved an increasing attention as policy that can help achieve this goal. It relies on recovering materials from old products and re-using them as inputs for production for as long as possible. However, existing economic models adopt a linear view on consumption-production, where input use is optimized to maximize the GDP growth. This approach does not capture feedback loops involved in the processes of reuse, repair and recycling of products as well as it ignores behavioral changes necessary to make a transition to the circular economy possible. As a result, we lack models, which would allow us to assess long-term consequences of the circular economy.

The aim of this project is to propose agent-based models to study the economy-wide effects of the circular economy. Agent-based technique (ABM) allows modelling many heterogeneous, boundedly-rational agents interact with each other. Instead of relying on aggregate equations, such models examine macro phenomena emerging from interactions of boundedly rational agents within networks. They have proved capable of explaining core economic phenomena like economic growth, technological change, and business cycles.

We are looking for candidates to join our team to work on the PhD thesis on the above topic.

Strong programming skills and fluent English are required.

Employment conditions:

Full-time employment for 3 years, starting from September/October 2020, subject to an evaluation procedure after 6 months of employment. Annual remuneration PLN is 60 000 (5 tys zlotych monthly in a form of a stipend). The salary can be increased if a candidate successfully applies to the doctoral school, which will be encouraged.

List of documents required:

1. Recent CV
2. A motivation letter describing research interests
3. A contact detail of the referee
4. Signed form: [CLAUSE]

Please send the required documents by 1st of July to: ksafarzy@gmail.com