

Abstract:

We analyze dynamic assignment problems where agents successively receive different objects (positions, offices, etc.). A finite set of n vertically differentiated indivisible objects are assigned to n agents who live n periods. At each period, a new agent enters society, and the oldest agent retires, leaving his object to be reassigned. We define independent assignment rules (where the assignment of an object to an agent is independent of the way other objects are allocated to other agents), efficient assignment rules (where there does not exist another assignment rule with larger expected surplus), and fair assignment rules (where agents experiencing the same circumstances have identical histories in the long run).

When agents are homogenous, we characterize efficient, independent and fair rules as generalizations of the seniority rule. When agents draw their types at random, we prove that independence and efficiency are incompatible, and that efficient and fair rules only exist when there are two types of agents. We characterize two simple rules (type-rank and type-seniority) which satisfy both efficiency and fairness criteria in dichotomous settings.

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Francis Bloch received his undergraduate degree from HEC School of Management in Paris, and his Ph D from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at Brown University, HEC, Université Catholique de Louvain and Université d'Aix-Marseille and is currently Professor of Economics at Ecole Polytechnique in Paris. His research focuses on coalition and network formation, with applications to Industrial Organization, Public Economics and Development Economics. He is currently an Associate Editor of Games and Economic Behavior, Journal of Public Economic Theory and Mathematical Social Sciences.



The Center for Research in Economic Analysis of the University of Luxembourg is pleased to invite you to the **Lunchtime Seminar in Economics:**

Markovian assignment rules

(joint with David Cantala, Colegio de Mexico)

By Francis Bloch
Ecole Polytechnique Paris

June 9, 2010
13:00 – 14:00

Campus Limpertsberg - Room BS001
162a, avenue de la Faiencerie
L-1511 Luxembourg

Lunch is planned for the participants

Registration: by email to fdef-colloques@uni.lu

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