

Preface

The Rivista di Politica Economica (RPE) promoted this year the competition for the sixth edition of the «Angelo Costa Award» consisting in the publication of the five most deserving papers taken from undergraduate theses in Economics by students graduated in an Italian University

This issue – published separately in Italian and English – collects the five winning papers of the 2002 Award. The «Angelo Costa Award» aims at drawing attention to Italy's most promising graduates in Economics, awarding them with the publication of their paper in order to encourage the continuation of their studies and improve their chance of admission to Master and/or Ph.D. programs. We also hope this Award to bring authors of these papers to the attention of a wider public, thus avoiding, as it often happens, that the works remain mere manuscripts with a limited and random circulation.

The Award is named in memory of Angelo Costa, the first president of Confindustria (the Italian Confederation of Entrepreneurs) in the immediate post-war period. He was elected president in 1945 and guided the organisation throughout the reconstruction period until 1955. Angelo Costa was again elected to chair the board of Confindustria from 1966 to 1970. A free-market advocate, on several occasions Costa firmly opposed the constraints imposed by statism and stressed the key role played by small-and medium-sized enterprises in Italy's economic and industrial growth.

Even for the 2002 edition, the publication of the «Angelo Costa Lecture», held on the awarding day by a Member of the International Scientific Committee on a theme of particular economic interest, enriches the volume which collects the papers winning the Award.

The text of the Fourth Lecture, held by Prof. Stephen A. Ross on January 15, 2003 is entitled: Forensic Finance: Enron and Others.

Eighteen graduates from fourteen universities submitted papers for this sixth edition of the Award.

Two candidates were from each of the following athenaeum: Università degli Studi of Bologna, Università Commerciale «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, Università degli Studi of Naples, Università degli Studi «La Sapienza» of Rome; one candidate was from the following academies: Università degli Studi of Bari, Università degli Studi of Cagliari, Università degli Studi of Catania, Università degli Studi of Florence, Università degli Studi of Lecce, Università degli Studi of Padua, Università degli Studi of Palermo, Università degli Studi of Rome III, Università degli Studi of Salerno, Università degli Studi of Verona.

Each paper was submitted – in anonymous form – as envisaged in the first phase of the competition, to one of the following Italian referees:

Giorgio Barba Navaretti, Marida Bertocchi, Carlo Carraro, Valentino Dardanoni, Giorgio Di Giorgio, Maria Assunta Giannetti, Francesco Giavazzi, Roberto Golinelli, Marcello Gorgoni, Daniel Gros, Ferruccio Marzano, Alessandro Missale, Ugo Pagano, Fausto Panunzi, Alberto Petrucci, Gustavo Piga, Lucio Sarno, Giovanni Zambruno.

On the basis of these referees' judgements, the 13 authors qualified for the second stage of the contest were (list in alphabetical order):

Giovanni Arese Visconti, Università degli Studi of Florence, Price Dynamics and Inflation Differentials in the European Monetary Union Perspective;

Riccardo Casalini, Università degli Studi of Bologna, The Reliability Criterion and Applications on Covered Interest Parity and on International Monetary Flows;

Pietro Coretto, Università degli Studi of Salerno, A Theory of Decidibility: Entropy and Choice Under Uncertainty;

Vincenzo Di Maro, Università degli Studi «Parthenope» of Naples, The NAIRU: Estimation and the Effect of Permanent Sectoral Employment Reallocation;

Davide Furceri, Università degli Studi of Palermo, Risk-Sharing and Institutional Architecture of Stabilization Policies in the EMU: Methodological Aspects and Empirical Evidence;

Giulia Garofalo, Università degli Studi of Bologna, Towards an Economic Analysis of Prostitution;

Valeria Gattai, Università degli Studi «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, Foreign Direct Investment in China: An Empirical Study of the Ways Adopted by Italian Companies;

Angela Maria Rosaria Loseto, Università degli Studi of Bari, Growth 'Engines' and Regional Development Differentials;

Emanuele Massetti, Università degli Studi of Rome III, Eco-Efficiency in the Production and Consumption Technologies. An Assessment of the Double Dividend Hypothesis;

Francesco Messina, Università degli Studi of Catania, Pre-Emp-tion and Mere Acceptance Clauses: An Economic Approach;

Alessio Moro, Università degli Studi of Cagliari, The Centralised Solution of the Uzawa-Lucas Model with Externalities;

Luigi Paciello, Università degli Studi «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, The Optimal Monetary Policy in an Economy with an Imperfect Financial System;

Cristina Sommacampagna, Università degli Studi of Verona, Estimating Value-at-Risk with the Kalman Filter.

Each one of these papers was then submitted – again in anonymous form – to three different Members of the International Scientific Committee who finally defined the five winners of the 2002 competition. The Members of the International Scientific Committee for this edition were:

Prof. Michael Brennan (University of California in Los Angeles)

Prof. Phoebus J. Dhrymes (Columbia University)

Prof. Peter Diamond (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Prof. Jean-Paul Fitoussi (Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques)

Prof. Duncan Foley (New School University)

Prof. Heinz Kurz (University of Graz)

Prof. Axel Leijonhufvud (University of California in Los Angeles)

Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

Prof. Robert A. Mundell (Columbia University)

Prof. Stephen A. Ross (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Prof. Bertram Schefold (J. W. Goëthe Universität Frankfurt am Main)

Prof. Robert M. Solow (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Prof. Mark P. Taylor (University of Warwick).

The five authors who won the 2002 «Angelo Costa» Award are the following:

Pietro Coretto, Università degli Studi of Salerno, A Theory of Decidibility: Entropy and Choice Under Uncertainty;

Vincenzo Di Maro, Università degli Studi «Parthenope» of Naples, The NAIRU: Estimation and the Effect of Permanent Sectoral Employment Reallocation;

Alessio Moro, Università degli Studi of Cagliari, The Centralised Solution of the Uzawa-Lucas Model with Externalities;

Cristina Sommacampagna, Università degli Studi of Verona, Estimating Value-at-Risk with the Kalman Filter;

Davide Furceri, Università degli Studi of Palermo, Risk-Sharing and Institutional Architecture of Stabilization Policies in the EMU: Methodological Aspects and Empirical Evidence.

Once again our initiative received widespread and appreciative comments in Italian and foreign academic circles and we would like to sincerely thank whoever gave his contribution to spread abroad information on the Award. A special thanks for their personal direct and considerable commitment goes to the Italian referees and to the Members of the International Scientific Committee. The positive comments they expressed on the Award and the high skill of the candidates encourage us and testify that the prestige of the Economics Undergraduate Theses Award «Angelo Costa» is considered today among the important events capable of fostering and encouraging young Italian economists in their scientific studies by making them known to a broader public.

The final choice of the winners, based on a criterion solely related to the quality of the manuscripts, is implemented by a double-blind referee procedure, by Italian and international economists that have given important contributions to the science of economics and have acquired over the years a rigorous capacity to evaluate scientific work. Our guidelines for this Award can be summed up in two

terms: merit and competition. We believe these two characteristics have been and can be assured in the future by the rigour and transparency of the procedures adopted in the selection.

This issue of Rivista di Politica Economica also publishes the profiles of the five winners of this sixth edition, the announcement of the Economics Undergraduate Theses Award «Angelo Costa» and a biographical update of the past-editions winners.

We take this opportunity to congratulate our young colleagues and wish them great success in their future studies and professional activities.

THE EDITOR
PROF. GUSTAVO FIGA

