

## Preface

*The Rivista di Politica Economica (RPE) promoted in 2004 the competition for the eight edition of the «Angelo Costa» Undergraduate Theses Award consisting in the publication of the five most deserving papers taken from undergraduate theses in Economics by students graduated in an Italian university between May 1st 2002 and May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.*

*This issue — published separately in Italian — collects the five winning papers of the 2004 competition. The «Angelo Costa» Theses 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 **Prize for Theses of Bachelor in Economics** will bring the 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 Confederation of Italian Industry) 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 2004 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 Theses Award. The text of the Sixth Lecture, held by Prof. Jagdish*

*N. Bhagwati in January 2005 is entitled: «In Defense of Globalization: It Has a Human Face».*

*Twenty-eight graduates from fifteen universities submitted papers for this eighth edition of the Theses Award: seven candidates were from the Università Commerciale «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, three candidates respectively from the Università «LUISS Guido Carli» and Università «Tor Vergata» of Rome; two were from the Università degli Studi of Bologna; one candidate was respectively from the Universities of: Bergamo, Catania, Macerata, Padua, Piemonte Orientale «Amedeo Avogadro», Pisa, Rome «La Sapienza» and «Roma Tre», Siena, Trent, Turin, Urbino and Verona.*

*Each paper was submitted in anonymous form — as envisaged in the first stage of the competition — to one of the following Italian referees:*

*Francesco Battistini, Leonardo Becchetti, Fabio Bellini, Giorgio Brunello, Luigino Bruni, Carlo Carraro, Daniele Checchi, Luca De Benedictis, Enrica Detragiache, Giorgio Di Giorgio, Carlo Favero, Massimo Giannini, Francesco Giavazzi, Francesco Lippi, Stefano Manzocchi, Mauro Marè, Riccardo Martina, Fabio Natalucci, Enrico Spolaore, Marco Pagano, Roberto Perotti, Lucio Picci, Riccardo Rovelli, Domenico Sartore, Fabiano Schivardi, Vito Tanzi, Patrizio Tirelli, Antonello Zanfei.*

*On the basis of these referees' judgements, the fourteen authors who qualified for the second stage of the contest were (listed in alphabetical order):*

*Andrea Ajello, Università «Tor Vergata» of Rome, *Venture Capital and Endogenous Growth*;*

*Luca Barone, Università LUISS «Guido Carli» of Rome, *Executive Stock Options*;*

*Matteo Alessandro Bobba, Università «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, *The Determinants of IMF Loan Programs*;*

*Luca Brandi, Università degli Studi of Macerata, *The Economy of Small States*;*

*Andrea Marcello Buffa, Università degli Studi of Turin, *Strategic Insider Trading with Imperfect Information: A Trading Volume Analysis*;*

Anna Corda, *Università «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, Technology Spillovers from Foreign Direct Investment;*

Stefano Di Colli, *Università LUISS «Guido Carli» of Rome, Scheduled and Unscheduled News' Effect on the Pound Exchange Rate and on the Long-Term Interest Rate;*

Pamela Giustinelli, *Università degli Studi of Verona, Quantile Regression Evidence on Italian Education Returns;*

Matteo Luciani, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre, A VAR Model for the Analysis of the Effects of Monetary Policy in the Euro Area;*

Laura Mancini, *Università «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, An Analysis of Political Power within the European Council: An Economic Approach in the Light of the Institutional Reforms;*

Valentina Michelangeli, *Università degli Studi of Bologna, Demand Shocks and Monetary Policy Coordination;*

Ettore Panetti, *Università «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, Direct Democracy, Budget Rules and Stabilization: U.S. States and Possible Lessons for EU;*

Agnese Sacchi, *Università degli Studi of Urbino, Fiscal Federalism and the Size of the Public Sector: What Relation?*

Camilla Sandri, *Università degli Studi of Bologna, Social Preferences and Reciprocity: An Evolutionary Approach.*

*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 2004 competition. The Members of the International Scientific Committee for this edition were:*

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

*Prof. Ricardo Caballero (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)*

*Prof. Phoebus J. Dhrymes (Columbia University)*

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

*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)*

*Prof. Jean Tirole (Université des Sciences Sociales de Toulouse)*

*The five authors who won the 2004 «Angelo Costa» Undergraduate Theses Award are:*

*Matteo Alessandro Bobba, Università «Luigi Bocconi» of Milan, The Determinants of IMF Loan Programs;*

*Pamela Giustinelli, Università degli Studi of Verona, Quantile Regression Evidence on Italian Education Returns;*

*Andrea Marcello Buffa, Università degli Studi of Turin, Strategic Insider Trading with Imperfect Information: A Trading Volume Analysis;*

*Luca Brandi, Università degli Studi of Macerata, The Economy of Small States;*

*Matteo Luciani, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, A VAR Model for the Analysis of the Effects of Monetary Policy in the Euro Area.*

*Once again our initiative received widespread and appreciative comments in Italian and foreign academic circles and we would like to sincerely thank all those who gave their contribution to spread 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 notable 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 re-*

*lated to the quality of the manuscripts, is implemented by a double-blind referee procedure, by Italian and international economists who 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 eight edition, the announcement of the 2005 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 MANAGING EDITOR  
PROF. GUSTAVO PIGA

