



ENSAYOS, SOBRE POLÍTICA ECONÓMICA



CALL FOR PAPERS

The journal *Ensayos sobre Política Económica (ESPE)*¹ invites the academic community to present papers for possible publication in its ninth special edition which will focus on the *Economy of Cities*. The guest editors are Luis Armando Galvis, researcher at the Center for Regional Economic Studies (CEER), and Adolfo Meisel, General Manager of the Central Bank of Colombia branch (Banco de la República) in Cartagena de Indias.

Papers submitted for possible publication must be original and not being considered for publication elsewhere.

Economic historian Fernand Braudel remarked that *“Towns are like electrical transformers. They increase tension, accelerate the rhythm of exchange, and constantly recharge human life... Towns, cities, are turning-points, watersheds of human history. When they first appeared,*

bringing with them the written word, they opened the door to what we now call history.” (Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism*, 1981). Currently, towns and cities are the protagonists of the countries' economic and cultural development. These attributes have been highlighted by economist Edward Glaeser in his recent book *The Triumph of the City*, stressing the role of cities as engines of growth where, thanks to the density of interaction and the flow of ideas, innovations are brewed and the most qualified human capital is attracted for the future development of these centers and countries in general.

In order to delve deeper into the dynamics of Colombian cities and their effects on economy and welfare, we are inviting the academic community to submit works in the following areas²:

1. Specialization and diversification in towns and cities
2. Localization of economic activity and industrialization
3. Agglomeration economies and urban externalities
4. Distribution of city sizes

1 *ESPE* is currently indexed in Colciencias (A2), *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (Scielo Colombia), *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* (IBSS), CLASE (UNAM), *International Periodicals Directory* (ULRICH), CSA Social Sciences Collection included in the *Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*, and in the databases of *Sociological Abstracts* and *Social Services Abstracts*, and in the electronic indexes of the *American Economic Association*, including *Journal of Economic Literature* on CD, e-JEL and EconLit and Scopus.

2 In order to avoid conflicts of interest, participants must follow the regime of prohibitions that is specified in the following link: <http://www.banrep.gov.co/documentos/el-banco/pdf/contrat-nuevoregimen03.pdf>

5. Cost of living differences among cities
6. Migration and cities
7. Demand, supply and congestion in transport systems
8. Residential segregation and urban expansion
9. The housing market, land use and prices
10. Successful cities, and case studies
11. Violence and urban crime determinants
12. Quality of life and urbanization
13. Services intensive in human capital and tertiarization

This special edition will follow the journal's editorial protocol³, which includes the evaluation of pre-selected papers by two anonymous referees. On this occasion, each document selected for publication will receive, as a compensation for the transfer of copyrights, the amount of COP\$ 2,000,000 from the Central Bank, or its equivalent in U.S. dollars for those authors who are not Colombian residents⁴. Moreover, the authors of the selected papers will be invited to present their work in a seminar to be held in Bogotá in the second semester of 2012.

3 The ESPE protocol can be found in http://www.banrep.gov.co/publicaciones/pub_espe.htm. Any additional questions should be addressed to: espe@banrep.gov.co

4 With the exception of articles written by employees of Banco de la República

Authors are requested to send their final versions no later than **June 29 2012**, to the following e-mail address: espe@banrep.gov.co

Or by certified mail to:

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Documents may be submitted in Spanish or English, and should not exceed 50 pages, including appendices, tables, and charts. Final decisions will be announced no later than September 1st 2012.

The special issue of *ESPE* is expected to be published during the first semester of 2013.