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**CORE-ECORE  
ECONOMIC THEORY SEMINAR**  
*Joint with Regional & Trade Economics  
seminar and Séminaire Economique de  
Louvain*

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**First-to-invent versus first-to-  
file: international patent law  
harmonization and invention**

**Abstract.** The U.S. has been under pressure to abandon the unique first-to-invent feature of its patent law for awarding patents. The opposition to reform argues that switching to a first-to-file rule, the international norm, will undermine innovation. We evaluate this argument in a dynamic stochastic model of a patent race, and find partial support for it. We also investigate why firms patent their inventions at all in first-to-invent despite the costly filing fees.

**A paper is available for consultation.**

The seminar will take place on

**Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 4:30p.m**

CORE, Room b\_135, 34 voie du Roman Pays – 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

<http://www.uclouvain.be/en-44411.html>