



You are cordially invited to

## UCLouvain Economics Seminar

On **Thursday February 1, 2018, from 12:45 to 14:00**  
**Doyen 22, Place des Doyens, 1**

**V. Filipe Martins da Rocha**  
(Université Dauphine)

Will give a presentation on

### **Self-enforcing Debt Limits and Costly Default in General Equilibrium**

#### **Abstract**

We establish a novel determination of self-enforcing debt limits at the present value of default cost in a general competitive equilibrium. Agents can trade state-contingent debt but cannot commit to repay. If an agent defaults, she loses a fraction of her current and future endowments. Moreover, she is excluded from borrowing but is still allowed to save, as in Bulow and Rogoff (1989). Competition implies that debt limits are not-too-tight, as in Alvarez and Jerman (2000). Under a mild condition that the endowment loss from default is bounded away from zero, we show that the equilibrium interest rates must be sufficiently high that the present value of aggregate endowments is finite. We show that equilibrium debt limits are exactly equal to the present value of endowment loss due to default. The determination of competitive debt limits based on endowment loss is isomorphic to the determination of public debt sustainable by tax revenues. We also show that competitive equilibria with self-enforcing debt and costly default are equivalent to Arrow-Debreu equilibria with limited pledgeability, as defined by Gottardi and Kubler (2015). (Joint paper with Toan Phan and Yiannis Vailakis)

#### *Information:*

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