

## Call for Papers

### A GARS Research Seminar on

#### *“How to make slot allocation work better?”*

7 June 2023, University of Applied Science Amsterdam

#### Subject

There is a renewed interest in airport slots. GARS published, in 2008, a book on slots after several workshops. Since then new research has emerged. Policy in the European Union has tried to change the slot rules, but largely failed, but the European Commission is currently working on a new directive on slots. The UK government is also evaluating secondary trading at Heathrow, Gatwick and other airports.

Many congested airports around the world restrict access by airlines through the use of a limited number of starting and landing permissions (slots). The administrative rationing mechanism has been heavily criticised by economists, who recognize that it does not account for the willingness to pay for slots, and hence restrains the efficiency of the system. A natural way to account for willingness to pay is the implementation of market mechanisms. However, the design of a market for slots raises a number of theoretical and practical questions that need to be addressed given their central importance for the functioning of the air transport industry.

The focus of the workshop is on discussing ways to improve the current allocation systems.

Papers may be theoretical or applied, and may address, among others, the following topics:

- **Issues of slot allocation which arose in the Covid Crisis.** Have these issues been resolved?
- **How to allocate new capacity?**
- **Should slot capacity be reduced to achieve environmental objectives?**
- **Airport investment:** Investment criteria and incentives for expansion facing airports and slot constrained airlines, obstacles to capacity expansion.
- **Political economy of slot allocations:** Limits of market mechanisms, competition and efficiency, rent seeking of stakeholders.
- **And, in particular, how can slot allocation be improved?**
  - Can some of the existing administrative slot allocation rules and procedures be improved?
  - Can optimization methodologies increase the operational efficiency of the current process?
  - How to make secondary markets work more efficiently?
  - Identifying situations where slots auctions can be used (for example, when a new block of capacity becomes available at an airport).
  - How can slot auctions be implemented and used to improve the systems?
  - How to change the structure of airport charges to become consistent with slot allocation?
  - How can the slot constraints be set more efficiently in Europe?

#### Confirmed speakers

Amedeo Odoni, MIT, Cambridge Mass.

Antonio Antunes, University of Coimbra

Achim Czerny, Hongkong Polytechnic University

#### Venue

University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam. Participation is free of charge.

#### Paper proposals & contact

Please send an extended abstract (one page, about 300 words, including a short CV) until 1 May as pdf- or word-file to: Hans-Martin Niemeier. [Hans-Martin.Niemeier@hs-bremen.de](mailto:Hans-Martin.Niemeier@hs-bremen.de)

Information on acceptance will be given by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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