

## CALL FOR PAPERS

(Submission Deadline: May 30, 2006)

### The Changing Geography of Banking

September 22-23, 2006

**Keynote Speaker: Gregory F. Udell**

**Distinguished Speaker: Marco Pagano**

Sponsored by

**The Department of Economics of the University of Ancona,  
MIUR (Ministry of Education, University, and Research)**

and

**The *Review of Finance***

Two contrasting trends have emerged from the intense integration and consolidation processes that have swept the European and U.S. banking industry in the 1990s: (i) the geographical diffusion of banking structures and instruments and (ii) the geographical concentration of banking power in few centres within each country. The first occurred through the lifting of geographical restrictions on banking activity, the opening of new branches and the expansion of impersonal methods to conduct business, such as internet-banking, home-banking or phone-banking, that all contributed to greatly reduce the *operational distance* between banks and local communities. The second was the mechanical consequence of the many mergers and acquisitions which have shrunk the number of banks, leading to the creation of large multi-bank holding companies. This, in turn, has brought about the geographical concentration of decisional centres and strategic functions of banks, which has greatly increased the *functional distance* between banks and local communities.

The aim of this conference is to investigate theoretically and empirically the effects that operational and functional distances from communities may exert on banks' lending decisions, efficiency and profitability and on local economic development. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Banking consolidation and small business lending
- Transactional and relationship lending
- Credit scoring and soft information
- Distance and competition
- Bank organisational structure
- Delegation of authority and monitoring of loan officers
- Banking and regional development
- Internal capital markets
- Integration of European credit markets
- Cross-border mergers and acquisitions
- Prudential regulation and lender of last resort in the presence of multinational banks

Program Committee: Pietro Alessandrini (chair), Franklin Allen, Arnoud Boot, Antonio Ciccone, Michele Fratianni, Ron Martin, Marcello Messori, Gregory Udell, Alberto Zazzaro, and Joseph Zechner.

Organizing Committee:

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Submission: Submission are free of charge. Papers should be written in English and not have been already accepted for publication. Authors can submit either theoretical or empirical papers on the subject. Submission will be reviewed by the program committee. Accommodations and meals for those who present papers, discuss them or chair sessions will be provided. The conference will be held at the Faculty of Economics 'Giorgio Fuà' of the Università Politecnica delle Marche, Piazzale Martelli 8, 60121 Ancona, Italy.

Review process for possible publication in the *Review of Finance*. Contributions accepted for presentation at the conference will be evaluated for publication in the *Review of Finance*. The journal's submission fee is waived for conference participants. Authors should indicate clearly if they do not want their work submitted to the journal. There will be a standard refereeing process for the journal that will be separate from the conference screening process and normal quality standards will be applied.

Submission deadline: Papers, with a separate title page and abstract, should be submitted by **May 30, 2006**. Acceptance decisions will be communicated by **June 30, 2006**. Papers and related correspondence should be sent to the secretary of the conference: Paola Piccioni ([p.piccioni@univpm.it](mailto:p.piccioni@univpm.it)), Tel. 39 071 2207064.