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Jacques Hellemans
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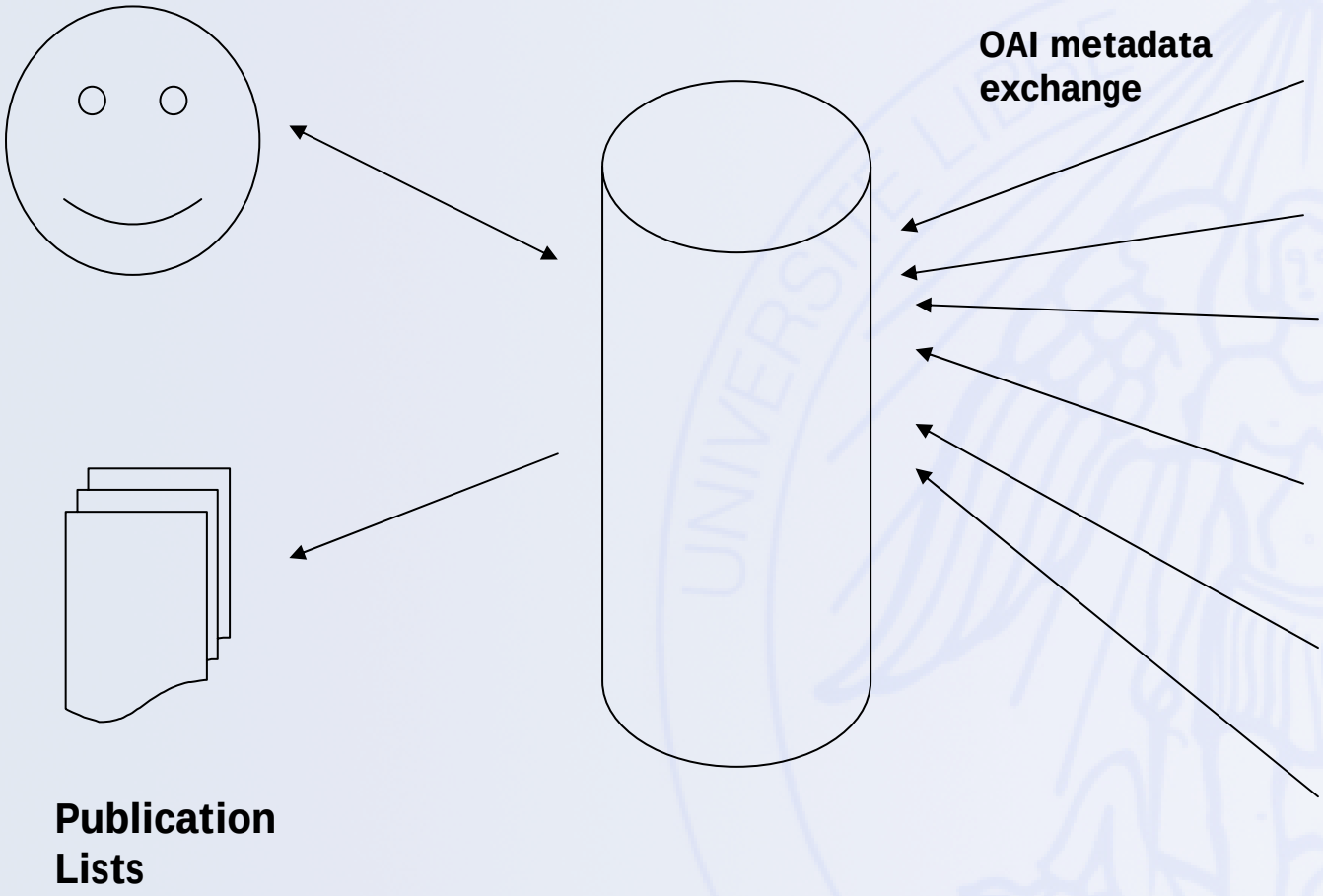

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Professor Nicholas A. Barr

European Institute

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Journal articles

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- Barr, Nicholas A (2004). Notional defined contribution pensions : what they can do and what they can't. *Nordisk forsikringstidsskrift*, *3*, 203-214.
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Higher education funding

Barr, Nicholas A. (2004) Higher education funding. *Oxford review of economic policy*, 20 (2). pp. 264-283. ISSN 1460-2121

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Abstract

The expansion of higher education throughout the OECD – and beyond – is both necessary and desirable. But it is costly, and faces competing imperatives for public spending. Higher education finance is therefore salient to an extent that is not yet fully appreciated in all countries, and is also immensely sensitive politically. This paper sets out the core lessons for financing higher education deriving from economic theory and puts them alongside lessons from country experience. The UK reforms announced in 2004 are assessed against the backdrop of those two elements. A concluding section briefly maps out unfinished business.

Additional Information: Deposited 23/06/2005. This is a pre-copy-editing, author-produced PDF of an article accepted for publication in the Oxford Review of Economic Policy following peer review. The definitive publisher-authenticated version [Higher Education Funding, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 264-283 (2004)] is available online at: http://oxrep.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/20/2/264. LSE has developed LSE Research Online so that users may access research output of the School. Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may download and/or print one copy of any article(s) in LSE Research Online to facilitate their private study or for non-commercial research. You may not engage in further distribution of the material or use it for any profit-making activities or any commercial gain. You may freely distribute the URL (http://eprints.lse.ac.uk) of the LSE Research Online website.

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Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Vol. 20, No. 2, forthcoming

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Professor Peter M. Robinson

Department of Economics

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2005

- Robinson, Peter M (2005). The distance between rival nonstationary fractional processes. *Journal of econometrics*, *128*(2), 283-300.
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Robust covariance matrix estimation : 'HAC' estimates with long memory/antipersistence correction

Robinson, P. M. (2005) Robust covariance matrix estimation : 'HAC' estimates with long memory/antipersistence correction. *Econometric theory*, 21 (1). pp. 171-180. ISSN 1469-4360

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Abstract

Smoothed nonparametric estimates of the spectral density matrix at zero frequency have been widely used in econometric inference, because they can consistently estimate the covariance matrix of a partial sum of a possibly dependent vector process. When elements of the vector process exhibit long memory or antipersistence such estimates are inconsistent. We propose estimates which are still consistent in such circumstances, adapting automatically to memory parameters that can vary across the vector and be unknown.

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Econometric Theory, 21, 2005, 171–180. Printed in the United States of America.
DOI: 10.1017/S0266466605050115

ROBUST COVARIANCE MATRIX ESTIMATION: HAC ESTIMATES WITH LONG MEMORY/ANTIPERSISTENCE CORRECTION

P.M. ROBINSON
London School of Economics

Smoothed nonparametric estimates of the spectral density matrix at zero frequency have been widely used in econometric inference, because they can consistently estimate the covariance matrix of a partial sum of a possibly dependent vector process. When elements of the vector process exhibit long memory or antipersistence such estimates are inconsistent. We propose estimates which are still consistent in such circumstances, adapting automatically to memory parameters that can vary across the vector and be unknown.

1. INTRODUCTION

We discuss a form of "automated" inference that extends a familiar feature of modern econometric practice to incorporate a flexible form of modeling that has attracted considerable recent interest. Heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation consistent (HAC) covariance matrix estimation is commonly employed in inference based on statistics that involve a partial sum of vector-valued random variables that are not assumed serially uncorrelated or homoskedastic; "long-run" covariance matrix estimation is another name for the same kind of procedure. Such statistics do not themselves attempt to correct for supposed autocorrelation or heteroskedasticity, but rather the aim is to robustify inference. Popular econometric references include Newey and West (1987) and Andrews (1991), and the methods go back to earlier statistical references, such

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