



Università degli Studi di Bergamo  
Department of Management, Information and Production Engineering

## Lunch-time Seminars – Autumn 2015

### RESEARCH ISSUES IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING

23 October 2015  
h 12.30 – 13.30

Room 13  
via dei Caniana, 2 - Bergamo

#### “Art as an Asset and Keynes the Collector”

**DAVID CHAMBERS** (Judge Business School, Cambridge University, UK)

#### Abstract

If art indexes are exposed to transaction-channel selectivity, suffer from survivorship bias, or weight individual assets inappropriately, they may be unrepresentative of art investors' performance. To investigate these issues, we study an actual invested portfolio—the art collection of economist John Maynard Keynes—using valuations that span up to 96 years. We document substantial long-term real returns and show that auction purchases were followed by significantly higher initial returns than primary market acquisitions. We argue that, because of the concentration of art portfolios, indexes based on auction prices for established artists can successfully capture the value-weighted average returns realized by art investors buying in the secondary market. Positive skewness in returns can nevertheless cause most investors to underperform the asset class.

*For further details please refer to:*  
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*This event is jointly organized by the  
Department of Management, Information and  
Production Engineering and the CCSE*

