## **Preface**

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**Biographical notes:** Nicholas Tsounis is a Professor of Economics at the Department of International Trade, Technological Educational Institute of Western Macedonia-Greece. He has a PhD in International Trade Theory since 1992 from the Department of Economics, University of Manchester-UK. His research interests are on applied international economics, economic integration and applied microeconomics. He has published 35 articles in international scientific periodicals and conferences and 9 books. He is a referee/peer reviewer for several scientific periodicals and research calls of various countries, including the EU. He is a co-founder of ICOAE conference and an academic advisor to the Hellenic NARIC.

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The special issue aims at promoting the quantitative examination of current international monetary economics and economic efficiency issues and policy analyses. Its objective is to stimulate and promote discussion concerning the econometric research of the above fields

The target group is scholars from the international academic community and research students using econometric methods for analysing issues of international economics and economic efficiency issues.

The volume includes revised and substantially extended versions of selected papers presented at the *International Conference on Applied Economics (ICOAE2012)*, held at Uppsala, Sweden, from 28th to 30th June, 2012.