



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

Statistics Seminar

Joint organization by
ORSTAT, Faculty of Business and Economics and the statistics research group,
Faculty of Science
Leuven Statistics Research Center

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ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles

**“Quantifying academic excellence. What do the
Shanghai rankings measure?”**

**Thursday February 19, 2009
12:00—13:00**

Location: Room HOG 03.101, Naamsestraat 69, Leuven.
Supporting research project: GOA-project 2007/04

Abstract:

In this presentation, we consider whether the quality of academic research can be accurately captured by a single aggregated measure such as a ranking. With Shanghai University's Academic World Ranking of Universities as the basis for our study, we use robust Principal Component Analysis to uncover the underlying factors measured by this ranking. Our results show that the Shanghai rankings reflect not one but in fact two different and uncorrelated aspects of academic research.