To CERF Board Members:

This is the report on progress for the “Monetary networks” project which I am pursuing during my CERF Fellowship.

We have completed the theoretical part of the project. The core element of the investigation consists of a lab experiment. The original plan was to conduct it at Chapman University (US) because it has one of the few laboratories worldwide that have the capacity to conduct experimental sessions involving 50 participants. Unfortunately, the lab continues to be closed due to Covid-19 restrictions and it is unclear when it will open again.

We are currently exploring the possibility to conduct the experiments in LINEEX – Laboratory for Research in Behavioural Experimental Economics at the University of Valencia. This is the largest laboratory for economics experiments in Europe, and one of the few that would allow us to run the large sessions needed in this project. In October 2021, Ana Lleo Bono will start a PhD under my supervision at the Faculty of Economics. She has worked as an RA at LINEEX before, and the tentative plan is to involve her in the project so that she can run the experiments.

In the meanwhile, I have begun a project to understand the trade-offs between economic/financial activity and the implementation of a tracing and quarantine scheme. The focus is on comparing mandatory tracing and/or quarantine with optional tracing and/or quarantine both in terms of health and economic outcomes. We have completed the theoretical part of the project and conducted pilots of a web-based experiment to test the predictions. CERF has generously given a grant to fund the experiments, and the plan is to complete them by December 2021.

Last May I have presented some of the research I have conducted at CERF during the annual “Cavalcade”. In addition, I have presented the results of the work undertaken during my latest CERF tenure at invited seminars (University of Technology Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, University of Bologna, Paris School of Economics, University of Amsterdam, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, University of Oxford, Cambridge-INET, Università Cattolica – Milan, University of East Anglia) and specialized workshops (BiNoMa Workshop on the Economics of Networks, SAET Conference).

Yours ever,

Edoardo Gallo