



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Society of Government Economists**  
**Co-Sponsored with The George Washington Univ., Economics Dept., Center for Economic Research**  
George Washington University, Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052  
Monday, September 21, 2009

**Conference Program**

All events from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM will take place in the Continental Ballroom (Third Floor)

**7:30 – 8:00 Registration (Outside the Continental Ballroom)**

**8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast (and Registration)**

**8:30 – 9:00 Opening Remarks by:**

**Professor Fred Joutz (GWU Economics Department)**

**Steven Payson (SGE President)**

**9:00 – 10:00 Dr. Richard Brown; Chief Economist, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**  
**“The Role of Economists in Prudential Supervision of Banks”**

Dr. Brown is responsible for developing and communicating the FDIC's perspective on a wide range of economic and risk management issues, and he is frequently interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, Fortune, Business Week, CNBC, and other news media.

**10:00 – 11:00 Dr. J. Steven Landefeld; Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis**  
**“GDP and Beyond: Measuring Economic Progress and Sustainability”**

BEA's economic statistics, which provide a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the U.S. economy, are key ingredients in critical decisions affecting monetary policy, tax and budget projections, and business investment plans.

**11:00 – 11:15 Break**

**11:15 – 12:15 Professor Deirdre McCloskey; University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**“Bourgeois Dignity and Liberty: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World”**

Author of over twenty books and three hundred scholarly articles, Professor McCloskey is best known for *How to Be Human Though an Economist* (2000), *The Bourgeois Virtues: Ethics for an Age of Commerce* (2006), and *The Rhetoric of Economics* (1998).

**12:15 – 12:45 Break / Queuing for Buffet Lunch / Taking Seats**

**12: 45 – 1:45      Professor Thomas Schelling; University of Maryland**  
**“Institutional Requirements for International Action on Climate Change”**

**Professor Schelling received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2005.** Among his many distinctions, he was a government economist who served for the White House and participated in the global warming debate while chairing a commission for President Carter.

**1:45 – 2:00      Exiting the Ballroom**

***From 2:30 to 5:45, Coffee and Soda will be available in the back part of Room 403.***

### **Concurrent Sessions (2:00 -3:45 PM)**

***S1.      U.S. Migration and Travel Issues***

Chair: Bryan Roberts, Department of Homeland Security  
Room 308

“India-US Migration and ‘Temporary’ Labor Programs: Select Contrasts in Policies and Trends in the United States and Receiving Countries in the European Union”

Mary E. Breeding, Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown Univ.

Discussant: Joseph Cordes, George Washington University

“Trends in Foreign Student Admissions to the United States: Policy and Competitive Effects”

B. Lindsay Lowell, Georgetown University

Discussant: Katie Foreman, Policy Office, Department of Homeland Security

“Identifying Rate of Emigration in the United States using Administrative Earnings Records”

Jon Schwabish, Congressional Budget Office

Discussant: Joseph Cordes, George Washington University

“The Macroeconomic Impacts of the 9/11 Attack: Evidence From Real-Time Forecasting”

Bryan W. Roberts, Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security

Discussant: Katie Foreman, Policy Office, Department of Homeland Security

***S2.      New Approaches to Measuring and Studying Capital and Depreciation***

Chair: Brent Moulton, Bureau of Economic Analysis  
Room 309

“Intangible Capital and Structural Change: Theory and Evidence”

Natasha Xingyuan Che, Georgetown University

Discussant: Joy Guanghai Zhao, State University of New York at Binghamton

“New Treatment of Disasters in the GDP Accounts”

David Wasshausen, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Discussant: Susan McIntosh

“Are Non-fundamental Solutions Learnable in a New-Keynesian Monetary Model with Capital?”

Joy Guanghai Zhao, State University of New York at Binghamton

Discussant: Natasha Xingyuan Che, Georgetown University

**S3. *Rural and Agricultural Labor Markets and Immigration Policy Reform***

Chair: Mary Ahearn, Economic Research Service, USDA  
Room 310

“Rural Labor Markets: Features and Trends”

Alexander Marré, Economic Research Service, USDA

“Labor Use on America’s Farms and Ranches”

Mary Ahearn and Marie Clay, Economic Research Service, USDA

“Modeling the Potential Economic Impact of Immigration Reform on the Labor Market for Foreign-born Farm Workers”

Steven Zahniser and William Kandel, Economic Research Service, USDA

Discussant for all papers: Implications for Future Economic Policy Analysis

Tom Hertz, Economic Research Service, USDA

**S4. *Fiscal Policy, Government Debt, and Welfare Experiments***

Chair: Mark D. Shroder  
Room 402

“Sensitivity of Treatment on Treated Effects in the Housing Vouchers Welfare Experiment to Alternative Measures of Compliance”

Mark D. Shroder, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Daniel Gubits, Abt Associates

Discussants: Shu-Chu S. Yang and Nora Traum

“Revisiting Government Debt: A DSGE Approach”

Shu-Chun S. Yang, Congressional Budget Office; and Nora Traum, Indiana University

Discussants: Mark D. Shroder and Daniel Gubits

**S5. *Advances in Economic Thought by Members of AIRLEAP (Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions)***

Chair: Jessica Lee, Federal Reserve Board  
Room 403

“Moldova: Child Poverty and the Absence of Parents”

Menahem Prywes and Stefania Rodica Cnoblech, World Bank

Discussant: Mark Regets, National Science Foundation

“The Economist as Social Engineer, and the Case for Professional Economic Ethics”

George DeMartino, Univ. of Denver (Presented by Brian Sloboda, US Postal Service)

Discussant: W. Charles Sawyer, Texas Christian University

Response to, and Additional Comments on the Case for Professional Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Economics

Deirdre McCloskey; Chair, AIRLEAP’s Board of Directors

**3:45 – 4:00 Break**

## Concurrent Sessions (4:00-5:45 PM)

### **S6. *New Approaches to Monetary Policy***

Chair: Chao Wei, George Washington University  
Paper presenters will discuss each other's papers.  
Room 308

“Monetary Policy in Tunisia: Towards a Post-Keynesian Perspective on Inflation Targeting”  
Radhouan Ben Chalbia and Borgen Trigu, Faculty of Econ. Studies and Management of Tunis

“Simple Monetary Rules under Fiscal Dominance”  
Ricardo.P.Nunes, Federal Reserve Board; Michael Kumhof, International Monetary Fund; and  
Irina Yakadina, International Monetary Fund

“The Market-Perceived Monetary Policy Rule”  
James D. Hamilton, University of California at San Diego; Seth J. Pruitt, Federal Reserve Board;  
and Scott Borger, University of California at San Diego

### **S7. *Studies on Climate Change Policies and Ecological Economics***

Chair: Stephanie Shipp, Science and Technology Policy Institute  
Room 309

“The Positive Economics of Climate Change Policies: The Importance of Including Both Costs  
and Benefits in Policy Assessments”  
John A. (“Skip”) Laitner, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Response to Skip Laitner's Paper: “Externalities Count in the Economics of Climate Change: Be Master,  
Not Servant, of the Market”  
Martin Apple, Council of Science Society Presidents

“Ecological Economics – The Science of Sustainability”  
Sabine U. O'Hara, United States Society for Ecological Economics  
Discussant: Sarah Ryker, Science and Technology Policy Institute

### **S8. *Employment, Population, and Neighborhood Studies***

Chair: Leo Sveikauskas, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Room 310

“Agglomeration in Small Urban Areas”  
Leo Sveikauskas and Joel Elvery, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Discussant: Todd Gardner, Census Bureau

“Delinquency Rates and Unemployment Rate : Is There Something Missing?”  
Azhar Iqbal and Mark Vitner, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC  
Discussant: Kee Nam Cheung, Department of Housing and Urban Development

“Neighborhood Patterns of Racial Steering of Subprime Mortgage Lending”  
John A. Karikari, Government Accountability Office

**S9. *Energy and Transportation Studies***

Chair: Jack Wells, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Room 402

“The Financial Market Impact of Terrorism and Risk Mitigation Policy on Transportation”  
Anthony Homan, Office of Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Discussant: Marvin Fell, Office of Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

“Creating an Environmentally Sustainable, Financially Feasible, High Performance Metropolitan Transportation System”  
Patrick DeCorla-Souza, Federal Highway Administration  
Discussant: Michael Replogle, Global Policy Director, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

“Do Energy Companies Benefit from Volatile Oil Prices?”  
Tom Littlefield, Consultant  
Discussant: Arthur Rypinski, Office of Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation

**S10. *“Bringing Back the Band”: A Special Brainstorming, Reminiscing, and Strategizing Session among Leaders (Past and Present) of the Society of Government Economists***

Chair: Steven Payson  
Room 403

**This Session is open to all conference attendees.**

Sharing ideas and learning from the experiences and advice of former SGE leaders.  
Past and Present SGE leaders who have already expressed an interest in attending include:

Stephen Baldwin (Board Member 1988-90, Vice President 1995-96)  
Anthony Barkume (Board Member 1997-99 and 2006-07)  
Alan Bird: (Board Member 1981-82, Vice President 1982-83, President 1983-84)  
Harvey Bronstein (Executive Secretary 1985-86, Vice President 1999-00, President 2000-01)  
Ann Dunbar (Treasurer 1993-95, Executive Secretary 1995-96)  
Jules Lichtenstein (Board Member 1988-89, Vice President 1996-97, President 1997-98)  
Steven Payson (Executive Secretary 2007-08, Vice President 2008-09, President 2009-10)  
Sara Rix (Executive Secretary 2002-04, Treasurer 2004-05)  
Robert Shackleton (Vice President 2000-01, President 2001-02)  
Brian Sloboda (Treasurer 2005-07 and 2009-10, Vice President 2007-08, President 2008-09)  
van Blarcom, Bonni-Jane (Treasurer 1981-83, Board Member 1983-84)

Other current and former leaders are encouraged to attend to share their experiences.

**5:45 – 6:00 Conclusion of the Conference, and Exiting the Marvin Center**

**6:30 – 8:30 Informal SGE Happy Hour and Dinner Gathering**

**Mai Thai Restaurant**

(It is walking distance from the conference, at 1200 19th Street NW between M and N Street.)

**Open to All** (Participants are individually responsible for their drinks and dinner.)