

**Annual Meeting, November 15-16, 2010
CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Marvin Center, George Washington University
800 21st Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20052**



Co-sponsored by:



The Society's motivation for organizing this conference is to promote economic thought that will be beneficial to government economists. Sessions will be designed to inform and educate economists, to provide valuable contributions to existing knowledge and understanding of economic ideas, and to foster potential improvements in how economics is practiced. Such sessions should better enable economists to observe and understand the nature and causes of economic factors and events, which will enhance their ability to contribute to public decision making.

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Preliminary Program (subject to later revision)

Monday, November 15th

8:00 AM – 9:00

Registration (Marvin Center, Room 309)

9:00 – 9:30

Introductory Remarks by Professor Fred Joutz, George Washington University and Andrew Felton, President, Society of Government Economists (Grand Ballroom)

9:30 – 10:30

Dr. Rebecca M. Blank, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce. (Grand Ballroom)



Her recent works include: *It Takes A Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty* (winner of the Lester Prize for Outstanding Book), *The New World of Welfare, Is the Market Moral?*, *Working and Poor*, and *Insufficient Funds*. Dr. Blank will speak on “*How Can Economists Help Shape Agency Decision-making? Examples from Life Inside the Department of Commerce.*”

10:45 – 11:45

Dr. Douglas Elmendorf, Director of the Congressional Budget Office (Grand Ballroom)



Before coming to CBO, Doug Elmendorf was a senior fellow in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution. There he served as coeditor of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity and the director of the Hamilton Project, an initiative to promote broadly shared economic growth. Dr. Elmendorf will speak on “*Fiscal Policy Choices.*”

11:45 – 12:15 PM

Break Period for Bringing Buffet Lunch to Tables

12:15 – 1:15

Keynote Luncheon Speaker (Grand Ballroom)



Dr. Keith Hall, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Leading the agency with the most government economists, Dr. Hall heads a 2,500-person organization that measures and analyzes the nation's employment levels, wages, worker safety, productivity, and prices. Prior to his current position, he served as Chief Economist for the Council of Economic Advisers where he directed a team that monitored the state of the economy. Dr. Hall will speak on “*The Economy Today: What Our Measures Tell Us About the Current Labor Market.*”

1:25 – 2:15

Professor John Siegfried on *The Benefits of Economics* (Grand Ballroom)



Professor John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University, For many years the Executive Director of the American Economic Association, Dr. Siegfried will speak about his new book, *Better Living through Economics* (Harvard University Press, 2010).

2:20 – 2:35

Book Signing by John Siegfried (Room 309)

Presentations and Panel Discussion on *Improving the Economics Profession* (Grand Ballroom)

2:45 – 3:15



Professor David Colander, Middlebury College. Leading author of widely used textbooks on economics, and recent author of *Complexity Hints for Economic Policy*, (editor, with M. Salzano) Springer, 2007.

3:15- 3:45



Professor George DeMartino, Univ. of Denver. Author of *Global Economy*, *Global Justice* (2000) and *The Economist's Oath: On the Need for and Content of Professional Economic Ethics*, Oxford University Press

3:45 – 4:00



Dr. Quentin Wodon, Adviser, World Bank Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics. His latest book is *Emerging Evidence on Vouchers and Faith-Based Providers in Education* (editor with F. Barrera-Osorio and H. Patrinos), World Bank, 2009.

4:10 – 6:00 Panel with the Above Presenters, Moderated by Quentin Wodon, with additional discussions by:



Dr. Nancy Lutz, Program Director for Economics, National Science Foundation



Dr. Stacey Tevlin, Chief, Macroeconomic Analysis Section, Div. of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board of Governors.



Professor John Siegfried, American Economic Association and Vanderbilt University



Dr. Susan Offutt, Chief Economist, Government Accountability Office

Tuesday, November 16th

8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration (Marvin Center, Room 309)

8:30 – 10:25 First Breakout Sessions

Applied Economics and Econometrics (Room 301)

Assessment of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on the Firm Using a Difference-in-Difference Estimator
Brian W. Sloboda (US Postal Service, brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov)

New Orders Don't Forecast Shipments
Daniel Bachman (IHS Global Insight, daniel.bachman@ihs.com).

Seasonal Differences in Employment between Survey and Administrative Data
Jeffrey Groen (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Groen.Jeffrey@bls.gov)

Employment and Job Loss (Room 403)

Employment and Wage Consequences of Job Separation in the United States

Erika McEntarfer (Census Bureau, erika.mcentarfer@census.gov)

Bruce Fallick (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, bruce.fallick@frb.gov)

John Haltiwanger (University of Maryland, Haltiw@econ.umd.edu)

Job Accessibility and Spatial Mismatch with Longitudinal Employment Data

Fredrik Andersson (Office of the Comptroller of the Currency,

Fredrik.Andersson@occ.treas.gov)

John Haltiwanger (University of Maryland, Haltiw@econ.umd.edu)

Mark Kutzbach (Census Bureau, Mark.J.Kutzbach@census.gov)

Henry Pollakowski (Harvard University, henry.pollakowski@gmail.com)

Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau, daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov)

Unemployment Insurance and the Business Cycle: What Adjustments are Needed?

Jeremy Schwartz (Loyola University, jsschwartz1@loyola.edu)

Health Economics (302)

Chair: Mark S Freeland (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

Compensation of Nonprofit Healthcare Executives in the Era of Healthcare Reform

Jackson Williams (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,

jackson.williams@cms.hhs.gov)

Discussed by: Seth Sacher (Federal Trade Commission, ssacher@ftc.gov)

Public Education and Health Provision: How Decentralization Affects Quality of Public Services

Ramziya Shakirova (George Mason University, rshakiro@gmu.edu)

Quality Improvement and Productivity Growth in Private Hospitals

Leo Sveikauskas (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sveikauskas.Leo@bls.gov)

Lisa Moglia (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Moglia.Lisa@bls.gov)

Measuring Intangibles as Capital in Federal Economic Statistics (Room 405)

Organizer and Chair: Carol Robbins (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Depreciation of Business R&D Capital

Wendy Li (Bureau of Economic Analysis, wendi.li@bea.gov)

Does Modern Research Overestimate Intangible Capital Growth? A Case Study of Artistic Originals

Rachel Soloveichik (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Rachel.Soloveichik@bea.gov)

R&D and Other Intangible Assets in an Input-Output Framework: Experimental Estimates with U.S. Data

Carol A. Robbins (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Carol.Robbins@bea.gov)

Mary L. Streitwieser (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Mary.Streitwieser@bea.gov)

William A. Jolliff (Bureau of Economic Analysis, William.Jolliff@bea.gov)

Poverty Measurement (Room 307)

Alternative Geographic Adjustments of U.S. Poverty Thresholds: Impact on State Poverty Rates

Trudi Renwick (Census Bureau, trudi.j.renwick@census.gov)

Supplemental Poverty Measure: Preliminary Estimates 2008

Kathleen Short (Census Bureau, kathleen.s.short@census.gov)

Trudi Renwick (Census Bureau, trudi.j.renwick@census.gov)

Supplemental Poverty Measure Thresholds: Estimates for 2008

Thesia I. Garner (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garner.thesia@bls.gov)

10:35 – 12:30 Second Break Sessions

Applied Topics in Economic Measurement (Room 307)

Cost of Living and Price Indices

Ted To (Bureau of Labor Statistics, to_t@bls.gov)

Elliot Williams (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Williams_e@bls.gov)

Give Credit Where Credit is Due: Tracking Value Added in Global Production Chains

Robert Koopman (International Trade Commission, Robert.Koopman@usitc.gov)

William Powers (International Trade Commission, william.powers@usitc.gov)

Zhi Wang (International Trade Commission, zhi.wang@usitc.gov)

Shang-Jin Wei (Columbia University, shangjin.wei@columbia.edu)

The Producer Price Index Develops Two Experimental Index Aggregation Systems that Include Services and Construction Price Indexes

Jonathan Charles Weinhagen (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Weinhagen.Jonathan@bls.gov)

Maureen Patricia Doherty (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Doherty.Maureen@bls.gov)

Education, Labor, and Retirement (Room 301)

Time to Ph.D. Completion and the Labor Market for New Doctorate Recipients

Jeffrey Groen (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Groen.Jeffrey@bls.gov)

Discussed by: John Ham (University of Maryland, ham@econ.umd.edu)

The Effect of College Tuition Changes on Parents' Labor Supply

Elizabeth Weber Handwerker (Bureau of Labor Statistics,

Handwerker.Elizabeth.Weber@bls.gov)

Emily Pas Isenberg (Census Bureau, emily.p.isenberg@census.gov)

Retirement Plan Coverage and Type by Firm Size: Using W-2 Tax Records to Correct SIPP Survey Reports

Howard M. Iams (Social Security Administration, Howard.M.Iams@ssa.gov)

Irena Dushi (Social Security Administration, Irena.Dushi@ssa.gov)

Jules H. Lichtenstein (Small Business Administration, Jules.Lichtenstein@sba.gov)

Housing and the Financial Crisis (Room 302)

Organizer: *Yvon H Pho (Deloitte and Touche, LLP)*

Chair: *Seth Giertz (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)*

Housing Bubbles and Their Impact on the U.S. Economy

James R Follain (James R. Follain, LLC, jfollain@nycap.rr.com)

Seth H Giertz (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, sgiertz2@unl.edu)

Juan Montoya (FI Consulting, montoya@ficonsulting.com)

Discussed by: Peter Elmer (Deloitte and Touche, LLP)

Land Loans and Failed U.S. Banks

Andrew J Felton (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, AnFelton@fdic.gov)

Joseph B. Nichols (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, joseph.b.nichols@frb.gov)

Discussed by: Peter Elmer (Deloitte and Touche, LLP)

Testing the Double-Trigger Hypothesis Using Loan-Level Annual Financial Statement Data from an FHA-Insured Multifamily Program

Albert J Lee (Summit Consulting, albert.lee@summitllc.us)

Yvon H Pho (Deloitte and Touche, LLP, ypho@deloitte.com)

Colin A Cushman (Department of Housing and Urban Development, colin.cushman@hud.gov)

Discussed by: Peter Elmer (Deloitte and Touche, LLP, pelmer@deloitte.com)

Price Indexes for Medical Care Spending (Room 403)

Chair: *Michael Horrigan (Associate Commissioner for Prices and Living Conditions, Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

Organizer: *Ana M. Aizcorbe (Chief Economist, Bureau of Economic Analysis)*

Drug Innovations and Welfare Measures Computed from Market Demand: The Case of Anti-Cholesterol Drugs

Abe Dunn (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Abe.Dunn@bea.gov)

Discussed by: Charles Romeo, Department of Justice, charles.romeo@usdoj.gov)

How Sensitive Are Medical Care Price Indexes to the Choice of Method for Allocating Spending by Disease? Evidence from the MEPS Survey

Ana M. Aizcorbe (Bureau of Economic Analysis, ana.aizcorbe@bea.gov)

Ralph Bradley (Bureau of Labor Statistics, bradley.ralph@bls.gov)

Bradlee Herauf (Bureau of Economic Analysis, bradlee.herauf@bea.gov)

Richard Kane (Office of Management & Budget, rkane@omb.eop.gov)

Eli Liebman, (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Eli.Liebman@bea.gov)

Sarah Pack, (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Sarah.Pack@bea.gov)

Lyubov Rozental (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Lyubov.rozental@bls.gov)

Discussed by: Stephen Heffler (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, stephen.heffler@cms.hhs.gov)

Prices, Utilization and Expenditure Growth: A New Look at Physician Services

Brett Wendling, (Federal Trade Commission, bwendling@ftc.gov)

Discussed by: Forrest McCluer (Greylock McKinnon Associates, fmclcluer@gma-us.com)

Transportation Economics (Room 405)

Organizer and Chair: David Chien (Department of Transportation)

Measuring the Economic Importance of In-House Transportation in the U.S.: An Analysis of the U.S. Transportation Satellite Accounts, 1997 and 2002

Theresa Firestine (Department of Transportation, Theresa.firestine@dot.gov)

David Chien (Department of Transportation, david.chen@dot.gov)

The National Highway Construction Cost Index

David Chien (Department of Transportation, david.chen@dot.gov)

Ken Notis (Department of Transportation, ken.notis@dot.gov)

Discussed by: Brian W. Sloboda (US Postal Service, brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov)

Transportation Services Index and the Recession

Ken Notis (Department of Transportation, ken.notis@dot.gov)

Peg Young (Department of Transportation, peg.young@dot.gov)

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch Break (Marvin Center Food Court and other local restaurants)

1:30 – 3:55

Third Breakout Sessions

Economic Analysis of Immigration and Remittances (Room 307)

Chair: Mark Regets (The National Academies)

An Analysis of Migrant Smuggling Costs along the Southwest Border

Bryan W. Roberts (Department of Homeland Security, bryan.roberts@hq.dhs.gov)

Growing Modern American Guest Workers: Temporary H2A Workers

Lindsay Lowell (Georgetown University, lowellbl@georgetown.edu)

Immigration, Remittances, and Business Cycles

Federico S. Madelman, (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta,

Federico.Mandelman@atl.frb.org)

Andrei Zlate (Federal Reserve Board, andrei.zlate@frb.gov)

Undocumented Workers' Employment during U.S. Business Cycles

J. David Brown, Heriot-Watt University and IZA, jdavidbrown68@googlemail.com)

Serife Gneć (University of Pittsburgh, seg34@pitt.edu)

Julie Hotchkiss (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, julie.l.hotchkiss@atl.frb.org)

Myriam Quispe-Agnoli, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta,

Myriam.Quispe-Agnoli@atl.frb.org)

Federal Regulatory Analysis (Room 302)

Chair and Organizer: Patrick A. McLaughlin (Federal Railroad Administration)

Assessing the Quality of Regulatory Analysis: A New Evaluation and Data Set for Policy Research

Jerry Ellig (Mercatus Center at George Mason University, jellig@gmu.edu)

John Morrall (Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Jmorrall3@aol.com)

Does Haste Make Waste in Regulatory Analysis?

Patrick A. McLaughlin (Federal Railroad Administration, patrick.mclaughlin@dot.gov)

Jerry Ellig (Mercatus Center at George Mason University, jellig@gmu.edu)

Improving the Use of Science to Inform Health, Safety, and Environmental Regulation

Susan E. Dudley (The George Washington University, sdudley@gwu.edu)

George M. Gray (The George Washington University; ggray@gwu.edu)

A Review of EPA's Regulatory Impact Analyses in Light of Changing OMB Guidelines for Analysis

Art Fraas (Resources for the Future, Fraas@rff.org)

Randall Lutter (Resources for the Future, Lutter@rff.org)

National Association for Business Economics: Sponsored Session (Room 301)



Two Panel Discussions:

Macroprudential Oversight: How Best to Identify and Contain Systemic Risk?

Moderator: Stuart Mackintosh (Executive Director, Group of Thirty)

Arthur J. Murton (Acting Director, Office of Complex Financial Institutions, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, amurton@fdic.gov)

{ Additional Presenter: TBA }

The Impact of Regulatory and Policy Uncertainty on Corporate Planning

Moderator: Brian Bethune (Chief U.S. Financial Economist and Chief Canadian Economist for IHS Global Insight)

Don Johnson (Chief Economist, Caterpillar Inc., johnson_don_a@cat.com)

Robert Wescott (President, Keybridge Research, LLC, rwescott@keybridgeresearch.com)

Promotions, Transportation, and Metrics (Room Oh My!): Just what are we supposed to tell policy makers about food affordability in the U.S.?

Chair: Edward Roeger (USDA Economic Research Service)

Organizer: Aylin Kumcu (USDA Economic Research Service)

The Affordability of a Healthy Diet Depends on the Food Metric

Andrea Christine Carlson (USDA Economic Research Service, acarlson@ers.usda.gov)

Elizabeth Frazao (USDA Economic Research Service, efrazao@ers.usda.gov)

Discussed by: Ephraim Leibtag (USDA Economic Research Service, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov)

Produce Sourcing and Transportation Cost Impacts in the Wholesale Market for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Edward Roeger (USDA Economic Research Service, eroeger@ers.usda.gov)

Ephraim Leibtag (USDA Economic Research Service, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov)

Promotional Timing of Complements and Substitutes

Richard J. Volpe, III (USDA Economic Research Service, rvolpe@ers.usda.gov)

Discussed by: Ephraim Leibtag (USDA Economic Research Service, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov)

Why are Apples More Expensive in San Francisco than Salt Lake City? Determinants of Regional Fruit and Vegetable Price Variation

Ephraim Leibtag (USDA Economic Research Service, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov)

Aylin Kumcu (USDA Economic Research Service, akumcu@ers.usda.gov)

Time Use (Room 403)

Chair: Sabrina Wulff Pabilonia (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Her Time, His Time or the Maid's Time: An Analysis of Domestic Work in Couple-Households

Leslie S. Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University, lsstratt@vcu.edu)

Elena Stancanelli (Université Cergy Pontoise, Paris, elena.stancanelli@u-cergy.fr)

Discussed by: Sabrina Wulff Pabilonia (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pabilonia.Sabrina@bls.gov)

Does Homework Affect Educational Outcomes?

Sabrina Wulff Pabilonia (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pabilonia.Sabrina@bls.gov)

Charlene Marie Kalenkoski (Ohio University, kalenkos@ohio.edu)

Discussed by: Elizabeth Weber Handwerker (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Handwerker.Elizabeth.Weber@bls.gov)

Time Preference and Time Use: Do Smokers Exercise Less?

Younghwan Song (Union College, songy@union.edu)

Discussed by: Leslie S. Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University, lsstratt@vcu.edu)

Tobit or Not Tobit?

Jay Stewart (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Stewart.Jay@bls.gov)

Discussed by: Younghwan Song (Union College, songy@union.edu)

SGE Town Hall Meeting of Current and Former SGE Leaders; Open to All (Room 307)
Organized and Chaired by Andrew Felton; President, SGE

Assessing Budgetary and Regulatory Decision Making (302)

Installing Electric Meters at Navy Facilities: Benefits and Costs

Glenn H. Ackerman (Center for Naval Analyses, ackermag@cna.org)

Discussed by: Richard B. Belzer (Regulatory Checkbook, regcheck@me.com)

The Obama Administration's Official Estimate of the Economic Benefits of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Sensitivity Analysis Using Different Economic Assumptions

Laurie T. Johnson (Natural Resources Defense Council, ljohnson@nrdc.org)

Discussed by: Richard B. Belzer (Regulatory Checkbook, regcheck@me.com)

A Statistical Analysis of the TIGER Discretionary Grant Selection Process

Anthony C. Homan (Department of Transportation, Anthony.homan@dot.gov)

Teresa M. Adams (University of Wisconsin-Madison, adams@engr.wisc.edu)

Econometrics (Room 301)

Are Early Data Valuable for Forecasts?

Tara M. Sinclair (George Washington University, tsinc@gwu.edu)

H.O. Stekler (George Washington University, hstekler@gwu.edu)

Measuring Aggregate Uncertainty in a Panel of Forecasts and a New Test for Forecast Heterogeneity

Kajal Lahiri (State University of New York—Albany, klahiri@albany.edu)

Huaming Peng (State University of New York—Albany, hpeng@albany.edu)

Xuguang Sheng (American University, sheng@american.edu)

When Are Significant Tests Significant?

Thomas Mayer (University of California—Davis, tommayer@lmi.net)

International Economics (Room 405)

Chair: William Charles Sawyer (Texas Christian University)

Export Duration and New Market Entry

Anna Rakhman (George Washington University, Rakhman@gwmail.gwu.edu)

The Role of International Spillovers in Using Second-Best Trade Policy to Promote Workplace Safety

Areerat Kichkha (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, areerat@siu.edu)

Discussed by: William Charles Sawyer (Texas Christian University, w.c.sawyer@tcu.edu)

Policy Responses to Global Financial Crisis and Exit Dilemma

Demet Canakci (Central Bank of Turkey, Demet.Canakci@tcmb.gov.tr)

Women, Children, Fertility, and Added Worker Effects (Room 403)

Chair: Amelie Constant (Executive Director, DIW DC)

Childcare Availability, Fertility and Female Labour Force Participation in Japan

Sing Ping Lee (Monash University, Malaysia, splee5@student.monash.edu)

Grace Hooi-Yean Lee (Monash University, Malaysia, grace.lee@buseco.monash.edu.my)

Effect of U.S. Child Tax Credit on Fertility Behavior of Educated Women

Eun Jung Park (George Mason University, eparke@gmu.edu)

Job Loss, the Added Worker Effect, and Labor Demand

Henry Richard Hyatt (Census Bureau, Henry.R.Hyatt@census.gov)

6:15 -8:00 PM

Happy Hour Gathering and Extension of Town Hall Meeting

Mai Thai Restaurant, 1200 19th St., Washington, DC