

## Call for Papers for Two Economics Conferences

**SGE Annual Conference in Washington, DC**  
**November 5-6, 2012**

Co-sponsored by the Economics Department  
of George Washington University



*AND*

**SGE Sessions at the Annual Conference of the  
Allied Social Science Associations /  
American Economic Association**

**January 4-6, 2013**  
**San Diego, CA**



**Motivation:** The Society's motivation for organizing these sessions is to promote economic thought that will be beneficial to government economists. Specifically, sessions will be designed to inform and educate economists. They are intended to provide valuable contributions to existing knowledge and understanding of economic ideas, or 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, in turn, enhance their ability to contribute to public decision making.

Sessions involve the presentation of 3-5 papers, which are reviewed by discussants and which allow for a question-and-answer period. (Sessions containing as many as 5 papers are discouraged unless there is a strong concern that not all of the papers will be presented due to absences.) This call for papers and sessions is **open to all individuals who share the above-mentioned objectives**. In the case of proposed, individual papers, the Society will organize selected papers into sessions and invite other individuals to serve as discussants in those sessions.

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## Selection Method for Proposed Papers and Sessions

Papers and sessions will be evaluated under the following rules and conditions:

- (1) **Papers and sessions will be peer-reviewed, in a double-blind process, on the basis of scientific merit, importance of the topic, insightfulness, uniqueness, and level of effort.** (In double-blind peer-review, the reviewers do not know the applicants' identity, and the applicants do not know the reviewers' identity.) Exceptions to the SGE peer-review process will be made for papers in sessions organized by cosponsors, as specified below in the section on co-sponsorship.
- (2) Proposals will be evaluated and selected **without regard for whether the applicants are government economists or members of the Society of Government Economists.** The topics of the papers need not specifically address government policies or actions.
- (3) There is **no submission fee** for proposing a paper or session. All conference attendees will be required, however, to be registered at the conference at the time the session takes place, and must accordingly pay the conference fee for that registration.
- (4) Proposals for individual papers are encouraged in addition to proposals for organized sessions—the Society is prepared to organize individual papers into sessions. Paper proposals will be evaluated on the same basis regardless of whether they are made individually or as part of a proposed session. Thus, session proposals are evaluated on the basis of the perceived quality of the papers in that session.
- (5) **The deadline for submitting proposed papers or sessions for the AEA conference is May 15, 2012; however, the deadline for SGE-only papers and sessions is September 30, 2012.**

**Selection Method and the Choice of Conference:** Each application will be peer-reviewed only once even if the application is made to both conferences, where the same criteria will be applied regardless of which conference (or both) is specified. For each conference, those applications with the highest scores among those that applied to that same conference will then be accepted, regardless of whether the application was made to the other conference. For example, if one application for both conferences receives a higher score than another application made only for the SGE conference in Washington, then that application with the highest score will have precedence over the other for the SGE conference, even it is selected for the AEA conference. This selection method is based on the expectation that the audiences for the same paper or session will be different at each conference, and each audience should have an opportunity to benefit. It is also expected that a paper or session presented in November 2012 will still be current in January 2011.

It is important to note, however, that applications for papers and sessions must compete among an allotment of only seven sessions in the AEA meetings, in contrast to a maximum of 30 possible sessions at the SGE conference. Thus, the selection process for the AEA sessions is expected to be more competitive, i.e., **a paper that is not selected for the AEA meetings may still have a good chance of being selected for the SGE meetings.**

Additional information about the selection process is provided below in **Appendix A: Peer-review Guidelines of the Society of Government Economists for the Selection of Papers and Sessions for Economic Conferences**

## Application Form for Proposed Papers

Applications for conference papers and sessions may be made simultaneously to **both** conferences, by filling a **single application form**. *If the application is made to both, and is accepted to both, then it is expected that the presentations will be made at both conferences.*

**Provide a complete application by filling in and sending from this section of this document, or provide the same information in an easily extractable form.**

Email this application to [SGE\\_Conferences@sge-econ.org](mailto:SGE_Conferences@sge-econ.org).

Check below the conferences associated with this application; check both if applying for both.

\_\_\_\_\_ SGE Annual Conference in Washington (Nov. 5-6, 2012).

\_\_\_\_\_ ASSA/AEA Conference in San Diego (January 4-6, 2013)

**Note: Do not send any *other* materials with your proposal, such as drafts of a paper or the resume of the applicant. In fairness to all applicants, additional materials that are not part of the application form will not be read.**

If this paper below is part of proposed session, then list the Session Title, Session Chair, and Session Organizer (if different from Session Chair)

1. Paper Title:

2. Author most responsible for Correspondence (First, Middle, Last):

3. If more than one author, all authors in the order they should appear in the citation (First, Middle, Last; First, Middle, Last; etc.)

4. Author Contact Information. Provide the Name, Title, Affiliation, Address, Email Address and Phone Number for each author of the paper.

**5. Authors of this paper willing to serve as Discussants (within the same or other sessions)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

**6. If this paper is part of a proposed session, provide the name and full contact information of the proposed discussant.**

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**7. Authors of this paper willing to serve as Session Chairs (of other sessions)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

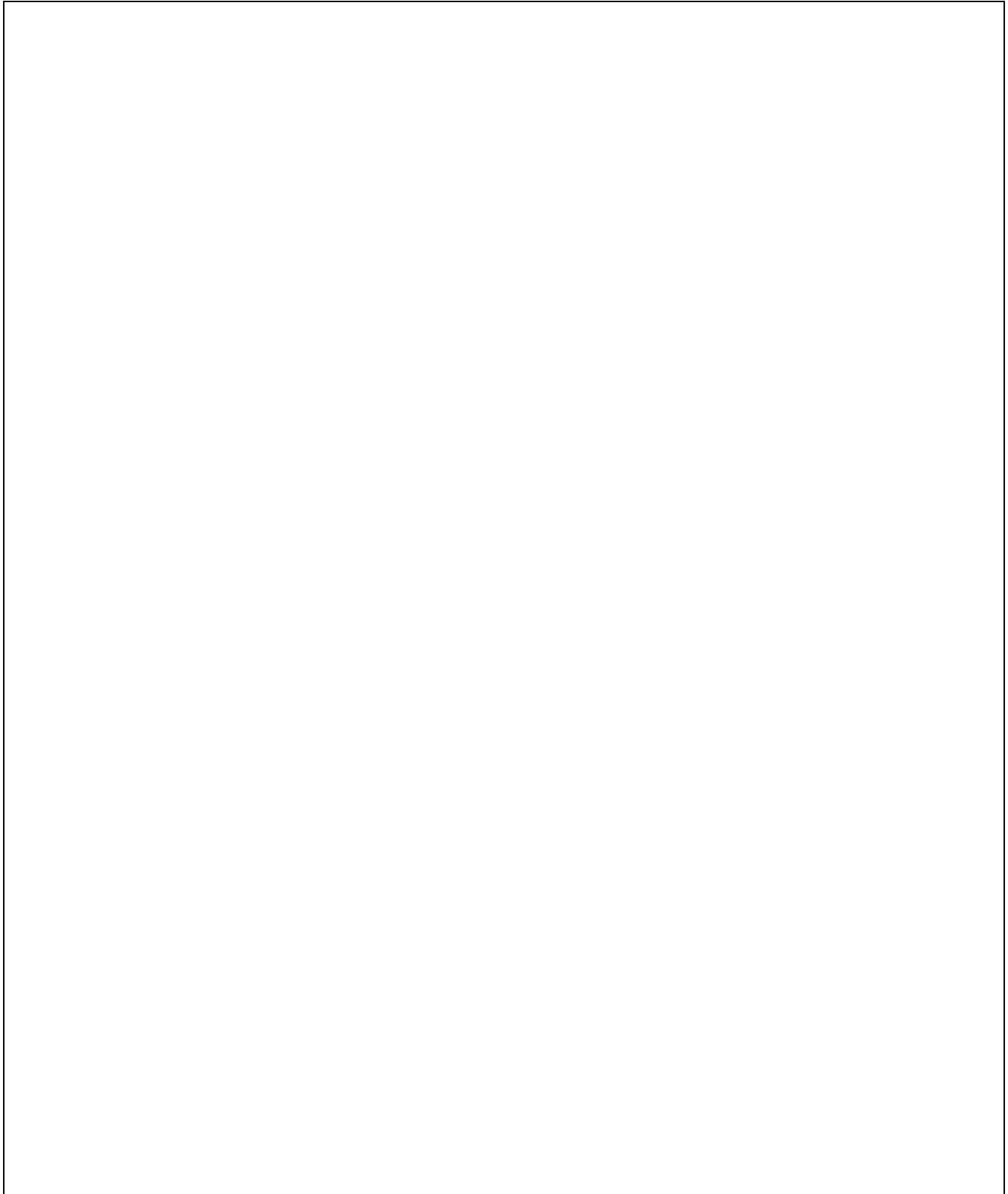
<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic Area(s) →</b>	
<input type="text"/>		

**8. Justification statement in support of the paper (on the basis of scientific merit, importance of the topic, insightfulness, uniqueness, and level of effort). Maximum of 300 words. To facilitate the double-blind peer-review process, *AVOID STATEMENTS THAT REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE AUTHOR(S).***

**9. ABSTRACT of the paper (not more than 500 words). To facilitate the double-blind peer-review process, *AVOID STATEMENTS THAT REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE AUTHOR(S)*.**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the author to write the abstract of the paper. The box is currently blank.

# Application Form for Proposed Sessions

Provide a complete application by filling in and sending from this section of this document, or provide the same information in an easily extractable form.

Email this application to [SGE\\_Conferences@sge-econ.org](mailto:SGE_Conferences@sge-econ.org).

Applications for conference papers and sessions may be made simultaneously to both conferences, by filling a single application form. *If the application is made to both, and is accepted to both, then it is expected that the presentations will be made at both conferences.*

Check below the conferences associated with this application; check both if applying for both.

\_\_\_\_\_ SGE Annual Conference in Washington (Nov. 5-6, 2012).

\_\_\_\_\_ ASSA/AEA Conference in San Diego (January 4-6, 2013)

**Note: Do not send any *other* materials with your proposal, such as drafts of papers or the resumes of the applicant. In fairness to all applicants, additional materials that are not part of the application form will not be read.**

List the Session Title, Session Chair, and Session Organizer (if different from Session Chair)

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**Complete an “Application Form for Proposed Papers” (in the previous section) for every paper that will be in the section, and provide these forms all together, pasted into one Word document for a single application for the session.**

**It is the session organizer’s responsibility to provide the entire application, including information about the individual papers, in one document to the SGE.**

Applications for papers within a proposed session must not also be proposed independently in another application. Authors must decide if they would like their papers proposed independently, subject to placement in an SGE-organized session, or listed as part of an organized session that is being proposed.

Of course, session organizers must not propose any paper for the session without prior collaboration and consent with the authors of that paper, and an understanding that at least one of the authors of the paper will present the paper at the conference(s) associated with the application.



## Call for Sponsored Sessions at the SGE Conference



At the SGE Conference (in Washington in November) any two-hour session can be “sponsored” by an organization, where the organization must be identified in the session title (as it appears in the program), and the session application is deemed acceptable. To be acceptable, a proposed, sponsored session must successfully compete in the peer-review process among all other proposed sessions (whether sponsored or not) in the conference. However, the proposed session of a sponsored session may be exempt for the peer-review screening under the conditions specified in the next section).

No single organization may sponsor more than 3 sessions at the SGE Conference. (With regard to government organization, this requirement would apply at the agency level. For example, for this purpose the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis would be regarded as different organizations, even though both are within the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department of Commerce).

Session sponsorships are offered to any organization, for a two-hour session at the conference (less 10 minutes in between sessions), in a room that will seat at least 60 people, during the breakout sessions. The room will also have a projector and screen set-up, but organizers are asked to provide their own laptop computer to connect to the projector. The sponsoring organization will be mentioned in the conference program distributed at the conference and on the SGE website, and mentioned on the sign by the door of the room where the session will be held.

The cost of sponsoring a session will be the cost of the room rental charged by the Marvin Center to the Society of Government Economists for the amount of time the room is used (typically less than \$300 for a 2-hour session). Organizations interested in sponsoring a session should contact Brian Sloboda, Chair; SGE Conference Committee, at [SGE\\_Conferences@sge-econ.org](mailto:SGE_Conferences@sge-econ.org).

## Exemption of Some Sponsored Sessions from Peer-Review

A Sponsored Session is exempt from peer-review selection, and is therefore *guaranteed a session at the SGE Conference*, IF all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The organization sponsoring the session is a government agency, or an accredited college or university (or a department within it, such as an economics or public policy department).
- (2) The session contains at least three papers, there are at least three different authors or coauthors of the papers presented, and no single person has coauthored all of the papers in the session.
- (3) At least one author of *every* paper presented in the session is affiliated with the sponsoring organization (and that affiliation is specified in the conference program).
- (4) The organizer of the sponsoring organization must make the following statement in the email message that provides the session application:

As the session organizer for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization) I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organizer) hereby affirm that the paper proposals for this proposed session (including their abstracts and justification statements that would normally be provided with conference paper applications to the SGE) have been peer-reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization). From this peer-review, we have determined that the proposed papers are reflective of scientific merit and contribute significantly to useful knowledge, though these papers may, necessarily, present the opinions of the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization).

## Call for Volunteer Distinguished Speakers

Also exempt from peer review are presentations by invited, highly distinguished speakers within the economics community, who are distinguished for their highly important and widely known contributions to economic thought.

Anyone who would qualify to be a distinguished speaker in this regard, and who would like to give a presentation at an SGE conference or plenary session at the AEA meetings, is welcome to contact the SGE with an offer to speak at such an event. The SGE cannot reimburse speakers for their travel or offer a stipend for their presentation, and thus relies solely on the personal interest and willingness of individuals to speak to us.

Offers to give distinguished lectures should be made to our Board of Directors for consideration, with a CV and statement as to how the SGE membership and others would benefit from their presentation. Send these offers to Brian Sloboda, Chair; SGE Conference Committee, at [SGE\\_Conferences@sge-econ.org](mailto:SGE_Conferences@sge-econ.org).

## Call for Exhibitors and Additional Cosponsors (for the SGE Conference)

**Call for Exhibitors:** During each of the two days of the SGE Conference, there will be an exhibitors' hall in a separate room which will be accessible to the public (i.e., not restricted to conference registrants). Book signings by some of the distinguished presenters at the conference will also take place in the exhibitors' hall. The Society of Government Economists will have its own exhibitor's booth, which will also be where registration for the conference will take place. Consequently, all conference attendees will be drawn at least once to the exhibitor's hall.

Spaces for exhibitor's booths at the conference will be provided for two sizes of areas:

Regular area: approximately 6 feet x 4 feet for a small table, for a total of \$300 for both days

Large area: approximately 12 feet x 4 feet, for \$400 for both days.

If at least seven exhibitors register (including the SGE), then there will also be coffee offered in the room, for the benefit of the visiting public and the exhibitor staff, at no cost to the exhibitors. This will also contribute to movement of visitors into the room.

**Cosponsoring the Conference:** The Economics Department of George Washington University is already an important cosponsor of the conference, and thus all its faculty and students are allowed to attend any of the conference events (except for the paid lunch) without having to pay the conference fee. The GWU Economics Department will also share in giving opening remarks at the beginning of the conference. Other organizations may also cosponsor the conference by sponsoring a breakout session (as described above) or by contributing to the funding of the conference.

Organizations, in addition to George Washington University, will be recognized as "cosponsors of the conference" by contributing at least \$2,000 to the SGE to be applied against the conference expenses. The following benefits will be available, free of charge, for all cosponsors who wish to have them:

A fully sponsored session (as described above).

A large-area exhibitor's booth.

Sharing in introductory remarks on the first day of the conference (for organizations having a common mission with the SGE)

Full mention of the co-sponsorship in the conference literature (such as the conference program)

Ability to organize a meal, refreshments, or reception as part of the conference, by coordinating with the SGE conference committee and reimbursing the SGE for all of the expenses associated with the event.

**Contact:** Organizations interested in running an exhibitor's booth or cosponsoring the conference should contact Brian Sloboda, Chair; SGE Conference Committee, at [SGE\\_Conferences@sge-econ.org](mailto:SGE_Conferences@sge-econ.org).

## **Appendix A: Peer-review Guidelines of the Society of Government Economists for the Selection of Papers and Sessions for Economic Conferences**

### **Objectives**

The SGE currently organizes sessions for its own annual conference in Washington, DC, and sessions for the annual meetings of the American Economic Association and occasionally other conferences such as the Southern Economic Association meetings in 2011. The Society views these sessions as existing for the benefit of the audience that attends them, and, by extension, to the public at large that will benefit from the enhanced useful knowledge that is disseminated within and beyond the economics community. The calls for papers and organized sessions will be open to all individuals who share the Society's objectives. In the case of proposed, individual papers, the Society will organize selected papers into sessions and invite other individuals to serve as discussants in those sessions.

To ensure the quality of proposed papers or sessions, the Society will establish and maintain a formal, objective peer-review process. This process will exhibit no favoritism or bias regarding the proposals received, and will be based entirely on the information presented the applications. The Society will design the peer-review process to generate an ordinal *rating* of each application, where this rating will serve the following purposes:

- (1) To determine, first and foremost, if the paper or session is likely to be of sufficient quality to warrant the Society's support and promotion of its presentation,
- (2) To distinguish, among the papers and sessions proposed, which papers and sessions should be selected for acceptance, under the constraint of a limited number of possible sessions that the Society can support in a given conference.

The process will involve voluntary assistance by invited peer-reviewers from the economic community, and will also involve judgments by the Society's Board of Directors. All final decisions regarding such ratings and selections will ultimately be the responsibility of Board of Directors.

The Board will establish a Peer-review Committee to carry out the administrative aspects of the process, such as finding and communicating with peer-reviewers, and compiling statistics on ratings that they will present to the board. The Board will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to this Committee, who may or may not be members of the Board, but who cannot already hold any of the following four positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Executive Secretary, or Members of the Conference Committee.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee are then responsible for selecting all other members of the Peer-review Committee, where: (1) the majority of the members of the Committee are not SGE Board Members, and (2) the Board is made aware of the selection, and can veto any selection through a majority vote of the full Board.

### **Final Scoring of Papers and Sessions**

The Scoring Sheet below presents how proposed papers will be evaluated. For the purpose of fair competition among applications, applicants will be specifically asked to refrain from providing any additional information in support of their application. The Society will make clear that any such information will be discarded and not be allowed to enter the peer-review process.

The final score for any paper proposal will be the average of the scores received from the reviewers. Papers receiving the highest scores will be selected and grouped into sessions. For already proposed sessions, the scores of the papers within them will be compared to the scores of individual papers grouped into sessions, and sessions with the highest average scores among their papers will be selected.

## Scoring Sheet for Peer-Review of Proposed Papers

Instructions to Peer-reviewers: **Please read the definitions and counter-examples carefully for each criterion #1 to #7.** Then score each criterion #1 to #7 with a value from 0 to 5 in the right-most column of the table, where: 0=failure, 1=poor, 2=acceptable, 3=good, 4=very good, 5=excellent. (Use whole numbers only.)

Please note that the following factors should have absolutely no bearing on the scores given: (1) the prestige or popularity of the coauthors or the institution to which they belong, (2) any affiliation of the coauthors with any government or with the Society of Government Economists, (3) the number of coauthors of the proposed paper, and (4) the race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the coauthors.

Criterion	Definitions and Counter-Examples	Weight (%)	Score (0-5)
1. Pertinence to Economics	The topic explored fits within the general context of “economics,” e.g., relating in a significant way to some of the existing literature in economic journals. Interdisciplinary research that involves economics is welcome and does not violate this criterion. <i>The vast majority of proposed papers would be expected to score a 5 for this criterion – cross out the 5 and put a different score only if warranted.</i>	25	(5)
2. Scientific Merit	Contributing to improved knowledge and useful understanding, and reflecting a level of thought that is challenging and noteworthy. This quality of the research is distinctly different from the presentation of esoteric or complex models where such complexity, itself, appears to be the goal. The presentation of highly complex, and technically challenging discourse is <i>not</i> discouraged, provided it would be seen by many economists as contributing to useful knowledge. <i>The average expected score among proposals received = 3.</i>	20	
3. Importance	Addressing topics that are important, as reflected by the implications of the research and/or the overall magnitude of the economic effects being studied. For example, the study of a phenomenon that strongly affects millions of people and involves billions of dollars would be greater in importance than one for which these magnitudes are much smaller. However, the study of a very particular, small effect, as an example of a more general phenomenon could also be important if it has broader implications. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	15	
4. Profound Implications	Legitimately challenging conventional wisdom, either because of important, new observations, or insightful and convincing analysis of existing phenomena. Most papers would <i>not</i> be expected to meet this criterion with a high score <i>(average expected score = 0 or 1).</i>	10	
5. Uniqueness	Reflecting creative and imaginative thinking, as opposed to, for example, repeating studies that have already been published, but with more current data or minor changes in an economic model. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	5	
6. Level of Effort	Extent of shear work (e.g., hours) on the project. This criterion would likely be violated, for example, if authors are primarily “recycling” research findings or explanations of models that they have already presented elsewhere. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	5	
7. Quality of the Proposal	Extent to which the proposal is well written. Proposals should also exhibit professional etiquette, e.g., respectful of alternative viewpoints in economics. Most proposals would be expected to receive a high score for this criterion <i>(average expected score = 4 or 5).</i>	3	
<b>REMAINDER TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PEER-REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS</b>			
8. Preference for Little Previous History	Extent to which authors who have not previously presented a paper in a Society of Government Economists session: 5 for none of the coauthors presenting in the previous 2 years at any SGE event, 4 if none in the previous year, 3 if at least one coauthor has presented in the last year, but there is at least one coauthor who has not in the last 2 years, 2 if at least one coauthor has not presented in the last year (unless it qualifies for a higher score), 1 if no coauthor has presented more than once in the last two years, and 0 otherwise.	5	
9. Timeliness	5 if within the deadline, 4 if within a week of the deadline, 3 for between 1 and 2 weeks late, 2 for 2-3 weeks late, 1 for over 3 weeks late	2	
<b>SUBTOTAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORE</b>			
10. Number of Proposals	Among all the papers received by the same coauthor for the conference in question, a 5 for the paper with the highest weighted average subtotal (for items 1-9), a 3 for the second-highest weighted average (if more than one exists), and a 0 for all other proposed papers.	10	
<b>TOTAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORE x 20</b> (Providing a score ranging from 0 to 100)			