

# Economics Department Newsletter

October 12, 2012

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### Seminars and events

#### **1. Economics Class of 1960 Scholars Seminar -- Nathan Nunn of Harvard University: “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough”**

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On **Tuesday, October 16**, at 4:00PM in Griffin 6, [Nathan Nunn](#) of Harvard University will present a Class of 1960 Scholars Seminar on his paper [\*On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough\*](#). It has long been hypothesized that the farming technology used by a culture in the distant past might have had a lasting influence on that culture’s

attitudes about the appropriate role for women in society. For example, cultures that used the plough in agriculture tended to rely more heavily on men for agricultural labor than did other cultures, arguably because upper-body strength was a more important advantage when using a plough compared to other agricultural technologies. This, in turn, might have influenced cultures traditionally using the plough to develop gender norms that were less favorable towards women's employment. Consistent with this hypothesis, Nunn finds empirical evidence that among people living in the U.S. and Europe today, having ancestors that came from cultures traditionally using plough-based agriculture is associated with lower female labor-force participation and less positive attitudes towards gender equality (as expressed on surveys).

## **Opportunities at Williams**

### **2. Apply to be an economics teaching assistant for spring 2013 semester**

If you are interested in being a teaching assistant for the Economics Department in Spring 2013, please apply using the link below by **Friday, 11/2 at noon (12pm)**. We will not accept late applications. We will need TAs in Econ 110, 120, 205, 215, 220, 251, 252, 255, 386, 453, 461, 513, 514, 516, and 521. There may be TA positions open in other economics classes as well.

Please apply through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/spring-2013-econ-ta>

If you have difficulty completing the application or questions about the process, please contact Professor Jacobson ([saj2@williams.edu](mailto:saj2@williams.edu)).

## **Post-graduation job opportunities**

### **3. Bottomline Technologies**

Bottomline Technologies is a technology company that provides cloud-based payment, invoice and banking solutions to corporations, financial institutions and banks around the world. They are recruiting for the positions of Associate Business Analyst and Associate Application Developer. For information, go to:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/BottomlineTechnologies.pdf>

### **4. Research Assistant, Carnegie-Mellon University**

Drs. Karim Kassam and Carey Morewedge are seeking candidates for a full-time research assistant position at Carnegie Mellon University, available immediately. The research assistant will work on a laboratory research project that aims to develop measures to

assess several cognitive biases that underlie errors in human judgment and develop strategies to mitigate them. For information, go to:  
<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/CarnegieMellonResearchAssistantPosition.pdf>

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## **5. The Center for Microfinance at IFMR Research**

The Center for Microfinance at IFMR Research conducts research on financial services for the poor in India. As one of India's leading development economics think tanks, they work closely with government, academics, and practitioners to address critical gaps in knowledge related to the delivery of financial services. They are currently recruiting Research Associates (RAs) for 6-8 new projects across India. For information, go to:  
<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/CenterForMicrofinance.pdf>

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## **6. Research Assistant for Prof. Amy Finkelstein, MIT**

Amy Finkelstein, Professor of Economics at MIT and most recent winner of the John Bates Clark medal, awarded to the best economist under age 40, is looking to hire full-time research assistants to begin in the summer or fall of 2013 and to work for at least one year. The position will entail close collaboration and assistance with all stages of empirical research in health economics. Examples of on-going projects include a randomized experiment in Oregon to evaluate the impact of expanding Medicaid to low income adults (see <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1108222> for a summary), analysis of market failures and government intervention in private insurance markets (see <http://www.nber.org/reporter/2011number3/einav.html> for overviews of recent work), and analyses of the nature and determinants of variation in health care practice across patients, providers, and areas. For information, go to:  
<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/FinkelsteinRAposition.pdf>

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## **7. MFS Investment Management**

MFS Investment Management seeks applicants for its “equity research associate” positions. For information, go to:  
[http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/MFS\\_InvestmentManagement.pdf](http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/MFS_InvestmentManagement.pdf)  
and  
<http://annex.mfs.com/subs/careers/investments.html>

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## **8. Research Assistant, Resources for the Future**

Resources for the Future (RFF), a leading think tank on environmental and natural resource policy, has an opening for a Research Assistant to work on a new 4-year project funded by NASA aimed at targeting and evaluating forest conservation policies in Mesoamerica and the Dominican Republic. They are looking for a smart, hardworking,

person, preferably with an MA, who has strong GIS, Python, Spanish language, and economics skills and who is available to start this fall. For information, go to:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/ResourcesForTheFutureRAposition.pdf>

### **9. Williams Investment Office**

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The Williams Investment Office in Boston seeks applicants for its investment analyst positions. For information, go to:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/WilliamsInvestmentOffice.pdf>

### **10. Stanford Law School Research Fellows**

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Professors Rob Daines, Daniel Ho, Daniel Kessler, and Alison Morantz at Stanford Law School seek applicants for the position of research fellow, which would involve assisting them with their research. For information, go to:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/StanfordLawSchoolResearchFellow.pdf>

## **Opportunities for undergraduates to publish economic research**

### **11. The Columbia University Undergraduate Law Review**

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The *Columbia University Undergraduate Law Review* seeks submissions. For information, see:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/October2012/ColumbiaUniversityUndergraduateLawReview.pdf>

## **About the Newsletter**

### **12. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe**

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Please contact [Jon Bakija](#) with any news, events, or other information that you would like to send around to Economics and Political Economy faculty and majors, as well as anyone who has manifested an interest in the field by taking a class in either department this semester. If you would prefer not to receive the newsletter, please contact [Sandy Zepka](#) to unsubscribe.