

Economics Department Newsletter

November 26, 2012

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Seminars and Events

1. Pierre-Richard Agenor on “Public Capital, Growth, and Welfare”

On **Wednesday, November 28**, at 4:00PM, in Griffin 6, Professor [Pierre-Richard Agenor](#) of the University of Manchester will talk about his new book, [Public Capital, Growth and Welfare](#). The talk is sponsored jointly by the economic Class of 1960 Scholars Program and the CDE. Here is the publisher’s description of Professor Agénor’s book:

“In the past three decades, developing countries have made significant economic and social progress, from improved infant mortality rates to higher life expectancy. Yet, 1.3 billion people continue to live in extreme poverty in the developing world, leading policymakers to place a renewed emphasis on policies that could promote economic efficiency and the productivity of the poor. How should these policies be sequenced and implemented to spur growth? Would a large, front-loaded increase in public infrastructure investment yield the desired growth-promoting effect?”

Taking a rigorous look at this kind of investment and its outcomes, this book explores the different channels through which public capital in infrastructure may affect growth and human welfare, and develops a series of formal models for understanding how these channels operate. Bringing together a vast amount of research in one unifying framework, Pierre-Richard Agénor finds that in considering investment in infrastructure, a variety of externalities need to be factored into analytical models and introduced in policy debates. Lack of access to infrastructure not only constrains the expansion of markets and private investment, it may also hinder the achievement of health and education targets. Ease of access, conversely, promotes innovation and empowers women by allowing them to reallocate their time to productive uses.

Laying a solid foundation of economic facts and ideas, *Public Capital, Growth, and Welfare* provides a comprehensive look at the critical role of public capital in development.”

Post-graduation job opportunities

2. Research Assistant Positions at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston seeks applicants for research assistant positions. For more information, see:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/November2012/BostonFedRApositions.pdf>

3. Job Opportunities in Environmental Economics

The Michigan State University School of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics maintains a web site with an extensive set of links to job opportunities in environmental economics. For more information, see:

<http://www.aec.msu.edu/ee/careers.htm>

Student Conferences

4. The London School of Economics Alternative Investments Conference

The London School of Economics Alternative Investments Conference is the world's largest student-run conference on hedge funds and private equity, bringing together over 50 speakers and 350 delegates from across the world. The conference is intended to be both a learning opportunity and a networking experience that could lead to internships and full time jobs. For more information, including directions on how to apply, see:

<http://www.lseaic.com/>

About the Newsletter

5. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe

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 [Helen McShane](#) to unsubscribe.