

Economics Department Newsletter

October 14, 2013

Contents

Seminars and events

1. “The Merchant Firm in Indian History.” [Tirthankar Roy](#), London School of Economics. Wednesday, October 16, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Hollander 241.
2. [CDE Conference on Urbanization and Development](#). Thursday October 17 – Friday October 18.

Jobs and internships

3. Blue Engine teaching program
4. Brattle Group consulting
5. Public Interest Research Group

Competitions for students

6. iOme Challenge

Conferences

7. The Social Entrepreneurship Institute

Graduate programs

8. Wharton Doctoral Program in Applied Economics

Interesting reading

9. Economics Nobel goes to Eugene F. Fama, Lars Peter Hansen, and Robert J. Shiller
10. The government shutdown and the debt ceiling

About the newsletter

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

Seminars and events

1. The Merchant Firm in Indian History

On Wednesday, October 16th, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm in Hollander 241, [Tirthankar Roy](#) of the London School of Economics will present a history seminar on “The Merchant Firm in Indian History.” Tirthankar is an economic historian and one of the world’s leading experts on Indian economic history. He is the author of numerous books, the most recent being *India in the World Economy: From Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

2. CDE Conference on Urbanization and Development

On Thursday and Friday October 17-18, the Williams College Center for Development Economics will host a conference on Urbanization and Development. Leading scholars on urban economics in developing countries will present their latest economic research on topics related to this theme. All faculty and students are welcome to attend. Further information on the topic of each talk, including links to the conference papers, can be found at the conference web site: <http://cde.williams.edu/conference-2013>

Also see the conference poster available at: <http://web.williams.edu/Economics/CDE-Conferences/CDE-Urbanization-and-Development-Conference-Poster.pdf>

Schedule of events and locations:

Thursday, October 17

- 8:00pm, '62 Center. Keynote Address: [Gilles Duranton](#), University of Pennsylvania. *Questions for Policy and Understanding of Urban Systems: the Case of Colombia.*

Friday, October 18

- 9:00am, Griffin 3. [Lakshmi Iyer](#), Harvard University. *Urbanization, Property Rights and Entrepreneurship.*
- 10:00am, Griffin 3. [Harris Selod](#), The World Bank. *Land Markets, Property Rights, and City Structure in West African Cities.*
- 11:00am, Griffin 3. [Stephen Malpezzi](#), University of Wisconsin. *The Spatial Distribution of Population in 54 World Cities: The Role of Markets, Planning, and Topography.*
- 1:15pm, Griffin 3. [Solomon Hsiang](#), Princeton University/UC Berkeley. *Quantifying the Influence of Climate on Human Conflict.*
- 2:15pm, Griffin 3. [Adam Storeygard](#), Tufts University. *Climate Change and Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- 3:15pm, Griffin 3. [Nathaniel Baum-Snow](#), Brown University. *Transportation and Urban Growth in Chinese Cities.*
- 4:30pm, Griffin 3. Panel Discussion and Wrap-Up. [Gilles Duranton](#), University of Pennsylvania; [Yannis Ioannides](#), Tufts University; [Stephen Sheppard](#), Williams College; moderated by [Yong Suk Lee](#), Williams College.

Jobs and internships

3. Blue Engine teaching program

Blue Engine is an organization that “partners with public high schools serving low-income communities to increase academic rigor and prepare dramatically greater numbers of students for postsecondary success.” They are seeking applicants who are interested in careers in teaching. The “early acceptance” deadline for applications is today (October 14). For more information, please go to: <http://blueengine.org/>

4. Brattle Group consulting

The Brattle Group, an economic consulting firm, is seeking job applicants. For more information, please go to: <http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/NewsletterAnnouncements/2013102/BrattleGroup.pdf>

5. Public Interest Research Group

Public Interest Research Group, a political advocacy organization, is seeking applicants for the job of “campus organizer.” A job description is available here:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/NewsletterAnnouncements/2013102/PIRG.pdf>

They will be holding information sessions on campus info sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Oct. 23-24. Further information on that can be found in the Williams Career Center’s Route 2 system.

Competitions for students

6. The iOme Challenge

The iOme Challenge is a national competition where teams of students work together to produce an educational video and a 10,000 word essay on a policy topic of relevance to the future of young people. This year’s topic relates to “financial literacy.” The winning team receives a prize is \$10,000 and is invited to Washington D.C. to present their entry to various policymakers. Application deadline is October 31st. For more information, please see: <http://iomechallenge.org/>

Conferences

7. Social Entrepreneurship Conference

Unite for Sight, a global public health non-profit organization, is hosting a conference on Social Entrepreneurship in New Haven Connecticut on December 6, and invites students and faculty interested in social entrepreneurship to register and attend. For more information, please see: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/institute/>

Graduate programs

8. Wharton Doctoral Program in Applied Economics

The Wharton Doctoral Program in Applied Economics seeks applicants. For more information, please see: <http://www.wharton.upenn.edu/doctoral/applied-economics.cfm>

Interesting reading

9. Economics Nobel goes to Eugene F. Fama, Lars Peter Hansen, and Robert J. Shiller

Today, the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2013 was awarded to Eugene F. Fama, Lars Peter Hansen and Robert J. Shiller “for their empirical analysis of asset prices.” Referring to the rivalry between Fama and Shiller, Robert Solow of MIT says “it’s like giving a prize to the Yankees and the Red Sox.” Interested in learning more about their contributions to our understanding of finance? Here are a few good links, ranging from brief summaries to more in-depth discussions placing some of their most important research in context:

- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-14/fama-hansen-shiller-share-nobel-economics-prize-academy-says.html>
- http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/2002/12/09/333473/
- <http://delong.typepad.com/sdj/2013/10/a-note-on-the-2013-nobel-like-prize-in-economics.html>
- <http://tinyurl.com/mmhsw29>

10. The government shutdown and the debt ceiling

Want to understand what is going on with the government shutdown and the debt ceiling? Some informative reporting and commentary from a variety of perspectives can be found through the links below:

- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/>
- <http://www.nationalreview.com/author/robert-costa>
- <http://branch.com/b/experts-weigh-in-the-debt-ceiling-2>
- http://www.grantland.com/fivethirtyeight/story/_/id/9802433/nate-silver-us-government-shutdown

About the newsletter

11. 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, or if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter and want to unsubscribe.