

Keynote Presentation: 'Sharing the Cost of a Public Good'

by Anne van den Nouweland

When I received an invitation to deliver a keynote presentation at the Public Economic Theory (PET) Conference in Hue, Vietnam, I didn't think twice and immediately accepted the invitation. It was a tremendous opportunity for me to get this stage, but it was also a bit scary. I was well aware that delivering a high-visibility keynote was going to cut both ways: If I did a good job, I would have a great platform to advance my research agenda, but

if I did a bad job, everyone was sure to notice and this could tarnish my reputation as a researcher. I knew I wanted to take this opportunity to do something different from just presenting my most recent paper. Also, this presentation was going to have to be different from the usual in that I had to make sure it would appeal to an audience with a much more diverse background than just the people who work in very similar areas and show up when I present in a parallel session. The PET conferences are attended by hundreds of researchers who cover all aspects of public economic theory and related fields, including game theory and mathematical economics (areas closely related to my research), but also banking, education, and environmental economics (to just name a few that are much further removed from my area of expertise), and keynote presentations have to appeal to all participants.

I took the opportunity to get out the message about my research agenda on equilibria in public good economies. With the publish-or-perish culture in academia, we have to publish regularly and there is a lot of competition for journal space. As a result, the articles that are published



The Perfume River in Hue, Vietnam, the site of the 2017 Public Economic Theory Conference.

in journals are shorter and focus on one, maybe two aspects of a problem at a time. The entire picture of one's research agenda thus ends up being fragmented over many years, articles, and journals. I decided that the keynote presentation was the perfect opportunity to explain to a large audience what the underlying ideas in my research agenda are, what is motivating me, and how the various articles that I have been working on fit together to create this big picture.

A public good is both non-excludable and non-rivalrous—individuals cannot be excluded from use and use by one individual does not reduce availability to others. A good example is the Delta Works in The Netherlands, a series of construction projects (dams, sluices, locks, dykes, levees, and storm surge barriers) to provide flood control that was planned and enacted following the North Sea Flood of 1953. Because individuals do not compete for consumption of a public good, the desired quantity of such a good cannot be determined by using price to balance demand and supply in the way that this works for private goods. For a public

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Letter from the Department Head



Bruce McGough

In last year's newsletter, I emphasized the paramount importance of attracting top-quality young economists to faculty ranks, and I used this emphasis to highlight our unusually successful 2016–17 hiring efforts, which resulted in three exceptional hires. Normally, I don't like to repeat myself, but in this case, I am delighted to make an exception: we did it again. Via the same six-month process detailed in last year's letter—an enterprise I described accurately as “long and sometimes exhausting”—we again hired three exceptional new faculty members! All together, we have hired 10 new faculty members in the last five years, who bring with them cutting-edge training and skill sets, as well as a bounty of youthful energy and creativity. Their passion for teaching and research permeates all aspects of department life. Whether student, staff, or faculty, it is an exciting time to be part of the economics program at the University of Oregon.

Common to all three new hires is their interest in, and reliance on, Big Data—a term referring to both the very large data sets that have become available to research economists in recent years, as well as to the techniques and computational capacity needed to analyze these data sets. Big Data is revolutionizing all sciences, including

economics, and our new hires position our department to exploit the power of Big Data as well as to meet the demands of students interested in its study.

I can't miss this opportunity to briefly introduce my new colleagues.

- **Edward Rubín** received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and specializes in energy and environmental economics
- **Eric Zou** received his PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and specializes in environmental economics
- **Jonathan Davis** received his PhD from the University of Chicago, and specializes in applied microeconomics

As I have emphasized in past newsletters, our department's ability to hire new faculty like Jon, Eric, and Ed, is greatly aided by the support of alumni, former colleagues, and many other friends of the department. I don't like to use the word “literally” very often because I usually use it incorrectly; but here I am confident in its application: we literally could not make such great hires without your support. We encourage any and all of you to visit the department so that we might thank you in person. In the meantime, you are invited to read this newsletter, which provides highlights of the exciting activities recently undertaken by our students, faculty, and staff.

Bruce McGough
Department Head

Communicating the Value of an Economics Degree

by Bill Sherman



Bill Sherman

I regularly am asked by the students I advise, “How can I communicate the value of my education to an employer?” Some worry that they're not getting much out of their major because they struggled with subjects like econometrics, game theory, or forecasting. Before you freak out, consider what hiring managers look for in candidates who apply for jobs. Most would expect a college graduate to excel in learning new information, organization and time management, working independently and in collaboration with

diverse teams, communicating effectively, and (most importantly) solving abstract problems. I often describe the economics major to new students as a rigorous analytical program that trains your mind to think differently about problems. From EC 201/202 forward, you begin to see life from a macro and micro perspective. That is, you start paying more attention to how things work in a variety of contexts, from the smallest data point to the largest system. Think of it as “economic intuition.” From an employer's perspective, this makes you more likely to embrace the challenges today's business world. Whether or not you a wiz at running multiple linear regressions, you can take pride in the fact that you are developing the kind of robust mindset so vital to success into today's workplace.

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good, we need a method to determine how much of the good to provide in a society and how to divide its cost among the members of that society. It is important for policy makers and economic practitioners to have an appropriate method to use so that, for example, another disaster like Hurricane Katrina in 2005 can be prevented by providing appropriate flood control for the greater New Orleans area.

The basis of my research related to public goods is the "well-known" publication by Erik Lindahl in 1919 (my reason for using quotes will become clear shortly). Our alums who have seen public economics in their classes will probably have heard of Lindahl equilibrium (Lindahl 1919). I write it that way because this equilibrium concept is always attributed to Lindahl (1919). It has become one of those seminal papers that everyone refers to when talking about Lindahl equilibrium, but that very few people have actually read. It is like a game of telephone and people just repeat what they have read elsewhere.

Back in 1994, only one year out of graduate school, I presented work on the properties of equilibrium in exchange economies at a conference. After that presentation, I was approached with the question if I could do something similar for equilibrium in public-good economies. Being young and overconfident, I said "sure" without knowing much about public good economies. So, I looked up what equilibrium concept is being used for public-good economies, found Lindahl equilibrium, and set out to study its properties. I found that Lindahl equilibrium behaves very strangely. The reason is that it is based on the agents in an economy stating personalized prices that they are willing to pay per unit of the public good, and this means that when the cost function of public good is not linear, there is no direct relation between the actual cost of public good and the price structure that individual agents use to determine their demand for it. Another problem



The Delta Works in The Netherlands, a well-known example of a public good, has been declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

with using personalized prices per unit of the public good is that there has to be some unified way of measuring units of the public good. Nonplussed, I turned to the English translation of Lindahl (1919). I found that Lindahl did not provide a mathematical definition of an equilibrium concept, but instead expressed his ideas in words and supported these with a graphical illustration. Lindahl's idea was that agents in an economy agree to share the cost of public good production according to percentages and that these percentages themselves have to satisfy the condition that the agents agree on how much public good to finance. Because the verbal description and graphical illustration lend themselves ideally to being formulated mathematically as a property, I did so and found that what is known in the literature as Lindahl equilibrium does not actually satisfy the ideas expressed in Lindahl (1919). This discovery sparked my line of research on equilibria in public good economies.

In a first article, "Axiomatization of ratio equilibria in public good economies," my co-authors and I reverse-engineered the definition of an equilibrium that satisfies the property that Lindahl described in his

1919 work. Surprisingly, the equilibrium that we found had appeared in the literature before, when Mamoru Kaneko defined ratio equilibrium in 1977. In personal correspondence, Kaneko expressed to me that he was not aware of the connection between his definition of equilibrium and Lindahl's ideas. Ratio equilibrium was not picked up by others and Lindahl equilibrium became the predominant concept in the public-goods literature.

Having established that the equilibrium that satisfies the ideas in Lindahl (1919) is not Lindahl equilibrium but ratio equilibrium, I wondered what happened. This inspired the article "Lindahl and equilibrium," in which I described the history of how the ideas expressed in Lindahl (1919) developed into the equilibrium concept for public good economies that now carries Lindahl's name. I uncovered several instances of misinterpretation and carelessness that accumulated in the current-day definition of Lindahl equilibrium.

Finish reading this article at economics.uoregon.edu/sharing-the-cost-of-a-public-good/#read-more

Undergraduate News

Economics Graduates Invited to Join Phi Beta Kappa

In 2017-2018 seven of our department's graduating seniors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, which is the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in the nation. In addition to a strict GPA requirement, Phi Beta Kappa membership requires a sufficient breadth of classes in the liberal arts.

Our seven students were: **Linmei Amaya**, **Adam Herbers**, **Jelena Hoffart**, **Daniel Kono**, **Nelson Lindgren**, **Natalie Valent**, and **Emily Wu**.



Two Selected for the Oregon Six

Each year, six outstanding graduating students from across the entire campus are designated the Phi Beta Kappa Oregon Six. Their exceptional academic records combine extraordinary breadth and excellence in upper-division liberal arts courses with very high grade point averages. For the graduating class of 2018 two of the students selected for the Oregon Six completed economics majors: **Jelena Hoffart** and **Nelson Lindgren**. Jelena is now working at Goldman Sachs, and Nelson has begun the economics PhD program at The Ohio State University.

Awards and Recognition

Hannah Solheim received the H.T. Koplin Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to an Oregon resident who has finished the math and intermediate courses at the University of Oregon with at least a 3.6 GPA in their economics coursework.

Madeline Brunkan, **Henry Hakanson**, **Annalise Helm**, **Zigui Huang**, **Anton Khokhryakov**, and **Hannah Solheim** each received the department's Grace Miller Economics Scholarship, which is targeted to Oregon residents who have an interest in teaching.

Jessica Chew, **John Hagoski**, **Zigui Huang**, and **Rosemarie Wong** were awarded the Alanson H. Kleinsorge Scholarship, which is awarded to economics majors who have overcome academic and financial hardships to succeed in their studies.

Twin brothers **Conrad Berris** and **John Berris** were jointly honored at our June commencement as the Most Inspiring Economics Graduate(s), a distinction nominated by the faculty, graduate students, and staff of the department.

Linmei Amaya was voted "Most Valuable Player" by the members of the UO Economics Club, recognizing her for her academic rigor, encouragement of peers, and active service to the club through research, presentations, peer advising, event planning, and executive leadership.

Jelena Hoffart was recognized at commencement for writing the best individual honors paper for her thesis: "The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Analyzing Government-Provided Health Insurance Take-Up Across Demographic Variables."

EC 418 and 419 are courses that help groups of students to develop honors projects, which typically analyze regional economic issues with data from nearby governments, firms, or other organizations. Last year Bill Harbaugh directed the course sequence. At commencement **Maddy Kunstel** and **Rio Lehman** were recognized for their paper "The Effect of Faculty and Student Gender on Student Success and Subject Persistence."

Alumni News

Patricia Beeson, PhD '83, was named provost and senior vice chancellor Emerita and received the Distinguished Service Medallion from the University of Pittsburgh.

Taylor McKenzie, PhD '17, received the 2017 Transportation and Public Utilities Group (TPUG) dissertation award. TPUG is an international forum for researchers in the economics and public policies in the transportation and public utilities industries. It is one of the oldest associations within the

American Economics Associations. Taylor's dissertation used Bayesian techniques to estimate firm specific and time varying markups, scale elasticities, productivity and technological efficiency in the railroad markets. He received his degree in 2017 and took a job at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Christopher Deal, BA '16, likes to go for big fish—an honors degree in economics: a position as senior advisory associate with

PricewaterhouseCoopers: and recently, a research project that explains a paradox in school research. Prior studies indicate that students do worse in classes when an aide assists the teacher. Christopher's research, supervised by Emeritus Professor Joe Stone, demonstrates that this paradox arises from neglecting the role of teacher experience in schools. Teacher aides help students in schools with experienced teachers, but not in schools with inexperienced teachers.

PhDs on the Market

To learn more about this year's group of candidates, visit economics.uoregon.edu.



Nathan Biemiller earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Franklin and Marshall College in 2012. His research interests include applied

and experimental investigations of individual behavior deviate from traditional economic theory, as well as analysis of public policy changes. His job market paper investigates the effect of the opening of recreational marijuana markets on domestic violence. His personal interests include reading, cooking, and playing recreational sports.



Ben Brennan graduated with his PhD this past June. He also has a bachelor's degree from Arcadia University where he double majored in political science

and philosophy and a master's degree in economics from Wright State University. His research interests include macroeconomics, monetary policy, and expectations.



Christian Imboden received a bachelor's degree in fine arts in jazz from the University of Michigan and an master's degree in accounting from SUNY Albany. After

several years as a fund accountant and then as a tax preparer, he realized that his true love was economics. His research and teaching interests include public, labor, financial, and urban economics. On the

job market, he will be presenting work investigating the responses of stock prices to changes in corporate income tax rates.



Drew McNichols received his bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from Oklahoma City University. He studies applied microeconomics,

labor, and health, and focuses on policies related to gender pay inequality. For the job market, he will be presenting his work on the effects of state laws prohibiting employers from asking applicants about previous compensation.



Simeon Minard is a PhD candidate studying applied econometrics. His methodological work proposes improvements in the synthetic control technique, and his

applied work broadly examines crime, labor, and health.



Ryan Walch's research is on the economics of carbon pricing. Specifically, Ryan's work has focused on non-governmental carbon pricing as well as the distributional

consequences of California's carbon cap-and-trade program for non-carbon pollutants. He received his bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, in 2014. His personal interests include chess, guitar, and finding new music.



Will Wheeler completed his undergraduate studies at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Will's research interests lie in environmental economics and

applied econometrics and his dissertation focuses on nonmarket valuation of environmental amenities. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, floating the river, and playing games with friends.



Kyle Wilson was born in the US but grew up in South Africa and Kenya before returning to the States to complete his bachelor's degree in physics from the

University of California, Davis. His research focuses on how resource scarcity and environmental policy influence economic development. He enjoys playing disc golf and, as a new father, spending time with his wife and one-year-old son and occasionally getting to sleep for six hours straight.



Nicholas Wood specializes in industrial organization. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics, physics, and economics from Kalamazoo College

in 2014. The focus of his research is how consumer heterogeneity impacts market variables. His job market paper examines the effects of the Cash for Clunkers program. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his dog, playing tennis, and competitive video games.

Faculty Notes



Bruce Blonigen will be the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences beginning January 1, 2019. He has recently completed a number of edited books on trade and transportation, foreign direct investment, and antidumping trade policies.



In the past year **Alfredo Burlando** has launched three new multi-year impact evaluation studies on financial inclusion and digital finance in Mexico (with colleague Mike

Kuhn), Uganda, Malawi and Ghana. These projects have been funded by four grants totaling almost half a million dollars from the Gates Foundation, the SEEP Network and BBVA. He has presented his work in seminars and conferences in Denver, Seattle, and Buenos Aires.



Trudy Ann Cameron continues on the Board of Directors of the Western Economic Association International as an academic director. Last spring, she organized 16 sessions

at the WEAI annual conference on behalf of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. UO has continued to add faculty in Environmental and Resource Economics with last year's arrival of Grant McDermott, and this year's additions of Ed Rubin and Eric Zou (currently on leave to complete a post-doc at Cornell). Some current Mikesell-affiliated dissertation research includes: the effects of intertemporal substitution opportunities on the welfare consequences of changes in environmental amenities on public lands; the non-market demand for internal carbon-

pricing programs at universities (a survey-based study); the effects of the recent South African drought on crime rates; the effects of air pollution (particulate matter) on attendance and test scores among primary-aged school children in Pakistan, as well as other projects



Shankha Chakraborty specializes in inequality, development, and demography. He has been studying how aspirations shape people's tolerance

for inequality and evolutionary explanations of long-term development. During the past year, he presented his work in New Delhi and Taipei and published in the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*. He serves as an associate editor at *Macroeconomic Dynamics* and on the editorial board of several other international journals. He continues to serve this year as the associate head of economics.



Mark Colas continues his research on labor, public, and urban economics. His recent work focuses on the optimal design of need-based financial aid. He is teaching

in urban economics for undergraduates and PhD candidates this year.



Anca Cristea continues her research in international trade, focusing on topics examining the multinational organization of production and

the role of transportation in cross-border transactions. During the past academic year, Anca took a sabbatical leave and spent part

of it at the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII), a renowned research center for international economics. During her research visit in France, Anca worked closely with many trade economists and gave several seminar talks to present her new work. As cofounder of the West Coast Trade Conference and scientific board member of the Midwest International Economics Meetings Group, Anca remains actively engaged in the academic community. On the teaching front, Anca continues to teach courses on globalization and international trade at both undergraduate and graduate levels.



Tim Duy continues his work with the Oregon Economic Forum. This past year he expanded with a second event in Salem in partnership with the Salem Economic

Development Corporation. That May event, which included Professor Mike Kuhn, attracted 400 attendees. Tim writes regularly as a columnist for Bloomberg with a focus on market-relevant commentary on the Federal Reserve. He continues to be widely quoted in the national media.



Chris Ellis continued to work on public economics and political economy. He attended the Central European Workshop in Economic Theory. He is currently working on topics

including the applications of information design to the economics of lobbying, the economic transmission of culture in the presence of migration, and the role of different histories in recurring games.

David Evans' current research focuses on optimal fiscal-monetary policy and computational methods to approximate equilibria of dynamic stochastic general



equilibrium models with large numbers of heterogeneous agents. Other work explores the optimal maturity structure of government debt and the endogenous transmission of monetary policy through risk. This year he has presented his work at several conferences including the NBER Economics Fluctuations & Growth research meeting. On a personal note, he celebrated the birth of his first child in March, daughter Quinn Evans.



George Evans gave invited talks or presentations this last year in conferences and workshops at the Bank of England, the Central Bank of Chile, Santiago, and the University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain, as well as a seminar at the University of Edinburgh. He has two papers with UO Economics colleague Bruce McGough just published or in press in the *Journal of Monetary Economics* and in *Economic Journal*. He and McGough are in the final year of a three-year National Foundation Grant for research on “Expectation Coordination and Agent-level Learning.”



Benjamin Hansen has continued his research on the economics of crime and health, focusing on substance abuse and victimization, whether machine learning algorithms can improve statistical power in randomized control trial. He also published papers on child abuse and economic conditions in the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the unintended effects of ban the box laws in the *Journal of Labor Economics*. He

presented at several conferences, including a keynote address at the Applied Econometrics Workshop in Victoria Wellington.



Bill Harbaugh is serving this year as UO Senate president, and is still enjoying working with UO President Michael Schill and Provost Jayanth Banavar on improving UO’s governance, undergraduate education, and on increasing opportunities for faculty research. He claimed last year that the senate would repeal and replace UO’s current student evaluations of faculty—which reward grade inflation, discriminate against women, and are negatively correlated with student learning—and the senate is making progress on that. They have also made some minor changes to the multicultural and “general education” breadth requirements, and will be working on more substantial improvements this year.



Van Kolpin’s research examines both strategic and cooperative behavior in contexts of asymmetric information, discontinuous preferences, heterogeneous populations, and adaptive regulatory policy. New research projects include equilibrium analysis of tax competition in the presence of federal limitations to state and local tax deductibility and an examination of the societal prisoner’s dilemma induced by strategic production and application of neonicotinoids—a class of neurotoxins widely associated with detrimental ecological impacts such as honeybee colony collapse disorder. Ongoing research also continues on cost/resource sharing with and without endogenous priority, the endogenous formation of personal beliefs/social conventions such as such trust, prejudice,

and superstition, and the impact of shrinking state and federal support on the pricing and marketing behaviors that emerge within higher education markets.



Michael Kuhn has expanded his work on the use of mandatory waiting periods to improve consumer decision making: wrapping up a project on the delivery of healthy food subsidies for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and beginning a project on the rapid provision of cash loans in Mexico for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He recently began a project that studies the role of beliefs about the non-financial returns to college in determining college choices among 90,000 high-school seniors in Denmark. He is also continuing his laboratory work on how to measure patience and risk, as well as gender differences in cheating and confidence. This past year, his work on naturally-occurring cooperation and the interaction between school meal programs and the Food Stamp Program (SNAP) was published in the *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and the *Journal of Public Economics*, respectively.



Grant McDermott is an environmental economist and is pleased to have emerged from first faculty year unscathed. (A new mortgage notwithstanding.) He was fortunate to publish papers in *Science* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, which received press coverage in various outlets, including *The Atlantic* and *NPR/OBP*. He also presented his work on big data developments in environmental economics at various workshops and seminars, and generally

Faculty Notes, continued

just tries to follow the sage career advice that he receives from Trudy Cameron. Our sources tell us that he is “super stoked” at the recruitment of two more environmental economists this year among the department’s stellar new hires. He continues to make inroads to his (not so) stealth quest to convert the department over to open-source software.



Bruce McGough

continues to serve as department head and is thrilled to have been part of another year of very successful hiring: three more exceptional faculty

have joined the department. His research remains focused on the general equilibrium implications of boundedly-rational decision-making. This year he published papers in *Journal of Monetary Economics* and *The Economic Journal*, and gave talks in Birmingham, UK; Bilbao, Spain; Cleveland; and Philadelphia.



Keaton Miller

specializes in industrial organization and long-term relationships between firms and consumers. In the past year, he presented his work

on the interactions between insurers and beneficiaries in the Medicare Advantage market at several conferences and continued his program studying the legal cannabis industry in the United States.



Jeremy Piger’s

recent research focuses on estimating the occurrence and timing of structural changes in the economy, on forecasting inflation using machine

learning techniques, and on understanding how the effects of monetary policy vary over the business cycle. Over the past year he served as an associate editor for two professional journals, and traveled to present his work at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Inside the department, he served as the director of graduate studies.



Mark Thoma

continued his research, teaching, and service activities for the university; he blogs daily at *Economist’s View*; writes articles for CBS News; has a

biweekly column at the *Fiscal Times*; and he wrote op-eds and articles for several other publications.



Mike Urbancic

became the department’s first ever senior instructor upon his successful promotion last year. He continues teaching several courses per year,

having taught 8,269 (7,125 unique) students in 54 courses during his six years at Oregon. For the second time in three years he was a finalist for the All-Campus Advising Award. He is actively engaged in a wide range of the university’s operations, including service on the UO Committee on Courses, the Undergraduate Council, the Committee for Academic Infrastructure, the Transforming Education by Design (trED) group, the Academic Technology Advisory Group, and the Parent Support Task Force. Mike also represents career instructional faculty as an officer in our faculty union and sits on the Board of Directors of The Duck Store.

Anne van den Nouweland specializes in economic theory, with a focus on farsighted stability, equilibrium in public good economies, and axiomatic approaches to coalitional problems. She serves on the



board of the Journal of Public Economic Theory and on the program committee of the Central European Program in Economic Theory (CEPET). She visited The University

of Edinburgh and The Paris School of Economics, was a Keynote Speaker at the Public Economic Theory (PET) Conference in Hue, Vietnam, and also participated in the Workshop on Economic Design and Institutions (Brussels), the APET/NYUAD Workshop (Abu Dhabi), the Coalition Theory Network Workshop (Maastricht), and the CEPET Workshop (Udine, Italy). In the past year, two of her papers have been published—one on equilibria for local public good economies (in *Mathematical Social Sciences*), and another on demand curves when agents are responsible for a share of the cost of a good and thus do not necessarily face linear budget constraints (in *Economic Theory Bulletin*).



Glen Waddell

continues his research in the intersections of labor, health, public, and education. This year, Waddell has one student on the market: Simeon

Minard (applied metrics, labor, health). In last year’s market, he placed Nate Adams at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Amani Rashid at Eastern Michigan University. He continues to teach the economics and econometrics components of the Executive MBA program, has joined the faculty of the Clark Honors College again, and serves as a coeditor of *Economics of Education Review* and *Economic Inquiry*.

Wesley Wilson remains editor of *Economic Inquiry*. He also received the “Distinguished Transportation Researcher Award” from the Transportation Research Forum, which follows a similar award in 2013

Faculty Notes, continued



received from the Transportation and Public Utilities Group of the American Economic Associations. He published a book, *The Handbook of international Trade*

and *Transportation*, co-edited with Bruce Blonigen along with several other papers. He traveled and presented multiple papers at the American Economic Associations, the Western Economic Association International, and the Transportation Research Forum Annual meetings. He has extensive outside funding from the Army Corps and the United States Department of Agriculture. In the former he is examining leakages of public investment to foreign entities and demand modeling. In the latter, he is examining a recent rise in the costs of transportation for agricultural products. He has also been part of the selection process for the 2018 China

Economics Prize and has been invited to be on the International Steering Committee for the 10th International Forum on Shipping, Ports and Airports.

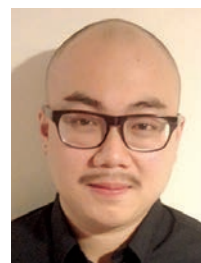


Woan Foong Wong

Wong's research focuses on trade costs, specifically factors that impede and facilitate trade flow. These include transport costs, trade agreements, and

resource misallocation. Her recent projects investigate the rise of hub ports, market power in shipping, and the long run link between city-level trade and population growth. She presented her research on this past year at several conferences, including the 2018 American Economic Association meetings in Philadelphia, the Empirical Investigations in International Trade EIT conference at the Federal Reserve

Board and George Washington University, the Institutions Trade and Economic Development InsTED Workshop at Syracuse University, the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory Conference at Academia Sinica, and the West Coast Trade Workshop at UC Irvine. Woan Foong was invited to give seminars at Singapore Management University, Portland State University, and Wilfred Laurier University as well as to present at the Cal Poly Trade Workshop.



Jiabin Wu's

research focuses on evolutionary game theory and behavioral/experimental economics. He will teach behavioral economics,

game theory, advanced micro theory for undergraduates and core microeconomics for PhD students this academic year.

Staff Notes

From the manager, **Teri Rowe**: This year we said goodbye to Jessica O'Connor who, along with her growing family, has relocated to another state. We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to hearing about her new adventures! We have had the good fortune to bring in two new staff members. **Christine Holt** is our new travel and accounts payable travel technician. I am also happy to announce we have been approved for a new staff position! **Katie Murray** is joining us as administrative program specialist. She is part of the Academic Support Team, working closely with me on grant administration, human resources, and payroll, as well as policy review and procedure implementation.

SAIL (Summer Academy to Inspire Learning), founded by **Bruce Blonigen** and **Bill Harbaugh** in 2006, has officially left the port of economics and is now in the Division of Undergraduate Studies. Recently named a Presidential Initiative, SAIL is expanding the program and closely aligns with student success initiatives spearheaded out of the division. To find out more about the SAIL program, please visit sail.uoregon.edu.

I look forward to the year ahead and thank you for your kind and generous continued support—please stop in and say “hello”!

Chris Blum is a native of Eugene, a University of Oregon alumnus, and to his shame never took an economics class when he was a student here. He has worked on campus since 2002, the last two with our department. He continues to be impressed with all the confusing equations on the faculty whiteboards.

Christine Holt joined the department in August as the travel and accounts payable accounting technician. She most recently worked in the oil and gas industry, and prior to that was in financial support at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Christine has two children, the oldest is currently a sophomore at Portland State University, and the youngest a senior in high school here in Eugene. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, camping, paddling, and dancing.

Now in her second year as graduate coordinator, **Sharon Kaplan** has enjoyed getting to know the students from welcoming a new cohort to the program to following the successes of fifth-years on the job market. Outside of PLC, you may see her performing with the Eugene Symphonic Band, dancing Argentine tango, or leading art workshops for families at the Eugene Public Library.

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Support the Economics Department

Visit economics.uoregon.edu and click on “Alumni and Friends” to find links to the mail-in and secure online donation forms

Honor Roll—Pledges and Donations

Pledges to the Department of Economics by alumni and friends continue to be crucial for supporting students and faculty members in their teaching and research activities. We continue to be honored and humbled by the generous contributions our program receives.

Providing a gift in your will to support the Department of Economics is a powerful way to support our efforts. The UO Office

of Gift Planning is an excellent resource if you are considering providing support for economics in your will. Call 800-289-2354 or visit giftplan.uoregon.edu for more information.

The following is a list of contributions received from September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018. We apologize for any unintended errors or omissions.

\$50,000 or more

Conni and George Slape '76
Pamela and Ernest Ankrim MS '75,
PhD '76

\$10,000 to \$49,999

KeyBank
KeyBank National Association
Marvin Waring, Jr. '71

\$2,000 to \$9,999

Harold Watts '54
The Oregonian
SEDCOR
Western Communications, Inc.
Scott Drumm '87
Julie '83 and Michael Culleton '88
Patricia '61, MEd '67, and Warren
Tibbles '60, '63

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Mirza Al-Qassab MA '75
Kate '69 and David Ludwig '75
Rebecca and Lee Freiermuth '76,
MBA '78
Constance '61 and Albert
Gutowsky '61
Joyce and Jack Cox MS '60, PhD '63
Ann and David Worthington '73

\$500 to \$999

Elaine '06 and Sean Van Gordon '01,
MS '02
Terrance Cook '91
Barbara '64 and William Hutchison,
Jr. '63
Yungja and Suk Yoon '72
June and Thomas Berry '77

Yoon Trading Company
Mary-Louise and C. William
Reinking '64
Timothy Kersten MA '70, PhD '73
Richard Price '75
Andrew Wood '80
Melody and Kim Ferguson '73
Sherrie and Michael Kaiel '66
Fredericka Bunting, Jr. '69

\$250 to \$499

Emily '05 and Christopher
Looney '05
James Bravo '14
Marie and Jeffrey Kolb MS '74,
PhD '74
Kirk Ward '70
Chong Kim MA '04, PhD '07
Carol and John Mitchell MA '68,
PhD '70
Bradley Curs '99, MS '00, PhD '05
Shirley Rippey '53
Janice '63 and Kent Hughes '62
Charles Novak '68, MBA '70
Daniel Blake MA '70, PhD '71
Douglas Southgate Jr. '74
Wells Fargo Foundation
Kevin Riley '92
Susan '99, MS '01 and William
Ross '98
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

\$100 to \$249

Brittini Henry '03
Tyler Ashcraft '13
Thomas Hackett '69, MS '77, PhD '78
Rebecca '85 and Norbert Kugele '83
Ctr For Int'l & Interarea Com

Doris Herbing and Henry Herbring
MA '63
Velvet and Martin Milkman MS '86,
PhD '89
Terrence Scroggin '72
Lornie McCormick-Goodhart and
Steven Knudsen '76
Alan Heston '55
Hisano and Erven Kincaid Jr. '64
Mark Brackebusch '72
Barbara and Jay Kaylor MS '82
Susan and Raymond Cohn PhD '77
Anonymous
Katherine Hartwig '05
Mary '79 and Victor Menacho MA
'72, MA '80
Natalie Green-Giles and Douglas
Giles '87
Celia and Richard Wagner '80
Douglas Eubanks '67
Su Kim
Gail and Dennis Robertson '71
Jane and Marshall Geer III MA '67,
PhD '68

GuideOne Insurance
Mitchell Layden '07
David Griffin '12
Michael Grove '67
Nicole McDonald '10
Thomas Dulcich '76
KPMG Foundation
Cheryl Chiene '67
Michael Stubblebine '71
Ivy and David Fractor MS '81,
PhD '82
Cynthia Dulcich '77
T. Rowe Price Program for Giving
Stanley Keil MA '70, PhD '73

Ryan Pollock '05
Ashley '12 and Peter Shea '12
Kristi MS '84 and Douglas
Dalenberg MS '86, PhD '87
Cinda and Marv McKenzie
Cindy Reid and Bahram Adrangi
PhD '82
Karla Haats '82
Kristine and Gerald Brooks MS '74

\$50 to \$99

Carie '75 and Vernon Lee '75
Benedict Wee '91
Andrea and Robert Anderson '71
Eric Dodge MA '94, PhD '95
Anwarullah Jatoi '63, MS '65
Erik Bjorvik '92
Greta '79, MA '82 and Michael
Hutchison PhD '83
Thomas Miller MBA '92, MS '92
Barbara and Douglas Green '86
Cheryl and Matthew Eccles '86
Brittany Brown '08, '14

Up to \$49

UBS Foundation
Jasmin and Mark Tung MA '68
Steven Ross '70
Collin Wiseman '16
Erika Williams '02, '12
John Naumes '03
Charles Rogovoy '15
James Nelson '77
Barbara and Howard Teasley MA '68
Marilee and David Davis MS '98,
PhD '98
Brian Deigan '05
Jack McDonnell '17
Anthony Kaufmann '17

Staff Notes, continued

Katie Murray received a BA in journalism and Spanish from the University of Oregon. After holding various administrative positions in Eugene, Katie returned to the UO as an admin for GEO Study Abroad, where she assisted students and advisors throughout the application and registration processes. Katie is excited to expand her university knowledge in her new role as administrative program specialist to include contracts, grant administration, and HR responsibilities. Outside of the office, Katie enjoys reading, yoga, spending time with family, and baking cookies.

Mike Peixoto is entering his second year in the economics department where he is in regular contact with our undergraduate

students on matters of advising, scholarships, degree progress, and enrollment issues. When not in the office, he continues to publish on topics of medieval history and is constantly bugging everyone to take up rowing.

Janea Pratt is a native of Eugene and a first generation Duck. She earned her BA in 2017 in Japanese and international studies and joined the economics department as the receptionist the following day. She's now pursuing certification as a licensed massage therapist. Janea loves reading historical biographies, watching crime dramas, and enjoying the local food cart scene.

New Faculty Hires



Jonathan Davis is an applied microeconomist who uses lessons from economic theory to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of social programs. Davis's

research takes these insights all the way from theory to practice and provides rigorous evidence about the resulting welfare gains.

For example, Davis's current project "The Economics of Scale-Up" (which is joint work with Jon Guryan, Kelly Hallberg, and Jens Ludwig) uses insights from price theory to motivate a constructive scientific response to the problem of social program scale-up. Most randomized controlled trials of social programs test interventions at modest scale. While the hope is that promising programs will be scaled up, there are few successful examples of this scale-up process in practice. They show that it is possible to operate a program at modest scale n but learn about its impact at much larger scale $S \times n$ by randomly sampling the inputs the provider would have hired if they operated at this larger scale. They demonstrate the value of their proposed scale-up experiment using three applications, including a tutoring program that is actively being scaled in Chicago.

Davis's other works-in-progress provide new evidence about trends in

intergenerational mobility, about treatment heterogeneity in the response to summer jobs programs using new machine learning methods, and about the impact of market design on market outcomes from the first field experiment in the area. His completed projects have been published in the *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, the *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Econometric Reviews*, the *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, and *Economic Inquiry*.

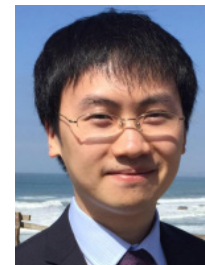
The common thread among all of his projects is that they use the economics toolkit to provide rigorous evidence about or make relevant methodological contributions to the analysis of pressing social issues and policies to address these issues.



Ed Rubin arrived in Eugene having just finished his doctoral work at the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley.

He researches the economics of the environment and inequality. His research focuses on increasing the potential for efficient and equitable public policy—particularly for policies that affect environmental quality. Rubin's research also considers several other equity-related topics—e.g., gender discrimination in the workplace, incarceration, and cannabis legalization. In

general, Rubin takes a data-driven, empirical approach to his research, combining economic intuition with tools from applied econometrics/statistics and data science (e.g., machine learning, natural language processing, and spatial-data analysis). Recently, Rubin presented work in Gothenburg, Sweden at the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists and in Oxford, England, at the IGC-PEDL student workshop, finished his PhD, and got a job.



Eric Zou's research is in the economics of pollution prevention. His dissertation research documents the increasing population exposure to air pollution events caused by

drifting wildfire smoke plumes, the noise of rising use of large-scale industrial machineries, and the impacts of these environmental hazards on human health and wellbeing in general. Before starting his career at UO, Zou will spend a post-doctoral year at Cornell Institute for China Economic Research, leading several research projects on environmental challenges in China. Zou received his PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2018. He is also a proud alumnus of East China Normal University where he received a bachelor's degree in economics.



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Economics at the UO ... by the numbers

936 Majors

459 Minors

10 Master's students

54 Doctoral students

3,545 Undergraduates
enrolled in an economics class
per term in 2017-18

27 Faculty members
(3 new faculty members)

9 PhDs entering the job market