

University of Houston Economics Ph.D. Alumni Conference
August 20-21, 2021

Friday, August 20
(all times are U.S. Central time)

- 9:30 am Introduction and Logistics
- 9:35 am **Sharon Xuejing Zuo** (2016; Prof. E. Liu; Assistant Professor, Fudan University, China) “FDI Liberalization and Occupation Mobility: Evidence from China”
- 10:10 am Break
- 10:15 am **Gautham Udupa** (2018; Prof. K. Yi; Research Director, CAFRAL, Reserve Bank of India) “Dollar Liquidity, Trade Invoicing and Real Effects: Evidence from India”
- 10:50 am Break
- 10:55 am **Somdeep Chatterjee** (2016; Profs. A. Chin and G. Ujhelyi; Assistant Professor, IIM Lucknow, India) “Passing the Buck! – Do Individual Biases Affect Measures of Confidence in Public Institutions?”
- 11:30 am Break
- 11:35 am **Vadym Volosovych** (2006; Profs. S. Kalemli-Ozcan and B. Sorensen; Associate Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands) “Corporate Acquisitions and Bank Relationships”
- 12:10 pm “Welcome Remarks” Dietz Vollrath, Chair, Economics Department
- 12:20 pm Break
- 12:40 pm **Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel** (2009; Profs. A. Chin and A. Kugler; Professor, Dalhousie University, Canada) “Expressway to Power: Infrastructure Projects and Political Support”
- 1:15 pm Break
- 1:20 pm **Sophia Kazinnik** (2017; Prof. D. Papell; Senior Quantitative Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) “Let’s Face It: Quantifying the Impact of Nonverbal Communication in FOMC Press Conferences”
- 1:55 pm Break
- 2:00 pm Zoom breakout rooms I

Saturday, August 21

(all times are U.S. Central time)

9:25 am Introduction

9:30 am Panel I: Career and Work as an Economist in Private or Multilateral Institutions

Elisabetta Gentile (2011; Prof. D. Vollrath; Economist, Asia Development Bank)

Saumya Rana (2019; Prof. V. Maheshri; Economist, Welch Consulting)

Shreya Bhattacharya (2020; Prof. W. Friedman; Economist, Amazon)

Q&A

10:45 am Zoom Breakout Rooms 2

11:15 am Panel II: Leadership Roles

Paula Arce-Trigatti (2014; Prof. A. Chin; Director, National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships, Rice University)

Claude Lopez (2003; Profs. C. Murray and D. Papell; Head of Research, Milken Institute)

H. Stephen Grace, Jr. (1970; Profs. G. Shatto and H. Steele; President, HS Grace & Company, Inc.)

Q&A

12:30 pm "Department Progress Over Time"; Prof. Steve Craig, Economics Department

12:50 pm "Recent Changes in the Ph.D. Program" Kei-Mu Yi, DGS, Economics Dept

1:05 pm Concluding Remarks

Conference Attendees

Alumni

Amrita Dhar
Arpita Chakravorty
Ashmita Gupta
Belgi Turan
Chon-Kit Ao
Christopher Biolsi
Claire Kang
Claude Lopez
Dmytro Hryshko
Edson Silveira Sobrinho
Eirini Magames
Elisabetta Gentile
Elizabeth Luh
Emiliano Luttini
Gautham Udupa
H. Stephen Grace, Jr.
Heesuk Jung
Iftekhar Hasan
Jarrod Hunt
Jean Kabore
Kriti Khanna
Levent Bulut

Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel
Nadya Abramava
Natalie Hegwood
Nishith Prakash
Paula Arce-Trigatti
Priyam Verma
Rajeev Goel
Rebecca Achee Thornton
Rishabh Atray
Roberto Coronado
Ruxandra Boul
Santosh Kumar
Satadru Mukherjee
Saumya Rana
Sharon Xuejing Zuo
Shreya Bhattacharya
Shreyasee Das
Somdeep Chatterjee
Sophia Kazinnik
Vadym Volosovych
Wen Long
Xavier Bautista

Current Students

Angelo Santos
Eva Loeza
Geraldine Guarin
Hamza Zahid
Hoanh Le
Hussain Hadah
Jeonghyeok Kim
Jesugnon Ezechias Djima
Jia Liu
Jordan Holbrook
Jose Mota
Ko Sugiura
Liu Mendoza
Luis Eduardo Salinas Huerta
Md Abdullah Al Mashrur

Nabila Rahman Biju
Oscar Galvez-Soriano
Ryan P Meek McGregor
Sameer Malik
Sebin Bapty Nidhiri
Shuan-Wen Lin
Swati Singh
Vasundhara Tanwar
Victor Zuluaga
Weonhyeok Chung
Yabo Gwladys Vidogbena
Yang Pei
Yeabin Moon
Yujie Zhang

Faculty

Aimee Chin
Bent Sorensen
Chinhui Juhn
Chris Murray
Christopher Clarke
David Papell
Dietz Vollrath

Elaine Liu
Gergely Ujhelyi
German Cubas
Janet Kohlhasse
Kei-Mu Yi
Kenneth Whaley
Natalia Zhivan

Rebecca Achee Thornton
Ruxandra Boul
Steve Craig
Vegard Nygaard
Vikram Maheshri
Willa Friedman