



University of Pittsburgh  
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences  
**Department of Economics**



Fall 2017 Newsletter

# Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Economics! We have been very busy over the past couple of years, and I am pleased to give you a brief update. Along with handling an increasingly popular program, we recently completed a five-year strategic plan; we received a positive review of our program by a group of leading economists; and we have gone through a major transition with longtime cherished faculty and staff retiring and many new exciting colleagues joining us.

Our undergraduate program is thriving. Course enrollments continues to increase, and our majors have more than doubled over the past ten years, reaching an all-time high of 640 majors this past spring. The Pitt graduating class of 2016-17 had close to 200 econ majors and an even greater number of econ minors. Our undergraduates do very well after receiving their degree from Pitt, with many of them securing excellent employment opportunities (e.g., KPMG, BNY Mellon, RBC Capital Markets, JPM Chase, PNC, and PwC), and others pursuing graduate studies in economics, public policy, international affairs, business, medicine, and law.



To handle the increased number of majors we have expanded our award winning Wallace-Wolfe advising team to include Dr. Shaver. This expansion has secured that our students continue to receive the best possible guidance while enrolled at Pitt, and when navigating options after graduation. The generous contribution of the Harvey Steven Cohen Endowment will further improve the opportunities offered to our undergraduates. We are very grateful for Harvey's support and for his recent visit to the department.

Our graduate program is also growing, with 15 students entering this year's class. Not surprisingly, our graduates continue to be in high demand. The eight graduate students on the market last year all secured employment, four in tenure track positions, and four in research or consulting positions. Our students' success after graduation is exciting. We were pleased to learn that in the past year our former Irvis Fellow, Martin Saavedra (assistant professor, Oberlin College) received the Arthur Cole Prize from the Economic History Association for publishing the best article in the *Journal of Economic History*; Maria Recalde secured a tenure position at Melbourne University and published a paper in the *AER*; and Serda Seline Östürk recently received tenure at Bilgi University. Alumni: you make us proud!

Our faculty has been through quite a transition. Long-time faculty Professors Jim Cassing, Frank Giarratani, Steven Husted, and Tom Rawski, along with Senior Lecturer Shirley Cassing opted to retire after their significant and outstanding research, teaching, and service contributions to the department and to the University. Decades of undergraduate and graduate students benefited from their dedicated instruction and mentorship. The department has been actively recruiting to fill the vacated positions, and we are thrilled to have a group of distinguished scholars join the department: Professor Stefania Albanesi, Associate Professor Richard van Weelden, Assistant Professors Jason Cook, Yogita Shamsadani, Osea Giuntella, Andrea La Nauze, and lecturers David Hewitt, Rita Zabelina, and Kevin Shaver. This new cohort of faculty are already contributing to our research and teaching environments. Finally, we are pleased to announce the promotions of four of our faculty members: Marla Ripoll and Randy Walsh to full professors and Roe Teper and Alistair Wilson to associate professors. Congratulations to all four of them!

This past year, we had the honor of hosting the 2017 Annual Conference for the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists and the 2017 Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings. We were pleased to have many of our alumni back in town for both of these events. Please be sure to let us know the next time you are in town. We, and the students, are eager to hear what you've been doing, and we want to know how your degree from Pitt has helped you achieve personal success.

On behalf of your Pitt family, I wish you a very happy new year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lise Vesterlund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lise Vesterlund, Chair

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## ***Support the Department of Economics***

Gifts to the Department of Economics gifts are used to support many of the initiatives and achievements you'll find in this newsletter- undergraduate and graduate awards, distinguished lecturers, graduate student travel to conferences, and undergraduate research. With your support, we're able to provide ever-expanding opportunities for our students. To give to the Department of Economics, please visit [www.giveto.pitt.edu](http://www.giveto.pitt.edu). Hail to Pitt!

# Research News

## *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics New Focus*

In line with University initiatives in sustainability, the Department has added several graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as research opportunities in environmental and natural resource economics. The Department's initiatives are spearheaded by Professors Randy Walsh and Andrea La Nauze, in collaboration with our graduate students as well as environmental economists in the Graduate School of Public Affairs, the Department of Political Science, and at the Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University.

By adding both graduate and undergraduate courses in environmental economics, we are now offering an upper-level undergraduate course primarily for economics majors, and a lower-level course which attracts non-majors from engineering, business, psychology, environmental science, and film studies.

With growing course offerings and researcher-presence, we will further strengthen student research in environmental economics. Recently Meital Rosenberg composed a B-Phil thesis, "Embeddedness in Energy: An Exploratory Study within Gujarat, India," and Daniel Campbell conducted independent research on the, "Economic Costs of Climate Change," as a's Undergraduate Research Fellow.

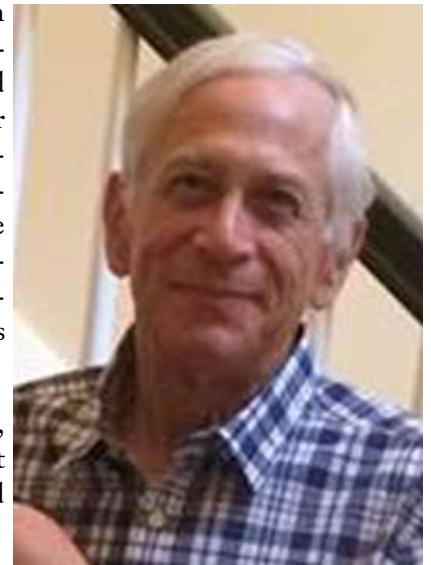
Further, Drs. La Nauze and Beattie are working on a project with graduate student Yi Han that investigates if people's perceptions about climate change are heavily influenced by the beliefs and actions of their peers. Using data from Australia, they find that living in neighborhoods with more solar panels makes people more likely to subscribe to the scientific consensus about climate change. However, it also makes people less concerned about the impacts of climate change!

This year Pitt and Carnegie Mellon hosted the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Conference at the historic William Penn Hotel. The conference drew more than 350 of the top environmental economists to the city.

## *Harvey Steven Cohen Endowment in the Department of Economics*

The Department of Economics is pleased to announce the Harvey Steven Cohen Endowment. The endowment aims to support undergraduate programs in economics and to build the stature of the Department. The endowment will initially be used to fund the Harvey Cohen PEEL Undergraduate Research Prize, which will offer paid research opportunities at PEEL (Pittsburgh Experimental Economics Laboratory). It will later be expanded to support summer internships and study abroad opportunities for undergraduates. At completion, the endowment will become among the largest Departmental endowments in the Dietrich School, and may be used to establish the Harvey Cohen Chair in Economics. The Cohen Endowment will immeasurably add to the Department's impact and reputation. The Department of Economics is grateful for the transformative and generous contribution by Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Cohen received his BA in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1968, and his MBA from NYU in 1971. He has had a distinguished career as an accountant specializing in taxation, tax aspects of bankruptcies, and taxation of small to mid sized businesses and forensic accounting. Mr. Cohen resides in Young Harris, Georgia.



## *Alumni— what are you up to?*

The Department of Economics is always excited to hear from alumni. If you'd like to share good news with the Department, whether it's a new position, acceptance to graduate school, or you've started a business, please send an email to [econadv@pitt.edu](mailto:econadv@pitt.edu).

### *Find us on social media:*

Follow us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/PittEconomics/](https://www.facebook.com/PittEconomics/)  
Connect with us in LinkedIn: [Linkedin.com/in/Pitt-Economics/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Pitt-Economics/)

# Research News

## *Pittsburgh Experimental Economics Laboratory*

The University of Pittsburgh Experimental Economics Laboratory (PEEL) has had an exciting year involving successful research, job placements, and events for alumni.

PEEL was founded by Professor John Kagel and Nobel Laureate Alvin Roth. It is a center for groundbreaking research on topics ranging from the psychology of human decision making to the best ways to design markets to achieve efficient allocation of goods and resources, including the way residents are matched to medical schools and kidneys are matched to patients.

Research at PEEL directly involves large numbers of undergraduates, as undergraduates act as subjects in PEEL research studies. It's a great way for undergraduates to experience research in economics, further scientific knowledge, and earn some money!

PEEL regularly holds events in which alumni can learn about the laboratory and experience a mock research study first hand.

Another exciting development is the commencement of The Harvey Steven Cohen Endowment in the Department of Economics. Made possible by the generous donation of Mr. Cohen, a Pitt alumni, the prize gives academically gifted Pitt undergrads a stipend to support them conducting research in PEEL and presenting research findings.

Graduate student Felipe de Araujo was recently invited to attend the prestigious Lindau Meeting of Nobel Prize Winners in Economics, which allows a select group of graduate students to mix with a group of Nobel Laureates. Dr. Stephanie Wang, one of the PEEL faculty, has been invited to visit Stanford University for the year.

Research conducted at PEEL continues to draw international attention. Recently, studies conducted at PEEL have been published in journals such as *The American Economic Review*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*.

Alumni are encouraged to contact PEEL manager Dr. David Danz at [exps@pitt.edu](mailto:exps@pitt.edu) at any time to arrange a visit.

## *Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings (MMM)*

The Department of Economics hosted the Midwest Macro Meetings (MMM) from November 3 through November 5 at the University of Pittsburgh.

The MMM is the most important regional conference in macroeconomics in the US. It attracts participants from prestigious universities in the Midwest, South, and Northeast, as well as a



group of international academics. In the words of the founding directors of the conference, “the goal of these meetings is to encourage frontier academic research in macroeconomics, broadly defined in terms of topics but rigorously grounded in economic theory and measurement.”

The MMM was first organized in 1994 and has been held on a yearly basis until 2012, when, in response to its popularity, meetings are now held twice a year. Currently, the conference meets in the spring and fall of each year. In each edition, about 125-130 papers are presented in parallel sessions that start on Friday afternoon and end mid-day on Sunday. A substantial proportion of the research papers presented at the conference will subsequently be published either in general interest journals or top field journals in macroeconomics.



**Xavier Gabaix**, Harvard University, and **Dirk Kruger**, University of Pennsylvania, were the two keynote speakers. Gabaix' talk was on, “Behavioral Macroeconomics.” Kruger presented “(Re)-distribution in the Great Recession,” using stochastic overlapping-generations general equilibrium model in which households are subject to aggregate shocks that affect both wages and asset prices.

Economists from around the globe gathered in Pittsburgh to share their ideas and to collaborate on their current and future lines of research.

# Undergraduate Program

## *National Awards*

The undergraduate program congratulates our students who won national awards in 2017.

**Lia Petrose** (BS-Economics 2017) has been awarded a Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Congress established the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in 1975 to commemorate the legacy of the 33rd U.S. President. A highly competitive, merit-based federal scholarship, the honor awards \$30,000 to outstanding college juniors for graduate school and professional development pursuits in preparation for a career in public service leadership. Lia majored in economics, neuroscience, and international and area studies. Lia plans a career in Medicine and Public Health. She is currently working as a data scientist at the Harvard Laboratory for Systems Medicine before attending Medical School.



**Nora Wagman** (BA-Economics 2018), has been awarded a David L. Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program. The David L. Boren Awards for International Study Program is a federally funded national scholarship program which focusses on geographic areas, language, and fields of study critical of U.S. national security including sustainable development, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and environmental degradation. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholars commit to working in the federal government for at least a year after undergraduate or graduate school. Nora is studying Swahili through the African Flagship Languages Initiative in Arusha, Tanzania this academic year.

**Daniel Campbell** (BS-Economics 2017) was recognized as highly commended in Economics by the Undergraduate Awards program in Dublin, Ireland. The Undergraduate Awards is the world's leading undergraduate awards program which recognizes top undergraduate work, shares this work with a global audience and connects students across cultures and disciplines. Students from all over the world submit their research papers, essays or creative work, which is assessed by a panel of international academics and industry leaders.



## *Michael Nites named one of Pittsburgh Magazine's 40 Under 40*

**Michael Nites** (Economics & Industrial Engineering '14) was named one of Pittsburgh Magazine's 40 Under 40 in 2016.

## *Undergraduate Alumni Spotlight*

Aaron Richardson (Economics & Philosophy '13) is currently a second-year investment banking associate at Whitehall & Company, a boutique investment bank specializing in the power generation and infrastructure sectors. Aaron joined Whitehall in 2016 and is focused primarily on project finance and mergers and acquisitions advisory in the renewable energy sector. Previously, Aaron was a Senior Analyst on the investment team at Renewable Energy Trust Capital (RETC), a private investment firm focused on the acquisition of utility-scale wind and solar projects and the establishment of growth partnerships with renewable energy corporations. Prior to RETC, he was an Investment Banking Analyst in the Financial Sponsors Group at KeyBanc Capital Markets. In aggregate, Aaron has worked on transactions totaling over \$5 billion in cumulative enterprise value. During his time at Pitt, Aaron played for the Pitt Rugby Football Club, organized numerous networking opportunities for his fellow economics majors, and served as an Intermediate Macroeconomics Teaching Assistant for two years.

# Undergraduate Program

## *Outstanding Senior Award*

This award is given to the best graduating seniors each year. Selections were made by the Undergraduate Committee based on academic performance and comments from professors about the candidates.

Margaret Church  
Jianing Guo  
Christopher He  
Hao Hu  
Gwendolyn Jarvis  
Stephanie Liang  
Alexander Mang  
Bayard Miller  
Nicholas Reslink  
Gregory Stofanak  
Natalie Vidacs  
Zachary Ward  
Benjamin Wertkin  
Emily Yoder

## *Brackenridge Fellows*

This fellowship is named for the founder of the University of Pittsburgh, Hugh Henry Brackenridge. It supports undergraduates who conduct an independent research project, participate in an interdisciplinary weekly seminar in which they present and discuss their projects, and attend a series of faculty talks, workshops, and panel discussions.

Qingchuan Lyu  
Mallory Perillo  
Meital Rosenberg  
Morgan Thompson  
Andrew Earle  
Jan A. Niec  
Kayko Ohkawa  
Mark Connuck  
Alexander Nally  
Adrienne J. Newcomer  
Emily Yoder

## *Departmental Awards*

*The Asher Isaacs Award for Academic Excellence* recipient is **Daniel Campbell**. This is awarded to a graduating economics major deemed to be the best based on academic performance and faculty comments.

*The Jerome Wells Award* recipients are **Julie Fedick** and **Alexander Nally** for potential to excel in Graduate Studies.

*The David Schenker Essay Prize* was awarded to **Alison Decker** for her paper, "The Impact of Roe v. Wade on Female Labor Force Participation Rate." This contest offers a \$2000 prize to the student who writes a paper that best explores a U.S. policy issue, paying particular attention to how proposed solutions would impact society and illustrating different dimensions of the concept of public interest.

*The Haines Research Grant* was awarded to **Gilbert Arko** for his research project, "Urban Development in the Monongahela Valley." This grant supports research concerning regional economic development in Western Pennsylvania.

*The Rahangdale Research Grant* was awarded to **Andrew Earle** for his research project, "Housing, Blight, and Brownfield Development." This grant supports research concerning manufacturing in Western Pennsylvania.

## *Student Clubs and Activities*

Our undergraduates are increasingly engaged in extracurricular activities as members of one of our clubs (the Undergraduate Economic Society, Women in Economics Club, and Pitt Behavioral Economics Club) or as attendants at Pizza and a Professor or Pizza and a Professional events. The 'Pizza and P' series is often used as an opportunity for our students to learn from our alumni as they share recent research or insight on the many ways in which an economics degree can lead to a successful career. Please let us know if you are interested in speaking at one of these events.

The newly formed Women in Economics Club was formed by two undergraduate economics majors, Nicole Chheda and Manpeert Dhankhar. Nicole and Manpreet started the club to raise awareness of the under-representation of undergraduate women in economics. The goals of the organization include promoting an inclusive community within the field of economics, engaging students, faculty, and others in conversation about the future of the field of economics; and finding opportunities to help members better understand their career goals.

# Graduate Program

## *Award Winners*

### *Best Second-Year Paper Award*

**Jiyeon Kim** was awarded the Best Second-Year Paper Award for her paper, "The Distributional Effects of Business Cycles on Schooling Choices". This award is given to the student whose second-year paper has the highest publication potential. The winner is selected by the Director of Graduate Studies and members of the Graduate Committee based on the quality of the second-year paper presentation, overall quality of the final version of the paper, and evaluation form submitted by two faculty readers.

### *Graduate Student Teaching Award*

The recipient of this year's award is **Jakub Lonsky**. In recognition of teaching excellence, it is given to a graduate student who served as primary instructor of a summer course. Winners are selected by a committee consisting of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Directors of Undergraduate Studies.

### *Reuben E. Slesinger Graduate Fellowship Award*

**Sierra Hall** is the recipient of the Reuben E. Slesinger Graduate Fellowship Award, given each year to the most-promising incoming student. Sierra received the title of Slesinger Fellow for the academic year as well as a stipend and tuition scholarship.

### *Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Recipients*

These fellowships are awarded annually to students of exceptional ability and promise in PhD programs in the social sciences. The three recipients of the fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year are **Mallory Avery, Mark Azic, and Jessica Lavoice**.

### *Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship Recipients*

The Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences awards Mellon Fellowships each year to students of exceptional promise and ability. Three students in the Department received Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowships for the 2017-2018 academic year.



Sijie Li



Jakub Lonsky



Yi Han



# Graduate Program

## 2017 Graduate Student Placements

**LuLu Liu** is employed by Amazon, Inc., in Seattle Washington as a research economist. Dr. Liu's dissertation was entitled, "Essays on Health, Entrepreneurship, and the Labor Market." Her dissertation advisors were Daniel Berkowitz, Thomas Rawski, and Frank Giarratani.



**Siying Liu** is a research associate at IMPAQ International LLC headquartered in Columbia, MD. Dr. Liu's dissertation was, "Essays on Health and Labor Market Policies," and her committee members were Daniel Berkowitz, Daniele Coen-Pirani, Julia Driessen, and Werner Troesken.



**Ho Ching (Angela) Mak** joins the University of St. Thomas as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics. Dr. Mak's dissertation was titled, "Essays on Health and Labor Policies." Her committee members were Daniel Berkowitz, Rania Gihleb, and Marla Ripoll.



**Evan Piermont** joins Royal Holloway College of the University of London as a Lecturer (tenure track). Dr. Piermont is a member of their micro theory group, having published three papers, two of which are in leading theory journals upon completion of his PhD. His committee members were Luca Rigotti and Roe Teper.



**Ethan Schmick** joins Washington and Jefferson College's Department of Economics as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Schmick's dissertation was titled, "Unions, Pellagra, and Schools in American Economic Development." His committee members were Werner Troesken, Karen Clay (CMU), Allison Shertzer and Randall Walsh.



**Yingjun Su** is an Assistant Professor at Jinan University's Institute for Economic and Social Research. Dr. Su's dissertation was, "New Perspectives on Manufacturing Using Microdata." Her committee members were Thomas Rawski, Loren Brandt (CMU), Arie Beresteanu and Frank Giarratani.



**Richard Svoboda** is a health economist at the Lewin Group, Headquartered in Falls Church, VA. Dr. Svoboda's dissertation was entitled "Essays on the Market for Higher Education and Public Policies." Members of his thesis committee: Daniele Coen-Pirani, Dennis Epple (CMU), Marla Ripoll, and Doug Hanley.



**Xiaoxi Zhao** is employed by Amazon Inc., in Seattle, Washington as a research economist. Dr. Zhao's dissertation was, "Environmental Regulation, Pollution, and Public Health." His dissertation committee was comprised of Randall Walsh, Arie Beresteanu, and Werner Troesken.



### *Terri Waters Alumni Seminar*

**Jonathan Lafky** (Class of 2010) is an Assistant Professor at Carleton College. On October 12, 2015 Professor Lafky presented the Terri Waters Alumni Seminar titled "Laboratory Experiments on Incentives for Online Ratings".

### *Alumni News Corner*

**Torsten Jochem** (Class of 2013) is currently at the University of Amsterdam. His paper, co-authored with T. Ladika and Z. Sautner, "The Retention Effects of Unvested Equity: Evidence from Accelerated Option Vestings," was accepted at the Review of Financial Studies.

**Serda Selin Östürk** (Class of 2009) received tenure at Istanbul Bilgi University in Istanbul, Turkey.

# Graduate Program

## *Presentations, Papers & Collaborations*

The Department is pleased to report on the presentations, papers, and collaborations of its graduate students over the past year. The following students are among those who participated in conferences and poster sessions, or had their works published.

**Felipe Augusto de Araujo** presented his paper, "The Times They are A-Changin'; But are we Changin' with 'em? Experiments on Dynamic Adverse Selection" at the 68<sup>th</sup> North Conference in Behavioral Economics in Lofoten, Norway. He also submitted the paper for publication, which is currently under review.

**Prottoy Akbar** presented his second-year paper, "Access to Public Transit and Neighborhood Diversity," in Vancouver, BC at the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) conference in November. His paper, "Profit Sharing and Peer Reporting," (joint with Jeffrey Carpenter and Andrea Robbett) was accepted at the journal *Management Science*.

**Yi Han** presented her paper, "Government-encouraged Denunciation, Blame-shifting and Trust: Evidence from China's One Child Policy," at the Ronald Coase Institute Workshop, Xiamen University in China in May 2017.

**Sijie Li** participated in a poster session in the annual Economic History Association meeting in San Jose at September, with a poster titled, "Migration and Intergenerational Transmission of Economic Status."

**Jakub Lonsky** presented his working paper, "Immigration and Work Schedules: Theory and Evidence," co-authored with Osea Giuntella and Timothy Bond (Purdue University) at the 29th Annual Conference of European Association of Labour Economists in St. Gallen, Switzerland on September 22. He also had a poster at the Second Workshop on Immigration, Health and Well-Being at Oxford, UK on June 6 titled, "Does Immigration Decrease Far-Right Popularity? Evidence from Finnish Municipalities."

**Domonkos Vamossy** presented his paper, "Investor Attention & Earnings Announcement Returns," at the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) meeting held in Antigonish, Nova Scotia on June 2-4, and again at the Bank of Hungary in August.

**Siqiang Yang** presented at the 2017 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Hong Kong, June 3-5, 2017 and the 2017 China Meeting of the Econometric Society, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, June 9-11. She also presented her paper, "Nominal Exchange Rate Volatility, Default Risk and Reserve Accumulation," at the Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings at the University of Pittsburgh, November 3 -5.

## Chancellor's Weekend 2017



The PEEL group hosted the Chancellor's weekend on Jan 27, 2017. Our undergraduates and graduates were tremendously helpful in hosting this very successful event. Back row, from left: Michael Coutinho, Stephanie McFarland, Prottoy Akbar, Alistair Wilson, Kanatip Winichakul, and Neeraja Gupta. Front row, from left: David Danz, Lise Vesterlund, and Stephanie Wang).

# Faculty News

## *New Faculty*



**Jason Cook** joins the Department of Economics as an Assistant Professor after receiving his doctorate from Cornell University. Currently, he is studying how a policy that increased school racial segregation impacted student achievement and college attendance as well as teacher mobility. He is also exploring whether distance to grocery stores affects food stamp usage. Finally, he is evaluating the educational impacts of the Whirlpool Care Counts program, which provides washing machines to urban schools and allows low-income students to have their laundry cleaned while they attend classes.



**Osea Giuntella** has been appointed as an Assistant Professor, after serving as a visiting assistant professor during the 2016-2017 academic year. He completed his PhD at Boston University and a postdoc at Oxford University. His main research interests are in Health, Labor Economics and Economic Demography. His current work focuses on two main areas: the effects of immigration on the demand for health care, and the economics of risky behavior (e.g. sleep deprivation, obesity).



**Yogita Shamdasani** joins the Department of Economics as an Assistant Professor after receiving her PhD at Columbia University. Her research focuses on topics in development and labor economics. Her recent work explores how transportation infrastructure alters agricultural productivity, as well as the impact of relative pay comparisons in the workplace on worker productivity.



**Richard van Weelden** joins the Department of Economics as an Associate Professor. He received his PhD in Economics from Yale University, and was previously faculty at the University of Chicago. His research uses game theory to study how elections shape policymaking. In recent work he has explored the causes and consequences of political polarization, the extent to which elections reveal information about what policies candidates will pursue if elected, as well as the reasons why voters may turn to non-traditional, outsider candidates.



**Margarita Zabelina** has been appointed as a Lecturer, after serving as a Visiting Lecturer during the 2016-17 academic year. She received her PhD from Emory University. She specializes in empirical macroeconomics, monetary economics, and Bayesian methods. She has been teaching a number of courses ranging from large introductory to small upper-level classes.

# Faculty News

## *Faculty Promotions*

Congratulations to the four faculty who received promotions for the 2017 - 2018 academic year.



**Marla Ripoll**  
Professor



**Randy Walsh**  
Professor



**Roe Teper**  
Associate Professor



**Alistair Wilson**  
Associate Professor

## *Emeritus Faculty*

Five of our most dedicated faculty were, upon retirement, awarded the status of Emeritus Faculty of the Department of Economics. We thank them for their significant research and teaching contributions to the Department, the University, and to the profession.



**Senior Lecturer**  
**Shirley Cassing**



**Professor**  
**Frank Giarratani**



**Professor**  
**Steven Husted**



**Professor**  
**James Cassing**



**Professor**  
**Thomas Rawski**

# Faculty News

## Faculty Highlights

**Stefania Albanesi** has been appointed as a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research in the Economic Fluctuations and Growth group, as well as co-editor of the *Review of Economic Dynamics*. On December 6, 2016, she gave a keynote speech at the 17th IWH-CIREQ-GW Macroeconometric Workshop: Inequality, micro data and macroeconomics.



The Study Abroad Office and **Svitlana Maksymenko's** collaborative efforts to build and develop faculty-led study abroad programs were among the many achievements that contributed to the University of Pittsburgh being selected as one of four institutions nationwide to receive NAFSA's 2017 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization.



**Daniel Berkowitz** is the incoming President for the Association for Comparative Economic Studies. He will organize the annual conference panels for the 2019 ASSA meetings, and will replace Gerard Roland as President in 2019.

**Tymofiy Mylovanov** has received the Leader of Change National Award in Ukraine for Leadership, founded by Deloitte, Dragon Capital, and Nobels Fortune.



**David Huffman's** research was featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, showing that, "more patient people grow richer and healthier than their more impetuous peers, according to a new study that compares elderly Americans' willingness to delay financial gratification with their personal characteristics and lifetime outcomes."



**Werner Troesken** and his former PhD students Brian Beach (William and Mary) and Martin Saavedra (Oberlin College) were awarded the Arthur H. Cole Prize for the best paper published in the *Journal of Economic History* for "Typhoid Fever, Water Quality, and Human Capital Formation" (joint with Joseph Ferrie).

**Andrea La Nauze** and **Graham Beattie** have been awarded a grant from the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and the Provost's Office for their paper, "Learning about sustainability: social learning via solar panel adoption."



**Lise Vesterlund** delivered a keynote speech at the 4th Science of Philanthropy Innovations Conference held at The University of Chicago September 6 - 7, 2017. Her current *American Economic Review* publications led to two research highlight interviews by the American Economic Association ([aeaweb.org](http://aeaweb.org)).

