

Fall 2019 Highlights

SEPTEMBER



What is Suffering Worth? Perspectives Across Disciplines on the Treatment of Victims, September 10, 2019

This interdisciplinary symposium held at the University’s Maison Française explored a crucial but little-studied issue with growing importance today: what is the value of harm suffered by victims, whether of terrorism, crime or natural disasters.

This symposium was co-sponsored by the University Paris-1 Panthéon Sorbonne, CNRS, Maison Française, Columbia Department of Economics and Center for Contemporary Critical Thought.

The Third Annual Columbia Conference on Economic Theory, September 13-14, 2019

This iteration of the CCET conference featured discussions on a variety of topics, including monopoly regulation (**Yingni Guo**, Northwestern), survey design (**Sylvain Chassang**, NYU), and free information in trade (**Doron Ravid**, U Chicago). The conference was sponsored by Columbia University’s Program for Economic Research (PER) and the Microeconomic Theory Initiative (MTI). Faculty organizers included **Yeon-Koo Che** (Columbia) and **Evan Sadler** (Columbia).



PER Mini Course with David Blei, September 26-27, 2019

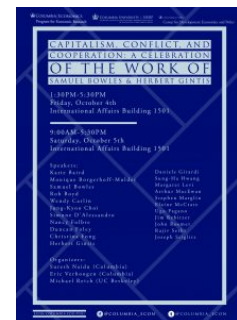
In this two-day Mini Course titled “Variational Inference: Foundations and Innovations”, Professor **David Blei** (Columbia) discussed probabilistic modeling and Bayesian statistics’ importance in the computation of probability distributions.

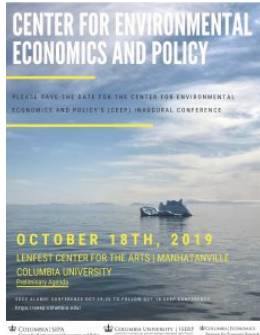
OCTOBER

Capitalism, Conflict and Cooperation: A Celebration of the Work of Samuel Bowles & Herbert Gintis, October 4-5, 2019

This conference celebrated the work of **Samuel Bowles** (Santa Fe Institute, UM Amherst, University of Siena, CORE) and **Herbert Gintis** (Santa Fe Institute, Central European University), American economists known for their contributions to the study of the U.S. education system.

This conference was sponsored by Columbia University’s Program for Economic Research (PER), the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISERP), and the Center for Development Economics Policy (CDEP). Faculty organizers included **Suresh Naidu** (Columbia), **Eric Verhoogen** (Columbia), and **Michael Reich** (UC Berkeley).





The Center for Environmental Economics and Policy's Inaugural Conference, October 18, 2019

The inaugural conference of the Center for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP) was held on Friday, October 18th. Following a keynote by **James Stock** (Harvard), current and former students presented research findings in the four focus areas of the CEEP: (i) Climate Change, (ii) Ecosystem Services, (iii) Health, and (iv) Policy Design.

This conference was sponsored by Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Program for Economic Research (PER), and School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Conference faculty organizers included **Douglas Almond** (Columbia) and **Wolfram Schlenker** (Columbia).

An American Dilemma for the 21st Century, October 30, 2019

Seventy-five years ago, Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal published the influential work, *An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy*. For Myrdal and his collaborators, the central dilemma was the unresolved tension of the “American creed”—the celebration of ideals of equal opportunity and democracy, in the face of deep and enduring racial discrimination and inequality. The dilemma has changed, but it has not receded. This anniversary of An American Dilemma offers an occasion to revisit and reassess the “American creed.”



This event was sponsored by The Social Science Research Council; the Program for Economic Research, Department of Economics, the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, the Division of Social Science, and the Center on African American Politics and Society at Columbia University; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Institute for New Economic Thinking; and Russell Sage Foundation

NOVEMBER



Leveraging Big Data to Manage Extreme Weather Risks?, November 12, 2019

Extreme weather episodes such as Hurricane Sandy of 2012 and California Wildfires of 2018 led to significant human displacement and billions of dollars of economic damage spread across utility, real estate and other commercial sectors. Scientists predict that climate change will lead to more frequent and extreme weather risks. This evening panel was the first in a series of events on the economic and financial applications of alternative data sponsored by Capital Fund Management (CFM) and Columbia University's Program for Economic Research (PER).

DECEMBER

The Seventh Columbia University Conference in Political Economy, December 13, 2019

This year's Columbia University Conference in Political Economy featured discussions on racial integration and busing programs (**Ethan Kaplan**, Maryland), sequential vote buying (**Ying Chen**, Johns Hopkins), and political engagement in the time of protest movements (**David Yang**, Harvard).



We are grateful to Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic and Research and Policy in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (ISERP), Program for Economic Research (PER), Economics

Department, and Political Science Department for financial support. This year's faculty organizers were **Alessandra Casella** (Columbia) and **John Marshall** (Columbia).

PER Weekly Visitors



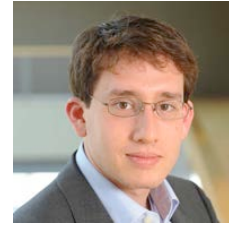
Andreas Kleiner
Arizona State University



Simon Jäger
MIT



Kyungmin (Teddy) Kim
Emory University



Alex Frankel
University of Chicago

This fall, the Program for Economic Research hosted four faculty members from peer institutions such as Emory University, MIT, Arizona State University and the University of Chicago. A special thanks for all faculty nominations!

PER Faculty Lunch Series

José Scheinkman, Thursday, September 12, 2019

We hope you enjoyed the semester with us and look forward to welcoming you to more events and activities this spring.