

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Faculty and Students

From: Harrison Hong  
John R. Eckel, Jr. Professor of Financial Economics  
Executive Director, Program for Economic Research

Date: September 1, 2019

Re: **Fall 2019**

---

This fall we will sponsor 20 public events, and host three faculty members from MIT, Emory, and Arizona State University. In addition, we will sponsor a diverse portfolio of academic programs and initiatives including workshops, conferences, short term visits to Columbia by scholars, and provide grants to students to aid their research in the field.

We have a great line up of events in the months ahead. Below is a list of our main activities and additional information about resources.

➤ **Activities for the Fall Semester**

○ **Conferences:**

- Franco-American Conference in Law, Criminology, Economics, History and Philosophy: What is Suffering Worth? Perspectives Across Disciplines on the Treatment of Victims, September 10
- Third Annual Columbia Conference on Economic Theory (CCET), September 13-14
- Capitalism, Conflict and Cooperation: A Celebration of the Work of Samuel Bowles & Herbert Gintis, October 4-5
- The Center for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP) Inaugural Conference, October 18
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of An America Dilemma, October 30
- Political Economy Conference, December 13

**PER Mini-Course Series:**

- David Blei (Columbia), September 26-27

○ **PER Weekly Visitors:**

- Andreas Kleiner (Arizona State University), Week of October 21
- Simon Jäger (MIT), Week of October 28
- Kyungmin [Teddy] Kim (Emory), Week of November 4

○ **PER Faculty Lunch Series:**

- José Alexandre Scheinkman, Thursday, September 12

- **Special Evening Panel:**
  - Extreme Weather and the Economy, Tuesday, November 12
- **Funding & Research Support for Graduate Students**
  - **Field or Experimental Research:** PER will provide grants (up to \$5,000) to students who seek to engage in field or experimental research. The PER Research Grant places priority on projects that seek to identify new areas of methodological innovation or bridges different substantive domains. Projects may be domestic, international, or comparative. The **Call for Proposals** will be **distributed September 15.**
  - **Data Purchase:** PER will provide a one-time grant (up to \$5,000) to doctoral candidates who wish to purchase data sets for their Ph.D. research. To apply, a student must submit a 5-page research proposal detailing the use of data for his/her research, accompanied by letters of endorsement by two advisors. The funding will be conditional on the research carried out not being co-authored with advisors; and the funding decision will take favorably into account a proposal that will make the data available for other students and has the advisors offering to match a share of the expense. The **Call for Proposals** will be **distributed September 15.**
  - **Student Editing:** PER will provide \$500 per student during the Ph.D. program for English editing services, under the condition that the sponsoring faculty member(s) match the PER contribution.
  - **Fly-Out Assistance:** PER will provide support to job-market candidates in Ph.D. program who need assistance traveling for interviews.
  - **Conference Travel:** PER will reimburse students enrolled in the Ph.D. program 50% of conference-related expenses up to a maximum commitment of \$400.
  - **Faculty | Student Lunch:** PER will help cover the costs of Faculty - Student lunch with 1<sup>st</sup> year Ph.D. students. Each lunch should have 2-5 students, and at least one faculty member. PER will reimburse \$20 per person (excluding tax and tip). Faculty are expected to cover any overage. You can submit a regular reimbursement request indicating that the expense is for a “1st year students-faculty lunch”. Each faculty member is welcome to host more than one lunch with non-overlapping groups of students.
- **Working Paper Series (Online)**
  - **The Columbia Economics Discussion Paper (DP) Series:** The DP series will publish faculty research at the pre-publication stage. (Columbia Ph.D. candidates at an advanced stage, typically in the job market year, may publish papers in the DP series with the endorsement of at least two faculty members within the Department.) For more information, please contact Eric Vlach ([eric.vlach@columbia.edu](mailto:eric.vlach@columbia.edu)).

I invite you to reach out to Sophia Johnson, Assistant Director for PER ([sj2482@columbia.edu](mailto:sj2482@columbia.edu)), with your ideas and interests, and become part of our growing research community. Again, thanks so much for your continued support and engagement.

With all best wishes,

*Harrison Hong*