

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Students

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

Date: January 21, 2020

Re: **Spring 2020**

The Spring semester is underway, and I am delighted to announce the Program for Economic Research (PER) has an exciting line-up of programs and events. PER will sponsor 15 public events, and host seven faculty members from Caltech, MIT, Harvard, Stanford, and UPENN – and each contributing research that has significantly shaped the decisions driving corporate finance, market design, and public policy.

In a few short weeks we will announce the call for PER Summer Research Fellow, which provide grants for Ph.D. and M.A. students to work jointly with faculty.

Through our working paper series, we will continue to publish faculty research at the pre-publication stage. 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.

Finally, congratulations to the Department's 17 Ph.D. students and 13 PIs – recipients of PER funding for Field or Experimental Research and Data Purchases.

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 Spring Semester**

- **Special Events:**
 - 12th Annual Kenneth J. Arrow Lecture, Keynote by Colin Camerer (Caltech), March 5, 2020
 - PER Distinguished Lecture, Featuring Eric Maskin (Harvard), April 8, 2020
 - Evening Lecture | Richard Clarida, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 14, 2020
- **Conferences:**
 - Curiosity, Creativity and Complexity Conference, May 18-19, 2020
- **PER Faculty Lunch Series:**
 - Stephanie Schmitt-Grohé, Thursday, March 5, 2020

- **PER Mini-Course Series:**
 - Serguei Maliar (Stanford), February 27-28
 - Jesús Fernandez Villaverde (UPENN), April 2-3
 - Yuliy Sannikov (Stanford), April 23-24
- **PER Weekly Visitors:**
 - Luciano Pomatto (Caltech), March 8-13
 - Alp Simsek (MIT), March 23-28
 - Eric Maskin (Harvard), April 6-10
 - Jean-Charles Rochet (Swiss Finance Institute), April 20-24
- **Other Events**
 - Book Talk | Alison Schragger, Author of An Economist Walks into a Brothel, March 31, 2020
- **Funding & Research Support for Graduate Students**
 - **PER Summer Research Fellow:** PER will award up to 17 grants of \$2,000 each for Ph.D. student working with a faculty in the Department of Economics; and, award up to 3 grants of \$2,000 each for MA student elected by a faculty in the Department of Economics. Summer Research Fellows work jointly with a faculty member. The Call for Proposals will be distributed March 1, 2020.
 - **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 1st 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).
- **Code of Conduct**
 - The Program for Economic Research (PER) is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment to everyone who works, studies and interacts with us at public events. PER abides by Columbia University’s commitment to principles of equity and excellence which can be read in

its entirety [here](#). PER promotes a safe environment, free from any type of discrimination or harassment, with the following expectations:

1. Be respectful of every person regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof) or manner of articulation.
2. Maintain a harassment-free environment. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. The university strongly encourages those who have experiences, witnessed or become aware of conduct that violates this policy to come forward so that the University can take appropriate steps to prevent such conduct from occurring in the future and to ameliorate its effects. The University will protect the privacy of those who come forward to the extent possible and permissible by law. To report any incidents, please see the EOAA website: <https://eoaa.columbia.edu/>.
3. Abide by [Columbia's University's Statement of Ethical Conduct](#).

I invite you to reach out to Sophia Johnson, Assistant Director for PER (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 best wishes for the New Year!

Harrison Hong