

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Faculty and Students  
From: David E. Weinstein  
Executive Director, Program for Economic Research  
Date: January 22, 2019  
Re: **Spring 2019**

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This spring we will sponsor fifteen public events, and host eight faculty members from peer institutions such as Stanford, Harvard, Yale, University of Chicago and London School of Economics. In addition, we will continue supporting graduate students with PER's funding for research, student editing services, conference travel, and additional support for data construction costs and experiments.

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**

○ **PER Distinguished Lectures:**

- Harald Uhlig (University of Chicago): Friday, April 19, 2019

**PER Mini-Course Series:**

- Tim Roughgarden (Stanford)
- Xavier Gabaix (Harvard)

○ **PER Weekly Visitors:**

- Dionissi Aliprantis (Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland): Week of February 25<sup>th</sup>
- Camille Landais (London School of Economics): Week of March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Conrad Miller (Berkeley): Week of April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Yusuke Narita (Yale): Week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Rema Hanna (Harvard): Week of April 29<sup>th</sup>

○ **PER Faculty Lunch Series:**

- Serena Ng, Thursday February 28, 2019
- Eric Verhoogen, Thursday May 9, 2019

○ **Conferences:**

- **America and the New Protectionism**, featuring Paul Krugman (*Distinguished Professor, Graduate Center, The City University of New York*), Pinelopi K. Goldberg (*Chief Economist*)

*of the World Bank Group; Elihu Professor of Economics, Yale University), David E. Weinstein, and Amit Khandelwal, Monday, April 1, 2019*

- **The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Dilemma**, Thursday, April 25, 2019
- **Other Special Events:**
  - **The Economics of Early Childhood Intervention**, featuring Janet Currie, Jane Waldfogel, Douglas Almond, Miguel Urquiola, and David Weinstein, Tuesday March 5, 2019
- **Funding for Research Support for Graduate Students**
  - **Support for Data Purchase:** PER will provide support for students 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.
  - **Student Editing Support Program:** PER will provide \$500 per person during the 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 who need assistance traveling for interviews.
  - **Conference Travel:** PER will reimburse 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.
  - **Summer RA Support Program:** PER will award up to 20 summer RA grants of \$2,000 each for Ph.D. students working with a faculty in the department. The Call for Proposal will distributed Spring 2019.
- **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 unique research community. Again, thanks so much for your continued support and engagement.

With all best wishes,

*Dr. Williams*