

International Economic Relations
International Economics

Winter Newsletter 2019

January 4, 2019

THANK YOU PROFESSOR PORZECANSKI !



Thank you to Prof. Porzecanski for his six years of service as Director of our International Economic Relations Program and Co-Director of our International Economics Program. Professor Porzecanski has been a dedicated servant and tireless advocate of our programs in his relationship with students, alumni, faculty and our administration. Among many of the positive changes that have occurred during Professor Porzecanski's leadership, a hallmark has been the conceptualization and implementation of our International Economics Program in a joint venture with the economics department. Professor Porzecanski joined our SIS faculty in 2005 after a distinguished 30-year career as an emerging markets chief economist at several prominent financial institutions. In that year, he was also named a "Legacy Laureate" by his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh, for his outstanding professional accomplishments on Wall Street. Our students have benefitted greatly and will continue to benefit from Professor Porzecanski's guidance, patience and his genuine concern for their professional development. Besides teaching his regular course in International Economics, he will offer a course in International Finance and Emerging Markets next Fall.

WELCOME NEW IER FACULTY !



Stefanie Onder

Professor Onder joined the SIS faculty in 2017 in a tenure line position with a research expertise in development and environmental economics. After completing her PhD in Economics at the London School of Economics, Stefanie entered the prestigious Young Professional Program at the World Bank. At the Bank, she worked as an Environmental Economist and then as a Senior Environmental Economist with a focus on key development issues in natural resource management with an emphasis on natural capital accounting, livelihoods of the natural resource-dependent poor as well as climate mitigation and adaptation. Professor Onder's current research focuses on analyzing the economic and social factors that explain refugees' decision to move spontaneously. She combines large administrative micro datasets with household surveys to study both the actual returns of refugees as well as their return intentions. Her research program also informs the policy analysis of the World Bank and the United Nations (UNHCR). In our Master's Program, Professor Onder is teaching courses in Environmental Economics and Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation.



Austin Davis

Professor Davis completed his PhD in Economics in at the University of Michigan last year and has subsequently been a post-doc at Yale University's MacMillan Center before starting his tenure line teaching position at SIS this Fall. His research focuses on major transitions in developing-country labor markets and agriculture, and how such transitions interact with environmental forces. Professor Davis is currently studying issues of social safety nets, forced migration, and labor mobility in South Asia. He is part of a team developing a randomized controlled trial to improve the delivery of social safety net benefits in Bangladesh. He is a principal investigator on the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey, a large longitudinal survey focused on the wellbeing of hosts and refugees in a community that recently received nearly a million refugees. In addition to forced migration, he is also studying economic migration with a randomized controlled trial that attempts to match rural job seekers with urban employers in Southern India. In our Master's Program, Professor Davis is teaching courses in Economic Development and Statistical Methods.

CONGRATULATIONS PROF. JENNIFER POOLE !



Congratulations to Prof. Jennifer Poole on receiving tenure and being promoted to Associate Professor as of AY 2018-19. Professor Poole joined our SIS faculty in 2015 after serving as Senior International Economist at the Council of Economic Advisors in the Executive Office of President Obama. Prior to her appointment at the White House, Professor Poole was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz and worked also at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Professor Poole's research falls at the intersection of international trade, labor economics and development economics.

Professor Poole has established herself as a leading researcher in her field and made an international name for herself by employing new empirical approaches to identify the causal impact of different aspects of economic globalization -like trade, foreign direct investment and migration on labor market outcomes. She is internationally known for being a pioneer and virtuous user of an extremely detailed matched employer-employee dataset on the Brazilian economy. Professor Poole has been ranked in the top 5% of female economists worldwide according to IDEAS database. In our Master's Program, Professor Poole is teaching courses in International Economics and Economic Development.

IER FALL RECEPTION



On Friday, September 16, Professors Daniel and Laura Bernhofen hosted the IER/IE Fall Welcome Party for new and returning students, faculty and their families at their home. Food and conversation were thoroughly enjoyed, and no one could have asked for a more beautiful Washington evening to reconnect and get to know the new members of our IER/IE community!



FALL ALUMNI PANEL

On Friday, October 26, IER/IE held the Fall 2018 session of its Careers in International Economic Relations series. Alumni and students joined together for a panel discussion, question-and-answer, and networking opportunity over dinner. Professor Daniel Bernhofen, the new Director of the International Economic Relations and International Economics MA programs, moderated the discussion. We would like to thank the following alums for their participation and insight:

Paul A. Pavwoski '05 – U.S. Department of State

Paul Pavwoski is an Economic Officer at the U.S. Department of State. He is currently in training for an assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, where he will be the lead officer covering energy issues beginning in September 2019. During his time at the Department of State, Paul has also worked extensively on economic policy issues during previous international duty assignments in Pakistan and South Africa. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of State as a diplomat, Paul worked on international trade negotiations as a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Laura Murad '14 – U.S. Department of Treasury

Laura Murad is an Analyst/Research Specialist with the U.S. Department of Treasury. She serves as a member of a team that conducts research and analysis and evaluates transactional and other financial data to produce finished products for Treasury leadership to inform the development of policies and strategies related to threat finance and counterterrorism efforts.

Alex Choy '14 - Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Alex Choy, CFA, is an Associate Director at Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). OPIC is the US Government's development finance institution. As an asset manager, he manages a portfolio of loans financed in emerging markets for both a financial return and development

outcomes. These loans span across sectors and geographies, including sustainable agriculture, renewable and traditional power, telecommunications and financial institutions. These loans are primarily project finance and corporate loans.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT : Benjamin Lundin

Study Abroad: Geneva Summer Program: International Affairs, Trade, and Development



Benjamin Lundin, a second year IER student participated in the Geneva Summer Program. Here is what he had to say about his experience :

"The Summer Program in Geneva, Switzerland was absolutely fantastic. The central theme of the program was to take a critical look at multilateral institutions, evaluate their efficacy, and collaborate on potential innovations or changes to make these institutions more valuable to the citizens of the world.

The program was two weeks long and each day covered a different topic led by a different professor. Some of my favorite parts of the program included a full day seminar on migration led by Khalid Koser, executive director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund; a full day seminar on Transnational Terrorism led by Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, former Associate Director of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University; and a half day seminar on global warming, led by Jorge Vinales from the University of Cambridge. We also got to attend a panel discussion on the Brexit Negotiations with Liam Fox, Secretary of State for International Trade for the United Kingdom. Besides the in class seminars, we were able to get a guided tour of the United Nations, and two presentations at the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

Overall, I was really thrilled to spend 2 weeks of my summer in a foreign country (to itch my travel bug) and to receive 3 credits from AU along the way. This was an incredibly rewarding, engaging and unique experience that I wouldn't have been able to have here in the United States and I really feel like it supplemented my studies and career aspirations well. "

SIS Research cluster on the Global Economy and Development

IER Professors Daniel Bernhofen and Jennifer Poole are co-organizing a SIS research cluster on the 'Global Economy and Development', where scholars from SIS, the DC area and beyond present their latest research. The seminars take place on Mondays and all are welcome to attend.

Global Economy & Development Cluster Seminar Seminar Spring 2019

Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm, SIS 300

January 28: Shushanik Hakobyan (International Monetary Fund)

February 11: Jennifer Poole (American University, SIS)

March 4 : Megan Stewart (American University, SIS)

March 25: Raphael Calel (Georgetown University)

April 1: Adrienne LeBas (American University, School of PublicAffairs)

April 22: Joshua Linn (Resources For the Future)

April 29: Michael Clemens (Center for Global Development)

May 6: Emily Sellars (Yale University)

Contacts: Daniel Bernhofen (dbernhof@american.edu) or Jennifer Poole (poole@american.edu)

IER Faculty Research and Professional Activities

Daniel Bernhofen published two research papers this fall. “[On the genius behind David Ricardo’s 1817 formulation of comparative advantage](#)” (joint with John C. Brown) appeared in the Fall 2018 issue of the Journal of Economic Perspectives and “Quantity restrictions and price adjustments of Chinese textile exports to the US” (joint with Richard Upward and Zheng Wang), appeared in the November 2018 issue of The World Economy. Bernhofen presented his research at the CESifo area conference on the Global Economy in Munich, Germany, and at the Washington Area International Trade Symposium at the Inter American Development Bank in Washington DC.

Claire Brunel’s research paper “Two Birds, One Stone? Local Pollution Regulation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions” (joint with Erik P. Johnson) has been accepted for publication in Energy Economics. Brunel presented her research at Georgetown University, University of Oslo, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Tenth International Conference on Climate Change, University of California Santa Cruz, Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Conference, World Congress of Environmental Economics, Government Accountability Office, University of Maryland and at the Southern Economic Association.

Miles Kahler convened forty experts for a June 2018 workshop at the Council on Foreign Relations on the topic of “Global Governance to Combat Illicit Financial Flows: Measurement, Evaluation, Innovation.” In October, he published a discussion paper collection of the same title on [Cfr.org](#), which included his contribution, “Countering Illicit Financial Flows: Expanding Agenda, Fragmented Governance.” Kahler’s 2018 publications have also included “Global Governance: Three Futures” in International Studies Review. On leave from SIS during fall semester 2018, Kahler joined the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto as a Distinguished Fellow. He gave presentations on global governance at the Center for China and Globalization in Beijing, at a workshop at Fudan University, Shanghai, at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and at the Munk School.

Stefanie Onder’s World Bank research paper WPS 8462 “[Understanding forests' contribution to poverty alleviation : a framework for interventions in forested areas](#)” (joint with Priya Shyamsundar, Sofia Ahlroth, and Patti Kristjanson) received a revise and resubmit. Her paper “A systematic map of evidence on the contribution of forests to poverty alleviation” (joint with Samantha H. Cheng, Kavita MacLeod, Sofia Ahlroth, Emilie Perge, Priya Shyamsundar, Pushpendra Rana, Ruth Garside, Patti Kristjanson, Madeleine C. McKinnon and Daniel C. Miller) is also in ‘revise and resubmit’ status. In addition Onder published a chapter, entitled “Managing Natural Resource Use – How Ecosystem Accounts Helped in the Philippines” in the Handbook of the International Political Economy of Energy and Natural Resources. Onder also presented her research at the Washington Area Climate and Energy Research Workshop.

Jennifer Poole discussed a paper as part of an IMF Session on The Economic Impact of Globalization at the 2018 American Economic Association meetings. Poole also presented her new paper “How are Firms Organized? A Descriptive Analysis of Establishment Networks” and discussed two other papers at the Southern Economic Association meetings in Washington, DC in November.

Arturo Porzecanski published his paper “[Debunking the Relevance of the Debt-to-GDP Ratio,](#)” in the March issue of World Economics and also a book chapter, entitled “[Human Rights and Sovereign Debts](#)”

in the Context of Property and Creditor Rights,” in the edited volume Sovereign Debt and Human Rights, published by Oxford University Press in December. He was interviewed on various economics issues by CNN en Español in [March](#), [May](#) and [September](#). The Financial Times published in September his Letter to the Editor (“[The crisis in Argentina undermines the IMF’s case](#)”). Porzecanski also gave two invited lectures on “[Perspectives for Emerging Markets and the Southern Cone](#),” and on “[Argentina: Lessons of the 2002-2016 default](#)” in Uruguay. He was also featured in extensive interviews on current economic affairs published by newspapers in Argentina (La Nación in October, [here](#)) and Uruguay (Crónicas, El Observador and El País in November, [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), as well as a Latin American financial magazine in Florida (Funds Society in September, [here](#)).

Stephen Silvia published a chapter, entitled “Participatory Governance in Employment Relations”, in the Handbook on Participatory Governance. He also published “[What is the WTO?](#)” in the July 3 issue of The Conversation, and “The United Auto Workers Attempts to unionize Volkswagen, Chattanooga” in the May 2018 issue of the Industrial and Labor Relations Review. Silvia also presented his paper “Can Unions Import Power? Five U.S. Case Studies,” at the American Political Science Association meeting in Boston and his paper “German Trade Union Attempts to Export Power,” at the Labor Employment Research Association annual meeting in Baltimore. Silvia also received an American Political Science Association Centennial Center / Second Century Fund Grant for his research “Transnational Cooperation in the United Auto Workers’ Efforts to Organize Workers at Foreign-owned Vehicle Assembly Plants in the Southern United States”.

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