Focus on Regulation

Continuing a long tradition of focusing on regulation and regulatory issues, the Center is pleased to announce that Susan Dudley will give the talk “Red Tape and Regulation: A View from Washington” on November 10 as part of the Public Policy Breakfast program.

Americans seem to be more aware of federal regulations than ever before, as new stories frequently cover regulatory regimes aimed at health care, workplace standards, financial markets, energy production, and the environment. Susan Dudley has lived and breathed regulation for over three decades, serving in the White House, at regulatory agencies, and in academia. She will speak with us about recent trends in regulatory activity, what to expect as “midnight” approaches (the period at the end of a presidential term when regulatory activity typically picks up), and what Congress is considering to reform the regulatory system.

Susan E. Dudley directs the George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center and is a distinguished professor of practice in GW’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration. From April 2007 through January 2009, she served as the presidentially appointed administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (the “Regulation Czar”) and was responsible for reviewing all executive branch regulations. Susan is the incoming president of the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis, a public member of the Administrative Conference of the United States, a National Academy of Public Administration fellow, on the board of the National Federation of Independent Businesses Legal Center, and on the executive committee of the Federalist Society Administrative Law Group. Each year, she and the Center’s Forum Director Melinda Warren coauthor a report examining federal spending on regulation.

Calendar

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Calendar subject to change.
Please visit http://wc.wustl.edu for more information on Weidenbaum Center programs and activities.
The Weidenbaum Center continues both its academic and public policy efforts. Our mission remains to serve as a bridge between policymakers and scholars by supporting scholarly research, public affairs programs, and other activities at the intersection of business and government.

This newsletter provides insight into our upcoming public policy and public outreach programs, as well as some other special highlighted programs and activities. Our academic research efforts and programs encouraged and supported by the Center can be viewed on our website and in our annual reports.

Highlighted items in this newsletter include an update on our TAPS program, and recent award-winning publications penned by a few of our Weidenbaum Center Research Fellows.

As always, we include our Fall calendar of events and programs and provide information on these to all of you. We welcome your insights, comments, and/or recommendations for public policy issues that we might evaluate for future programs.

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**TAPS Data Update and Plans for 2015-2016**

With the second public release of data from The American Panel Survey (TAPS) now available, public data and screenshots of the survey from December 2011-December 2013 can now be found at [http://taps.wustl.edu](http://taps.wustl.edu)

TAPS, a monthly online survey of a national probability sample from a panel of 2,000 adults in the United States, studies the economic and political attitudes and behavior of the American public.

One example of results gleamed from TAPS data (this one using over 700 survey items), is the differences in lifestyle choices between Democrats and Republicans. These range from dessert and car preferences to interactions with neighbors to the perceived honesty of public figures. The survey has shown that these differences transcend socioeconomics and demographics — as those with different lifestyle choices who are otherwise identical in terms of other factors such as gender, race, education, and income still identify with different political parties.
Public Policy Breakfast Series - An informative presentation by local and national experts who summarize and share their insights on key current public policy issues. Details on upcoming programs follows.

September 8

Lee Epstein, the Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor at Washington University, will talk on “The Supreme Court and the Elections of 2016.” Her research and teaching interests center on law and legal institutions, especially the behavior of judges. She teaches courses on constitutional law, judicial behavior, the U.S. Supreme Court, and research design and methods. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. While at Washington University, she continues to serve as Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago, a Principal Investigator of the U.S. Supreme Court Database project, and co-editor of the *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*. A recipient of 12 grants from the National Science Foundation, she has co-authored over 100 articles and essays and 17 books.

October 5*

Raymond Arvidson, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, will lecture on “Early Mars: Warm, Wet, and Likely Habitable.” He directs the Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory (EPRSL), which is involved in many aspects of NASA’s planetary exploration program, including developing science objects and plans for missions, participating in mission operations and data analysis, and archiving and distributing data relevant to characterizing and understanding planetary surfaces and interiors. Current laboratory research focuses primarily on analyses of spaceborne observations of Mars, particularly on understanding how the planet has evolved and the extent to which it was habitable. Laboratory personnel involvement includes NASA’s Viking Lander, Mars Rover, and Odyssey orbiter. Arvidson, staff, and students also participated in the Magellan Mission to Venus.

November 10*

Susan Dudley of George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration will talk on “Red Tape and Regulation: A View from Washington.” In 2009, Dudley founded the George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center, which “raise[s] awareness of regulations’ effects and improve[s] regulatory policy through research, education, and outreach.” See the cover story on page one for more information on this event.

*Open only to Weidenbaum Center Eliot Society Members.
Forum — September 16

Melvin L. Oliver, Professor of Sociology at the University of California-Santa Barbara, will speak on the afternoon of Monday, September 16.

Professor Oliver's talk will focus on the issue of income and wealth inequality, a topic on which he has done groundbreaking research. His seminal book, Black Wealth, White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality, which he co-authored with Thomas Shapiro of Brandeis University, is considered a classic exploration of race and inequality. It provided, for the first time, systematic empirical evidence that explained the racial inequality gap between blacks and whites.

Melvin L. Oliver is the SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences, Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). An expert on racial and urban inequality and poverty, he has over 35 years of experience in both philanthropy and higher education. Professor Oliver earned his B.A. (1972) at William Penn College and his M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. (1977) at Washington University in St. Louis. In 2002 he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award, Arts and Sciences, Washington University, and in 2004 the Sesquicentennial Celebration Distinguished Alumni Award, Washington University.

This talk is cosponsored by Washington University's Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy; Department of Sociology; Center for Social Development; School of Law Public Interest Law & Policy Speaker Series; and Assembly Series. Also sponsoring this event is the Center for Household Financial Stability at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. While the Weidenbaum Center is taking the lead in this event, it is important to note that this will be the first major event for Washington University's new Department of Sociology, chaired by our own Steven Fazzari.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required for this event. However, registrants receive directions and parking instructions prior to the event as well as updates on the time and venue, if necessary. Visit the Weidenbaum Center events page at http://wc.wustl.edu/events to register for this event.

Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon Series

The Center’s Major Donor roundtable discussions continue to enable invitees to interact with faculty experts from across the University campus and other experts within the St. Louis area. Experts bring participants up to date on key current news events and then give attendees the opportunity to discuss and debate these issues in an open discussion format. Topics primarily focus on economic, political, legal, health, or international issues.

Upcoming meetings will be held on September 9, October 19, and December 2.

These meetings are by invitation only and registration is required.
Lectures

The Weidenbaum Center Lecture Series consists of serious, substantive scholarly talks accessible to a sophisticated general audience. Beginning in the fall of 2015, the Center will host about 6-8 lectures a year. The goal is to offer higher quality programs to our donors and to the Washington University community. Broad topics for these lectures are economics, politics, regulation, and sociology. Political polarization – when public opinion goes to two extremes, without moderates or a real middle ground – is the subject of three of the Weidenbaum Center’s upcoming Lecture Series in fiscal year 2016. Two of these will take place this fall, the third early in the spring semester. A fourth lecture will focus on government paternalism.

September 28—Political Polarization

The first of these lectures, “Causes and Consequences of Polarization in Modern American Politics,” will be given by Center Director and Kate M. Gregg Distinguished Professor of Social Sciences Steven Smith. Professor Smith’s lecture will address changes in political parties, electoral conditions, and congressional politics that have altered our politics in fundamental ways.

October 26—Political Polarization

The second lecture on political polarization, “Campaign Quality under Preferential and Plurality Voting in U.S. Cities,” will be given by University of Iowa political scientist, Caroline Tolbert. Professor Tolbert is the author/coauthor of eight books, as well as dozens of articles in scholarly journals. Her research explores voting, elections, public opinion, and representation widely defined. She is the coauthor of *Why Iowa? How the Caucuses and Sequential Elections Improve the Presidential Nomination Process* (2011, University of Chicago Press). She has written three books on the Internet and politics/policy: *Digital Cities: The Internet and the Geography of Opportunity* (2012), *Digital Citizenship* (2008), and *Virtual Inequality: Beyond the Digital Divide* (2003). She received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

February 10, 2016—Political Polarization (watch for information in the Spring 2016 Newsletter)

November 17—Government Paternalism

Ian MacMullen, Department of Political Science, will give a lecture on "Of Seatbelts & Sodas: Government Paternalism and Its Critics." Professor MacMullen is a political theorist whose primary research and teaching interests lie in the politics of education and of religious and cultural pluralism. His book, *Civics Beyond Critics: Character Education in a Liberal Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2015), explores the ways in which civic education in a liberal democracy could and should shape children’s values, beliefs, preferences, habits, identities, and sentiments. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University. He joined the faculty at Washington University in 2007.

Information on past or upcoming programs, program content, volunteer opportunities, or co-sponsorship should be directed to Melinda Warren (314-935-5652; warren@wustl.edu) or Gloria Lucy (314-935-5689; glolucy@wustl.edu).
Matthew Gabel (and co-author Clifford Carrubba) received the European Union Studies Association Book Prize for the best book on EU studies published in the previous two years. Their book, *International Courts and the Performance of International Agreements*, proposes a general theory of international courts that assumes a court has no direct power over national governments. Member states are free to ignore both the international agreement and the rulings by the court created to enforce that agreement. The theory demonstrates that such a court can, in fact, facilitate cooperation with international law, but only within important political constraints. They examine the theoretical argument in the context of the European Union. Using an original data set of rulings by the European Court of Justice, they find that the disposition of court rulings and government compliance with those rulings comport with the theory's predictions.

Andrew Reeves’ (and co-author Douglas Kriner) new book *The Particularistic President: Executive Branch Politics and Political Inequality* was published in 2015 by Cambridge University Press. The description of the book follows: “As the holders of the only office elected by the entire nation, presidents have long claimed to be sole stewards of the interests of all Americans. Scholars have largely agreed, positing the president as an important counterbalance to the parochial impulses of members of Congress. This supposed fact is often invoked in arguments for concentrating greater power in the executive branch. Douglas L. Kriner and Andrew Reeves challenge this notion and, through an examination of a diverse range of policies from disaster declarations, to base closings, to the allocation of federal spending, show that presidents, like members of Congress, are particularistic. Presidents routinely pursue policies that allocate federal resources in a way that disproportionately benefits their more narrow partisan and electoral constituencies. Though presidents publicly don the mantle of a national representative, in reality they are particularistic politicians who prioritize the needs of certain constituents over others.”

Betsy Sinclair, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of the Center’s The American Panel Survey (TAPS) program, received an NSF grant to study “Dynamic Weighting of Panel Data.” This twelve-month study will develop statistical software for users to generate their own weights when using the most frequently accessed data, including the American National Election Study (ANES), the General Social Survey (GSS), and the Weidenbaum Center’s TAPS. This will allow researchers to improve upon their substantive inferences and better leverage existing panel resources. This software will be used in sociology, economics, statistics, and political science. This tool will help both researchers and practitioners who are interested in public policy and national security more accurately understand the impact of political policies on national public opinion, for example.
In the spring of 2015, the Weidenbaum Center began a new endeavor in faculty research funding. Proposals for medium-size, multi-year grants in support of promising, innovative research in the social sciences were solicited from faculty in the Departments of Economics and Political Science. Particularly interesting projects are those that are integral to a long-term research program, involve important theoretical or methodological innovations, have a high probability of producing publishable results in the most important scholarly venues, and involve more than one Washington University investigator. Proposals that have the potential for larger external funding are given priority. Funding for these projects range from $30,000-$45,000.

Four projects were chosen and are described below.

**The Dynamics of Beliefs in the Option Market**

Economics Professor Werner Ploberger and doctoral candidate Jinji Hao will investigate the dynamic behavior of European options traded on the Chicago Board of Trade. They will use these options, based on the Standard & Poor’s (S&P) 500 with varying times to maturity (up to 5 years), to construct the market’s expectation of the value of the S&P at the time of maturity. Using stochastic calculus, they will estimate a possible underlying low-dimensional parametric structure, test parametric specifications, and test market efficiency. Additionally, empirical investigation of whether other processes influence the market expectations will be analyzed.

**Cooperation and Representation in Post-Conflict Societies**

Political Science Professors Dan Butler and Margit Tavits received a grant to study politics in Bosnia. Their goal is to understand the consequences of wartime violence on political cooperation, participation, and representation, using the funds from the Weidenbaum Center to gather the data on wartime violence. This includes looking at ethnic voting and cooperation between members of different ethnic groups, both at the citizen and elite levels. Important emerging questions on better integration of Muslims and others, especially in post-violence situations, will be more easily addressed with these research results.

**Improving the Study of U.S. Congressional Elections with Human Computation Analysis of Political Texts**

Development and validation of an innovative method for encoding political texts with the aim of better understanding congressional elections is the purpose of the grant given to Political Science Professors Jacob Montgomery and Jon Rogowski. Their work will combine methods from the machine learning and survey research literatures to come up with a novel “human computation” method for efficiently coding large collections of texts using a non-expert online workforce. Using, first, texts of movie reviews and, second, open-text survey responses regarding positive and negative candidate traits, the researchers plan to apply the method they will develop to ask whether the ideological content of public statements made by candidates for office affect their vote share and whether they accurately predict their subsequent behavior once in office.

**Geolocation Survey Project**

Social scientists have long posited that racial attitudes are largely a function of an individual’s interactions with their environments. In their research on where attitudes toward other ethnic and racial groups originate, Political Science Professor Andrew Reeves, along with American University Professor Ryan Moore, are using a revolutionary tool to gauge these interactions. They are working to obtain a nationally representative sample of smartphone users. With an app that allows collection of geolocation data (as well as direct survey questions to users), they will be able to make population-based inferences about the relationship between context and racial attitudes.

We will be issuing updates on the results of these research projects as their work progresses.
Binker Receives WC Award for Evidence-Based Journalism

Mark Binker, multimedia investigative reporter, WRAL-TV (North Carolina), was the 2015 recipient of the Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. His submissions illustrated how the Center’s 2014 Media Retreat contributed to his focus on interrogating numbers and how sources come into play. He submitted fact checks that drew, at least in part, on topics, methods, or ideas discussed at the Center’s Media Retreat.

Mark has been recognized by The Washington Post as one of the best state capitol reporters in America. He has reported from presidential press pools and butted heads with obstinate local politicians.

“It’s our government; we ought to understand it. My most basic job as a journalist is to help connect you to those whom you elect and who spend your tax dollars. A good story should help you make sense of how governments are (or are not) functioning. Sometimes that connection comes from explaining a complex topic in simple language or finding out something those in charge would rather you didn’t know. Sometimes it’s as simple as being there to witness what most people can’t. Reporting can be aggravating some days, but it is never dull. . . . What the Weidenbaum seminar urges its participants to do is to pierce that veil of numbers just as we would sort through the tangled jumble of a politician’s explanation for bad behavior. The retreat’s motto might be, ‘If a number is too convenient, check it out.’ Over the past year I have found myself asking those who are bringing facts and figures to bear, ‘How do you know that?’ . . . That has made me a better everyday reporter and has informed my thinking on a number of projects.”

Weidenbaum Center Media Retreat

Since 2002, this annual program has brought writers, reporters, editors, and producers together with academic and business experts. This intense, interactive seminar examines the role that numbers, statistics, and data analysis play in news, public policy, and politics. The Retreat seminars have four goals:

✨ to give journalists the tools and techniques to analyze how numbers come into being
✨ to help journalists better evaluate and investigate the validity of these numbers
✨ to help journalists utilize numbers to substantiate or refute a story, and
✨ to assist journalists with new story ideas for challenging conventional wisdom

Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism

This annual award recognizes a past participant whose work represents quality journalism on public policy that embodies the principles of the Media Retreat. Each year a committee of Media Retreat seminar leaders determines who receives the award. The cash award and plaque are presented to the recipient during the Retreat.
Congratulations to Dr. James E. Schiele

Please join the Weidenbaum Center in congratulating our Weidenbaum Center Eliot Society Chairman, Dr. James E. Schiele.

In May 2015, he added a Doctor of Liberal Arts degree to his array of academic achievements. His doctoral thesis focused on late 19th Century American history and the impact of print media on public policy, utilizing the James E. and Joan Singer Schiele Print Collection, which he donated to the university. The collection provides a basis for historical analysis of the period from Reconstruction through the end of the 19th century.

Support

The Weidenbaum Center, while an integral part of Washington University, is responsible for its own financial support. It relies upon generous donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, it falls under the University’s 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Anyone wishing to help provide support or assist in fundraising should contact:

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