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LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy has completed its 43rd year and plays an important role on the Washington University campus. Its primary mission is to support social science faculty research in the Departments of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology, as well as other campus departments and programs. Its grant program provides various levels of financial support to faculty in these departments, enabling them to test new research hypotheses prior to applying for major grants. It also creates wonderful opportunities for students to work closely with faculty on research programs.

The Center works to bring community leaders and other interested parties to the Washington University campus through sponsorship of programs on issues relating to public policy. Through collaborations with other departments and organizations across campus, this work greatly expands the exposure of our campus to the community.

Its efforts to expand the public’s knowledge of public policy issues are reflected in another of its programs, the annual Media Retreat. This event gave writers, journalists, editors, and producers the opportunity to meet with academic experts for seminars to examine the role that statistics and data analysis play in the news coverage of economic, political, and public policy issues.

The Weidenbaum Center continues to educate, inform, collaborate, and bring our community together to better understand public policy issues. I am grateful to all who work with and for the Center and to those who generously provide the support that allows the Center to pursue its important mission.

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy finished its 43rd year striving to increase the funding for basic research and promote education on public policy issues. Fiscal year 2018 was a most productive year for the Center.

Our efforts to promote, enhance, and expand faculty and student research in economics, political science, and sociology were expanded. We continued to provide various levels of support to faculty cutting-edge research projects and to provide administrative support for outside grant opportunities. Center staff worked closely with faculty in our primary client departments – Economics, Political Science, and Sociology – to draft, prepare, and submit grants to both foundations and government entities.

This was the final year of The American Panel Survey (TAPS), which provided original survey data to scholars at Washington University – particularly political scientists. The legacy of the six years of TAPS research will continue to augment research for social sciences. (See TAPS write-up with more details on page 16.)

Another major concentration of the Center is our commitment to community outreach programs. Our forums, lectures, breakfast meetings and round-table luncheons inform and better educate individuals on important public policy issues facing the nation and the world. In order to increase the reach of our public policy impact, some of these programs are available for viewing on the Center’s website.

As you read through this report, please note that our activities, programs, and research efforts would be impossible without our generous and loyal supporters. Thanks to all of you who provided your ideas, financial support, and friendship. We are proud to carry on the mission that Murray started.

My thanks also go to the organizations and many University departments that collaborate with the Center on its activities. And last, but certainly not least, I thank Chancellor Mark Weighton, Dean Barbara Schaal, the University administration, and the Board of Trustees for their encouragement, friendship, and support.

Steven S. Smith
Director
Steven S. Smith has served as Director of the Weidenbaum Center since 2001. He is also a Professor of Political Science and the Kate M. Gregg Professor of Social Sciences at Washington University. Under the direction of Professor Smith, the Center continued its commitment to scholarly research and education. He promoted sponsorship of faculty research efforts, students’ research opportunities, grants administration, and public policy activities geared to media and the general public.

His direction of the Weidenbaum Center’s The American Panel Survey (TAPS) provided a unique and powerful platform for faculty members to conduct and gather original data specifically geared to their research efforts. Survey data from TAPS also enabled Professor Smith to keep a finger on the pulse of Americans’ political attitudes and behavior. (See page 16.)

All of these efforts work to strengthen the educational and outreach efforts of both the Weidenbaum Center and Washington University.

Eric M. Topol
Chair
Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy

 stewardship,

LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

Steven Fazzari is the Associate Director of the Weidenbaum Center, the Bert A. and Jeannette L. Lynch Distinguished Professor of Economics, and Chair of the Department of Sociology. He directed the Center’s grants programs for the University’s Departments of Economics and Sociology, helped coordinate joint activities with these departments, lectured at the Center’s annual media retreat, and assisted with the Center’s public policy outreach programs.

Professor Fazzari’s research explores the link between macroeconomic activity and finance, particularly the financial determinants of investment spending, the role of household spending in macroeconomics, and the foundations of Keynesian macroeconomics. His perspectives on the causes and consequences of the Great Recession, the macroeconomic effects of rising income inequality, financial instability, deficit reduction, and capital gains taxation have been highlighted in the national and international press.

In the past year, Professor Fazzari taught a writing-intensive advanced seminar on current macroeconomic issues as well as a course on economic realities of the American Dream. He traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to deliver a pre-conference mini-course on Keynesian economics in the 21st century as part of the Young Scholars Initiative sponsored by the Institute for New Economic Thinking, and gave a plenary talk on macroeconomic stagnation. As in previous years, he also participated in the Hyman Minsky Summer Seminar at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College in New York.

His work appeared in print and media outlets including articles in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and interviews on Wisconsin Public Radio and at the Institute for New Economic Thinking.

Richard Mahoney, former Chief Executive Officer of Monsanto, has been the Center’s Distinguished Executive in Residence since 1995. His perspective and business experience contributed to many of the Center’s public outreach efforts and he regularly participated in the Center’s public policy activities. At the Center’s annual Media Retreat, participants had the opportunity to interact with and learn from his experiences as an industry leader.

At the conclusion of the seminar, he conducted a wrap-up session which gave participants a platform to have in-depth discussions on the seminar topics as well as other public policy concerns.

RICHARD MAHONEY

He also was one of the judges for the Weidenbaum Center’s “Award for Evidence-Based Journalism,” which recognizes quality journalism on economics, business, and government, and reflects the use of research, numbers, and statistics.

His commitment to Washington University remains strong. He serves on the Medical School National Council as well as the Medical School’s Finance and Planning Committee. He continues to serve as a Distinguished Executive in Residence at Olin Business School, and has been a Washington University Trustee, now Emeritus Trustee, since 1983.


**FORUMS**

**Toxic Inequality**

On October 5, 2017, Professor Thomas Shapiro, Director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy and Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, spoke on racial and economic inequality. Since the Great Recession, most Americans’ standard of living has stagnated or declined. Economic inequality is at historic highs. But, economic inequality differs by race; African Americans’ net worth is just a tenth of white Americans, and over recent decades, white families have amassed wealth at three times the rate of black families. Wealth disparities must be understood together with racial inequities – that is a key part of why inequality is now toxic.

Professor Shapiro’s primary interest is in racial inequality and public policy. With Dr. Melvin Oliver, he wrote the award-winning Black Wealth/White Wealth, which received the 1997 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association. His work has been reviewed or discussed in The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The Chicago Sun-Times, and The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

This event was cosponsored with Washington University’s Department of Sociology and the Brown School of Social Work.

**One Nation after Trump**

Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, explained President Trump’s rise and the danger his administration poses to our free institutions. He stated that our nation needs a unifying alternative to Trump’s dark and divisive brand of politics – an alternative rooted in a New Economy, a New Patriotism, a New Civil Society, and a New Democracy. Dr. Ornstein’s talk was based on his book, One Nation after Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Departed (co-authored with E. J. Dionne and Thomas E. Mann, St. Martin’s Press). Dr. Ornstein has appeared on C-SPAN, CBS, and PBS NewsHour, and has had articles printed in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

Before joining the Brookings Institution, he was an award-winning journalist. He part of an investigative team with The Boston Globe that received a Pulitzer Prize for a series on Boston race relations. He received another Pulitzer Prize for his stories with The Wall Street Journal on corporate scandals in America.

This event was cosponsored with Washington University’s Assembly Series.

**The View from Washington**

As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump campaigned on a platform that included such sweeping measures as overhauling the tax code, dismantling trade agreements, tightening restrictions on immigration, and repealing “Obamacare.”

On January 31, 2018, a year after President Trump took office, David Wessel, senior fellow in Economic Studies at Brookings Institution and director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, examined the economic landscape and explained what the economic changes may mean for individuals and the country and what may be in store in his talk “The View from Washington: Economic Policy One Year into the Trump Presidency.”

Before joining the Brookings Institution, he was a guest political commentator on CNN, CBS, CNBC, PBS, MSNBC, NPR, and other news networks. He is a regular commentator on Marketplace Edition on public radio. Ms. Rampell has received many awards, including the 2016 Helm Alumni Leadership Awards, the 2016 SPJ award for work on evidence-based journalism and the 2010 Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. In addition, she was a finalist for the 2012 Gerald Loeb Award for business journalism.

Ms. Rampell was an economics journalist, theater critic, and blogger for The New York Times. She has been a guest political commentator on CNN, CBS, CNBC, PBS, MSNBC, NPR, and other news networks. She is a regular commentator on Marketplace Edition on public radio. Ms. Rampell has received many awards, including the 2016 Helm Alumni Leadership Award and the 2010 Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. In addition, she was a finalist for the 2012 Gerald Loeb Award for business journalism.

**Survival of the Weakest: Why the West Rules**

David Levine, Professor of Microeconomics at the European University Institute and Professor Emeritus of Economics at Washington University, spoke in April 2018 on the topic of why the West became the first to industrialize. Dr. Levine’s presentation used a game-theoretic evolutionary conflict model and a brief history of Europe, China, and India to make a point about how military strength (the cannon) of a hegemonic power slows technology/economic innovation.

This event was cosponsored with the Department of Economics.

**The Role of Reporting and Opinion in Today’s Media Environment**

Also in April, Catherine Rampell discussed the importance of a reporter’s role in making sure his or her writing is useful and informative in discussing topics and is a responsible contribution to the debate. Ms. Rampell is an opinion columnist for The Washington Post and a member of Post Writers Group. Prior to joining The Washington Post, Ms. Rampell was an economics journalist, theater critic, and blogger for The New York Times. She has been a guest political commentator on CNN, CBS, CNBC, PBS, MSNBC, NPR, and other news networks. She is a regular commentator on Marketplace Edition on public radio. Ms. Rampell has received many awards, including the 2016 Helm Alumni Leadership Award and the 2010 Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism. In addition, she was a finalist for the 2012 Gerald Loeb Award for business journalism.

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The Center’s Forum programs and Lecture Series promote an open dialogue between experts, scholars, and the general public. Brief descriptions of the events held in Fiscal Year 2018 are described below.

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**FORUMS AND LECTURES**
MEMBER MEETINGS

Steven Smith, in his September 2017 talk on “The Mess in Congress,” offered explanations as to the decline in the popularity of the U.S. Congress. Why is it that individual congressmen have such high approval ratings by their constituents while the institution as a whole consistently falls under 50 percent approval, and has reached as low as 9 percent? Dr. Smith’s explanation as to the rise in the perceived inefficiency of Congress is that there has been a genuine change in policy preferences of those elected to Congress. There are few congressional representatives who vote for bills proposed by the opposing party and the number of filibusters and amendment trees have risen drastically over the past few decades. It seems that Congress has begun to prioritize party victories over ideology-based policy.


Charles Stewart, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT, discussed “Election Administration” in November 2017. His research involves analysis of election technology and election administration, which measures the performance of elections and polling place operations.

Monica Eppinger, Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law at Saint Louis University, gave updated reports on the “Conflict in Ukraine.” After more than four years of fighting Russian forces, conditions have only worsened for those living in the eastern part of country. For the whole country, economic growth will depend on agricultural exports, cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, and military stabilization in the eastern side.

Steven Smith, Steven Fazzari, and Joel Prakken, co-founder of Macroeconomic Advisers, formed a panel to discuss the “Economics and Politics of the Tax Bill” in January 2018. According to Professor Fazzari and Dr. Prakken, the tax cuts greatly benefit the wealthy and those with shareholder income at the expense of the middle class. Professor Smith called the bill a “rallying point” for the Republicans, who needed a win after a year filled with public relations issues. Since passage of the bill, donations to the Republican Congressional Committee has increased, but the bill is highly unpopular amongst voters.

In February 2018, Andrew Tuch, Professor of Law at Washington University, talked about “Changes in Wall Street.” He discussed how the financial crisis of 2007-2009 marked the demise of major investment banks and the rise of private equity firms. He stated that these firms are more financially stable and pose less risk to the global economy. They are able to address the basic shortcomings that led to the downfall of the investment banks, but he also cautioned that changes in broker-dealer activities require active regulatory monitoring.

David Cunningham, Professor of Sociology at Washington University, spoke on “Aspects of White Supremacy Movements” in March 2018. Professor Cunningham looked at some of the white supremacist groups in a historical context and pointed out that more recently the number of groups have more or less leveled off but the extremity of their actions and violence has increased.

Also in March, Daniel Hopkins, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, discussed “The Increasingly United States: How and Why American Political Behavior Nationalized.” Professor Hopkins stated that today a larger number of American voters are more engaged with what is happening in Washington, D.C., and not just local politics, than in previous years.

Nathan Jensen, Professor of Government at the University of Texas-Austin, spoke in April about the political implications of economic development incentives. States and cities offer billions of dollars in tax exemptions and rebates to companies that are already planning on relocating there for economic reasons because elected officials score political points by claiming that they are responsible for the retention of jobs and its spillover effects. Professor Jensen argued that there may be a need for regulation of these incentives as they are largely driven by political aspirations rather than an actual desire to improve the well-being of local municipalities.

public policy luncheons

The Center’s Major Donors Public Policy Luncheons are roundtable discussions of current events. These luncheons, specifically designed for and limited to the Center’s major donors, brought in academic experts, business and community leaders, and former government officials to interact with attendees in an open discussion format. At each meeting, four or five issues were examined with an expert briefly summarizing the issue and then leading the discussion. This format enabled participants to hear an overall analysis of each issue and then delve into the topic in more depth. Some of the topics discussed were public attitudes toward gun ownership, North Korean nuclear capabilities, the opioid crisis, Catalan independence movement from Spain, implications of a tax bill on corporate research and development spending, and the administration’s connection to Russian meddling in the 2016 election.
The Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation once again brought together supporters and the University community to celebrate the Center’s achievements and to recognize the recipients of the Weidenbaum Center Award for Excellence. The keynote speaker was Honorable Christine Todd Whitman (pictured left), the former governor of New Jersey and EPA administrator during the George W. Bush administration. Her talk was entitled, “Challenges Confronting the Republican Party.”

WEIDENBAUM CENTER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Public Service Award
Ambassador George Herbert Walker (pictured right), is the started his business career at G. H. Walker & Co. in 1958. He was elected Chairman of G. H. Walker Laird & Co., in 1972 before its acquisition by White Weld & Co. in 1974. He joined Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. in 1976 and became President and CEO in 1978 and Chairman in 1982. After his unsuccessful candidacy for Congress in 1992, he stepped down as CEO but remained Chairman. Upon his retirement from the Board in 2003, he was named Chairman Emeritus of Stifel. That year, he was appointed Ambassador to Hungary, serving until August 2006.

In politics, he has served as Finance Chairman for President Nixon in Missouri and State Finance Chairman for President Reagan. His political activities included election to the Republican Central Committee of St. Louis County and election to the State GOP Central Committee. He played an active role in 1988 and 1992 when his cousin, George H.W. Bush, was the GOP candidate for president. In 1992, Mayor Freeman Bosley invited Walker to form a Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee to guide him on budget and finance issues. This committee, finding that the Mayor had little control over these issues due to restrictions in the 1876 Missouri State Constitution, modified its mission and became Citizens for Home Rule. The Rule is an effort to amend the Constitution so that voters in St. Louis City would be given authority to change the city charter. This effort succeeded as a result of a statewide vote in November 2000.

Academic Leader Award
Professor Raymond Arvidson (pictured left on next page), is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University. He directs the Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory (EPRSL). The EPRSL is involved in many aspects of NASA’s planetary exploration program, including developing science objectives 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. Laboratory personnel have been or are currently involved in NASA’s Viking Lander, Mars Global Surveyor, Odyssey, Mars Exploration Rover (Spirit and Opportunity), Phoenix Mars Lander, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity Rover), and the European Space Agency’s Mars Express Missions. Professor Arvidson also participated in the Magellan Mission to Venus. Testing of prototype Mars rovers in Earth’s deserts in collaboration with colleagues at the NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory has been another major focus over the past several years, along with close cooperation with scientists and engineers at the JHU/Applied Physics Laboratory on instrumentation and mission concepts for landing on Phobos and Deimos, the two moons of Mars.

Student Award
Kayla Reed, pictured above with Center Director Steven Smith, is an undergraduate student with a double major in Sociology and African and African-American Studies. She is the founder of St. Louis Action Council, a multiracial collective established to promote civic engagement for the social and political advancement of marginalized people in the St. Louis area. She worked as a field organizer for the Organization for Black Struggle prior to enrolling in Washington University in 2016. Kayla sits on the Board of ArchCity Defenders, which provides legal services to low-income people in the area and advocates for criminal justice reform.

The Weidenbaum Center Award for Excellence honors individuals who exhibit the character, dedication, and excellence associated with Professor Murray Weidenbaum’s scholarship and public service. The Award is a medal featuring a replica of the bas relief sculpture image of Murray Weidenbaum. The other side shows the Washington University insignia. Richard Mahoney, the Center’s Distinguished Executive in Residence, commissioned former alumnus and internationally recognized artist Don Wiegand to design the award.
The 17th annual Weidenbaum Center Media Retreat brought together media representatives and academics from across the nation for an interactive three-day seminar examining the role that numbers, statistics, and data analysis play in the news, public policy, and politics. Participants in June 2018 included editors/journalists from BBC America, Bloomberg Politics, Boston Herald, Des Moines Register, Detroit News, Huffington Post, The Indianapolis Star, The Intercept, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, McClatchy Newspapers, NPR, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Slate, Tampa Bay Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, WebMD, and WLRN (NPR affiliate South Florida).

Since its inception in 2002, 322 speakers and discussion leaders have participated in this program.

The old recipient of this award was Ben Leubsdorf (pictured right) who covered the U.S. economy for The Wall Street Journal. Before joining the staff at the Journal, he worked at the Concord Monitor in New Hampshire and in the Detroit bureau of the Associated Press. His reporting has won multiple awards. He graduated from Brown University in 2008, earning a bachelor’s degree in International Relations and serving as executive editor of The Brown Daily Herald. Currently, he is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, expecting to earn his Master of Library and Information Science degree in 2020.

The five articles he submitted were all published during 2017. In referring to his submissions:

I believe they demonstrate how I have embraced and acted on those lessons [learned at the Media Retreat]. The 1980 Mariel boatlift emerged as a critical talking point for both immigration advocates and skeptics, but what did it really mean for native-born workers in Miami? The reform, “dark figures” in crime statistics (unreported or undisclosed crimes), economic development, public opinion polls, macroeconomic forecasts, and lessons learned from the great recession. Each session was designed to provide media representatives with the tools and techniques to help them further analyze, evaluate, and investigate the validity of numbers. Lecturers also addressed how to effectively utilize numbers to substantiate or refute a story and challenge conventional wisdom when appropriate.

The seminars looked at interpretation and misrepresentation of statistics, fact checking health care trends in Federal Regulation


The president’s FY 2019 Budget would maintain overall spending on regulatory agencies at 2018 levels. It requests $71.0 billion in regulatory outlays, compared to estimated outlays of $70.0 billion in 2018. In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, this would mean a 0.1 percent increase in spending. The FY 2018 regulators’ budget is 4.7 percent higher than in 2017. The number of regulators would fall slightly from 280,872 in 2018 to 280,268 in 2019 (a 0.2 percent reduction).

These overall figures hide some large proposed increases in some regulatory agencies and large decreases in others. Agencies involved in border security and immigration regulation and enforcement are slated for significant increases in both funds and staff. Regulatory agencies in the Department of Homeland Security would receive a 4.8 percent real increase in resources, and a 3.8 percent increase in staff in 2019. The Budget also requests a 5.0 percent increase in resources for the Food and Drug Administration and an 11.5 percent increase for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

These increases are offset by reductions at other agencies. For example, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau requests a 10.4 percent reduction in its outlays, which marks the first year since it was established in 2011 that its outlays have not increased by at least $40 million (or 5 percent). The Budget targets agencies involved in environmental and energy regulation for the biggest cuts, with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) slated for a 24.9 percent reduction below 2018 spending levels.

The regulatory report is an important resource for textbook writers, the media, and others interested in public policy.

STUDIES IN REGULATION

Center donors receive an email monthly that gives them insight into regulatory topics being addressed by researchers around the country. Studies in Regulation briefly summarizes important research studies on the current state of regulatory review, enforcement, and implementation conducted by the Center and other research organizations. Some of the topics covered in Fiscal Year 2018 included costs and benefits of privacy controls, tax reform, a framework for evidence-based regulations, impact of import tariffs on consumers, and privatization of postal services. A link to each article is provided for those who want more information.
The American Panel Survey

The American Panel Survey (TAPS), a monthly online survey of a national probability sample from a panel of about 2,000 adults in the United States that began in 2011, concluded in Fiscal Year 2018. This project gave researchers at Washington University and across the country one of the best survey platforms in the social sciences. TAPS generated media attention for its survey findings, revealed implications of findings for public policy debates and the involvement of faculty in those debates, and enabled collaborative work across departments. The program was directed by Steven Smith and the surveys were conducted for the Weidenbaum Center by GfK/Knowledge Networks – a leading online survey research firm. These surveys and their reports contributed to understanding of public opinion, economic and political behavior, and American policy-making processes. A generous grant from the Russell Sage Foundation helped to support some of this work. The unique and innovative research design of this survey program enabled the results of the monthly surveys to become a go-to source for statistical information – much like the Gallup Poll, the Harris Poll, and the Rasmussen Reports.

Researchers at Washington University and elsewhere placed projects on TAPS. Most studies concerned the economic and political attitudes and behavior of the American public. The panel participants were recruited from a random selection of residential addresses, stratified using supplementary data on age and ethnic group. TAPS surveys were administered online; selected panelists who did not have a computer or online service were provided a computer and internet access by TAPS. Particular care was taken to ensure that the panelists were unknown to researchers.

Although the survey has finished, its impact will continue for years to come. Data gathered is publicly available to all researchers on the TAPS website. Since some of this work involved repeated questions to the same people over time, the data provides insight into changes in public perception relating to certain events. Investigators will find this work to be of interest. In addition, publications will continue to result from this research.

In addition to newspaper articles featuring statistics from the study, use of TAPS data resulted in journal articles, papers and reports.

- Steven S. Smith, “Gun Control”
- Betsy Sinclair, Steven Smith, and Patrick Tucker, “The Fragile Trump Coalition”
- Jonathan Rapkin, Patrick Rickert, and Steven S. Smith, “Trump Topple: Which Trump Supporters Are Disapproving of the President’s Job Performance”
- Betsy Sinclair, Steven S. Smith, Michelle Torres, and Patrick D. Tucker, “Pathways to Trump: Republican Primary Voters in 2016”

For more information about TAPS, visit our website at taps.wustl.edu.

- Matthew Gabel, Jonathan Gooblar, Catherine Roe, Natalie Selser, and John Morris, “Political Ideology, Confidence in Science, and Participation in Alzheimer Disease Research Studies,” Alzheimer Disease and Associated Disorders
FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Center’s small grants program provides research support funding for faculty in our client departments. Funding for a project is normally under $10,000. Since 2015, the Center has provided support for medium-size, multi-year grants. Projects most likely to be funded 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. Below is a list of projects given support in Fiscal Year 2018.

FEDERAL GRANTS SUBMISSIONS

Deniz Askoy, “Violence, Nonviolence, and Attitudes toward Minorities” (Political Science)
Michael Bechtel, “Measuring Time and Risk Preferences in Large Surveys” (Political Science)
Sarah Brierley and George Ofosu, “Campaign Messages: What do Politicians Promise to Voters in New Democracies?” (Political Science)
David Cunningham, “Racial Reconciliation Research and Policy Network” (Sociology)
Matt Gabel, “At Large Elections and Vote Dilution” (Political Science)
Sanghmitra Gautam, “Preventive Health Care in Developing Countries” (Economics)
George-Levi Gayle, “Religion and Economic Choices” (Economics)
Jacob Montgomery, “Making Conversations Great Again” (Political Science)
 Jacob Montgomery, “Misperceptions in Social Media” (Political Science)
Paulo Natzenzon, “Perceptual Errors and Economic Choices” (Economics)
George Ofosu, “Constituency Service in Ghana” (Political Science)
Andrew Reeves, “The Cost of Crises” (Political Science)
Guillermo Rosas, “Inequality, Access to Credit, and Preferences for Redistribution” (Political Science)
Ariela Schachter, “Branded: Rental Housing Advertisements and the Persistence of Residential Segregation” (Political Science)
Betsy Sinclair, “BUILD Workshop” (Political Science)
Margit Tavits, “Non-Ideological Campaign Rhetoric of Political Parties” (Political Science)

FOUNDATION GRANT SUBMISSIONS

The Weidenbaum Center works with faculty in order to submit proposals to federal agencies and foundations. This includes assisting with budget preparation, proposal preparation and development, and submission. If a proposal is awarded, the Center staff also provides help in hiring research assistants and processing expenses.

Economics
Valerio Dotti, “How Do Population Aging and Increasing Inequality Shape the Immigration Policy in the U.S.?” (Peterson Foundation)
Jan Fillmore, “Tuition Discounting Over the College Career” (Spencer Foundation)
George-Levi Gayle, “Religion and Female Labor Participation Gaps in India” (Templeton Religion Trust/Notre Dame University)

Political Science
James Gibson, “Judging Inequality” (Russell Sage Foundation, awarded)
George Ofosu, “Towards Informed Transparency Programs in Developing Countries” (Economic Development and Institutions Program)

Sociology
Caitlyn Collins, “The Promise and Limits of Maternity Leave Policy: A Cross-National Interview Study of Working Mothers” (Peterson Foundation)
Ariela Schachter, “Branded: Rental Housing Advertisements and the Persistence of Residential Segregation” (NSF)

Empirical Microeconomics Seminar
Ami Ko (Georgetown University), “An Equilibrium Analysis of the Long-Term Care Insurance Market”
Marco Cosconati (Bank of Italy), “Moral Hazard in an Oligopolistic Insurance Market”
Rossella Calvi (Rice University), “Why Are Older Women Missing in India? The Age Profile of Bargaining Power and Poverty”
Naoki Aizawa (University of Minnesota), “Local Market Equilibrium and the Design of Public Insurance System”

Tavits
Fillmore
Dotti
Gayle

Keith Schnakenberg, “Responsiveness in Elections: Theory and Estimation” (NSF)
Norman Schofield, “The Political Economy Effects of State and National Campaign Contributions and Advertising” (NSF)
Joan Barcelo Soler (with James Gibson), “Friends or Foes? The Role of Individual Information on Social Cooperation in Post-Conflict Societies” (International Peace Research Association Foundation)

FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT

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Economic Theory

Stephen Morris (Princeton University), "Crises: Equilibrium Shifts and Large Shocks"

Ben Brooks (University of Chicago), "Optimal auction design with common values: An informationally robust approach"

Alessia Akira Toda (University of California, San Diego), "Tail Behavior of Geometrically Stopped Random Growth Processes and Wealth Distributions"

Chiara Margaria (Boston University), "Queuing to Learn"

Laurent Mathevet (New York University), "Reputation and Information Design"

Rakesh Vohra (University of Pennsylvania), "Why Centralized Markets Are Not Stable"

Faruk Gult (Princeton University), "Evaluating Ambiguous Random Variables and Updating by Proxy"

Piotr Dworczak (University of Chicago), "Mechanism Design with Aftermarkets: Cutoff Mechanisms"

J. Aislinn Bohren (University of Pennsylvania), "Bounded Rationality and Learning: A Framework and a Robustness Result"

Gabriele Camera (Chapman University, California), "Partners or Strangers? Cooperation, monetary trade, and the choice of scale of interaction"

Marzena Rostek (University of Wisconsin, Madison), "Uncontingent Trading and Efficiency"

Laura Duval (California Institute of Technology), "Sequential Information Design"

Elliot Lipnowski (University of Chicago), "Cheap Talk with Transparent Motives"

David Levine (Washington University/European University Institute), "Peer Monitoring, Ostracism and the Internalization of Social Norms"

Sevgi Yuksel (University of California, Santa Barbara), "Media Competition and the Source for Disagreement"

Macroeconomics

Nicholas Trachter (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), "Knowing Me and Knowing You: A Theory of Intermediation"

ryan Kim (University of Chicago), "The Impact of the Credit Crunch on Output Price Dynamics: The Corporate Inventory and Liquidity Management Channel"

Kerem Cosar (University of Virginia), "Trade, Merchants and Lost Cities of the Bronze Age"

Henry Siu (University of British Columbia), "The End of Men and Rise of Women in the High-Skilled Labor Market"

Econometrics

Amos Golam (American University), "Data Confessions with Minimal Torture: The Info-Metrics Way"

Dennis Kristensen (University College London), "Bayesian Indirect Inference and the ABC of GMM" Informal Seminar in Economic Theory (all speakers from Washington University unless otherwise noted)

Geyu Yang, "Opinion Manipulation and Disagreement in Social Networks"

Jonathan Weinstein, "Direct Complementarity"

Mina Lee, "Information and Competition with Speculation and Hedging"

SangMok Lee, "Single-Crossing Differences on Distributions"

Anqi Li, "The Politics of Attention"

End of Men' and Rise of Women in the High-Skilled Labor Market"

Miley Moreira (Northwestern University), "How Do Firms Grow? The Product Life Cycle Matters"

Lorenzo Caliendo (Yale University), "Distortions and the Structure of the World Economy"

Hannes Malmborg (University of Minnesota), "Co-"
Many undergraduate and graduate students received support for faculty research projects and NSF-funded grants:

- Joseph Anthony
- Daniel Broadie
- Ryden Butler
- JBrandon Duck-Mayar
- Kenneth Geisler
- Cole Goldklang
- Conor Hammond
- Ardina Hasanbasri
- Chanyung Kim
- Brian Leibowitz
- Daniel Margulis
- Ashley Moore
- Patrick Rickert
- Zachary Rigg
- Erin Rossiter
- Dan Sicsorsky
- Arthur Smith
- Lee Snodgrass
- Paul Spada
- Sylvia Torres Pacheco
- Betsy Sinclair
- Yumeng Zou

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For further information on supporting the Center’s efforts, please contact Melinda Warren at 314-935-5652 (warren@wustl.edu) or Allison Oberkirsch at 314-935-5249 (allison.oberkirsch@wustl.edu).

The Center’s Eliot Society consists of individuals who have come together to support the Weidenbaum Center. Eliot Society support makes our work possible, helping to develop the fabric of a better society by working to influence and shape public policy through the dissemination of unbiased information to the public.

The Center is grateful to the volunteers who worked so hard to help it reach its annual financial needs.

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