2017 Weidenbaum Center Media Retreat


The sessions covered how numbers are used in areas such as health care reform policy, economic development, public opinion polls, macroeconomic data, and the great recession.

2017 Media Award Recipient

Neil Swidey, a staff writer for the Boston Globe Magazine, received the Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism for his writing on the student debt crisis. His piece was titled, “Hopes, Dreams, Debt.”

Neil writes about a wide range of topics and subcultures. His most recent book, Trapped Under the Sea, was a No. 1 Boston Globe bestseller that was named one of the best books of 2014 by Amazon and Booklist. His first book, The Assist, was a Boston Globe bestseller that was named one of the best books of 2008 by the Washington Post. His work has been featured in The Best American Science Writing, The Best American Crime Writing, The Best American Crime Reporting, and The Best American Political Writing. He has been a six-time winner of the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, a four-time winner of the National Headliner Award, an Emmy Award nominee (New England), and a finalist for the National Magazine Award. But his biggest reward is getting to follow his reporting curiosity wherever it leads him, from medicine to parenting to politics. He writes often about the intersection of life and technology, having weighed in early on about how Google and smart phones were changing not just how we communicate, but who we are. He has profiled celebrities, pro athletes, and presidential candidates, but specializes in writing about people who exist without publicists or entourages.
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. The academic research efforts and programs encouraged and supported by the Center can be viewed on our website and in our annual reports.

As always, we welcome your insights, comments, and/or recommendations for public policy issues that we might evaluate for future programs.

The American Panel Survey

The Weidenbaum Center is pleased to announce that The American Panel Survey will continue for another three years. The panel is administered by GfK Custom Research.

The American Panel Survey (TAPS) is made up of a national probability sample from a panel of about 2,000 adults in the United States. TAPS is used for a variety of social science research projects, including survey experiments and long-term panel studies. At least fourteen university faculty have had research modules on TAPS. In addition, a number of graduate students have written papers or are planning dissertation projects using TAPS data.

Some fairly recent reports and papers dealt with:

- exploring changing support for Republican presidential candidates during the primaries;
- how much support the working class provided in the 2016 election;
- how late deciders voted in the 2016 election and how they evaluated the candidates;
- Americans’ views on healthcare options;
- reasons for polling errors prior to the election.

The Weidenbaum Center allows all researchers one year of private access to the data collected using TAPS. After that, the data becomes public and is placed on the TAPS website. This public data and screenshots of the surveys, as well as reports, papers, and journal articles, can be found on the website, http://taps.wustl.edu.

The panel was recruited from a random selection of residential addresses, stratified using ancillary data on age and ethnic group. TAPS surveys are administered online; selected panelists who do not have a computer or online service are provided a computer and internet access by TAPS.

Questions about TAPS should be directed to Melinda Warren (warren@wustl.edu; 314-935-5652).
The Weidenbaum Center is pleased to welcome seven new Research Fellows beginning in Fiscal 2018. The appointments will be for three years.

**George-Levi Gayle** is an Associate Professor of Economics. His research focuses on three main areas: family and gender issues in labor, the effect of information friction on earnings and compensation, and the estimation of semi-parametric models.

**Limor Golan** is an Associate Professor of Economics. Her expertise is in labor economics, applied micro economics, and applied econometrics. Some of her most recent writings have dealt with gender and racial earnings gaps.

**Ronald Levin** is the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law. He specializes in administrative law and related public law issues. He teaches courses in administrative law, legislation, civil procedure, election law, and immigration law.

**Gregory Magarian** is a Professor of Law. He is an expert in free speech, the law of politics, and law and religion. He has written about topics such as the relationship between church and state, free speech theory and doctrine, and substantive due process. He teaches courses in constitutional law and topics in free expression.

**Timothy McBride** is a Professor at the School of Social Work. He studies the effects of health reform at the state and national levels and is an influential health policy analyst and health economist shaping the national agenda in health care. He is a co-director of the Center for Health Economics & Policy.

**William Peck**, M.D., is the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor and co-directs the university’s Center for Health Economics & Policy. He is a former vice-chairman of medical affairs and former dean of the School of Medicine.

**Jake Rosenfeld** is an Associate Professor of Sociology. His research focuses on the causes of economic inequality in the United States and other post-industrial economies. He is interested in the determinants of wages and salaries, and how they vary across time and place.

---

**Research Fellows**

- Gaetano Antinolfi, Economics
- Costas Azariadis, Economics
- Matthew Gabel, Political Science
- George-Levi Gayle, Economics
- Limor Golan, Economics
- Ronald Levin, School of Law
- Gregory Magarian, School of Law
- Timothy McBride, School of Social Work
- Sunita Parikh, Political Science
- William Peck, Center for Health Economics & Policy
- Andrew Reeves, Political Science
- Guillermo Rosas, Political Science
- Jake Rosenfeld, Sociology
- Betsy Sinclair, Political Science
Public Policy Breakfast Series - The Weidenbaum Center Eliot Society and Major Donors series consists of informative presentations by local and national experts who summarize and share their insights on key current public policy issues. Details on upcoming programs follow.

September 20—The Future of Working Class Jobs

**Tamara Draut** is Vice President of Policy and Research at Demos, a public policy organization working for an America where everyone has a say in setting policies that shape the future of our country. Ms. Draut is the author of two ground-breaking books: *Sleeping Giant: How America’s New Working Class Will Transform America* and *Strapped: Why America’s 20- and 30-Somethings Can’t Get Ahead*. She developed the organization’s work on household indebtedness, college affordability, and the economic challenges facing young people. Her research has been covered by newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. She has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and many others.


**Sarah Binder** is a Professor of Political Science at George Washington University and a Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Professor Binder’s research focuses on Congress, congressional development, and political parties. She is currently co-authoring *Monetary Politics*, a book about the relationship between Congress and the Federal Reserve over the Fed’s first century. She has written *Advice & Dissent: The Struggle to Shape the Federal Judiciary* (2009, with Forrest Maltzman).

November 7—Election Administration

**Charles Stewart III** is the Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT. Professor Stewart’s research and teaching areas include congressional politics, elections, and American political development. His current research about Congress touches on the historical development of committees, origins of partisan polarization, and Senate elections. His recent books of congressional research include *E lecting the Senate* (2014, with Wendy Schiller), *Fighting for the Speakership* (2012, with Jeffery Jenkins), and *Analyzing Congress* (2nd ed., 2011). He is currently the MIT director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, which is a leading research effort that applies scientific analysis to questions about election technology, election administration, and election reform.

November 29—Conflict in Ukraine

**Monica Eppinger** is Associate Professor at Saint Louis University College of Law and Co-Director for International and Comparative Law. She has extensive experience in diplomacy, serving nine years as a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service with tours of duty at the U.S. Consulate General in Kaduna, Nigeria; U.S. Embassy, Kiev, Ukraine; and at the State Department in Washington, DC, where her responsibilities included policy in the former Soviet Union, Caspian basin energy development, and West African security. Her research concentrates on sovereignty and selfhood. Her main areas of expertise include property, national security, and international law.
Major Donors Public Policy Luncheon Series

The Center’s Major Donors roundtable discussions allow guests the unique opportunity to interact with leading scholars and industry experts from the University and the broader St. Louis community. Normally held every month during the academic year, the lunches provide a platform for participants to engage with both prominent intellectuals and one another in an open dialogue. Topics are selected from current events and address economic, political, legal, health, or international issues.

Upcoming meetings will be held on September 12, October 11, November 21, and December 6.

NOTE: These meetings are by invitation only and registration is required.

Other Eliot Society Member Programs

The Center also hosts other Eliot Society events and programs such as excursions, tours of print and painting collections with an expert guide, dinners with forum speakers, and receptions for members and prospective members. Many of these programs are graciously hosted by one of the Center’s Eliot Society members. These programs enable members to interact with each other on a more informal basis. Contact Gloria Lucy at 314-935-5689 (glolucy@wustl.edu) for more information.

In addition, Weidenbaum Center Eliot Society members are invited to Washington University Eliot Society lectures, travel series, the annual Eliot Society Dinner, and other special events and programs. For a list of upcoming events, contact Valerie Haffner, Eliot Society Office, 314-935-8096, or toll free 877-215-2727.

Eliot Society Excursion

On October 6, 2017, the Weidenbaum Center will host another excursion for its Eliot Society members. The program consists of:

- A presentation and tour of the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank’s Inside the Economy Museum.
- Lunch in the Hilton St. Louis Downtown. Located in what was once a bank, the hotel gift shop was the bank vault.

For additional information regarding the Weidenbaum Center’s major donor programs such as the public policy breakfasts, public policy luncheon series, or any Eliot Society events, contact Gloria Lucy (314-935-5689; glolucy@wustl.edu).
Center Forums (conferences, debates, and single-speaker events) focus on major public policy issues in the news. Speakers consist of academics, government officials, and business leaders. They are frequently cosponsored with other organizations and are free and open to the public.

October 5 — Toxic Inequality

Thomas Shapiro is the Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University. Professor Shapiro’s primary interest is in racial inequality and public policy. He is a leader in the asset development field with a particular focus on closing the racial wealth gap. The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality, published by Oxford University Press (2004), was reviewed by the Washington Post, Boston Globe, and others. The book was named one of the Notable Books of 2004 by The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. 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. The 2006 edition included two new chapters that examined the most important changes in racial inequality and developments in asset policy in the past decade.


This event is co-sponsored with the Department of Sociology and the School of Social Work.

October 30 — One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported

Norman Ornstein is a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is a contributing editor and columnist for National Journal and The Atlantic and is an election eve analyst for BBC News. He served as co-director of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project and participates in AEI’s Election Watch series. Mr. Ornstein led a working group of scholars and practitioners that helped shape the law, known as McCain-Feingold, that reformed the campaign financing system. His books include It’s Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism (2012, with Thomas Mann).

Dr. Ornstein will speak about his new book (co-written with E. J. Dionne and Thomas Mann), One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported (forthcoming September 2017). There will be a book signing after the talk.

This event is co-sponsored with Washington University’s Assembly Series and the School of Law’s Public Interest Law & Policy Speakers Series.

For additional information on Weidenbaum Center debates, forums, or lecture series, past or upcoming programs, program content, volunteer opportunities, or co-sponsorship of any of these events, please contact Melinda Warren (314-935-5652; warren@wustl.edu).
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.

General support is needed for its operating budget and designated funds are relied upon for its special programs—such as its Murray Weidenbaum Scholars Program and The American Panel Survey (TAPS) program. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, it falls under the University’s 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Anyone able to help provide support or assist in fundraising should contact:

**Weidenbaum Center Staff:**

- **Melinda Warren**
  (warren@wustl.edu; 314-935-5652)
- **Gloria Lucy**
  (glolucy@wustl.edu; 314-935-5689)
- **James E. Schiele**
  (moseley@wustl.edu; 314-935-3852)

**Weidenbaum Center Volunteer:**

- **James E. Schiele**
  (moseley@wustl.edu; 314-935-3852)

**Washington University Staff:**

- **Allison Oberkirsch**
  (allison.oberkirsch@wustl.edu; 314-935-5249)

---

**Weidenbaum Center Administration/Staff**

- **Steven S. Smith**
  Director
  smith@wustl.edu
  314-935-5662

- **Betsy Sinclair**
  Associate Director, The American Panel Survey
  bsinclair@wustl.edu
  314-935-7276

- **Melinda Warren**
  Director, Weidenbaum Center Forum
  warren@wustl.edu
  314-935-5652

- **Steven Fazzari**
  Associate Director
  fazz@wustl.edu
  314-935-5693

- **Richard Mahoney**
  Distinguished Executive in Residence
  moseley@wustl.edu
  314-935-5662

- **Gloria Lucy**
  Assistant Director / Business Manager
  glolucy@wustl.edu
  314-935-5689

- **Christine Moseley**
  Administrative Coordinator
  moseley@wustl.edu
  314-935-5662