Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality

JULY 15–20 2013

Organized by HCEO
James J. Heckman
Steven N. Durlauf
Scott Duke Kominers

Supported by
Institute for New Economic Thinking
Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics

The University of Chicago
Charles M. Harper Center
Room C06
5807 South Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Welcome

Dear Students,

Welcome to the second annual Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality at the University of Chicago. Our goal is to teach you the tools needed to study inequality, and to communicate a sense of the research frontier in understanding inequality. We also intend for SSSI 2013 to break down barriers between theoretical, econometric, and empirical work.

We thank our funder—The Institute for New Economic Thinking—as well as the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics for their support of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group.

We are glad you are able to join us for this summer school and we hope you find it a valuable experience.

Best,

James J. Heckman, Steven N. Durlauf, and Scott Duke Kominers
Program

Monday, July 15, 2013

9:00–12:00 p.m. An Overview
James J. Heckman (The University of Chicago)
Steven N. Durlauf (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–3:00 p.m. The Life Cycle Evolution of Capabilities, and the Early Evolution of Capabilities I
James J. Heckman (The University of Chicago)

3:00–3:30 p.m. Break

3:30–5:00 p.m. The Life Cycle Evolution of Capabilities, and the Early Evolution of Capabilities II
James J. Heckman (The University of Chicago)

6:30–7:00 p.m. Mandatory Campus Safety Briefing
East Common Lounge, South Campus Residence Hall

7:00–8:00 p.m. Dinner
East Common Lounge, South Campus Residence Hall

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

9:00–10:30 a.m. Family and Inequality I
Pierre-André Chiappori (Columbia University) (by Video Conference)

10:30–11:00 a.m. Break

11:00–12:30 p.m. Family and Inequality II
Pierre-André Chiappori (Columbia University) (by Video Conference)

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–3:00 p.m. Social Networks I
Lawrence Blume (Cornell University; IHS (Vienna); Santa Fe Institute)

3:00–3:30 p.m. Break

3:30–5:00 p.m. Social Networks II
Lawrence Blume (Cornell University; IHS (Vienna); Santa Fe Institute)

6:30–9:30 p.m. HCEO Reception
Paris Club, 59 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL
Transportation provided at 6:00pm from South Campus Residence Hall
Thursday, July 18, 2013

9:00–10:30 a.m.
Capabilities I
James Foster (George Washington University)

10:30–11:00 a.m.
Break

11:00–12:30 p.m.
Capabilities II
James Foster (George Washington University)

12:30–1:30 p.m.
Lunch

1:30–3:00 p.m.
Women’s Rights and Women and Culture I
Raquel Fernández (New York University)

3:00–3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30–5:00 p.m.
Women’s Rights and Women and Culture II
Raquel Fernández (New York University)

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

9:00–10:30 a.m.
Intergenerational Mobility I
Steven N. Durlauf (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

10:30–11:00 a.m.
Break

11:00–12:30 p.m.
Intergenerational Mobility II
Steven N. Durlauf (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

12:30–1:30 p.m.
Lunch

1:30–3:00 p.m.
Market Design Approaches to Inequality I
Scott Duke Kominers, (Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics, The University of Chicago)

3:00–3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30–5:00 p.m.
Market Design Approaches to Inequality II
Scott Duke Kominers (Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics, The University of Chicago)
Friday, July 19, 2013

9:00–10:30 a.m. Using Structural Models for Policy Evaluation I
Petra Todd (University of Pennsylvania)

11:00–12:30 p.m. Using Structural Models for Policy Evaluation II
Petra Todd (University of Pennsylvania)

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–3:00 p.m. Wage Determination I
Christopher Taber (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

3:00–3:30 p.m. Break

3:30–5:00 p.m. Wage Determination II
Christopher Taber (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

3:30–5:00 p.m. Poster Session I
West Common Room, South Campus Residence Hall
Dinner Provided

Saturday, July 20, 2013

9:00–10:30 a.m. Identity and Inequality I
Rachel Kranton (Duke University)

11:00–12:30 p.m. Identity and Inequality II
Rachel Kranton (Duke University)

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–5:00 p.m. Informal Interactions

5:00–7:00 p.m. Break

7:00–9:30 p.m. Poster Session II
West Common Room South Campus Residence Hall
Dinner Provided
Faculty Biographies

Lawrence Blume
Cornell University, IHS (Vienna), Santa Fe Institute
Goldwin Smith Professor of Economics and Professor of Information Science

Lawrence E. Blume is Goldwin Smith Professor of Economics at Cornell University, a Visiting Research Professor at IHS, and a member of the external faculty at the Santa Fe Institute, where he has served as Co-Director of the Economics Program and on the Institute’s steering committee. He teaches and conducts research in general equilibrium theory and game theory and also has research projects on the theory and measurement of behavior in social networks. Along with Steven Durlauf, Blume is one of the general editors of The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics.

Blume received a B.A. in Economics from Washington University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Pierre-André Chiappori
Columbia University
E. Rowan and Barbara Stein Schneider Professor of Economics

Pierre-André Chiappori is the E. Rowan and Barbara Stein Schneider Professor of Economics at Columbia University. He taught in France (Paris 1, EHESS, Ecole Polytechnique, ENSAE) before joining the University of Chicago as Professor of Economics from 1997–2008. He has been a faculty member at Columbia since 2008.

His research focuses on household behavior, risk, insurance and contract theory, general equilibrium and mathematical economics. He has been involved in numerous conferences as organizer or keynote speaker, and has been editor and co-editor of many international economic publications, including the Journal of Political Economy, published by the University of Chicago. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. For two years, he served as Program Director for the Economics Program of the Santa Fe Institute.

Durlauf has worked extensively on theoretical and econometric issues involving the analysis of inequality, social determinants of behavior, economic growth and policy evaluation. He was general editor of the most recent edition of the New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics and coedited the Handbook of Economic Growth.


Steven N. Durlauf
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Vilas Research Professor and Kenneth J. Arrow Professor of Economics

Steven N. Durlauf is Vilas Research Professor and Kenneth J. Arrow Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. For two years, he served as Program Director for the Economics Program of the Santa Fe Institute.

Durlauf has worked extensively on theoretical and econometric issues involving the analysis of inequality, social determinants of behavior, economic growth and policy evaluation. He was general editor of the most recent edition of the New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics and coedited the Handbook of Economic Growth.


Raquel Fernández
New York University
Professor of Economics

Raquel Fernández is a Professor in the Department of Economics at NYU. She is also a member of ESOP at the University of Oslo, the NBER, the CEPR, and IZA. She has previously been a tenured professor at the London School of Economics and Boston University and held visiting positions at various institutions around the world. She has served as the Director of the Public Policy Program of the CEPR and has been a Panel Member of the National Science Foundation and a Program Committee Member of the Social Science Research Council. She has also served as Co-Editor of the Journal of International Economics and as an Associate Editor of the Review of Economic Dynamics and of Economy.

Currently she is on the Executive Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association and an advisor to the World Bank’s WDR on Gender Equality and Development. She is the recipient of several NSF grants, of a Spencer Fellowship from the National Academy of Education, and was awarded a National Fellow at the Hoover Institute and a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. Her most recent research is primarily in the areas of culture and economics, development and gender issues, inequality, and political economy.

James Foster
George Washington University
Professor of Economics and International Affairs

James Foster’s research is in development and theory, with an emphasis on measurement of poverty, inequality, and wellbeing. Current research includes projects on measuring ultrapovety, corruption, aspirations, subjective wellbeing, mobility, service delivery, robustness of multidimensional measures, and education quality. Foster is Professor of Economics and International Affairs at the George Washington University. He is also research associate at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at Oxford University.

He received an Investigator Award in Health Policy Research from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and an honorary doctorate from the University of Hidalgo in Mexico. His income poverty measures (with Greer and Thorbecke) are the standard for measuring and decomposing income poverty; his recent multidimensional poverty methodology (with Alkire) has been adopted by several countries and organizations as an alternative to the traditional income approach.

Foster earned his B.A. in Economics and Mathematics from New College of Florida, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University.

James J. Heckman
The University of Chicago
Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics

James J. Heckman is the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, where he has served since 1973. In 2000, he won the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. Heckman directs the Economics Research Center, as well as the Center for Social Program Evaluation at the Harris School of Public Policy Studies.

Additionally, he is the Professor of Science and Society in University College Dublin and a Senior Research Fellow at the American Bar Foundation.

His work has been devoted to the development of a scientific basis for economic policy evaluation. He has developed a body of new econometric tools that address these issues. Heckman is actively researching the economics of human development and building theoretical and empirical models of human capacity formation. This work emphasizes the role of the family in producing capacities and the effects of capacities on education, wages, health, crime, and other dimensions of lifetime achievement. He is currently conducting new social experiments on early childhood interventions and reanalyzing extant experiments.

Heckman has published over 300 articles and nine books. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the John Bates Clark Medal in 1983, the Jacob Mincer Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2005, and the Ulysses Medal from the University College Dublin in 2006. He is also a member of many academic and professional societies, including the National Academy of Sciences, the International Statistical Institute, the American Statistical Association, the Society of Labor Economics, the American Philosophical Society, and the National Academy of Education. Additionally, he has been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and professorships.


Scott Duke Kominers
Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics, The University of Chicago
Research Scholar

Scott Duke Kominers is a Research Scholar at the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics at the University of Chicago.

His research focuses on market design, and its interactions with law and computer science. His specific research interests include matching theory, eminent domain, mathematical economics, law and economics, and the economics of market entry. He was organizational chair of the 2011 “Matching and Price Theory” conference at the Milton Friedman Institute. He was awarded the 2010 AMS-MAA-SIAM Frank and Brennie Morgan Prize, and has held fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Yahoo! Key Scientific Challenges Program, and the John M. Olin Center at Harvard Law School.

Rachel Kranton  
Duke University  
Professor of Economics  

Rachel Kranton is a James B. Duke Professor of Economics at Duke University. She studies how institutions and social settings affect economic outcomes. She develops theories of networks and has introduced identity into economic thinking. Her research contributes to many fields, including microeconomics, economic development, and industrial organization.

She has been awarded fellowships at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. She joined Duke’s faculty in 2007. Rachel Kranton was awarded a Chaire Blaise Pascal in 2010 and elected Fellow of the Econometric Society in 2012. She wrote Identity Economics with George Akerlof, which was in Bloomberg Top 30 Books in 2010. and in the Financial Times Books of the Year list.


Christopher Taber  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Professor of Economics  

After being at Northwestern University since 1995, Christopher Taber joined the University of Wisconsin–Madison faculty in Fall 2007 as the Richard A. Meese Chair of Applied Econometrics. His research focuses on the development and implementation of econometric models of skill formation. His work on economics of education includes studies of the effectiveness of Catholic schools and of voucher programs, the importance of borrowing constraints in college-going decisions, and general equilibrium models of the labor market. He also has a methodological side and has worked on non-experimental methods for evaluation. He has been editor-in-chief of the Journal of Labor Economics since October 2007.

Taber earned a B.Sc. in 1989, a M.A. in 1991, and a Ph.D. in 1995 in Economics, all from the University of Chicago.

Petra Todd  
University of Pennsylvania  
Professor of Economics  

Petra E. Todd is the Alfred L. Cass Term Professor in Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a fellow of the Econometric Society and a research associate of the National Bureau for Economic Research, IZA, and of the Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Her main fields of research are labor economics, development economics, and microeconometrics. She has published papers on methodology for evaluating effects of social programs, modeling the determinants of cognitive achievement, testing for discrimination in motor vehicle searches, sources of racial wage disparities, and methods for evaluating and optimally designing conditional cash transfer programs. Many of her papers appear in leading journals, such as the American Economic Review, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, and the Quarterly Journal of Economics. She is an associate editor for the AER and for the Journal of Human Capital.

Todd is currently working on projects related to (i) evaluating the effects of a large-scale randomized school incentive program in Mexican high schools, (ii) assessing the effects of government regulation on the operation of the privatized pension market in Chile, (iii) dynamic modeling of teacher labor supply in Chile under a large-scale school voucher system, and (iv) assessing the effects of recent pension reforms on labor supply and savings behavior in Chile. Her research is funded by grants from NIH, NSF, and the Spencer foundation. Todd also regularly does consulting projects work for the Population Council, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Department of Labor, and the Mexican and Chilean governments. When not working, she enjoys ballroom dancing and boating in Maryland.

She received her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Chicago (in 1996) and her B.A. from the University of Virginia.
The Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group (HCEO) was funded by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) to carry out comprehensive and interdisciplinary research on human capital development, its impact on macroeconomic performance and stability, and on personal income and opportunity inequality. The goal of the Working Group is clinical in nature—to increase individual opportunity by increasing the effectiveness of human capital investment worldwide. Since its inception in 2010, the Working Group has grown from a handful of researchers to 350 from universities, institutes, and governments around the world.


The Working Group is organized into six research networks: Early Childhood Interventions; Family Inequality; Health Inequality; Identity and Personality; Inequality: Measurement, Interpretation, and Policy; and Markets. The networks include scholars with skills in a wide range of disciplines, including economics, psychology, political science, nutrition, health, education, genetics, and philosophy. A key aspect of the Working Group’s efforts is to move the world from policies of “redistribution,” which seek to correct the injuries of inequality, to policies of “predistribution” that will equip people from birth with the capacities of character and education that enable productive citizenship.

Working Group membership is open to researchers, educators, and policymakers focused on:
• human development, health and education;
• income inequality and individual well-being and opportunity;
• human capital and economic growth and development;
• education and workforce productivity and competitiveness;
• political science of inequality and human capital investment;
• implications of inequality for macroeconomic performance and market stability;
• program cost-benefit evaluation and microeconomics of human capital development.

About HCEO

Vision

The Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group is fundamentally different from conventional research networks in the academic world. The Working Group’s approach is comprehensive and cross-disciplinary, focused on creating a scientific infrastructure for international research collaboration that unites alternative perspectives, methodologies, and fields to allow for an integrated understanding of socioeconomic failure and success.

The Working Group

• Welcomes the world’s leading researchers regardless of research style or focus. We believe that interactions among contrasting research approaches is fruitful.
• Opposes prejudging any research on criteria other than quality.
• Integrates biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives into traditionally economic questions such as labor market success or failure.
• Demonstrates how policy models developed in economics can enrich research in other social science disciplines.
• Fosters the next generation of scholars in an interdisciplinary style of research.
• Treats social science research as an empirical endeavor. We defend the value of formal theory in facilitating the understanding of socioeconomic phenomena. Social science advances when theories are subjected to rigorous testing to allow corroboration or falsification.

The Working Group’s impact

• Individual research programs of network members are expanding the scientific frontiers of understanding human wellbeing and equality.
• The annual Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality and other collaborative activities with existing organizations are creating a global virtual college of researchers on human flourishing.
• A monograph series with Oxford University Press on inequality and human capital development in the 21st century will broadly communicate formal findings.
• The findings from the best science and the results of the best practices are being applied in the two largest populations in the world—China and India.
• HCEO is developing partnerships across the globe to foster new research collaborations.
Notes

Your Feedback

To help HCEO demonstrate the impact of SSSI activities to our funder, we ask that you share your feedback regarding your experience at this summer school.

1. Please list one or two things you learned from SSSI that changed how you will approach your study of economics or inequality.

2. Which lectures did you find most relevant to your work?

3. What was your favorite part of SSSI?
4. What would you change about SSSI for future years?

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4. Do you have any other thoughts, comments or questions for the organizers?

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__________________________________________________________________________

Optional

Name

E-mail address

Thank you for your feedback.

We look forward to your further collaborations with HCEO

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