

# University of Houston Economics Ph.D. Alumni Conference

August 20-21, 2021

## Friday, August 20

(all times are U.S. Central time)

- 9:30 am Introduction and Logistics
- 9:35 am **Sharon Xuejing Zuo** (2016; Prof. E. Liu; Assistant Professor, Fudan University, China) "FDI Liberalization and Occupation Mobility: Evidence from China"
- 10:10 am Break
- 10:15 am **Gautham Udupa** (2018; Prof. K. Yi; Research Director, CAFRAL, Reserve Bank of India) "Dollar Liquidity, Trade Invoicing and Real Effects: Evidence from India"
- 10:50 am Break
- 10:55 am **Somdeep Chatterjee** (2016; Profs. A. Chin and G. Ujhelyi; Assistant Professor, IIM Lucknow, India) "Passing the Buck! – Do Individual Biases Affect Measures of Confidence in Public Institutions?"
- 11:30 am Break
- 11:35 am **Vadym Volosovych** (2006; Profs. S. Kalemli-Ozcan and B. Sorensen; Associate Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands) "Corporate Acquisitions and Bank Relationships"
- 12:10 pm "Welcome Remarks" Dietz Vollrath, Chair, Economics Department
- 12:20 pm Break
- 12:40 pm **Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel** (2009; Profs. A. Chin and A. Kugler; Professor, Dalhousie University, Canada) "Expressway to Power: Infrastructure Projects and Political Support"
- 1:15 pm Break
- 1:20 pm **Sophia Kazinnik** (2017; Prof. D. Papell; Senior Quantitative Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) "Let's Face It: Quantifying the Impact of Nonverbal Communication in FOMC Press Conferences"
- 1:55 pm Break
- 2:00 pm Zoom breakout rooms I

**Saturday, August 21**

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9:25 am Introduction

9:30 am Panel I: Career and Work as an Economist in Private or Multilateral Institutions

**Elisabetta Gentile** (2011; Prof. D. Vollrath; Economist, Asia Development Bank)

**Saumya Rana** (2019; Prof. V. Maheshri; Economist, Welch Consulting)

**Shreya Bhattacharya** (2020; Prof. W. Friedman; Economist, Amazon)

Q&A

10:45 am Zoom Breakout Rooms 2

11:15 am Panel II: Leadership Roles

**Paula Arce-Trigatti** (2014; Prof. A. Chin; Director, National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships, Rice University)

**Claude Lopez** (2003; Profs. C. Murray and D. Papell; Head of Research, Milken Institute)

**H. Stephen Grace, Jr.** (1970; Profs. G. Shatto and H. Steele; President, HS Grace & Company, Inc.)

Q&A

12:30 pm "Department Progress Over Time"; Prof. Steve Craig, Economics Department

12:50 pm "Recent Changes in the Ph.D. Program" Kei-Mu Yi, DGS, Economics Dept

1:05 pm Concluding Remarks

## **Conference Attendees**

### **Alumni**

Amrita Dhar  
Arpita Chakravorty  
Ashmita Gupta  
Belgi Turan  
Chon-Kit Ao  
Christopher Biolsi  
Claire Kang  
Claude Lopez  
Dmytro Hryshko  
Edson Silveira Sobrinho  
Eirini Magames  
Elisabetta Gentile  
Elizabeth Luh  
Emiliano Luttini  
Gautham Udupa  
H. Stephen Grace, Jr.  
Heesuk Jung  
Iftekhar Hasan  
Jarrod Hunt  
Jean Kabore  
Kriti Khanna  
Levent Bulut

Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel  
Nadya Abramava  
Natalie Hegwood  
Nishith Prakash  
Paula Arce-Trigatti  
Priyam Verma  
Rajeev Goel  
Rebecca Achee Thornton  
Rishabh Atray  
Roberto Coronado  
Ruxandra Boul  
Santosh Kumar  
Satadru Mukherjee  
Saumya Rana  
Sharon Xuejing Zuo  
Shreya Bhattacharya  
Shreyasee Das  
Somdeep Chatterjee  
Sophia Kazinnik  
Vadym Volosovych  
Wen Long  
Xavier Bautista

### **Current Students**

Angelo Santos  
Eva Loeza  
Geraldine Guarin  
Hamza Zahid  
Hoanh Le  
Hussain Hadah  
Jeonghyeok Kim  
Jesugnon Ezechias Djima  
Jia Liu  
Jordan Holbrook  
Jose Mota  
Ko Sugiura  
Liu Mendoza  
Luis Eduardo Salinas Huerta  
Md Abdullah Al Mashrur

Nabila Rahman Biju  
Oscar Galvez-Soriano  
Ryan P Meek McGregor  
Sameer Malik  
Sebin Bapty Nidhiri  
Shuan-Wen Lin  
Swati Singh  
Vasundhara Tanwar  
Victor Zuluaga  
Weonhyeok Chung  
Yabo Gwladys Vidogbena  
Yang Pei  
Yeabin Moon  
Yujie Zhang

### **Faculty**

Aimee Chin  
Bent Sorensen  
Chinhui Juhn  
Chris Murray  
Christopher Clarke  
David Papell  
Dietz Vollrath

Elaine Liu  
Gergely Ujhelyi  
German Cubas  
Janet Kohlhasse  
Kei-Mu Yi  
Kenneth Whaley  
Natalia Zhivan

Rebecca Achee Thornton  
Ruxandra Boul  
Steve Craig  
Vegard Nygaard  
Vikram Maheshri  
Willa Friedman