PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

One Hundred Seventeenth Annual Meeting

OF THE

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Philadelphia, PA, January 7-9, 2005

Program Arranged by Daniel McFadden

Papers and Proceedings Edited by J. David Baldwin and Ronald L. Oaxaca

MAY 2005

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THE purpose of the American Economic Association, L according to its charter, is the encouragement of economic research, the issue of publications on economic subjects, and the encouragement of perfect freedom of economic discussion. The Association as such takes no partisan attitude, nor does it commit its members to any position on practical economic questions. It is the organ of no party, sect, or institution. People of all shades of economic opinion are found among its members, and widely different issues are given a hearing in its annual meetings and through its publications. The Association, therefore, assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed by those who participate in its meetings. Moreover, the papers presented are the personal opinions of the authors and do not commit the organizations or institutions with which they are associated.

Editors' Introduction

This volume contains the *Papers and Proceedings* of the one hundred and seventeenth annual meeting of the American Economic Association. The *Proceedings* record the business activities of the Association in 2004, the annual membership meetings, and the April (2004) and January (2005) meetings of the Association's officers and committees. The *Papers* constitute the greater part of the volume. They comprise contributions that fill roughly the same number of pages as one and a half regular issues of *The American Economic Review*. We will take this opportunity to answer a number of commonly asked questions about the *Papers*.

Who chooses the authors? About a year in advance, the Association's President-elect, acting as program chairman, decides on the topics for which sessions will be organized. This is done after consultation and comment, both volunteered and solicited, from a wide range of individuals. (A *Call for Papers* appears in the Summer and Fall issues of *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*.)

The President-elect invites some sessions but with the help of a Program Committee selects most of the sessions from the proposals received. Each session organizer in turn invites several persons (usually three or four) to give papers on the theme of the session and asks others to give comments on the papers. The program chairman decides at the time of organization which sessions will be included in this volume. Space limitations restrict the number of printed sessions. This year we are printing 25 sessions, although a total of 138 sessions were sponsored, either solely by the American Economic Association or jointly with other allied societies.

Are discussants' comments published? Comments and discussions usually are not published. For all sessions, names and affiliations of commentators are printed at the start of each session, permitting readers especially interested in particular comments to write to the commentator for a copy of the discussion.

What standards must the papers meet? The American Economic Review's policy regarding availability of data also applies to the Papers and Proceedings: papers are published only if the data

used in the analysis are clearly and precisely documented and are readily available to any researcher for purposes of replication. Otherwise, the guidelines under which papers are published in the *Papers and Proceedings* differ considerably from those governing regular issues of the Review. First, the length of papers is strictly controlled. They must be no more than 12 typescript pages in three-paper sessions, and 10 typescript pages in four-paper sessions. Second, papers are not subjected to a formal refereeing process. However, a paper can be rejected if, after reading it, we conclude that it is utterly without merit. Third, the content and range of subject matter reflect the wishes of the President-elect to investigate and expose the current state of economic research and thinking. In most cases, therefore, the papers are exploratory and discursive, rather than formal presentations of original research.

In order to produce this volume on schedule, strict deadlines must be met, and there is no time for communication with every author about editing changes made in order to improve content and style and to satisfy space restrictions. Every effort is made to notify an author prior to the deadline if the paper is too long or does not satisfy other specifications.

This year, the issue fell badly off schedule, and production was seriously delayed. We deeply regret the late publication date, and JDB in particular apologizes to the authors and readers for the delay.

Acknowledgments. As in the past, we are indebted to a group of highly talented individuals for their help in bringing this project to fruition: Liane O'Brien served as proofreader, stepping into a key role on very short notice. The staff of CPC-Ephrata, our typesetters, did a superb job, and we are especially grateful to Sandy Snyder for overseeing the typesetting with diligence and good humor. Finally, as in past years, we thank Kathy Holewinski and the Banta Company for their dependable work in printing and distributing this issue.

J. DAVID BALDWIN RONALD L. OAXACA

Foreword

Organizing the program for the annual meetings is by far the most important job of the President-elect. The job is like that of a journal editor, in that the actual content of the program comes from submissions by members, but the importance given to various research and policy areas by program committee members and their reviews of submissions are critical. In addition to organizing the usual program of oral sessions and selecting sessions for inclusion in this volume, committee members assisted me in setting up a series of tutorials on research and policy topics that gave the AEA membership overviews of subjects outside their specialties, and poster sessions that gave more economists opportunities to present their research and meet peers working on similar problems. My program committee was broadly representative of the profession; its members were Alan Auerbach (UC Berkeley, public finance), Rebecca Blank (Michigan, labor and family), Philip Cook (Duke, public policy), Francis Diebold (Pennsylvania, macro), Henry Farber (Princeton, labor), Robert Frank (Cornell, consumer behavior), Don Fullerton (Texas, environment), Robert Hall (Stanford, macro), Andrew Lo (MIT, finance), Charles Manski (Northwestern, public policy), John Quigley (UC Berkeley, public policy and housing), Robert Porter (Northwestern, industrial organization), Kenneth Rogoff (Harvard, trade), Alvin Roth (Harvard, experimental economics), Daniel Rubinfeld (UC Berkeley, law and economics), Bernard Saffran (Swarthmore, teaching of economics), Jonathan Skinner (Dartmouth, health economics), and David Wise (Harvard, health economics). I think the program committee did an exemplary job, and I want to thank them for their careful reviews, good advice, and timeliness. I wish to particularly commemorate Bernie Saffran, who died in December, 2004; he was a major contributor to the Association, through his column in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* as well as his work on this committee.

Also included in this volume is the Ely Lecture, delivered by Oliver Williamson, whose contributions to the study of internal control in organizations have broken down the treatment of firms as "black boxes," and shown that the problems of information, incentives, and mechanism design in markets have analogs in command and control structures.

The process of organizing the meetings is complex and extensive, and progressed smoothly because of the talent and experience of Violet Sikes, Gwyn Loftis, and Marlene Hight of the AEA office in Nashville. Also critical to the process was the handling of correspondence by Rowilma Balza, who showed characteristic care, intelligence, and efficiency. My thanks to John Rust, who provided computer programs that we used to organize and track submissions. All of the tasks of the President-elect (and of the President) are greatly eased by the efficiency and good sense of John Siegfried, to whom the Association is indebted. This volume was edited, under difficult circumstances, by David Baldwin and Ronald Oaxaca.

Daniel L. McFadden