



Celebrating More than 130 Years of Encouraging Economic Research

December 2019

Dear Journalist Friends:

Welcome to the annual meetings of the American Economic Association (AEA). This gathering has always attracted interest from economics and business journalists, and this year's program includes many newsworthy panels and papers.

To assist you in selecting among the more than 500 scheduled sessions, the program is available at <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2020/preliminary>. There you will be able to search by title (session or paper), last name, or *Journal of Economic Literature* classification code.

The all-in-one mobile ASSA app allows you to create your schedule in advance, locate your meeting room on a map, browse paper abstracts, take session notes, link your schedule across devices, and more. The app is accessible at <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/mobile-app> or from any app store. Enter your registered ID and password.

Additionally, I have provided some key highlights for you to consider below:

Richard T. Ely Lecture: Friday, January 3 at 4:45pm:

This year's Ely Lecturer is **Marianne Bertrand (University of Chicago)**, speaking on "Gender in the 21st Century".

Awards Ceremony: Saturday, January 4 at 4:45pm:

- The star attraction is the presentation of the **John Bates Clark Medal**, awarded annually to the person under 40 that has made the most significant contribution to economics research. This year's winner is **Emi Nakamura (University of California-Berkeley)**.
- The AEA will recognize four Distinguished Fellows for 2019: **Oliver Hart, Edward Lazear, Ariel Pakes, and Margaret Slade**.

Presidential Address: Saturday, January 4 – immediately following the Awards Ceremony:

Ben Bernanke (Brookings Institution) will deliver the Presidential Address on the topic of "Twenty-First Century Monetary Policy".

Nobel Laureate Luncheon: Saturday, January 4 at 12:30pm:

The luncheon honors the 2018 Nobel Laureate in Economics, **William Nordhaus (Yale University)**, and **Paul Romer (New York University)**. **Janet Yellen (Brookings Institution)** will preside. **George Akerlof (University of California-Berkeley)**, **Lint Barrage (University of Southern California-Santa Barbara)**, **Robert Gordon (Northwestern University)**, and **Chad Jones (Stanford University)** will make remarks.

AEA/American Finance Association Joint Luncheon: Friday, January 3 at 12:30pm:

David A. Hirshleifer (University of California-Irvine) will preside. The luncheon features **David Laibson (Harvard University)**, speaking on "Nudges are not Enough: The Case for Price-Based Paternalism".

There is also a full lineup of speeches and panel discussions on current economic events, including:

Friday, January 3:

10:15am

“Carbon Tax Policy”

Session Chair: Joseph E. Aldy. Panelists include Meredith Fowlie, Garth Heutel, and Roberton Williams.

2:30pm

“How Can Economics Solve Its Race Problem?”

Session Chair: Janet Yellen. Panelists include Randall Akee, Cecilia Conrad, Trevon Logan, Edward Miguel, Marie Mora, and Ebonya Washington.

Saturday, January 4:

8:00am

“Alan Krueger’s Contributions to Economics”

Session Chair: David Card. Panelists include Lawrence Katz, Lisa Lynch, Alexandre Mas, and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach.

10:15am

“Economics Inclusive Prosperity (EfiP)”

Session Chair: Dani Rodrik. Panelists include Samuel Bowles, Wendy Carlin, Suresh Naidu, Luigi Zingales, and Gabriel Zucman.

2:30pm

“Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism”

Session Chair: Angus Deaton. Panelists include Anne Case, Robert D. Putnam, Raghuram Rajan, and Kenneth Rogoff.

Sunday, January 5:

8:00am

“Japanification, Secular Stagnation, and the Fiscal and Monetary Policy Changes”

Session Chair: Olivier Blanchard. Panelists include Adam Posen, Lawrence Summers, and Janet Yellen.

Finally, don’t miss this special evening event for your enjoyment:

Saturday, January 5:

8:00pm

12th Annual Economics Humor Session in Honor of Caroline Postelle Clotfelter

Chair – Mandie Weinandt, University of South Dakota

I hope you enjoy the meetings and welcome your feedback. Please visit the registration area for additional information, or follow us on Twitter [@ASSAMeeting](https://twitter.com/ASSAMeeting) to receive program updates and other developments before and during the meeting.

Peter L. Rousseau
Secretary-Treasurer