Live Webinar

Japan Economic Seminar
A Center on Japanese Economy and Business (CJEB) Annual Event
Thursday, March 24, 2022 | 6:00 – 9:15 PM (EDT)

Agenda (As of 2/18/2022)

6:00 – 6:05 Introduction
David E. Weinstein, Director, CJEB; Carl S. Shoup Professor of the Japanese Economy, Columbia University
Takatoshi Ito, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Director, Program on Public Pension and Sovereign Funds, CJEB

6:05 – 7:00 Session 1: “Empowering Women Through Radio: Evidence from Occupied Japan” (PDF)
Moderator: Takatoshi Ito, Columbia University
Presenter: Yoko Okuyama, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Uppsala University
Discussant: John Marshall, Columbia University

7:00 – 7:10 Break

7:10 – 8:05 Session 2: “Paternalism, Autonomy, or Both? Experimental Evidence from Energy Saving Programs” (PDF)
Moderator: Takatoshi Ito, Columbia University
Presenter: Koichiro Ito, Associate Professor, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago
Coauthor(s): Takanori Ida, Takunori Ishihara, Daido Kido, Toru Kitagawa, Shosei Sakaguchi, and Shusaku Sasaki
Discussant: Wolfram Schlenker, Columbia University

8:05 – 8:15 Break

8:15 – 9:10 Session 3: “Place-Based Policies and the Geography of Corporate Investment” (PDF)
Moderator: David E. Weinstein, Columbia University
Presenter: Cameron LaPoint, Assistant Professor of Finance, Yale School of Management
Coauthor(s): Shogo Sakabe
Discussant: Daniel G. Garrett, University of Pennsylvania

9:10 – 9:15 Conclusion

The Japan Economic Seminar thanks the James Nakamura Fund for their support.

Advance registration is required at https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/cjeb/upcomingevents.
Bios

Daniel G. Garrett is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He researches corporate and personal income taxation, municipal finance, and financial regulation. His research answers questions with relevance for designing efficient fiscal and regulatory policy. He is particularly interested in how public entities raise funds—primarily through issuing bonds or levying taxes—and how those mechanisms affect businesses, consumers, investors, and workers.

His recently published papers address the financial implications of international tax avoidance, the effect of bonus depreciation incentives on local labor markets, and the passthrough of tax exemptions on municipal bond income to lower borrowing costs. Dan’s ongoing research includes further study of bonus depreciation on firm dynamics using Census data, modeling the process by which municipal bonds are brought to market, and analysis of trading behavior in the municipal bond market.

Dan is a graduate of Duke University with both an MA and PhD in Economics. He earned a BSc in Economics at Ohio University in the Honors Tutorial College. Before grad school, Dan worked as a Tax Analysis Professional 1 in the Ohio Department of Taxation and as a Research Associate with the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Koichiro Ito is an Associate Professor at Harris School of Public Policy at University of Chicago. He received a BA from Kyoto University, an MA from University of British Columbia, and a PhD from UC Berkeley. Prior to joining University of Chicago, he was a SIEPR Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University and an Assistant Professor at Boston University.

His research interests lie at the intersection of environmental and energy economics, industrial organization, and public economics. These include analyses of how consumers respond to nonlinear pricing, dynamic pricing, and rebate programs in electricity markets, how intrinsic and extrinsic motivation affects their economics decisions, how firms strategically react to attribute-based regulation such as fuel economy standards, how firms respond to dynamic incentives in sequential forward markets in wholesale electricity markets, and how much people in China value air quality. His research uses a variety of methods including randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, and structural estimation to address policy-relevant questions in energy and environmental economics.

He is a recipient of the Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities and the Nikkei Prize for his book, The Power of Data Analysis: How to Approach Causality, published by Kobunsha in April 2017. The original book was published in Japanese and then has been translated to Korean and Taiwanese. He is also a recipient of the Ishikawa Prize from the Japanese Economic Association in 2020.
Professor Ito is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Faculty Affiliate at the E2e Project, a Faculty Fellow at Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, a Fellow at the International Growth Centre, a Research Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, and a Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University.

Takatoshi Ito is the director of Program on Public Pension and Sovereign Funds and associate director of research at CJEB. He is also a professor at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University. He has taught extensively both in the United States and Japan since finishing his PhD in economics at Harvard University in 1979. He taught as assistant and tenured associate professor (1979-1988) at the University of Minnesota, as associate and full professor at Hitotsubashi University (1988-2002), as professor at the Graduate School of Economics at the University of Tokyo (2004-2014) and dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo (2012-2014) before assuming his current position in 2015. He held visiting professor positions at Harvard University, Stanford University, and Columbia Business School, and was Tun Ismail Ali Chair Professor at the University of Malaya. He has held distinguished academic and research appointments such as president of the Japanese Economic Association in 2004-2005, fellow of the Econometric Society since 1992, research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research since 1985, faculty fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London since 2006, research associate of the Tokyo Center for Economic Research since 1990, and faculty fellow of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry since 2004. He was editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Japanese and International Economies, and is coeditor of the Asian Economic Policy Review. In an unusual move for a Japanese academic, Ito was appointed senior advisor in the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund (1994-1997), deputy vice minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Finance of Japan (1999-2001). He also served as a member of the Prime Minister’s Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy (2006-2008).

Cameron LaPoint is an Assistant Professor of Finance at Yale School of Management. His research explores topics at the intersection of corporate finance, real estate, and empirical macroeconomics. Cameron’s work focuses on the role of land use regulation and local tax regimes in fueling corporate investment cycles in the commercial real estate market. Cameron received the 2020 Homer Hoyt Dissertation Award from the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association for his dissertation on the 1980s Japanese Asset Price Bubble. In another set of projects, he analyzes the effects of property and transfer taxes on real estate and private-value asset markets using large administrative datasets.

Cameron received his PhD in Economics from Columbia University in 2020, and his B.A. in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Rochester in 2013. He studied at Kyoto University in 2013-2014 as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and has conducted research as a Visiting Scholar at Hitotsubashi University with the support of a Sumitomo Fellowship for doctoral students from the Center on Japanese Economy and Business at Columbia Business School.
John Marshall is Assistant Professor of the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. His research lies at the intersection of comparative politics and political economy, and spans elections in developing and developed contexts. He studies how news consumption, indicators of government performance, levels of education, and social networks shape how voters select politicians. As well as bottom-up voter behavior, he also studies how politicians choose electoral strategies, when media outlets decide to report political news, and how institutions can be designed to improve bureaucratic performance. His research typically analyzes these questions by combining quasi-experimental and experimental designs with theoretical models to identify and help interpret causal relationships. His articles have been published, or are forthcoming, in journals including the American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Politics, and Review of Economics and Statistics.

Yoko Okuyama is an Assistant Professor at the economics department of Uppsala University, and an affiliate researcher at Uppsala Center for Fiscal Studies, Uppsala Center for Labor Studies, Center for Research and Education in Program Evaluation (CREPE) at the University of Tokyo, and the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research. Her current research focuses on the intersection of labor economics and political economy, particularly relating to gender and socio-political participation. She is especially interested in how public policies and institutions shape people's gendered beliefs, norms, information, and preferences, which interact with economic incentives and thus govern people's behaviors. She completed BA and MA in economics at the University of Tokyo and Ph.D. in economics at Yale University.

Wolfram Schlenker is a Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, where he co-directs the Center for Environmental Economics and Policy (ceep.columbia.edu). He currently serves as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at SIPA. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and serves on the Board of Reviewing Editors at Science.

His research examines the effect of weather and climate on agricultural yields and global refugee flows, how climate trends and the US biofuel mandate influence agricultural commodity prices, and how pollution impacts both agricultural yields and human morbidity. He furthermore studies how financial derivatives price in expectations of a changing climate and the effect of a global carbon tax on oil prices.

He previously was an Associate Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of California at San Diego. He was the Cargill Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, Gilbert White Fellow at Resources for the Future, and Visiting Scholar at the Princeton Environmental Institute and Department of Economics.
He received a Master in Engineering and Management Science (Diplom in Wirtschaftsingenieurwesen) from the University of Karlsruhe in Germany, a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

David E. Weinstein is the Carl S. Shoup Professor of the Japanese Economy at Columbia University. He is also the director of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business (CJEB), co-director of the Japan Project at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and a member of the Center for Economic Policy Research and the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee. Previously, Professor Weinstein was chair of the Department of Economics and a senior economist as well as a consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Prior to joining the Columbia faculty, Professor Weinstein held professorships at the University of Michigan and Harvard University. He also served on the Council of Economic Advisors. His teaching and research interests include international economics, corporate finance, and the Japanese economy. Professor Weinstein earned his PhD and MA in economics from the University of Michigan and his BA at Yale University. He is the recipient of many grants and awards, including five National Science Foundation grants, an Institute for New Economic Thinking grant, a Bank of International Settlements Fellowship, and a Google Research Award.