



*Celebrating More than 130 Years of Encouraging Economic Research*

December 2020

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 "virtual" program includes many newsworthy panels and papers as well.

Please check the ASSA [program](#) to review more than 500 scheduled sessions and events. There you will be able to search by title (session or paper), last name, or *Journal of Economic Literature* classification code to locate events of interest. An all-in-one ASSA [mobile app](#) tool allows you to build a schedule, locate participants, take session notes, and more. A conference registration ID and password is required.

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

**AEA Distinguished Lecture: Monday, January 4 at 6:00pm (EST)** immediately follows the AEA Awards Ceremony:

This year's lecturer is **Emmanuel Saez (University of California-Berkeley)**, speaking on "Inequality and Public Economics". Session Chair: **David Card (University of California-Berkeley)**

**AEA Awards Ceremony: Monday, January 4 at 6:00pm (EST):**

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 **Melissa Dell (Harvard University)**. The AEA will recognize four Distinguished Fellows for 2020: **Katharine Abraham, Shelly Lundberg, Paul Milgrom, and Whitney Dewey as well as other award winners throughout the profession**. Session Chair: **David Card (University of California-Berkeley)**

**AEA Nobel Laureate Lecture: Monday, January 4 at 2:30pm-3:30pm (EST):**

The address honors the 2019 Nobel Laureates in Economics: **Abhijit Bannerjee (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)**, **Esther Duflo (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)**, and **Michael Kremer (Harvard University)**. **David Card (University of California-Berkeley)** will preside. **Pascaline Dupas, Rema Hanna, and Edward Miguel** will make remarks.

**AEA/American Finance Association Joint Lecture: Sunday, January 3 at 2:30pm-3:30pm (EST):**

**David Card (University of California-Berkeley)** will preside. The lecture features **Ulrike Malmendier (University of California-Berkeley)**, speaking on "How Our Daily Exposure and Life-Time Experiences Rewire Our Brains and Affect Our Decision-Making".

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

**Sunday, January 3:**

**12:15pm-2:15pm (EST)**

**"Indigenous Nations Economic Development Strategies: Policies and Outcomes"**

Session Chair: **Randall Akee (University of California-Los Angeles)**. Panelist(s): **Abigail Wozniak, Marianne Bitler, Ioana Elena Marinescu, and Christina Stoddard**

**12:15pm-2:15pm (EST)**

**“Panel: Gender Differences in the Economics Profession”**

Session Chair: **Judith Chevalier (Yale University)**. Panelist(s): **Patrick Bayer, Donna Ginther, Jonathan Guryan, and Jenna Stearns**

**3:45pm-5:45pm (EST)**

**“The Economic Impact and Policy Response to the Pandemic: What Happened in 2020 and What is Ahead?”**

Session Chair: **Janice C. Eberly (Northwestern University)**. Panelist(s): **Ben S. Bernanke, Raj Chetty, Caroline Hoxby, and Christina Romer**

**Monday, January 4:**

**12:15pm–2:15pm (EST)**

**“Increasing Diversity in Economics: From Students to Professors”**

Session Chair: **Stacy Dickert-Conlin (Michigan State University)**. Panelist(s): **Sarah A. Jacobson and Loretta Mester**

**Tuesday, January 5:**

**3:45pm–5:45pm (EST)**

**“New Approaches to Detecting Discrimination”**

Session Chair: **Patrick Kline (University of California-Berkeley)**. Panelist(s): **Janet Currie, Max Tabord-Meehan, and Avi Feller**

I hope you enjoy the meetings and welcome your feedback. Please visit the [ASSA registration](#) pages on our website for additional information, or follow us on Twitter [@ASSAMeeting](#) to receive program updates and other developments before and during the meeting.

You can find additional information about American Economic Association programs and activities on the attached AEA Fact Sheet, the AEA Spotlight document, or on the [AEA Brochures](#) page at the [AEA website](#).

Peter L. Rousseau  
Secretary-Treasurer