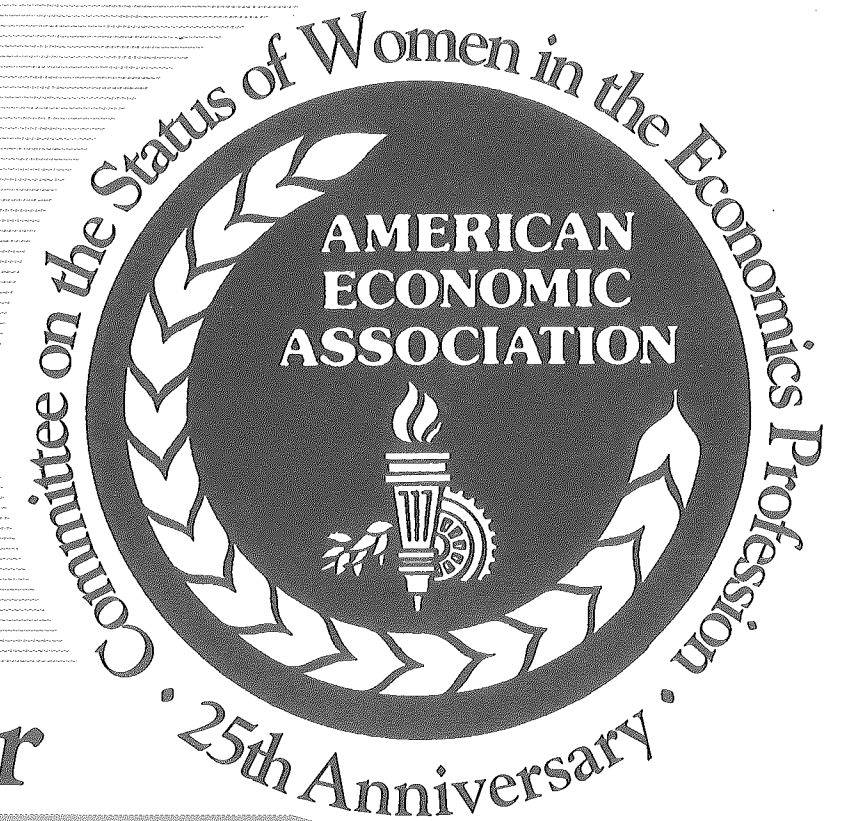


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Newsletter

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In this issue:

- An Interview with Alice Rivlin
- Women's Contributions to Environmental Economics
- The Royal Economic Society Women's Committee
- Opportunities from the National Science Foundation
- Reflections from 1998 CCOFFE Facilitators

CSWEP Newsletter

Spring/Summer, 1998

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CSWEP Newsletter

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An Interview with Alice Rivlin

Hali J. Edison, Board of Governors - Federal Reserve System

FEDERAL RESERVE VICE CHAIR Alice Rivlin speaks with Hali Edison about her experiences as an economist and a policymaker. She offers encouragement to those starting out: "Do something you enjoy and do it well, and then don't worry!"

Vice Chair Rivlin (Ph.D.-Radcliffe College, 1958) has held a number of high level posts in the federal government. Before becoming a member of the Federal Reserve Board, Dr. Rivlin served as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, she was the founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Director of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, and Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In addition, Dr. Rivlin is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship and served as President of the American Economics Association.

Q. Why did you decide to go into economics? Did your professors or friends encourage you in this endeavor or did they try to direct you to another field?

A. I started at Bryn Mawr College intending to major in history, which I found fascinating — still do. Then, rather accidentally, I took first year economics in summer school at Indiana University, just because economics sounded like something one ought to know about. I lucked into a class with a superb young instructor, who got the whole class excited about economic ideas. (This was the late Reuben Zubrow, who subsequently had a long career of distinguished teaching and research at the University of Colorado.) I decided that economics might be more useful than history, so I went back to Bryn Mawr and switched my major to economics. Economics was a small major at women's colleges in those days, so we got a lot of individual attention from the faculty. I wrote my undergraduate honors thesis on the economic integration of Western Europe, which was a pretty prescient topic choice in 1952. I even had a discussion of European monetary union! By then I was sufficiently hooked to be thinking about graduate school, but I went to Europe for a year first, where I had a junior job in

Paris working on the Marshall Plan.

Q. What was it like to be a woman graduate student in economics at Harvard University in the 1950s? (In particular, were women treated differently?)

A. Harvard was having a hard time adjusting to the idea of women in the academy. Indeed, since I was already focused on policy, I applied first to the graduate school of public administration (now The Kennedy School), which rejected my application on the explicit grounds that a woman of marriageable age was a "poor risk." I then applied to the economics department, which had about five percent females in the doctoral program. They were just working up their courage to allow women to be teaching fellows and tutors in economics. I taught mixed classes, but initially was assigned only women tutees. One of my tutees wanted to write an honors thesis on the labor movement in Latin America — a subject on which one of my male colleagues had considerable expertise. He was willing to supervise my young woman if I would take one of his young men. However, the boy's senior tutor objected to the switch on the grounds that being tutored by a woman would make a male student feel like a second class citizen. People actually said things like that in those days!

The second year that I taught a section of the introductory economics course, I was expecting a baby in March and did not teach the spring semester. The man who took over my class announced to the class that, since no woman could teach economics adequately, he would start over and the first semester grades would not count. It was an exceptionally bright class and I had given quite a few "A's," so the students were upset. The department chair had to intervene.

In retrospect, the amazing thing was that the women were not more outraged. I think we thought we were lucky to be there at all. Outwitting the system was kind of a game. One of the university libraries was closed to women, and its books could not even be borrowed for a female on inter-library loan. I don't remember being upset. If I needed a book, I just got a male friend to

check it out for me.

Q. What prompted you to go into policy work rather than pursue an academic career?

A. I was always interested in policy. In fact, one of the things that attracted me to economics was its importance in improving people's lives. So policy research was a natural for me. Fortuitously, I was offered a research fellowship at the Brookings Institution, which enabled me to finish my dissertation. I spent most of my career alternating between Brookings and various policy jobs in the federal government.

Realistically, moreover, academic opportunities were limited for my generation of women graduate students. Most major universities did not hire women in tenure track positions. Early in my career (about 1962), the University of Maryland was looking for an assistant professor in my general area. I was invited by a friend on the faculty to give a seminar and then had an interview with the department chairman. He was effusive in his praise for my work and said how sorry he was that they could not consider me for the position. I asked why not, and he said that the dean had expressly forbidden their considering any women. That wasn't illegal at the time, so we both expressed our regrets, and I left with no hard feelings.

Q. Can you identify a particular person as your mentor? How did he/she influence your career?

A. Guy Orcutt (who was then at Harvard and later at Wisconsin and Yale) was my thesis adviser and played a very important role in encouraging me at an early stage. Later, Joe Pechman at Brookings took me under his wing and helped me learn the policy research business. Joe spent a lot of his time mentoring young scholars. He was very good at it and considered it an important and satisfying part of his job. There were both men and women, but I thought the fact that he had two daughters made him especially responsive to the needs of young women scholars. Alicia Munnell was another of his protégés.

Q. You have held many senior positions in government. What was it



like to be the only woman, or one of a few women, in such positions? Do you think you were treated differently in those positions because you were a woman?

A. I never worried much about being the only woman (or one of the few) in the government jobs I held. Sometimes men seemed uncomfortable, but it usually did not last long when they saw that I was competent and not self-conscious about being female. I was more aware of breaking into the boy's clubhouse when I began serving on corporate boards in the 1980s. Sometimes corporate meetings would go on for a couple of days, with lots of presentations by management, consultants, lawyers, and investment bankers, and the only women besides me were pouring coffee.

The hardest thing for me was learning to speak up in an all male group (strangers, not my own colleagues) without worrying that I might say something dumb or be talking too much. I notice lots of younger women still dealing with this. We tend to be quiet when we are not sure of our ground, while men are much more comfortable trying

out ideas they are not sure of.

Q. What are your views about women's progress in economics, in general, in government and at the Federal Reserve, in particular?

A. There has been a lot of progress in accepting women, but the economics profession is still behind law, medicine and many academic disciplines. My lawyer daughter works in a much less male dominated world than I do.

A lot of very competent women have been appointed to high level posts in the federal government in recent years and have made major contributions. President Clinton gets very high marks on gender diversity for his cabinet and sub cabinet appointments. But the senior bureaucracy is still predominantly male. When I came to the Fed in 1996, three of the seven members of the Board of Governors were women, which was remarkable. But there were no women in the highest level staff positions. That's changing, but slowly.

Q. How hard was it for you to

balance family and work? Do you think it is getting easier for women to balance work and family? Have the demands at work been increasing?

A. I think it is always hard to balance career ambitions and family responsibilities, both for men and women. Women worry about it more, but men are beginning to worry, too. I had a few bad moments, when my job and my children seemed to be pulling me in opposite directions, but we all survived. Sometimes you just have to make the best choice you can. As my daughter says, "You CAN have it all, but you can't have it all at once." I don't sense that the problem is getting any easier.

Q. Finally, do you have any advice you that would like to offer to women starting their careers?

A. I wish I had some great words of wisdom, but I am afraid I don't. My advice would be: be sure you are doing something you can do well and that you enjoy doing (most of the time, anyway). Then just do it and don't worry too much. You'll do fine.

Women's Contributions to Environmental Economics

Maureen L. Cropper - University of Maryland, World Bank and Resources for the Future

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS addresses pollution externalities — external costs that consumers and producers impose on the environment. One branch of environmental economics deals with the instruments — taxes, permits, standards — that are used to regulate pollution. Economists' main contribution in the regulatory arena has been to identify methods of achieving desired levels of pollution at the lowest cost. Another branch of the field addresses the issue of how environmental standards should optimally be set. Here economists have developed tools, including methods for measuring non-market benefits, that are used in benefit-cost analyses of pollution standards. In the past twenty years women have contributed importantly to both branches of environmental economics.

The Theory of Pollution Regulation

According to neoclassical theory, pollution externalities can be internalized by placing a tax on pollution. Effluent fees, however, are seldom used in practice. This is due in part to the unwillingness of firms and consumers to pay taxes, and in part to difficulties in monitoring pollution. Run-off from farms, for example, is an important source of water pollution that cannot easily be metered. Kathy Segerson (JEEM 1988) has used the insights of principal-agent theory to suggest methods of controlling pollution when monitoring effluents is either impossible or very costly. She has shown that imposing a tax on firms when ambient pollution exceeds some threshold and subsidizing them when pollution falls below the threshold will achieve the first-best outcome.

Segerson has also studied the incentive properties of various liability schemes to control pollution (JEEM 1989, 1990). For pollution that occurs infrequently, e.g., toxic releases, Segerson has demonstrated that strict liability can be an efficient mechanism for inducing pollution abatement. It can also be successfully combined with other incentives to induce efficient behavior.

In cases where pollution occurs regularly and can be monitored, the most commonly used instrument for regulating pollution is a performance standard—a regulation that limits the amount of pollution emitted per unit of input or output. Economists have traditionally labeled uniform standards the "command-and-control" approach to regulation and have criticized them because they do not, in general, achieve reduc-

tions in pollution at least cost. Gloria Helfand (AER 1991), however, has pointed out that specific types of standards differ greatly in their incentive properties. Pollution-per-unit-of-input standards will, in general, have greater incentive effects than pollution-per-unit-of-output standards, which may actually result in increased pollution levels.

It is nonetheless true that there will usually be efficiency gains if the pollution quotas implied by a system of standards can be traded among firms. Cathy Kling and Jonathan Rubin (J. Pub. Econ. 1997) have studied the efficiency gains that can be realized when firms are allowed to bank permits for future use. They identify conditions under which firms will suboptimally bank too many permits in the early years of a trading program and suggest modifications to the permit market to correct this problem.

According to theory, permits should achieve a given level of emissions at least cost by equalizing the marginal cost of abatement across firms. This result is independent of how permits are initially distributed among firms, as long as the market operates competitively. Graciela Chichilnisky and Geoffrey Heal (Econ. Letters 1994) show, however, that when nations produce a public bad such as carbon dioxide, the efficiency of marketable permits is tied to their initial distribution. In order to equalize the marginal cost of abatement measured in terms of marginal utility, more permits must be given to countries with a high marginal utility of consumption (lower standard of living).

Evaluation of Programs to Regulate Solid/Hazardous Waste

In addition to advancing the theory of pollution regulation, women have helped to improve the efficiency of environmental policy by evaluating specific regulatory programs. Hilary Sigman (JEEM 1996) has studied the impact of hazardous waste taxes on the volume of waste generated, and has also investigated the determinants of illegal disposal of hazardous waste (RAND J. 1998). She finds that increasing opportunities for recycling of wastes, together with stricter enforcement of waste management regulations can effectively reduce illegal dumping.

Taxes can also be used to reduce the amount municipal solid waste generated. In *The Economics of Solid Waste Reduction: The Impact of User Fees* (published by Edward Elgar Publishing Limited 1993) Robin Jenkins examined households' response to per bag charges for garbage collection. Terry Dinan (JEEM 1993) has demonstrated that a combined disposal tax (imposed on producers of the good) and reuse subsidy (provided to end users of the recycled material) is theoretically equivalent to unit charges for household waste reduction.

Recycling is another tool that can be used to reduce the amount of hazardous or solid waste generated; however, it is important to consider the efficiency of different schemes to encourage recycling. Karen Palmer, Hilary Sigman and Margaret Walls (JEEM 1997) compare the efficiency of advance disposal fees, recycling subsidies and deposit refunds for the recycling of municipal solid waste. They find that a deposit-refund scheme is the most cost-effective of the three, a result echoed by Sigman's study (RAND J. 1998) of lead recycling policies.

A popular alternative to incentive-based approaches to recycling is to require that a certain fraction of output (e.g., newsprint) be produced from recycled materials. Terry Dinan (J. Reg. Econ. 1992) has examined ways to reduce the cost of such a standard by allowing permit trading among producers. Karen Palmer and Margaret Walls (J. Pub. Econ. 1997) point out the difficulties in setting an optimal recycled content standard, showing that additional input and output taxes are, in general, required to yield a socially efficient outcome.

Performance standards, together with hazardous waste taxes and recycling, are the most common methods of dealing with currently generated hazardous waste. In their 1992 book, Molly Macauley, Michael Bowes and Karen Palmer provide an excellent treatment of the appropriate combination of economic incentives to regulate toxic substances. The problem of cleaning up hazardous waste generated prior to current legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the Superfund program. Under this program the USEPA is responsible for identifying sites that pose a serious threat to human

health or the environment and for choosing the nature of the cleanup at these sites. Shreekanth Gupta, George Van Houtven and Maureen Cropper (RAND J. 1996) have studied the nature of the cleanups chosen, showing that EPA has a distinct preference for more permanent cleanups, regardless of the size of the population surrounding the Superfund site. Hilary Sigman (JEEM 1998) has shown that the cost of the cleanup chosen depends on whether there are polluters present who can be sued for the cost of the cleanup.

Evaluation of Air Pollution Control Programs

In the area of air pollution control, the problem of controlling emissions from vehicles is particularly difficult. Tailpipe emission standards were mandated in the 1970 Clean Air Act, with little attention paid to continuing incentives for automobile maintenance. Vehicle inspection and maintenance programs are a now common method of enforcing tailpipe emission standards; however, the way in which most such programs are designed makes them very costly per ton of emissions reduced, as Virginia McConnell (JEM 1990) has shown. Anna Alberini, Virginia McConnell and Winston Harrington (REStat 1996) have also examined the cost-effectiveness of vehicle buy-back programs designed to get the most polluting vehicles off the road. By surveying people who did and did not elect to participate in the program they are able to more accurately estimate how long participating vehicles would have remained on the road. In general, vehicles entered in the program have shorter lives than vehicles who do not; nonetheless, a vehicle buy-back program can be a cost-effective way of reducing emissions if it targets highly-polluting vehicles.

Marketable pollution permits have been suggested as a more efficient method for reducing vehicle emissions than either buy-back programs or inspection and maintenance programs. Cathy Kling (Land Econ. 1994) and Kling and Jonathan Rubin (JEEM 1993) have examined the possible cost savings from a program of emission trading among motor vehicles. They conclude, however, that the cost savings from such a program

are likely to be small. Allowing emissions trading among vehicles is only 8-12% cheaper than current vehicle standards, which required stricter emission standards for small cars, which can achieve them more cheaply.

The most celebrated examples of permit markets to date are the market for rights to emit SO₂ by electric utilities and the market for lead additives in gasoline. Curtis Carlson, Dallas Burtraw, Maureen Cropper and Karen Palmer (RFF 1998) have evaluated the potential trading gains from the SO₂ allowance market, as well the performance of the market in its first two years of operation. They conclude that the market could possibly reduce abatement cost by 40% compared to a uniform performance standard, but present evidence that the market did not achieve the least cost solution during its first two years of operation. Suzi Kerr and David Marè's (U. Md. 1996) study of the permit market for lead in gasoline finds evidence that transactions costs affected the volume of trading. The efficiency losses from transactions costs are, however, estimated to be low.

Benefit-Cost Analyses of Environmental Standards

If environmental standards are to be set efficiently, it must be possible to measure the benefits as well as the costs of various standards. Many of the evaluations of regulatory programs cited above provide information about the costs of pollution control. Estimating the benefits of pollution control—the resulting improvements in human health, visibility, recreation services and ecosystems—has generally proven much harder.

Contributions to the Methodology of Benefit Estimation

Methods for measuring environmental benefits generally fall into two categories — indirect approaches, which infer values from observed behavior, and direct questioning approaches, which ask people to value environmental improvements (or related outcomes) directly. Women have made contributions to the methodology of both indirect and direct valuation.

Nancy Bockstael and Ted McConnell have derived conditions under

which environmental quality can be valued in the context of the household production model, both when the environmental good is a quality characteristic of a privately consumed good (Econ. J. 1993) and when there exists an essential input into the production of a commodity that is complementary to the environmental good (AER 1983). Nancy Bockstael, Ivar Strand, and Michael Hanemann (AJAE 1987) applied labor supply models to value time in the household production framework, a problem explored earlier by another woman economist Elizabeth Wilman (JEEM 1980).

In the area of direct questioning methods, women have contributed importantly to the field of contingent valuation. Contingent valuation asks people what they would pay for a hypothetical improvement in an environmental good, after specifying the terms and conditions under which it would be purchased. Usually people are asked whether they would pay a stated amount for the good. Anna Alberini (JEEM 1995) and Barbara Kanninen (JEEM 1995) have analyzed how the bids for a contingent valuation question should be set in order to efficiently estimate the mean and variance of the distribution of willingness to pay responses. Michael Hanemann, John Loomis and Barbara Kanninen (AJAE 1991) have analyzed the efficiency gains from following a single yes-no question ("Would you pay at least \$x for the following improvement in visibility?") with a second question that tries more closely to bracket the respondent's willingness to pay (WTP).

Women have also contributed to the literature on methods for analyzing responses to CV data. Trudy Cameron and Michelle James (REStat 1987) suggested that responses to dichotomous choice questions could be analyzed using a simple variant of the standard probit model. In subsequent work, Cameron has explored methods for analyzing payment card data (Cameron and Daniel Huppert, JEEM 1989) and dichotomous choice data with follow-up responses (Cameron and John Quiggin, JEEM 1994).

Because of the hypothetical nature of contingent valuation, the method has generated considerable controversy

among economists. In particular, it has been alleged that people's stated WTP in contingent valuation surveys may not represent their actual WTP for the commodity in question. Mark Dickie, Ann Fisher and Shelby Gerking (JASA 1987) concluded that stated demand for a private good (strawberries) was close to actual demand, when contingent valuation data were compared to actual purchasing behavior. By contrast, comparison of stated v. actual WTP for public goods have generally found that the former exceeds the latter (Mary Jo Kealy, Jack Dovidio and Mark Rockel, Reg. Sci. Rev. 1987).

Laura Osborne Taylor and Ronald Cummings (AER 1998) have developed verbal protocols ("cheap talk") to try to reduce hypothetical bias in contingent valuation surveys. Taylor, Cummings and David Bjornstad (Env. & Res. Econ. 1997) have also found repeated trials (learning designs) to be successful in reducing hypothetical bias. Another approach, suggested by Carol Mansfield (SEJ 1998) is to calibrate responses to contingent valuation surveys in order to separate hypothetical bias from underlying WTP.

Estimating Health Benefits

Perhaps the most important category of benefits to humans from pollution control programs is reductions in illness and premature mortality. Maureen Cropper and Fran Sussman (JEEM 1990) have examined the value of changes in the conditional probability of dying in the context of a life-cycle consumption-savings model. They show that an individual's WTP at age 40 for a change in his conditional probability of dying at age 60 is what the individual would pay at age 60 for a change in his probability of dying over the next year, discounted back to age 40. This suggests that reducing exposures to carcinogens with latency periods or pollutants whose main effects are not likely to be felt until later in life will yield substantially smaller benefits than reducing exposure to substances with immediate effects.

Women have also made advances in estimating the value of health improvements. Edna Loehman and co-authors (JEEM 1978) and Loehman and De

(REStat 1982) were among the first researchers to use direct questioning to estimate the value of reductions in time spent ill. Their estimates of the value of avoiding respiratory illness are still used in benefit-cost analyses. Lauraine Chestnut and Robert Rowe have also contributed importantly to the health valuation literature, estimating the value of reduced symptoms for asthma sufferers (EPA 1985). Lauraine Chestnut and Jane Hall are among the pioneers in inter-disciplinary studies of the health impacts of air pollution. Hall and co-authors (Science 1992) in their study of the benefits of ozone control in the Los Angeles basin found larger benefits from meeting federal ozone standards than other studies due to their careful method of measuring ozone exposure.

Valuing Environmental Amenities

Cleaner air has aesthetic as well as health benefits. Lauraine Chestnut and Robert Rowe (NAPAP 1989) have provided careful estimates of the value of visibility improvements using contingent valuation methods. The value of improvements in air quality in a residential setting has, however, usually been estimated using hedonic property value studies for a single metropolitan area (Maureen Cropper, Leland Deck and K. E. McConnell, REStat 1988), or hedonic wage and property value studies using national data. In a world of mobile households, inter-urban variation in air quality should be captured in labor and housing markets, as demonstrated by Jennifer Roback (JPE 1982). Maureen Cropper and Amalia Arriaga-Salinas (J. Urban Econ. 1980) provided early estimates of the value of urban amenities using hedonic wage data.

Hedonic property value studies have also been used to value the disamenities associated with hazardous waste sites and other unwanted facilities. Katherine McClain and Katherine Kiel (J. Urban Econ. 1995, JEEM 1995) have found that the siting of an incinerator affected both the level of housing prices, as a function of their distance from the incinerator and the rate of appreciation in those prices. These impacts began well before the incinerator was operating. Janet Kohlhasse (J. Urban Econ. 1991) has documented

similar distance premiums for the impact of hazardous waste sites on housing prices. **Valuing Outdoor Recreation**

The benefits from improved water quality often come in the form of improved recreation benefits: increased beach use, larger fish populations, improved recreational fishing. Nancy Bockstael and Ted McConnell (JEEM 1981, Econ. J. 1993) are pioneers in the development of econometric models for estimating the value of water quality improvements in a recreation framework. These models often rely on the cost of traveling to a recreation site to measure the price of recreation. Several practical problems arise in this framework, including varying length trips, a topic treated in a repackaging framework by Elizabeth Wilman (AJAE 1987). Another problem arising in the travel cost framework is that costs will naturally vary across persons living different distances from the site, but environmental quality at the site will not. This has led to the use of discrete choice models in which variation in environmental quality across sites is used to explain the choice of which sites people visit. Cathy Kling (AJAE 1988, JEEM 1988) has compared the performance of discrete choice versus traditional recreation demand models using simulated data to see which perform better in estimating the welfare effects of changes in environmental quality. Trudy Cameron (Land Econ. 1992) has examined the benefits of combining travel cost data with contingent valuation data to solve this same problem of lack of variation in site quality.

Valuing Ecological and Non-Use Benefits

Perhaps the most difficult category of benefits to value in the context of environmental programs are ecological benefits — reduced damages to natural resources—which may or may not provide direct human services. Valuing such damages is especially important in cases (such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill) where polluters can be sued for damages. Carol Jones and Katherine Pease (Contemp. Econ. Policy 1997) have attempted to bring economic logic to the suggested the use of in-kind compensation ("compensatory restoration") as an alternative to

the direct measurement of the lost value in natural resource damage cases.

Further Contributions

Environmental Economics encompasses far more than pollution regulation and benefit-cost analysis. It includes work on environmentally sustainable development (Graciela Chichilnisky, Geoffrey Heal and Andrea Beltratti, Econ. Letters 1995) and studies of the political economy of environmental regulation (Maureen Cropper, Maria Ducla Soares and co-authors, JPE 1992; Amy Ando, RFF 1997, 1998). Women have examined firms' responses to environmental regulation (Seema Arora and Tim Cason, JEEM 1995; Virginia McConnell and Robert Schwab, Land Econ. 1990) and have studied the impact of community pressure on environmental quality (Sheoli Pargal and David Wheeler, JPE 1996). Finally, women have made significant contributions to the related fields of Energy Economics and the Economics of Natural Resources.

As the previous discussion implies, much of the work done by women in Environmental Economics has been empirical in nature and has been directed at improving environmental policy. Women have made progress in this regard, especially women in federal and state governments who deal with regulatory issues on a daily basis. (Elizabeth David of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources especially deserves to be mentioned.) These women have both used the research described on these pages and have inspired it by drawing our attention to environmental issues worthy of study.

The Royal Economic Society Women's Committee

Karen Mumford - University of York
Denise Osborn - University of Manchester

ECONOMICS IN THE UNITED Kingdom is a male-dominated profession. Although it has long been informally recognised that most professional academic economists here are men, there was no organisation which tried to redress the balance by promoting the role of women. Around 1995, however, things began to change. At that time there was no reliable data about the gender balance of the UK profession - there was, however, a general concern among members of the Royal Economic Society that women were not being attracted to the profession. A working party was set up to consider the situation and to make recommendations. Out of this came the Royal Economic Society Women's Committee, established in late 1996 and now a standing committee of the Royal Economic Society. In many ways, the RES Women's Committee has been inspired by CSWEP.

The working party set out, first, to establish the evidence. Maybe it is no coincidence that it was chaired by an econometrician! The data on the academic sphere was elicited by sending a questionnaire to Heads of Economics Departments in December 1996. The response rate was good (92 percent). Other groups of economists were identified and included in the survey. We found that there are 2346 people working as economists in academic appointments in the UK. Most of these people (85 percent) are working in standard academic appointments (i.e., mixed teaching and research jobs as opposed to research-only appointments). Women make up 13 percent of this standard academic workforce, although their representation across seniority levels is far from even: approximately 30 percent of the research/Ph.D. students, 15 percent of the lecturers, 10 percent of the readers/senior lecturers and 5 percent of the professors. (For broad comparative purposes, a lecturer

in the UK corresponds to an assistant professor in the US, a senior lecturer to associate professor and a UK professor to full professor in the US.) We also found these ratios to be strikingly similar in new universities, old universities, departments with a higher than average research ranking, and those ranked below average.

We also asked about new hires in the previous 12 months. Although we suspect that this flow data is less reliable than the information on the stock, it does give some indication of the dynamics of the process. There were 49 new permanent lecturers hired, 13 of whom were female. The 13 new hires increased the relative stock of permanent female lecturers by some 0.7 of a percentage point. If this trend continued, it would take another 10 years or so to bring the relative stock of permanent female lecturers up to the proportion in the inflows of 26.5 percent. At the more senior academic levels the majority of inflows are probably due to promotion of which there are no data available yet. Nevertheless, new hires into these grades over the last 12 months did little to change the relative employment position of women amongst the senior grades.

A comparison of the economics data with official published data for other disciplines reveals that the broad pattern in economics is very similar to science in the UK - and quite distinct from that of the social sciences in general. For example, around 5 percent of professors and 20 percent of lecturers in science are women, whereas the corresponding percentages for social science are 10 and 35, respectively. We are not sure whether this is also the case in other countries.

Alongside this, the working party also looked at the gender balance within the Government Economic Service.

The overall pattern there is strikingly similar to that for academic economics, however, women constitute a substantially higher proportion of entry level professional economists in government (nearly 30 percent) than in academic economics. Furthermore, historical data indicate that the representation of women in the Government Economic Service has increased over the last ten years, especially in the more senior grades where the average promotion rates are now similar for both genders.

Collecting this data has raised at least as many questions as it has answered. Why is the representation of women at the entry level of professional economist in government nearly double that in academic posts? Do women research students perceive that there are barriers to their progression in academia? Is the lack of role models an issue? The RES Women's Committee is beginning to address these and other questions.

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Opportunities from the National Science Foundation

Dan Newlon - National Science Foundation

THE FOLLOWING ARE TWO funding opportunities that have recently been announced, a "heads up" about two forthcoming major initiatives and a request for your ideas on infrastructure projects that would benefit economics for a "wish list" we are assembling for future budget requests.

ALERT 1: Urban Research Initiative

NSF expects to make 10 to 20 awards totaling \$6 million on the dynamics of change in urban environments.

DEADLINE: July 22, 1998

MORE INFORMATION: www.nsf.gov under crosscutting programs - Urban Research Initiative (URI)

ALERT 2: Career Awards

NSF will spend at least \$2.5 million next year in the social and behavioral sciences on awards for a minimum of \$200,000 over 4 years to young untenured faculty.

DEADLINE: July 22, 1998

MORE INFORMATION: www.nsf.gov under crosscutting programs - Career

HEADS-UP: Educating for the Future

NSF has requested for next year \$9 million for social and behavioral research on LEARNING AND CHILDREN and much more for EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE. If you have an NSF grant and would like to organize or participate in workshops that will help define the solicitations for EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE, look for an announcement at www.nsf.gov or send me an e-mail at dnewlon@nsf.gov Check www.nsf.gov for announcements in these areas next fall.

REQUEST FOR IDEAS:

We are trying to assemble a "wish list" of infrastructure ideas that would benefit economists. Some of these ideas might eventually become the basis of new partnerships between NSF and other government agencies, e.g., the Census/NSF data access centers. Others might generate proposals that could compete for funds from one of NSF's new budgetary initiatives or become the basis of an initiative proposal. Please send

me your ideas by e-mail at dnewlon@nsf.gov as soon as possible. At this point all I need is a paragraph on each idea. Appended below is an outline of ideas discussed at the April Economics Advisory Panel meeting and some other suggestions to illustrate what we're looking for.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT IN ECONOMICS

Infrastructure projects strengthen research resources by providing better instrumentation; creating new software; generating new or improved data; providing centers, workshops, conferences and institutes that facilitate interaction among researchers; improving the training and background of researchers and their students assistants; providing technical and archival assistance; and producing new analytical and measurement methods.

There are a growing number of special infrastructure funding opportunities. We will use this information to encourage infrastructure proposals that would benefit economists.

Examples of potential infrastructure proposals by subfield of economics follow. Please elaborate on the examples that interest you or add other ideas that we've missed. I've also copied some suggestions:

• Basic Theory

- Institutes that bridge mathematics, economic theory and applications;
- Interdisciplinary research teams that try to forge new subfields or reinvigorate existing fields, e.g., cognitive psychology and utility theory, engineering and mathematical industrial organization, behavioral economics;
- Software development that facilitates economic modelling and applications, e.g., GAMBIT;
- Experimental laboratory with budgets for subject payments for testing economic theories.

• Econometrics

- Institutes, workshops and conferences that bridge statistics/computer science/economics, e.g. Berkeley Econometrics

Laboratory;

- Software and Hardware to push out computational frontiers of economics, i.e., supercomputers, workstations;
- Software archives to store and make accessible new software in economics;
- Institute to speed economic application of advances in econometrics, i.e., non-parametric and semi-parametrics; and
- Special award to encourage the development and application of computer graphics and other visualization methods for economic applications.

• Macroeconomics

- Institute or team research to achieve a major advance in business and governmental economic forecasting, general equilibrium modelling, calibration, etc.;
- Total National Income Accounts that more accurately represent economic aggregates, e.g. work by Robert Eisner;
- Workshops, Institutes that improve links to policy, i.e., Brookings, Carnegie/Rochester, NBER macro;
- Fill gaps in or improve quality of macroeconomic data on consumption, economic growth, aggregate technological change, financial transmission mechanisms, unemployment, international spillovers, etc.

• International

- Institute or teams that strengthen the scientific quality of economic development;
- Access to detailed data on import/export flows and costs for US and other countries, e.g. Robert Feenstra's data;
- Better measures of purchasing power parity and other adjustments in international data to permit more accurate international comparisons, e.g., Summers/Heston's Penn Tables;
- Collection of better data on transition economies, e.g., Shleifer's research on privatization in Russia;
- Financial data tracking representative sample of significant transactions in international financial markets organized in ways that facilitate the study of financial panics, monetary unions, etc.;

- International data archives such as the Luxembourg Income Study that permit rigorous international economic comparisons;
- Postdoctoral and collaborative research for U.S. economists at foreign institutions;
- Global perspective in macro, finance, industrial organization, labor, public finance etc.;
- Comparable international data on human capital investments; and
- Better data on immigration both on socioeconomic environment before and after immigration.

• Finance

- Daily transaction data necessary to study market microstructure;
- Better time series estimation methods for analyzing exceptionally large volume of financial data;
- Laboratories with sufficient resources to test financial theories and simulate the effects of different financial institutions on market performance;
- Brokerage data on behavior of individual investors; and
- Access to longitudinal data on banks and other financial institutions.

• Industrial Organization

- Organizational database on different types of jobs, job hierarchies, wages, benefits, etc. motivated by new theories of the firm with their emphasis on internal business organization;
- Data collection, experiments and theoretical research on auction design;
- Science and Technology data - R&D, patents, scientist employees, other measures of discoveries, bibliometric measures, international S&T indicators;
- Private sector initiative for economists (partial funding from business for NSF competitive research);
- Access to longitudinal data files especially on the creation and loss of jobs by businesses of all size; and
- Linkage of longitudinal business establishment data files to demographic, environmental, geographic, and other data.

• Resource

- Institutes like the MIT Energy Lab that draw together the physical, biological

- and social sciences for environmental work;
- Improved integrated models for forecasting and studying resource depletion, energy costs and other environmental and resource issues;
- Experiments with contingent valuation and other methods of pricing environmental assets;
- "Green" national income accounts; and
- Collaborative research across political economy, industrial organization and resource economics.

• Labor

- Consistent longitudinal time use data for a nationally representative sample of US families;
- New Panel Study of Income Dynamics or "refresher" added to the PSID to better track mid- to long-term socioeconomic trends for US families;
- Nationally representative longitudinal data on racial, ethnic, immigrant and other groups;
- Links of longitudinal family data of parents and children to housing, schooling, health, employers, and other data;
- Institute or teams on interdisciplinary research on child development, education and economics;
- Organizational databases on Universities, schools, and other educational institutions; and
- Better data on income distribution.

• Political Economy

- Better tax and expenditure data (IRS data linked through SSN to IRS data);
- Organizational database for political organizations and other nonprofits, e.g. Jim Heckman's study of the JPTA;
- Interdisciplinary studies of interest group behavior motivated by theoretical research on rent seeking;
- Economic module for the National Election Studies motivated by public choice and other economic theories; and
- Better indices of international political instability.

• Economic History

- Extend time series used in other areas of economics with historical data;
- Integrate anthropological, biological and other data into historical time series, e.g., Robert Fogel's work with height;

- Better documentation of historical data; and
- Program for facilitating linkages among historical data.

• Infrastructure Suggestions

The following are some examples of infrastructure suggestions that we've already received that illustrate what we hope to get from our request.

I want to echo/reinforce my comments on two data issues relevant to public finance. First, we are in desperate need of a genuine tax-based data set with which to do sensible research. At the moment, there are only two unsatisfactory alternatives: use a survey data set (e.g., PSID, CPS, ...) and make up tax rates (perhaps in a sophisticated fashion using TAXSIM, perhaps not). Or, get the panel of tax returns that Joel Slemrod peddles. The latter is pricey and does NOT have decent data on other aspects of the individuals. In short, it is time for a panel data set of tax returns matched to other data about individuals/households/business activities for research purposes. I can think of a number of issues (savings, Feldstein's revenue-raising critiques, efficacy of EITC, fairness of capital gains, ...) that would benefit immediately. At the deep level of just looking at taxes and economic behavior, we would be much better off.

I think it would be incredibly useful to commission occasional surveys about prices in different industries. For example, although drug, telecom, electricity, tobacco, etc. prices are in the news constantly, economists have very little data that tell us about actual transaction prices. These data could inform discussions of the CPI, market competition and public policy discussions. The IO and policy communities have long noted the importance of new firms and entrepreneurs to economic growth, but we have little data that describes the birth of firms. Such data might include survival, employee, executive, patent, funding, R&D, sales and employment data.

To focus the enterprise, one might start with high technology companies. I know several people who would be interested in assembling better capital stock data. There is great interest out here in trying to measure investments in computers and computer

productivity. Currently we have very poor data on computer purchases and use. A continuous survey might be very useful.

Many ideas discussed at the ASA-Sloan Foundation workshop addressed system-wide issues, such as confidentiality and on-site accessibility of economic statistics. Other ideas, some of which are already noted, included:

- Improvement of microdata bases.
- Cost of living indexes.
- Improvement of data on prices, in particular when new products are introduced.
- Measurement of prices, output, and quality in services.
- Classification of services.
- Measurement of prices of both goods and services by the flow of services provided.
- Measurement of technological change.
- Measurement of the degree of business globalization and its effects.
- Measurement of assets and other wealth.
- Measurement of the contribution of births and deaths of firms to the economy.
- Measurement of outsourcing as it affects the measurement of investment and purchases of services.
- Improvement of the national accounts: measurement of intangibles and of non-market goods and services.
- Measurement and analysis of time use.
- Measurement of poverty.
- Measurement of productivity.
- Assessment of current expenditures vs. capital investment in government spending.

Develop world tariff data series:

Development of a consistent set of world tariff data for internationally traded goods would improve the quality and comparability of economic analysis of trade restrictions and liberalization. This project would collaboratively explore data needs, availability, and constraints for use in analysis of the increasing number and type of trade liberalization initiatives. These initiatives include World Trade Organization (WTO), Free Trade Area for the Americas, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Numerous organizations, such as the World Bank, FAO, Inter-American Development

Bank, OECD, WTO, UNCTAD, and the Global Trade Analysis Project consortium rely on data for tariffs applied by major countries on import commodities in order to assess the economic effects of trade liberalization initiatives. Such a project would also allow collaboration among agencies and academic institutions on how to consistently handle conceptual issues in international tariff analysis.

These issues might include international comparability of detailed tariff and trade data, development of consistent tariff equivalents for specific and mixed tariffs, and analysis of tariffification in the context of the WTO. As a first step in developing international collaboration to improve tariff data, ERS would propose holding a workshop among interested international organizations, academics, and government agencies to deal with the data needs, data availability, and data constraints for conducting the type of trade analysis summarized above.

The measurement of nontariff barriers:

There is increasing need for better measures of the many nontariff barriers that currently impede the international delivery of goods and services. This is the case especially since new trade negotiations to be held in the next few years under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will cover a variety of internationally traded services as well as traded agricultural products and manufactured goods.

Because of the periodic multilateral trade negotiations held since the late 1940s, tariffs on industrial products in the major industrialized countries have been reduced to relatively low levels. But nontariff barriers of many kinds still exist for a variety of traded manufactured products.

Services trade is also impeded by many nontariff barriers, especially in the form of domestic regulatory measures. Accurate and comprehensive measures of these nontariff barriers are needed in order to assess the impacts that these barriers have on economic welfare in the United States and other major trading countries and to provide the basis for WTO negotiations designed to reduce or remove these barriers.

There exist comparatively few system-

atic measures of these barriers, apart from some simple counts of the various types of barriers and selected measures based on comparisons of domestic and international prices, auction prices of quota rights, and government procurement discrimination.

By the same token, there has been considerable work done on methodological approaches that might be taken in measuring these barriers, including Robert E. Baldwin, "Measuring the Effects of Nontariff Trade-Distorting Policies," in J. de Melo and A. Sapir (eds.), "Trade Theory and Economic Reform," Basil Blackwell, 1991, and Alan V. Dearfoff and Robert M. Stern, "Measurement of Nontariff Barriers," University of Michigan Press, 1998 (forthcoming).

The gap to date between actual measurement and proposed methodologies is due mainly to the need for access to a variety of expertise and information in order to implement the various methodologies. Using the different approaches, Baldwin and Stern propose a cooperative effort between academic economists, government officials, and private sector representatives to undertake a pilot study of a few industries in the United States and other major trading countries to determine the feasibility of measuring the price-increasing effects of different barriers and regulations that impede international trade in these industries.

Education in Measurement Issues:

Development of teaching modules on conceptual and methodological measurement issues that can be integrated into graduate course work and cooperative efforts with AEA, CRIW and other entities to introduce these modules into courses.

Development of mini-courses on measurement that can be offered in conjunction with professional conventions such as the ASSA, ASA, and NABE conventions.

Development and dissemination of user-friendly materials on measurement targeted toward different audiences: Professional economists, businessmen, journalists, undergraduate and graduate students.

From the Chair ...

CSWEP Chair, Robin L. Bartlett - Denison University

• Another CCOFFE workshop has been completed. Susan Pozo with the help of Marianne Ferber (professor emerita, University of Illinois), Beth Allen (Curtis Carlson Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota) and Jean Kimmel (senior economist, W.E. Upjohn Institute), conducted a very successful workshop at the Midwest meetings, March 21-22, in Chicago. The Eastern, Western and Southern CCOFFE workshops are being planned. Contact your regional representative for further details.

On the next page, we have printed a few reflections from 1998 CCOFFE Workshop facilitators. These women were crucial to the functioning of each of the CCOFFE teams. They assisted the senior women when necessary and made sure that each group stayed on task.

• Next issue we want to print any comments that participants from either the 1998 AEA or Midwest CCOFFE workshops may have. There will be a reunion of CCOFFE participants at the upcoming AEA meetings from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on January 2, 1999, in New York. So when you get your registration forms, come a day early to catch up with other workshop participants, team leaders and facilitators.

• We will also be awarding two prizes this year. The Elaine Bennett Prize and the Carolyn Shaw Bell Research Award. If you would like to nominate

someone for either prize, please do not hesitate to do so.

• We are also establishing a closed list for paid CSWEP associates. You will be the first to have information about job openings, grant opportunities and other timely announcements.

• The Southern NSF/CSWEP CCOFFE Workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 6 and 7 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

If you are interested in more information, please contact:

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• An NSF/CSWEP Workshop will be held in Boston during the Eastern Economic Association Meetings, March 12-14, 1999.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring senior women economists together with junior female economists to form teams to improve their grant, research paper writing and other profes-

sional skills. The workshop will have informational and work sessions. In these sessions, participants will have time to work on a grant/research paper project with the help and guidance of a senior woman economist and the other members of their team. There will also be sessions devoted to networking, life-balancing and teaching issues.

The exact dates and times of the workshop are yet to be determined, but it will probably run for a day and a half at the end of the EEA meetings. Participants should ideally be untenured professors with tenure-track appointments.

If you are interested in this workshop or know of an untenured female professor who could benefit from this mentoring workshop, please contact either:

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Participants in a CCOFFE workshop group at the 1998 AEA Meetings in Chicago. Pictured, from left to right, are: Sara Solnick, Lise Vesterlund, Laura Razzolini, Elizabeth Hoffman (senior woman economist), Yan Chen, Barbara Fraumeni (facilitator) and Rachel Croson.

Reflections from 1998 CCOFFE Workshop Facilitators

Barbara Fraumeni, Susan Pozo, Joyce Jacobsen and Daphne Kenyon

BETSY HOFFMAN WAS THE Senior Economist for the Experimental CCOFFE Group I facilitated. There were five junior women in the group from a variety of schools and not all from departments of economics. As half observer and half participant, I spent a substantial amount of time watching how the sessions unfolded. Betsy Hoffman was a wise and knowledgeable mentor, who quickly established a rapport with the junior women. One of the most valuable aspects of CCOFFE were the relationships and peer mentoring between the junior women themselves. To the extent that I could understand the specifics of the conversations not being an experimentalist, the research peer-mentoring sessions seemed to be the liveliest and the most productive. One can only imagine what it would be like if all departments where economists are housed had a critical mass of women! As the CCOFFE Klatch sessions combined two groups with varying pairing, the junior women did have an opportunity to meet and hear the majority of the other senior and junior women. CCOFFE participants rated the research, grant-writing and networking sessions the highest, with the "How to Write a Successful Grant" talk by Dan Newlon of NSF far and away the highest ranked. One can only hope that the junior women are successfully funded over the next several years! Life balancing issues and experiences varied widely both among the junior women and the senior economists, with the interesting result that the facilitators clearly ranked the life balancing session higher than either the junior or senior women. The academic success of the senior women compared to the facilitators and the relative inexperience of the junior women may explain this difference. I am looking forward to running the Eastern Economic Association regional version of CCOFFE with Daphne Kenyon in March 1999 in Boston!

Barbara Fraumeni

CCOFFE WAS A REFRESHING and invigorating experience. I was surrounded by dozens of very bright women economists, all challenging themselves and discovering new angles in their work and in their lives. Even as a facilitator I reflected on my own history and early career expectations and subsequent accomplishments. At the conclusion of the three days I felt that I had made new friends, had set new goals and had gotten great tips on all aspects of life and work. Perhaps most importantly, I left with a decidedly more positive attitude about my work.

Susan Pozo

THE CCOFFE MEETING WAS balanced between smaller team meetings and larger topic-oriented sessions when two teams would join together. Both types of events served useful purposes. In our team meetings, people were able to focus on their individual career plans, while the larger sessions provided perspective. In our first team meeting, we had each person name her number one issue to be dealt with during CCOFFE. One mentioned choosing viable research topics, one mentioned marketing herself (in the contexts of reentering the job market and getting grants), one mentioned the whole research process, and one mentioned getting research out the door. This led into a useful discussion of sending one's work around and in general keeping on people's radar screen. We returned to these themes throughout our subsequent team meetings and elicited specifics regarding each person's career path. We ended our first meeting with each person stating what they wanted to accomplish by the end of 1998. We returned to this idea in our fourth team meeting, when we committed our short-run and long-run plans to

paper. The larger group meetings on research, grant-getting, networking, and life-balancing, each led by our team leader and one other senior woman, were all very interesting. In the life-balancing session, one topic arose that probably doesn't come up very often for the general public: the pros and cons of marrying another economist. The conference went smoothly for the most part, my only disappointment being that I didn't get a chance to meet and talk with every one of the attendees. The binder of relevant materials, especially the short biographies on each attendee, proved very instructional. I found the whole meeting very inspiring and enjoyable. How often do you get 60 woman economists together to talk about career-building strategies? This was likely the first time it has happened, but hopefully will not have been the last.

Joyce Jacobsen

THE PARTS OF THE CCOFFE workshop that I thought were the most successful were the work sessions during which the junior women discussed each other's research projects. I was impressed by the conscientious preparation of the discussants and the useful ideas they generated. We really have some gifted junior women coming up the ranks in the economics profession! I also thought that the senior women had a lot of wise life advice and helpful "nuts and bolts" tidbits of information on networking, grant-writing, and publishing. I found myself wishing that I had been able to attend a CCOFFE workshop 17 years ago when I was starting out as an assistant professor in a department of 24 economists which had only one woman other than myself.

Daphne Kenyon

Regional Meetings

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Western Economic Association
June 28-July 2, 1998
Lake Tahoe, Nev.

• **Economic Policy Issues Related to Gender in Foreign and Domestic Contexts**

Co-Chairs: Joyce Jacobsen (Wesleyan University) and Jennifer Olmsted (Univ. of Calif.-Riverside)

Papers: "What Would a Feminist Fertility Policy for Palestine Look Like?" Jennifer Olmsted (Univ. of Calif.-Riverside); "Social Norms and the Time Allocation of Women's Labor in Burkina Faso" Michael Kevane (Santa Clara University) and Bruce Wydick (University of San Francisco); "Health Outcomes by Sex for HMO Versus Fee-for-Service Health Insurance" Joyce Jacobsen (Wesleyan University) and Stacy Sneeringer (Brookings Institution); "Looking at the Glass Ceiling: Do Returns to Tenure Vary with Education?" Joyce Jacobsen (Wesleyan University) and Laurence Levin.

Discussants: Constance Newman (World Bank); Joanne Spetz (Public Policy Institute of California); Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman (San Diego State University).

• **Central Banking in a Constitutional Democracy**

Chair: Helen A. Popper (Santa Clara University)

Papers: "The World's Central Bank: Time to Terminate the ESF and IMF" Anna J. Schwartz (National Bureau of Economic Research); "The International Lender of Last Resort" Catherine L. Mann (Institute for International Economics); "Did the Fed's Founding Improve the Efficiency of the United States Payments System?" R. Alton Gilbert (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Mo.) **Discussants:** Jo Anna Gray (University of Oregon); Margaret "Gretchen" Greene (Yeo Farms); Helen A. Popper (Santa Clara University); Diana Hancock [tentative] (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System).

For more information on the Western Meetings, check their Web site at:
<http://www.weainternational.org/annual.htm>

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Southern Economic Association
November 8-10, 1998
Baltimore, Md.

• **Gender Differences: Theory and Laboratory Experiments**

Chair: Catherine Eckel (NSF and Virginia Tech)

Papers: "The Effects of Risk Aversion on Job Matching: Can Differences in Risk Aversion Explain the Wage Gap?" Lisa Vesterlund (Iowa State University); "Attitudes Toward Risk Mitigation Investment Using Hypothetical and Real Rewards: Gender Differences" Jamie Brown Kruse (Texas Tech University); "Strategies Similarity and Emergent Conventions" John Van Huyck (Texas A & M University) **Discussant:** Catherine Eckel (NSF and Virginia Tech).

• **Women's Health and the Labor Market**

Chair: Leslie Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Papers: "Recent Trends in Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: Are Bad Jobs Getting Worse?" Helen Levy (Princeton University); "The Effects of Clinical Depression on Wages and Returns to Schooling" Christina Cunha Parson (Fairfield University); "The Relationship Between Employment, Private Health Insurance, and Medicaid: Evidence from the SIPP" Lara Shore-Sheppard (University of Pittsburgh); "The Effects of Increasingly Comprehensive Coverage on the Demand for Medical Services" Melissa A. Thomasson (Miami University) **Discussants:** Pamela Peele (University of Pittsburgh); Leslie Stratton (Virginia Commonwealth University).

For more information on the Southern meetings, check their Web site at:
<http://www.okstate.edu/economics/journal/south1.html>

CSWEP-Sponsored Sessions at the Midwest Economics Association
March 19-21, 1998
Chicago, Ill.

CSWEP held two sessions at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meetings.

• **Gender Related Session**

Chair: Kristen Keith (University of Toledo)

The first paper, "Gender Ratio and Dowry Inflation in India: 1881-1981," by Sonia Dalmia (University of Iowa) examined the cause of dowry inflation in India over the last 40 years, where dowry inflation is an increase in the real value of the transfer from the bride's family to the groom's. Sonia's model of dowry inflation includes a matching process (more educated men are preferred), and the observation that population growth has resulted in larger younger cohorts. Because the preference in India is for men to marry younger women, a relative increase in the size of younger cohorts will create a surplus of marriageable women. This surplus, combined with strong preference for early, universal and monogamous marriages has played a substantial role in the rise of dowries in India.

The second paper, "Fertility Timing and Transition Into and Out of Poverty," by Annie Georges (Pennsylvania State University) examined the relationship between early childbearing on the transition into and out of poverty. Drawing samples of young women from the 1979 to 1993 data files of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Annie focused on the affects of teen parenthood, labor market forces, and educational attainment on the probability that a woman is poor. Using a hazard model, her results indicate, with the exception of Hispanic women, being a teen mother does not significantly increase the probability of being in poverty. However, the factors that impact poverty vary across racial lines.

The third paper, "Revisiting Occupational Segregation," by Emily Hoffman

(Western Michigan University) examined trends in occupational segregation. Occupational segregation exists when members of different groups (e.g., males and females) are concentrated in different occupations. Emily reviewed the concept of occupational segregation, and the literature on the measurement of occupational segregation. She presented up-to-date descriptive data on the extent of occupation segregation by both gender and race. Of particular interest is that, among women, there is substantial occupation segregation by race when actual occupations are examined rather than just summary index numbers.

The last paper, "Gender Gaps in Demand and Supply of Contingent Workers" by Suman Kharbanda (Vanderbilt University) examined the contingent worker labor market. Since the mid-1970s the labor market has seen a growth in the employment of contingent workers. An important issue is whether this growth has been driven by supply-side considerations (e.g., voluntary choices made by individuals who prefer job flexibility), or by demand-side factors (e.g., an individual's inability to secure a full-time job). To answer these

questions, Suman estimated a sectoral labor market model for male and female contingent workers across various occupation categories. She found that the primary motive for the use of contingent workers was employers' desires for increased flexibility and cost cutting. Proxies for employees' preferences did not significantly affect the model. However, better information on employees' preferences may yield different results.

The discussants were Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes (Western Michigan University) and Kristen Keith (University of Toledo).

• **Economics of Information**

Chair: Virginia Shingleton (Valparaiso University)

Beth Allen (University of Minnesota) provided information on her participation at the NAS/NCR conference concerning the flow of electronic data. Primarily in attendance were physical scientists who were interested in the flow of information. For the most part the scientists did not consider the economic questions concerning the flow of information, e.g., pricing of data or optimal investment in data. Renee Irvin (University of Ne-

braska-Omaha) addressed the issue of asymmetric information in the health care industry. She surmises that the not-for-profit status of health care firms serves as a signal of quality for patients unable to fully evaluate the clinical quality of care. Using a data set of approximately 4000 patients undergoing kidney dialysis at 500 facilities nationwide in 1990-1992, the effects of asymmetric information in the renal dialysis industry is examined. Results imply that asymmetric information in the renal dialysis industry accounts for differing quality of treatment provided to patients of differing knowledge levels. Lise Vesterlund (Iowa State University) examined a puzzling inconsistency between the theoretical prediction of private provisions to public goods and actual fundraising behavior. An announcement strategy (whereby fundraisers announce contributions and their pledged amounts) may be optimal because it reveals the charity's quality. Such a strategy also helps the fundraiser to overcome the free-rider problem. Virginia Shingleton (Valparaiso University) and Carolyn Evans (Harvard University) served as discussants for this session.

The Eastern Web site is located at:
http://www.iona.edu/academic/arts_sci/orgs/eea/eea.htm

Call for Papers

At the Midwest Meetings: The Midwest meetings will be held March 26-28, 1999 in Nashville, Tenn. One of the sessions will focus on gender-related issues. Although we welcome papers concerning any and all aspects of gender studies, in particular we are interested in papers addressing women's work, income and child well-being in developing countries.

The non-gender session will address the potential advantages and disadvantages of nonstandard employment for workers, with special emphasis on policies that would help to minimize the latter.

Please send proposals of no more than a page by September 10 to:

Susan Pozo

CSWEP Midwest Representative
Department of Economics
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

At the Eastern Meetings: At the Eastern Economic Association Meetings, March 12-14, 1999, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, there will be two or more CSWEP sponsored sessions. For gender-related topics, we are particularly interested in receiving one page abstracts for research investigating women's unpaid work, including household production, child care and other nonmarket activities, but all gender-related research topics are welcome. For other topics, we are

particularly interested in receiving one page abstracts for research having to do with transportation and housing, but other topics are welcome. Please include with the abstract your name, affiliation, snail-mail and e-mail address, and phone and fax numbers.

Abstracts should be submitted by December 1, 1998 to:

Barbara M. Fraumeni

Department of Economics
Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

(617)373-2252

Bfraumen@lynx.neu.edu

Alice Hanson Cook, 1904-1998

The following is a reprint from an obituary written by Darryl Geddes of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

ALICE HANSON COOK, A PROFESSOR emeritus at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and one of the first scholars to study the plight of working women, died February 7 at her home in Ithaca, N.Y. She died of complications from a stroke. She was 94.

Cook was one of the first scholars to write on and research issues related to working women, such as equal pay and comparable worth. Her academic studies in the early 1970s also touched on maternity leave and the various ways public policy could support working mothers.

In 1972 she proposed a Maternal Bill of Rights to compensate women for loss of employment opportunities and job development during their child-rearing years. In a monograph, published by the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cook wrote: "Working mothers carry a double burden of home and child-care duties on the one hand and employment on the other. Immediate provision of child-care facilities and opportunities for part-time work would greatly ease these burdens, until society accommodates over the long run to new definitions of sex roles and equalization of parental responsibilities."

Cook's early career was as a social worker in Indianapolis and St. Louis. As an industrial secretary at the YMCA, in Chicago (1927-29) and then Philadelphia (1931-37), Cook saw the hardship endured by working women, especially those who had to support children at home. During this time, she also created and taught special summer schools for women workers at Bryn Mawr, Penn., and at various locations in the South.

Cook's work as a union educator and leader increased her awareness of women's workplace issues and provided her a position in which to study and seek remedies for their plight. She served as education director of the Textiles Workers Organizing Committee (1937-39) and then as assistant to the manager of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (1940-1943). Throughout the 1940s, Cook also taught labor education programs for the United Steelworkers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen and Fireman, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers.

After a brief stint (1950-1952) as chief of the adult education section of the U.S. Office of Cultural Affairs in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, Cook joined Cornell University as a project director for a field study on increasing labor participating in community affairs. In 1954 she was named to the faculty.

Cook who was admired for her intellectual curiosity, accuracy and fairness, became a clear choice to serve as Cornell's first ombudsman, a position created in large part as a result of the campus uprisings of the 1960s. She was named to the post in 1969 and served until 1971. As ombudsman, Cook received grievances from anyone in the Cornell community — students, faculty and administrators.

An ardent feminist, Cook took up the fight for women's rights on every front. She was a catalyst in opening a Cornell University faculty club to women.

After her retirement from Cornell in 1972 when she was named an emeritus professor, Cook spent the next 26 years until her death writing and studying about the world of the working women.

Her studies of women were not confined to the United States. She authored numerous papers addressing the issues of working women abroad. The Ford Foundation funded her 1978 study, *The Working Mother: A Survey of Problems and Programs in Nine Countries* (ILR Press, 1978), and the German Marshall Fund sponsored her 1975 study on trade unions and the working women in Germany, England, Belgium, Sweden and Austria.

During the 1980s and '90s her research addressed issues of comparable worth as in her chapter on "Comparable Worth: Recent Developments in Selected States" in *Comparable Worth and Wage Discrimination: Technical Possibilities and Political Realities* (Temple University Press, 1984); and "Pay Equity: Theory and Implementation" in *Public Personnel Management: Current Concerns, Future Challenges* (Longman, 1991). She also examined the workday life of dual-income couples in her chapter "Can Work Requirements Accommodate to the Needs of Dual-Earners Families?" in *Dual-Earner Families: International Perspectives* (Sage Publications, 1992).

"She was not only interested, but concerned in every aspect of the working

women's life," said Jennie Farley, Cornell professor of industrial and labor relations. "From issues of compensation to child care to juggling work and home responsibilities, Alice studied it all and made it clear that these issues were universal in their importance and that they affected every woman no matter where she lived and worked."

Cook was honored with the publication of ILR Press in 1985 of *Women Workers in Fifteen Countries*, a book of 15 essays by social scientists, economists and lawyers assessing the current situation of working women in the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Israel and other countries. Writing for *The New York Times Book Review*, Alice Kessler-Harris called the book "a fitting tribute" to Cook.

Cook was also the subject of a 1993 documentary, *Never Done: The Working Life of Alice Cook*, which reflected on her five careers, as social worker, labor organizer, labor educator, foreign service member and professor. The film was made by Marilyn Rivchin, a senior lecturer in filmmaking at Cornell.

She was a founding member in 1972 of an ad hoc group that later became the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, which provides leadership and advocacy on women's issues at Cornell. She served as a lifetime member of the group, which annually presents the Cook Awards to persons who have contributed positively to the status of women on campus.

Cook's awards are numerous. She received the Governor's Empire State Women of the Year Award in 1984 and the Tompkins County (NY) Human Rights Commission award for outstanding contributions to human rights, among others. Shortly before her death, Cook completed her autobiography, *A Lifetime in Labor*, which will be published this spring by the Feminist Press of New York.

Born in Alexandria, VA., in 1903, Cook earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1924. She did graduate work at the University of Frankfurt and Berlin University in Germany from 1928 to 1931.

She is survived by two sons Philip Cook of Buffalo, NY, and Thomas Bernstein of New York City; two brothers, Fred Hanson of Sun Lake, Ariz., Evanston, Ill., and Cedar River, Mich., and Theodore Hanson of Honolulu; several grandchildren and a great grandchild.

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CSWEP

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If you have not paid your dues for the current member year (July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999), we urge you to do so. Questionnaires and dues reminders were mailed in September to associates.

If you have paid, please pass this newsletter page on to a student, friend, or colleague and tell them about our work. Thank you!

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The Special Reprint Issue of the newsletter contains reprints of ten articles designed to help women economists advance in the profession. The cost for non-paying members is \$8.00.