Regional Economic Development: Current Issues 2010-11

Department of Economics

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Dr. Thomas G. Rawski is professor of Economics and History at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University in 1972. He is proficient in Chinese, Japanese, and German.

Prior to joining University of Pittsburgh, he taught at University of Toronto from 1971 to 1985. Rawski has been a visiting professor or scholar at Australian National University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Stanford University, and Tokyo University. He also has held many leadership positions in professional associations and societies, including president of the Association for Comparative Economic Studies.

His research focuses on the development and modern history of China's economy, including studies of China's reform mechanism and achievements, as well as analyses focused on productivity, investment, industry, trade, labor markets, environment, and economic measurement.

His publications include books on Economic Growth and Employment in China; Chinese History in Economic Perspective; Economic Growth in Prewar China; China's Transition to Industrialization; and Economics and the Historian. He is co-editor of recent volumes on China's Rise and the Balance of Influence in Asia (2007) and China's Great Economic Transformation (2008).

Professor Chen received a Ph.D. in finance from Yale University in 1990. He is an expert on finance theory, capital markets, and China's economy and financial markets. Chen is a frequent contributor to top economics and finance journals with articles ranging from securities valuation to capital market development, to the impact of financial markets on society and culture, and to economic policy topics.

Recently, Chen has focused his research on market development and institution-building issues in the context of China's transition process and other emerging markets. Chen's work also has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, Barron's, Far-Eastern Economic Review, and many newspapers and magazines in Hong Kong and China. He is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines in China, writing on economic policy, market development and legal reform issues, and making him one of the influential economists in China.


Among his books, "The Logic of Finance" received 23 Best Books of 2000 awards in China and has remained on the top-five best-seller list since 2009.

Chen is a co-founder and partner of Zebra Capital Management, and a member of the board of directors at both Lord Abbett China and the Bank of Communications in China. He is on the policy advisory board for the Beijing Municipal Government and for the Hunan Provincial Government. Chen received the Pacesetter Research Award at Ohio State University in 1989, the Merton Miller Prize in 1994, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange Competitive Research Award in 1994.

The Sichel Series is codirected by Professors Wei-Chiao Huang and Huizhong Zhou, and is cosponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, College of Arts and Sciences, and Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies at the Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education at WMU.

It is named for longtime WMU economics professor, Dr. Werner Sichel, who retired in 2004.

This series also coincides timely with the founding of Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies at Western Michigan University.

For more information please contact Dr. Wei-Chiao Huang at (269)-387-5528 or Dr. Huizhong Zhou at (269)-387-5550, or email them at huang@wmich.edu or huizhong.zhou@wmich.edu.

The 2010-11 Werner Sichel Lecture Series features six nationally and internationally recognized economists whose presentations will focus on the Chinese economy and US-China economic relations.

Free and Open to the Public 2028 Brown Hall 3 to 4:30 p.m.
10/20/10
Dr. Robert Koopman, US International Trade Commission
Value Chains in Global Production Networks - China and Asia in a Global Context

Dr. Robert B. Koopman received his Ph.D. in Economics in 1985 from Boston College. He currently serves as acting director for the Office of Operations at the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) which oversees the Commission's trade policy research and negotiation assistance provided to the US trade representative and congress, antidumping and countervailing duty investigations; unfair imports adjudication; and maintenance of the harmonized tariff system. Koopman's regular position, since 1999, is as chief economist and director of the USITC Office of Economics. In this position he provides economic analysis and support for the commission's role as adviser to Congress and the President on international trade matters. He teaches graduate classes in advanced international trade and trade and economic development at Georgetown University.

His most recent research interests are focused on understanding the links between trade and economic growth, estimating value added along global supply chains, and examining advanced technology product trade between the US and China. In addition to building highly effective policy relevant research programs within US government agencies Koopman has developed award winning technical assistance and capacity building programs in the transition economies and developing countries, focused on filling market information gaps for businesses and developing policy relevant analysis for high level government officials.

Koopman spent 15 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he served in various leadership and research positions. He is a recipient of the Secretary's Honor Award and numerous other awards for his analysis of the impacts of world trade as a result of the Uruguay Round, CAP Reform, and the effects of transition in the former centrally planned economies.

11/10/10
Dr. Terry Sicul, Department of Economics, University of Western Ontario
Inequality in China: Challenges to a Harmonious Society

Dr. Terry Sicul is professor of Economics at the University of Western Ontario. She received her doctorate at Yale and has taught at Stanford and Harvard Universities. Sicul is a specialist on Chinese economy, speaks fluent Mandarin, and has been researching and travelling to China for over 30 years. In the past her research focused on China's rural economy, especially topics related to agricultural prices and market reforms. More recently, she has studied incomes and inequality in China, as well as questions regarding educational attainment and transmission, and the impact of housing reforms on household income and wealth. She has published widely in scholarly journals and some books, including as a contributor and co-editor of "Inequality and Public Policy," published by Cambridge University Press in 2008.

Sicul has served as a consultant to international donor organizations, and is a co-leader in the ongoing China Household Income Project, a collaborative research project that conducts a nationwide household survey and monitors trends in China's incomes and inequality.

12/01/10
Dr. John Giles, Development Research Group, World Bank, Rural to Urban Migration and the Well-Being of China's Rural Elderly

Dr. John Giles is senior labor economist in the World Bank's Development Research Group (human development and public services team). He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1999. Prior to joining the World Bank in May 2007, he spent two years as an Academy Scholar at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and six years at Michigan State University, where he was promoted to associate professor.

His current research interests include the movement of labor from agricultural to non-agricultural employment; internal migration and its impacts on households and communities; poverty traps; household risk-coping and risk-management behavior; population aging and retirement decisions in developing countries; and women's labor supply decisions in developing countries.


Travel Directions
From I-94 take U.S. 131 north to Exit 36A (Stadium Drive). Travel east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light at Howard St. Turn left onto Howard and take the second right to the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Miller Auditorium parking ramp. Brown Hall is located at the east of the fountain and in between Miller Auditorium and Spraul Tower.

01/12/11
Dr. Gary Jefferson, Department of Economics, Brandeis University
Foreign Direct Investment, Technology Spillover, and Income Inequality in China

Dr. Gary Jefferson has joint appointments at Brandeis University in the Department of Economics, and the International Business School, where his research focuses on institutions, technology, economic growth, and China's economic transformation. He also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the economics of innovation, development economics, and China.

A graduate of Dartmouth College (A.B.) and Yale University (Ph.D.), Jefferson, in addition to serving on the Brandeis faculty, is an adjunct professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where he teaches a course on the political economy of China (in Chinese) and is an honorary professor at Wuhan University. He has also spent time as a visiting scholar at the China research centers at Fudan University and Peking University.