Lessons from the Great Recession 2014-15

Department of Economics

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Barry Eichengreen is the George C. Pardee and Helen N. Pardee Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1987, and Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, University of Cambridge, 2014-15. He is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London, England). He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Eichengreen’s research interests are in the areas of international economics, macroeconomics, and economic history. He has written extensively on currencies and exchange rate mechanisms, and more recently on the financial crisis in the U.S. and Europe.


Till von Wachter has a Ph.D. in Economics from University of California at Berkeley. He has advised the U.S. Department of Labor, the Canadian labor ministry, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the OECD, and the United Nations. He is a frequent contributor to the German Social Security Agency. Before joining UCLA he taught at Columbia University. He is an associate editor of Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society.

Dr. Werner Sichel
This series is named for longtime WMU economics professor and former department chair Dr. Werner Sichel, who retired in 2004. The success and longevity of this series is a testament to his vision and guidance.

The 2014-2015 Sichel Lecture Series brings to WMU campus six distinguished economists whose presentations will discuss the lessons from the Great Recession. This year’s Sichel Lecture Series is directed by Professor Eskander Alvi and is co-sponsored by the Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

For more information please contact Dr. Eskander Alvi at eskander.alvi@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5547. All presentations are free and open to the public.

Barry Eichengreen
University of California, Berkeley
"Hall of Mirrors: The Great Depression, The Great Recession, and the Uses -- and Misuses -- of History"
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
3-4:30 p.m.

Till von Wachter
University of California at Los Angeles
"Cleansing Effects from the Great Recession"
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
3-4:30 p.m.

Dr. Werner Sichel
Lecture Series 2014-2015
Lessons From The Great Recession
Laurence Ball is Professor of Economics at Johns Hopkins University, where he has served since 1994. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Visiting Scholar at the International Monetary Fund. His research interests include unemployment, inflation, and monetary and fiscal policy. Professor Ball’s work has led him to testify before congressional committees on fiscal and monetary policy and financial services during the recent economic crisis. His recent research focuses on unemployment, inflation targeting and costs of deflation and macro policy responses following the Great Recession. Ball has published numerous research articles which appear in the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, Economic Journal, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, and Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series in Public Policy. He is the author of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets (Worth Publishers, second edition 2011), and Macroeconomics and the Financial System (with Greg Mankiw), Worth Publishers 2010.

Laurence Ball holds the Whitehead Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He does research on issues connected with poverty and income distribution, public finance, aging, labor markets, social insurance, and the behavioral effects of government tax and transfer policy. In recent work Dr. Burtless has assessed the impact of the 2008-2010 stimulus programs on U.S. social protection and the economy, evaluated the implications of financial market fluctuations for the design of optimal pension systems, estimated the impact of public and private health insurance on the distribution of American household incomes, and analyzed the growing disparity in expected life spans among Americans with low and high incomes.

Gary Burtless holds the Whitehead Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He does research on issues connected with poverty and income distribution, public finance, aging, labor markets, social insurance, and the behavioral effects of government tax and transfer policy. In recent work Dr. Burtless has assessed the impact of the 2008-2010 stimulus programs on U.S. social protection and the economy, evaluated the implications of financial market fluctuations for the design of optimal pension systems, estimated the impact of public and private health insurance on the distribution of American household incomes, and analyzed the growing disparity in expected life spans among Americans with low and high incomes.


Burtless has a Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has also taught at Princeton, Harvard and NYU and has been a Visiting Scholar at a number of central banks, including the Federal Reserve, Bank of England, Bank of Japan, Central Bank of Norway, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, and Hong Kong Monetary Authority. He is on the editorial board of International Finance and Open Economies Review.

Donald Kohn is Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He is a 40-year veteran of the Federal Reserve System and served on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve from 2002 to 2010, the last four years as vice chairman. He has also been appointed by the government of the United Kingdom to serve on the Financial Policy Committee at the Bank of England. Dr. Kohn is on a number of advisory committees to US government agencies, including for the Office of Financial Research, the FDIC, and the Congressional Budget Office. His research focuses on issues of monetary policy, financial regulation and macroeconomics.

Donald Kohn has many research publications in academic and policy journals, some of which deal with monetary policy in the Great Recession. He has given several testimonies before congressional committees during the recent economic crisis, including American International Group Before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. March 5, 2009; Troubled Asset Relief Program Before the Committee on Financial Services, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. January 13, 2009; Risk Management and its Implications for Systemic Risk Before the Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate June 19, 2008.

Kohn has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan. He is also a member of an advisory committee at IMF Monetary and Capital Markets Department, and was Chair of the Committee on the Global Financial System at the Bank for International Settlement from 2006 to 2010.

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Kathryn Dominguez is Professor of Public Policy and Economics at the University of Michigan and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Her research interests include topics in international financial markets and macroeconomics, and her recent work focuses on European economies in the Great Recession and how exchange rates and reserve management impact their recovery.

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Dominguez has a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. She has also taught at the Kennedy School of Government, the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, the London School of Economics, and the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, and was a research consultant for the Federal Reserve System, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Bank for International Settlements. She is on the editorial board of Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, and Review of International Economics.