



2013

Award-Winning Economists Speak on Contemporary Economic Issues 2013-14

Department of Economics

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Erica Field

Duke University
(Elaine Bennett Research Prize)
“Making Microfinance Work”
Wed., Oct. 16, 2013
3-4:30 p.m.

Erica Field, Associate Professor of Economics and Global Health at Duke University, is a development economist. Field uses the tools of microeconomic theory and health economics to analyze problems in the daily lives of individuals worldwide. Her published research subjects include studies of microfinance, health insurance in Nicaragua and schooling attainment in Tanzania. She currently serves as Faculty Research Fellow in Development at the National Bureau of Economic Research, as Fellow at the Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) and is currently a member of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) headquartered at MIT.

Field earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University in 2003. She is a recipient of the Elaine Bennett Research Prize in 2010. This award is given by the American Economic Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession to the top young female economist, who is within 7 years of completion of the doctoral dissertation.



Nancy Folbre

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
(MacArthur Foundation Fellowship)
“The Once (But No Longer) Golden Age of Human Capital”
Wed., Dec. 4, 2013
3-4:30 p.m.

Nancy Folbre is Emerita Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research explores the interface between political economy and feminist theory with emphasis on the value of unpaid care work. In addition to numerous articles published in academic journals, she is the editor of *For Love and Money: Care Work in the U.S.* (Russell Sage, 2012), and the author of *Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family* (Harvard, 2008), and *Who Pays for the Kids? Gender and the Structures of Constraint* (Routledge, 1994). Books she has authored for a wider audience include *Saving State U* (New Press, 2010), and *The Invisible Heart: Economics and Family Values* (New Press, 2001).

Folbre is a regular contributor to the *New York Times* and *Economix Blog* (<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/author/nancy-folbre/>).

Folbre earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1979 and was awarded the five-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1998.



Avner Greif

Stanford University
(MacArthur Foundation Fellowship)
“Economic Development from a Historical Perspective: The Origin and Nature of Good Institutions”
Wed., Jan. 22, 2014
3-4:30 p.m.

Avner Greif is Professor of Economics and Bowman Family Endowed Professor in Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University. His areas of research include European economic history and the historical development of economic institutions, including their interrelations with political, social and cultural factors and their impact on economic growth. He has been named Fellow of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometrics Society, while currently serving on the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association (2011-2014).

Examples of Greif’s published research include, “A Theory of Moral Persistence”, co-authored with Steven Tadelis (named best paper in the *Journal of Comparative Economics* in 2013), *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy: Lessons from Medieval Trade* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and “Economic History and Game Theory” (*Handbook of Game Theory Volume III*, 2000).

Greif earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University in 1989 and was awarded the five-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1998.



David Kreps

Stanford University Graduate School of Business
(John Bates Clark Medal)
“The Economics and Psychology of Worker Motivation”
Wed., Feb. 26, 2014
3-4:30 p.m.

David M. Kreps is the Adams Distinguished Professor of Management in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, with a courtesy appointment as Professor of Economics. His research applies theories of dynamic choice behavior to economics with a wide variety of applications, including human resource management and non-cooperative game theory. Professor Kreps has been named Fellow of both the Econometric Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2010, he was elected a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association. Kreps’ most recent book is titled *Microeconomic Foundations: Choice and Competitive Markets* (Princeton University Press, 2013).

Kreps earned his Ph.D. in Operations Research from the Stanford University School of Engineering in 1975. In 1989, he was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal by the American Economic Association to the “American economist under the age of 40 judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.”



Michael Piore

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MacArthur Foundation Fellowship)
“Efficient and Effective Economic Regulation in a Confusing Technological Environment”
Wed., March 26, 2014
3-4:30 p.m.

Michael J. Piore is the David W. Skinner Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is director of the MIT-Mexico program and faculty co-chair of the Industrial Performance Center at MIT. He served as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association (1990-1995) and was a member of the Governing Board of the Institute for Labour Studies of the International Labour Organization (1990-1996).

Piore has written several books, including *Innovation, the Missing Dimension* (co-author Lester; Harvard University Press, 2004) and *Internal Labor Markets and Manpower Adjustment* (co-author Doeringer; DC Heath and Company, 1971). Examples of his most well-cited published research articles include “Historical Perspectives and the Interpretation of Unemployment (*Journal of Economic Literature*, 1987) and “Perspectives on Labor Market Flexibility” (*Industrial Relations*, 1986).

Professor Piore earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University in 1966 and was awarded the five-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1984.



David Card

University of California at Berkeley (John Bates Clark Medal)
“Economics of Immigration Reform”
Wed., Apr. 9, 2014
3-4:30 p.m.

David Card, Class of 1950 Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, is the Director of the Labor Studies Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Professor Card is a labor economist with broad research interests, including immigration, minimum wages, and wage rigidity.

Card was a co-winner of the Institute for the Study of Labor’s Labor Economics Prize in 2006 and has been named Fellow of the Society of Labor Economics, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Econometric Society. He is co-editor (with Ashenfelter) of *The Handbook of Labor Economics Volumes 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b* (Elsevier, 1999, 2011).

Card earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 1983 from Princeton University. In 1995, he was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal by the American Economic Association to the “American economist under the age of 40 judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.”



Dr. Werner Sichel

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

This year’s Sichel Series is directed by Professor Jean Kimmel and is co-sponsored by WMU’s College of Arts and Sciences and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

For more information, contact Dr. Kimmel at jean.kimmel@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5535.



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2013-14 Werner Sichel

Lecture Series

50th Anniversary

“Award-Winning Economists Speak on Contemporary Economic Issues”

Lectures will be held in 2028 Brown Hall
from 3-4:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Erica Field

“Making Microfinance Work”

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