

WALES 2025

February 14

Schar School of Policy and Government, GMU

Van Metre Hall 125

3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington

<https://cmepr.gmu.edu/wales/>

Program

8:30 Registration, coffee + pastries

8:50 Welcome

9:00-10:30 Lightning Session. Chair: **Mine Senses** (JHU-SAIS)

Adam Bloomfield (FDIC), Lucas Goodman (Office of Tax Analysis, US Treasury), Manita Rao (AARP), and **Sita Slavov** (GMU Schar) - [Why Do Employers Establish Retirement Savings Plans? Evidence from State “Auto-IRA” Policies](#)

Sabrina Pabilonia (BLS) and Victoria Vernon (SUNY Empire State University) – [Couples’ Remote Work Arrangements and Labor Supply](#)

Zander Prinsloo (World Bank), Cobus Burger (Stellenbosch University), Rulof Burger (Stellenbosch University and JPAL), and Dean Jolliffe (World Bank and JPAL) - Estimating employment transitions while accounting for classification error: evidence from South Africa.

Eric Nielsen (Federal Reserve Board) - [The Variance of Achievement Increases During Childhood](#)

Vitaliy Novik (Census Bureau) - [The Effect of Parental Resources on College Major Choice](#)

Allegra Cockburn (Population Council) - The Gryffindor Effect: The effect of manufactured identity on student high-stakes outcomes

10:30-10:50 Coffee Break

10:50-12:30 Session. Chair: **Sergio Urzua** (UMD)

Joseph G. Altonji (Yale), Daniel Giraldo-P´aez (Yale), Disa Hynsjo, and **Ivan Vidangos** (Federal Reserve Board) - Marriage Dynamics, Earnings Dynamics, and Lifetime Family Income

Ariel Binder (Census Bureau), Caroline Walker (Census Bureau), Jonathan Eggleston (Census Bureau), and Marta Murray-Close (Census Bureau) - [Race and Mobility in U.S. Marriage Markets: Quantifying the Role of Segregation](#)

Alessandra Fenizia (GWU) and Tom Kirchmaier (LSE) - [Not Incentivized Yet Efficient: Working From Home in the Public Sector](#)

Ramona Schmid (ifo Institute) and **Thomas Stratmann** (GMU Economics) - Income Effects on Labor Supply: Evidence from a Survivor Pension Threshold

12:30-1:20 Lunch

1:20 Session. Chair: **Maurice Kugler** (GMU Schar)

Adam Bloomfield (FDIC), **Travis Cyronek** (BLS), and Christos A. Makridis (U of Nicosia and Stanford) - Decomposing Historical Changes in Employer Costs and Contributions to Inequality

Adam Isen (JHU), **Elira Kuka** (GWU), and Bryan A. Stuart (Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia) - Anomalous Unemployment Insurance Payments During the Pandemic

Caue Dobbin (Georgetown), Daniel Fernandez (CEMFI), Tom Zohar (CEMFI) - Separations Revisited: Do Layoffs or Quits Drive Lower Separation Rates in High-Quality Firms?

Aniket Baksy (University of Melbourne), **Daniele Caratelli** (Office of Financial Research, US Treasury), and Niklas Engbom (NYU) - [The Long-term Decline of the U.S. Job Ladder](#)

3:00 Posters and desserts session. Chair: **Priyanka Anand** (GMU Public Health School)

Eric Childress (GMU) - Import Competition and Firm Productivity

John Earle (GMU), **Kyung Min Lee** (World Bank), and Sungbin Park (GMU) – Did Unemployment Insurance Reduce the Spread of Covid? Evidence from Weekly Data

Sofoklis Goulas (Brookings Institution) - The Value of Remote Work: A Correspondence Experiment on Tutors

Rida Hameed (AU) - Air Pollution and Labor Supply: Evidence from Bangladesh

Mallory Perillo (GWU) - Love or Taxes: Separating Tax Benefits from other Motivations to Marry within Same-Sex Partnerships

R. Benjamin Rodriguez (UMD) - Infrastructure Investment and Economic Development: Evidence from the US Numbered Highway System

Angelo Santos (GMU) - Extreme Temperature, Working Hours and Heat Regulations

Merve Ulukaya (GMU) - The Impact of Refugee Flow on Host Countries' Healthcare Systems: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Turkey

Rodimiro Rodrigo (GWU), Roberto M Samaniego (GWU), and **Yun Zhang** (GWU) - Robots and Wage Inequality Between and Within Occupations

4:00-5:30 Lightning Session. Chair: **Seth Gershenson** (AU)

Carmel Chiswick (GWU) - Occupational Choice and Income Inequality: A Human Capital Approach

Michael Clemens (GMU) - The Fiscal Effect of Immigration: Influential Estimates Are Severely Biased

Nicolas Cabra-Ruiz (Princeton), **Sandra Rozo** (World Bank), and Maria Micaela Sviatschi (Princeton) - Forced Displacement, the Perpetuation of Autocratic Leadership, and Development in Origin Countries

Barry R. Chiswick (GWU) and RaeAnn H. Robinson (GWU) - Jewish Occupational Attainment in the Antebellum United States: Filling a Gap in the Literature

Jeffrey Groen (BLS) - The Success Rate of Unemployment Insurance Applicants during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Effect of Eligibility Expansions and Variation Across States

Louise Paul-Delvaux (World Bank) - Minimum Wage, Informality, and Gender Gaps: Evidence from Morocco

5:30-7:30 Happy hour

WALES 2025 is the 7th annual WALES. It has been organized by the Center for Micro-Economic Policy Research (CMEPR, <https://cmepr.gmu.edu/>) at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, with support from the Schar School's Dean's Office.