



Economics Newsletter

Spring 2017

Central Connecticut State University

Volume 5, Issue 1

Special Points of Interest

- **Message from the Department Chair!**
- **Econ News**
- **Faculty Projects**
- **Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon!**
- **Economics Club**



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Message from the Chair

Many things have changed since our last newsletter. We are thrilled about the arrival of Dr. Zulma R. Toro, the thirteenth President of Central Connecticut State University and first woman appointed as President of the University. Dr. Christina Robinson and Dr. Jared Ragusett were granted tenure. Dr. Paramita Dhar was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. The Department is excited about our new member, Jennifer Mardin, who joined the family in August 2015 as Secretary of Economics. The Department is proud to highlight Dr. Shaianne Osterreich, our alum and currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Ithaca College. We are also happy that Dr. Samantha Schenck and Dr. Can Bekaroglu joined the family as Visiting Assistant Professors. They will be with the Department for the 2016-17 academic year. The Department is also in the middle of a tenure-track search, a new faculty member will be joining us for Fall 2017. We are ranked #6 among economic departments in CT according to Zippia.com. We look forward to the exciting changes coming our way.



Carlos Liard-Muriente, Ph.D.



The Epsilon Chapter of OMICRON DELTA EPSILON (ODE) at CCSU

Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society!

ODE is an International Honor Society in Economics that was founded in 1963 as a result of a merger between two honors societies, Omicron Delta Gamma and Omicron Chi Epsilon. It is one of the largest honor societies and currently has 647 local chapters and 81,000 members.

The objectives of Omicron Delta Epsilon are recognition of scholastic attainment and the honoring of two outstanding achievements in economics; the establishment of closer ties between students and faculty in economics within colleges and universities; the publication of the official journal: The American Economist; the sponsoring of panels at professional meetings and the Irving Fisher and Frank W. Taussing competitions.

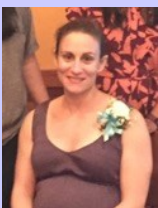
Undergraduate students who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- Completion of 12 credit hours of economics courses;
- Attainment of at least a “B” average in economics courses, an overall “B” average in all classes, and a class standing in the upper one-third;
- Students do not have to be economics majors, but must have a genuine interest in economics in addition to meeting the above requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Christina Robinson, Associate Professor and Assistant Chair of Economics (Maria Sanford Hall, Room 304), by email at: ChristinaRobinson@ccsu.edu or by phone at (860) 832-2727.

Faculty Advisor:

Christina Robinson,
Ph.D.



Student Honors

Kaitlin Rose Ferrero was the 2016 Economics Departments Honors student of the year. Her professors say she was a joy to have as a student and that she possesses an outstanding interest and aptitude for economics was outstanding not common amongst undergraduate students. She is currently pursuing a Masters in International Studies at CCSU and is applying to Ph. D. Programs in Economics.

Notable Alumni



Dr. Osterreich is an alum of the CCSU Economics Department, whose career highlights just one path available to Economics students. She graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a B.A. in Economics in 1995 and, by 2002 had earned a Ph. D. in Economics from the University of Utah. Dr. Osterreich is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Ithaca College where she is also the Associate Director of the Integrative Core Curriculum and the Program Coordinator for both the Ithaca Seminar Program and the First-Year Reading Initiative. Her research on Globalization, International Trade, Poverty Alleviation, and Gender Economics has led to multiple publications of her research.



Amber was the Economics Department honors student in 2015 and is one of the Economics Department's newest alums. Amber earned her B.A. in Economics in 2015 and is currently completing her first year as a Ph. D. student in Economics at the University of Nevada, Reno. Ms. Burr was the recipient of a teaching assistantship during her first semester and has been enjoying the opportunity to work with undergraduate students. She is planning to pursue studies in Urban and Managerial Economics. The Economics Department can't wait to see what the future holds for Ms. Burr!



Faculty Research

Publications

Dhar, Paramita and Robinson, Christina. (2015): Physical Activity and Childhood Obesity, *Applied Economics Letters*, Advanced Online Publication

Dhar, Paramita (2015): Role of Neighborhood in Housing Discrimination, *The Empirical Economics Letters*, 14 (10): (October 2015) ISSN 1681 8997

Liard-Muriente, Carlos. and Robinson, Christina. (2015): "The Write Experience in Economics: A Case Study from Central Connecticut State University," *International Advances in Economic Research*, 2015, 21(4), pgs 453-465.

Liard-Muriente, Carlos and Mijid, Nara (2015): "Competing Technologies in the Principles of Micro Classrooms." *International Advances in Economic Research*, 21(2): 243-244.

Osoba, Brian J. (2015) "A U.S. State-Level Analysis of Self-Employment, Cultural Diversity, and Risk Tolerance," in Peter Nijkamp, Jacques Poot, and Jessie Bakens (eds.), *The Economics of Cultural Diversity*, Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, U.K.

Tubadji, Annie, **Osoba, Brian J.**, and Nijkamp, Peter (2015) "Culture-Based Development in the USA: Culture as a Factor for Economics Welfare and Social Well-Being at a County Level," *Journal of Cultural Economics*, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp 277-303.

Robinson, Christina. (2016): "Family Structure and the Benefits of Participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)", *Eastern Economic Journal* 2016, 42 (2), pgs 232-251.

Robinson, Christina. (2015): "Classroom Experimentation and an Application from Sports Economics," *International Advances in Economic Research*, 2015, 21(4), pgs 423-432.

Robinson, Christina. and Dhar, Paramita (2016): "Welfare Stigma and Children's Behavior," *International Advances in Economics Research*, 2016, 22(2), pgs 247-248.

Robinson, Christina. (2015): "A Preference for Sons in WIC Households?" *International Advances in Economic Research*, 2015, 21(2) pgs 241-242.



Faculty Research

Conference Presentations

Dhar, Paramita “Playground Facilities and Childhood Obesity” 15th Annual International Conference on Health Economics, Management & Policy, Athens, Greece, June 20-23, 2016.

Dhar, Paramita “Physical Activity and Childhood Obesity amongst SNAP Participants” 42nd Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, Washington, D.C., February 25-28, 2016.

Dhar, Paramita “Flipped vs Online Teaching” 80th International Atlantic Economics Conference, Boston, October 8-11, 2015.

Dhar, Paramita “Welfare Stigma and the Mental Health of Tweens and Teens” 80th International Atlantic Economics Conference, Boston, October 8-11, 2015.

Dhar, Paramita “Flipping the classroom” 41st Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, February 28–March 1, 2015.

Dhar, Paramita “Playground Facilities and Childhood Obesity” 41st Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, February 28-March 1, 2015.

Liard-Muriente, Carlos. “The Write Experience: A Case Study from Central Connecticut State University,” Presented at the International Atlantic Economics Society’s Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, October 10, 2015.

Liard-Muriente, Carlos. Writing in the Business Classroom. 43rd Northeast Business and Economics Conference, West Point US Military Academy, West Point, NY. November 10-12, 2016.

Osoba, Brian J. “Religion, Moral Hazard, and Occupational Risk Choices” presented at the 86th Annual Conference of the Southern Economics Association (SEA): Washington, D.C., November 19, 2016.

Osoba, Brian J. “The Cultural Ripple Tank: Modelling Dynamic Regional Cultural Change via a Survey and Adaptation of non-Economic Models,” presented at the 62nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI): Portland, OR, November 14, 2015.

Robinson, Christina. Internal and External Stigmas of Program Participation: A Longitudinal Study of Children, Tweens, and Teens,” Presented at the American Society of Health Economists Biennial Meeting, Washington, DC, June 13, 2016.

Robinson, Christina. “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation and Health of Older Adults,” Presented at the Eastern Economic Association’s Annual Meeting, Washington DC, February 26, 2016.

Faculty Research

Conference Presentations (Continued)

Robinson, Christina. “Preliminary Findings for a Student’s Choice of Major Survey: A Case Study from Central Connecticut State University,” Presented at the Eastern Economic Association’s Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, February 28, 2016.

Robinson, Christina. “Welfare Stigma and the Mental Health of Tweens and Teens,” Presented at the International Atlantic Economic Society’s Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, October 11, 2015.

Robinson, Christina. “Student’s Choice of Major: A Case Study from Central Connecticut State University,” Presented at the International Atlantic Economic Society’s Annual Meeting, Boston, MA October 10, 2015.

Robinson, Christina. “ Public Policy and Children’s Health,” Presented at the Strategic Business Management and Economic Research Conference, Boston, MA, May 5, 2015 (*Invited Honorary Guest Speaker*)

Robinson, Christina. “ A Preference for Sons?: An Examination of WIC Households?,” Presented at the Eastern Economic Association’s Annual Meeting, New York, NY, February 28, 2015.

Robinson, Christina. “Internships as Gateway to Programmatic Assessment of an Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor,” Presented at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s 41st Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, Nashville, TN, February 27, 2015.

Robinson, Christina. “Evaluating Student Satisfaction of an Existing Gerontology Minor Using a Brief On-line Survey,” Presented at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s 41st Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, Nashville, TN, February 27, 2015.

Schenck, Samantha. “Employment effects of California's Paid Family Leave Policy,” presented at the 2016 Work and Family Research Network Conference, Washington DC, 6/26/16.

Faculty Projects

CT AFL-CIO working with our faculty

Dr. Ragusett, Dr. Dhar, and Dr. Liard-Muriente in collaboration with CCSU's Center for Public Policy and Social Research are conducting an analysis and evaluation of Connecticut's economy and its potential for economic development, economic opportunity, and economic equality for The CT American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CT AFL-CIO). They are currently working on Phase I of what is projected to be a three phase project. Phase I will provide CT AFL-CIO with relevant, data driven research that will be presented before the state legislature to support alternatives to austerity.

The iMath Experience

Dr. Christina Robinson and Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente received funding to test pilot the iMath learning system. A new pedagogical tool designed to enhance student's quantitative reasoning. The project began in the Fall of 2016 and a preliminary report will be completed during the Spring of 2017. Initial findings will be presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Economic Association.

2018 Northeast Business & Economics Association's Conference

In 2018 CCSU will be hosting the annual conference of the Northeast Business & Economics Association at the Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort. The conference regularly attracts presenters and attendees from top universities throughout the United States. We expect the 2018 conference to draw a large crowd of well renowned scholars and business professionals. CCSU will also sponsor the 2018 conference proceedings.

Top Colleges for Economics majors in Connecticut

According to Zippia's website, the following are the top ten schools in Connecticut for Economics Majors:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Yale University | 6. Central CT State University |
| 2. University of Connecticut | 7. Western CT State University |
| 3. Trinity College | 8. Fairfield University |
| 4. Wesleyan University | 9. Quinnipiac University |
| 5. Connecticut College | 10. University of Hartford |

Promotion and Tenure

Paramita Dhar: was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr Dhar teaches courses in a variety of topics ranging from Industrial Organization, Government and Business, Environmental Economics, Mathematical Economics and Urban Economics. Her research focuses on urban and regional issues, discrimination and childhood obesity. Paramita was also granted tenure.

Jared Ragusett: was granted tenure. Dr. Ragusett teaches courses in principles of economics, political economy, Marxian economics, and the history of economic thought. His research interests include the effects of the Great Recession on U.S. minorities, the empirical measurement of metropolitan land use, the political economy of racial and ethnic segregation, as well as the political economy of urban sprawl.

Christina Robinson: was granted tenure. Dr. Robinson teaches a variety of applied and theoretical courses within the Economics Department. Most recently, these courses have included offerings in Health Economics, Sports Economics, Econometrics, and Microeconomics. Her research interests complement her work in the classroom, with the majority of her current research focusing on the health and

Promotion and Tenure



L-R: Jared Ragusett, Christina Robinson, and Paramita Dhar

New Econ Member

Jenn Mardin joined us in August of 2015 as the Economics Department Secretary. Jenn comes to us from the CT Department of Education where she managed an adult nursing program and before that she worked for the Department of Corrections in the Manson Youth Institution Unified School District.



Samantha Schenck, Ph.D. (Visiting Assistant Professor)



Samantha Schenck received her Ph.D. this past spring from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Prior to joining CCSU she taught at Keene State College in Keene, NH as well as the University of Massachusetts. She also spent three years as a research assistant at the UMass school of Public Policy and Administration. Her current research focuses on the labor market effects of California's Paid Family Leave Program, with a particular focus on the program's impact on the wages and employment of women in the state. Her other research has focused on the labor market behavior of cohabiting mothers, the impact of paid leave on the gender wage gap, and the labor market effects of state LGBT nondiscrimination laws. She lives in Northampton, MA with her husband and two young sons.

Siddiq M. Abdullah, Ph.D. (Instructor)

Senior Lecturer II on Economics, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Siddiq M. Abdullah is professor of economics emeritus at Pine Manor College. He has taught at Harvard Extension since 1998, and has also taught at Tufts, Boston University, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He received his BA and MA in economics from Panjab University in Pakistan, as well as two master's degrees and a PhD from Boston University. He has taught courses on: industrial organization, international economics, quantitative methods in economics, corporate finance, money & financial institutions, and public finance, among other topics.

Contact Information

Email: siddiq.abdullah@ccsu.edu or
siddiq.abdullah@umb.edu



Can Bekaroglu, Ph.D. (Visiting Assistant Professor)



I have a strong Economics and quantitative background spanning 3 countries as well as experiencing both civilian and military life, and both capitalist and socialist perspectives. I got the opportunity to meet incredible and unique people here, which have provided a lifetime experience and showed me what I really was capable of. I was able to build a robust theoretical and versatile academic knowledge in addition to years of teaching experience, from graduate assistantship to being an assistant professor now. Before getting my Master's and PhD in Economics from University of Connecticut in 2009 and 2015 respectively, I acquired my BA in (English) Economics in 2006 from Anadolu University, Turkey, one of the largest and oldest public universities in the country, as a valedictorian, followed by a visit to

Krakow University of Economics in Poland, where I earned a Master's certificate in Business, roughly equivalent to an MBA in the US. My research agenda has mostly been microeconomics focused, and efficiency analysis in general. I have worked on education efficiency analysis (at master's and phd level), and healthcare efficiency analysis (as a part of my dissertation), although I have been teaching a diverse array of classes ranging from macro and microeconomics to international finance, development economics, and Industrial organization, which is also my field of expertise. My main interest is to investigate the efficiency and relative performances of economic units, including but not limited to education, healthcare, and commercial organizations, given the common goals set by their industries.

Mitch Charkiewicz (Instructor)

Professor Mitch Charkiewicz returns to CCSU to teach Economics at the ITB downtown. Professor Charkiewicz has taught the full range of Economic course at CCSU over a 20 year span. He worked for the NBA's San Antonio Spurs prior to CCSU and now is a Judge for the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair as well as Finals Judge for the ICS (International Chili Society) at the WCCC (World Championship Chili Cookoff).



Nathan Smith (Instructor)

Nathan Smith joins the CCSU Economics Department for Fall 2016. Professor Smith earned his Master's from Washington University in St. Louis with a specialization in financial economics. In addition to teaching, Professor Smith has worked for both non-profit and private sector institutions including the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, The Hartford Financial Services Group, and Hartford Investment Management Company. He has taught economics at the introductory and advanced level since 2004.

CCSU Economics Club



Faculty Advisor:
Jared Ragusett, Ph.D.
jarred@ccsu.edu

The Economics Club at CCSU caters to all those with an interest in Economics, especially those pursuing (or considering) an Economics major. We hold forums and seminars with guest speakers who present their research and give insight to their particular area of expertise. We also serve as a resource to Economics students interested in internships and scholarships, and are the basis of a network of CCSU alumni in Economics.



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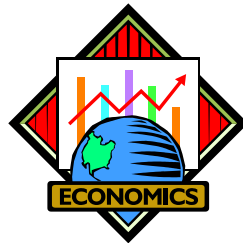
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 For all students with interest in economics.

Twitter.com/ccsuecon



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L-R: Christina Robinson, Jenn Mardin, Sam Schenck, Carlos Liard-Muriente, Jared Ragusett, and Paramita Dhar.

Missing from photo: Brian Osoba, Can Bekaroglu