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Economics at OU: Be in Demand

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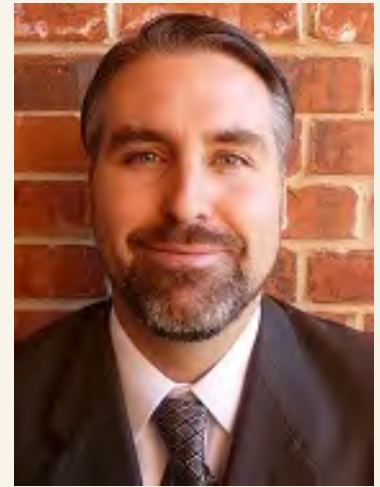
Welcome and Department Update

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Report From the Chair

Greg Burge, Department of Economics

Welcome to the latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter! I hope 2022 brought you all you hoped for, and that 2023 is off to a great start. We want you happy, safe and thriving – and we thank you for staying connected to your friends here at OU Economics! Bottom line -- our students, faculty, and staff continue to advance knowledge through our teaching, research and service missions here at OU! We had an impressive year, and the future looks brighter than ever.



We had the privilege of adding two new scholars to the team this year – Professor Judith Liu and Professor Jayash Paudel. Professor Liu focuses on health economics, public policy and labor markets. She holds a Ph.D. from Syracuse University and comes to OU by way of a post-doc position at the University of Melbourne. She serves as a Research Fellow for the Global Labor Organization and brings an extensive publication record on topics including COVID-19, Medicare Part-D and physician labor supply. We are so pleased to have Professor Liu here at OU! Professor Paudel joins OU following a position at Boise State University and having earned his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). His research and teaching interests lie in environmental economics and markets for energy and natural resources. Professor Paudel brings a record with nearly 20 publications – including top outlets like *Energy Economics* and *World Development*. His work has been supported by the USDA, and our students benefit from his expertise in the rapidly advancing area of global climate change and how economic markets are reacting to those changes. Welcome, Professor Liu and Professor Paudel!

Welcome and Department Update

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OU's recent blend of in-person and Zoom seminars has been a huge hit. We hosted scholars including Shanjun Li (Cornell) and Lars Hansen (Chicago) in person, as well as Anna Aizer (Brown) and John van Reenen (London School of Economics) virtually on Zoom. Our faculty and students benefit from having such a broad global reach! Spring 2023 will extend this impact in a big way, as we will host the annual North American meetings of the Chinese Economist Society (CES) this spring on OU's campus. We hope to have between 150-175 scholars participate as we celebrate Professor Qihong Liu, who is currently serving as CES President! Professor Liu has been an absolute rock star in terms of research and teaching excellence at OU since 2005. His impact on our graduate and undergraduate programs, as well as his scholarship – these have truly helped raise the bar for us!

Speaking of impact – Professor Firat Demir was selected as this year's recipient of the Dodge Family College of Arts & Sciences Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor Award – congrats on this remarkable achievement! The Kinney-Sugg is the college's "MVP" award each year – faculty of all ranks are eligible, and it rewards faculty who excel at all aspects of the job – research, teaching and service. Professor Demir is the first econ faculty member to EVER win this award, and he joins Professor Georgia Kosmopoulou (last year's winner of the David L. Boren award) and Professor Tyler Ransom (last year's winner of the Irene Rothbaum award), in a trio of top recent university awards. This reflects the talent and dedication of our faculty. We thrive together and support one another!

Also, the econ "T-shirt challenge" is running strong – shoot those pics of yourself wearing the T-shirt wherever you go in the world! Contact the economics department to get a shirt and take it with you as you wander! Just snap a photo or two and send them back to us at cquiett@ou.edu or gburge@ou.edu. Don't forget our website (<https://www.ou.edu/cas/economics>) is a great way to stay informed about current events in the department.

As always, if you're ever in Norman, please stop by for a visit! I'd love to treat you for a coffee/drink and catch up on how you are doing.

Warm Regards & Boomer Sooner,

Greg Burge

Department Chair and Professor of Economics

The University of Oklahoma

Professor Kosmopoulou celebrates 25 years at OU, receives award



Professor Kosmopoulou, who is also the associate dean for research for the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and recently marked 25 years of service at OU, received the David L. Boren Professorship this year, recognizing “faculty who have made truly exceptional contributions to the mission of a public research university.”

In 2022, Professor Kosmopoulou published five research articles with students and colleagues on auctions, negotiations and arbitration. Two articles published in the [European Economic Review](#) and [Oxford Economics Papers](#) study art markets using a unique historical data set of all London-based art auctions taking place between 1741 and 1913. The first paper focuses on the role of dealers as market makers and explores how the network size, depth of interactions, and similarities in art specialization between trading partners influence prices. The other identifies factors contributing to price fluctuations in artworks after an artist’s death and outlines influences that lead to an artist’s success.

Her most recent paper, co-authored with a former graduate student, Robert Press, appeared in [Economics Letters](#) and studies supply side effects of infrastructure spending providing insights on the market impacts of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed by Congress in November 2021.

Recent Ph.D. graduate participates in elite VITAL program



Rafael Zago (front row, third from left), recent OU Economics Ph.D. graduate, participated in the VITAL program at the University of Buffalo

Rafael shared: “*The Visiting Future Faculty (VITAL) program is organized by the University at Buffalo and aims to bring to the university future scholars from traditionally underrepresented populations in the United States to foster diversity, expand networking and build relationships. I had the honor to be selected for the first-ever cohort of the program this spring and be part of a group of 22 outstanding doctoral candidates from different backgrounds, locations and fields. During the program, I was able to know more about the history of Buffalo, NY, its indigenous roots, and the challenges faced by the public authorities on how to write the next chapter of a city that has such a strong industrial background. I had the pleasure of being in the largest system of higher education in the U.S. (the SUNY system), meeting several faculty members of UB, both from economics and other departments, and having the opportunity to know about great projects in the university such as the Community for Global Health Equity, a project that drew my attention especially due to its trans-disciplinary perspective in gathering faculty from different fields to approach research topics. Finally, I had the opportunity to present my work and receive important feedback from the faculty members of the economics department.*

It was an incredible experience! After years of hard work in the Ph.D. program at OU, having the opportunity to interact with exceptional future scholars and current faculty members of UB, and being welcomed the way we were only made the semester I will be graduating even more special!”

Fall 2022 Department News and Notables

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Professor Qihong Liu was featured in WalletHub's piece about Cheap Car Insurance in Oklahoma in the “Ask the Experts” section--[click here to view](#)



Professor Georgia Kosmopoulou (third from left) was a member of the OU Elevate team responsible for obtaining a \$3 million research grant from the National Science Foundation's ADVANCE program.

From the [OU website](#): “The five-year project, ‘OU Elevate: Implementing Equitable Multi-Context Faculty Evaluations and Workload Distributions,’ was developed by an interdisciplinary team of OU faculty representing several colleges and academic units.”

Featured Alumnus: Professor Nicholas Moellman

Assistant Professor of Economics, Winthrop University



We asked Professor Moellman: How has your OU Economics degree helped you in your career?

I didn't know I wanted to pursue an advanced degree in economics until late in my sophomore year at OU. I had started my academic career as a journalism major. OU offered a variety of economics classes that helped expand my ideas of what the field covered. Moreover, I had excellent mentorship in the department of economics from faculty like Aparna Mitra, Cynthia Rogers and Carlos Lamarche, among others. Moreover, I would not be where I am today without the support of others across campus, such as Samuel Huskey and Sophia Bolin-Dills. The skills, knowledge and support they provided have helped me not only as an academic, but also when I worked as a data analyst in health care as well. The four years I spent at the University of Oklahoma were among the best of my life.

Impact of teaching: At Winthrop University, I teach introductory classes related to microeconomics, as well as upper-division courses related to applied microeconomics, such as intermediate microeconomics, the economics of poverty and inequality, public economics, managerial economics, and others. Winthrop University has a very diverse student body, with approximately 38% of the student body coming from diverse backgrounds, and 30% identifying as first-generation college students. Getting to share a subject I am passionate about with my students makes me feel like I am helping to push economics from a strictly classroom setting, to something that affects students' daily lives. My students have gone on to have excellent post college outcomes; from placing students in jobs at the Federal Reserve Bank, financial advising firms, and other large industry settings, to graduate schools across the country, including Boston University, the University of Kentucky and the University of South Carolina. Being noted as a successful teacher, whether through student evaluations, or colleague feedback, has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

Impact of research: I am an empirical labor economist that also addresses issues related to public and health economics. My research focuses on poverty with a specific application to spillovers from participation in safety net programs. Much of my work has focused on participation in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, and evaluating outcomes such as food insecurity and overall poverty rates. My work has been published in places like *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, the *Journal of Institutional Economics*, and others. My work has been recognized by a variety of organizations--my paper "Healthcare and Hunger: Effects of the ACA Medicaid Expansions on Food Insecurity in America" was a featured article at *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, won the best paper award at the Kentucky Economics Association, received the Springs Industries Research Excellence Award at Winthrop University, and was cited by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. My current work focuses on how Medicaid income eligibility thresholds affect the food insecurity status of households with children, as well as how local credit market conditions affect participation in SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Impact of service: I perform a variety of different service activities ranging from departmental service to state-level service. I am the faculty adviser to the Economics Club (a club I participated in at OU), I chair our college's Faculty Assembly, I have served as an Orientation Faculty Mentor for four years, and have worked to help organize and host interdisciplinary conferences at Winthrop. Locally, I've worked with the Fort Mill Economic Partners (FMEP) and the Town of Fort Mill, South Carolina, on a number of projects related to local economic development, including providing an assessment of economic impact fee changes to the Town Council. One of the most successful projects I coordinated was the creation and execution of a Service Learning and Leadership Class (BADM 381). The class of 40 students was contracted with FMEP and the Town of Fort Mill, and performed an economic impact study, feasibility analysis, business outreach study, and community impact study, evaluating the expansion of the Carolina Thread Trail system through downtown Fort Mill. At the state level, I also sit on the board of SC Economics, the state-level council for economic education.

Professor Firat Demir was recently named the co-director of the OU Center for Peace and Development, which hosted a conference titled “Landscapes of Insecurity” in September.



Professor Demir recently spent a semester at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration as a Core Fulbright Fellow and visiting professor at Vilnius University.

Of the experience, he wrote: “This was a long planned and looked forward visit that was unfortunately delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. My Fulbright visit was initially planned for nine months and I was going to come with my family to Vilnius. Alas, that was before the global pandemic that changed everyone’s lives and plans around the world, including mine. Despite a shortened and solo visit due to pandemic, I am very grateful that Vilnius University and the faculty welcomed me with open arms in spring 2022.

I have had a very productive five months at VU, published several articles and started new research projects. My visit was also particularly helpful for meeting colleagues and engaging with brilliant undergraduate and graduate students.

As for the location, Vilnius is a great city for visiting scholars, I particularly enjoyed taking long walks during the cold winter months. Spring time was a particular source of joy with flowers and blooming trees covering the whole city. The art scene was great and concerts should be in the must-do list of any visitor to this city.

There have been plenty of external challenges during my visit, including the pandemic and increasing COVID cases as well as the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine. Luckily for me, the VU and my colleagues at the Faculty were very helpful and these events did not cause too much of a delay in my research projects, except for changed teaching schedules and platforms. Of course, the shortened duration of my visit and the absence of my family during my visit were casualties to COVID-19. Overall, however, I have had five very productive months and I look forward to visiting VU again in the near future.”

Professor Demir authored and co-authored the following publications in 2022:

“Local Corruption, Total Factor Productivity and Firm Heterogeneity: Empirical Evidence from Chinese Manufacturing Firms.” Forthcoming in World Development 151, 2022 (with C. Hu, J. Liu and H. Shen). [Click here to view](#)

“Gendered Effects of Sanctions on Manufacturing Employment: Evidence from Iran.” Forthcoming in Review of Development Economics, 2022 (with S. Tabrizy). [Click here to view](#)

“IMF Conditionality, Export Structure and Economic Complexity: The Ineffectiveness of Structural Adjustment Programs.” Journal of Comparative Economics 50(3): 750-767, 2022. [Click here to view](#)

“Institutional Similarity, Firm Heterogeneity and Export Sophistication.” The World Economy 45(4): 1213-1241, 2022 (with C. Hu). [Click here to view](#)

“An Urgent Call to Reform the COVID-19 Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.” Journal of Law and the Biosciences 9(1), 2022 (with J. Zhao, M.J. Kim, P. Ghosh, and A. Earley). [Click here to view](#)

“Foreign Direct Investment, Capital Accumulation, and Growth: The Rise of the Emerging South.” International Review of Economics and Finance 80: 779-794, 2022 (with S. Lee). [Click here to view](#)

“The Real Exchange Rate and Development: Theory, Evidence, Issues, and Challenges.” Journal of Economic Surveys 26(2): 386-428, 2022 (with A. Razmi). [Click here to view](#)

- Recent OU Ph.D. graduates Jia Wang and Weici Yuan, along with current OU econ faculty member prof. Cynthia Rogers, were published in *Applied Economics incorporating Applied Financial Economics* with their article “Economic Development Program Spending in the US: Is there club convergence?”

- Professor Heiwei Shen published his paper "Skilled Immigration, Firms, and Policy" in the *Journal of International Economics* with co-author Mishita Mehra
- Professor Myongjin Kim received the Best Empirical Paper Award from the International Journal of Industrial Organization for her paper "Does competition increase quality: Evidence from the US airline industry"
- Professor Daniel Nedelescu was published in the *Review of Behavioral Economics* with his paper "Fairness and Arbitration Mechanisms." He also presented his work "The Effects of Conventional Policies on Price Structure and Consumer Surplus in a Two-Sided Market: An Economics Experiment" at the 2022 Southern Economic Association conference
- Professor Qihong Liu is currently serving as the president of the [Chinese Economists Society](#)
- Professor Jayash Paudel published his paper "Deadly tornadoes and racial disparities in energy consumption: Implications for energy poverty" in *Energy Economics*



OU Economics will host the Chinese Economists Society North American Conference March 31 - April 2, 2023. Faculty members Greg Burge, Qihong Liu, Jayash Paudel, Hwei Shen, Chunbei Wang, and Bill Megginson from OU finance department are serving on the Conference Program Committee

Research and Development

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OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

Gregory Burge

Urban Economics
Public Economics

Firat Demir

International Finance
Development Economics

Pallab Ghosh

Labor Economics
Econometrics

Joan Hamory

Economic Development

Alexander Holmes

Human Resources Public
Finance
Local Econ. Development

Samantha Johnson

Agriculture
Industrial Organization
Applied Microeconomics

Benjamin Keen

Monetary Economics
Macroeconomics
Applied Time Series
Econometrics

Myongjin Kim

Industrial Organization
Applied Econometrics

Georgia Kosmopoulou

Microeconomic Theory
Industrial Organization

Kevin Kuruc

Applied Macroeconomics
Environmental Economics

Qihong Liu

Industrial Organization
Applied Micro

Jonathan McFadden

Environmental Economics
Agricultural Economics
Applied Econometrics

Daniel Nedelescu

Industrial Organization
Labor Economics
Behavioral Economics
Experimental Economics

Brent Norwood

Public Policy
Education

Tyler Ransom

Labor Economics
Urban Economics
Economics of
Education

Cynthia Rogers

Urban Economics
Public Economics
Public Policy

Hwei Shen

International Economics
Macroeconomics
International Finance

Chunbei Wang

Labor Economics
Entrepreneurship

Le Wang

Econometrics
Labor & Development
Applied Microeconomics
Chinese Economy

Mu-Jeung Yang

Empirical Analysis

Stay Connected to OU Economics

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Please send us updates to be included in the next newsletter. You can send news, announcements, photos and more by sending an email to cquiett@ou.edu.

You also may participate with OU Economics by mentoring a student, recommending an internship or sharing how you've used your economics degree with our student organization. Please contact Corey Quiett at cquiett@ou.edu or (405) 325-4307.

The power of an economics degree from the University of Oklahoma helps our graduates "Be in Demand."

Support our department's efforts to provide an outstanding foundation for success.

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