

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: The New Realities of the Business Cycle

Volume Author/Editor:

Volume Publisher:

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/unkn73-3>

Publication Date: 1973

Chapter Title: Conference Programs

Chapter Author: Various

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c4181>

Chapter pages in book: (p. 126 - 131)

III

Conference Programs

CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

The proceedings of the November 1971 conference on Measurement of Economic and Social Performance are now at the printer; those on Personal Distributions of Income and Wealth are being edited.

A conference on Household Production and Consumption, under the chairmanship of Nestor E. Terleckyj, will be held on November 30 to December 1, 1973, in Washington, D.C. The following papers are expected to be delivered:

- Correlation between Health and Schooling—Michael Grossman, National Bureau of Economic Research
- Household Production and the Demand for Children—Robert J. Willis, City University of New York and National Bureau of Economic Research
- Estimating the Demand Curve for Day Care Services—James J. Heckman, Columbia University and National Bureau of Economic Research
- Non-Pecuniary Dimensions of Wages—Sherwin Rosen, University of Rochester and National Bureau of Economic Research, and Richard Thaler, University of Rochester
- Identifying Distinct Goods—Testing for Existence of Distinct Components in the Food Budget—Laurits R. Christensen, University of

- Wisconsin, and Marilyn Manser, State University of New York, Buffalo
- Consumption Characteristics of Housing—Dale W. Jorgenson and Rafael Weston, Harvard University
- Direct Estimates of Performance Characteristics of Automobiles—Zvi Griliches, Harvard University, and Makoto Ohta
- Estimates of Efficiency of Consumption in the Short and Long Run—Robert T. Michael, National Bureau of Economic Research
- Risk Measurement and Safety Standards in Consumer Products—Vartkes Broussalian, National Bureau of Standards
- The Concept and Measurement of Product Quality—E. Scott Maynes, University of Minnesota

Future conferences are being organized on Distribution of Economic Well-Being, Price Behavior, and Economics of Urban Spatial Structure.

Members of the Executive Committee are Frank de Leeuw (chairman), Robert E. Gallman, Terry Gigantes, Martin L. Marimont, Geoffrey H. Moore, Joel Popkin, James D. Smith, Eugene Smolensky, Nestor E. Terleckyj, Beatrice N. Vaccara, and Mildred E. Courtney (secretary).
Mildred E. Courtney

UNIVERSITIES-NATIONAL BUREAU COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH

A conference on the Economics of the Environment, co-sponsored with Resources for the Future, was held November 10 to 11, 1972, at the Center for Continuing Education, University of Chicago. Edwin S. Mills was chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, which also in-

cluded Otto Davis and Allen Kneese.

The conference volume, *International Mobility and Movement of Capital*, Fritz Machlup, Walter S. Salant, and Lorje Tarshis, co-editors, was published in November 1972. The proceedings of the conference on Secular Inflation, Jürg

Niehans editor, were published as a supplement to the February issue of the *Journey of Money, Credit and Banking*. The papers from the conference on Education as an Industry are in the hands of the editorial committee.

The Universities-National Bureau Committee for Economic Research, at its annual meeting held in conjunction with the conference on the Economics of the Environment, decided on the subjects for two future conferences. One will be on the Role of Health Insurance in the Health Services Sector, with Richard M. Rosett as chairman of the Planning Committee, to be held May 30, 31, and June 1, 1974. The other conference will be on the Economic Analysis of Political Behavior, with Melvin W. Reder as chairman of the Planning Committee. The Committee also selected three topics to be considered for future conferences: Economic Determinants and Effects of Population Growth, the Economics of Energy, and the Labor Market for Low-Income Workers.

The Committee accepted Purdue University as a new member. There are now thirty-nine universities, together with the National Bureau, represented on the Committee. The participating universities are:

Brown	Indiana
Buffalo	Iowa State
California, Berkeley	Johns Hopkins
California, Los Angeles	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Carnegie-Mellon	McGill
Chicago	Michigan
Columbia	Michigan State
Cornell	Minnesota
Duke	New School
Harvard	for Social Research
Illinois	New York

North Carolina
Northwestern
Ohio State
Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh
Princeton
Purdue
Queens
Rochester

Stanford
Texas
Toronto
Vanderbilt
Virginia
Washington (Seattle)
Washington (St. Louis)
Wisconsin
Yale

Other members of the Committee, elected as members at large for a 4-year term, July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1974, are Daniel Creamer, S. A. Goldberg, George Jaszi, Rudolf R. Rhomburg, Walter S. Salant, Julius Shiskin, and George J. Stigler. Robert E. Lipsey is the representative from the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The members of the Executive Committee are Carl F. Christ (chairman), Walter S. Salant (vice chairman), Moses Abramovitz, James M. Henderson, Robert E. Lipsey, Dudley G. Luckett, and David C. Smith. Robert P. Shay is secretary.

The conference program is assisted by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Universities interested in membership on the Universities-National Bureau Committee for Economic Research should get in touch with the chairman of the Committee. The criterion for acceptance of a university as a member of the Committee is the extent and quality of economic research carried on at that university.

Universities wishing to be informed about proposals for future Universities-National Bureau Committee research conferences, and about the availability of conference papers before publication, should communicate with the secretary of the Committee.

Robert P. Shay

CONFERENCE ON THE COMPUTER IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

In 1972 the activities of the conference series expanded greatly. The conference and workshop series dealing with research in the U.S. was established on a more permanent and on-

going basis. The first annual meeting of the conference membership was held, a constitution was written and adopted by the membership, and an Executive Committee was

established. The members of the Executive Committee are:

Elected Members

Charlotte Boschán
National Bureau of Economic Research

Gregory Chow
Princeton University

Ivan Fellegi
Statistics Canada

Charles Holt
The Urban Institute

Joel Popkin
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Richard Ruggles
Yale University and National Bureau of
Economic Research

James Smith
Pennsylvania State University

Harold Watts
University of Wisconsin

Arnold Zellner
University of Chicago

Appointed Members

M. Ishaq Nadiri
New York University and National Bureau of
Economic Research

Alexander Morton
National Bureau of Economic Research

David Kresge, Sanford Berg, and Donald Far-
rar were appointed observers to the Executive
Committee. Richard Ruggles was elected chair-
man of the Executive Committee for 1973.

The conferences that were held during 1972
and the list of the workshops authorized and
planned for 1973 and 1974 are reported below
by Alexander Morton.

The Latin American Workshop series also
made a very good start. An Executive Commit-
tee composed of Latin American economists
was formed and held its first meeting in Buenos
Aires in June 1972. The members of the com-
mittee are:

Edmon Bacha
Facultad de Economía (Brazil)

Antonio Barrera
Fundación para la Educación el Desarrollo
(Colombia)

Rodrigo Botero
Fedesarrollo (Colombia)

Alejandro Foxley
Universidad Católica (Chile)

Eduardo García
Universidad Católica (Chile)

Jorge Katz
Instituto Torcuato di Tella (Argentina)

Afonso Celso Pastore
Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas (Brazil)

J. Dagnino Pastore
Fundación de Investigaciones Económicas
Latinoamericanas (Argentina)

Saul Trejo
Secretaría de la Presidencia (Mexico)

M. Ishaq Nadiri
National Bureau of Economic Research

David Kresge
National Bureau of Economic Research

The first workshop of this series was held in
February in Caracas, and a second workshop
is planned for the summer of 1973. A full ac-
count of the activities of this workshop series is
provided by David Kresge in his report below.

M. Ishaq Nadiri

The Computer in Economic and Social Research in the United States

The Executive Committee held its first two meet-
ings during 1972 and drew up a program of
future workshops and conferences. A list of
these workshops, together with the names of
their respective chairmen, follows this report.

Three full-scale conferences were held during
the year. The first of these was the conference
on Prices and Consumer Expenditures, orga-
nized and chaired by Joel Popkin, Assistant Com-
missioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This
conference was concerned with both the theory
and practice of measuring prices and consumer
expenditures, and the use of these statistics.
Approximately sixty persons attended this two-
day conference, held April 6 and 7, 1972, in
Washington, D.C.

The second conference, a two-day workshop
on Stochastic Control Theory and Economic
Systems, was held May 5 and 6, 1972, at Prince-

ton. The workshop was motivated by the view that "the development of stochastic dynamic economics, using tools related to optimal stochastic control, had reached such a point that it would be useful to bring together research workers from both the economics and control professions to report on current research work, to exchange ideas, and to evaluate the prospects for future developments." About forty economists and twenty-five control theorists attended the workshop. The nine papers that were presented at the conference are found in the fourth issue of the NBER's *Annals of Economic and Social Measurement*.

The third conference focused on the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. Its purpose was to discuss the organization and content of this data set, associated problems of accessibility and exportability, and possible improvements that might be made to expedite its use by the research community. Approximately eighty economists and government professionals attended this two-day conference, held September 20 and 21, 1972, at Pennsylvania State University.

The program of future workshops to be sponsored by the conference, which follows, suggests that the pace of activity of the conference will be accelerating in the years ahead.

List of CESR Conferences and Workshops

Approved Topics

Research and the 1970 Public Use Sample

Richard and Cynthia Taeuber

March 23, 24, 1973, Atlanta

Consumer Prices and Expenditures

Joel Popkin, Robert Ferber, and Malcolm Cohen

May 3, 4, Williamsburg, Virginia,
and

Matching and Merging of Data Sets

Benjamin Okner

May 4, 5, 1973, Williamsburg, Virginia

Macro-Simulation Models

James Brown and Jerome Millman

Fall 1973

Control Theory

Gregory Chow and Michael Athans

June 7, 8, 9, University of Chicago

Topics in Planning Stage

Analysis of Panel Time Series Data

Herbert Parnes and Zvi Griliches

Fall 1973

Concepts of Price Indices and Models of Consumer Behavior

Joel Popkin, Lester Taylor, and Gary Fromm

late 1973 or early 1974

Data Analysis

Paul Holland and David Hoaglin

Use of Computer Networks in Economic Research

Mark Eisner, Sanford Berg, and Charles Holt

Data Documentation

Charlotte Boschan, Nancy Ruggles, and

James Beresford

Experimental Data and Their Analysis

Harold Watts

Income Maintenance

James Schulz, Nelson McClung, and William

Brainard

Other Suggested Topics

Industrial and Financial Data

IRS Data

James Smith

Time Budget Studies

F. Thomas Juster

Computer Programs Designed for Wide-Scale Use

Charles Holt

Alexander L. Morton

Latin American Computer Workshops

A Latin American Computer Workshop series has been started to investigate some of the issues raised at the conference held in 1971 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. These workshops are sponsored by the National Bureau through a grant provided by the IBM World Trade Corporation. The first organizational meeting of the Executive Committee of the workshop series was held in Buenos Aires on June 28 to 30, 1972. In organizing that meeting, the Bureau was assisted by FIEL (Fundacion de Investigaciones Economicas Latinoamericanas) and by the di Tella Institute in Buenos Aires. It was decided at the meeting that a workshop series

should be designed to bring together groups of the most talented, quantitatively oriented researchers in Latin America to discuss their findings and methodology with other persons actively engaged in similar research. A major purpose of the workshops would be to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise concerning the appropriate uses and limitations of computer technology and modern empirical research methodology. Each workshop would have the following general characteristics:

- it would deal with a single area of quantitative economic research;
- it would involve a relatively small group of individuals who have technical expertise in the field and who are engaged in similar research;
- it would involve intensive, but informal, discussions of both the substance and methodology of the research being presented.

It was felt that workshops could be scheduled in the near future in the areas of macroeconomic models for policy planning and labor force, employment, and labor absorption. Other topics that were suggested for consideration for future workshops included technology transfer, multinational corporations, income distribution, inflation, agriculture, transportation, and monetary policy.

The first workshop was held in Caracas, Venezuela, on February 28 to March 2, 1973. The topic was macroeconomic policy models and the workshop was organized by Saul Trejo. He was assisted in making the arrangements by the Central Bank of Venezuela, which also provided the meeting site for the workshop. In all, the several sessions had some twelve to fifteen participants, including some from the Central Bank and the universities in Caracas. In the workshop eight research reports covering a range of monetary, fiscal, and foreign exchange policies were discussed. Most of the discussion centered on the impact of monetary policy and the appropriate design of domestic and international monetary policies for the Latin American economies. A report was also given by Edwin Kuh on the status and capabilities of the TROLL system as a research tool for estimating large-scale models of Latin American economies in the future.

The second workshop of the series will be organized by Affonso Pastore next summer. It will deal with patterns of employment in Latin America and is scheduled to meet in Brasilia. In order to be in closer contact with the Latin American researchers, M. Ishaq Nadiri, as the Bureau's representative, participated in the ECIEL conference, which was held in Quito, Ecuador, last January 15 to 19, 1973.

David Kresge

CONFERENCE ON ECONOMETRICS AND MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS

The conference, which was created by a grant from the National Science Foundation in 1970, is designed to stimulate research on recent topics in mathematical economics and econometrics. During 1972 the ten existing seminars of the conference met fifteen times at universities throughout the country, and two new seminars were formed. The seminars and their leaders are:

General Equilibrium Models—Kenneth J. Arrow, Harvard University
Evaluation of Econometric Models—Saul Hy-

mans and Harold T. Shapiro, University of Michigan
Comparison of Econometric Models—Lawrence R. Klein, University of Pennsylvania
Decision Rules and Uncertainty—Daniel L. McFadden, University of California, Berkeley
Decentralized Economic Planning and Programming—Roy Radner, University of California, Berkeley
Distributed Lags and Time Series Analysis—Christopher Sims, University of Minnesota
Optimal Economic Growth—Joseph E. Stiglitz, Yale University

Bayesian Inference in Econometrics—Arnold Zellner, University of Chicago

Quantitative Studies in Industrial Organization—George J. Stigler and Lester G. Telser, University of Chicago

Monetary and Fiscal Analysis—William C. Brainard, Yale University, and Franco Modigliani, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Analysis of Panel Microdata—James N. Morgan, University of Michigan

Public Economics and Nonmarket Decisions—Martin McGuire and Mancur Olson, University of Maryland (formerly Studies in the Micro

Public Sector, Lester Thurow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Seminar sessions focus on specific issues, and papers are frequently circulated in advance. More than fifty working papers have now been presented in the seminars, and a number of these have subsequently been published or presented at professional meetings. Also, graduate students at the host university are often invited to attend seminar sessions. The conference thus provides a new and apparently quite successful forum for research.

Gary Fromm