



## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Area Development Economics Symposium 2025**

April 18, 2025

Location: Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University  
3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201  
Van Metre Hall Room 125

8:30 - 8:55 Registration and light breakfast

8:55 - 9:00 Welcome remarks, Anh Pham (George Mason University)

### **Session 1 (Chair: Stephen Smith, George Washington University)**

9:00 - 9:40 Faculty presentation 1, Valentina Duque (American University), “The Long-run Impacts of Public Childcare Programs in Developing Countries: Evidence from Colombia.”

9:40 - 10:55 Student Lightning Round, 15 minutes talk + 10 minutes open Q&A for each

- 9:40-10:05 Tinatin Mumladze (American University), “Common Ancestry, Uncommon Findings: Revisiting Cross-Cultural Research in Economics.”
- 10:05-10:30 Hyeseon Na (George Mason University), “Does Participation in Global Value Chains Increase Employment? Colombian Evidence.”
- 10:30-10:55 Jorge Klinnert (University of Maryland), “Persistence and path-dependence of Neo-European institutions: Evidence from the British colonial rule in Kenya.”

**10:55 - 11:20 *Coffee Break***

### **Session 2 (Chair: Jonathan Beauchamp, George Mason University)**

11:20 - 12:00 Faculty presentation 2, Anh Pham (George Mason University), “Industrial Zones and Private Formal Sector Job Creation in Vietnam.”

12:00 - 12:45 Student presentation 1

- 12:00-12:25 Student presentation, Eric Robertson (University of Virginia), “Malthus, Poverty, and Famines: The Lessons From Haileybury.”
- 12:25-12:45 Discussion by Michael Clemens (George Mason University) and open Q&A.

**12:45 - 1:45 *Lunch***



### **Session 3 (Chair: Sebastian Galiani, University of Maryland)**

1:45 - 2:25 Faculty presentation 3, Molly Lipscomb (University of Virginia), “How important are nonconvexities for savings and development? Experimental Evidence from Uganda.”

2:25 - 3:10 Student presentation 2

- 2:25-2:50 Student presentation, Maheen Javaid (George Washington University), “Up in Smoke: The Educational Toll of Air Pollution.”
- 2:50-3:10: Discussion by Gaurav Chiplunkar (University of Virginia) and open Q&A

**3:10 - 3:35 *Coffee break***

### **Session 4 (Chair: Austin Davis, American University)**

3:35 - 4:15 Faculty presentation 4, Rodimiro Rodrigo (George Washington University) “U.S. Robots Impacts in Developing Countries.”

4:15 - 4:55 Faculty paper 5, Sebastian Galiani (University of Maryland), “Does Matching Contribution incentivize informal workers to participate in retirement saving plans? A Randomized Evaluation.”

4:55-5 Closing remarks, Maurice Kugler (George Mason University)

### **Reception**

5:00 – 6:30 Reception.

- Mason Plaza if the weather is good.
- Conference room if the weather is bad.

### **Guidelines:**

*Faculty presentations* are 40 minutes allowing for interruptions

*Student (full) presentations* are 25 minutes uninterrupted followed by ~5 minute discussion, and ~15 minute open Q&A

*Lightning talks* are each 15 minutes uninterrupted followed by 10 minutes open Q&A