# 2018 AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference

## Program of Events

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<th>Thursday July 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Beaumont Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks</td>
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<td>*(Net)*Working Reception</td>
<td>Marie T. Mora, AEA Mentoring Program &amp; University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</td>
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<td>Lisa D. Cook, AEA Summer Program &amp; Michigan State University</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday July 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>University Ballroom</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking &amp; Mentor/Mentee Meetings</td>
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<td><em>Working Continental Breakfast</em></td>
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<td>8:00 – 8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Remarks &amp; Overview of the 2018 SMPC</td>
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<td>Marie T. Mora, AEA Mentoring Program &amp; University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</td>
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<td>8:15 – 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>AEASP Paper Presentations – AEASP Presentations</td>
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<td>Advanced Group</td>
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<td>9:45 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:00 – 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Education &amp; Household Outcomes</td>
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<td>Session #1</td>
<td>The Performance of State Charter Virtual Schools in Georgia</td>
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<td>Carycruz Bueno,* Georgia State University</td>
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How Does Financial Aid Impact Student Performance? And Who Is Most Impacted?

Breyon Williams,* University of South Carolina

How Extended Family Issues Influence Household Portfolio Allocations

Jermaine Toney,* Cornell University, and Vicki Bogan, Cornell University

11:20 – 12:10 p.m.
Session #2

International Macro & Development Issues

National Financial Literacy Initiatives, Financial Inclusion, & Savings Behavior: Evidence from Zambia & Malawi

Faisal Awwal,* Florida International University

Conflicts, Debt Overhangs, Disasters, and Epidemics: The CDEs that Limit the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid

Alberto Ramon,* American University

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Working Lunch

AEASP Poster Presentations – Foundations Group; Networking; and Mentor/Mentee Meetings

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.
Concurrent Panels/Breakout Sessions

Getting the Mentoring You Need (Mentees & AEASP)

William A. Darity, Jr. (Moderator), Duke University

Beronda Montgomery, Michigan State University

Rogelio Sáenz, University of Texas at San Antonio

Tapping into @Twitter (Mentors & Other Participants)

Lisa D. Cook (Moderator), AEASP & Michigan State

Sarah Jacobson, Williams College

Trevon Logan, The Ohio State University
2:20 – 3:05 p.m. Concurrent Panels/ Breakout Sessions

**Jobs Outside of Academia (Mentees & AEASP Students)**

Jessica Fulton (Moderator), Washington Center for Equitable Growth

Maya Duru, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) North America

Naveen Singhal, Congressional Budget Office

**Best Practices in Mentoring (Mentors & Other Participants)**

William A. Darity, Jr. (Moderator), Duke University

Beronda Montgomery, Michigan State University

Rogelio Sáenz, University of Texas at San Antonio

3:10 – 3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. LEWIS-OAXACA Distinguished Lecture

*The Economics of Immigration*

Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz, Columbia University

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Networking, AEASP Graduation, and Awards & Recognitions, including Impactful Mentor Awards

Saturday July 28th University Ballroom

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Networking & Mentor/Mentee Meetings

Working Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Navigating the Ph.D. Job Market

Melody Harvey, * National Poverty Fellows Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison (incoming)

Jhacova Williams, * Clemson University (incoming)
9:00 – 9:50 a.m.  **Inflation & the Role of Central Banks**

**Central Bank Independence and Inflation in Africa Revisited: Myth or Reality?**

**Christine O. Strong,** University of Oklahoma

**Commodity Price Shocks Under Different Inflation Targets**

**Renzo Alvarez,** Florida International University

9:50 – 10:40 a.m.  **Experimental & Econometric Applications**

**The (Perceived) Cost of Being Female: An Experimental Investigation of Strategic Responses to Discrimination**

**Mackenzie Alston,** Texas A&M University

**On Cluster Robust Models**

**José Bayoán Santiago Calderon,** Claremont Graduate School

10:40– 10:45 a.m.  **Closing Remarks**

**Marie T. Mora,** AEA Mentoring Program & University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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*N* **Mentee in the AEA Mentoring Program.**

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**NSF Funding for the AEA Mentoring Program**

The AEA Mentoring Program and the Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference are funded through the generosity of the National Science Foundation. The current NSF Awards are #1730651 (**Broadening Participation in Economics through Professional Mentoring**) and #1357478 (**Economics Mentoring Program**). Dr. Marie T. Mora, AEA Mentoring Program Director and Professor of Economics at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, is the Principal Investigator on both.
Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz, Columbia University

Dr. Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Education at Columbia University where he remains teaching at the School of International and Public Affairs. At Columbia, he has held appointments in the Economics Department, the School of International and Public Affairs, and at Teachers College (Columbia’s Graduate School of Education). He has also been the Director of the Program in Economic Policy Management, the Latino Studies Program, and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education. Moreover, Dr. Rivera-Batiz has held teaching or research appointments at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Indiana University at Bloomington, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the American Society of Hispanic Economists’ Academic Achievement Award. He earned his Bachelor’s degree with Distinction from Cornell University in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979.


Inaugurated in 2014 in honor of Nobel Laureate Sir W. Arthur Lewis and Ronald L. Oaxaca, the Lewis-Oaxaca Distinguished Lecture Series features highly esteemed economists whose work has transformed the profession. Previous L-O Distinguished Lecturers include Ronald L. Oaxaca (2014), Cecilia Conrad (2015), William Darity, Jr. (2016), and Susan Collins (2017).
Mackenzie Alston,* Texas A&M University

Mackenzie Alston has just finished her fourth year in the Economics Ph.D. program at TAMU. Her primary research fields are experimental and public economics with a focus on the topics of stereotypes and discrimination. More specifically, she is working on several projects with William (Sandy) Darity Jr., Catherine Eckel, Rhonda Sharpe, and Lawrence McNeil to study how stereotypes affect the performance and decisions of black students at HBCUs and PWIs. Furthermore, Alston’s job market paper investigates how stereotypes about women affect how females apply to jobs where they may be discriminated against.

Renzo Alvarez,* Florida International University

Renzo Alvarez is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at FIU who specializes in international macroeconomics. His research focuses on the macroeconomic consequences and monetary policy implications of exchange rate and commodity price shocks. Alvarez’s most recent work involves studying the macroeconomic implications of commodity price shocks in inflation-targeting, emerging market economies. He has also conducted studies on exchange rate pass-through and on the extent to which exchange rate changes affect export performance. The latter was conducted while Alvarez spent the summer of 2017 at the International Monetary Fund; his project involved estimating how Central American exports react to exchange rate changes.

Faisal M. Awwal,* Florida International University

Faisal Awwal is currently an upcoming third-year Economics Ph.D. student at FIU. Awwal, a New York native of Ghanaian descent, holds a BSM in Finance from Tulane University and an MS in Financial Economics from the University of New Orleans. His research interests are in Financial Econometrics and Financial Inclusion and Financial Market Development. He is particularly interested in exploring how specific central-bank-led policy initiatives have improved the pace of financial inclusion for the unbanked population in developing regions. Prior to entering FIU, Awwal worked as an analyst at both Barclays and Credit Suisse in New York City.

Carycruz Bueno,* Georgia State University

Carycruz Bueno is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Georgia State University. She is an applied micro-economist with a focus in labor economics, education economics, and health economics. Her dissertation addresses topics
such as school choice, teacher demand, and student non-cognitive skills. Prior to graduate school Bueno attended Mount Holyoke College where she participated in the AEA 2008 Summer Pipeline in Santa Barbara, CA. After Mount Holyoke, Bueno joined Teach for America Hawaii and taught seventh grade special education mathematics for two years.

**Lisa D. Cook, Michigan State University**

Dr. Lisa D. Cook is Associate Professor of Economics and International Relations in the Department of Economics and at James Madison College at MSU. As a Marshall Scholar, she received a second B.A. from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Dr. Cook earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Among her current research interests are economic growth and development, financial institutions and markets, innovation, and economic history. As a Senior Economist at the President’s Council of Economic Advisers during the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Cook worked on the euro zone, financial instruments, innovation, and entrepreneurship. She is currently Co-Director of the AEA Summer Training Program (AEASP). @drlisadcook

**William A. Darity, Jr., Duke University**

Dr. William “Sandy” Darity, Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics at Duke University. He is also Founding Director, Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, and has chaired Duke’s Department of African and African American Studies. Dr. Darity’s research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity; stratification economics; schooling and the racial achievement gap; North-South trade and development theories; skin shade and labor market outcomes; economics of reparations; the Atlantic slave trade and the Industrial Revolution; history of economics; and social psychological effects of unemployment exposure. Dr. Darity’s numerous recognitions include the 2012 Samuel Z. Westerfield Award (National Economic Association) and being named one of Politico 50’s 2017 most influential policy thinkers. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from MIT, and has published or edited 13 books and more than 220 journal articles. @SandyDarity

**Maya Duru, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, North America**

Dr. Maya Duru joined J-PAL North America (based at MIT) as the Associate Director of Education in 2018. She is responsible for the management and development of the new MITx MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy and well as the Department of Economics’ blended Master’s in Data, Economics, and Development Policy, which will launch in
Spring 2020. Dr. Duru worked as the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for One Acre Fund prior to joining J-PAL. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California San Diego. @JPAL_NA

**Jessica Fulton, Washington Center for Equitable Growth**

Jessica Fulton is the External Relations Director at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Prior to joining Equitable Growth, Fulton served as Outreach Director at the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, a research and advocacy organization focusing on budget issues in Washington, DC. She previously served as Research and Policy Associate at the Chicago Urban League and as an intern in the Office of Congressman Tim Ryan. Fulton earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from the University of Chicago and a Master’s Degree in Economic Policy Analysis from Depaul University. @JessicaJFulton

**Melody Harvey,* National Poverty Fellows Program**

Dr. Melody Harvey is an incoming postdoctoral fellow in the National Poverty Fellows Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty. During her postdoc, Dr. Harvey will be in residence at the HHS Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Division of Economic Independence. She completed her Ph.D. in policy analysis (with an analytic concentration in Economics) at the Pardee RAND Graduate School in 2018. Dr. Harvey’s research interests include consumer, social, and higher education policies as they affect economically vulnerable Americans. She currently studies the impact of financial education on young adults’ behaviors. @harvey_melody

**Sarah A. Jacobson, Williams College**

Dr. Sarah A. Jacobson is Associate Professor of Economics at Williams College, where she has been since 2010. She completed her Ph.D. in Economics at Georgia State University in 2010 and her Bachelor of Science in Engineering at Harvey Mudd College in 1998. Dr. Jacobson is an environmental and behavioral economist who studies interactions between preferences and institutions, mostly using laboratory experiments. Her work has been published in top field journals such as Journal of Environmental Economics and Management and Experimental Economics. Themes in her work include reciprocity, cases in which social preferences yield inefficient outcomes, punishment, and regulatory enforcement. @SarahJacobsonEc
Trevon Logan, The Ohio State University

Dr. Trevon Logan is Chairperson of Economics at The Ohio State University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dr. Logan has held visiting appointments at Princeton University’s Center for Health and Well-Being and at the University of Michigan, where he was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research. Dr. Logan is also an affiliate of the Initiative in Population Research, the Center for Human Resource Research, the Food Innovation Center, and the Criminal Justice Research Center at Ohio State. Dr. Logan currently serves on the editorial boards of Explorations in Economic History, Historical Methods and Demographic Research. He specializes in economic history, economic demography and applied microeconomics. @TrevonDLogan

Beronda Montgomery, Michigan State University

Dr. Beronda Montgomery is MSU Foundation Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Microbiology, and Molecular Genetics in the Department of Energy Plant Research Laboratory at MSU. She also serves as Assistant Provost for Faculty Development-Research. She completed her doctoral studies in Plant Biology at the University of California, Davis, and was an NSF-funded postdoctoral fellow in Microbial Biology at Indiana University. Dr. Montgomery’s honors include an NSF CAREER Award in 2007; being a finalist, 2014 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professors Competition; and a 2015 MSU Nominee, Council for Advancement and Support of Education U.S. Professor of the Year Award. Dr. Montgomery is also actively involved in scholarly efforts to promote effective research mentoring and management and the inclusion and success of individuals from groups underrepresented in the sciences. @BerondaM

Marie T. Mora, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Marie T. Mora is Professor of Economics and has been serving as Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity at UTRGV. She is also the Principal Investigator of the NSF-funded AEA Mentoring Program and a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas San Antonio Branch’s Board of Directors. A labor economist, Dr. Mora has published numerous journal articles and book chapters on Hispanic/Latino socioeconomic outcomes; a book on Puerto Rico’s economic crisis (with Alberto Dávila and Havidán Rodríguez); an award-winning book on Hispanic entrepreneurs (with Dávila); and three co-edited volumes. She previously served on the BLS Data Users Advisory Committee and was President of the American Society of Hispanic Economists. Dr. Mora has been invited to share her expertise at institutions and agencies across the country, including the White House and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. @Marietmora
Alberto G. Ramon, * American University

Alberto G. Ramon is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at American University in Washington, DC. His research interests include Development Economics and specifically the impacts of foreign aid. Ramon was born and raised in Laredo, TX, and currently resides in Accra, Ghana, with his wife. He holds a B.B.A. degree in Finance from The University of Texas at San Antonio, and an M.A. degree in Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Rogelio Sáenz, The University of Texas at San Antonio

Dr. Rogelio Sáenz is Dean of the College of Public Policy and holds the Mark G. Yudof Endowed Chair at UTSA. Dr. Sáenz has written extensively in the areas of demography, Latina/os, race and ethnic relations, inequality, immigration, public policy, and social justice. He is co-author of Latinos in the United States: Diversity and Change, and co-editor of The International Handbook of the Demography of Race and Ethnicity as well as Latinos/as in the United States: Changing the Face of América. Dr. Sáenz regularly writes op-ed essays on demographic, social, racial, and policy issues for a variety of newspapers and writes a monthly column for Ahora Sí, the Spanish-language newspaper of Austin American-Statesman. Dr. Sáenz earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University.

José Bayoán Santiago Calderón, * Claremont Graduate School

José Bayoán Santiago Calderón is a Ph.D. student in Economics at Claremont Graduate University. He is an alumnus and former fellow of the AEA Summer Program. Santiago Calderón is also a Summer Fellow at the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory and works as a data scientist for Res-Intel. His interests are interdisciplinary studies and methodology. As part of his dissertation work, he is developing an econometrics statistical package for the Julia language. He earned his B.A. from Southwestern University and Master’s degree from Claremont Graduate University, both in Economics. @Nosferican

Naveen Singhal, Congressional Budget Office

Dr. Naveen Singhal is a Principal Analyst in the Tax Analysis Division of CBO, where his research focuses on how taxes on labor income affect individuals’ choice to work. Dr. Singhal also contributes to CBO’s statutory task of projecting federal tax revenues by projecting incomes subject to individual capital gains tax. Prior to joining CBO in 2015, he was a senior economist at a consulting firm in Chicago where he contributed to developing pricing strategies for the U.S. Postal Service. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. @USCBO
**Christine O. Strong, * University of Oklahoma**

Christine Strong is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at the University of Oklahoma. Her fields of interest are monetary economics, politics of central banking, and political economy. Her research mainly focuses on currency unions in Africa, specifically the CFA zone. Strong is particularly interested in the idea of monetary independence and its impact on the economic outcomes of CFA countries vs. non-CFA countries. She also enjoys teaching and apart from her teaching assistant duties, she is an Adjunct Professor of Business at Oklahoma City Community Colleges where she teaches introductory economics courses.

**Jermaine Toney, * Cornell University**

Dr. Jermain Toney earned his Ph.D. in Economics from The New School for Social Research in 2017. Currently, he is a National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and a faculty affiliate with the Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors, and Disparities at Cornell University. His research interests include household financial status, asset accumulation, health, and stratification economics. Dr. Toney participated in the AEASP in 2012, which was then hosted by the University of New Mexico’s Department of Economics and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy.

**Breyon Williams, * South Carolina State University**

Breyon Williams is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate of Economics at the University of South Carolina. Williams’ research is focused on the economics of education and is motivated through the lens of public economics. Specifically, he has examined whether or not spillover benefits on achievement exist from preschool, if low-income students benefit most from student aid, and the impacts of initially attending a two-year college on achievement. Williams’ recent accomplishments include earning the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award and the Best Economics Ph.D. Student Paper Award from his school. @BreyonWilliams

**Jhacova Williams, * Clemson University (incoming)**

Jhacova Williams is a newly-minted Ph.D. in Economics. She completed her Ph.D. in 2018 at Louisiana State University where her research interests included political economy, culture and economics, and labor economics. Dr. Williams has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Clemson University where she plans to continue examining the extent to which culture affects economic outcomes of blacks.
About the Impactful Mentor Awards

To recognize and celebrate the excellence and impact of mentors on diversity, access, and inclusion in the Economics profession, the 2018 Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference marks the inauguration of the AEA Mentoring Program’s Impactful Mentor Awards. The inaugural Selection Committee (Drs. Darrick Hamilton (Chair), The New School; Lisa D. Cook, AEASP and Michigan State University; Salvador Contreras, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and Trevon Logan, The Ohio State University) was charged with identifying/nominating up to four high-impact mentors who have played instrumental roles over the years in mentoring traditionally under-represented minorities in Economics and diversifying the profession with respect to race/ethnicity. The Selection Committee recommended the following three (3) mentors, stating: “All three … have a long career of distinction in mentoring professional economists and aspiring economists particularly from under-represented groups in the profession”.

Recipients of the 2018 Impactful Mentor Awards

♦ Cecilia A. Conrad, MacArthur Foundation
♦ William “Sandy” Darby, Jr., Duke University
♦ Marie T. Mora, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Acknowledgements

Marie T. Mora gratefully acknowledges the National Science Foundation, the NSF Econ Directorate, and Dr. Nancy Lutz, NSF Program Director for Economics, for their support of the AEA Mentoring Program and the Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conferences, including through NSF Awards #1730651 and #1357478. Other key supporters include The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Michigan State University, the AEA Summer Training Program, the NSF-funded Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics Program, American Society of Hispanic Economists, the National Economic Association, and the AEA Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (including the current Co-Chairs, Gary “Hoov” Hoover and Ebonya Washington). For the 2018 SMPC, the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Congressional Budget Office, and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) North America, MIT, also deserve special recognition, as does the 2018 Impactful Mentor Awards Committee. Finally, a very special thanks goes to Mr. Tony Lynch and Ms. Marina de la Cruz for their invaluable assistance with the conference logistics.