

# UR ECON NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020 Edition/January 2021



University  
of Regina

*The Department of Economics would like to acknowledge that the University of Regina is situated on Treaty 4 Territory with a presence in Treaty 6 - the ancestral lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota and Nakota peoples and the homeland of the Métis. This is an important part of our history, and an important part of our future.*

Contact Us

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## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

The Department of Economics would like to welcome two new Assistant Professors who joined the department in July 2020.

Dr. Safoura Moeeni received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Calgary. Her research interests are in Labor Economics, Economics of the Family, and Development Economics.



Dr. Omid Mirzaei received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Saskatchewan. His research interests are in Regional Economics, Spatial Externalities, and Economics of Indigenous Peoples.



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## GOOD LUCK AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Oscar Zapata for joining the University of Saskatchewan's School of Environment and Sustainability starting May 2021. We wish him all success in his future endeavours!



## RETIREMENTS

The Department of Economics would like to congratulate two of its long-standing members on their retirement. Thank you for all you have contributed over the years. We wish you both a happy and healthy retirement.

Dr. Richard (Rick) Kleer has been a member of the Economics Department since 1990 until his retirement in June 2020. He is currently appointed as a Professor Emeritus. Rick's research focuses on the connections between money, banking, financial markets and public finance in early-modern Britain. During his time at the University of Regina, he taught courses in the areas of economic institutions, financial crises, the macroeconomic impact of major wars, and writing for economists. Rick also served as Dean of Arts and Department head.



Mr. John Wright has taught several courses including introductory macroeconomics, public finance, Canadian health care, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and writing for economists. He is currently appointed as a Lecturer Emeritus. John's research interest is in public finance and policy. He was a former deputy minister and CEO of several Saskatchewan Crown corporations. He also served as a member of the National Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare in 2020. He was known among his students for his quick wit, great sense of humor, and being highly approachable.



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (2020)

1. **Childs, Jason** and Stevens, Jason (2020). 'A cannabis pricing mistake from California to Canada: government can't tax cannabis optimally.' *Applied Economics Letters*, DOI: [10.1080/13504851.2020.1781764](https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2020.1781764)
  2. **Galushko, Viktoriya, Çule, Monika** and Gray Richard. (2020). 'Western Canadian producers' attitudes towards wheat breeding funding.' *Canadian Journal of Agriculture economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cjag.12252>
  3. **Guliani, Harminder** and **Çule, Monika** (2020). 'The case for Gender considerate Tobacco Control Policies in Albania.' *Global Health Research and Policy: 5* (15) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41256-020-00143-6>
  4. **Guliani, Harminder.**, Hadjistavropoulos, Thomas, Jin, Shan., and Lix, Lisa. (2020). 'Utilization of Health Care Resources by Long-term Care Residents as a Function of Pain Status.' *Clinical Journal of Pain*, 36(6): 472–479. DOI: [10.1097/AJP.0000000000000826](https://doi.org/10.1097/AJP.0000000000000826)
  5. **Mirzaei, Omid**, Natcher, DC, Micheels, E.T. (2020). Estimating the Regional Economic Impacts of First Nation Spending in Saskatchewan, Canada. *The Review of Regional Studies*. Vol. 50, Issue 1. <https://rrs.scholasticahq.com/article/12056-estimating-the-regional-economic-impacts-of-first-nation-spending-in-saskatchewan-canada>
  6. **Wilson, Stuart.** (2020). Weekend remand admissions and case review in Saskatoon. *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being*, 5(3), 127-132. <https://doi.org/10.35502/jcswb.127>
  7. **Zapata Oscar**, Honey-Rosés J. (2020). The Behavioral Response to Increased Pedestrian and Staying Activity in Public Space: A Field Experiment. *Environment and Behavior*. August 2020. doi:10.1177/0013916520953147
  8. Jordi Honey-Rosés, Isabelle Anguelovski, Vincent K. Chireh, Carolyn Daher, Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch, Jill S. Litt, Vrushti Mawani, Michael K. McCall, Arturo Orellana, Emilia Oscilowicz, Ulises Sánchez, Maged Senbel, Xueqi Tan, Erick Villagomez, **Oscar Zapata** & Mark J Nieuwenhuijsen (2020) The impact of COVID-19 on public space: an early review of the emerging questions – design, perceptions and inequities, *Cities & Health*, DOI: [10.1080/23748834.2020.1780074](https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2020.1780074)
  9. Honey-Rosés, J., Canessa, M., Daitch, S García J, Xavier A., & **Oscar Zapata** (2020). Comparing Structured and Unstructured Facilitation Approaches in Consultation Workshops: A Field Experiment. *Group Decis Negot* **29**, 949–967 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10726-020-09688-wA>
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## UR ECON IN MEDIA

Dr. Brett Dolter's research interests include climate and energy policy. He was recently interviewed by [CBC News Online](#), CBC Radio One, and [Global News](#) for his report on Regina residents' views on 100% renewable energy target.

Here's what Brett said to the CBC News about his report: *"I was interested to see the level of support for the targets and how, even when we're asking about the broader target of the whole city — including all private vehicles and buildings being [powered by] renewable [energy] by 2050 — there was still majority support."*



Visit this link for the [full report](#).

Brett also appeared in [CBC News Online](#) about his climate change policy views during the Fall provincial election.

Dr. Jason Childs research covers a wide range of topics related to experimental economics, behavioural economics, market structures, and consumer behaviour and the economics of cannabis legalization. Jason has made numerous media appearances throughout the year including GlobalTV Regina, CBC Radio, and CJME, frequently discussing the economic impact of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan and elsewhere, and the provincial budget update.



Some of his most recent media appearances include:

[CBC News: Population growth in SK](#)

[Regina LeaderPost: Wealth Tax](#)

[Global News: Economics professor weighs in on Saskatchewan's response to surge in COVID-19 cases](#)

[Global News: Economist finds flaws in Sask. Party and NDP's spending projections](#)

[CBC News: Costs and benefits of COVID lockdowns](#)

[Global Regina: Provincial budget update](#)

CJOB: Liquor store competition in MB

Visit the hyperlinks for more details.

## ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES

In Fall 2020, the department hosted two seminars via Zoom.

- **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** Dr. Kelly Foley, University of Saskatchewan  
**Presentation Title:** Heterogeneous returns to labour market programming among Indigenous populations.
- **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** Dr. Brett Dolter, University of Regina  
**Presentation Title:** The Economics of Site C

The department was pleased to host two Honours students' presentations via Zoom on **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. These students were the recipient of the Honours research fellowship opportunity in the Spring/Summer 2020.

- **Adeoluwa Adebajji:** A Hedonic Approach on the Impacts of Crime on Housing Prices in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: A Pilot Study (2005-2017)  
*Faculty Supervisors: Dr. Stuart Wilson and Dr. Samuel Gamtessa*
- **Immanuella Owate:** Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa  
*Faculty Supervisors: Dr. Samuel Gamtessa and Dr. Harminder Guliani*

Thanks to Dr. Omid Mirzaei for organizing these seminars!

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## SPECIAL CASE GRADUATE STUDENT

Ms. Angèle Poirier was accepted into the thesis-based special case Master's program in Economics in Fall 2020. She will work under the supervision of Dr. Jason Childs and Dr. Samuel Gamtessa.

Angèle received UR Graduate Scholarship and Saskatchewan Innovation and Excellence Graduate Scholarship in Fall 2020. Congratulations Angèle!!



## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all ECON students who received academic awards in 2020. We are so proud of your accomplishments!!

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- **Economics Honours Entrance Scholarship:** Joshua (Alex) Norleen, Lisa Okudi, Samuel Rayner
- **Schmeiser Family Honours Economics Scholarship:** Samuel Rayner
- **Economics Honours Scholarship:** Adeoluwa Adebajji, Emily Bardutz, Madeline O'Connor, Immanuella Owate, Jordan Mann, Robin Little, Angèle Poirier,
- **Economic Honours Research Fellowship:** Adeoluwa Adebajji, Immanuella Owate
- **Dr. David L. Beattie Memorial Scholarship:** Samuel Rayner
- **Dr. Peter Woroby Memorial Scholarship in Economics:** Elias Maze
- **Art and Jane Hillabold Memorial Scholarship:** Nigel Olesen
- **Alex Kelly Undergraduate Economics Essay Prize:** Zeyad Aboudheir
- **Intermediate Economics Award:** Nigel Olesen
- **Dr. Jack Boan Medal in Economics:** Angèle Poirier

### A NEW UNDERGRADUATE HONOURS SCHOLARSHIP!

**Schmeiser Family Honours Economics Scholarship** was introduced in Fall 2020 through generous donations made by Max Schmeiser, one of the most successful alumni of our honours program. Max is currently the head of data science at Twitter.

Here's a link to Max's interview in the University's Degree Magazine: <https://www.degreesmagazine.ca/chronicling-numbers/2020/11/27/>

## UPDATE FROM UR ECONOMICS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

During online or asynchronous lectures, it is easy for students to forget that they are a part of the University of Regina community. Because of this, our main goal is to open up the Economics Student Association to as many students as possible. We want to create a community where students can connect, without needing to have in-person events.

We created a Discord sever. This is similar to a Zoom call mixed with a Facebook group chat that people can freely login to whenever. The purpose of this was to replicate the study groups you'd see around the university. Students can study with small quiet groups, or more talkative ones. If students want a study break, they can listen to music with each other, watch videos together, or share memes. This Discord sever has become a main source of advertisement, as well as our weekly meeting place.

In the past, our weekly meetings have been kept to the executive team, with a general meeting once a month. We have now been allowing any student to join meetings whenever they want to. This has helped us get more students involved in the planning of new events.

We had our first online event by playing the online phone game "Among Us". It is a cooperative game, where everyone needs to communicate to find the traitor. We gave out two 25\$ gift cards—one to Skip the Dishes—the other to Amazon as door prizes. We were happy to have a lot of participants that have never been to an event until now.

I'd like to announce that we are now selling our newest economic merchandise: face masks. It seemed fitting to sell merchandise that is a reflection of many students' and professors' 2020 university experiences. The masks are one size fits all, displays the message *"This mask reduces negative externalities"*, and sells for \$12. If you're interested, just message any of our social media platforms or our executive team.



Picture Credits: Alex Norleen

Lastly, I'd like to announce a few events that will take place over the Winter 2021 semester. Jackbox games, which is a collection of simple online party games. A virtual Drinks with Profs that tries to replicate going for a beer at the Owl. A movie night that students can watch together. A PowerPoint night, where the executive team makes funny carefree presentations. We are also planning another Among Us night as well as other events that we are still in the planning stage of. I am proud with what we were able to bring to students this semester and excited to continue this in the Winter semester.

**Liam Zwarych,**  
President, Economic Student Association  
**Jordan Mann**  
Vice President of Finance

**Madeline O'Connor**  
Executive Vice President  
**Alex Norleen**  
Vice President of Media