IEA
Illinois Economics Association

Conference Program

55th ANNUAL MEETINGS
October 23rd, 2026
Lewis University

Lewis University, Oak Brook
1111 W 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL 60523

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Lewis University-Oak Brook Campus is located 1111 W 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL 60523.

Please come up to the 7th Floor.

Parking:
Parking is free in the public parking space. (Free parking will be available, with plenty of spaces. Please park in any unreserved parking space and enter the building through the main entrance.)

CTA:
Please see the last page.

IEA website for registration and payment:
http://condor.depaul.edu/iea/

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

8:50 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** **IEA President-Elect Oguzhan Batmaz**		7th Floor Lobby
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	**CONCURRENT SESSIONS A1 and A2**		
	SESSION A1:	Urban/Housing Economics	ROOM 730
	SESSION A2:	Health Economics	ROOM 731
10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.	**BREAK**		
10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.	**CONCURRENT SESSIONS A3 and A4**		
	SESSION A3:	Topics in Finance	ROOM 733
	SESSION A4:	Labor/Development Economics	ROOM 734
	Seminar - I:	Advances in Differences-in-Differences	ROOM 735
12:15 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.	**LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS** **Dr. José R. Guardado, American Medical Association**		ROOM 739ABC
1:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.	**BREAK**		
1:45 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.	**CONCURRENT SESSIONS B1 and B2**		
	SESSION B1:	Macroeconomics	ROOM 730
	SESSION B2:	International Economics	ROOM 731
	Seminar - II: Machine Learning for Economists - Practical Tools for Teaching and Research		ROOM 735
3:15 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	**BREAK**		
3:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.	**CONCURRENT SESSIONS B3 and B4**		
	SESSION B3:	Microeconomics	ROOM 733
	SESSION B4:	Public Economics and Economic Policy	ROOM 734
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	**Graduate Student Paper Competition and Awards**		ROOM 739ABC
6:15 P.M.	**Executive Committee Meeting**		ROOM Conf

FRIDAY, October 23rd, 2026

9:00-10:30 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS A1 & A2

SESSION A1: Urban/Housing Economics **ROOM 730**

Chair: Jin Man Lee, DePaul University.

- "Zoning and the American Suburb," Ryan M. Gallagher, Northeastern Illinois University
  Discussant: Jin Man Lee, DePaul University
- "Point-of-Sale Inspection Ordinances and Local Housing Market Outcomes: Evidence from Cook County, Illinois," Jin Man Lee, DePaul University
  Discussant: Taeyong Kim, Lewis University
- "When Migration-Related Demand Masks Heat Risk in U.S. Housing Markets"
  Taeyong Kim, Lewis University
  Discussant: Michael Giordano, Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
- "Park Avenues: Wealth, Neighborhoods, and Mobility in Gilded Age Manhattan"
  Michael Giordano, Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
  Discussant: Ryan M. Gallagher, Northeastern Illinois University

SESSION A2: Health Economics **ROOM 731**

Chair: Dave Townsend, Lewis University.

- "Impact of Participation in the Diabetes Prevention Program on Medical Expenditures at Trinity Health" Blair Aikens, Co-authors: Tamkeen Khan; Lindsay Zasadzinski; Janet Williams; Abbey Mercier, American Medical Association
  Discussant: Allen Hardiman, American Medical Association
- "GLP-1 RA Prescription Orders among Patients in a National Network of Federally Qualified Health Centers," Lindsay Zasadzinski, Co-authors: Tamkeen Khan; Andrew Owen; Maria Vargas; Wesley Gilbert; Matthew O'Brien, American Medical Association
  Discussant: Blair Aikens, American Medical Association
- "Self-measured Blood Pressure Monitoring During Pregnancy and Postpartum, Return-on-Investment Among Medicaid Beneficiaries," Tamkeen Khan, Co-authors: Alejandro Arrietta; Stavros Tsipas; Kara K. Hoppe; Gregory D. Wozniak, American Medical Association
  Discussant: Lindsay Zasadzinski, American Medical Association
- "Why haven't APMs been more successful in reducing costs? A study measuring whether physicians are financially incentivized to meet the cost-saving goals of APMs,"
  Allen Hardiman, Co-author: Apoorva Igwe, American Medical Association
  Discussant: Tamkeen Khan, American Medical Association

10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. BREAK

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS A3 & A4

SESSION A3: Topics in Finance **ROOM 733**

Chair: Apostolos (Toli) Xanthopoulos, Lewis University.

- "Housing Network Connectedness and Policy Spillovers: Evidence from a Time-Varying Parameter VAR Approach," Hardik A. Marfatia, Northeastern Illinois University, Co-authors: Onur Polat; Christophe André; Rangan Gupta
  Discussant: Dave Townsend, Lewis University
- "Price Setter Herding: New Evidence," Dave Townsend, Lewis University
  Discussant: Apostolos (Toli) Xanthopoulos, Lewis University
- "Competing for Recommendation: Intermediary Ratings and Portfolio Choice in Delegated Asset Management," Apostolos (Toli) Xanthopoulos, Lewis University
  Discussant: Tahseen Hasan, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Lally School of Management
- "The Impact of Data Breaches on U.S. Public Companies: Cash-Flow versus Risk-Premium Channels?" Tahseen Hasan, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Lally School of Management, Co-authors: Danny Wang; Alex Zhang
  Discussant: Hardik A. Marfatia, Northeastern Illinois University

SESSION A4: Labor/Development Economics **ROOM 734**

Chair: Tamkeen Khan, American Medical Association.

- "The Corruption–Unemployment Nexus in Anglophone Africa: Transmission Mechanisms and Policy Implications," Stephen Armah, Ashesi University, Co-author(s): Kwaku Asante
  Discussant: Frederick Yorke, Northern Illinois University
- "Maternity Leave and Child Health Outcomes in Ghana," Frederick Yorke, Northern Illinois University
  Discussant: Kyuri Park, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- "Why Are Middle-Skill Workers Missing from Cities?" Kyuri Park, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
  Discussant: Stephen Armah, Ashesi University

Seminar I

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Room: 735| Presenter: Bryan C. McCannon, Ph.D., Illinois Wesleyan University

Advances in Differences-in-Differences

This session will review the differences-in-differences design for causal identification and introduce researchers to recent developments. Topics covered will include diagnosing and correcting for biases caused by staggered treatment, identifying and addressing non-parallel trends, and best practices with event studies to explore dynamic treatment effects.

12:15 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS ROOM 739ABC

José R. Guardado, PhD



José has been an economist at the American Medical Association (AMA) Department of Economic and Health Policy Research since 2007, where he is currently an Economics Director. José provides economic analyses, advice, data, and analytic support to the AMA. His work focuses on competition in health care markets, including health insurance, pharmacy benefit manager and hospital markets. He is an integral member of the AMA's antitrust workgroup. He has published peer-reviewed research in the *International Economic Review, Journal of Health Economics* and *Health Management, Policy and Innovation*. José obtained his BA, MA, and PhD degrees in economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a member of the American Economic Association, the American Society of Health Economists, the Industrial Organization Society and the American Society of Hispanic Economists.

1:30 P.M -1:45 P.M. BREAK

1:45 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS B1 & B2

SESSION B1: Macroeconomics ROOM 730

Chair: Ling Li, University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

- "Gender Heterogeneity in Inflation Expectations: Evidence from the Philippines" Christopher John Cruz, Grand Valley State University, Co-authors: Vanessa Espano; Angela Pelayo
  Discussant: Joy Bayan, Indiana University
- "Distributional Shifts in Inflation Expectations and Inflation Dynamics" Joy Bayan, Indiana University
  Discussant: Ling Li, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- "Real-Time Output Gaps and Inflation Forecasts," Labesh Kumar, UW-Milwaukee
  Discussant: Marek Chrzanowski, Warsaw School of Economics
- "Inflation and net turnover profitability of enterprises in Poland: a time-frequency perspective (2005–2025)," Ireneusz Dąbrowski, Warsaw School of Economics, Co-authors: Marek Chrzanowski; Aneta Kosztowniak
  Discussant: Labesh Kumar, UW-Milwaukee

SESSION B2: International Economics ROOM 731

Chair: Joy Kanengiser, Illinois Wesleyan University.

- "Greenfield Investment, Globalization, and Sustainable Development: The Asymmetric Moderating Roles of Institutional Quality and Financial Freedom in Developed and Developing Economies," Saher Zeast Hasan, Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan
  Discussant: Aneta Kosztowniak, Warsaw School of Economics
- "Empirical Analysis of the Short-Term and Long-Term Effects of Education on Economic Growth in SAARC Countries," Bushra F. Malik, Lewis University, Co-authors: Sumra Khalid; Khalid Mahmood Mughal
  Discussant: Sebastien Mary, Governors State University
- "Does the Implementing Partner Matter? U.S. Humanitarian Food Aid and Conflict," Sebastien Mary, Governors State University
  Discussant: Saher Zeast Hasan, Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan

3:15 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. BREAK

Seminar II

1:45 - 3:15 p.m. | Room: 735 | Presenter: Taeyong Kim, Lewis University

Machine Learning for Economists - Practical Tools for Teaching and Research

This seminar introduces practical ways to use machine learning and data science in economics teaching and research. Through a guided demonstration using economic data, participants will explore how to build and evaluate a predictive model, interpret its results, and distinguish predictive insights from causal claims. Designed for economists with little or no prior machine learning experience, the session will provide accessible examples and reusable code that participants can adapt for classroom activities and exploratory research.

3:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS B3 & B4

SESSION B3: Microeconomics ROOM 733

Chair: Christopher John Cruz, Grand Valley State University.

- "The Effect of Hospital Closure on Rural Residents' Access to Health Care and SSI/SSDI Participation," Ling Li, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
  Discussant: Mark Buxton, University of Illinois Springfield
- "Mirror, Mirror on the Server: ChatGPT Reveals Who's Most Likely to Commit Financial Crimes," Mark Buxton, University of Illinois Springfield, Co-Authors: Minh Tam Tammy Schlosky; Serkan Karadas
  Discussant: Juan Carlos Barrera, Elmhurst University
- "Neuro-Cybersecurity Trends: Bridging Biological and Digital Frontiers,"
  Juan Carlos Barrera, Elmhurst University
  Discussant: George Waters, Illinois State University
- "1 point = 1 point?" George Waters, Illinois State University
  Discussant: Christopher John Cruz, Grand Valley State University

SESSION B4: Public Economics and Economic Policy ROOM 734

Chair: Ireneusz Dąbrowski, Warsaw School of Economics.

- "Beyond Central Bank Independence: Dollarization as a Second-Best Monetary Institution under Persistent Corruption in Anglophone SSA: The Ghana Case,"
  Stephen Armah, Ashesi University, Co-authors: Mary Magdalene Eliason; Luis Villanueva
  Discussant: Jan Philip Steitz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- "Raise Fast, Cut Slow: Asymmetric Reversal of Recession-Driven State Tax Increases,"
  Jan Philip Steitz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
  Discussant: Joy Kanengiser, Illinois Wesleyan University
- "How Public Flagging for Suspensions Shapes School Discipline,"
  Joy Kanengiser, Illinois Wesleyan University
  Discussant: Stephen Armah, Ashesi University

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Session: Graduate Student Paper Competition and Awards **ROOM 739ABC**

Chair: Tag Pae, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

- "Real-Time Output Gaps and Inflation Forecasts," Labesh Kumar, UW-Milwaukee
- "Park Avenues: Wealth, Neighborhoods, and Mobility in Gilded Age Manhattan" Michael Giordano, Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
- "Why Are Middle-Skill Workers Missing from Cities," Kyuri Par, UIUC

6:15 P.M.

Executive Committee Meeting **ROOM Conf**

Participation List

Name	Email	All sessions and roles
Ryan M. Gallagher	r-gallagher1@neiu.edu	A1: presenter and discussant
Jin Man Lee	jlee141@depaul.edu	A1: presenter, discussant, and chair
Taeyong Kim	tkim3@lewisu.edu	A1: presenter and discussant; Seminar II: presenter
Michael Giordano	michael.giordano@kellogg.northwestern.edu	A1: presenter and discussant
Blair Aikens	Blair.Aikens@ama-assn.org	A2: presenter and discussant
Lindsay Zasadzinski	Lindsay.Zasadzinski@ama-assn.org	A2: presenter and discussant
Tamkeen Khan	Tamkeen.Khan@ama-assn.org	A2: presenter and discussant; A4: chair
Ling Li	ling@uwp.edu	B1: chair and discussant; B3: presenter
Hardik A. Marfatia	h-marfatia@neiu.edu	A3: presenter and discussant
Dave Townsend	TownseDa@lewisu.edu	A2: chair; A3: presenter and discussant
Apostolos (Toli) Xanthopoulos	axanthopoulos@lewisu.edu	A3: presenter, chair and discussant
Tahseen Hasan	hasant2@rpi.edu	A3: presenter and discussant
Stephen Armah	searmah@ashesi.edu.gh	A4 and B4: presenter and discussant
Frederick Yorke	Z2004440@students.niu.edu	A4: presenter and discussant
Kyuri Park	kyuri2@illinois.edu	A4: presenter and discussant
Christopher John Cruz	cruzch@gvsu.edu	B1: presenter; B3: chair and discussant
Joy Bayan	jerdene@iu.edu	B1: presenter and discussant
Labesh Kumar	lkumar@uwm.edu	B1: presenter and discussant
Marek Chrzanowski	mc23098@sgh.waw.pl	B1: co-author and discussant
Saher Zeast Hasan	saher.zeast@Bahria.edu.pk	B2: presenter and discussant
Bushra F. Malik	MalikBu@lewisu.edu	B2: presenter;
Sebastien Mary	smary@govst.edu	B2: presenter and discussant
Allen Hardiman	Allen.Hardiman@ama-assn.org	A2: presenter and discussant
Apoorva Igwe	Apoorva.Igwe@ama-assn.org	A2: co-author
Mark Buxton	mbuxt2@uis.edu	B3: presenter and discussant
Juan Carlos Barrera	barreraj@elmhurst.edu	B3: presenter and discussant
George Waters	gawater@gmail.com	B3: presenter and discussant
Jan Philip Steitz	jsteitz@uwm.edu	B4: presenter and discussant
Joy Kanengiser	jkanengi@iwu.edu	B2: chair; B4: presenter and discussant
Tag Pae	ypae@illinois.edu	Graduate Student Paper Competition and Awards: chair
Bryan McCannon	bmccanno@iwu.edu	Seminar I: presenter
Ireneusz Dąbrowski	rekinipri@sgh.waw.pl	B1: presenter; B4: chair
Aneta Kosztowniak	aneta.kosztowniak@sgh.waw.pl	B1: co-author; B2: discussant

- **Subway + Bus (Fastest Transit):** Take the **CTA Blue Line** train from downtown Chicago west to the **Forest Park Transit Center**. Transfer directly to **Pace Bus Route 301**, which takes you into the Oak Brook area. (Approx. 1h 31m)
- **Multi-Bus Route:** Take the **CTA 157 bus** west out of downtown, transfer to the **CTA 21 Cermak bus** to its final stop at the North Riverside Park Mall, and then switch to **Pace Bus Route 322** to ride straight down 22nd Street to the campus. (Approx. 1h 39m)
- **Metra Train Alternative:** Take the **Metra commuter rail** (BNSF or UP-West lines) from downtown to a nearby suburban station (like Hinsdale or Elmhurst), then take a quick rideshare/taxi or local Pace bus north to the campus. (Approx. 40m)
- **Driving / Taxi:** Head west out of the city via the I-290 W / I-88 W corridor directly to 1111 W 22nd St. (Approx. 23–25 minutes without heavy traffic)

