ATTENDEES & BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARIES

The Ph.D. Excellence Initiative's
10th ANNUAL SUMMER RESEARCH WORKSHOP IN ECONOMICS
June 30, 2023 – at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Featuring a "Fireside Chat" and Q&A with New York Fed President and CEO John C. Williams
Peter Blair Henry as Interlocutor and Moderator

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Biographical Summary

John C. Williams is the president and chief executive officer of the New York Fed. In this role, he leads one of the 12 Reserve Banks that, along with the Board of Governors, make up our nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve System. He serves as the vice chair and a permanent voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the Fed's monetary policymaking body.

As head of the New York Fed, Mr. Williams leads a public service organization of approximately 3,000 employees who work together to carry out its mission: to make the U.S. economy stronger and the financial system more stable for all segments of society. He is focused on the development of the next generation of Federal Reserve leaders and is deeply committed to building diverse and inclusive workforces, which foster belonging and enable employees to be authentic and do their best work. In addition to setting the strategic vision for the organization and overseeing its unique responsibilities, Mr. Williams is responsible for actively engaging in and learning from the Federal Reserve's Second District—a dynamic region that includes New York State, northern New Jersey, southwestern Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mr. Williams holds a number of other leadership positions that help support his domestic and international engagement with global central bankers and other stakeholders, including roles at the Bank for International Settlements and the Economic Club of New York.

Throughout his career, Mr. Williams has been a strong advocate for policies to stimulate the economy, whether in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis or amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He has produced seminal research on critical monetary policy issues, such as the Zero Lower Bound and the neutral rate of interest. As president and CEO of the New York Fed, he continues his active research agenda on topics including monetary policy under uncertainty and imperfect conditions, as well as macroeconomics more broadly.

Mr. Williams has dedicated his career to public service. In June 2018, he became the 11th president and CEO of the New York Fed. From 2011 to mid-2018, Mr. Williams was the president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Prior to that, he was the executive vice president and director of research for the San Francisco Fed, which he joined in 2002.

Mr. Williams began his career in 1994 as an economist at the Board of Governors. Additionally, he served as a senior economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers and as a lecturer at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

He has a PhD in economics from Stanford University, a master's degree from the London School of Economics, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Williams is originally from California and lives in New York with his wife, Audrey. He has two sons, both of whom support his passion for pizza, complex video games, and fashionable sneakers.

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Biographical Summary

Beverly J. Hirtle is the director of research and head of the Research and Statistics Group, which provides analytic support for the Bank's responsibilities relating to monetary policy, banking supervision, payments systems and financial market issues. She is also on the Bank's Executive Committee.

Ms. Hirtle joined the Bank 30 years ago as an economist in the Domestic Financial Markets function in the Research Group. Most recently, she was a senior vice president in the Financial Intermediation function of the Research & Statistics Group. In more recent years, her work has focused on bank capital adequacy and supervisory stress testing. Among her other roles, she was deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Model Oversight Group responsible for the design and implementation of the Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review (CCAR) and Dodd-Frank Act (DFAST) stress tests. Ms. Hirtle also spent nearly four years in a research-oriented unit (Banking Studies) in the Supervision Group.

She has served on the Operating Committee of the Large Institution Supervision Coordinating Committee (LISCC), which coordinates the Federal Reserve's supervision of large, complex financial institutions and she recently co-authored a paper describing the implementation of supervision of these firms at the Bank. Her academic research is considerable, including work on bank holding company dividend and repurchase activity, stress testing, disclosure and risk management, the impact of derivatives on bank risk and credit supply, and trends in retail banking activity.

Ms. Hirtle holds a B.A. in Economics and American Studies from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in Economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Biographical Summaries for The Ph.D. Excellence Initiative

Peter Blair Henry (Founder) is the Class of 1984 Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, Senior Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Dean Emeritus of NYU Stern School of Business, where he served as the youngest-appointed dean from January 2010 through December 2017 and made his mark focusing on access to education through record-breaking fundraising and scholarships. Previously, Peter was the Konosuke Matsushita Professor of International Economics at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, where his research was funded by an NSF CAREER Grant from 2001–2006. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles as well as a book on global economic policy, *Turnaround: Third World Lessons for First World Growth*. A vice chair of the boards of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and the Economic Club of New York, Peter also serves on the boards of Citigroup and Nike. In 2015, he received the Foreign Policy Association Medal, and in 2016 he was honored as one of the Carnegie Foundation's Great Immigrants. Peter received his PhD in Economics from MIT and bachelor's degrees from Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and UNC Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar and a finalist in the 1991 campus-wide slam dunk competition. Peter founded the Ph.D. Excellence Initiative in 2014, with support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. For this work, he received the 2021 Impactful Mentor Award from the American Economic Association.

Ph.D. Excellence Initiative / Featured Faculty for 2023

Isaiah Andrews (Featured Presenter) will join the faculty at MIT as Professor of Economics beginning AY 2023-24. Prior to this, he has been the George Fisher Baker Professor of Economics at Harvard University. He is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a fellow of the Econometric Society, and a coeditor at the *American Economic Review*. He specializes in econometrics, and his research focuses on developing methods for inference that are robust to common problems in empirical work, including insufficiently informative data (weak identification) and model misspecification. He received a MacArthur fellowship in 2020 and the John Bates Clark Medal in 2021.

Belinda Archibong (Faculty Presenter) is Assistant Professor of Economics at Barnard College, Columbia University. Her research areas include development economics, political economy, economic history, and environmental economics with an African regional focus. Her research investigates the role of historical institutions and environment in inequality of access to public services and the development of human capital, particularly in the areas of education and health. She is a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a faculty affiliate at Columbia University's Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), The Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Institute of African Studies, the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, the Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC), and the Center for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP), and is currently a David M. Rubenstein Fellow at the Brookings Institution. She received a BA in Economics/Philosophy and a PhD in Sustainable Development from Columbia University.

PhD Economists / Faculty Mentors for 2023

Renee Bowen is a professor and Pastor Faculty Fellow at UC San Diego. She is jointly appointed at the School of Global Policy and Strategy and the Department of Economics, and is the Founding Director of the Center for Commerce and Diplomacy. She is an Economic Theory Fellow at the Society for the Advances in Economic Theory, has published in top economics journals including the *American Economic Review*, and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and is on the editorial boards of the *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Journal of Economic Literature* and the *Review of International Organizations*. Her professional memberships include the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and the Pacific Council on International Relations. She has held positions at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, the Hoover Institution, the World Bank, J.P. Morgan Securities, and the Inter-American Development Bank, and is currently a member of the California Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, where she chaired the Workforce Development Subcommittee. Her recent research examines the design of global multilateral institutions and polarization of beliefs in societies. She holds a PhD in Economics from Georgetown University, and a BSc in Civil Engineering from MIT.

Ngina Chiteji (Discussant) is a professor at New York University's Gallatin School and the NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Her areas of interest include macroeconomic policy, retirement saving, the distribution of household wealth in the United States, and the economy of the ancient Swahili Coast. She is the author of *Wealth Accumulation and Communities of Color* (co-edited with Jessica Gordon Nembhard), along with several articles published in scholarly journals such as *Labour Economics*, the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, and the *Journal of International Development*. Dr. Chiteji is a former employee of the U.S. Congressional Budget Office and a former member of the Board of the National Academy of Social Insurance. She earned her PhD in economics from the University of North Carolina, and her undergraduate degree from Brown University.

Sandile Hlatshwayo is currently a senior economist with the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She is on temporary leave from the International Monetary Fund where she identified and evaluated the impact of global risks for the Fund's 190 member countries. Her primary research interest is quantifying the domestic and international consequences of policy uncertainty through the use of machine-learning and natural language processing techniques. Outside of her professional obligations, she actively mentors and sat on the boards of the Sadie Collective and Black Professionals in International Affairs. She also serves on the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession. She holds a PhD in Economics from UC Berkeley, an MA in International Policy Studies from Stanford University, and a BA in Economics and Political Science from Spelman College.

Damon Jones (he/him) is an associate professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. He conducts research at the intersection of three fields: public finance, household finance, and labor economics. Associate Professor Jones has researched topics that include inequality, household financial decision-making, and racial equity, touches on policies such as income tax, the social safety net, social security, retirement and retirement savings, the interaction between employer-provided benefits and labor market outcomes, and economic inequality across racial lines. More recently, he has conducted research on workplace wellness programs, universal basic income, and racial differences in financial outcomes.

Conrad Miller (Moderator) is an Associate Professor of economics in the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is a labor economist whose research focuses on the role firms play in producing between-group inequality in the labor market and discrimination in both the labor market and criminal justice. He received his PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University, and holds bachelor's degrees in economics and mathematics from Stanford University.

Angelino Viceisza (Discussant) (pronounced: Vee-Say-Za, he/him) is Full Professor of Economics at Spelman College, Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, President of the National Economic Association (2023– 2024), and Associate Editor at the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. During the 2023-24 academic year, he will be Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Phyllis Wallace Visiting Professor at MIT Sloan School of Management. His research examines the microeconomics of poverty, wealth creation, and entrepreneurship, particularly in developing countries. This work has been published in journals such as *Economic Inquiry, Experimental Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Review of Black Political Economy*, and Small *Business Economics*.

Ebonya Washington is the Laurans A. and Arlene Mendelson Professor of Economics and a professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Her research interests include the interplay of race, gender, and political representation. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the Econometric Society, and serves as the co-chair of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP) and co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research Program on Political Economy. She received a BA in Public Policy, with honors, from Brown University and earned her PhD in economics at MIT in 2013. She subsequently served as an assistant, associate, and full professor at Yale before joining the faculty at Columbia in 2022.

Lawrence J. White is the Robert Kavesh Professor of Economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University, and was the Coordinator for Stern's Economics Department Ph.D. program 2018–2022. His primary research areas of interest include financial regulation, antitrust, network industries, international banking, and applied microeconomics. He is the co-editor (with John Kwoka and Tommaso Valetti) of the forthcoming *Antitrust Economics at a Time of Upheaval: Recent Competition Policy Cases on Two Continents*.

Emerging Economists / Pre-Doctoral and Doctoral Program Scholars for 2023

Faith Achugamonu (she/her), a first-generation Nigerian American from the D.C. metro area, is a rising senior at Washington University in St. Louis, majoring in Math and Economics. She's driven by the awareness that economic decisions disproportionately impact marginalized communities. As a first-year, Faith conducted research on Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Reserve System, presenting at the 2021 Sadie Collective Conference. At the University of Chicago, she previously assisted economic PhD students and currently assists Dr. Damon Jones. At WashU, she is a member of the University Student Affairs Advisory Board, a program coordinator of Mentor St. Louis, and Treasurer of the WashU Powerlifting Club.

Arkey Barnett (Discussant) is a rising third-year Economics PhD student at the University of Michigan (Go Blue!), as well as a mentee in the AEA Mentoring Program. Before Michigan, Arkey was an economics major and QuestBridge Scholar at Williams College ('19). He also participated in the AEA Summer Program at Michigan State University ('18) and spent two years working with Dr. Ebonya Washington as a postgraduate associate at Yale University. Incorporating tools from labor economics, economic history, and political economy, Arkey is passionate about research in criminal justice, disability studies, education policy, and racial and socioeconomic inequality.

Olalekan Bello is an incoming first-year student at NYU Stern's PhD Economics program. He is currently a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company, where he has spent time supporting financial institutions on a range of topics including climate risk, non-financial risk, and service operations. Prior to McKinsey, he worked as a research fellow in Columbia University's Economics Department as part of the Bridge to PhD program. Olalekan holds a B.A. in Economics from Howard University and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Texas in Austin. His current research interests are in political economy and macro-focused development economics.

Kirsten Burr is in the second year of the PhD program in Finance at Columbia Business School. Her current research interests include behavioral finance, empirical asset pricing, and household finance. Before beginning her doctoral program, she worked as a quantitative research analyst at Rockefeller Capital Management where she conducted industry research to inform broad capital market outlooks, portfolio construction guidance, and asset allocation recommendations. Prior to joining Rockefeller, she interned in the community and economic development research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for two years. Kirsten received a BA in Economics, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Spelman College and an MS in Quantitative and Computational Finance from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Gabriel Butler (Presenter) is currently a Research Analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, which he joined in 2021 after his American Economic Association Summer Program Advanced Track fellowship at Michigan State University. At the Bank, he contributes to research about topics in Banking. He has a BA in Business Economics from UCLA and worked in international education in mainland China before pivoting to a career in economic research. Gabriel has continued to pursue his passion for teaching as a Teaching Assistant for MPA students at the University of Pennsylvania Fels School of Government. His personal research interests are mainly in the intersections of racial inequality with health and labor economics.

M'Balou Camara (she/her) was a Ph.D. Excellence Initiative Fellow from 2015 to 2017. Currently, she is a consultant for Benvenuti Arts, where she supports the financial and project management needs of artists and arts organizations based in the U.S. Prior to this role, M'Balou worked with the African Development Bank, the African Seed Access Index, and the Sadie Collective. M'Balou received a Master's in public policy from Duke University and a bachelor's in economics from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Outside of her current role as a consultant, M'Balou works with local dance and music organizations in Bethesda, MD.

Brandy Edmondson is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Work and Organizations department at the Carlson School of Management (University of Minnesota) and Visiting Fellow at the MIT Sloan School of Management. This fall, she will join the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Brandy is honored to have been a PhDEI Fellow from 2016–2018. She considers herself to be an interdisciplinary scholar—her research spans microeconomics, organizational behavior, human resources, and sociology. Brandy's main research goals are to use her interdisciplinary training to find novel ways to test for the presence of discrimination in the workplace, identify the underlying mechanisms that lead to discrimination, and provide unique insights into implications for organizational policies aimed at mitigating workplace discrimination.

Maryan El-hage (Discussant) is entering her second year as a Ph.D. Excellence Initiative fellow at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. She is a 2022 graduate from the University of Michigan, where she studied Pure Mathematics and Honors Economics, and co-founded the Multicultural Economics Coalition, a student organization sponsored by U Michigan's Economics Department. Maryan's theoretical background, coupled with the graduate courses she has taken at Stanford, has directed her research interests to economic theory. This fall, she plans to apply to Economics PhD programs across the country.

Myles Ellis is entering his third year in the PhD in Economics program at Brown University. His main interests are in econometrics and finance. He is originally from Maryland and attended college at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County as a Meyerhoff scholar majoring in mathematics. In his free time, he enjoys playing the piano, working out, and fishing.

Brandon Enriquez is an MIT Economics PhD student. His research interests include topics in labor economics, including unemployment insurance, unions, and wage garnishment. During the 2021–2022 school year, he was on leave at the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Outside of academics, he loves to play violin and read mystery novels.

Precious Fasakin (Presenter) is a Ph.D. Excellence Initiative Fellow at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, where she conducts research and coursework on economic development, political economy, and governance with an African regional focus. Precious formerly served as a research & policy intern at J-PAL Global, where she worked in support and development of J-PAL's Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI). Prior to this, she completed a fellowship with the Research in Color Foundation, where she evaluated wealth stratifications in sexual health behaviors and attitudes among women in Nigeria. Precious holds a BA in Economics and Anthropology from UC Riverside, where she conducted research on the role of non-commercial and community radio broadcasting on development in Ghana, Mali and Nigeria. This fall, she will begin her PhD in Economics at UC San Diego.

James Monroe Gamble IV is a rising second-year PhD student in Finance at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Monroe's research interests span household finance and asset pricing. Monroe attended the University of Missouri as an undergraduate, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, emphasizing economics and a minor in mathematics. As a researcher, Monroe has attended Harvard University, served as a Research Associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and was a Ph.D. Excellence Initiative Fellow at the NYU Stern School of Business from 2020 to 2022.

Camille Gardner was a Fellow of the Ph.D. Excellence Initiative at NYU Stern from 2018 to 2020 and is currently pursuing her PhD in Economics at Brown University. She is the co-author, with Peter Blair Henry, of "The Global Infrastructure Gap: Potential, Perils, and a Framework for Distinction" (forthcoming, *Journal of Economic Literature*). Prior to joining the Initiative, Camille worked at an apparel startup in the Boston area, where she developed an interest in machine learning algorithms and their applications in retail economics. Camille holds an MA in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University and a BA in Economics and Spanish from Wellesley College.

Jadyn Jones (Presenter) (she/her) Originally from Dallas, Texas, Jadyn is a rising junior at Spelman College, majoring in economics and minoring in sociology. During the spring semester, she began work as a research assistant for VLab, a virtual lab that studies experimental and behavioral economics on topics of development, household finance, and entrepreneurship. In the spring, she participated in literature reviews and data collection on various projects within the lab. In addition, Jadyn shared her involvement in the lab on Spelman College's Annual Research Day. Alongside this opportunity, she was accepted into the PREDOC summer course, "Using Data to Solve Economic Problems." Jadyn will develop her STATA skills and be indoctrinated in the coding language.

Fabian Leal (Presenter) (he/him) is the incoming fellow of the Ph.D. Excellence Initiative, beginning his appointment at the Stanford Graduate School of Business in July 2023. Fabian excelled as an Advanced Track scholar during his participation in the American Economic Association Summer Training Program in 2022, and this spring he graduated with honors from the University of Florida, where he earned dual degrees in Economics and Geography, along with a certification in Geospatial Information Analysis. Fabian's current research focuses on econometric modeling, and he is interested in macroeconomics and labor economics. After completing his PhDEI fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. Peter Blair Henry, Fabian is determined to pursue a PhD in economics.

Benvin Lozada (Discussant) is a recent graduate from the University of Utah studying economics and mathematics, with interests at the intersection of education and economic inequality. He has previously conducted research at the University of Utah and MIT and worked at the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services. Benvin has held several leadership roles in higher education, including serving as the vice president of his university's student government and as a resident advisor. He plans to pursue a PhD in Economics and work as a research professor and hopes to bring new perspectives to economics and educational research.

Michael Meneses (Discussant) (He/Him) is a PhD candidate at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. His research interests include sustainability, resource management, agriculture, and bioeconomic modeling. Under the mentorship of his advisor, C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell, Michael applies the principles of Dynamic Optimization, and methods in Structural Econometrics to investigate how economic processes involving natural resources can be made more sustainable. He received his BA in Environmental Studies from Brown University in 2014.

Jesse Nelson (she/her) is currently wrapping up her pre-doctoral research assistant position at UC Berkeley. In the fall, she will be starting a PhD in Economics at the University of Michigan.

Chisom Onyishi is a rising second-year PhD student in Finance at the Wharton School whose research interests include Asset Pricing, Institutional Investors, and Financial Intermediation. She holds a Master of Arts in Statistics from Columbia University and completed her undergraduate education in Beijing, China, at the University of International Business and Economics, where she earned a Bachelor of Economics in Finance with the highest honors.

Fern Ramoutar (Presenter) is a rising 5th year PhD Candidate in Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Her research uses tools from applied microeconomics and empirical IO to study inequality in urban, labor, and health-related settings. Fern holds a B.A. in Economics and International Relations from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Economics from the University of British Columbia. Beyond academia, she is committed to supporting mutual aid networks and local community organizing in Chicago.

Kevin Scroggins is a graduate student at Brown University, where he is currently studying Computer Science with an emphasis on Deep Learning, specifically Zero-shot Learning. This summer he is working at Bloomberg in New York as a Trading & Analytics intern, focusing mainly on specialty assets. In the upcoming year, Kevin hopes to apply to PhD programs in Economics. Originally from Los Angeles, Kevin earned his bachelor's degree at Cal Poly, majoring in Computer Science and Statistics.

Nicholas Scott-Hearn is currently a PhD student in the Department of Economics at Stanford University. Prior to starting his PhD, Nicholas graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain scholar (Go Heels!), and completed a pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago. Nicholas's interests lie within industrial organization and health economics. More specifically, he hopes to focus his research on healthcare competition and inequities within the U.S. healthcare system. He plans to conduct economic research that helps enact better health policy, designed to serve patients' interests and to be more equitable as a whole.

Dahlia Tarver (she/her/hers) is an Economics student at Spelman College, a Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation Scholar, an AltFinance Fellow, a Goldman Sachs Market Madness Scholar, an incoming Macroeconomic Research Intern at Goldman Sachs, and a research assistant to Dr. Angelino Viceisza. Her primary interest is economic demographic outcomes and monetary policy.

Joshua Thomas is currently working as a pre-doctoral fellow for Professor Ebonya Washington at Columbia University. Hailing from Snuneymuxw First Nation in British Columbia, Josh has lived in many places across Canada including completing his undergraduate degree in math and economics at Mount Saint Vincent, and an MA in economics at the University of Saskatchewan. This upcoming fall, he will be joining Columbia University's economics Ph.D. program. His research interests lie within labor economics, education, and family formation particularly among Indigenous populations.