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## *Economics at OU: Be in Demand*

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<http://ou.edu/cas/economics/>

OU ECONOMICS CLUB PRESENTS:

**DECOMPOSING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**  
 Using MLB Rookie Card Values  
**FEB 11TH 4:30PM**  
**DR. GREG BURGE**  
 Interim Department Chair



# Welcome and Department Update

## Report From the Interim Chair

*Greg Burge, Department of Economics*

Welcome to the latest installation of the OU Department of Economics Newsletter! I hope you and your loved ones are doing well, and that you have navigated the challenges of 2020 with resilience and grace.

While introductions are needed, I must first pass along some sad news. Gary “Hoov” Hoover, a tremendous scholar and unrivaled advocate for OU Economics, has recently accepted an offer to serve as director of the Murphy Institute at Tulane University. He will be deeply missed. Hoov was respected and loved by his colleagues, his students, and by all who saw his dedication in action. He simply can’t be replaced. However, necessity requires he must be followed, which brings us back to introductions.

I’m Greg Burge, our department’s new interim chair. I’m humbled and excited to step into this role. My goal is simply to maintain and extend the great work that already goes on every day in this department. If I can shepherd the most meaningful aspects of what we have worked so hard to build, and then later hand those off to another, I will have met my goal in accepting this role.

My wife, Stephanie, and I came to the University of Oklahoma in 2006, and we have enjoyed our time here since. We have a 9-year-old son who loves all things OU! Football, basketball and gymnastics are his favorites. In the classroom, I go by “Dr. B”, but my friends (you all) call me Greg. I’m a Gen-Xer who follows my commitments to faith, family and friends. My academic interests fall within applied microeconomics, with connections to housing markets and local tax policy. I’ve served previously as our director of Graduate Studies and I’m a former chair of the OU Faculty Welfare Committee. The mentoring and advocacy roles I get to play at OU are what I’m most passionate about. I tell my students I have the best job in the world, and the best part of that job is seeing former students shine brightly! I’ve been blessed to see this happen often, and I look forward to countless more successful OU Economics grads!

Looking forward to 2021, our continued commitment to public health means the online classes, social-distancing and face coverings that have dominated OU’s new “Campus Environment” will remain this spring. Unfortunately, so will the unprecedented budget cuts that started during 2020. Your financial generosity helps support our current students. We desperately want to maintain the levels of student scholarship support that alumni donations helped grow into over the past several years. If you can, please give and help us reach this goal. And please know that the difference you are making in these challenging times is more powerful than ever.



## Welcome and Department Update

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Know also that our faculty has risen to every challenge thrown at them by COVID-19, and I'm confident they will continue to do so. Somehow even in the midst of slashed budgets and isolated work environments, our faculty is succeeding more than ever! Our nationally and internationally renowned scholars absolutely crushed the publication world this year! They also won prestigious awards, secured research grants and continue to advance knowledge in their respective fields. Through consistent media interviews, they provide insights regarding regional and national economic conditions, and they advise policy makers on impactful real-world legislation. We truly serve our communities in ways that extend well beyond OU's campus.

And it isn't just our faculty making a difference – it's our students! For example, at age 22, recent OU Econ graduate Daniel Pae became the youngest member elected to the Oklahoma State Legislature! Moreover, driving to campus last summer listening to the national NPR station, I was thrilled to hear an interview with economist Dan Reck, currently at the London School of Economics, but also a former OU Econ grad. **WE succeed when YOU succeed; that's our mission!** To that end – reach out to us! We want to hear YOUR success stories.

The “T-shirt challenge” started by Hoov is still running strong! Let's keep it up. Contact the economics department so that we can send you one of our Econ Club-designed shirts. Get a shirt and take it with you as you travel! Snap a photo off in those exciting locations and send them back to us!

And don't forget that our website (<https://www.ou.edu/cas/economics>) is a great source for previous newsletters, and a great way to stay informed about the happenings in the department.

If you're ever in Norman, please stop by to visit! Whether I get to see a former student or meet one of our great alumni for the first time, I would love to see you! Hopefully, we will all be vaccinated soon (I just took my father-in-law today), and our lives can get back to normal – including OU's campus “hustle” being back and better than ever!

Warm Regards,

Greg Burge  
Interim Department Chair and Professor of Economics  
University of Oklahoma

The Econ Club stayed busy throughout the semester with regular meetings, Trivia Night and special guest speakers!

OU ECONOMICS CLUB PRESENTS:



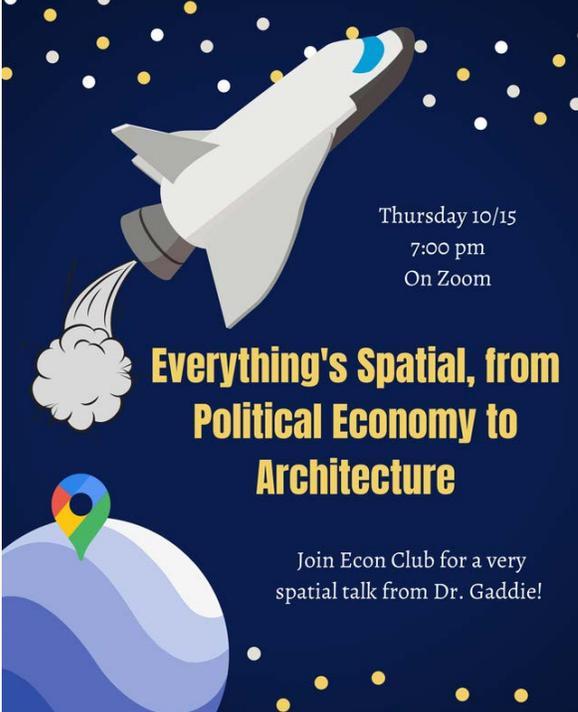
## DECOMPOSING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Using MLB Rookie Card Values

**FEB 11TH 4:30PM**

**DR. GREG BURGE**  
Interim Department Chair,  
Professor of Economics

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON ZOOM



Thursday 10/15  
7:00 pm  
On Zoom

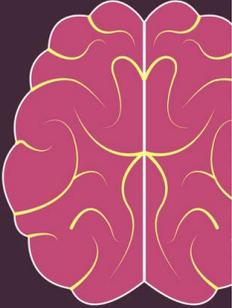
## Everything's Spatial, from Political Economy to Architecture

Join Econ Club for a very spatial talk from Dr. Gaddie!

OU ECONOMICS CLUB

# TRIVIA NIGHT

*Compete against your friends, destroy your enemies!*



WEDNESDAY  
SEP. 30, 2020  
7:00 PM  
ON ZOOM AND  
KAHOOT

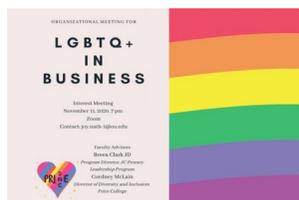
NO MONEY NO PROBLEMS



## HOW TO BE FRUGAL

Presented by:  
**Dr. Kuruc & OU Econ Club**  
Wednesday Oct. 7 @  
7:00pm

- Economics students Logan Schoonover and Tatenda Dzvimbo were recognized as Outstanding Seniors through Price College
- Economics major Tavana Farzaneh is the new [president of the OU Student Government Association](#)
- Ph.D. student Amir Tayebi won the Chong Liew Research Award for one of his dissertation chapters, entitled: “Democracy and Knowledge Formation — A Difference-in-Differences Analysis”
- Current BBA economics major Joy Nath founded a new OU student group called LGBTQ+ in Business. Per Price College: the organization is meant to give LGBTQ+ students and allies resources to help prepare them for the challenges they may face working in business.



Ph.D. graduate Brent Norwood recently accepted a position as assistant professor of Economics at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Brent also won the Bullard Dissertation Award in 2020 and the Top Graduate Research Assistant Award for OU in 2019.

### 2020 Graduate Student Award Winners

#### **Chong Liew Summer Research Award:**

Amir Tayebi - 1st place  
Sean O'Connor - 2nd place  
Zhengang Xu - 3rd place  
Anthony Mayberry - Honorable Mention

#### **Chong Liew Outstanding 1st Year Grad Student:**

Dayuan Xie  
Kasra Khademorezaian - Runner Up

#### **Kondonassis Award for Research in Development:**

Tejas Ghirnkar

## 2020 Department News and Notables

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Professor Tyler Ransom and coauthors analyzed how college students' learning was impacted by the switch to online learning in spring 2020. They found that student learning diminished by 20% of a standard deviation, meaning that a median student before the crisis would have scored at the 42nd percentile during the crisis. [Here is a link](#) to a writeup about the research, which contains further details.

He also [wrote an op-ed](#) documenting large differences in monetary returns to college by U.S. geography.

Professor Ransom and coauthors [uncovered how universities in the U.S. recruit applicants](#). Universities have an incentive to attract as many applicants as possible in order to drive down their admissions rate. This has unintended consequences for the representation of racial and ethnic minorities.



Professor Firat Demir interviewed Kamal Soleimani and Ahmad Mohammadpour about [“Iranian Kurds and the Status of Kolberi ‘Smugglers’”](#) for *Security in Context*. He also interviewed Dr. Daniel Mains: [“Under Construction: Technologies of Development in Urban Ethiopia.”](#)

As a PI and project director, he has received a two-year grant (\$175k) from Carnegie Corp. of New York to support various research, teaching and public outreach activities through the OU Center for Peace and Development and the Security in Context initiative.

He will also be co-leading a study abroad class in Turkey in summer 2021.



Professor Cynthia Rogers was appointed to the State of Oklahoma's Incentive Evaluation Commission when it was first established in January 2015. She has served a five- year term and is continuing beyond that. [She was featured in the \*Oklahoma Daily\* in a story about her efforts to modernize the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.](#)

- Professor Qihong Liu was featured in WalletHub's piece about cell phone savings calculator. [You can find it here.](#)
- Professor Lex Holmes serves on the Economic Development Advisory Board and has been reappointed
- Publishing work on multiple topics related to development in Africa, Professor Joan Hamory has newly accepted papers in *World Development*, the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, and the *American Journal of Political Science*

Professor Saleh Sahabeh Tabrizy has a new paper titled: “[Political Agreements and Exporting Activities —An Empirical Assessment of the Effects of the JCPOA Agreements on Iran's Exports,](#)” which is forthcoming in *Comparative Economic Studies*. This paper is coauthored by Ali Dadpay (University of Dallas).

Professor Chunbei Wang recently had a paper titled “Is Immigration Enforcement Shaping Immigrant Marriage Patterns?” published by the *Journal of Public Economics*, and a paper titled “Tightened Immigration Policies and the Self-Employment Dynamics of Mexican Immigrants” published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

## 2020 Department News and Notables

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OU alumnus Daniel Reck was featured on the [AEA website and podcast](#) to discuss his article “Taxing Hidden Wealth: The Consequences of US Enforcement Initiatives on Evasive Foreign Accounts” ([click here to read](#))



### Alumni News

Send your alumni news to [cquiett@ou.edu](mailto:cquiett@ou.edu)



OU Ph.D. graduate Luisa Blanco is now a full professor of public policy at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy. From the Pepperdine announcement:

*Blanco teaches a wide array of economic courses, such as: Global Economics, Latin American Economic Development, Applied Economic Analysis for Public Policy II (Macroeconomics), and Policy Research Seminar (Capstone). Her courses are sought after by students because she brings real-world experiences to life, such as scheduling class tours through the Federal Reserve in downtown Los Angeles.*

[Here is a link to her research from Bloomberg.](#)

## Research and Development

### OU Economics Faculty Research Interests

**Gregory Burge**

Urban Economics  
Public Economics

**Firat Demir**

International Finance  
Development Economics

**Pallab Ghosh**

Labor Economics  
Econometrics

**Joan Hamory**

Economic Development

**James Hartigan**

International Trade  
International Finance  
Industrial Organization

**Alexander Holmes**

Human Resources Public  
Finance  
Local Econ. Development

**Benjamin Keen**

Monetary Economics  
Macroeconomics  
Applied Time Series  
Econometrics

**Jaeho Kim**

Empirical Macro  
Bayesian Econometrics  
Time Series Analysis

**Myongjin Kim**

Industrial Organization  
Applied Econometrics

**Georgia Kosmopoulou**

Microeconomic Theory  
Industrial Organization

**Kevin Kuruc**

Applied Macroeconomics  
Environmental Economics

**Qihong Liu**

Industrial Organization  
Applied Micro

**Jonathan McFadden**

Environmental Economics  
Agricultural Economics  
Applied Econometrics

**Daniel Nedelescu**

Industrial Organization  
Labor Economics  
Behavioral Economics  
Experimental Economics

**Tyler Ransom**

Labor Economics  
Urban Economics  
Economics of  
Education

**Krishna Regmi**

Labor Economics  
Economics of Education

**Cynthia Rogers**

Urban Economics  
Public Economics  
Public Policy

**Hewei Shen**

International Economics  
Macroeconomics  
International Finance

**Saleh S. Tabrizy**

International Trade  
International Finance  
Development, Growth,  
Innovation

**Alexander Ugarov**

Labor Economics  
Development Economics  
Economics Growth

**Chunbei Wang**

Labor Economics  
Entrepreneurship

**Le Wang**

Econometrics  
Labor & Development  
Applied Microeconomics  
Chinese Economy

## Stay Connected to OU Economics

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Please send us updates to be included in the next newsletter. You can send news, announcements, photos and more by sending an email to [cquiett@ou.edu](mailto:cquiett@ou.edu).

You also may participate with OU Economics by mentoring a student, recommending an internship or sharing how you've used your economics degree with our student organization. Please contact Corey Quiett at [cquiett@ou.edu](mailto:cquiett@ou.edu) or (405) 325-4307.

The power of an economics degree from the University of Oklahoma helps our graduates "Be in Demand."

Support our department's efforts to provide an outstanding foundation for success.

You may use the form below, or give online at: <https://giving.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/Economics>

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I would like to make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Department of Economics Endowed Fund (43099)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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