

Calendar of Events

September 22, 2020
- September 23, 2020

SBCA 2020 Workshop: A Voice Crying in the Wilderness? Techniques for Promoting the Use of Zoom

Description:

There are increasing calls for government officials to use benefit-cost analysis (BCA) to inform budget and policy decisions. Yet policymakers are often unfamiliar how these studies are conducted and what they can contribute to better decisions.

This workshop will train participants on ways to effectively bring BCA to government officials in the fast-paced policy process and to help build a culture of evidence use within the executive and legislative branches.

The presenters bring decades of experience working with public leaders and their key staff as well as best practices gained from working with federal and state government in the United States, and other national governments, to promote evidence-based policymaking.

The topics will include discussion of:

Effective modes of communicating complex findings to policymakers

Effective approaches for building partnerships with policymakers and their key staff

Proven mechanisms for promoting the use of BCA and rigorous evidence in the policy and budget processes.

This workshop includes a mixture of lecture-style presentation, discussion, and hands-on problem solving. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their work as well as practical questions to collaborate on with the facilitators.

Workshop Organizer:

Steven Lize, PhD, is Officer for Technical Assistance with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. Since 2011 he has consulted with state and county government staff to assist them to conduct benefit-cost analysis, evaluate programs, and report findings to legislative and executive branch policymakers. His technical assistance role involves hands-on trainings on benefit-cost and evaluation methods and communicating findings for policymaker audiences.

Other Presenters:

John Kamensky is a Senior Fellow at the IBM Center for The Business of Government and an Associate Partner with IBM's Global Business Services. Prior to joining the IBM Center, he served for eight years as Deputy Director of Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government. Before that, he worked at the Government Accountability Office where he played a key role in the development and passage of the Government Performance and Results Act.

Gary VanLandingham, PhD, is Professor and Reubin O'D Askew Senior Practitioner in Residence at the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at the Florida State University. VanLandingham teaches graduate seminars in policy analysis, program evaluation, and performance management and formerly served as Director of the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative and as Director of the Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

Dates and Times:

September 22 & 23, 2-4 pm EDT

The workshop will be delivered via Zoom using interactive learning formats that combine lecture presentations with question and answer, discussion, and hands-on learning to develop a communications plan for participants' current or recently completed projects.

October 5, 2020
- October 6, 2020

SBCA 2020 Workshop: Introduction to Benefit-Cost Analysis for Regulatory Impact Analysis Zoom

Benefit-cost analysis is used around the world to assess regulatory impacts. This workshop introduces the use of Benefit-Cost Analysis for Regulatory Impact Analyses (RIAs) in the Federal government. The topics will include issues of identifying the market failure, establishing the correct baseline, choosing the policy options, estimating benefits, estimating costs, and identifying transfers. The focus will be on analyses of U.S. environmental, health, and safety regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the last two decades, but the concepts and practices we discuss are equally applicable to analyses conducted in other policy areas and in other countries or at a sub-national level. The workshop will be structured as an overarching presentation with examples from past EPA RIAs used as practical examples to be discussed by the participants.

This workshop is intended for both economists and other practitioners who have a working knowledge of Benefit-Cost Analysis and the general concept of measuring welfare effects. This working knowledge will then be applied to the Regulatory Impact Analysis context. The two presenters are seasoned practitioners with substantial experience in conducting these analyses at the EPA.

The workshop will be presented in two 2 hour sessions. Prior to the workshop, we will circulate a set of optional readings.

Materials: The workshop includes a PowerPoint presentation and handouts for examples. All data for the examples will be provided in the handouts or on the slides..

Workshop Agenda:

Session 1 (October 5, 2020):

- 1:00 – 1:15 Introductions and overview*
- 1:15 – 1:45 Identifying the market failure*
- 1:45 – 2:15 Establishing the correct baseline*
- 2:15 – 2:45 Choosing policy options*
- 2:45 – 3:00 Questions and answers*

Session 2 (October 6, 2020):

- 1:00 – 1:45 Estimating benefits*
- 1:45 – 2:30 Estimating costs*
- 2:30 – 3:00 Questions and answers*

Presenters:

Charles Griffiths, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chris Dockins, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

About the presenters:

Chris Dockins earned his PhD in Economics at Duke University, focusing on Environmental Economics and Public Finance. At the EPA he has helped develop benefit-cost analyses for EPA's air, water, hazardous waste, and chemicals regulations, performed and published research on related topics, and directed a division of scientists in EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics. He also teaches benefit-cost analysis at Johns Hopkins University and environmental economics at the University of Maryland.

Charles Griffiths earned his PhD in Economics at the University of Maryland. At the EPA he has worked on the estimation of the social cost of carbon and helped develop benefit-cost analysis for EPA's air, water, and chemical regulation. He has conducted research on climate change, health risks, water regulations, air regulations, and voluntary programs and was a Senior Economist for Environment, Energy, and Agriculture at the President's Council of Economic Advisors. He also teaches

benefit-cost analysis at Johns Hopkins University and environmental economics at the University of Maryland.

The workshop will be delivered via Zoom using interactive learning formats that combine lecture presentations with question and answer, discussion, and hands-on learning to develop a communications plan for participants' current or recently completed projects.

October 14, 2020
- October 14, 2020

Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis: European Conference 2020

SBCA will organize a webinar on benefit-cost analysis and covid-19 on October 14, 2020 at 9:00-11:00 EST (15:00-17:00 Central European Time).

The webinar consists of talks by the keynote lecturers, Jason Shogren and John Hassler, which will be discussed by Christian Gollier of Toulouse School of Economics. It will be possible to pose questions to the speakers through a chat function.

All registrants will receive an email notification in the days leading up to the event which will provide login details for the webinar.

October 14, 2020

SBCA 2020 European Conference

<https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/regmenu.php?orgcode=SBCA>

The in-person SBCA European Conference has been canceled for this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the keynote speakers have agreed to share their thoughts in an online event to be held October 14th.

Here are a few preliminary details including the tentative titles of the talks:

Jason Shogren (University of Wyoming): Challenges of social distancing, how did the assumptions made in March turn out in retrospective? Uncertainty in CBA, advice to real policy-making and the CBA.

John Hassler (Institute for International Economic Studies at Stockholm University):

Perspectives on the covid-19 pandemic and cost benefit analysis

Christian Gollier (Toulouse School of Economics) : Comments on both keynotes

November 21, 2020
- November 23, 2020

Southern Economic Association Conference
New Orleans Marriot

December 13, 2020
- December 17, 2020

SRA 2020

January 3, 2021
- January 5, 2021

ASSA 2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on January 3 - 5, 2021 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday) in Chicago, IL. The headquarters hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The AEA submission portal is now closed. The deadline for individual paper submissions was extended to April 15, 2020 and the deadline for session submissions was extended to April 30, 2020.

March 17, 2021
- March 19, 2021

SBCA Annual Conference and Workshops

The SBCA Board and Program Committee are developing a plan for hosting the 2021 Annual Conference amid the continued uncertainty related to COVID-19. That plan will include contingencies for delivering some or all Conference and Workshop programming via online platforms. We only will proceed with the solicitation of abstracts and content for the 2021 Conference with a clear idea that the event will take place, either in-person or online.

For now, we are proceeding as if the Conference and Workshops will take place, in person, at George Washington University's Marvin Center, March 17-19, 2021. If and when we call for abstract submission, you have our commitment that we will be hosting either an in-person or online Annual Conference in 2021.

While we had to cancel the 2020 Conference and Workshops at the 11th hour, the Conference Program we assembled, should give prospective attendees and speakers a good idea of the breadth and depth of SBCA's signature event.

Please stay tuned for more information in the weeks ahead.

June 2, 2021
- June 4, 2021

AERE Annual Summer Conference

As many of you may have heard by now, the AERE Board of Directors and local conference organizers made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 AERE Summer Conference in Miami. The reasoning is related to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, uncertainty about how long crisis will last and the resulting disruptions to travel. The latter includes policies put in place by many institutions restricting both domestic and international travel indefinitely. Given the unusual times and ongoing uncertainty, there was consensus that cancelling this summer's event was the right move.

The decision to cancel now also has fiscal advantages in that we have been able to reach agreement with the conference venue to postpone the event until next year without penalty. As such, I am happy to announce that the 2021 AERE Summer Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop will be held at the Hyatt Regency Miami on June 2-4, 2021. Dave Kelly and Chris Parmeter of the University of Miami have generously agreed to pick up their organizing and hosting duties again next year. Thanks to them and the many others who submitted papers, reviewed abstracts, planned the pre-conference workshop, and helped with other organizational elements over the past few months. I look forward to working with you again next year.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have grappled with this challenge. Please stay safe.

AERE's signature Summer Conference gathers the world's leading environmental and natural resource economists for two days of outstanding academic programming in a collegial atmosphere.