

February 21, 2020

The banner image features a stylized world map in shades of blue and white. Overlaid on the left side of the map is a dark blue rectangular box containing the text 'THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY' in white, uppercase letters. To the right of this box, there are three white diagonal lines.

THE INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY

## January Highlights

IIEP kicked off the beginning of the spring semester with several insightful events, including a high-level policy conference and a research conference. We are so excited for what this semester has in store, and all of the amazing upcoming events we have planned. As the new decade begins, we would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and engagement with our efforts to foster discourse on the most important issues facing the international economy today. If you were not able to attend our January events, keep reading below to learn what we have been up to so far this year!

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## Trade Protectionism: How will it change our world?



On January 10th, alongside the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and the George Washington Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS), IIEP co-sponsored a high-level policy conference on the recent revival of trade protectionism and its implications for the liberal international order. The event brought together speakers from a diverse array of fields to discuss the challenges that trade protectionism poses for the global trading system, as well as to offer prospects for the future of world trade.

The event began with opening remarks by Dean Jong-Il You from the KDI School, followed by a panel session on "Trade Protectionism and Global Value Chains," which featured Dr. Michele Ruta from the World Bank, Dr. Erik van der Marel from ECIPE, and Professor Siwook Lee from the KDI school. Dr. Caroline Freund, Global Director of Trade, Investment and Competitiveness at the World Bank, gave a keynote speech, followed by sessions titled "Global Spillovers and National Policies," "The Devil is in the Detail—Rules of Origin," and a round-table discussion on "Current Challenges in World Trade and the Future of the Global Trading System." Other speakers included:

- Professor Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute
- Professor Doug Nelson, Tulane University
- Professor Charles Sabel, Columbia Law School
- Professor Chrysostomos Tabakis, KDI School
- Dr. Chul Chung, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy
- Dr. William Powers, ITC
- Professor Mary Lovely, Peterson Institute and Syracuse University
- Dr. Mauricio Mesquita Moreira, Inter-American Development Bank
- Mr. Troy Stangarone, Korea Economic Institute

# Data as a Development Issue



On January 31st, the Institute co-hosted a conference on data as a development issue with the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, the Center for Global Development, and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. The event was also cosponsored by GW CIBER and the Internet Society (ISOC DC). The conference focused on the intersection between data, development, and governance. As the world increasingly relies on data to promote economic growth and innovation, the issue of how to regulate the collection, use, and sharing of data has been intensely debated. The public use of data has the potential to enhance decision-making and further global development, but also risks harm to individuals whose data is being used.

Additionally, many experts at the conference commented that creating a development regime driven by data and technology threatens to create uneven relationships between developed and developing countries and could marginalize local partnerships. Even more, some experts fear that a data-driven economy could marginalize women, as the data industry has performed poorly on measures of gender inclusivity. As these concerns have become increasingly important in the digital era, the conference aimed to bring together a wide variety of data and development experts to further the emerging discourse on data governance.

The event began with opening remarks from IIEP Director James Foster, followed by a keynote presentation by Vivien Foster, Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice-

reiterated that "data is at heart made by individuals, and we need to put these individuals at the heart of thinking about how we want data to be managed."

The conference also featured three panels, including:

- "Data and Development: How will Data and the Data-Driven Economy Affect Development?";
- "Governing Data for Development: What Does Good Data Governance Look Like? How Can Development Organizations Best Promote Sound Data Practices?"; and
- "A Global Framework for Inclusive Development: How Can Low and Middle-Income Countries Participate on Equal Terms in a Data-Driven Economy?"

Finally, the event concluded with remarks from Shantayanan Devarajan, Commissioner of the Pathways to Prosperity Commission on Technology and Inclusive Development and Professor at Georgetown University.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we are pleased to share that you can watch the live stream [here](#).

You can find the full conference agenda and speakers list on our [website](#).

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## Other Recent Events

### **Dean's Seminar on African Economies:**

"Agricultural Transformation and Farmers' Expectations:  
[Experimental Evidence from Uganda](#)"

Tuesday, January 28th

Harounan Kazianga, Professor at Oklahoma State University, presented his research on agricultural technologies in Uganda at the first session of the Dean's Seminar Series on African Economies. In order to gain insight into agricultural patterns in Africa, Mr. Kazianga designed a randomized control study focused on the decisions of subsistence farmers in Uganda to adopt cash crops. He found that changes in expectations are responsible for determining the take-up of agricultural technologies in Uganda. His enlightening study, which you can access [here](#), helped provide a deeper understanding of agricultural economies in Africa.

In the month of January, our faculty authored several articles and were quoted in the news regularly.

Some of the highlights include:

- ["Reforms in 2020: Enough of Snakes and Ladders for Economy"](#) by Ajay Chhibber
- ["Federal Workers Increasingly Interested in Private Tech Sector"](#) by Tara Sinclair
- ["As wage growth picks up, the Fed needs to be careful about overreacting"](#) by Tara Sinclair
  
- Tara Sinclair, mentioned in ["No raise last year? You're not alone"](#)
- Tara Sinclair, mentioned in ["The Case Against Economics"](#)
- David Szakonyi, mentioned in ["The Russian government's dramatic shake-up, briefly explained"](#)
- Susan Aaronson, mentioned in ["US tech sector sees only moderate relief in China trade deal"](#)
- Michael Moore, mentioned in ["Trump's China deal leaves some trade experts 'underwhelmed'"](#)
- Tara Sinclair, mentioned in ["A Recession is Coming \(Eventually\). Here's Where You'll See it First."](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Mardi Dungey Memorial Research Conference

Friday, February 21st

IIEP, alongside the Research Program on Forecasting, the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis, University of Tasmania, and the Society for Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics will host a research conference in honor of Mardi Dungey, Professor of Economics and Finance at the University of Tasmania, Adjunct Professor and Program Director, Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis, ANU, Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Financial Analysis and Policy at Cambridge University, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

[View the livestream here.](#)

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## Covering the Other Half-Billion: China's Rural Sector

Thursday, February 27th

For much of post-1949 history, the rural sector has been the poor relation of China's society and economy. Today, however, the rural sector lies at the heart of Xi Jinping's economic agenda for China's comprehensive development. The party's and government's ability to fulfill major economic goals—those relating to employment, food security and rebalancing of the economic system—depend critically on the success of its rural policies. So too does its ability to realize important social and other goals—including poverty reduction, the creation of a more inclusive society, and environmental sustainability. An economically and socially revitalised Chinese countryside will also impact the political stability which China's leaders see as the bedrock of their continuing rule. Professor Robert Ash from the University of London will be speaking.

RSVP [here](#).

## Washington Area Labor Economics Symposium

Friday, February 28th

WALEs is a one-day labor economics conference that brings together researchers from DC-area institutions. The goal is to provide an outlet to share work in progress and get to know other researchers. Breakfast, lunch and coffee will be served.

Please email [iiep@gwu.edu](mailto:iiep@gwu.edu) if you are interested in attending.

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