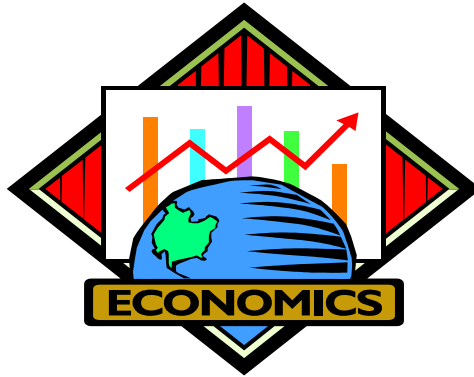


CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS



A Congressional Briefing

“Better Living through Economics: How Fundamental Economic Research Improves People’s Lives”

March 15, 2010, 12:00-1:30 pm
B338 Rayburn House Office Building

Better Living Through Economics (Harvard University Press 2010) illustrates the fundamental contributions of economic research to important public policy decisions through twelve case studies. A panel of distinguished scholars will discuss some of these examples of how basic economic research by academic economists has improved people’s lives and continues to impact policy decisions.

Speakers:

Brigitte Madrian, Harvard Kennedy School
“More Saving and Better Retirements”

Lawrence Ausubel, University of Maryland
“The Greatest Auction in History: Raising Billions from the Communications Spectrum”

Alvin Roth, Harvard University
“Improved Markets for Doctors, Organ Transplants and School Choice”

John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University
“Cheaper Airfares, Welfare Reform and an All-Volunteer Military”

Sponsored by: The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

A box lunch will be served. This is a widely attended event!

Positive RSVPs to coffa@coffa.org or 202/842-3525.

Speaker Biographies

Brigitte Madrian is Aetna Professor of Public Policy and Corporate Management at the Harvard Kennedy School and Director of the Social Science Program at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Her current research focuses on household saving and investment behavior. Her work in this area has impacted the design of employer-sponsored savings plans in the U.S. and has influenced pension reform legislation both in the U.S. and abroad.

Larry Ausubel is Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland. He has published widely on auction theory, bargaining, industrial organization, and the credit card market. The main focus of his auction research has been the design of auctions for many related items. Applications include spectrum auctions, electricity auctions, and Treasury auctions. On the practical side, he is President of Market Design Inc., an economics consultancy focusing on the design of auction markets. He has provided advice to the Federal Communications Commission and other spectrum regulators for many years. He designed and helped to implement electricity and natural gas auctions in eight countries. He participated in the design and implementation of the world's first auction for greenhouse gas emission reductions in the UK in 2002.

Alvin Roth is the George Gund Professor of Economics and Business Administration in the Department of Economics at Harvard University, and in the Harvard Business School. His research, teaching, and consulting interests are in game theory, experimental economics, and market design. He redesigned the National Resident Matching Program, through which approximately twenty thousand doctors a year find their first employment as residents at American hospitals. He is one of the founders and designers of the New England Program for Kidney Exchange, for incompatible patient-donor pairs. He helped design the high school matching system used in New York City to match approximately ninety thousand students to high schools each year.

John Siegfried is the Alexander Head Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Economics at Vanderbilt University. His research and teaching are in industrial organization, antitrust economics, economics of higher education, economics of sports, and the teaching of economics. His latest (edited) book is *Better Living Through Economics* (Harvard University Press, 2010). He has been President of the Southern Economic Association and the Midwest Economics Association. He has been Secretary-Treasurer of the American Economic Association since 1997.