

Program and Papers 2026

Program of the 4th Annual Conference of the **The Political Economy of Aid and Development Society**

May 22-23, 2026

Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy, 125 E St., NW, Washington DC, USA

Friday, May 22nd

Location: McCourt School: 125 E St., NW - 420

8:45 - 9:00 am Registration and Welcome

9:00 - 10:30 am Session 1: World Bank

Chair: Samuel Brazys

- Paper 1: The Catalytic Impact of the World Bank's Climate Finance in Emerging Markets. **Ash Leblebicioğlu. Ayse Kaya.** Discussion openers: **Zunera Rana. David Leblang.**
- Paper 2: Without Cover? Bilateral Withdrawal and Multilateral Staff Responses. **Jennifer Tobin. Mirko Heinzel.** Discussion openers: **Christopher Kilby. Ryan Powers.**
- Paper 3: Negotiating over Transparency: How Authoritarian Ties Influence World Bank Conditionality. **Elena V. McLean** Discussion openers: **Ivana Rudinac. Jacob Winter.**

10:45-11:00 am Break

11:00-12:30 Session 2: Development Finance and Governance

Chair: Lindsay Dolan

- Paper 1: How do Development Assistance and Illicit Financial Flows Affect Income Distributions? **Magdalene Silberberger. Rogelio Madrueño.** Discussion openers: **Ash Leblebicioğlu. Shuyan (Michael) Huang.**
- Paper 2: Bilateral Backstops and Bond Markets: The Politics of Central Bank Swap Lines and Sovereign Credit Risk. **Lauren Ferry. Aditi Sahasrabuddhe.** Discussion openers: **Ayse Kaya. Sheng Zhang.**
- Paper 3: (No) Strings Attached? Conditionality and Accountability in Donor-Funded Projects. **Ivana Rudinac.** Discussion openers: **Hong Zhang. Mirko Heinzel.**
- Paper 4: Decreasing relevance of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in Global Development Governance. **Zunera Rana. Dirk-Jan Koch.** Discussion openers: **Natalie Playford. Bernhard Reinsberg**

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch

Location: 2nd Floor Commons

1:30-3:30 pm Session 3: China and other Bilateral Donors

Chair: Bernhard Reinsberg

- Paper 1: Contractor-Driven Debt: Corporate Influence in Chinese Lending. **Hong Zhang. Keyi Tang.** Discussion openers: **Lauren Ferry. Ivana Rudinac.**
- Paper 2: Shifting Influence? China and the 2025 U.S. Aid Retrenchment. **Andreas Fuchs. Andrea F. Presbitero.** Discussion openers: **Shuyan (Michael) Huang. Aditi Sahasrabuddhe.**

- Paper 3: The Local Impact of Global Assistance: Sub-national Evidence linking Aid and FDI. **Laura Wedemeyer**. Lennart Kaplan. Jochen Kluve. Lennart Reiners. Discussion openers: **Samuel Brazys**. **Christopher Kilby**.

3:30-3:45 pm Break

3:45-5:15 pm Session 4: The Domestic Politics of Development

Chair: Shanta Devarajan

- Paper 1: Superstar Bureaucrats from the Global South. **Cleo O'Brien-Udry**. **Lindsay R. Dolan**. Discussion openers: **Catherine Weaver**. **Ashley Wright**.
- Paper 2: The Colonial Origins of Uneven Aid Allocation: How Colonial State Capacity Affects Contemporary Aid Allocation in Tribal Areas of Pakistan. **Shuyan (Michael) Huang**. Discussion openers: **Haruna Minoura**. **Zunera Rana**.
- Paper 3: Sharing a Shrinking Pie: Public Spending and Political Coalitions in the Global Financial Periphery. **Jacob Winter**. Discussion openers: **Christopher Gahagan**. **Elena V. McLean**.

5:45 pm Policy Talk with:

- **Abebe Selassie**, Former Director, Africa Department, IMF
- **Akihiko Nishio**, Vice-President, Development Finance, World Bank

6:30 pm: Dinner

Location: McCourt School: 125 E - 620

Saturday, May 23rd

Location: McCourt School: 125 E - 420

8:45-10:15 am Session 5: Gender and Development

Chair: Cleo O'Brien-Udry

- Paper 1: In the Room Where it Happens: The Dynamics of Gender Presence and Power in the International Monetary Fund. **Samuel Brazys**. **Ada Ruohonen**. Discussion openers: **Sheng Zhang**. **Guy Grossman**.
- Paper 2: Navigating the Pipeline's Pinchpoints: Women's Leadership in International Financial Institutions. **Catherine Weaver**. Monica Biradavolu. Discussion openers: **Mirko Heinzel**. **Cecilia Cavero-Sanchez**.
- Paper 3: From Gender Rhetoric to Lending Rules: Enforcing Equality in Multilateral Development Bank Lending. **Natalie Playford**. Discussion openers: **Bernhard Reinsberg**. **Jennifer Tobin**.

10:15-10:30 am Break

10:30-12:00 pm Session 6: Aid Instability

Chair: Catherine Weaver.

- Paper 1: Reducing Aid Dependence? The Effects of US Aid Cuts on Kenyan Views of the United States, Other Donors, and the Government. **Haruna Minoura**. Discussion openers: **Lindsay Dolan**. **Tetsekela Anyiam-Osigwe**.
- Paper 2: Disrupted Aid, Displaced Lives: Unraveling the Impact of Refugee Aid Cuts. **Guy Grossman**. Yang-Yang Zhou. Shelby Carvalho. Iman Dahr. Discussion openers: **David Leblang**. **Allison Namias Grossman**.
- Paper 3: Filling the Void: How Strategic Information Shapes Europeans' Willingness to Offset U.S. Foreign Aid Cuts. **Bernhard Reinsberg**. A. Burcu Bayram. Sebastian Schneider. Haley Swedlund. Discussion openers: **Laura Wedemeyer**. **Cleo O'Brien-Udry**.

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

Location: 2nd Floor Commons

1:00-2:45 pm Session 7: Aid and Society

Chair: Christopher Kilby

- Paper 1: Restricted Access: Humanitarian Responses to Government Restrictions. **Allison Namias Grossman**. Discussion openers: **JulieAnn Sickell**. **Laura Wedemeyer**.
- Paper 2: Foreign Aid and Knowledge Diffusion: PEPFAR, Trade Networks, and Global Health Spillovers. **David Leblang**. Dennis Wesselbaum. Discussion openers: **Catherine Weaver**. **Tetsekela Anyiam-Osigwe**.
- Paper 3: Labor Provisions and the Political Economy of Informal Employment: Evidence from the USMCA. **Christopher Gahagan**. Discussion openers: **Ash Leblebicioğlu**. **Magdalene Silberberger**.

2:45-3:00 pm Break

3:00-4:45 pm Session 8: Multilateral Development

Chair: Jennifer Tobin

- Paper 1: The Preferred Partner? How Co-financing with the African Development Bank Shapes Public Perceptions of Foreign Assistance. **Tetsekela Anyiam-Osigwe**. Simone Dietrich. Alexandra Zeitz. Discussion openers: **Haruna Minoura**. **Lauren Ferry**.
- Paper 2: When Governments Change: Populism and Time Inconsistency in World Bank Projects. **Mirko Heinzel**. Discussion openers: **Christopher Gahagan**. **Ryan Powers**.
- Paper 3: Shock to the system: Canada and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. **Christopher Kilby**. Discussion openers: **Jacob Winter**. **Samuel Brazys**.

5:00-6:30 pm Pizzas, Posters, and Partings

LOCATION: **McCourt School: 125 E St., NW - 620**

- Networked Aid in Conflict: Implications for International Relations Research. Susanna Campbell. Jessica Maves Braithwaite. **Cecilia Caverro-Sanchez**. Madeline Fleishman. Alex Bruens. Discussion openers: **Mirko Heinzel**. **Guy Grossman**.
- Understanding What Legislators Really Want in Foreign Aid Budgets. **Ashley Wright**. Discussion openers: **Jennifer Tobin**. **Cleo O'Brien-Udry**.
- Identity and the Social Construction of Reputation in World Politics. **Ryan Powers**. Jonathan Renshon. Discussion openers: **Elena V. McLean**. **Allison Namias Grossman**.
- The Political Economy of China's Gender-Focused Foreign Aid: Evidence from the 21st Century. **Sheng Zhang**. **JulieAnn Sickell**. Discussion openers: **Ada Ruohonen**. **Natalie Playford**.

Participants

Ada Ruohonen
Aditi Sahasrabuddhe
Allison Namias Grossman
Andrea F. Presbitero
Ashley Wright
Asli Leblebicioglu
Ayse Kaya
Bernhard Reinsberg
Catherine Weaver
Cecilia Caverro-Sanchez
Christopher Gahagan
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Mirko Heinzl
Natalie Playford
Ryan Powers
Samuel Brazys
Shanta Devarajan
Shelby Carvalho
Sheng Zhang
Shuyan (Michael) Huang
Tetsekela Anyiam-Osigwe
Zunera Rana

University College Dublin
Brown University
Tulane University
IMF
University of Oxford
Baruch College, CUNY
Swarthmore College
University of Glasgow
University of Texas at Austin
Penn State University
Florida State University
Villanova University
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Virginia
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Dallas
Indiana University Bloomington
Central European University
University of Toronto
Georgetown University
AidData / William and Mary
University of Gottingen
University of Mississippi
Wesleyan University
Witten/Herdecke University
Maastricht University
University of Toronto
University of Georgia
University College Dublin
Georgetown University
Harvard University
AidData / William and Mary
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Princeton University
Radboud University

Program Committee

Sarah Bauerle Danzman (Indiana)
Alice Iannantuoni (Lille)
Cleo O'Brien-Udry (Illinois)
Haley Swedlund (Radboud)
Simone Dietrich (Geneva)

Samuel Brazys (Chair) (Dublin)
Ryan Jablonski (LSE)
Bernhard Reinsberg (Glasgow)
Michael Tierney (William & Mary)
Clara Weinhardt (Maastricht)

Shanta Devarajan (Georgetown)
Christopher Kilby (Villanova)
Christina Schneider (UCSD)
Jennifer Tobin (Georgetown)