Conference on
Gender, Health & Economic Development

Friday, April 30, 2010
Rockwell Pavilion
M.D. Anderson Library
University of Houston
Conference Program

8:30 am  Continental Breakfast

8:50 am  Opening Remarks

Aimee Chin  
Associate Professor of Economics, University of Houston

John Antel  
Provost, University of Houston

Clifford Dasco  
Executive Director, Abramson Center for the Future of Health

9:00 am  Hoyt Bleakley  
Associate Professor of Economics, University of Chicago Booth School of Business  
“Health, Human Capital, and Development”

10:00 am  Erica Field  
Assistant Professor of Economics, Harvard University  
“Unintended Consequences of Water Testing in Bangladesh”

11:00 am  Break

11:15 am  Nancy Qian  
Assistant Professor of Economics, Yale University  

12:15 pm  Lunch

1:15 pm  Shelly Lundberg  
Castor Professor of Economics, University of Washington  
“Personality, Gender Specialization, and Marital Surplus”

2:15 pm  Break

2:30 pm  Emily Oster  
Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Chicago Booth School of Business  
“Determinants of Technology Adoption: Private Value and Peer Effects in Menstrual Cup Take-Up” & “Menstruation, Sanitary Products and School Attendance: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation”

3:30 pm  Chinhui Juhn  
Henry Graham Professor of Economics, University of Houston  
“Liberalization Policies and Women’s Labor Market Outcomes: Mexico in the 1990s”

4:30 pm  Closing Remarks

Elaine Liu  
Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Houston
About the Conference
Economic growth in developing countries has been accompanied by improvements in health and in the position of women relative to men. The extent to which growth causes health to improve or gender gaps to narrow, though, is open for debate because there are complex interlinkages among these variables that suggest other interpretations. It is of great interest, for the purpose of making informed policy choices, to disentangle the causal relationships from mere correlations. This conference features six economists who do research from both theoretical and empirical perspectives in the area of gender, health and development. Our speakers are leaders in their respective fields of research, approaching important policy-relevant questions with creative methods and great rigor to identify causal relationships. They are setting a high standard for new papers in the area. They will be presenting some of their current research at this conference.

Organizing Partners
This event is sponsored by the Department of Economics at the University of Houston and the Abramson Center for the Future of Health. Aimee Chin and Elaine Liu are the organizers. We owe special thanks to Department of Economics chairman David Papell, Abramson Center director Clifford Dasco, and our speakers for making this event possible.

Speaker Biographies
John J. Antel is Provost and Senior Vice President for the University of Houston and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Houston System. He is a Professor of Economics and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Houston. Dr. Antel received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Los Angeles. Dr. Antel’s research is in labor and health economics.

Hoyt Bleakley is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His research focuses on human capital. Recent work considers the impact of childhood health on lifetime income and the role of English-language skill in the assimilation of childhood immigrants to the United States. Dr. Bleakley obtained his S.B. and Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. He has been a Research Associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and an Assistant Professor at the University of California at San Diego. Dr. Bleakley is an affiliate of the National Bureau of Economics (NBER), the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) and the Center for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM).

Aimee Chin is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Houston. She received her A.B. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. Dr. Chin’s research is in the fields of labor and development economics, focusing on the effects of human capital investments. She has examined the role of English-language skills in the economic and social assimilation of U.S. immigrants, the effects of educational policies, and the effects of affirmative action in India. She is a research fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA).

Clifford Dasco is the director of the Abramson Center for the Future of Health, the John S. Dunn Sr. Research Chair in General Internal Medicine at The Methodist Hospital, and professor at the University of Houston’s College of Technology. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, a Doctor of Medicine degree, residency and infectious diseases fellowship from the Baylor College of Medicine, a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Texas and an M.B.A. from Pepperdine University. He is the author of many scientific articles and eight books on managed care and health economics. Current research projects address under-resourced populations in Pecan Park, Houston; Kleberg
County, Texas; and Côte d’Ivoire. Dr. Dacso and his team have designed and built noninvasive, portable devices for managing congestive heart failure, asthma, and diabetes and a web application for patient-centered decision making in early-stage prostate cancer.

Erica Field is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Harvard University specializing in the field of development economics. She is also a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT. Her work examines the microeconomics of household poverty in developing countries. She has written papers on several topics in development, including microfinance in India, marriage markets in Bangladesh, health and development in Africa, and property rights to land in Latin America. Dr. Field received her Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University and her B.A. from Vassar College. Before joining the Economics Department at Harvard, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Harvard. Dr. Field is currently an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow.

Chinhui Juhn is the Henry Graham Professor of Economics at the University of Houston. She holds a B.A. from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago. Dr. Juhn’s research has focused on U.S. wage inequality, the impact of changing wage structure on employment and unemployment of male workers as well as its impact on the racial wage gap. Her current work examines issues in family labor supply and the impact of HIV/AIDS on fertility decisions in Africa. Professor Juhn is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a Research Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA).

Elaine Liu is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Houston. She received her B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College and her Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. Her research interests include the technology adoption decisions of farmers in China, the impacts of a large foreign bride influx into Taiwan, and the internal migration decisions of rural residents in China. Dr. Liu is also a research associate at the Abramson Center for the Future of Health.

Shelly Lundberg is the Castor Professor of Economics at the University of Washington and Director of the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology. She is also a Senior Faculty Affiliate of the West Coast Poverty Center, a Research Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, and Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of Bergen, Norway. Dr. Lundberg’s research is focused in labor and family economics and includes both theoretical modeling (of discrimination and inequality and of family decision-making) and empirical analysis (of fertility, labor supply, wage determination, and intra-household allocation of resources).

Emily Oster is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Prior to joining Chicago Booth in 2009, Dr. Oster was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago and was also a Becker Fellow for the Initiative on Chicago Price Theory at the University of Chicago. Additionally, she is a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Dr. Oster’s research has examined women’s status and gender inequality, and HIV in Africa. Dr. Oster earned her B.A. in Economics from Harvard College and her Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University.

Nancy Qian is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Yale University. Prior to joining Yale in 2009, she was an Assistant Professor at Brown University and a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University. She received a B.A. in Economics, Mathematics, Japanese and Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. Her research focuses on development economic issues such as the economic determinants of missing women, the impact of China’s One Child Policy and the long-run health consequences of the famine. Dr. Qian is an affiliate of the National Bureau of Economics (NBER), the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).