



## **C.V. STARR CENTER FOR APPLIED ECONOMICS ANNUAL REPORT, 2014-2015**

The C.V. Starr Center for Applied economics at NYU has as its purpose the conduct and encouragement of research in economics and finance with a focus on long-term issues of fundamental importance in the applied areas of macroeconomic stability, financial markets, commerce, industry, and technology. It seeks to accomplish this purpose through the support of research, collaborative interaction, publication, and conferences. The work of the Center is made possible by a generous grant from the C.V. Starr Foundation, made in 1978. The Center is an internal research organization of the NYU College of Arts and Sciences Economics department.

### **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Center directed its support to a number of successful activities aimed at addressing contemporary social and economic problems. The Center's endowment increased 0.6% between July 31, 2014 and July 31, 2015. For FY2014-2015, the Center directed 36% of its budget to support faculty research; 22% of its budget in support of conferences; 9% to support graduate doctoral research; 3% on technology; and 13% in support of economic seminar series and keynote speakers at NYU. The Center increased its support for faculty research and conferences to help provide more support for rising costs related to conference attendance and event hosting expenses. The remaining funds were devoted to administrative activities (9%), and reinvestment in the center's endowment to grow future income (8%).

### **REPORT ON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

The Center provided on-going research support to NYU Faculty engaged in research. Funds supported research related to markets and welfare, banking systems, risk and financial markets, institutions and economic outcomes, the distribution of wealth and its relation to redistributive policies. On the micro side, support to faculty funded the study of polarization and conflict, healthcare and health, education and energy policy, innovation and imitation, divorce and wages, among other topics. The Center also supported graduate student research by helping to fund their presentations at major academic conferences. A list of student presentations and conferences is available upon request.

## **CONFERENCES REPORT**

The C.V. Starr Center funded conferences in 2014-2015, in keeping with its objective of sharing ideas and findings from high quality applied economic research in a collaborative environment.

### **Biannual NYU Search Theory Workshop, NYU, New York**

The NYU Search Theory Workshop is held once a semester to discuss recent work that applies or develops the mathematical techniques and equilibrium analysis commonly known as Search Theory. The workshop, funded by the C.V. Starr Center, provides a forum to foster interaction among researchers working in all fields. The Center continued to fund the biannual workshop in 2014-2015 with the aim of promoting frontier research on frictions in the labor market, in goods markets, and in asset markets, drawing on the extensive expertise on our faculty in the field of search and matching. A goal of the workshop is to foster interaction between our students and faculty and those neighboring institutions.

### **C.V. Starr Distinguished Speaker Series: Esther Duflo, NYU, New York**

On April 23, 2015, the C.V. Starr Distinguished Speaker Series welcomed Professor Esther Duflo. Her presentation was on “Enforcing Environmental Regulations: Evidence from India” was enlightening and extremely well attended.

Professor Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at MIT. She is also the founder and director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT. She is one of the world’s most influential scholars of economic development and is widely considered to be among the most preeminent empirical experts on the causes and consequences of inequality and poverty. She is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including the CNRS Médaille de L’Innovation (2011), the John Bates Clark Medal for the best economist under 40 (2010), a MacArthur Fellowship (2009), the inaugural Calvó-Armengol International Prize (2009), and the “Best French Young Economist Prize” (Le Monde/Cercle des économistes, 2005). During her visit to the center, she conducted meetings with NYU’s economic scholars, attended a reception that followed her presentation, and discussed research with many attendees.

### **NYU Third Biennial Economics PhD Alumni Conference, NYU, New York**

On May 29-30, 2015, The CV Starr Center for Applied Economics at NYU hosted the Third Biennial Economics Ph.D Alumni Conference. The program committee was composed of Andrew Caplin (NYU), Daniel Barczyk (McGill), Andrea Fererro (Oxford), Anja Sautmann (Brown), and Chris Tonetti (Stanford GSB).

The conference continues the success of the previous Alumni Conferences. A key objective of the conference is to reinforce the ties of the NYU Economics community, across fields and cohorts. The conference consisted of two days of academic talks and discussions by NYU Alumni, NYU Faculty and current NYU Doctoral Students.

The first day of the conference included eight sessions featuring 21 papers, on the topics of Applied Micro, International Macro, Experimental Economics, Macro Household Finance, Money and Banking, and Finance. Lunch featured poster presentations by nine current PhD students, with Callum Jones ultimately winning an award for best poster. Long-time NYU Professor Jess Benhabib closed the academic presentations of the first day with a plenary talk on “Correlated Equilibria in Macroeconomics and Finance.” The plenary talk was followed by the now traditional Friday happy hour at the Malt House and a conference dinner.

The second day included four sessions of 14 presentations, covering macroeconomics of uncertainty, international trade, micro theory, and heterogeneous agent macro. The conference was closed by the semi-plenary presentations of Assistant Professor Jarda Borovicka on the term structure of risk in the macroeconomy and of Assistant Professor Laurent Mathevet on information design. The full program for this event may be viewed on the center’s website.