FALL 2025 CALENDAR OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

DESCRIPTIONS

Dr. John Kamiru, Dr. Macki Sissoko, Dr. Bhagaban Panigrahi

Paper Title: THE DEBT POSITION AND THE DETERMINANTS OF SOVEREIGN RISK IN THE EMERGING MARKETS: AN EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE_PMG-ARDL MODEL

Abstract: The paper explores debt status of EAC countries (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) and the long-run and short run relationship of sovereign risk and economic fundamentals from 2000 to 2023. A Pooled Mean Group ARDL (PMG-ARDL) model was used to determine that there is a long run relationship between Bond Spread as dependent variable and inflation rate, real effective exchange rate and country specific World Uncertainty Index (as a proxy for economic shocks and political uncertainty (risk)) as explanatory variables. The analysis examines the effect of short term and long-term inflation rate, real effective exchange rate, and economic uncertainty on sovereign risk. The findings of the study contribute to a wider body of research confirming that there is a positive and significant long run relationship between inflation rate, exchange rate, and uncertainty index on bond spreads. Further, the study seeks to present a more accommodative policy approach that minimizes sovereign risk and strengthens the economic outlook of the EAC countries and by extension of emerging markets.

Presentation Date: October 14, 2025, from 12:30 to 1:30 PM, in Room 308 BMH

Dr. Veselina P. Vracheva

Paper Title: Work-life preferences of female entrepreneurs in the US: The role of marriage, children, and education.

Abstract:

Purpose – According to Preference theory (Hakim, 2000), several key changes in the labor market and society from late 20th century create a scenario, which intensifies variability in work-life preferences among women faster than among men. Consequently, women are now more heterogenous than men in their preferences and priorities vis-à-vis the family-employment conflict and exhibit greater diversity in employment patterns. This study uses Preference theory to create a classification of self-employed individuals based on differences in the work-life preferences of female and male entrepreneurs with respect to marital status, number of children, and education level.

Design/methodology/approach – This paper draws on a sample of 2174 self-employed individuals (36% female and 64% male) from the General Social Study survey in the period 1977-2018, to estimate the distribution of female and male entrepreneurs along three preference groups from Preference theory. Mean values for marital status, number of children, and education level are compared among groups. Data are at the individual level.

Findings – Results suggest that in the US self-employment reflects more work-life preference discrepancies within than between the sexes. Female and male entrepreneurs are classified in three preference groups—work-centered, home-centered, and adaptive—as suggested by Preference theory. However, estimates suggest that the distribution of entrepreneurs among the three groups differs for men and women. Significant variations in marital status, motherhood, and education across groups are also observed, indicating that female and male entrepreneurs from the same preference group are more like each other than female entrepreneurs from two different groups.

Research limitations – The study utilizes a US-based sample, and the industry of enterprises is unaccounted for.

Practical Implications – The study provides a preliminary support for the applicability of Preference theory to understand female self-employment patterns and its findings are relevant to researchers and policymakers interested in advancing female entrepreneurship.

Originality/value – Our results suggest that policies focused on equalizing entrepreneurship opportunities for people may be less effective than expected due to within-sex differences in preference attitudes. The study challenges the propriety of sex as a stratification variable to understand entrepreneurial motivation.

Keywords Preference theory; female entrepreneurship; self-employment; marriage; children; education

Presentation Date: October 28, 2025, from 12:30 to 1:30 PM, in Room 308 BMH

Dr. Jim Chen, Dr. V. Reddy Dondeti, Dr. Bidhu B. Mohanty

Paper Title: APPLICATION OF JOB SCHEDULING AND NETWORK-FLOW ALGORITHMS FOR COLORING TWO SPECIAL CASES OF THE INTERVAL GRAPH AND THE CIRCULAR ARC GRAPH

Abstract: The Graph Coloring Problem involves the determination of the minimum number of colors needed to color each vertex of the graph so that no two adjacent vertices have the same color. The general Graph Coloring Problem is NP-hard in terms of its computational complexity. However, there are special cases of the interval graph and the circular arc graph (CAG) for which we can find the optimal coloring in polynomial time. The interval graph coloring problem and the fixed-interval job scheduling problem are closely related to each other. In the first part of this paper, we consider the weighted vertex coloring problem associated with the interval graph and solve it, through the application of job scheduling and network-flow algorithms that eliminate the need for the intermediate step of using the interval graph in the mathematical formulation. Also, we present constructive proof for the greedy algorithm used for finding the maximum number of equally valued jobs in a fixed-interval job scheduling problem or equally weighted vertices in an interval graph. While there are efficient algorithms to solve many, if not all, versions of the coloring problems that have an underlying structure of an interval graph, it is not so with the circular arc graph (CAG) or the corresponding family of circular arcs (FCA), since it has a more complex structure than the interval graph. In the second part of this paper, our focus will be on solving the coloring problem for the following two special cases of the CAG: (a) there is a point on the circle which is covered by just one arc of the FCA, (b) there is a point on the circle which is covered by just two arcs of the FCA. In both these cases, we transform the problem of coloring the CAG, by cutting and opening it along a radial line, into a fixed-interval job scheduling problem, which, in turn, is closely related to the problem of coloring interval graphs.

Presentation Date: November 11, 2025, from 12:30 to 1:30 PM, in Room 308 BMH