

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter to invite you to participate in the WEA International's 96th Annual Conference, to be held at the Hilton Portland Downtown and The Duniway, Portland, Oregon, June 29 – July 3, 2022. Safety is our first priority when convening a WEAI conference, so our plan to meet in person again in 2022 of course hinges on continued progress fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. We've all become accustomed to social distancing and mask wearing, so we are confident that it's time to get back to the face-to-face meetings we've all missed so badly. Virtual works, but it's just not the same! Can't make it to Portland? No worries. We will have a fully virtual track for sessions on the program in addition to the in-person sessions. **HENCE, if you plan to participate "virtually" please EXPLICITLY state that when you register for the conference.**

The conference portal is open, please consult the WEA website (www.weai.org) for details and deadlines. If, **HOWEVER**, you plan to participate in this conference *and your paper has policy implications*, may I suggest that you consider participating in our **Contemporary Economic Policy (CEP)** sessions? Being part of the CEP sessions has several advantages. First, it is listed as an invited/organized session, thus more visible and prestigious. Second, the paper submission fee is waived (\$100 savings). Third, all participants in our sessions pay the member registration fee, regardless of whether you are a member (a potential saving of \$80), students register at \$95 (saving of \$35). **If you join the WEA and become a full member, you are eligible for a waiver of submission fees for your presented paper if submitted to Contemporary Economic Policy or Economic Inquiry within 6 months of the conference. If you have already submitted your paper via the WEA portal,** BUT would like to be part of the CEP sessions, please let me know and I will have the WEA shift your submission to our group.

If you are affiliated with an Institution member (<http://www.weai.org/membershipinstitutional2.html>), you get another 20% discount. There are other benefits also. It may be worthwhile to get your University/Institution to join the WEA as an Institution member; please feel free to contact me on this matter.

The CEP sessions will cover almost all aspects of economics. **If you are interested, please select "organized sessions" when you register/submit you abstract, and list me (Jack Hou) as the session organizer, as this will trigger the system to send you information to me.** For those of you that have participated in our CEP sessions in the past may have noticed that this is a departure of past practices, as I always request you to send the information to me, I finish organizing the sessions and then have the WEA code/enter the information into the system. The WEA has changed their protocol (for various reasons) and now request ALL presenters to first register and submit their proposed paper abstract DIRECTLY through the WEA portal. This is a new experience for all of us, and we will see how this works out.

Once you have completed the registration and submission (refer to the attached "**Registration and Submission for CEP Sessions**"), and your information is sent to me by the WEA, I will send you an acknowledgement and ask for any date/time preferences (and any other pertinent information). As in the past, I would also like to ask you to serve as a discussant, to share your expertise and enhance the exchange of ideas. I will try my best to assign you to papers consistent with your interest. This will be done after the preliminary sessions are completed, and I will e-mail you for your preference.

The "official" deadline for individual paper submission is December 15, 2021, but as organized sessions (such as us) we have a bit more leeway. I would like to request that you kindly register/submit by 1/7/2022 (Friday). If you are interested in organizing a complete session (with chair/presenters/discussant), please let me know as soon as possible so I can pencil you in, and may I have the full session setup sheet by 2/1/212? And, if you need any assistant (in putting together your complete sessions), please don't hesitate to let me know. Please let me know in advance regarding how many sessions and time slots desired, so I can reserved them for you.

The 17th International Conference in Melbourne, Australia, has been postponed to 2023, date/time TBA. Portland is a lovely city with a funky vibe (I love it). It had been negatively affected by the Protest of 2020, but we understand it is well into its recovery, and the downtown area is not much affected.



Jack W. Hou
Coordinator of CEP Sessions