



Instructors Michael Delgado, Raymond Florax, and Brigitte Waldorf
Location RAWLS 1071
Time Fall 2016, Friday 12:30 – 1:20 PM

Course Description

The AGECE 633 class, or the SHaPE seminar as it is usually called, is designed to introduce you to advanced research in space, health and population economics, including state-of-the-art research methods and tools. The weekly seminar serves as a forum for students to present their own work and receive critical comments and suggestions for improvement from faculty and peers. The seminar is actually a tool to organize the SHaPE group, built cohesion among the group, provide synergies through shared learning, and create a platform for the exchange of ideas. By definition, the composition of the group of students taking this class will be very heterogeneous, ranging from first-year Master's students with an (emerging) interest in the topic, to fourth-year Ph.D. students who are on the edge of entering the labor market with a profile based on this specialty area. We accommodate this as best we can in an open and friendly atmosphere, based on the idea that it is intellectual curiosity and research quality that counts. What you can expect to find in this class is an interested group of typically 15–20 students and 5+ faculty working in this area. This class is really what we make out of it.

The seminar is organized as a *weekly brownbag seminar*. Feel free to bring lunch. The emphasis is on open dialogues, stimulating discussions, and exploration of new research ideas rather than lengthy lectures and presentations. The seminar will also give you a chance to actively explore your own research ideas. Active student participation is essential, including the willingness to present/discuss research articles, and share research ideas. Outlined below is a “flexible” schedule that can be changed as opportunities and suggestions arise during the semester.

Credits and Grades

The main goals of the SHaPE brownbag is to teach students how to think critically, engage in intellectual discussions, learn new software, methods and tools, and to become an active and cohesive group of researchers in the area of space, health and population economics. Formal testing and evaluation of such skills on a nuanced grading scale does not match the intention and scope of the class. Grades will therefore be based on participation and performed activities. Students who actively contribute to the class will receive the highest passing grade. Note that apologies to the instructors are in order if you cannot attend a meeting. The class is rewarded with 1 credit. You can take it repeatedly throughout your graduate studies.

Rewards and Events

Typically, we organize one or more social events, such as an outing to the theater, bowling, a dinner party, or something similar. Your creativity and help are welcomed. We also organize “SHaPE graduation receptions” to celebrate the successful defenses of SHaPE students. This semester social events and receptions will be arranged by [Tess Li](#), [Chun Song](#), and [Tim Smith](#).



Website

The website for the class is available at <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/academic/agec63300>, and is developed “as we go”. Webmasters are [Yong Jee Kim](#) and [Jinho Jung](#). The readings used during the course are all available from the intranet part of the website. You will need a username-password combination, provided to students participating in the class, to access the intranet. Printed copies of the readings will be available from [Marsha Pritchard](#) in KRAN 619.

Setup Brownbag Sessions

Attendance is expected and apologies to the instructors are in order if you cannot attend a meeting. The format of the class is as follows:

1. There will be a 25-minute research presentation by a student or a faculty member. Presenters should make their papers and auxiliary materials available one week before the presentation. Please send to the webmasters and Marsha Pritchard for distribution.
2. The presentation will be followed by a 25-minute general discussion. To ensure that we will have a lively discussion, everybody should bring a printed copy of the paper, read the distributed materials and write down questions and comments in advance.
3. The seminar will be chaired by one of the faculty members.



List of Participants

NAME	PROGRAM	LEVEL	E-mail
Graduate Students			
Akua Akuffo	AGEC	PhD	aakuffo@purdue.edu
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Faculty / Staff / Visitors			
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Schedule

Date	Title/Topic	Presenter	Chair
26 Aug	<i>Introduction</i>	Brigitte Waldorf	Raymond Florax
2 Sept	Intergenerational economic mobility: A review	Tim Smith	Brigitte Waldorf
9 Sept	Tenure city mayors in China	Chun Song	Michael Delgado
16 Sept	Dietary deficiencies of low-income Americans: The tradeoff between taste and nutrition	Jeff Young	Shanxia Sun
23 Sept	Spatial competition for biomass	Nathanial Trull	Juan Sesmero
30 Sept	Changing poverty concentrations due to natural disasters	Yong Jee Kim	Brigitte Waldorf
7 Oct	Multilevel modeling of firm productivity with spatial agglomeration externalities	Ayoung Kim	Huan Li
14 Oct	Stable geography time series for the US	Indraneel Kumar	Bhagyashree Katare
21 Oct	Regional heterogeneity of intergenerational mobility in the US	Huan Li	Juan Sesmero
28 Oct	Spillover and dynamic patterns: Cropland allocation and water quality	Shanxia Sun	Jim Binkley
4 Nov	Distortive institutions, strategic behavior, and groundwater demand in Mexico	Juan Sesmero	Michael Delgado
11 Nov	<i>No class: NARSC conference</i>	—	—
18 Nov	A shaky business: Natural gas extraction, earthquakes and house prices	Hans Koster ^a	Raymond Florax
25 Nov	<i>No class: Thanksgiving break</i>	—	—
2 Dec	The evolution of the American urban system	Liz Dobis	Jim Binkley
9 Dec	Cropland supply response to spatial competition in the ethanol industry	Yanbing Wang	Bhagyashree Katare

^a Hans Koster is assistant professor at the Dept. of Spatial Economics of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in The Netherlands, and is visiting this week (starting on November 15). He specializes in urban economics; see his [website](#). For setting up a one-to-one meeting with him, contact [Raymond Florax](#) or [Hans Koster](#) directly.