

## USC COLLEGE CONFERENCE

### **Iranian Economy at a Crossroads: Domestic and Global Challenges**

**September 18-19, 2009  
Davidson Conference Center, USC**

This two-day conference is jointly organised by the USC Department of Economics, the School of International Relations, and the College's Middle East Studies Programme.

The Conference is intended to serve as a cross-disciplinary forum bringing together scholars from the disciplines of Economics, Political Science, International Relations, International Business and related fields. Its purpose is to create a dynamic, scientific environment for exchanging views on current research on the Iranian economy and its relation to the Gulf region and global economy.

#### **Sponsors:**

We are grateful for financial support from the USC Department of Economics, Institute for Economic Policy Research, Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School of Communications, School of International Relations, Center for International Studies, and Center for International Business Education and Research, as well as The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, the Journal of Applied Econometrics, the Center for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a generous gift from Dr. Esmail Amid-Houzour.

#### **Scientific and Organizing Committee:**

Laurie Brand (USC), Hadi Salehi Esfahani (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Jeff Nugent (USC), and Hashem Pesaran (Cambridge and USC, Chair)

#### **Local Organizer and Administrator:**

Farideh Motamedi (USC)

#### **Conference Venue:**

**All sessions and conference dinner will be held at Davidson Conference Centre, USC**  
[http://www.usc.edu/org/emeriti\\_center/eccol/davidsonmap.php](http://www.usc.edu/org/emeriti_center/eccol/davidsonmap.php)

#### **Further Information:**

Further information is available at the conference website  
<http://college.usc.edu/conferences/iran/>

## Time allocations:

### Plenary Speakers

- Presenters – 35 minutes
- Questions from the floor – 10 minutes

### Sessions

- Presenters – 25 minutes
- Discussants – 10 minutes
- Questions from the floor – 5 minutes

## PROGRAM

### Day 1 – Friday, September 18, 2009

8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast (45 minutes)

8:45-9:00 a.m. **WELCOME**

**Howard Gilman**, Dean, USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences & **Hashem Pesaran**, Cambridge University and John E. Elliott Professor of Economics, USC

9:00-10:30 a.m. **SESSION I** – Economic Trends and Policies in Post Revolutionary Iran

*Chair:* **Hadi Salehi Esfahani** (UIUC)

*Speaker:* **Jahangir Amuzegar** (International Economic Consultant, DC)

“Iran’s 20-Year Economic Perspective: An Appraisal”

*General Discussion*

*Speaker:* **Hashem Pesaran** (USC & Cambridge University)

“A Century of Oil Income: A Blessing or a Curse for the Iranian Economy”

*General Discussion*

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10:30-10:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**

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10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **SESSION II – Energy and Nuclear Issues**

*Chair.* **Behrokh Khoshnevis** (USC) **tbc**

*Speaker.* **Fereidun Fesharaki** (Chairman, FACTS Global Energy & Senior Fellow, East-West Center)

"Iran's Oil and Gas Industry: Short- and Long-Term Drivers Impacting the Future of Petroleum Production and Export Revenues"

*Discussant.* **Djavad Salehi-Isfahani** (Virginia Tech)

*Speaker.* **Mohammad Sahimi** (USC)

"Iran's Nuclear Program, Economic Justification, and Political Implications"

*Discussant.* **Najmedin Meshkati** (USC)

*Speaker.* **Geoffrey Forden** (MIT), with John Thomson (MIT)

"Iran as a Pioneer Case for Multilateral Nuclear Arrangements"

*Discussant.* **Wayne Glass** (USC)

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12:45-1:45 p.m. **Conference Lunch**

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1:45-3:45 p.m. **SESSION III – Social Trends and Policies**

*Chair.* **Jeff Nugent** (USC)

*Speaker.* **Daniel Egel** (UC Berkeley), with Djavad Salehi-Isfahani (Virginia Tech)

"Youth Education, Employment and Marriage Transitions in Iran: Evidence from the School to Work Transition Survey"

*Discussant.* **John Strauss** (USC)

*Speaker:* **Amir Farmanesh** (University of Maryland)

"Regional Dimensions of Economic Development in Iran: A New Economic Geography Approach"

*Discussant:* **Eric J. Heikkila** (SPPD, USC)

*Speaker:* **Hadi Salehi Esfahani** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) with Seyed Mohammad Karimi

"Mechanisms of Poverty Reduction in Iran: Public Expenditure and Quasi-Government Organizations"

*Discussant:* **Anton Dobronogov** (World Bank)

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3:45-4:15 p.m.

**Coffee Break**

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4:15-6:15 p.m.

**SESSION IV – Business and Industry Conditions**

Chair: **Esmail Amid-Hozour** (Eton Corporation)

*Speaker:* **Anton Dobronogov** and OTHER (World Bank) Senior Country Economist for Iran, Middle East & North Africa

"Improving Business Environment in Iran: Challenges and Options for Reforms"

*Discussant:* **Hassan Hakimian** (Cass Business School, UK)

*Speaker:* **Parvin Alizadeh** (London Metropolitan University)

"Iranian Auto Industry in a Comparative Perspective"

*Discussant:* **Ali Dadpay** (Clayton State University)

*Speaker:* **Mina Kamouie** (Az-Zahra University), with Yashar Heydari Barardehi (UIUC)

"Estimating the Demand for Private Health Insurance in Iran: A Tobit Analysis"

*Discussant:* **Kamiar Mohaddes** (Cambridge University)

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7:30 p.m.

**Conference Dinner**

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**Day 2 – Saturday, September 19, 2009**

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8:00-8:30 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30-10:30 a.m.

**SESSION V** – Globalization, Free Trade Zones and the Iranian Economy

*Chair:* **Richard Drobnick** (Marshall School USC)

*Speaker:* **Tarik Yousef** (Dubai School of Government) with Ethan Chorin

"The Islamic Republic's Ports and Free Zones Policy in Question"

*Discussant:* **Jeff Nugent** (USC)

*Speaker:* **Hassan Hakimian** (Cass Business School, UK)

"The Establishment of Free Trade Zone in Iran"

*Discussant:* **Parvin Alizadeh** (London Metropolitan University)

*Speaker:* **Gholamreza Haddad** (Sharif University), with Zahra Nejati Moharrami (Parsian Bank of Iran)

"The Impacts of Globalization on the Earning Inequality (the Case Study of Iran 2001-2003)"

*Discussant:* **Hadi Salehi Esfahani** (UIUC)

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10:30. 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break

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11.00-1.00 p.m.

**SESSION VI** – Politics and the Economy in Iran

*Chair:* **Laurie Brand** (USC)

*Speaker:* **William Beeman** (University of Minnesota)

"The Economics of the Downtrodden - Revolutionary Ideology and Practical Politics in the Islamic Republic"

*Discussant:* **Nikki Keddie** (UCLA)

*Speaker:* **Behrooz Ghamari** (UIUC)  
"The Effect of New Presidencies in Iranian-American Relations:  
Can the US Accept the Islamic Republic as a Regional Power"

*Discussant:* **Jerrold Green** (USC Pacific Council on International  
Policy) **tbc**

*Speaker:* **Evaleila Pesaran** (Cambridge University)

"W(h)ither Economic Reform in Iran? An Evaluation of the 2002  
Foreign Investment Act"

*Discussant:* **Jeff Nugent** (USC)

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1:00-2:00 p.m. Conference Lunch

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2:00-3:30 p.m. **SESSION VII – US Sanctions and the Iranian Economy**

*Chair:* **Hassan Hakimian** (Cass Business School, UK)

*Speaker:* **Manouchehr Rashidian** (USC), with Sam Hakim  
(Pepperdine University)

"Properties, Linkages, and the Impact of Sanctions on the Tehran  
Stock Exchange"

*Discussant:* **Pouyan Mashayekh-Ahangarani** (Moody's Investors  
Services)

*Speaker:* **Farshid Mojaver** (UC Davis)

"Accession of the Iranian Economy to the World Trade  
Organization: A Quantitative Appraisal"

*Discussant:* **Peter Rosendorff** (NYU & USC)

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3:30-4:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**

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4:00-5:00 p.m. **CONCLUDING PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

*Chair:* **Hashem Pesaran**

*Panel Members:* **Jahangir Amuzegar, Djavad Salehi-Isfahani,  
Hadi Salehi Esfahani, Jeff Nugent, and others**

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5:00 p.m. **Conference Closes**

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