

2025 4th K-State Economics Alumni Conference

August 9, 2025 | 8:00 AM (CST)

Zoom Link: <https://Fairfield.zoom.us/j/93218023334>

8:00 – 8:05 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Research Presentations

Session 1: Industry and Trade Analysis

8:05 – 8:25 AM

Jules Yigma

*Associate Professor, School of Business
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

"Strategic Slack: Multimarket Contact and Schedule Padding Practices in the U.S. Airline Industry"

8:25 – 8:45 AM

Sydney Weber

PhD Candidate, Kansas State University

"Building Walls and Building Blocs: The Two-Tale Story of the 2017-2019 U.S.-China Trade War"

8:45 – 9:05 AM

Preeti Bhogal

PhD Candidate, Kansas State University

"Lobbying and U.S.-China Trade War"

Session 2: Technology and Development

9:05 – 9:25 AM

Olga Beshpalova

Ph.D. Economist, International Monetary Fund

"What Can Artificial Intelligence Do for Stagnant Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean?"

9:25 – 9:45 AM

Mike (Seungmin) Yang

PhD Candidate, Kansas State University

"Cultural Peer Effects in Doctoral Education"

9:45 – 10:05 AM

Jehu Mette

Quantitative Analyst, Fannie Mae

"Machine Learning for Econometricians: A Home Price Case Study"

10:05 – 11:00 AM

Panel Discussion: "Career Paths in Economics"

Moderator: *Sydney Weber, KSU Graduate Student*

Panelists:

Mark Melichar

*Associate Professor, Nebraska Wesleyan University
(Soon Joining Florida State University)*

Sam Kenney

*Regional Housing Coordinator
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*

Moayad Al Rasasi

*Director of Macro Research Department
Saudi Central Bank*

Olga Beshpalova

*Ph.D. Economist
International Monetary Fund*

Ailun Li

Ludong University - China

11:00 AM onwards

Closing Remarks & Networking

2025 Economic Alumni Conference Planning Committee
Drs. Tennecia Dacass, Yang Jiao, Hedieh Shadmani, Tyson Thomas, Sydney Weber,
Haydory Ahmed

For questions about the conference, please contact:

Dr. Shadmani hshadmani@fairfield.edu