Session Descriptions

Advocacy Track

The advocacy track has been developed for staff at non-governmental organizations and others interested in learning about how cost-benefit analysis can be used in the regulatory process and how groups can better take advantage of economic arguments when promoting regulatory agendas. This track includes a background session on these issues and a set of issue-specific breakout sessions that will focus on strategic and tactical questions concerning particular campaigns and ongoing efforts.

Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Regulatory Process (CLE Credit)

For practitioners new to cost-benefit analysis and the federal regulatory process, this session will identify key access points in the federal administrative process where advocacy groups can use cost-benefit analysis. The session will also explore how cost-benefit analysis can be relevant during the course of litigation, especially as it relates to “arbitrary or capricious” review under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Jason Schwartz, Legal Director, Policy Integrity

Breakout Sessions (CLE Credit)

These moderated sessions will allow participants to further explore ongoing, relevant issues in their respective fields. Participants will work closely with experts to develop strategies for incorporating cost-benefit analysis into their advocacy and organizational work. The sessions will also allow for more personalized questioning and focus on topics chosen by attendees.

Session 1: Environment, Faculty Club

The environmental issues breakout session will focus on the use of economic analysis in the valuation of non-market public health and environmental benefits, and how distributional analysis and environmental justice analysis can be incorporated into the rulemaking process.

Session 2: Criminal Justice, Wilf Hall, Room 313

The criminal justice breakout session will discuss how cost-benefit analysis can be used to rationalize decisionmaking on sentencing and other criminal justice policy, in light of recent budget crises at the state level.

Session 3: Internet Openness, Wilf Hall, Room 413

The internet openness breakout will focus on the role of economic analysis in debates over issues like net neutrality. It will discuss the economic arguments that show the benefits of an open, end-to-end architecture for innovation and consumer value.

Joint Sessions

Two joint sessions will be held that are geared to a broad audience of academics, advocates, students, and the broader public.

Environmental Regulation, the Economy, and Jobs (CLE Credit)

Panelists: Dina Capiello, Reporter, Associated Press (invited)
           Lewis Putnam, Jr., Partner, Milbank Tweed
           Richard L. Revesz, Dean, NYU Law (moderator)
           Carter Strickland, Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Municipal, State, and Federal Integration of Economic and Environmental Progress (CLE Credit)
Advanced Economic Track

The advanced environmental track, which is being funded through a grant by the Environmental Protection Agency, will focus on cutting edge issues surrounding transportation policy, environmental regulation, and climate change. In a series of panels over the course of the day, leading national experts will present the most up-to-date research on these topics.

Cost-Benefit Analysis and Transportation Infrastructure

Many transportation decisions made by individuals are deeply affected by infrastructure decisions that influence the types of transportation options that are available. This panel will discuss the most recent research concerning the valuation of costs and benefits for large transportation projects, including automobile infrastructure as well as mass rapid transit, especially focusing on climate change impact.

Panelists: Todd Litman, Executive Director, Victoria Transportation Institute
           Elena Safirova, Fellow, Resources for the Future
           Robert Noland, Professor and Director, Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University

Consumer Welfare and Automobile Fuel Efficiency

If fuel efficiency standards limit consumer choices, there are potential effects on consumer welfare that may at least partially offset fuel savings. This panel will discuss the most recent research on this topic, including the role of positional effects in determining welfare outcomes.

Panelists: Hunt Allcott, Energy and Society Fellow, MIT; Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU
           Mark Jacobsen, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California San Diego
           Kenneth Gillingham, Assistant Professor of Economics, Yale University

Energy Efficiency and the “Rebound Effect”

As energy efficiency has increasingly been proposed as a low-cost tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there has been a growing literature that studies the effect of efficiency requirements on consumer choices, and in particular has tested the degree to which a “rebound effect” can offset some of the anticipated emissions reductions associated with greater efficient. This panel will examine the most recent research on this topic.

Panelists: Joshua Linn, Fellow, Resources for the Future
           James Sallee, Assistant Professor, Harris School, University of Chicago
           Gernot Wagner, Economist, Environmental Defense Fund