



Research by David Neumark, Chancellor's Professor of Economics and CEPP director, finds California's economic climate is sunnier than previously thought. Photo by Steve Zylus, UCI Communications.

CENTER FOR ECONOMICS & PUBLIC POLICY

ABOUT THE CENTER

Established in 2011, the Center for Economics & Public Policy (CEPP) supports research on policy issues important to federal, state, and local policymakers in the United States, to policymakers in other countries, and to the communities these policymakers serve.

CEPP affiliates span the social sciences, as well as business, education, law, and engineering, and are engaged in high-quality research, advising policymakers, and training students to do rigorous policy research.

RESEARCH SPECIALTIES

Macroeconomics

Macroeconomists at CEPP study the expansion and contraction of the economy as a whole, focusing on questions such as: Why did a recession begin in 2008? Did Obama's stimulus promote economic recovery? Why do financial bubbles form and what damage occurs when they burst? Do lower interest rates promote economic expansion? Will the budget deficit stimulate or slow economic growth?

Education Policy

Promoting the educational attainment of youth is key for our country's future prosperity. CEPP researchers are exploring many policy approaches to accomplishing this goal. These include: the design of preschool programs that best promote children's school readiness; assessing the role of poverty early in childhood for later cognitive and behavioral development; identifying achievement and behavioral skills in primary school that matter most for later success; and assessing whether school policies such as emphasizing algebra earlier in middle school or exit exams help boost college attendance and persistence.

Labor Market Policy

What can the government do to spur job creation? How can we meet the challenges of population aging by encouraging and enabling older individuals to work until later ages? Do minimum wages help poor and low-income families, or hurt them by reducing employment? These are just a few of the many questions addressed by CEPP researchers studying how federal, state, and local labor market policies affect workers and their families.

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Environment & Transportation Policy

Climate change is a central global policy challenge that hinges in critical ways on economic behavior, and CEPP researchers study numerous dimensions of this and other environmental and transportation policy challenges. Research topics pursued include: estimating costs and benefits of climate change and policies adopted to respond to it; coordinating policy decisions among countries; designing government incentives and programs to change behavior to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate other environmental damage, including technological innovation; and modeling and estimating individuals' and firms' responses to these incentives and programs.

Health & Welfare

Research by CEPP affiliates addresses high-profile policy debates surrounding population health and welfare, including: How will recently enacted federal health reform affect health insurance generosity and health behaviors? How do minimum legal drinking ages affect young adult drinking behaviors and alcohol-related harms? Research by CEPP affiliates about the social safety net answers policy questions such as: How did welfare reform affect use of cash welfare and public assistance? Do immigrants use the safety net more heavily than non-immigrants, and how has this changed in the last decade?

Policy in Developing Countries

Why isn't the whole world developed? How should countries and international institutions work to create policies which alleviate poverty and malnutrition? Is international trade good for poor countries? These and many other pressing questions form the core of research in development economics. Some development topics studied by CEPP affiliates include economic growth, poverty and the income distribution, human capital (education and health), HIV/AIDS, institutions and conflict management, as well as environmental issues.

Urban Policy & Planning

Does urban sprawl impede redevelopment of aging downtowns, so that anti-sprawl policies can help revitalize blighted city centers? Another path to rejuvenated downtowns is "gentrification," or the return of high income households. What are the economic forces that drive it? Can public policy speed the process? Was subprime lending both a cause and a consequence of the housing bubble? These are some of the questions addressed by CEPP researchers in their study of the economics of cities and housing markets.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CEPP holds public seminars and lectures throughout the year. Visit online at www.economicsandpublicpolicy.uci.edu or contact Carol Spencer, development director, to learn more about future events, cutting-edge policy-related research and how you can impact CEPP and students it serves.