

Project Background

The SLI is committed to improving our understanding of policy reform by focusing on the dynamics of institutional change. How well do different policies work in terms of lowering the costs of doing business, improving education, or providing water and sanitation to the poor? Can we develop metrics to help us assess national improvements in these areas? These and related questions will be discussed as part of a longer term initiative to build up comparative case studies as a first step in developing metrics for policy reform.

In addition, participants will tackle the problem of promoting policy improvements in countries where good institutions are lacking and political and bureaucratic impediments to growth are numerous. What does it mean to recommend policy in this environment? What guidance can the New Institutionalism provide to policy reformers? How can research be structured to advance our understanding in these areas?

The St. Louis Initiative

A Conference | November 10-11, 2006
Weidenbaum Center, Eliot 300
Washington University in St. Louis

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Weidenbaum Center

The St. Louis Initiative



Sponsored by:



The Center for New Institutional Social Sciences

Program

November 10, 2006

- 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 am **Introductory Remarks**
John Nye and Itai Sened
Washington University in St. Louis
- 9:15 am **Conference Welcome**
Douglass North, Washington University in St. Louis
- 9:30 am ***The Effect of Pre-primary Education on Primary School Performance***
Samuel Berlinski, University College London
- 10:30 am **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 am ***Crime and Behavior***
Sebastian Galiani, Washington University in St. Louis
- 12:00 noon **Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 pm ***The Consequences of Delayed Primary School Enrollment: Evidence from Exact Birth Dates***
Patrick McEwan, Wellesley College
- 2:00 pm ***Improving the Business Climate Around the World: What is to be done?***
Lee Benham, Washington University in St. Louis
- 3:00 pm **Coffee Break**
- 3:15 pm ***Measuring Transaction Costs and Quantifying Policy Reform***
Sebastian Galiani, Washington University in St. Louis
- 6:30 pm **Dinner at Cardwell's**
8100 Maryland Avenue, Clayton, Missouri

November 11, 2006

- 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:30 am ***Some Problems with the Measurement of Transaction Costs***
John Wallis, University of Maryland
- 10:30 am ***Urban Water Reform: What We Know, What We Need to Know***
Mary Shirley, Ronald Coase Institute
- 11:30 am **Buffet Lunch**
- 12:30 pm ***Can Political Economy Analysis Make a Difference for Development Policy?***
Philip Keefer, The World Bank
- 1:30 pm **Coffee Break**
- 1:45 pm ***What Can the NIE Say About Development Policy?***
John Nye, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2:45 pm **Roundtable Discussion**
Led by Douglass North, John Nye, and Itai Sened
Washington University in St. Louis