EMILIA CATALINA ISTRATE

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EDUCATION

PhD in Public Policy – Regional Economic Development and Infrastructure George Mason University, Schar School of Policy and Government, Arlington, Virginia

Master of Advanced International Studies – International Economics and International Relations

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the University of Vienna, Austria; Cooperative Degree Program with Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Bologna Center, Italy

BA in Economics

Academy of Economic Studies, Department of International Business and Economics, Bucharest, Romania

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The National Association of Counties (NACo)

Managing Director, Counties Futures Lab

2017-present

- Promoted to a newly created strategic leadership role as head of the Counties Futures Lab, a think tank department focused on research, data and analytics, branding and building strategic partnerships. The <u>Counties Futures Lab</u> focuses on pressing county governance and management issues and promoting the county government of the future.
- Key executive management team member of NACo, the national association of the 3,069 county governments in the United States. NACo is a \$20M organization representing 3.6 million government employees, nearly 40,000 elected officials, and serving 308 million people.
- Created a spectrum of research reports that delivered cutting-edge solutions addressing most urgent county administration needs: county workforce, retirement, performance metrics, employee engagement, service sharing and cash management.
- Directed the creation of an interactive <u>Benchmarking tool</u>, launched in October 2017. The online tool allows users to compare more than 850 indicators across U.S. counties, relative to state rates, similar-sized counties and median for all counties.
- Strengthened a strategic partnership with Harvard University School of Government, Ash Center to grow an invitation-only thought leadership event for U.S. county mayors representing large counties.
- Secured two new sponsorships from corporate partners in 2017 while nurturing more prospects through a concierge service approach.
- Introduced two invitation-only conferences. Created an invitation-only thought leadership event for county administrators of U.S. counties with more than one million residents, representing in total \$254B+ in annual operations budgets, 1.1 million employees and 90

million residents; and a knowledge sharing forum for the executive directors of the 50 U.S. state associations of counties and their staff.

- Provided regular updates to NACo Board of Directors and other committees on the latest research products and gather input and direction. Liaison to NACo's Programs and Services Committee, which advises the NACo's Executive Committee on the development and evaluation of research, best practices, leadership development, and technical assistance initiatives.
- Oversaw the operations of the Counties Futures Lab. Accountable for all aspects of employee management, training and mentoring, budgeting, third party contracts and external consultants, and timely response to research requests from members. Manage an eight members department, including full-time and part-time employees.
- Member of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) Data Users Steering Committee.

Director of Research and Outreach

2013-2017 2013-2013

Director of Research

- Rapidly promoted to a newly created executive management role, expanding the highly successful data and analytics programs initiated during first six months as Director of Research. Led a change management strategy to build a premier research, analytics and best practices center focused on key issues affecting counties.
- Developed and implemented NACo's research agenda. Responsible for the creation and implementation of departmental processes, deadline driven project delivery and quality control of multiple large research projects.
- Led and supervised complex and large-scale policy research projects in a variety of policy areas, from finance, economic development to health care and justice. For example, I led a two-year project on county finances that created the data, analytics and policy research on fiscal issues affecting counties.
- Released media-friendly publications that enhance NACo's reputation as the leading source of county data and insights. In 2014, I started the *County Economies* annual series that examines the economic recovery across counties. The annual releases consistently get wide media coverage. For example, <u>County Economies 2015</u> report received citations in 91 newspaper articles, 18 TV hits and 20 radio hits. Some of the major media outlets include *Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Fox Business, Yahoo Finance, Forbes, and Governing.*
- Won the Association of Public Data Users 2016 Data Viz Award for the <u>County Explorer</u> <u>interactive tool</u>. Led the creation of the data warehouse and associated interactive map with about 1,000 indicators in just six months using only internal resources; secured ranking as the top source of U.S. county information online generating 1.5M+ views in 2017.
- Launched the production of high-impact digital media such as individualized profiles at county and state level on specific policy issues of interest to counties. These individualized profiles help NACo and county elected officials with tailored policy and communication solutions.
- Establish and maintain high standards for data integrity, quality control and transparency of the research methodology for all research projects.

- Expert in numerous qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, STATA and ARCGIS. Conducted numerous surveys, public opinion polls, focus groups, analyses of large datasets, and economic modelling.
- Established a research and best practices network with the 50 state associations of counties. It allows for timely information collection, dissemination of research and best practices, and coordination of messaging and outreach. Organized an annual County Research Day focused on knowledge-sharing and coordination. Regularly invited by the state associations to present at their conferences on the insights from latest NACo's research.
- Manage NACo's relationships with two affiliates- the National Association of County Administrators (NACA) and the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO).
 Together with the affiliates, organized educational content for NACo's events and for the affiliates' events. Created new projects that further integrate the affiliates in NACo's strategies.

The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program

Associate Fellow/Senior Research Associate

2008-2013

- Led multi-disciplinary research teams on long-term studies to raise awareness of key issues for metropolitan areas.
- Organized events on challenges to the electricity grid, sustainable transportation, National Infrastructure Bank, and export promotion.
- Lead author of a series of major reports on <u>metropolitan exports</u> that resulted in major media coverage. Placed interviews and content in major media outlets such as *Reuters Insider, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, National Journal, CBS Detroit, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, Detroit Free Press, Philadelphia Inquirer, Idaho Business Review.* Part of the original team that launched the Brookings' Metropolitan Export Initiative using export promotion evidence and analytics for policy solutions in cities and states.
- Lead author of a series of annual <u>Global MetroMonitor</u> studies that resulted in extensive media coverage. Placed interviews and content in major media outlets such as *CNN*, *The Economist, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Journal of Commerce, The Atlantic, Business Insider.*
- Participated in numerous policy sessions with government agencies (federal, state and cities) around export promotion and foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction.
- Author of infrastructure policy research on the <u>National Infrastructure Bank</u> and the federal investment process; <u>Public-Private Partnerships</u> (PPPs); and <u>land value</u> capture strategies. As a result, I was invited to evaluate several Congressional bills proposing a National Infrastructure Bank.
- Supervised the work of research assistants and interns.

George Mason University, Schar School of Policy and Government, Virginia Graduate Research Assistant 2004-2008

• Participated in an evaluation of the <u>universal postal service and the postal monopoly in the</u> <u>United States</u>. Responsible for the quantitative analysis of the rural postal routes and the SAS programming of the value of the postal and mailbox monopolies.

- Led a team <u>project researching nonperforming loans in developing countries</u>. Responsible for project outline development, analysis, progress reports, meeting of deadlines, and dissemination of results.
- Led a team <u>project researching international entrepreneurship policies and practices</u>. Responsible for project outline development, analysis, and dissemination of results.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) project Co-Author (Consultant) 2002-2003

- Co-author of a book published as part of the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project.
- Evaluated the <u>performance of international organizations in promoting and financing energy</u> <u>efficiency</u> improvements in Belarus, one of the five countries selected for the evaluation.
- Analyzed the general economic and demographic situation, legal framework, and the energy market in the selected country.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Author or co-author of dozens of volumes, book chapters and research studies, including:

"Building Trust: Performance Metrics in Counties," with Stacy Nakintu and Jonathan Harris, the National Association of Counties (February 2018).

"Counties Care: County Service Sharing for Early Childhood Development," with Jonathan Harris and Andrew Hartsig, the National Association of Counties (December 2017).

"The Future of Work: The Rise of the Gig Economy," with Jonathan Harris, the National Association of Counties (November 2017).

"Everyone Counts: How 2020 Census Data Matter to Your Bottom Line," with Tadas Pack, the National Association of Counties (September 2017).

"County Economies 2016," with Tadas Pack, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 7 (February 2017).

"Doing More with Less: State Revenue Limitations and Mandates on County Finances," with Joel Griffith and Jonathan Harris, the National Association of Counties Policy Research Paper Series, Issue 5 (November 2016).

"The State of County Finances: Progress Through Adversity," with Daniel Handy, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 6 (October 2016).

"Counting Money: State and GASB Standards for County Financial Reporting," with Cecilia Mills and Daniel Brookmyer, the National Association of Counties Policy Research Paper Series, Issue 4 (February 2016).

"County Economies 2015: Challenges and Opportunities," with Brian Knudsen, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 5 (January 2016).

"An Overview of County Administration: Appointed County Administrators," with Cecilia Mills, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 4 (June 2015).

"2014 County Economic Tracker: Progress through Adversity," with Nicholas Lyell, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 3 (January 2015).

"Strong Economies, Resilient Counties: Urban Counties Case Studies," with Anya Nowakowski and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, at the University of Texas at Austin, the National Association of Counties Why Counties Matter Paper Series, Issue 1b (October 2014).

"Strong Economies, Resilient Counties: Rural Counties Case Studies," with Anya Nowakowski and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, at the University of Texas at Austin, the National Association of Counties Why Counties Matter Paper Series, Issue 1a (October 2014).

"County Health Benefits 2014," with Kirk Heffelmire and Molly Longstreth, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 2 (July 2014).

"Strong Economies, Resilient Counties: The Role of Counties in Economic Development", with Kavita Mak, Anya Nowakowski and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, at the University of Texas at Austin, the National Association of Counties Why Counties Matter Paper Series, Issue 1 (July 2014).

"The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing," with Anya Nowakowski and Kavita Mak, the National Association of Counties Policy Research Paper Series, Issue 2 (February 2014).

"County Economic Tracker 2013: On the Path to Recovery," with Nicholas Lyell, the National Association of Counties Trends Analysis Paper Series, Issue 1 (January 2014).

"Municipal Bonds Build America: A County Perspective on Changing the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bond Interest," the National Association of Counties Policy Research Paper Series, Issue 1 (June 2013).

"Global MetroMonitor 2012: Slowdown, Recovery, and Interdependence," with Carey Anne Nadeau, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (November 2012).

"Export Nation 2012," with Nicholas Marchio, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (March 2012).

"Global MetroMonitor 2011: Volatility, Growth, and Recovery," with Alan Berube and Carey Anne Nadeau, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (January 2012).

"Moving Forward on Public Private Partnerships: U.S. and International Experience with PPP Units," with Robert Puentes, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (December 2011).

"Access for Value: Financing Transportation through Land Value Capture," with David Levinson, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (April 2011).

"Tracking the Housing Bubble across Metropolitan Areas — A Spatial-Temporal Comparison of House Price Indices," with Laurie Schintler, *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research,* 13 (1), pp. 65-182 (2011).

"Boosting Exports, Delivering Jobs and Economic Growth," with Bruce Katz, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (January 2011).

"Export Nation: How U.S. Metros Lead National Export Growth and Boost Competitiveness," with Jonathan Rothwell and Bruce Katz, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (July 2010).

"Exports in the Great Lakes: How Great Lakes Metros Can Build on Exports and Boost Competitiveness," with Jennifer Bradley and Jonathan Rothwell, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (July 2010).

"Export West: How Mountain West Metros Can Lead National Export Growth and Boost Competitiveness," with Mark Muro and Jonathan Rothwell, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (July 2010).

"Commuting," with Robert Puentes and Adie Tomer. In Alan Berube, Bill Frey, Audrey Singer, and Jill Wilson (Eds.) *The State of Metropolitan America* (pp.144-155). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (May 2010).

"Investing for Success: Examining a Federal Capital Budget and a National Infrastructure Bank," with Robert Puentes, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (December 2009).

"Entrepreneurship in an International Context- Expanding the Concept," with Kadri Kallas and Roger R. Stough, *International Journal of Management and Enterprise Development*, 7(1), pp.11-27 (2009).

"Toward Developing a Structured Approach to the Diagnosis and Resolution of Nonperforming Loans- the Case of China and India," with Debasree Das Gupta and Paul Weissburg, *Review of Policy Research*, 24 (4), pp. 345- 365 (2007).

"Networks on the Ground- Rural Development in Kenya," with Maksim Tsvetovat and Karabi Acharya, *International Journal of Networking and Virtual Organizations*, 4(4), pp. 383-401 (2007).

"The Paris Metropolitan Area and Hinterland: Patterns and Processes," with Roger R. Stough. In Roger R Stough and L. Lianshui (Eds.) *Development of Metropolitan Areas- Theoretical Developments. International Experiences. Chinese Perspectives* (pp. 347-356), Beijing: China Science Press (2006).

Experience of International Organizations in Promoting Energy Efficiency: Belarus, (with Gaudenz B., Assenza, ECE Energy Series No. 22, New York, NY and Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations and Emilia Istrate (2004).

"Water Roads: Vital to European Integration," *The New Presence: The Prague Journal of Central European Affairs*, Spring 2001, Vol. 3, No. 1.

SELECTED MEDIA COMMENTARY

Author or co-author of dozens of articles for *County News*, the National Association of Counties newspaper, for *The Avenue*, the Brookings Metropolitan Program collaboration with *The New Republic*, and for other national and regional print media, including the *Atlantic, The New Republic, Newsday, Rural Connections*, and magazines of state association of counties.

Interviewed and research cited in hundreds of print, TV and radio reporting, including:

Associated Press, Bloomberg, CBS, CNBC, The Economist, Fox Business News, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, New York Times, The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Times, The Seattle Times and others.

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Delivered more than a hundred of presentations and served as panel participant at policy, industry and academic conferences in the United States and abroad, including:

Counties Futures Lab: Creating New Networks for County Leadership. Presentation at NACo Board, Fall Meeting, Tarrant County, Texas, December 8, 2017.

Property Tax Limitations, Mandates and More. Presentation at the International Assessing Officers Association (IAAO) Annual Conference, Clark County, NV, September 25, 2017.

Counties Futures Lab: The Business of Running a County. Presentation at NACo Board, Annual Meeting, Franklin County, Ohio Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Telling the Rural Story. Presentation and Panelist at the 2016 NACo Rural Action Caucus Symposium, Leon County, FL, December 7-9, 2016.

Doing More with Less: County Priorities and the State of County Finances. Presentation at the Colorado Counties, Inc. Winter Conference, El Paso County, CO, November 28-30, 2016.

What NACo Can Do For You. Presentation at the Missouri Association of Counties Annual Conference, Camden County, MO, November 20-22, 2016.

Telling the County Economy Story with Maps. Presentation at the National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA) Annual Conference, Charleston, November 2-4, 2016.

The State of County Finances. Presentation at the National Council of County Association Executives Annual Meeting, Girdwood, AK, October 18-21, 2016.

Counties Matter: Transportation, Infrastructure and the Economy. Moderated panel at NACo Corporate Premier Forum, San Diego County, CA, October 12-14, 2016.

County Priorities, County Explorer: Learn About Interactive Tools with County Data. Presentation at the National Recreation and Park Association 2016 Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 5-8, 2016.

County Economies: How to Use the Toolkit. Presentation at the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) 2016 Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, August 29-31, 2016.

How to Tell the County Story with Maps and Profiles. Presentation at the Arizona Association of Counties 2016 Leadership Conference, Phoenix, AZ, June 23, 2016.

Counting Money: State and GASB Standards for County Financial Reporting. Presentation at the Nebraska Association of County Officials Annual County Board Workshop, Kearney, NE, June 2, 2016.

Exploring the West: The Economic Recovery of Western Counties. Presentation at the Western Interstate Region Conference, Jackson Hole, WY, May 27, 2016.

Exploring Rural America. Presentation and panelist at the Federal Reserve Board-U.S. Department of Agriculture "The future of Rural Communities: Implications for Housing" Conference, Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.

Using NACo Content for Analytics, Advocacy and Communications. Presentation at the 2016 Midwest Staff Retreat, Chicago, IL, May 5-6, 2016.

County Explorer- A Tool in the Toolbox of Economic Developers. Presentation and panelist at the U.S. Economic Development Administration Conference, Washington, DC, April 8, 2016.

Governing State and Local Finance Policy Breakfast. Meeting with the Governing editorial board, Washington, DC, March 22, 2016.

Rural Poverty: Prevalence and Implications for Child Well-Being. Presentation and panelist at the White House Rural Council and the National Association of Counties Rural Poverty Summit, Washington, DC, February 23, 2015.

County Economies 2015. Presentation at the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting, Washington, DC, January 7, 2016.

How to Tell the County Story with Maps and County Profiles. Presentations at the Kentucky Association of Counties Annual Conference, Lexington, KY, November 19, 2015.

How NACo Research Can Help Oregon Counties. Lunch Speaker at the Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference, Eugene, OR, November 17, 2015.

Using Data to Understand and Develop County Strategies. Presentation at the Kansas County Commissioners Association Annual Conference, November 4, 2015.

Innovative Approaches to Building a Talented Workforce. 2015 State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, October 28, 2015.

Governing Tech Trends. Keynote panelist at the Govloop Annual State and Local Virtual Summit, October 21, 2015.

Wake Up with County Data: NACo's County Economic Tracker. International Economic Development Council Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK, October 6, 2015.

Stronger Counties, Stronger America. Keynote speaker at the Idaho Association of Counties, Boise, ID, September 29, 2015.

Infrastructure and Economic Development: The Role of Counties. Presentation and panelist at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference, Ocean City, MD, August 14, 2015.

Exploring America's Counties. Keynote Speaker at the County Commissioners Association of West Virginia Business Meeting, Morgantown, WV, August 10, 2015.

The State of the County Economies in Hawai'i. Keynote speaker at the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, Maui, HI, June 25, 2015.

An Overview of County Administration: Appointed County Administrators. Presentation at the New Mexico Association of Counties Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM, June 18, 2015.

Telling the Rural Story: Using Data to Inform Policy. Presentation and panelist at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 10th Rural Conference, Memphis, TN, May 19, 2015.

The Face of the Future? Local/Regional Focus, Public/Private Collaboration. Panelist at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Summit on Rural America, Washington, DC, June 11, 2015.

NACo County Explorer. Presentation at the General Session of the National Association of County Engineers Annual Conference, Daytona Beach, FL, April 22, 2015.

Data, Maps and Advocacy: What NACo Can Do for You. Presentation at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Spring Conference, Harrisburg, PA, March 23, 2015.

How NACo Research Can Help Minnesota Counties. Presentation at the General Session of the Association of Minnesota Counties Legislative Conference, St. Paul, MN, March 5, 2015.

Taking a Regional Approach to Promoting Rural Growth. Speech and panel discussion at the Agricultural Outlook Forum, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, February 20, 2015.

County Economic Tracker 2014 and How You Can Work with Counties. Briefing to high-level officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, January 22, 2015.

County Economic Tracker 2014. Presentation at the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting, Washington, DC, January 8, 2015.

Job Creation and Local Economic Development. Panelist at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) event, Washington, DC, November 19, 2014.

Transportation Funding for a Strong County Economy. Presentation at the General Session of the Iowa State Association of Counties Fall School of Instruction, Des Moines, IA, November 12, 2014.

Showing Why Counties Matter: How the State Associations of Counties and NACo Can Work Together in Research. Presentation at the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, October 22, 2014.

Governing Health and Human Services Summit. Keynote panelist at Governing event, Washington, DC, October 15, 2014.

Researching Your Voyage: Showing Why Counties Matter. Presentation at the North Dakota Association of Counties Annual Conference, Bismark, ND, October 14, 2014.

NACo Priorities and How Research Can Help You. Keynote Speaker at the General Session, Montana Association of Counties Annual Conference, Kalispell, MT, September 24, 2014.

Strong Economies, Resilient Counties. Speech and panel discussion at the general session of the Maryland Association of Counties, Summer Conference, Ocean City, MD, August 15, 2014.

P3 Connect: Trends in the Marketplace. Keynote panelist at the Annual Conference of the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships, July 28, 2014.

The Road Ahead for County Transportation Funding. Presentation at the General Session of the National Association of County Engineers Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, April 14, 2014.

The Economic Recovery Across Counties in 2013. Presentation at the International Economic Development Council, Washington, DC, March 28, 2014.

Municipal Bonds Build America. Speech and panel discussion at the AASHTO Washington Briefing, Washington, DC, February 27, 2014.

County Tracker 2013. Briefing of high level U.S. Department of Commerce officials, Washington, DC, February 6, 2014.

Showing Why Counties Matter: A Research Agenda. Presentation at the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting, Washington, DC, January 9, 2014.

The State Perspective- Coping with Constraints. Panelist at the National Academy of Public Administration Fall Meeting, Washington, DC, November 14, 2013.

Public Private Partnerships for Funding Transport Infrastructure. Participation in invitation-only roundtable of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) International Transport Forum, September 27-28, 2012.

Exports Begin at Home: The Geography of U.S. Exports. Speech and panel discussion at the National Foreign Trade Council Forum, Chicago, March 16, 2012.

How Kansas City Can Join the National Export Initiative. Keynote speech at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Economic Update Meeting, May 4, 2011.

Export Nation/Export West: How the Boise Metro Area Can Join the National Export Initiative. Keynote speech at the Idaho World Trade Day, May 4, 2011.

Boosting Exports, Delivering Jobs: States, an Essential Partner in the NEI. Keynote speech at the Great Lakes Governors–State Trade Directors Meeting, April 26, 2011.

The Export Juggernaut: A Healthy but Challenging Trend. Speech and panel discussion at the 11th Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference, Long Beach, March 7, 2011.

Exports Begin at Home: Metropolitan Export Initiative. Speech at Brookings high-level invitationonly event with federal government, state and city officials, February 10, 2010. *How U.S. Metros Will Lead National Export Growth*. Plenary speech and panel discussion at the Portland Business Alliance Forum, December 15, 2010.

Jobs for the Next Generation. Panelist at the Atlantic and National Journal Road to Prosperity event, Raleigh, December 9, 2010.

Export Nation: How U.S. Metros Will Lead National Export Growth. Plenary speech at the International District Export Council Conference, Detroit, October 25, 2010.

The Metropolitan Geography of U.S. Exports. Speech at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Washington DC, October 1, 2010.

A National Infrastructure Bank and the Federal Investment in Surface Transportation. Speech and panel discussion at the Congressional Transportation Finance Forum organized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Washington, DC, January 29, 2010.

The National Infrastructure Bank- No Silver Bullet for the Woes of the Federal Investment Process. Speech and panel discussion at the "Reaching Consensus on the Infrastructure Bank" Roundtable, Sponsored by the New York University and Hosted by the OECD, September 23, 2009.

Institutions, Entrepreneurs, and the Informal Economy. The International Society for New Institutional Economics Conference, Berkeley, CA, June 18-20, 2009.

Small Businesses' Location Decision Problem: The Case of the Urban Informal Economy. The 55th Annual North American Regional Science Association International Conference, New York, November 19-22, 2008.

Institutional Barriers to the Implementation of Cluster Policy in the Greater Paris Region. The 47th Congress of the European Regional Science Association, Paris, August 29 - September 2, 2007.

Nonperforming Loans in Developing Countries- the Cases of China, Indonesia, and India. The International Conference on Management Case Studies, Ghaziabad, India, December 2006.

Institutional Barriers to the Implementation of Cluster Policies- the Role of Entrepreneurship and Leadership in a Functional Cluster Policy. The Cambridge- MIT Institute Interdisciplinary Workshop on Innovation, Cambridge University, Cambridge, the UK, June 9-10, 2006.

A Planning Balance Sheet Approach to the Belarusian Model of Transition. The Midwest Slavic Conference Ohio, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 3-5 March, 2005.

The Rhine-Main-Danube Waterway — *an Essential Element for the European Integration*. The Annual Civic Education Project International Conference, Anglo-American College, Prague, December 1-3, 2000.