



East Coast Colleges Social Science Association

47th Annual Virtual Conference Roundtable,

November 4, 2022

Conference Program



THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The US Higher Education establishment is in the throes of a crisis. Basic values are being questioned, and there is no agreement on purpose. Reforms are being attempted to focus on increasing enrollment management and marketing and administrative organization efficiency. The unanswered question is: What is the purpose of college in the knowledge economy? Panelists at this ECCSSA Roundtable will address the incipient academic demands from the following perspectives:

Has the college degree outlived its usefulness?

Has the curriculum lost its relevance?

What are the external constraints shaping the development of the knowledge economy?

What is the role of faculty in student development?



Friday, November 4, 2022

8:00am to 8:15am (EST)

Welcome
Board of Directors
Overview and History of ECCSSA
Mission
Membership & Journal
Conference Logistics
Introductions

Keynote Speaker- Prof. Sudhakar Panda

Moderator: Dr. Babita Shrivastava

8:15am to 8:45am (EST)

Keynote Speaker

Education-the Road to development

Prof. Sudhakar Panda

Former Vice Chancellor of Birla Global University India, and Chairman of Third State Finance Commission Orissa India.

The Indian view on education has both a spiritual and an ethical context while the American view of education underlines its functional relationship with economic development. But given the importance of education in nation building and development education holds the key to a nation's economic development as much as to human personality development. Colleges and Universities imparting higher education in any country whether India or the United State have increasingly an important role to play than ever in shaping the development of the economy and the society than in conducting the normal task of teaching, conducting examinations and handing over the certificates. They have to create the "transformation agents" or the catalysts of change in the society



8:45am to 9:15am (EST)

New Education Policy 2020 with Special Reference to Higher Educational Institutions -Scenario of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

*Rashmi Dwivedi, PhD Chair, Assistant professor, Economics
IEC University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, INDIA*

.Quality in higher education is global need which expects academic culture, multi facet development of students. Higher education includes academic progress, research, students, staff, co-curricular activities, infrastructural and instructional facilities, employment of students, social dimensions etc. At present, Indian higher education system is working with rigidity needs renovation and new education policy 2020 objectives of higher education can establish measure milestone for it.

9:15am to 9:45am (EST)

The effect of Poverty in India and its different regions on different dimensions

*Krishnendu Das, PhD Assistant Professor, Economics
Dept. Of Economics Lalbaba College, University of Calcutta, INDIA*

Poverty has been one of the fundamental problems in any developing economy. Many methods and ways have been derived to measure and analyze poverty by researchers. Since India is still a developing country, poverty remains in its core. This study aims to analyze the Multidimensional Poverty in India from 1992 to 2016 under rural-urban classification. We tried to use one of the unconventional ways to derive Multidimensional Poverty Index by using fuzzy logic. Fuzzy logic basically captures the vagueness of the poverty in a multidimensional set up. We have divided India into six regions and compared their respective estimates with India as an average from 1992 to 2016. Also, we have examined the rate of change of different components of poverty among the different regions during 1992 - 2016.

9:45am-10:00am

Break

Moderator, Dr. Babita Shrivastava

10:00am to 10:30am (EST)

Challenges of Inclusive Education of Tribal Groups in India

*Ashima Ghosh, PhD Associate Professor,
Department of Political Science, Ewing Christian College, Prayagraj, INDIA*

Education enables upward socio economic mobility and is key to escaping poverty. United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) is the education goal. It aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life long learning opportunities for all." One of its targets is to achieve universal literacy and numeracy Government of India is committed to the



upliftment of all sections of the society and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Special efforts are being made for the upliftment of the marginalized sections of the society such as the tribal groups. Any effort to improve the socio-economic status of the tribal groups can be made through Inclusive Education. This would help to tackle the key issues relating to education of tribal groups and also help integrate them into the mainstream. The process of inclusion and intervention should take into account the culture and tradition of the tribal groups and also respect for their way of life, their traditional knowledge and skills. According to 2011 census the tribal population in India was 104 million constituting 8.6 percent of country's population, up from 8.2 percent in 2001 census. They belong to some 705 different ethnic groups, they are scattered across 30 States and Union Territories of India, having diverse culture. The tribal population inhabit rural and remote areas. They lag behind all other social groups in various social, health and development indicators. Also there exists a large scale variations in terms of socio-economic, demographic and cultural diversities among the tribal groups.

10:30am to 11:00am (EST)

Higher Education in Transition and Faculty Insecurity: Preparedness Ahead

*Prashanta Chandra Panda, PhD Associate Professor in Economics,
Institute of Management, Nirma University
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India*

Institutional expectations from faculty members have undergone sea change in the present decade. They include refinements in subjects, contemporary pedagogy, a balance of uniformity and innovations, multi-disciplinary approach, acquisitions and practises of new skillsets, continuous evaluation, delivery of contemporary and emerging market changes to students have made teaching the most labour intensive as well as intellectually challenged. Focus on institutional obligations and accountability in administration duty in raising the visibility, ranking and sustainability of the organisation has blurred duty of the responsibility of promoters and academic staff in many private educational institutes. Faculty on contracts, engagement of visiting, part time, contractual faculty as well as industry experts in subjects, online contents and their acceptances on evaluations in many academic institutions have made organisations unknowingly giving lesser weightages to academic inputs delivered to increasingly multidimensional students across disciplines. Tangible outcomes serve a better weightages to 360 degree evaluations of faculty members. This may affect many in future while zeroing their career path. For growth lateral entry from pure research organisations and industry appear a better option and of course has better utility. Reverse is not promising for many who invested five to ten years in academics after completing their PhDs. There are instances where you find middle or above fifty years age group though capable of, are feeling the pressure of competition and expectation, feel isolated and definitely miss handholding to tide over the transition phase. This paper focus on the challenges within and shares insights on constant preparedness to raise one's adaptability in this knowledge economy to survive, enjoy and contribute to knowledge for present and future generation of students and scholars.

Keynote Speaker- Dr. K. Michele Watson

Moderator: Dr. Sushma Shukla

11:00am to 12:00am (EST)



The Knowledge Economy: Measurable and Sustainable Change

*Dr. K. Michele Watson
CEO, Executive Leadership Coach,*

In our society today, Knowledge is a very interesting word. We use it in ways that affect us both personally and professionally. We know it to bring awareness of facts or as a practical skill, to help us become familiar with objects, information, and situations that impact our lives in a variety of ways. The older I get, the more knowledgeable I seek to become, and to understand the importance and relevance of “good” Knowledge that brings about measurable and sustainable change. Many have identified knowledge as being a multi-faceted concept and I agree as I also see the constructs of change. Many describe Knowledge as distinct from information and data and that creates much discussion around the Knowledge Economy and its direct impact on society.

In the 21st century, we also recognize the role colleges and universities have on the Knowledge Economy providing education, research, innovative and creative systems and solutions that are linked to economic and social development. So how are we continuing to shape what we know of the Knowledge Economy? The Knowledge Economy that is based on production, distribution and utilization of knowledge and information as fundamental enablers of growth, wealth creation and employment. How are we better equipping students to achieve and maximize their growth in the knowledge economy by recognizing how and why we are changing?

12:00pm to 1:00pm (EST)

LUNCH

Moderator: Dr. Sushma Shukla

1:00pm to 1:30pm

Veteran Studies: A New Field and Degree for the Evolving Environment of Academia

*Karen Hannel, PhD, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies,
Saint Leo University Saint Leo, Florida*

In 2019, Saint Leo University launched the first Veteran Studies BA program in the country. This interdisciplinary inquiry is grounded in the social sciences, humanities, and fine, performing, and literary arts and is predicated on the idea that military service creates unique communities. Veteran Studies reaches beyond stereotypes to embrace the rich diversity of veterans who, throughout time and place, have contributed to the national identity, intellectual milieu, cultural expressions, scientific and technological advances, and collective remembrances of their societies. In this presentation, I will sketch a thumbnail picture of Veteran Studies and discuss the challenges that arise in establishing a new field of study.



1:30pm to 2:00pm (EST)

Scholarship is the Opium of the Economists

*Steven Payson, PhD, Professor of Economics
University of Maryland, Maryland*

*This paper raises the provocative question of whether academic scholarship in economics is overrated. Scholarship is often seen by the public as an honorable and dedicated effort, fueled by a devotion to the pursuit of knowledge, in its most complex form. In this paper, however, a rather different perspective is offered—one in which scholarship is seen, not as an esteemed mission, but as ritual. It is a ritual that offers a “warm glow” of self-satisfaction, and a level of escapism from the world’s pressing economic problems. Scholarship forces any new thought on a topic to be weighted against all other published thought on any closely related topic. This conveys the overall perspective that each author’s contributions are miniscule by comparison—as marginal contributions to a vast body of existing literature. Their own contribution may, in fact, represent an important and timely discovery. However, it will not be seen in that way, after the scholarly literature review pays homage to all other highly-acclaimed, published authors on the same general topic, whether those other works are truly relevant or not (or whether they are even correct or not). In the end, cognitive dissonance will result in academic economists being pleased with themselves for “contributing to the literature” as an end in itself. Since scholarship has prevented them from making any real change in the world, the publications listed in their CVs becomes their *raison d’être*. Scholarship, as such, has enabled academic economists to find themselves in an alternative, self-serving reality where the world revolves around their publications, and they delude themselves into thinking that their citation counts reflect the value of what they have done. Unable to solve, or even address, the world’s problems, this alternative reality, provided by scholarship, has long served as economists’ “drug of choice.”*

2:00pm to 2:30pm (EST)

Collaborative Online International Learning between SCSU & LJMU

*Jia Yu, PhD, Associate Professor of Economics
Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut*

Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) collaborated with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and started a collaborative online international learning (COIL) project. The COIL project is an online learning experiences among students from both US and UK, enhancing their awareness of global citizenship, and enriching their understanding the importance of sustainability, which are two of the essential purposes of higher education. The project also provided students an international communication opportunity, which specifically benefits local students who lack of international learning experiences due to the financial concerns. This presentation will start from an introduction of the COIL project, showcase the online learning platform, student discussion group, live stream lecture, and student feedback of the project. This learning experience is possible to be practiced between any collaborative universities from two different countries. Audiences would learn about the details of the project and how the project benefits students during their 4-year college or 2-year graduate school period.



3:00pm to 3:30pm (EST)

Diversity and Its impact on the knowledge economy

*Babita Srivastava, PhD, Visiting assistant Professor, Economics
Ursinus college, Pennsylvania*

With the advancement of technology, the world is practically on a single platform. More people are able to utilize their skills and pursue a degree. Though finance plays a large role in higher education as many students are in need of scholarships, grants, and loans to pursue a higher education degree. The United States is one of the most popular countries where students from all over choose to attend university. As a result, American universities are incredibly diverse. Higher degrees provide a good start for those who pursue it and obtain them. Those that do pursue it have the skills then to navigate life as it is difficult and immigrants in particular work very hard in pursuing an education. With these skills college students participate in an exchange of ideas that makes them more skilled. Diversity is an inclusive term that applies to many different circumstances and backgrounds. Students these days are innovative and entrepreneurial. The new generations want to make money and work hard in trying to achieve that goal. With diversity in universities students have the ideas and drive to make their ideas a reality. When students create new ideas, their colleagues and friends that come from different backgrounds work together, they will most likely have a well-established creation as a result of their diversity. Each college should have social cultures departments and committees... to cultivate diversity and encourage students to learn of other cultures but also intermingle with others outside of strictly academic environments. With this diversity and inclusion in higher education environments, the knowledge economy is positively affected in a number of ways.

Moderator: Dr. Sushma Shukla

3:00pm to 3:30pm (EST)

The Role of Community Colleges in the Knowledge Economy after the Pandemic!!

*Sushma Shukla, PhD, Associate Professor of Economics
Piedmont Virginia Community College, Virginia*

As the United States recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, we as a nation are now facing new economic challenges. Even though the labor market has recovered substantially, and employment has returned to pre-crisis levels, but still there is extensive debate regarding the health of the United States economy. Additionally, even though the worst effects of the recession are now diminishing, the economy still faces various challenges like deteriorating infrastructure, wage stagnation, rising income inequality, elevated pension and medical costs, and large current account and government budget deficits. These challenges opens up a new door for the United States 1,100 community colleges. They have an opportunity to embrace a new, more ambitious model. They should accept and champion that they are the nation's primary provider of job-focused education and training. They should focus on building prominent infrastructure by putting workforce skills—career preparation and midcareer upskilling—more at the center of their mission and culture. We must create a more equitable economy that must create good jobs and satisfying work for all



Americans. The goal can be achieved by providing education and skills that create ways to more demanding, better-compensating jobs. If community colleges set their goals high enough and commit to a new mission, community colleges can emerge as the nation's premier workforce training and education providers.

3:30pm to 4:00pm (EST)

Reimagining Leadership in a Post-Covid Context: Reaching Students and Faculty Where they Are

*Dr. Heather Parker, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida*

Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, there were standard and established best practices for interacting with and relating to students and faculty on college campus. The massive upheavals associated with college life and the Pandemic rendered previously accepted best practices obsolete. We now have an opportunity to reimagine how leadership interacts with students and faculty by asking important questions about what students and faculty truly need. A seismic shift in college culture must take place in order to accommodate the changing needs of both students and faculty. The Pandemic has shown what some heretofore largely ignored voices have long asserted -- we must shift from focusing solely on academics and work toward precipitating a massive shift in culture. The emotional and mental health of students and faculty must become a priority. Additionally, we must reexamine work-life balance for faculty and for non-traditional and commuter students. Outdated ideas about what the college experience should be for students and faculty, as well as for staff, must be reconsidered. A renaissance of sorts can occur if we strive to take into consideration lessons learned during the tumult of the past three years. We must evaluate what is not working, and determine how to move forward more effectively with new practices that embrace the changing culture of higher education. For example, What does twenty-four hour mental health counseling look like in a college setting, and how can students, faculty and staff benefit from such services? What does effective virtual teaching and learning look like? Is a combination of virtual and in-person experiences the best solution for faculty and students? How can colleges create effective dialogue between administration, faculty, students, and staff --learning to share ideas rather than simply imposing policy from the "top down?" In short, Who are our students and how can we reach them where they are? Who are our faculty, and how can we reach them where they are? How can we institute creative and culturally aware solutions to address the issues faced by today's students and faculty?

4:00pm – 4:30pm (EST)

**Overall Summary and Conference Wrap-Up
Reflections and Recommendations
Conference Adjourns**



Bios of Presenters and Moderators

Dr. Ashima Ghosh is presently working as Associate Professor and Head of Department of Political Science, Ewing Christian College, Prayagraj. She has received her M. Phil. And Ph.D. degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She did her post-graduation and graduation from University of Allahabad. She has specialized in South Asian Studies and International Relations. She has presented a number of papers at national and international seminars. She has teaching experience of about twenty-five years and committed to the growth of academic culture in higher education through innovative teaching and research.

Dr. Babita Srivastava is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Business and Economics department at Ursinus College as well as an Adjunct Professor at William Paterson University. She has earned her Ph.D. degree from the prestigious University of Allahabad and a postdoctoral fellowship from the William Paterson University, NJ. Dr. Srivastava is also certified on Sustainable Business Strategy, Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies and US Public Policy: Social, Economic, and Foreign Policies from the Harvard Business School. Dr. Srivastava's research focuses on resource management, energy economics and sustainability. Dr. Srivastava's teaching interests include microeconomics, macroeconomics, business management, business statistics. Dr. Srivastava has taught various college-level courses in economics. She is the recipient of several awards of recognition for her creative and innovative teaching style. Dr. Srivastava encourages their students to apply economic principles to real-world problems.

Dr. Prashanta Chandra Panda is an Associate Professor in Economics, at Institute of Management, Nirma University Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Dr. Hannel is the founding chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Saint Leo University. She has taught a wide variety of courses in the Humanities, developed numerous interdisciplinary courses, and contributed to the creation of the Veteran Studies, the Women and Gender Studies minor, and Medical Humanities major. Her book *Lost Voices of the First World War in Irish Art and Literature* is being released in 2022.

Dr. Heather R. Parker is professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Saint Leo University in Florida. A California native, she earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Los Angeles. While she has devoted much of her recent career to administration, she began her academic life examining interethnic political interaction, including research that focused on the loose coalition of African Americans, Jewish Americans and Mexican Americans that supported Tom Bradley's 1969 and 1973 campaigns for the mayoralty of Los Angeles. She is now focused on interethnic religious interaction and the political implications of these relationships in Florida. She has also been researching the ways in which college administrations can provide more effective mentoring for both traditional and non-traditional minority students. In addition to conducting research, she teaches African American History, Women's History, the History of the American West, and U.S. Immigration History, and legal history.

Dr. Jia Yu is an Associate Professor of Economics at School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University. Her research field is Health Economics and Applied Microeconomics. She is currently the faculty affiliated member at CT Association of



Healthcare Executives. Dr. Yu has published many research articles in several selective academic journals and presented many of her research in various regional, national, and international conferences. Before she joined SCSU, she was a lecturer in economics at Christopher Newport University. Dr. Yu graduated from Suffolk University with her Ph.D. in economics. She completed her M.A. in economics at SUNY Albany and her bachelor's degree in China.

***Dr. K. Michele Watson** is the CEO and Executive Leadership Coach for Appreciate, Change Consulting, LLC. She is an educator, social innovator, change practitioner, and Author of "When Change Becomes Your ONLY Option" and newly published book "Thinking Out Loud About Change. She is a sought after conference and community speaker.*

***Dr. Krishnendu Das** is an Assistant Professor in the Dept of Economics Lalbaba College University of Calcutta India, Area of interest: Poverty, Fuzzy logic, Deprivation, etc.*

***Dr. Rashmi Dwivedi** is currently working as Assistant Professor at IEC University, Solan, HP, India. She attained Her Master's Degree in Economics from University of Allahabad and obtained his Ph.D. in Economics, from University of Allahabad. Her research topic is Socio Economic Impact of financial Inclusion of Women: A Case Study of Panna District of MP, India. She has Presented and published 10 research papers in reputed international and national journals and edited books. She has Also worked with NGO's as a research Assistant and research Associate, project names Ujjwal yojana, UP INDIA.*

***Dr. Steven Payson** has been a federal government economist for over 30 years, and prior to that he was an economic consultant for over 7 years. He has been a senior economic advisor at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (where he is currently), at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. He was a branch chief at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and a senior economist at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Agriculture. He has authored five books and several journal articles on measurement issues in economics, scientific integrity in the profession, the economics of science and technology, and public economics. Dr. Payson has taught in the adjunct faculty of several universities on a range of topics, served as the President of the Society of Government Economists, and founded and directed the 501(c)3 nonprofit: Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions (AIRLEAP.org). He received a doctorate in economics from Columbia University, an M.Sc. in Economics from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. in Mathematics and Bio-psychology from Wesleyan University.*

***Prof. Sudhakar Panda** is a former Vice Chancellor of Birla Global University India, and former Chairman of Third State Finance Commission Orissa India as well as author of "The Crow Did Not Fly," "Canvas of Life," among many others. Recipient of the following awards: Kaling Saurav Samman-- Shrikhetra Kalakhetra-Puri-2017, Simulia Sourav Samman-on the occasion of the 121st Birth Day of Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab on 21st November, 2019 and the First Recipient of Prof. J K Mehta Excellence Award (2021) Department of Economics, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj. He will speak on his life achievements and share his wisdom as a seasoned educator and researcher.*

***Dr. Sushma Shukla** is an associate professor of Economics at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, Virginia. She taught at Northern Virginia Community College and Virginia International University for seven years before this. Dr. Shukla earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Economics from Ravi Shankar University, Raipur, India. She has also earned her M. Phil. in Economics from Devi Ahilya University in Indore, India. She received gold medals for her academic excellence in M.A. and M. Phil. In addition, she was the recipient of the best faculty of the school of business at Virginia International University in 2017. Dr. Shukla offers more than 15 years of experience in research and the academic environment. Her teaching experience includes both face-to-face and the online environment of teaching techniques, building online courses, and developing new courses. She teaches Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Statistics, Public Finance, Research Methodology, Health Economics, and International Trade. Her research areas of interest include economic growth, innovation, economic development, macroeconomics, and emerging economies. She has presented at many conferences and published in many national and international journals.*



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