37th Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI) Conference

June 7-9, 2021
(Virtual Event with Pre-recorded Presentations)

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**37th Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI)
Conference (virtual / pre-recorded)
June 7-9, 2021**

Submission Deadlines:
- **Abstract, April 10, 2021**
- **Pre-recorded Presentation, April 25, 2021**

The conference welcomes business/economics professors and students as well as corporation and government executives. You may attend as Observer and Oral or Poster Presenter. All Participants would have to register, and all will receive a Certificate of Participation. All Presenters would have to submit Abstracts and Pre-recorded presentations (of no more than 20 minutes.) Presenters may also submit Papers (if they so wish) for publication consideration in the Society's journals. More details follow below.

1. April 10, 2021 (no later than): Submission of Abstracts.
   Please submit, through the B&ESI web page here, one or two abstracts (each of about 300 words) inclusive of your details and
   subject categories that best fit your research (subject categories are listed below.)

2. April 25, 2021 (no later than): Submission of one or two YouTube links of Pre-recorded Presentations.
 - Your presentation ought to last no more than 20 minutes.
 - You may create your presentation in PowerPoint, PowerPoint online, Zoom, Microsoft Teams or other. Please include narration in your presentation along with video.
 - After you create your presentation, post it on *YouTube* and send the link through email here or at < hkan@besiweb.com >.
  In *YouTube*, if you so wish, you may set the privacy settings to **Unlisted** (instead of Public or Private); **Unlisted** means your video will not come up in search results, only those who know the link will be able to view it.

3. May 10, 2021 (no later than): Acceptance or rejection notification for submitted Pre-recorded presentations.
  All Pre-recorded presentations will be screened in accordance with the Society's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

4. May 20, 2021 (no later than): Online registration through the B&ESI web page here.
  Registration Fee = $200, Student Registration Fee = $170. For alternative ways to register and refunds see next page.

5. June 7-9, 2021: Conference opening (June 7), closing (June 9).
 - The Conference Program will be posted online by May 30, 2021.
 - Each Pre-recorded Presentation in the Program will be made available to all Conference Participants and it will be assigned at least two Discussants. Each Discussant would have to post comments available to all Conference Participants. Each Conference Participant may post comments for any Presentation. Of course, the Presenter would be able to respond to all comments made.
 - All Conferences Observers & Presenters will receive, through email attachment, a Certificate of Participation.

6. July 15, 2021 (no later than): (Optional) Submission of Conference Papers for evaluation for possible publication in journals associated with our Society.
 - Please submit here.
 - All submitted papers will be evaluated via a double-blind peer review process. Each submitted manuscript will be evaluated for the *Global Business & Economics Anthology (GBEA*.)
 - Authors of exceptional papers accepted for the GBEA will be given the option to re-submit to other journals sponsored by the Society such as the *International Journal of Economics & Business Research (IJEBR)* (in Scopus), the *Global Business & Economics Review (GBER)* (in Scopus), the *International Journal of Behavioural & Healthcare Research (IJBHR)*, and the *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review (IER)*.

7. August 15, 2021 (no later than): Decision notification for submitted papers.

8. October 15, 2021 (no later than): Final submission of accepted papers for publication in the GBEA as specified in the acceptance letters.

SUBJECT CATEGORY TITLE AND NUMBER:	SUBJECT CATEGORY TITLE AND NUMBER CONTINUED:
• ACCOUNTING (A1) • MANAGEMENT SCIENCE (MS2) • MARKETING (MR3) • FINANCE & INTERNATIONAL FINANCE (F4) • BUSINESS ETHICS (BE5) • QUANTITATIVE METHODS (QM6) • BUSINESS STATISTICS / ECONOMETRICS (BSE7) • BUSINESS LAW / LAW & ECONOMICS (L8) • ENTREPRENEURSHIP (E9) • BUSINESS & ECONOMICS EDUCATION (BEE10) • MICROECONOMICS (MIC11) • GOVERNMENT REGULATION (GR12)	• INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION (IO13) • GAME THEORY (G14) • INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS / ECONOMICS (IBE15) • LABOR ECONOMICS/HUMAN RESOURCES (LH16) • ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT (EGD17) • BEHAVIORAL, HEALTH & EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS (BHE18) • ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS / ECONOMICS (E19) • MACROECONOMICS (MAC20) • MONETARY ECONOMICS (ME21) • GOVERNMENT FINANCE (GF22) • URBAN, RURAL & REGIONAL ECONOMICS (URR23) • OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY (O24)

Conference Registration & Refunds

- **Registration Fee: $200**
  Student Registration Fee: $170
  Registration fees include access to all conference presentations and the December 2021 issue of the Global Business & Economics Anthology (GBEA).

- **Online Registration & Payment:**
  Please register and pay here no later than May 20, 2021.

- **Alternative ways to pay registration fees:**
  You may pay by Check or via Bank Transfer.
  Please contact us for details on how to pay by check or bank Transfer as follows:
  > B&ESI, 64 Holden Street
  > Worcester, MA 01605-3109, USA
  > Telephone: (508) 852-3937, FAX: (508) 595-0089
  > Email: hkan@besiweb.com

- **Refunds: Cancellations must be in writing and are subject to a $40 handling fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations after May 30, 2021. Refunds will be processed after the conference.**

PROGRAM

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Keynote Speaker:

Ashley O'Donoghue, Ph.D.
Economist, Center for Healthcare Delivery Science
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave, Boston, MA 02215, USA

Title of Talk: *Delivering Healthcare and Resource Allocation in a Time of Uncertainty: Machine-Learning Driven COVID-19 Forecasting*

Abstract: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, a priority of many hospitals and communities has been forecasting surges in SARS-COV-2 patient admissions. If hospitals are too risk-averse and shut down elective procedures too early, they can place non-COVID patients at risk with delayed care and lose significant amounts of money. If hospitals are under-prepared, they could face shortages of providers and equipment for caring for SARS-COV-2 patients. Hospitals needed reliable, hospital-specific forecasting tools to anticipate these surges, but many hospitals across the country had to rely on nationally published models that predicted state-level cases and deaths. These national and state-level models did not consider local infection patterns, hospital-level policies, clinical care changes for patients with the virus, local socio-economic factors, or shifts in available capacity within communities.

In place of these national models, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's Center for Healthcare Delivery Science used machine learning and epidemiology methods. We built a traditional Susceptible-Infected-Recovered (SIR) model to forecast how the virus would move through our community. However, a SIR model relies on parameters about the disease – such as the probability of disease transmission, levels of social distancing, the duration of infection, and whether a recovered individual could become reinfected. Even seemingly simple parameters, such as the total susceptible community population, became much more complicated to measure when an estimated 100,000 students and many wealthy families began to flee Boston as cases started to climb.

Because of the insurmountable uncertainty surrounding these parameters, we turned to multi-task machine learning methods and novel datasets. We estimated population measures and social distancing levels by using anonymized cell-phone GPS location data. These real-time cell phone data allowed us to precisely calculate how much close human interaction occurs in our community. Using machine learning methods to calculate the unknown parameters in the SIR model, we predicted the peak of the Boston surge within five days of the actual peak. If we had relied on national models, we would have made different decisions regarding equipment, staffing, and elective procedure that may have left us unprepared for what was actually to come. These methods have continued to be useful as more uncertainty has arisen surrounding reopening businesses and schools, increased traveling, the infectivity of different variants of the virus, and vaccine rollout.

Brief Biography: Ashley O'Donoghue, Ph.D. is an economist at the Center for Healthcare Delivery Science at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital located in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. She specializes in quasi-experimental designs and econometric techniques for causal inference. She regularly works with highly granular electronic health record data to answer questions related to health care delivery and innovation evaluation.

Dr. O'Donoghue earned a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from Assumption University in 2015 and a Ph.D. in economics from Clark University in 2020, with a specialization in applied econometrics.

Her current research explores the adverse effects of the opioid epidemic on the United States' foster care system; access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and substance use; and novel applications of machine learning and artificial intelligence methods to forecast hospital resource use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her research has been featured in the *Harvard Business Review*, *MIT Quest for Intelligence* reports, and recent podcasts.

Conference Sessions forthcoming