Washington Statistical Society 2023 Julius Shiskin Award Seminar

This seminar is being held in recognition of the 2023 Julius Shiskin Award winner, Dr. Dennis Fixler. The annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics is co-sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association. This award is given recognition of original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. The Julius Shiskin Award Committee will present Dr. Fixler as the 2023 awardee, followed by a talk from Dr. Fixler.

Title: Incorporating Distributional and Environmental Accounts into the National Accounts

Speaker: Dennis Fixler, PhD, Chief Economist, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 **Time**: 3:30 – 4:30 PM EDT

Abstract:

Since the recession of 2008 there has been much discussion of the limitations of the National Accounts, particularly the headline GDP estimate, in providing a comprehensive picture of the performance of the economy. Given that GDP provides both a measure of output and the income generated in the production of that output, two types of missing measures are often discussed: measures of the distribution of aggregate income to population units—either households or individuals and measures that reflect the use of environmental assets, goods and services in the provision aggregate output. In providing these measures there are many methodological and statistical issues that must be resolved. I will discuss these measurement issues, how they are being addressed, and recent empirical findings.

About the speaker:

Dennis Fixler is Chief Economist of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and is primarily responsible for statistical quality, methodology, and leads selected research efforts. His research is in the area of economic measurement with a current emphasis on the distribution of income and environmental economic accounting. He served as a member of several international committees writing manuals on price indexes and indicators and has been a long-standing member of the UN Committee writing the suite of manuals that form the System of Environmental Economic Accounts. His research has appeared in such journals as Economica, Journal of Productivity Analysis, European Economic Review, Economic Inquiry, Review of Income and Wealth and American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings.

For additional information about this event, please contact Katherine Irimata (oui4@cdc.gov), WSS Methodology Program Chair.

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