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Newsletter

MPA in Economic Policy Management

Fall 2025 – Winter 2026

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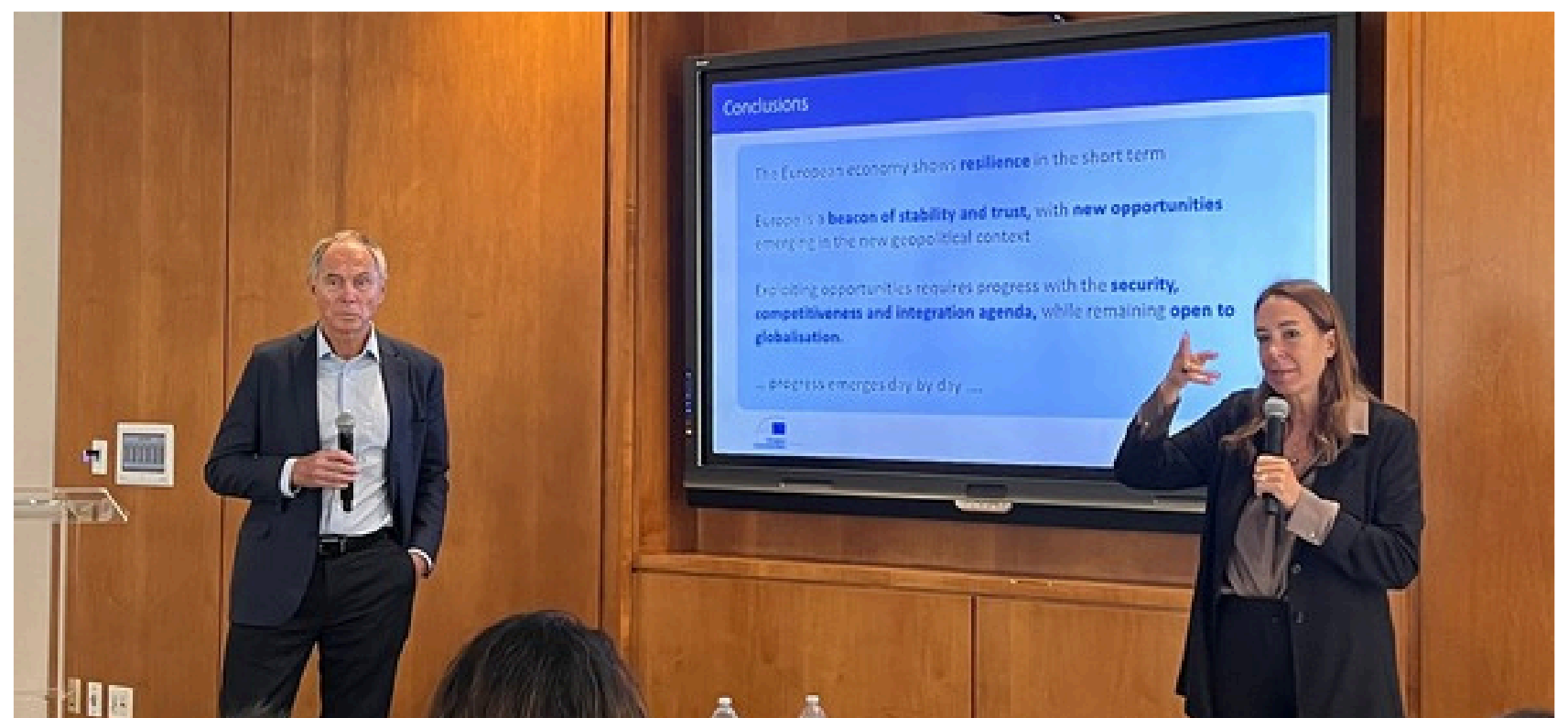
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SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS SEMINAR

Beyond a packed lineup of stimulating talks from SIPA's Institute of Global Politics (IGP) and International Economics and Geopolitics Seminar, the experience came alive through dynamic conversations with leading thinkers shaping today's global debates. We had the rare opportunity to learn directly from senior scholars and practitioners who are grappling with the world's most urgent economic and political challenges. Together, these sessions blended intellectual rigor with curiosity, energy, and a front-row seat to ideas in action.

Dr. Debora Revoltella

Chief Economist of the European Investment Bank



Students attended a guest lecture with Dr. Revoltella, gaining insight into the geopolitical shifts reshaping the global economy and Europe's evolving role. She emphasized how Europe's economic resilience and institutional strength create opportunities amid global uncertainty, offering students a clearer understanding of the strategic importance of security, competitiveness, and integration.

Dr. Roberta Gatti

Chief Economist, MENAAP, World Bank



Using her experience leading the World Bank's analytical work in the MENAAP region, Dr. Gatti highlighted key constraints shaping the region's growth and resilience, as well as pathways for future progress. Students gained insight into how strengthening employment, productivity, and institutions can support long-term growth, along with practical guidance on translating research into policy and practice.

LEADERS IN LEARNING MASTERCLASSES

The City as Classroom: NYC Leadership Masterclass Dinners

The NYC as a Learning Lab Masterclass transforms New York City into a living classroom, where the city's complexity becomes a source of insight rather than abstraction. Through intimate, off-the-record dinners, prominent NYC leaders share hard-earned policy lessons, candid leadership reflections, and the realities of governing a global city. Participants engage directly with decision-makers to connect theory to practice, gaining grounded perspectives that only New York can offer.

Transforming the Urban Economy with Prof. Robert Walsh



Students engaged with Professor Robert Walsh, former Commissioner of NYC's Department of Small Business Services, to explore how policy and leadership shape urban economies. Drawing on decades of experience, he shared practical lessons on public-private partnerships, workforce development, and community-led growth, highlighting what drives inclusive and resilient urban transformation.

Crisis Leadership with Chief Joseph Pfeifer

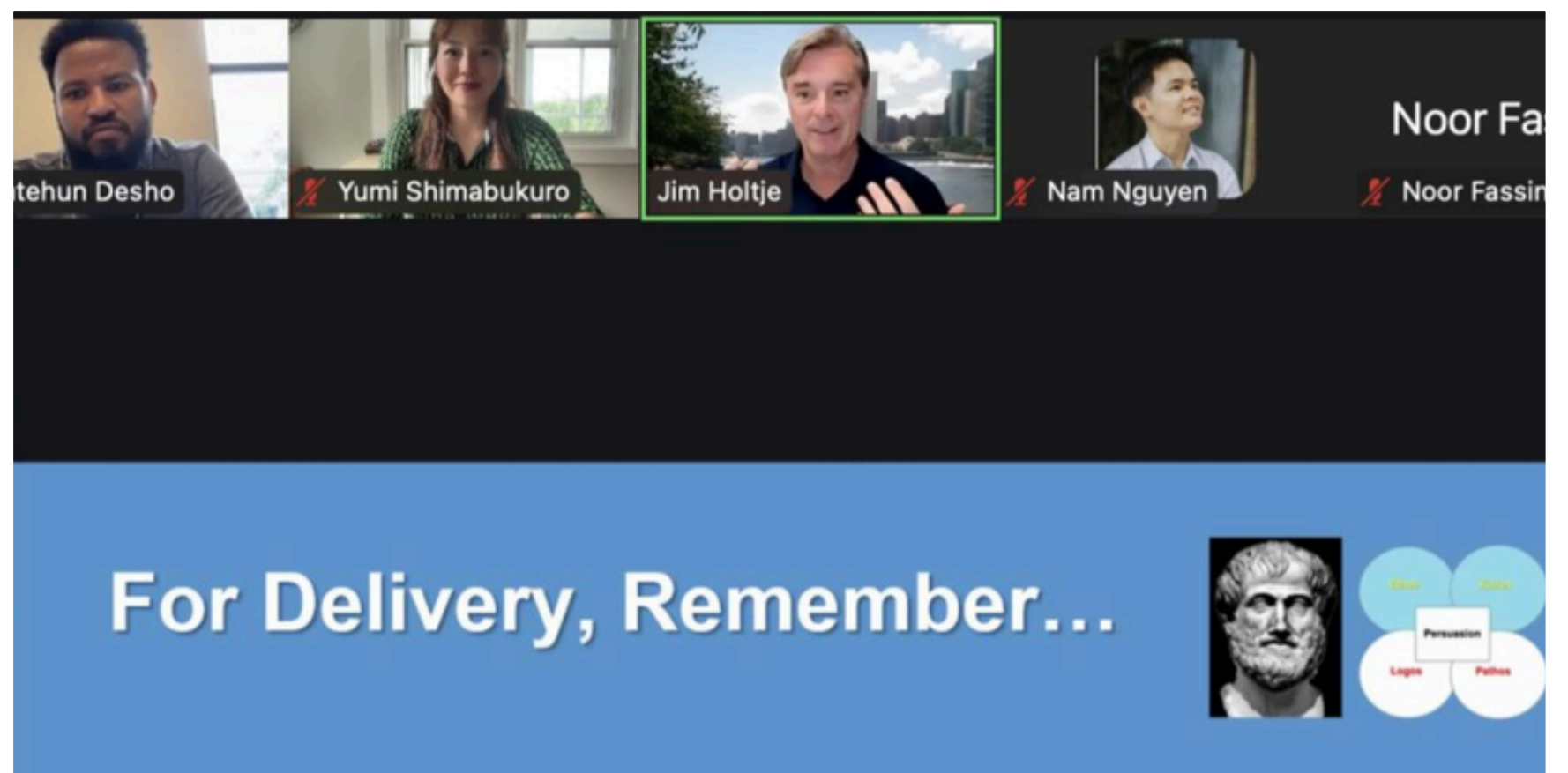


Drawing on his leadership during NYC's 9/11 emergency response, Chief Pfeifer shared key lessons on crisis leadership under extreme uncertainty. Our students gained insight into adaptive resilience, crisis empathy, and how effective leaders assess evolving risks, understand others' perspectives, and share responsibility in high-stakes situations, with broader lessons for public service.

CAREER AND FIELD EXPOSURE

Career and Field Exposure is a program that immerses participants in real-world institutions, career pathways, and professional communities through direct observation and dialogue. Through site visits, global forums, and conversations with practitioners and alumni, participants gain first-hand insight into how policy, markets, and leadership operate in practice. Rather than focusing on technical training, the program emphasizes learning through exposure, proximity, and reflection on lived career experiences.

Speech Writing & Delivery with Prof. Jim Holtje



On June 27, 2025, award-winning professor and speechwriter Jim Holtje shared expert tips on crafting and presenting speeches to captivate a wide range of audiences. Attendees learned practical strategies for structuring content, engaging listeners, and delivering messages with confidence. The session wrapped up with an interactive Q and A, leaving participants inspired to make their speeches memorable.

Visit to Bloomberg



This past summer, students visited Bloomberg's New York headquarters for a behind-the-scenes look at how the firm supports global financial markets and policymaking. The visit featured a guided office tour and hands-on Bloomberg Terminal training, giving students insight into how real-time data and analytics inform investment decisions, economic analysis, public policy, and careers in data-driven institutions.

2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Students traveled to Washington, DC this past October to attend the World Bank Group and IMF Annual Meetings, gaining firsthand exposure to global economic policymaking and international financial institutions.

Pictured in the first image are students: Solomon Ejila (left) and Pearl Gborglah (right) with Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (center).

Pictured in the second image are students: Zahid Morio, Vicky Wang, Ana Contreras Meza, Ghadah Alyahya, Jibran Tariq, Adeel Sultan Kadri, and Kanwal Batool.



Visit to New York Stock Exchange



On August 13, 2025, students from the MPA in Economic Policy Management program, accompanied by Professor Ethan Namvar (Accounting and Finance) and Assistant Dean Priscilla Yuen, visited the New York Stock Exchange. The cohort gained firsthand insight into the Exchange's history and founding, as well as its trading operations, market dynamics, and regulatory frameworks, enriching their understanding of financial markets in practice.

SDG MOMENT



In September, students had the opportunity to attend the SDG Moment 2025 at the UN Headquarters in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The event, convened by the Secretary-General, highlighted both the progress made and the urgent work still required to meet the 2030 Agenda. From world leaders reflecting on strategies for accelerating SDG implementation to changemakers on the multi-stakeholder panel sharing inspiring approaches to “leave no one behind,” the gathering underscored the power of collective action.

Lunch and Conversation: MPA-EPM Faculty Series

The program hosted the Lunch and Conversation with the MPA-EPM Faculty Series this fall, giving students the opportunity to engage with faculty in an informal, small-group setting over lunch. These one-hour sessions created space for meaningful discussion, mentorship, and connection beyond the classroom.

After the Closing Bell: Finance and Leadership Alumni Spotlight Series

Students participated in an evening conversation with Young Cho MPA-EPM '18, CEO of CiNKO, who reflected on his career across traditional finance and digital assets. He shared how the MPA-EPM coursework and SIPA's interdisciplinary training shaped his analytical approach and supported his transition across industries, offering practical insights for students navigating their own career paths.

JANUARY 2026 WASHINGTON, DC TRIP

This past January, our students spent a week in Washington, DC, engaging with leaders across multilateral institutions and government agencies, including participation in the 49th Annual Washington, DC Career Conference on January 15–16. Through site visits, panels, and candid discussions with practitioners and alumni at institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the US Department of State, the World Bank Group, and the International Monetary Fund, students connected classroom learning with the realities of public service and gained insight into leadership, diplomacy, and the institutional frameworks shaping global economic policy.

Week Highlights included:

Inter-American Development Bank (Jan 12)

MPA-EPM and MPA-GL students learned from SIPA alumni about the IDB's mission, multilateral work, and career pathways. With thanks to Amanda Glassman, Luis Simón, Pablo Pereira dos Santos, Juan Carlos Cardenas Valero, and Lucia Martin.

US Department of State – SCA/CEN (Jan 13)

Conversations focused on how institutions shape policy, navigating bureaucracy, and balancing short- and long-term priorities in diplomacy. Thank you to Jon Meyer, Grace Mason, Mark Cameron, and Sardor Yusupov.

World Bank Group (Jan 14)

MPA-EPM students joined a fireside chat with the Executive Director's Office of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the World Bank Group (thank you, Rawan Alsinaidi and Sulaiman Alnasser), engaged with Athanasios Vamvakidis, Miguel Segoviano, and Abdullah AlHassan at the IMF (with thanks to Dimitri Demekas).

JANUARY 2026 WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP (PART 2)

World Bank Group (Jan 14)

MPA-EPM students joined a fireside chat with the Executive Director's Office of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the World Bank Group (thank you, Rawan Alsinaidi and Sulaiman Alnasser), engaged with Athanasios Vamvakidis, Miguel Segoviano, and Abdullah AlHassan at the IMF (with thanks to Dimitri Demekas).

49th Annual SIPA CAC DC Career Conference (Jan 15)

Students explored career pathways through site visits to the World Bank Group, the IDB, and the IMF, and a keynote address by SIPA alumna Greta Polo. Special thanks to SIPA Alumni Relations and the Columbia SIPA Career Advancement Center.

IMF Meetings (Jan 16)

Discussions with Lusine Lusinyan, Eric Huang, and Aiko Mineshima provided valuable insights into the IMF's work, leadership, and career paths in international economic policy. Special thanks to Joan Thangaraj, Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov, and Esteban Vesperoni for making this visit possible.



CAREERS AT THE UN PANEL



MPA-EPM and MPA-GL Students gathered for a panel on careers at the United Nations, featuring alumni and practitioners with diverse experience across the UN system. Panelists shared candid reflections on navigating UN career pathways, working across multilateral institutions, and building long-term impact in international policy and development. Speakers included Gina Lucarelli SIPA '03, Founder of the UNDP Accelerator Lab Network and former UNICEF professional; Yu Ping Chan SIPA '14, Head of Digital Partnerships and Engagement at the United Nations; and Clémence Lizé, SIPA Economic and Policy Management student and former Associate Expert (JPO) in Sustainable Development at the UN Secretariat. The discussion highlighted practical insights on multilateral diplomacy, innovation within large institutions, and early-career entry points into the UN system.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL EVENTS

The MPA in Economic Policy Management (MPA-EPM) program hosts a variety of events each semester to foster connection, collaboration, and community among students, alumni, and faculty. From webinars and speaker sessions to networking and social gatherings, these events provide opportunities to learn, engage, and build lasting relationships within the MPA-EPM community.

Summer BBQ



Our students gathered for a Summer BBQ, a laid-back midday event featuring good food and conversation. The BBQ provided a chance to reconnect with classmates and take a breather during the summer semester.

Froyo Social



This summer, students from SIPA's specialized programs gathered for a Froyo Social to unwind between summer classes. The casual event offered a refreshing break from coursework and a chance to build community across programs.

Mets vs. Giants Game



Students gathered at Citi Field for a summer outing to watch the New York Mets take on the San Francisco Giants. The event offered a fun evening at the ballpark and a chance to connect with classmates outside the classroom.

Pie Social



Students from the MPA-EPM, MPA-GL, and EMPA programs, as well as other SIPA students, gathered at Publique for a cozy evening of coffee, cider, pie, and games. The event offered a warm, relaxed space to connect and unwind with classmates as we head into the final stretch of the semester.

Stay warm, stay curious, and keep asking the questions that shape better policy.
Here's to an even stronger spring Semester!

END-OF-SEMESTER DINNER

To close out the semester, students gathered for a dinner at The Tailor Public House, followed by a cocktail reception that offered an intimate space to reflect, reconnect, and celebrate the semester together.

