

# Japan Economic Seminar

*Featuring a Special Remembrance in Honor of the Late Professor Takatoshi Ito*

**Friday, February 20, 2026, 1:00 – 5:30 pm**

Board Rooms 320 & 330, Geffen Hall, Columbia Business School

*Note: This event is limited to individuals with an active academic affiliation (students, faculty, researchers, and staff at academic institutions) and CJEB affiliates.*

## Agenda (As of 2/18/26)

1:00 – 1:05 Introduction

**David E. Weinstein**, Director, CJEB; Carl S. Shoup Professor of the Japanese Economy, Columbia University

### **Session 1: “Who Becomes an Inventor? The (Important) Role of Knowledge Absorption from Higher Technical Education” (PDF)**

Moderator: **David E. Weinstein**

1:05 – 1:35 Presenter: **Serguey Braguinsky**, Professor, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland

*Coauthors:* **Takuya Hiraiwa, Shotaro Yamaguchi, Chad Syverson**

1:35 – 1:50 Discussant: **Takao Kato**, Colgate University

1:50 – 2:05 Floor discussion

---

2:05 – 2:10 *Break*

---

### **Session 2: “Labor Market Fluidity and Aggregate Productivity” (PDF)**

Moderator: **Takeo Hoshi**, Professor of Economics, The University of Tokyo

2:10 – 2:40 Presenter: **Hiroaki Miyamoto**, Associated Research Scholar, Hitotsubashi University; Chief Economist, Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan

*Coauthor:* **Noritaka Kudoh**

2:40 – 2:55 Discussant: **Tamon Asonuma**, International Monetary Fund

2:55 – 3:10 Floor discussion

---

3:10 – 3:25 *Coffee Break*

---

**Session 3: “Balassa–Samuelson in the Long Run: Qualitative Success, Quantitative Limits” (PDF)**

Moderator: **Tsutomu Watanabe**, Professor Emeritus, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo

3:25 – 3:55 Presenter: **Shinnosuke Kikuchi**, Assistant Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

3:55 – 4:10 Discussant: **Larry Christiano**, Northwestern University

4:10 – 4:25 Floor discussion

---

4:25 – 4:30 JES Conclusion  
**David E. Weinstein**

---

4:30 – 4:45 *Break*

---

4:45 – 5:30 **Remembrance in Honor of Professor Takatoshi Ito**

*Advance registration is required at <https://business.columbia.edu/cjeb/events/upcoming-events>.*