STEG Annual Conference 2026

Programme

The Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) programme's Sixth Annual Conference and associated Thematic Workshops will be held between Wednesday 7 January and Saturday 10 January 2026.

Workshops on STEG Themes 0, 1 and 2 will take place in-person on Wednesday 7 January and workshop on STEG Themes 3, 4 and 5 will take place in-person on Saturday 10 January. The plenary session will take place in-person on Thursday 9 January and Friday 10 January. All events will be held at Strathmore Business School in Nairobi, Keyna.

Location: Strathmore Business School							
Wednesday 7th			Thursday 8th	Friday 9th	Saturday 10th		
Theme 0 Workshop	Theme 1 Workshop	Theme 2 Workshop	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Theme 3 Workshop	Theme 4 Workshop	Theme 5 Workshop

Theme 0 Workshop on Data, Measurement, and Conceptual Framing

Wednesday, 7 January

KCB Room

(parallel with Theme 1 and Theme 2 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: Akos Valentinyi (University of Manchester and CEPR) and Gaaitzen de Vries (University of Groningen), the STEG Theme 0 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-09:45	Jan Grobovsek	"New Employment Definition, New Stylized Facts: the Role of Subsistence Farmers", University of Edinburgh (with Charles Gottlieb and Janneke Pieters)
09:45-10:30	Gustavo de Souza	"*Artificial Intelligence in the Office and the Factory: Evidence from Administrative Software Registry Data",* Federal Reserve Bank Of Chicago, Pompeu Fabra University
10:30-11:00	*Break*	
11:00-11:40	Kaira Gräler*	"*Accounting for post-pandemic growth and development with PWT11.0",* University Of Groningen (with Robert Inklaar)
11:40-12:20	Lukas Wiedemann*	*"The Dual Role of Inequality for Structural Change: Cause and Consequence",* London School Of Economics And Political Science
12:20-13:00	Torsten Figueiredo Walter	"The Missing Poor", NYU Abu Dhabi (with Niclas Moneke, Ana Radu)
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00-14:40	Tianzi Liu*	"*The Distributional and Aggregate Effects of Factor-Biased Climate Change",* Cornell University (with Ivan Rudik, Zebang Xu)
14:40-15:20	Jeremy Majerovitz	*"The Cost of Capital and Misallocation in the United States*", St. Louis Federal Reserve (with Miguel Faria-e-Castro, Julian Kozlowski)
15:20-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-16:45	Gavin Engelstad*	*"The Global Value of Cities",* Northwestern University (with Aakash Bhalothia, Gaurav Khanna, Harrison Mitchell)

Time allocation: For 45 minute sessions *35 mins for the presenter and 10 mins for questions*
For 40 minute sessions *35 mins for the presenter and 5 mins for questions*

Dinner will be served at 19h30 at the Tamarind Brasserie Restaurant, Dari Office park, 165 Ngong Rd, Nairobi, Kenya

(*) are graduate students

Theme 1 Workshop on Firms, Frictions and Spillovers, and Industrial Policy

Wednesday, 7 January

OldMutual

(parallel with Theme 0 and 2 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: Ezra Oberfield (Cornell University) and Francisco Buera (Washington University in St. Louis and CEPR), the STEG Theme 1 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-09:50	Sampreet Goraya	"*Worker Absenteeism and Firm Outcomes: Evidence from the Indian Manufacturing Sector",* Pompeu Fabra University, Stockholm School Of Economics (with Nandita Krishnaswamy, Suanna Oh and Yogita Shamdasani)
09:50-10:40	Diana Van Patten	*"De Minimis as a Constraint on Local Retail Market Power", Yale School of Management (with David Argente and Esteban Méndez)*
10:40-11:20	*Break*	
11:20-12:10	David Argente	*"On the Resilience of Payment Methods*", Yale University (with Diana Van Patten, Fernando Alvarez
12:10-13:00	Carole Marullaz	"Inside Out: The Allocative Impact of Firms' Make-or-Buy Decisions on Aggregate Energy Intensity*",* University Of Zurich (with Giacomo Romanini)
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00-14:50	Anton Heil*	*"Occupational Variety and Economic Development",* London School Of Economics And Political Science (with Gabriel Leite-Mariante)
14:50-15:40	Charles Gottlieb	"*Skill Supply, Firm Size, and Economic Development", University of Geneva* (with Markus Poschke, Michael Tueting)
15:40-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-16:50		Option to attend Theme 0 or Theme 2 session

Time allocation: *45 mins for the presenter (with focus questions during the presentation) and 5 mins to address broader questions*

Dinner will be served at 19h30 at the Tamarind Brasserie, Dari Office park, 165 Ngong Rd, Nairobi, Kenya

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Theme 2 Workshop on Labour, Home Production, and Structural Transformation at the Level of the Household

Wednesday, 7 January

Oak Room

(parallel with Theme 0 and 1 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: L. Rachel Ngai (LSE and CEPR) and Taryn Dinkelman (University of Notre Dame and CEPR), the STEG Theme 2 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-10:40		Option to attend Theme 0 or Theme 1 morning sessions
10:40-11:20	Break	
11:20-12:10	Ying Feng	*"Structural Change and Family Investments in Children",* National University of Singapore (with Chaoran Chen, Xiaodong Zhu, Dennis Tao Yang)
12:00-13:00	AbdelRahman Nagy	"The Barriers To Female Employment: Experimental Evidence From Egypt", International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) (with Bruno Crépon and Caroline Krafft)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:50	Radine Rafols	"*Are Workers Moving to High Productivity Regions?",* World Bank (with Ying Feng, Tatjana Kleineberg, Tommaso Porzio)
14:50-15:40	Zichen Deng	*"Land Rights Insecurity and the Persistent Misallocation of Talent",* University of Amsterdam (with Yunyi Jin, Yun Xiao)
15:40-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-16:50	Noreen Kajugusi	"Search frictions and high unemployment in the South African labour market", University of Pretoria (with Richard Kima, Sibusiso Gumbi, and Kunal Sen)

Time allocation: *45 mins for the presenter (with focus questions during the presentation) and 5 mins to address broader questions*

Dinner will be served at 19h30 at the Tamarind Brasserie, Dari Office park, 165 Ngong Rd, Nairobi, Kenya

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Plenary Session Programme – Day 1
Thursday, 8 January
Transcentuary Auditorium

Organisers: Gabriel Ulyssea (UCL and CEPR), Kristina Manysheva (Columbia Business School), Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis (NYU Abu Dhabi and CEPR), Miriam W. Oiro Omolo (Strathmore Business School) and Wilson Wasike Strathmore Business School) the STEG Annual Conference 2026 Organisers.
Douglas Gollin (Tufts University and CEPR) and Joseph Kaboski (University of Notre Dame and CEPR), the STEG Research Director and STEG Head of Commissioning and Chair of the Academic Steering Committee respectively.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:30-09:45	**Gabriel Ulyssea, Kristina Manysheva, Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis, Kellen Kariuki**	Welcoming Remarks from the STEG Annual Conference Organisers and the Associate Dean, Executive Education at Strathmore University Business School
09:45-10:45	**Michael Peters**	"*Skipping the Factory: Service-Led Growth and Spatial Transformations in the Global South*", Yale University and CEPR (with Youdan Zhang, Fabrizio Zilibotti) *Discussant: Ezra Oberfield, Princeton University*
10:45-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:00	**Wyatt Brooks**	"*Infrastructure and Local Development: Experimental Evidence from Rwanda*", Arizona State University (with Kevin Donovan, Evan Thomas) *Discussant: Anna Vitali, New York University*
12:00-13:00	**Martin Shu**	"*Is the Electricity Sector a Weak Link in Development*?", Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (with Jonathan Colmer, David Lagakos) *Discussant: David Argente, Yale University*
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00 -15:00	**Kamau Thugge**	**STEG Policy Keynote** **Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya**
15:00-15:20	Break	
15:20-16:50	Speed Round Session	
15:20-15:50	**Paola Mallia***	"*Color-Blind to the Obvious: Salience, Misperception, and Technology Adoption in Uganda",* Paris School of Economics
15:50-16:20	**Alexander Petrov**	"*A Framework for Evaluating Border Configurations: Applications to Africa*", University of Chicago
16:20-16:50	**Emmanuel Mensah**	*"Efficiency of Firms and Markets in Ghana: The Role of Spatial Factors",* Utrecht University School of Economics (with Johannes Van Biesebroeck)
16:50-17:00	*Break*	
17:00-18:00	**Carolyn Pelnik**	*"Moving to Profitability? Alleviating Constraints on Microentrepreneur Location",* Development Research Group, The World Bank *Discussant: Kevin Donovan, Yale University*

Time allocation: *40 mins for the presenter, 15 mins for the discussant and 5 mins for questions (excluding speed rounds).*

At 18h00 there will be a tour of Strathmore Business School campus

Dinner will be served at 19h00 at Masaai Mara Restaurant (2nd Floor Strathmore Business School)

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Plenary Session Programme – Day 2

Friday, 9 January

Transcentuary Auditorium

Organisers: Gabriel Ulyssea (UCL and CEPR), Kristina Manysheva (Columbia Business School), Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis (NYU Abu Dhabi and CEPR), Miriam W. Oiro Omolo (Strathmore Business School) and Wilson Wasike Strathmore Business School) the STEG Annual Conference 2026 Organisers.
Douglas Gollin (Tufts University and CEPR) and Joseph Kaboski (University of Notre Dame and CEPR), the STEG Research Director and STEG Head of Commissioning and Chair of the Academic Steering Committee respectively.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00 - 09:15	Gabriel Ulyssea, Kristina Manysheva, Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis, Kellen Kariuki	Welcoming Remarks from the STEG Annual Conference Organisers and the Associate Dean, Executive Education at Strathmore University Business School
09:10-10:10	Todd Schoellman	"*Spousal Insurance Around the World*", Federal Reserve Bank Of Minneapolis (with Annika Bacher, Kevin Donovan, Philipp Grubener) *Discussant: Charles Gottlieb, University of Geneva*
10:10-11:10	Gaurav Chiplunkar	*"Broadband as a General-Purpose Technology: Evidence from Colombia",* University of Virginia *Discussant: Martina Kirchberger, Trinity College Dublin and CEPR*
11:10-11:30	*Break*	
11:30 -12:30	Patrick Njoroge	STEG Policy Keynote: MIT Sloan School of Management
12:30-13:30	Taryn Dinkelman	*"Does Education Make Women Work? Labor Market Impacts of Free Primary Education in Africa",* University of Notre Dame and CEPR *Discussant: Alexander Monge-Naranjo*
13:30-14:30	*Lunch*	
14:30 -15:30	Eric Verhoogen	STEG Academic Keynote: Columbia University and CEPR
15:30-16:30	Russell Morton	*"Value Creation & Value Capture in Indian Garment Sector Bargaining",* University of Rochester *Discussant: Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis, NYU Abu Dhabi and CEPR*
16:30-16:50	*Break*	
16:50-17:50	Veronica Salazar Restrepo	*"Cattle Supply Chains and Deforestation in Brazil",* Institute for International Economic Studies (with Matthieu Stigler) *Discussant: Gabriel Ulyssea, University College London (UCL) and CEPR*

Time allocation: *40 mins for the presenter, 15 mins for the discussant and 5 mins for questions (excluding speed rounds).*

Dinner will be served at 19h00 at Ankole Grill Kitisuru, 0.6A, Kitisuru Rd, Nairobi, Kenya

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Theme 3 Workshop on Agricultural Productivity and Sectoral Gaps

Saturday, 10 January

Oak Room

(parallel with Theme 4 and 5 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: Julieta Caunedo (Cornell University and CEPR) and Kevin Donovan (Yale School of Management), the STEG Theme 3 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-10:00	Alexander Monge-Naranjo	"*Geography, Human Capital and Upward Mobility in Developing Countries",* European University Institute and CEPR (with Alexander Ludwig; Nicolas Syrichas)
10:00-10:30	Paul Brimble*	"*The Efficiency Gains from Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya",* Duke University (with Robert Garlick, Kate Orkin)
10:30-11:00	*Break*	
11:00-12:00	Ethan Ligon	"*Risk Sharing Tests and Covariate Shocks: Drought, Floods, and Pests in Uganda",* University Of California, Berkeley
12:00-12:30	Sophie Nottmeyer*	"*Trac(k)tors of Change: Monitoring, Tractor Mobility and Agricultural Mechanization in Kenya",* Center For Monetary And Financial Studies (CEMFI)
12:30-13:00	Albert Rodriguez-Sala	"*The Impact of Incomplete Financial Markets on Crop-Choice, Agricultural Productivity, and Welfare",* University of Cantabria
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00-15:00	Stepan Gordeev	"*Reaching the Novice or Nudging the Expert? Networks, Information, and the Experimental Returns to Migration*", Texas Christian University (with Zachary Barnett-Howell, Travis Baseler, Thomas Ginn)
15:00-15:30	Harrison Mitchell*	"*The Curse of Connectivity: Evidence from Indonesia's Village Resettlement Program",* UCSD, University of California, San Diego
15:30-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-17:00	Samuel Marshall	"*Minimum Wages and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity",* University of Warwick (with Angelica Martinez-Leyva)

***Time allocation: For the 1 hour slots**: No questions for the first 10 mins, and then open questions throughout the presentation. No separate Q&A.*

***For the 30 min slots**: 25 mins for presenters and 5 mins of Q&A at the end. Only short clarification questions during the presentation*

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Theme 4 Workshop on Trade and Spatial Frictions

Saturday, 10 January

OldMutual

(parallel with Theme 3 and 5 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: Michael Waugh (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis) and Paula Bustos (Universitat Pompeu Fabra and CEPR), the STEG Theme 4 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-09:50	Lidia Smitkova	*"Export Subsidies as Industrial Policy: the Case of the 19th Century Sugar Industry",* University Of Oxford (with Bjorn Brey and Karolina Hutkova)
09:50-10:40	Jordan Rosenthal-Kay	"*Urban costs around the world*", Federal Reserve Bank Of San Francisco
10:40-11:20	*Break*	
11:20-12:10	Jeanne Sorin	"*Public Roads on Private Lands: Land costs and Optimal Road Improvements in Urban Uganda",* University of Chicago
12:10-13:00	Gabriel Ulyssea	"*Slums: Poverty Traps or Stepping-Stones?",* University College London (UCL) and CEPR (with Diogo Britto, Alexandre Fonseca, Breno Sampaio, Lucas Conwell, Lucas Warwar)
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00-14:50	Carlo Lombardo*	"*Skilled Immigration and Firm-level Upgrading as Exports Boosters in a Developing Country",* Cornell University (with Leonardo Peñaloza-Pacheco)
14:50-15:40		Option to attend Theme 3 or Theme 5 session
15:40-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-17:00		Option to attend Theme 3 session

Time allocation: *45 mins for the presenter (with focus questions during the presentation) and 5 mins to address broader questions*

(*) are graduate students

Theme 5 Workshop on The Role of the Public Sector

Saturday, 10 January

KCB Room

(parallel with Theme 3 and 4 workshops, with joint lunch)

Organisers: Abdoulaye Ndiaye (New York University and CEPR), Manuel García-Santana (World Bank and CEPR), and Martina Kirchberger (Trinity College Dublin and CEPR), the STEG Theme 5 leaders.

Time	*Speaker*	*Presentation*
09:00-09:50	Carlos Schmidt-Padilla	*"Opportunities and Entrepreneurship: Evidence on Advanced Labor Market Experience",* University Of California, Berkeley (with Matthew Pecenco)
09:50-10:40	Ebehi Iyoha	*"Artificial Intelligence, Misallocation, and Growth",* Harvard Business School (with Abdoulaye Ndiaye)
10:40-11:20	*Break*	
11:20-12:10	Verena Wiedemann	"*Spatial Diffusion of Services*", International Finance Corporation (IFC) (with Benard Kirui, Luke Heath Milsom and Peter Wankuru Chacha)
12:10-13:00	Marcelo Gantier Mita*	*"Bringing Services Closer to People? Distance to Administrators and Public Service Delivery in Uganda",* Paris School Of Economics
13:00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14:00-14:50	Sampreet Goraya	"*Procurement Prices and Governments' Productivity*", Pompeu Fabra University, Stockholm School Of Economics
14:50-15:40	TBC	TBC
15:40-16:00	*Break*	
16:00-17:00		Option to attend Theme 3 session

Time allocation: *45 mins for the presenter (with focus questions during the presentation) and 5 mins to address broader questions*

(*) are graduate students