



COLUMBIA | SIPA

International Finance and Economic Policy

IFEP Team

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IFEP NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Committee Meetings



The IFEP Committee Meetings defy the principles of finance and economics by providing a free lunch, and a cozy space to share experiences and suggestions about classes and IFEP events. The intention behind committee meetings is to meet other IFEPers, learn about different finance and economic policy perspectives in a small gathering, and express what it is IFEP students would like to do.



In one of the meetings, a general discussion on sovereign risk turned into an IFEP-organized sovereign credit rating workshop at Moody's in their downtown office. Given that IFEP is the largest concentration at SIPA, I have always met at least one new IFEPer every committee meeting.

Latin America vs China Markets Discussion

with Professor Gray Newman

—Andrea Casaverde Rodriguez

IFEP Markets Discussions have been a space where students share their ideas and practice analysis on real-life economic issues that we're learning about at SIPA. The session about Latin America and China led by professor Gray Newman was very useful for understanding what the current economic situation is in Latin America, and how it's related to important economic and political shifts that take place in countries such as China and United States.



The depiction of the interrelations between regions was very clear and informative, due to professor Newman's vast experience in this type of analysis.

Adjusting Monetary Policy for Climate Change



At an IFEP Markets Discussion, we talked with Professor Andrea Bubula about climate change and monetary policy. Because weather-related shocks may produce great instability in the aggregate supply, a change in the monetary policy framework may be desirable. A nominal GDP targeting regime may reduce weather-related business cycles relative to the current inflation targeting regime. We also discussed the effectiveness of green finance or green quantitative easing policies. Last, we observed that relative to more economically developed countries, less-developed countries appear to be at the forefront in the expansion of green bonds and green energy projects; the transition to green energy is easier where the initial size of conventional energy sources is smaller.

— Tricha Sharma

Sovereign Risk Moody's Workshop

In a modern conference room with an incredible view of Manhattan's southernmost tip and the surrounding region, a group of about twenty IFEP students gathered around a massive cherry-trimmed oak table to talk about how Moody's Investors Service creates the definitive sovereign rating for different countries and how no one country is the same. Lead by Gabriel Agostini, an IFEP alum, and Giovanni Pagan Velez, a second-year IFEP student, we were guided along a step-by-step sovereign rating process as a way to understand what's next for certain countries, with our focus on Argentina as the main case. Both informal and extremely informative, this was a perfect complement to Professor Richard Robb's International Capital Markets (ICM) session on Sovereign Risk. Ultimately this was a great opportunity for IFEP students to better understand a specific division in a large organization.

—Gabriel Gardiner



IFEP Social at 1020 Bar



In February, IFEP students met at 1020 Bar, one of Columbia's favorite neighborhood spots. Over draft beers and gin and tonics, we talked about our winter breaks, the courses we were taking, and even played a couple games of pool. What says "I love IFEP" better than a happy hour on Valentine's Day!

—Meer Ako Ali

Monetary Timeout Luncheon

with Professor Patricia C. Mosser



In April, five IFEP students — in this case, also from five different continents—had the unique opportunity to engage outside of the classroom with Professor Patricia C. Mosser for a luncheon at the Elysian Fields Café nearby. Professor Mosser is a leading Economic Researcher with 25 years of experience at the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve.

This SIPA timeout luncheon has been one of my greatest experiences at SIPA. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss current issues in global monetary and financial policy with an esteemed faculty member in a small group over lunch.

For us as graduating IFEP students, this lunch inspired free-flowing discussions and paved the way for additional professional opportunities.

—Yilmaz Akkoyun

Bloomberg Terminal Training

with Kristian Viggo Hoff Lunke, Harita Thacker, & Achilleas Chrysostomou

The overview session was clear, practical, and straightforward. Our student instructor walked us through several classical scenarios useful for preparing stock pitches, researching corporate management, and even the fun fact that Bloomberg terminal has a dining and shopping section. In general, it was a candid introduction in how to find desired information using Bloomberg terminal, useful for a fresh beginner like me.

—Mao Jiang

As a first year IFEP student, the ability to work with and source financial data is an essential requirement. It determines whether we succeed in our academic and professional endeavors. Bloomberg Terminals can contribute immensely to attaining this success. Unfortunately, the ability to work with them requires time which, between lectures, exams, group projects, networking events and the job hunt, is already scarce. Therefore, learning directly on campus how to use the Terminal functions to quickly gather different kinds of financial and macroeconomic information was a great opportunity that will benefit my future research and strengthen my profile.

—Maurice Häfner

Study Sessions



Capstone Social

Capstone & Presentation



My capstone team and I enjoyed attending IFEP's Capstone Social in April. It was a great opportunity to learn about the range of projects IFEP students are engaged in and hear about other teams' capstone progress in a more informal setting. What I found most helpful was when students spoke about project management, team dynamics, and client communication challenges they had faced over the past four months. The event was also a great opportunity to give feedback to Professor Bubula about what could be improved in the next Capstone process.

—Pegi Ylli





Congratulations to
those who graduated!