

## M-RCBG's virtual Fall Open House was held on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

John Haigh:

Okay, why don't we get started? First of all, welcome everybody to the Kennedy School if you're new and to the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government open house. I have to confess, this is a first, the first time we've ever done a Zoom open house in the history of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government or the history of the Kennedy School. It's not what any of us expected and I hope that you have patience as we are learning how to use Zoom and all the features of Zoom to make this as enjoyable and experience as possible.

John Haigh:

I'm John Haigh, I am the co-director of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, but I also teach at the Kennedy School and at the business school. I teach three courses, one is the joint degree seminar for the students who are in the joint degree with the business school when they're in their second year when they're in the Kennedy School.



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Thanks, Scott, Victoria, Susan. All right. Scott, am I back on the screen? I just put up slide, hopefully everybody sees it, but I'll talk you th

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Scott Leland:

Great. Thank you, John. As John mentioned, we have actually about a dozen videos from our affiliated faculty. We're going to start with Larry Summers who's the director of the Center for Business and Government, former president of Harvard University, and has had a number of positions within government. And here's his video.

Larry Summers:

Welcome to a year unlike any other at the Center for Business and Government. Think about it, what we're about is business and government, how they interact and challenges that face both of them. The ways in which they cooperate, the ways in which they oppose each other. We're in a year that's going to be defined by coronavirus, by the COVID challenge and it is quintessentially a business and government issue who is going to make the tests.

Larry Summers:

How are the tests going to be distributed, who is going to establish the framework in which testing does or does not take place. That's actually a relatively easy problem compared to the problem of finding a vaccine, distributing a vaccine, deciding how a vaccine is going to be allocated. These are the most vivid, but hardly the only issues bringing together business and government.

Larry Summers:

We've long maintained active programs around the environment and a global climate at the Center for Business and Government, around energy, particularly the production of electricity, around the broad management and regulation of the financial system. I myself have been preo8/m0 g0 .F4 11.o in2 0 6126/F4 11.0e4 0(e)

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Richard Cavanagh:

My name is Dick Cavanagh, and I have been teaching courses about entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, and business entrepreneurship for a couple of decades at the Kennedy School. I want to talk about the course that is going to happen this fall, which is called MLD 830, entrepreneurship in the business and social sectors. The first thing I have to say for people who might be interested in it is that you have to be financially literate to be able to take course or else you'll just struggle and it won't be any fun at all.

Richard Cavanagh:

Financially literate means that either dent of education or by dent of professional experience, you know the basics of how to create proforma financial statements. If you are not financially literate, there are courses that you can take, but I think we really want folks who at least understand the language.



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Let me get right to the answer, it's first generation in their family to attend colleges, to attend college in their family. Many campuses, especially strong ones like Ivy League schools and many others are reaching out to attract these terrifically talented young undergraduates. Question, what can a campus do to help these wonderfully talented, but often who attended under-resourced high schools, what can the college do to help these young men and women succeed?

Richard Light:

That's a project we're working on right now, and there's actually going to be a book for coming next spring. Third and final example to wrap up is, we have annual meetings of about 30 people ranging from very strong faculty future leaders of campuses. They're now young faculty, typically in their 30s, they're going to be future leaders of campuses.

Richard Light:

Presidents, deans, provost, and we pose questions such as, what are challenges facing a rapidly changing landscape in American higher education? I hope I'll stop there. I hope those three examples, one of a project that's been actually completed and very successful, and the other two underway right now as we speak, I hope that illustrates what M-

looked at the ag cut and jobs act and see how the stock market reacted, and whether that was the sensible reaction. And most recently, we've been looking at the reactions to COVID.

Richard Zeckhauser:

I've just turned in the manuscript with a jointly authored a book called The Dragon, the Eagle, and the Private Sector, which is basically how China and the United States draw on the private sector to serve their public goals. The final area is the operation of online markets. I recently published an article on the Sharing economy, which would relate to such companies as Airbnb, and Uber, and Lyft.

Richard Zeckhauser:

And we're now engaged in a study with a former KFC student who's become a professor at MIT on why internet sites would give out free opportunities to operate on their site when they also sell those opportunities. We're looking at things like dating site through job sharing sites. So my basic approach to research is to say, I have some conceptual tools and I'm very eager to look at a broad array of policy problems, which I frequently do with my colleagues and students.

Richard Zeckhauser:

Thank you and I hope to see you in my course.

Scott Leland:

Okay. With that, you have an overview of 13 of our different faculty members. There are in fact, many more affiliated faculty with the Center, but that gives you a flavor. Let me go ahead and turn it back over to John Haigh and we're also very interested if there are any questions that people have.

John Haigh:

Thank you, Scott. Hopefully that gives you a pretty good flavor of what all of the faculty are doing that spoke. As Scott said, there are many faculty who are affiliated who were not able to provide us with recording. So you should look through the affiliated faculty lists of the Center, and if there are specific questions or opportunities, we're happy to answer those either now or through the website.

John Haigh:

Victoria, some questions, I think have been coming in. Do you want to just read the questions or let us know what the questions are and then we'll answer as best we can at this point?

Victoria Groves-Cardillo:

Sure. There's a question here from Godwin Chan, who's asking, "I'm coming to HKS to learn more about public-private partnerships, and infrastructure. How can I get involved?"

John Haigh:

Okay. It's a great question and it's obviously a topic of relevance. Going back to not all faculty were able to provide recordings, one of the faculty affiliated with the Center is Akash Deep, and I don't know if you know Akash or have met him. But Akash teaches finance, but he also teaches basically a lot of cases around infrastructure development and many public private partnerships engaged around various infrastructure questions.

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Obviously part of that includes antitrust. I don't know if you follow the hearings in the spring where they had five of the major social media... Oh, four of the major social media CEOs testify before Congress. I think Congress did a much better job of doing its homework and asking sophisticated questions, and they did a year earlier when they talked with some of these same people.

John Haigh:

There are some people within the center, the Mossavar-

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