



Growth Academy

Global Center for Economic Growth

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
THE WORLD BANK

2026 Chicago Agenda

JULY 27 – 31, 2026

Saieh Hall, Room 146

5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637

All times are listed in Central Daylight Time (CDT)

Monday, July 27

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST / CHECK-IN
9:00 – 9:05 am	Opening Remarks Ufuk Akcigit Somik Lall
9:05 – 10:30 am	The Middle-Income Trap Somik Lall
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30 pm	The Economics of Creative Destruction Philippe Aghion
12:30 – 1:30 pm	GROUP PHOTO / LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00 pm	The Economics of Dynamism: Firm Productivity, Entrepreneurship, and Industrial Policy Ufuk Akcigit
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Growth Academy Highlights & Participant Presentations
4:30 – 5:30 pm	BREAK
5:30 pm	Shuttle Pick Up Outside of the Study Hotel
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception (invitation only)



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Tuesday, July 28

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 – 10:30 am	A Conversation with Samir Mayekar “Building Startup Ecosystems in Developing Countries”
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Fertility Decline and Economic Policy James Heckman
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Actionable Evidence, Scalable Ideas: What Every Policymaker Should Ask John List
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Participant Presentations
4:30 – 5:30 pm	BREAK
5:30 pm	Campus Tour of University of Chicago — <i>Optional</i> Meet on the front steps of Saieh Hall



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Wednesday, July 29

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 – 10:30 am	The Globalization of Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital Emanuele Colonnelli
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Growing Entrepreneurial and Innovation Clusters Josh Lerner
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Spatial Creative Destruction and Regional Development Leonard Wantchekon
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Participant Presentations
4:30 – 6:00 pm	BREAK
6:00 – 6:15 pm	Shuttle Pick Up at The Study Hotel
7:00 – 10:00 pm	Conference Dinner (invitation only)



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Thursday, July 30

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 – 10:30 am	AI and Economic Growth Ben Jones
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30 pm	A Master Class on Business Dynamism Ufuk Akcigit Furkan Kilic
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Skipping the Factory: Service-Led Growth and Structural Transformation in the Developing World Fabrizio Zilibotti
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Learning From Asia: Japan Takaaki Nomoto
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Participant Presentations
5:30 pm	Art Institute Chicago Museum Passes — <i>Optional</i> Tickets are available for interested parties.



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Friday, July 31

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 – 10:30 am	The Paradox of Innovation Institutions: Designing Flexible Ecosystems that Accelerate Discovery, Invention, and Growth James Evans
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30 pm	AI for Development: The Case of Digital Agriculture Michael Kremer
12:30 – 1:45 pm	LUNCH (SHFE 112)
1:45 – 2:00 pm	Sign poster / Transition back to Room 146
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Growth Academy Highlights & Round Table Collaboration
3:00 – 3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Wrap Up Session
5:30 pm	Gershwin's 'An American in Paris' Concert in Grant Park — <i>Optional</i>



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First Week Speaker List

Philippe Aghion, Kurt Björklund Professor in Innovation and Growth, INSEAD, London School of Economics and College de France

Ufuk Akcigit, Co-Director, Growth Academy; Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics, University of Chicago (on leave); Deputy Chief Economist and Director of Private Markets, World Bank Group

Emanuele Colonnelli, Joseph L. Gidwitz Professor of Finance and Entrepreneurship, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago

James Evans, Max Palevsky Professor; Faculty Co-Director, Chicago Center for Computational Social Science; Faculty Director, Masters Program in Computational Social Science; Director, Knowledge Lab, University of Chicago

James Heckman, Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and Public Policy and Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development, University of Chicago

Ben Jones, Gordon and Llura Gund Family Professor of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Strategy, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Furkan Kilic, Postdoctoral Scholar, Growth Academy, University of Chicago

Michael Kremer, University Professor in Economics and the College and the Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago; Director, Development Innovation Lab; Director, Development Economics Center

Somik Lall, Co-Director, Growth Academy; Director, Strategy and WBG Institute for Economic Development, Development Economics Vice Presidency, World Bank Group

Josh Lerner, Jacob H. Schiff Professor of Entrepreneurship, Harvard Business School; Co-Director, HBS Private Capital Project

John List, Director of the Becker Friedman Institute, Kenneth C. Griffin Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College, University of Chicago

Samir Mayekar, Managing Director of Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Chicago

Takaaki Nomoto, Director for Multilateral Development Banks Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan

Leonard Wantchekon, James Madison Professor of Political Economy and Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Fabrizio Zilibotti, Tuntex Professor of International and Development Economics, Yale University



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2026 Washington, D.C. Agenda

AUGUST 3 – 5, 2026

Room MC13-121

1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC

*All times are listed in Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)*

Monday, August 3

8:00 – 9:00 am

BREAKFAST

9:00 – 10:30 am

Global Economic Update

Indermit Gill

Ayhan Kose

10:30 – 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 pm

Industrial Policy for Development: A Global Overview

Tristan Reed

12:30 – 1:30 pm

LUNCH

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Industrial Policy in the Digital Age: Lessons from Asia

1:30 – 2:00 pm — **Siddharth Sharma**

2:00 – 2:30 pm — **Alessandro Barattieri**

2:30 – 3:00 pm — Q&A

3:00 – 3:30 pm

BREAK

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Participant Presentations



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Tuesday, August 4

8:00 – 9:00 am

BREAKFAST

9:00 – 10:30 am

Industrial Policy in the Middle East and Africa: Challenges of Conflict and Structural Transformation

9:00 – 9:30 am — **Caglar Ozden**

9:30 – 10:00 am — **Andrew Dabalen**

10:00 – 10:30 am — Q&A

10:30 – 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 pm

Revisiting Industrial Policy in ECA and LAC: Strategic Options for Today

11:00 – 11:30 am — **Ivailo Izvorski**

11:30 am – 12:00 pm — **William F. Maloney**

12:00 – 12:30 pm — Q&A

12:30 – 1:30 pm

LUNCH

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Participant Presentations



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Wednesday, August 5

7:30 – 8:30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 – 9:00 am	Certificate Award Ceremony
9:00 – 10:00 am	Official Launch of the World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence Indermit Gill Gaurav Nayyar
10:00 – 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 – 10:45 am	How Ready Are We for AI: New Insights from the BReady4AI Index Ufuk Akcigit



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Second Week Speaker List

Ufuk Akcigit, Co-Director, Growth Academy; Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics, University of Chicago (on leave); Deputy Chief Economist and Director of Private Markets, World Bank Group

Alessandro Barattieri, Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific, World Bank Group

Andrew Dabalen, Chief Economist for the Africa Region, World Bank Group

Indermit Gill, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics, the World Bank Group

Ivailo Izvorski, Chief Economist for Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank Group

Ayhan Kose, Deputy Chief Economist and Director of the Prospects Group, World Bank Group

Somik Lall, Co-Director, Growth Academy; Director, Strategy and WBG Institute for Economic Development, Development Economics Vice Presidency, World Bank Group

William F. Maloney, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank Group

Gaurav Nayyar, Director, World Development Report 2026, World Bank Group

Caglar Ozden, Deputy Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa, World Bank Group

Tristan Reed, Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank Group

Siddharth Sharma, Lead Economist, Office of the Chief Economist for South Asia, World Bank Group



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