Geospatial Business Analytics Conference

Hosted by the Sinquefield Center for Applied Economic Research (SCAER)
and Chaifetz School of Business (CSB)

Friday, April 17, 2026

Chaifetz School of Business | Saint Louis University

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the **Inaugural Geospatial Business Analytics Conference**.

The conference brings together scholars and practitioners to showcase research using geospatial datasets and analytical techniques in business disciplines, including accounting, economics, finance, international business, management, marketing, real estate, and strategic management.

The conference aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration on location-based research and practice, building on the strength of Saint Louis University's geospatial research, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and the region's position as a global geospatial innovation hub.

Special Thanks to our Organizing Committee:

- Bidisha Chakrabarty (CSB)
- Marc Painter (CSB)
- Guangli Zhang (SCAER)
- Norman Guo (CSB)
- Mike Podgursky (SCAER)
- Frank Wang (CSB)
- Michelle Wickman (SCAER)

(Please turn over for Keynote Speakers)

Keynote Panelists

Bill Caniano

NGA West Executive & Director, Office of Corporate Communications

Bill Caniano is a member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service and serves as the NGA-West Executive. In this role, he leads the workforce in the St. Louis region and oversees the agency's presence in the Midwest.

Evan Barry

Founder & CEO, Dewey

Evan Barry is the Founder and CEO of Dewey, a platform that simplifies access to high-quality data for academic research. He founded Dewey in 2022 to address the costly and complex barriers researchers face in acquiring data, building a model that connects data providers with the academic community through streamlined licensing and delivery.

Elliott Kellner

President, Taylor Geospatial

Elliott Kellner is the President of Taylor Geospatial, a nonprofit organization advancing GeoAI for global public benefit. Under his leadership, Taylor Geospatial catalyzes the development and commercialization of novel geospatial AI research—transforming advanced science into digital public goods that empower innovators and communities. He holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Missouri and an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jeffrey Cohen

Kinnard Scholar & Professor, University of Connecticut

Jeffrey Cohen is the Kinnard Scholar in Real Estate and Professor of Finance at the University of Connecticut. His research focuses on housing, transportation, and urban economics, with extensive work on how infrastructure, environmental factors, and policy shape real estate markets and community outcomes.

Conference Agenda

8:30 – 8:45 AM | Registration & Mingle   *Location: Lobby*

8:45 – 8:55 AM | Invocation
David Suwalsky, S.J.

9:00 – 9:10 AM | Welcome Address
President Edward J. Feser

(Transition to DS 171 / CK 340)

9:15 – 10:35 AM | SESSION 1: EARNINGS NEWS

- **Paper:** *Biodiversity and Earnings News: When Nature Meets Numbers*
  Presenter: Amir Akbari (McMaster) | **Discussant:** Leo Pugachev (UMSL)

- **Paper:** *Do Earnings Have Information Content in the Era of Alternative Data?*
  Presenter: Jing Pan (Penn State) | **Discussant:** Feng Chi (UIUC)

10:35 – 10:50 AM | Morning Break

10:50 – 12:10 PM | SESSION 2: ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

- **Paper:** *Skill Similarity and the Geography of Unemployment*
  Presenter: Raja Kali (U Arkansas) | **Discussant:** Maximiliano Dvorkin (STL Fed)

- **Paper:** *Investment Dynamics and Market Power In the U.S. Oil and Gas Industry*
  Presenter: Changyong Song (UT Austin) | **Discussant:** Michael Wittry (Ohio State)

12:10 – 1:30 PM | LUNCH & KEYNOTE PANEL

Moderated Panel Discussion featuring:
Bill Caniano (NGA), **Evan Barry** (Dewey), **Elliott Kellner** (TG), and **Jeff Cohen** (UConn).

1:30 – 2:50 PM | SESSION 3: POLITICAL ECONOMY

- **Paper:** *Corporate Shadow Lobbying*
  Presenter: Eashwar Nagaraj (UFL) | **Discussant:** Steve Irlbeck (UNH)

- **Paper:** *Do Voters Inform Managers' Capital Allocation Decisions?*
  Presenter: Vishal Baloria (UConn) | **Discussant:** Sijing Wei (Creighton)

2:50 – 3:05 PM | Afternoon Break

3:05 – 4:25 PM | SESSION 4: PUBLIC HEALTH & RECOVERY

- **Paper:** *Housing Market and Neighborhood Spillovers from a St. Louis Tornado*
  Presenters: Jeff Cohen & Michelle Wickman | **Discussant:** Qiping Huang (Georgia Southern)

- **Paper:** *A Causal Analysis of Mobility-Based Recovery in Missouri*
  Presenter: Kenan Li (SLU) | **Discussant:** Mike Podgursky (SCAER)

4:25 PM | Closing Remarks

6:00 PM | Cocktail Reception & Gala Reception Dinner

Saint Louis University | Chaifetz School of Business & Sinquefield Center for Applied Economic Research
3674 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108 | scaer@slu.edu

4