
ECONOMIC POLICY

Instructions to Panel Members

The Economic Policy (EP) Panel consists of approximately 20 eminent economists representing a wide range of specialisations; each member serves a two-year term with half of the Panel renewed each year.

1. Accepting Panel membership implies a commitment to attend 2 meetings each year – one in April and one in October.
2. The purpose of the Panel is two-fold. First, edited versions of Panellists' comments are published with the article with the aim of helping non-specialist readers assess the paper. Second, the Panel is an integral part of the editorial process. EP's goal is to publish high-quality, accessibly written, policy-related articles in a timely fashion. All the papers presented at each Panel should, in principle, be published within 6 months, but some authors are given an extra 6 months to revise their paper and, of course, some papers are dropped altogether. The Panel's comments (public and private) play a crucial role helping the Managing Editors reconciling the journal's sometimes conflicting goals. Each member is strongly encouraged to talk (or write) to authors during or after the meeting. The Editors will also privately seek Panel members' recommendations.
3. The Panel is meant to cover a broad spectrum of specialisations but since EP aims at a broad audience – one that includes non-specialists – an important function of the Panel is to ensure that papers are accessible to and interesting for non-specialists. If an EP paper on exchange rate regimes is not understandable to an eminent game theorist, then it will certainly be unreadable for many policy makers. Thus comments on accessibility, general interest and policy relevance are welcome. In a similar reason, Panellist may be asked to referee articles that are not precisely in their field of specialisation.
4. Panel members are asked to referee 3 or 4 papers during their 2-year term.
5. When acting as a referee, the Panel member receives the first draft in June (for the October Panel meeting) or December (for the April Panel meeting). The task of EP referees is to provide guidance for the author in preparing a second draft for presentation to the next Panel meeting (detailed instructions for referees can be found at http://www.economic-policy.org/pdfs/Refereeing_Papers.pdf). **Because the second draft must be completed three weeks before the meeting, it is essential that referees react rapidly, providing at least a short report within one or two weeks at most.**
6. The referee(s) and, depending on the scope of the paper, another Panel member, will act as formal discussant(s) at the Panel meeting. This will involve a 15-minute intervention. These comments, appropriately edited, will be published with the paper. **Discussants should – within three weeks following the meeting – send their written comments to the appropriate Managing Editor.** These written comments should be directed to the readers and spell out the Panel Member's views on the issues raised by the paper.

Panel members should receive the set of papers about two weeks before the meeting by email, **or if you specifically request it, by airmail**. Panel Members are expected to read them carefully and to come prepared to make comments during the discussion period. A summary of the Panel discussion is published along with the papers.