PROMISES & PITFALLS
As Consumer Finance Options Multiply, Who Is Being Served and at What Cost?

APRIL 7-8, 2005 • THE CAPITAL HILTON • WASHINGTON, D.C.
The Federal Reserve System’s Fourth Community Affairs Research Conference
“Sound analysis and open discussion in meetings like these are essential to furthering our understanding of financial markets and how they serve the diverse financial needs of our populace.”

Alan Greenspan
Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
The Community Affairs officers of the Federal Reserve System invite you to attend a conference presenting current research on trends and innovations in consumer financial markets, with particular emphasis on low- and moderate-income consumers and on underserved populations.

This fourth biennial research conference brings together a diverse audience from academia, financial institutions, community organizations, foundations and government to learn about current research on consumer finance. Consumer financial markets channel trillions of dollars of credit to households of varying income levels through a wide range of intermediaries operating in many markets. How efficiently do these markets operate, and how well are consumers’ needs being met?

Papers selected for presentation examine:

- behavioral economics and consumer financial decision-making;
- financial literacy;
- immigrant populations;
- subprime and predatory lending;
- consumer debt burdens, loan foreclosures, loss mitigations and bankruptcies; and
- trends and innovations in consumer finance.

Promises & Pitfalls provides a unique opportunity to hear and discuss original studies about new products, new players and new threats to access to credit and capital for low- and moderate-income consumers. Emerging markets will also be discussed. This conference will be of interest to:

- financial institutions’ executives, lenders, compliance and community development officers;
- leaders and staff of community and economic development organizations;
- policy-makers in community and economic development; and
- scholars of economics, finance and banking, and urban studies.
AGENDA

DAY 1 Thursday April 7, 2005

7:30 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.  Opening Remarks
9:00 a.m.  Alternative Financial Services, Session 1
10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Alternative Financial Services, Session 2
Noon Luncheon Speaker
    Eldar Shafir
    Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs,
    Princeton University
1:45 p.m.  Consumer Behavior, Session 1
3:30 p.m.  Break
3:45 p.m.  Consumer Behavior, Session 2
5:30 p.m.  Reception

DAY 2 Friday April 8, 2005

7:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.  Opening Remarks
8:15 a.m.  New Markets, New Products,
           New Tools, Session 1
10:00 a.m. Break
10:15 a.m. New Markets, New Products, New Tools, Session 2
11:45 a.m. Call to Action
12:15 p.m. Break
12:30 p.m. Luncheon Speaker
    Alan Greenspan
    Chairman, Board of Governors
    of the Federal Reserve System
2:00 p.m.  Adjourn
PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Alternative Financial Services

Are nondepository financial service providers household friends or foes? Do they provide badly needed services in underserved markets, or do they prey on the uninformed? In particular, what effects do subprime lenders have on individuals and neighborhoods?

Credit, Capital and Communities: Industry Structure Perpetuates Dual Market

Payday Lending: Do the Costs Justify the Price?

DISCUSSANTS

Sheila Bair, University of Massachusetts, and George McCarthy, Ford Foundation

BRAK

Mortgage Brokers and the Subprime Market

Neighborhood Patterns of Subprime Lending

Subprime Lending, Foreclosures and Neighborhood Impacts

DISCUSSANTS

Patricia McCoy, University of Connecticut; Raphael Bostic, University of Southern California; and J. Michael Collins, PolicyLab Consulting Group

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Eldar Shafir, Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Princeton University

Professor Shafir’s work focuses on descriptive analyses of inference, judgment and decision-making, and on issues related to behavioral economics. His research focuses primarily on how people make judgments and decisions in situations of conflict and uncertainty. What strategies do people employ in arriving at their decisions? Do these strategies lead to systematic biases and predictable errors? And what do they tell us about the way the mind processes the relevant information?
Consumer Behavior

In what ways are consumers affected by aspects of their environment that they cannot control, such as tax policies and unemployment? Can consumers also engage in strategic behaviors and be strategically influenced by the actions of lenders?

A Financial Services Survey of Low-Income Households

Christopher Berry, University of Chicago, and Shelly Herman and Darice Wright, MetroEdge/ShoreBank

Household Response to the Earned Income Tax Credit: Path of Sustenance or Road to Asset-Building

Sherrie L.W. Rhine and Sabrina Su, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and Steven Y. Lee, Community Food Resource Center

Borrowing during Unemployment: Unsecured Debt As a Safety Net

James X. Sullivan, University of Notre Dame

Measuring Negative Effects of Personal Bankruptcy Filing: Reduced Credit Option and Lost Option Value

Cheryl Long, Colgate University

DISCUSSANTS

Michael Barr, University of Michigan; John Caskey, Swarthmore College; and Wenli Li, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

BREAK

A Re-Examination of the Role of Relationships in the Loan-Granting Process

Sugato Chakravarty and Tansel Yilmazer, Purdue University

Observing Unobservables: Identifying Information Asymmetries with a Consumer-Credit Field Experiment

Jonathan Zinman, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Dean Karlan, Princeton University

DISCUSSANT

Ed Nosal, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
New Markets, New Products, New Tools

What is on the horizon in consumer finance? Have we learned better methods of educating low-income households? Do recent immigrants bring special challenges, but also present new opportunities? How are financial service providers adapting?

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<td>FRIDAY, APRIL 8</td>
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- **Consumer Literacy and Creditworthiness**
  - Marsha Courchane, Welch Consulting, and Peter Zorn, Freddie Mac

- **Cost-Effectiveness of Credit-Card Early Intervention Education and Counseling Programs**
  - Richard M. Todd, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Kevin Rhein, Wells Fargo; and Kimberly Gartner, consultant

- **Credit Counseling and Mortgage Termination by Low-Income Households**
  - Valentina Hartarska, Auburn University, and Claudio Gonzalez-Vega, The Ohio State University

- **Moving From Unbanked to Banked: Evidence from the Money Smart Program**
  - Angela C. Lyons, University of Illinois

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<tr>
<td>Michael Staten, Georgetown University, and Steven Brobeck, Consumer Federation of America</td>
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- **BREAK**

- **Financial Assimilation of Immigrants in the U.S.**
  - Anna Paulson, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

- **Banking on Remittances: Increasing Market Efficiencies for Consumers and Financial Institutions**
  - Jeanne Hogarth, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

- **Stored-Value Cards: Challenges and Opportunities for Reaching Emerging Markets**
  - Katy Jacob, ShoreBank Advisory Services

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- **CALL TO ACTION—Credit, Capital and Communities: New Roles Present Community-Based Organizations with New Opportunities**
  - William Apgar, Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University

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<td>Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System</td>
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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Date: April 7-8, 2005

Location: Capital Hilton Hotel • 1001 16th St. N.W. (corner of 16th and K streets)
Washington, D.C.   20036

Cost: $375 for individual registration received by March 11
$425 for individual registration received after March 11

Cancellations: Refunds, less a $100 processing fee, will be made if cancellation notice is received by March 24. No refunds will be made after that date.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at the Capital Hilton Hotel. You must register by March 13 to get the special rate of $209 per night for single occupancy or $229 for double occupancy (plus tax). We encourage you to reserve a room quickly. The availability of hotel rooms in Washington is limited, and accommodations may not be available after the block of rooms is filled.

To reserve a room: Please contact the hotel at:
Hilton National Hotel Reservations
Phone: 1-800-445-8667

To receive the special rate, mention that you will be attending the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve conference.

Parking: Valet parking by the hotel is available. The rate is $26 per day for overnight guests. This includes in and out privileges.
REGISTRATION FORM FOR PROMISES & PITFALLS CONFERENCE

You can register three ways:
1. **Online** at www.federalreserve.gov/communityaffairs/national
2. **Fax** the form to (202) 736-1900
3. **Mail** your check and registration form to:
   
   Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
   Division of Consumer and Community Affairs  
   Mail Stop 803, 20th & C streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.  20551  
   Attn:  Capria Mitchell-Scott

Name (and name for badge if different)...........................................................................................................

Title........................................................................................................................................................................

Organization..............................................................................................................................................................

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E-mail address..............................................................................................................................................................

Please indicate the conference fee you will be paying:

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You may pay by check or credit card:

Enclosed is a check for $............ payable to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Charge to  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Discover

Card number............................................................................................................. Expiration date.............................................

Authorized signature.................................................................................................................................