

# TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Date: Monday, October 14, 2013

Time:

Location:



### Are Sunk Costs Really Irrelevant? Evidence from Playing Time in the National Basketball Association

Michael A. Leeds, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

**Biography:** Michael Leeds earned a B.A. in Economics from Haverford College in 1977. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University in 1983, having completed a dissertation on the underfunding of municipal pensions under the direction of Harvey Rosen, Edwin Mills, and James Brown. He has been at Temple University since 1982. He has also been a visiting professor at Haverford College (1989-90) and the University of Michigan (2006-07). From 2007-09, he served as Assistant Dean at Temple University Japan in Tokyo. Michael has published widely in the areas of labor economics, applied microeconomics, and – most recently – the economics of sports. He is co-author of the leading textbook in the field of sports economics. Michael is currently the Director of Graduate Studies in Economics and President-elect of the North American Association of Sports Economists.

Much of Dr. Leeds' current research uses sports economics to illustrate broader economic and social forces. One paper uses playing time in the National Basketball Association to test the relevance of sunk costs in decision-making. A series of papers analyze differences in preferences and behavior of men and women in the context of athletic competition. He has drawn upon his experiences in Japan to write several papers that contrast the business model of Japanese baseball with that of Major League Baseball in North America.

**Abstract:** Neoclassical economists have long regarded sunk costs as irrelevant to current decision making. Recently, however, behavioral economists have challenged this view, claiming that sunk costs generate a feeling of commitment that affects later choices. The National Basketball Association provides a natural experiment for testing for the existence of commitment effects, as players drafted in the first round receive significantly higher compensation than players taken in the second round. In a neoclassical framework, the higher cost should not affect how much playing time a player receives, but behavioral economists would predict that it has a large impact on playing time. We analyze the impact of sunk costs on playing time using a Regression Discontinuity approach. Our results show that sunk costs do not affect playing time decisions, thus supporting the neoclassical approach.

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## Computer and Information Science, College of Science and Technology

Date: Monday, October 14, 2013

Time:

Location:



**TITLE** “From High Performance Computing to Robot Mapping: CIS Graduate Programs at Temple University”

Justin Shi, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor and Graduate Studies Director*

**Biography:** Justin Y. Shi is an Associate Professor, Associate Chairman, and Graduate Chair of Temple University’s Department of Computer and Information Sciences. He earned his B.S. in Computer Engineering from Shanghai Jiaotong University in 1979 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983 and 1984, respectively. He was elected and appointed Chairman for Department of Computer and Information Sciences from 2007-2009. Dr. Shi is also the founder and Chairman of Parallel Computers Technology, Inc., an independent research and development company in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. He has consulted for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Human Services of Philadelphia. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Microsoft, Amazon.com, and other private companies.

**Abstract:** The Graduate Programs of CIS Department of Temple University offer unique opportunities to students who desire to learn and contribute to multiple aspects of the computing profession. From high performance computing to robot mapping, the CIS graduate programs represent the cutting edge research in social networks, information security and assurance, bioinformatics, computer vision, robotics, mobile and cloud computing. This presentation offers a glimpse of the program structures as well as research and development opportunities.

# TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, October 14, 2013

Time:

Location:



**TOPIC:** "Lead optimization approaches in the discovery of novel ligands for muscarinic acetylcholine receptor subtypes"

**Daniel J. Canney, Ph.D**

*Chair, Graduate Studies Director, Associate Professor*

**Biography:** Daniel J. Canney earned a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry at Temple University in 1986 and then accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Biology at Washington University School of Medicine. He later joined the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Radiology (Dr. Hank Kung's Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry Section) as assistant professor working on organ and receptor-specific SPECT imaging agents. Dr. Canney joined the faculty of School of Pharmacy in 1993. He serves as Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and is a member of the Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research (MCDDR). Dr. Canney's research interests include structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies involving molecules that modulate pharmacologically important protein targets. The development of efficient and versatile synthetic routes to useful building blocks/intermediates is another interest of the group. Examples of such routes include a modified Prins reaction for the facile synthesis of structurally diverse substituted lactones, a microwave assisted synthesis of sterically hindered N-aryl piperazines, and novel routes to benzophenones.

**Abstract:** Structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies are critical to understanding the pharmacophoric requirements for ligand/drug interactions with target receptors. Our lab is interested in the development of novel ligands for pharmacologically important receptor targets. Currently we are focused on the development of structurally diverse lactone-based ligands for muscarinic receptors. These receptors have been targeted in drug discovery efforts for the treatment of disorders including Alzheimer's disease, cognitive impairment, drug addiction, pain, schizophrenia, Parkinson's Disease, and overactive bladder. Several versatile and practical synthetic routes to substituted lactones and N-aryl-piperazines have been developed en route to the target compounds. Routes used to prepare the target heterocyclic compounds will be discussed along with the structure-activity relationships (SAR) for the series as it relates to muscarinic receptors and other G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs).