**Speaker Information:** Emily Oster, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Chicago Booth School.

**Bio:** Emily Oster earned her BA in Economics from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University before joining the University of Chicago.

Prior to joining Chicago Booth in 2009, Emily Oster was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago and was also a Becker Fellow for the Initiative on Chicago Price Theory at the University of Chicago. Additionally, she currently serves as a Faculty Research Fellow for the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Oster studies health and development economics. She has worked on issues of gender inequality in the developing world, including the impacts of television on women’s status (“The Power of TV: Cable Television and Women's Status in India”) and on HIV in Africa (“HIV and Sexual Behavior Change: Why not Africa?”). Her current work focuses on demand for, and response to, information about medical conditions. Her most recent paper in this area, “Optimal Expectations and Limited Medical Testing: Evidence from Huntington Disease”, explores why individuals at risk for this disease often avoid informative genetic testing.

**Title:** “Health and Human Capital Investment: What Does the Evidence Say about Magnitudes?”

**Brief Description:** One of the central tenets of human capital theory is that length of life should impact human capital investment. An increasing body of empirical evidence supports this result qualitatively: individuals with a limited lifespan tend to invest less in education and other human capital avenues. This evidence comes from many sources – maternal mortality in Sri Lanka, HIV in Africa, Huntington Disease – and less attention has been paid to what the qualitative relationships imply about magnitudes.

The magnitude of life expectancy impact on human capital is crucial to understanding its role in driving the relationship between health, development and economic growth. This talk and paper will analyze the implied magnitude of this relationship across a variety of results, and evaluate what this implies for changes in human capital investment as longevity increases – or decreases – over time.