

**Gothic Research Forum**  
**Wednesday November 28, 2018**  
**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**  
**NJCU School of Business # Room 232**



**Guest Speaker:**

**Nava Cohen** (Assistant Professor of Accounting, School of Business New Jersey City University)

**Andrew Bossie** (Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Business, New Jersey City University)

**Topic: How do firms respond to a shift from mandatory to voluntary disclosure? Evidence from corporate charitable donations disclosures in the UK**

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes firms' commitment to CSR-related disclosure using a unique regulatory shift from mandatory to voluntary disclosure in the UK, which leaves out the requirement for firms to disclose their corporate charitable donations on their annual reports. I examine firms' responses along a number of different dimensions including disclosure levels, corporate charitable spending and agency conflicts. My analysis use hand-collected data from firms' disclosures of corporate charitable activities on their annual reports. I find that, following the mandatory-to-voluntary disclosure shift, firms disclose less information on their corporate charitable donations, decrease their charitable donations, and have greater agency conflicts.

**Bio:** Nava Cohen is an assistant professor of accounting at NJCU School of Business. She holds a Ph.D. in financial accounting from ESSEC Business School and a MSc in Finance from Université Paris Dauphine. During her Ph.D., Nava spent four months as a visiting scholar at the University of Iowa. Her research lies in the areas of corporate social responsibility and financial reporting and has been presented in international conferences, such as the American Accounting Association (AAA) Midyear and Annual Meetings and the European Accounting Association Annual Congresses.



**Topic: The WWII Banking Curse**

**Abstract:** It is generally assumed that the buildup of liquid assets in the U.S. during WWII played a large role in generating postwar economic activity. Contrary to this assumption, I establish that wartime contract spending slowed down the growth of bank balance sheets at the state level during the period 1940-1955. State level bank balance sheets are 10.8 cents smaller per \$1 of total military spending by 1949 and 5.8 cents smaller by 1955. This is driven by slower growth of deposits. The adjustment on the asset side is largely through reserves and Treasury holdings. Local lending also grows more slowly after the war, but this decrease is relatively small and temporary. This suggests that the local real economy was largely insulated from the slower growth in deposits by the wartime buildup of paper assets. Historical evidence points to the fact that slower growth of deposits is likely driven by a relative decline in demand for deposits by large corporations in war industries.

**Bio:** Andrew Bossie is an Assistant Professor of Economics at NJCU School of Business. He received his PhD from the City University of New York. His research focuses on the effect of WWII on various parts of the U.S. economy.



*Coffee and light refreshments will be provided*

**Business and Economics Research Committee**

**The New Jersey City University**

