

# JPE Correspondence -- Endgame

From: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>  
Subject: Endgame  
Date: August 6, 2020 at 9:09:17 PM PDT  
To: "James J. Heckman" <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu

Jim, Harald, and Monika,

Harald's tweet last week (see below) reminded me that we have one more piece of business to settle.

I will soon be discussing my experiences regarding the paper that appeared last December in JPE. When I present that paper, people are puzzled about the absence of my name in the list of official authors. I will also want to use that paper to support any future grant proposals. Therefore, I want to clear up any confusion as to my contributions to that publication.

My preference is to post all the referee reports, both the ones Monika and Jim solicited, as well as all editorial correspondence with the three of you. That includes my correspondence with Jim and Harald regarding their threat to retaliate if I criticized Monika's dismissal of sensitivity analysis in the first version.

I am writing you to get your express permission to do that. Under US law, I am permitted to characterize such correspondence and to make short quotes. I think we can all agree that this would be unsatisfying, producing many questions that would annoy all of us.

I will also be posting my letter last November to UC regarding those threats, DD's "response", and my recent message to the Advisory Board of JPE.

Every authority I have contacted about this matter has expressed no disapproval of JPE's retaliation threats. The UC Provost explicitly declared that last winter, and all the editors of JPE and the editors at UC Press implicitly did so by their silence. I once told a high level Stanford official about this matter, naming names, in hopes of getting some help from my employer. Stanford had no interest in this (Senior Fellows have zero status) and told me to complain to the AEA. Stanford's lack of interest indicates that Monika is off the hook. I told AEA Presidents Roth, Yellen, Bernanke, and Card about the retaliatory threats (without naming names) and they either told me that they did not care or just ignored my messages. In fact, the general attitude among people I told was that this was just normal practice by journal editors.

The nearly universal approval of your retaliatory threats is what lead me to take my name off the paper.

This battle has been going on for almost eight years. It is time to tie up loose ends, allow me to use the paper to advance my career, and move on.

Sincerely,

Ken



From: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>  
Subject: Re: Endgame  
Date: August 7, 2020 at 10:05:16 AM PDT  
To: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>, “James J. Heckman” <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Ken:

Thank you for your e-mail. Allow me to also cc Rob Shimer, the chair of the JPE advisory board, as some of the issues either also concern the JPE advisory board or raise concerns regarding my performance as lead editor: those matters are best taken up with him, then.

I am not quite sure about “proper procedure” here, but making a guess, I do not see anything that would prevent authors from posting decision letters or reports received.

As for the e-mails, allow me to cross-check here first, before deciding on the approval you seek. I certainly sympathize that full information on such matters is a good idea and with the idea of posting it all, but again, I feel I should cross-check first. I hope this won’t take too much time,  
I hope all is well,  
Harald

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Harald Uhlig  
Bruce Allen and Barbara Ritzenthaler Professor of Economics  
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From: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>  
Subject: Re: Endgame  
Date: August 7, 2020 at 12:10:25 PM PDT  
To: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>  
Cc: "James J. Heckman" <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Harald,

Thank you for your quick and serious response. Including Rob at this time is a wise step.

Whatever I post will focus on the main issues. I attach a document which was sent around last November and is the version of those emails I want to post. I already have deleted some irrelevant material, particularly references to a third person who had nothing to do with this matter.

Last November, you took issue with my including your Oct. 31, 2015 email. No one, not even me, could disagree with the substance of your message. I included it only to show that you were aware of this matter, leaving it to UC to decide on any substantive issue regarding responsibility. I am quite willing to make this clear, as we discussed last November.

I very much appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

Ken

From: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>  
Subject: Re: Endgame  
Date: August 7, 2020 at 3:09:53 PM PDT  
To: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>  
Cc: James Heckman <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, “piazzesi@stanford.edu” <piazzesi@stanford.edu>, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Ken,  
thanks! Much appreciated. Still looking into it: allow for a few days, with apologies.  
Sincerely,  
Harald

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From: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>

Subject: Re: Endgame

Date: August 11, 2020 at 1:32:20 PM PDT

To: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>, "James J. Heckman" <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Dear Ken:

after having checked with a few folks here, allow me to get back to your e-mail. First, from my side and as well as (I believe) from Jim's side, there is nothing to hide: you are free to post our e-mails etc.: I hope you will properly date them and anything else, so that the order is clear (Jim: feel free to add).

As for the reports themselves: that may be a bit trickier. The JPE office raises some concerns as to how referees might feel if these reports are posted publicly (see the attached letter). I admit that the office has a point here. Even if these particular referees agree (I have not checked), it may create difficulties for the JPE in the future to recruit suitable referees and have them write openly. I hope you will be sympathetic to these considerations and find a way to take them into account.

Please keep me posted on all this, if possible.

I hope all is well, and you and your family are healthy in these difficult times,  
all the best,  
Harald

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Harald Uhlig

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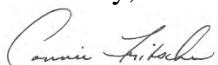
August 11, 2020

Dear Professor Judd,

I am writing to express concerns about your proposal to post the referee reports you received from the *JPE* on “The Social Cost of Carbon with Economic and Climate Risks.” Referee comments to peer reviewed journals are provided under an unspoken contract that they will be used to help editors make an informed decision and to help authors develop a paper. Distributing them widely and outside the confines of the normal peer review process might be perceived as unfair by some referees who have not been consulted about such distribution or asked for their consent. For the *JPE*, it is important to maintain the trust that reviewers put in the journal and the authors for whom they provide an indispensable service. I very much hope that you can help us here.

I appreciate that you wish to post the reports since—alongside the editor correspondence—they give a fuller and clearer picture of how the review process developed. As a representative of the *JPE* journal office, however, and for the reasons described above, I have an obligation to discourage you from distributing the reviews in a way that was not intended. This is not meant to dissuade you from posting your account of the process on this paper or from sharing your concerns with the larger community of economics scholars, but it is our responsibility to make this case for prudence on behalf of the referees who perform a vital task for the journal and the field.

Sincerely,



Connie Fritsche  
Managing Editor



From: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>  
Subject: Re: Endgame  
Date: August 11, 2020 at 8:41:58 PM PDT  
To: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>  
Cc: "James J. Heckman" <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Harald,

I must first thank you, Jim, and Monika for allowing an open discussion of these matters. I agree that the dates and order of emails is important, and that will be easy because I have the originals.

I understand the concerns of the managing editor, and her concerns about JPE's relationship with referees. In fact, if I were the JPE managing editor I would have expressed the same concern.

As Ms. Fritsche noted, my purpose is to give a clear picture of the review process. I have no desire to damage the relationship JPE has with its referees. Therefore, I will describe and paraphrase the ideas and concepts behind referee comments only when they help clarify an editor's comments. I will not use direct quotes since they may inadvertently reveal a referee's identity.

Again, I want to express my gratitude for how you, Jim, and Monika have handled this request.

Sincerely,

Ken

From: Harald Uhlig <huhlig@uchicago.edu>  
Subject: Re: Endgame  
Date: August 12, 2020 at 10:25:20 AM PDT  
To: Kenneth Judd <kennethjudd@mac.com>  
Cc: "James J. Heckman" <jheckman@uchicago.edu>, piazzesi@stanford.edu, Robert Shimer <shimer@uchicago.edu>

Dear Ken,  
thank you! That is very much appreciated. Thank you for your kind words.  
I wish all the best,

sincerely,  
Harald

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Harald Uhlig  
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