

Wharton's Pension Research Council Celebrates its 65th Anniversary



[The Pension Research Council](#) is delighted to celebrate its 65th year of active research and debate on key policy issues affecting pensions, social security, and other benefit plans. Olivia S. Mitchell, the Council's Executive Director, is the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Professor of Insurance/Risk Management and Business Economics/Public Policy at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The PRC is known globally for its interdisciplinary research on private pension and social security programs as well as related benefit plans in the United States and abroad. Dr. Mitchell has directed the Council since 1993.



Left: Gerri Walsh presents at the 2017 PRC Symposium. Below: John Piggott, Monika Bütler, Jack VanDerhei, and Cynthia Mallett participated in the 2017 Symposium.



The PRC was established in 1954 by Professor Dan McGill to sponsor nonpartisan research on company-sponsored pensions. Dr. McGill, a Wharton Professor of Insurance, served as the Council's first director. Dr. Canby Balderston, Dean of the Wharton School at the time, noted that the Council was formed to study the pension movement, saying:

There has been a tremendous growth in the number and coverage of private pension plans, but there is a deplorable lack of factual information concerning the economic, political and social implications of the movement... [PRC] research will be concentrated in areas not the subject of special investigation by other research organizations.



Top (L to R): Michael Orzag and Peter Shena spoke at the 2018 Symposium. 2nd row: (L to R) PRC Advisory Board members Mark Iwry, Olivia S. Mitchell, Brett Hammond, and Peter Fisher discussed pension developments at the 2018 PRC Fall Dinner. 3rd row (L to R): Olivia S. Mitchell, Eldar Shafir, Paolo Sironi, and Melissa Kahn participated in recent PRC Symposiums. Below: PRC advisory board, members, and staff at the 2018 Fall Dinner.



About The Wharton School:

Founded in 1881 as the first collegiate business school, [The Wharton School](#) of the University of Pennsylvania is recognized globally for intellectual leadership and ongoing innovation across every major discipline of business education. With a broad global community and one of the most published business school faculties, Wharton creates economic and social value around the world. The School has 5,000 undergraduate, MBA, executive MBA, and doctoral students; more than 13,000 participants in executive education programs annually and a powerful alumni network of 98,000 graduates.



Pension Research Council

Advisory Board Members of the Pension Research Council are leaders in the field and include business executives, attorneys, labor experts, consultants, policymakers, and academics, each appointed by the Dean of the Wharton School. The Council's work is supported by annual contributions from Members, publication revenue, and research grants. Additional support is provided by the Boettner Center for Pensions and Retirement Research, and the Ralph H. Blanchard Memorial Endowment established by the Mutual of America Life Insurance Company.



Top: (L to R) PRC conference participants Jason Fichtner, Cynthia Pagliaro, Gary Mottola, Olivia S. Mitchell, Steven Bass, Sarah Holden, and Anna Madamba. 2nd row (L to R): Sarah Holden, John Sabelhaus, and Robert Clark participating at recent PRC events. Below 1st row (L to R): Jeannine Markoe Raymond, Gary Anderson, and Anna Rappaport at PRC events. 2nd row: Raimond Maurer and Olivia S. Mitchell with research collaborators at Goethe University, Frankfurt.



Top (L to R): David Blitzstein, Peter Conti-Brown, and Richard Shea. Below (L to R): Anne Lester and Surya Kolluri pose questions at recent PRC conferences.

In our 65 years at Wharton, the Council has conducted hundreds of research projects, organized dozens of seminars, taught generations of students, and published widely under the leadership of Wharton faculty including Professors McGill, Jerry Rosenbloom, Jack VanDerhei, and Olivia S. Mitchell. In addition, the PRC takes pride in helping top scholars from the U.S. and elsewhere identify retirement security opportunities. PRC researchers frequently testify for the US Congress and policymakers abroad.



Discussion on retirement fintech startups at the 2018 Symposium included perspectives from (L to R) Olivia S. Mitchell, Elizabeth Kelly, Debra Whitman, Julie Agnew, Rhian Horgan, and Kelli Keough.

The Pension Research Council looks forward to a productive future after an exciting and influential first six and a half decades. For more information, and to view our studies, please visit: www.pensionresearchcouncil.org.

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