The American Enterprise Institute, Bank of Israel, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Tel Aviv University, and UCLA are jointly organizing a series of three conferences on housing affordability. The conferences are intended to bring forward new academic research and policy proposals that address the affordability challenge. The first of these conferences was held at UCLA on September 17-18, 2015. The next conference will be hosted by the Alrov Institute for Real Estate Research at Tel Aviv University on July 11–12, 2016. The culminating conference will engage a broad academic and policy audience and will be held at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in Washington, D.C., in March of 2017. It is anticipated that salient research from the UCLA and Tel Aviv conferences will be included in the Washington, D.C., program. The program committee is interested in new research on the measurement and analysis of housing affordability and on policy approaches to address affordability issues. Relevant topics could include land, house price, and rent dynamics; mortgage instrument design and performance; the structure and depth of housing finance and related securitization markets; land use regulation and entitlements; urban labor markets and human capital; demographic factors; household and firm location choice; and policy at all levels of government. Via the conferences, the organizers seek to convene an international working group on issues of housing affordability, and hence it is desirable that conference participants attend more than one meeting.

Those interested in presenting research at the Tel Aviv University conference should send a PDF of their paper or a detailed abstract with preliminary findings and their policy implications to julie.lindner@anderson.ucla.edu by March 1, 2016. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by May 1, 2016. The conference sponsors will pay travel and lodging expenses for one author of each accepted paper. Electronic copies of the conference papers will be made available on the conference website.

The Journal of Urban Economics is planning a Special Issue devoted to housing affordability and related topics. Conference participants are invited to submit their papers for journal review. For more information on the JUE Special Issue, contact Stuart Gabriel (UCLA) or Stuart Rosenthal (Syracuse).

The Call for Papers for the AEI conference will be circulated shortly after the conclusion of the Tel Aviv University conference.