

Are You Better Off? Changing Risks and Rewards in Modern America**Tuesday, June 3, 2008**

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Julia Lane is a senior vice president of Economics, Labor, and Population Studies at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and a senior research fellow at the Bureau of the Census. Previously, she was an economics program director at the National Science Foundation and director of the Employment Dynamics Program at the Urban Institute. Her Institute research included a study of the impact of economic turbulence on firms and workers. Recipient of the National Science Foundation director's award for program management excellence, Lane is coauthor of *Economic Turbulence: Is a Volatile Economy Good for America?*

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William A. Niskanen has been chairman of the Cato Institute since 1985, following service as a member and acting chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers. Previous positions include director of economics at the Ford Motor Company, professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget, and director of special studies in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Niskanen has written on many public policy issues, including corporate governance, defense, the federal budget, regulation, Social Security, taxes, and trade. His most recent book is *After Enron: The Lessons for Public Policy*.

Craig Torres (moderator) has covered the Federal Reserve for Bloomberg News since 2002. Prior to Bloomberg, he worked as a personal finance content manager for an Internet bank and was a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* for a decade. Torres wrote the "Heard on the Street" column for the *Journal*, went to Mexico in 1993 to cover the financial impact of NAFTA, and reported on the Mexican peso devaluation the following year. From 1998 to 2000, he was based in Buenos Aires and wrote about Southern Cone economies for the *Journal*.