

# Thea Mei Lee

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## Summary

Progressive economist and trade/labor policy expert with extensive managerial and communications skills and experience.

## Experience

**Economic Policy Institute** – Washington, D.C.

President – January 2018 - present

**American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)**

Deputy Chief of Staff – October 2009 to June 2017

Policy Director – September 2005 to October 2009

Chief International Economist, Assistant Director Public Policy – April 1997 to September 2005

**Economic Policy Institute** – Washington, D.C.

International Trade Economist – January 1991 - March 1997

**University of the District of Columbia** – Washington, D.C.

Adjunct Assistant Professor – Fall 1990

**Dollars & Sense Magazine** – Somerville, Mass.

Staff Editor – July 1988 to April 1990

**Joint Center for Urban Studies of Harvard and MIT** – Cambridge, Mass.

Researcher in Housing Futures Program – summer 1982 and summer 1983

**Brookings Institution** – Washington, D.C.

Research Assistant – July 1980 to July 1981

## Education

**University of Michigan** – Ann Arbor, Mich.

M.A./ABD in Economics, 1984

Major Fields: International Economics and Industrial Organization

Minor Fields: Political Economy and Economic History

**Smith College** – Northampton, Mass.

B.A. in Economics, *cum laude*, 1980

Sidney S. Cohen prize for outstanding work in economics

## Selected Publications

"Can Trade Motor U.S. Economy?" Council on Foreign Relations Expert Forum, November 4, 2011.

"The Skinny on CAFTA," *Wall Street Journal* op-ed. March 31, 2005.  
*Field Guide to the Global Economy*, co-authored with Sarah Anderson and John Cavanagh. New Press, 2000; revised edition, 2005.  
"Trade Policy and Development: Spurring Good Growth," *Current History*, Nov.1996.  
*False Prophets: The Selling of NAFTA*, EPI Briefing Paper, July 1995.  
*Employment Multipliers in the U.S. Economy*, EPI Working Paper #107, March 1993, co-authored with Dean Baker.  
*Trade Protection and Industrial Revitalization: American Steel in the 1980s*, EPI Working Paper #104, February 1993, co-authored with Robert A. Blecker and Robert E. Scott.  
*Reconsidering the Benefits and Costs of Trade Protection: The Case of Textiles and Apparel*, EPI Working Paper #105, April 1991.  
"Contradictions in the Teaching of Neoclassical Theory," *Review of Radical Political Economy*, Vol. 20, Nos. 2 & 3, Summer/Fall 1988.

## **Selected Media Appearances**

PBS NewsHour (topics include trade, minimum wage, labor); C-SPAN; Fox Business, Fox and Friends, Fox News Sunday; Hardball with Chris Matthews; Full Frontal with Samantha Bee; UP with Chris Hayes; Commanding Heights; Great Decisions 2016, PBS NPR Justice Talking

## **Selected Speaking Engagements**

Intelligence Squared Debate, Aspen Ideas Festival; Council on Foreign Relations; Camden Conference; National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Campaign for America's Future; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; FreedomFest; Washington International Trade Association; Harvard University; University of Michigan; Boston University; Yale University; Washington University; Bucknell University; Davidson College

## **Appointments**

U.S.-China Economic Security and Review Commission (appointed by Senator Charles Schumer):2018- present; Democratic Party Platform Drafting Committee: 2008 and 2012; Congressional Advisory Committee on International Exchange Rate Policy (Dec. 2016)

## **Committee service**

Boards of Directors: Center for International Policy, Coalition on Human Needs, Congressional Progressive Caucus Center/co-chair of the Policy and Research Council.

Advisory boards: Capital & Main, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Progressive Talent Pipeline, Roosevelt Project External Advisory Board

Previous: National Bureau of Economic Research Board of Directors and Executive

Committee; State Department Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy/Co-Chair Subcommittee on Investment; Export-Import Bank Advisory Committee; Labor Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations (liaison); National Academy of Sciences Committee on Monitoring International Labor Standards; World Bank Committee to Review Doing Business Labor Indices.