"Mortality Change in the US: Distinctive Features and Consequences," presented by Shripad Tuljapurkar of Stanford University for the Morrison Institute Winter Colloquium

Prof. Tuljapurkar will first examine how and why mortality trends differ between the US and Canada and Japan. He will show how these countries have diverged in terms of the uncertainty in age at death, a special measure of inequality. He will then show how the uncertainty of death is affected by mortality change, and exploit that connection to obtain novel insights into how mortality change varies among countries. Then, starting from these results, he will discuss the key demographic and economic (as distinct from political) issues involved in the future of US Social Security and Medicare.

Time permitting, he will then explore the causes of a recent and striking change in the difference between male and female life expectancy. He presents results that suggest that smoking patterns are not the major driver of recent changes in the male-female mortality differentials.

Shripad Tuljapurkar is Professor of Biology and the Dean & Virginia Morrison Professor of Population Studies at Stanford University. His research areas include stochastic dynamics of human and natural populations; life history evolution, especially senescence; prehistoric societies; and probability forecasts including sex ratios, mortality, aging and fiscal balance. Tuljapurkar directs Stanford’s Center for Population Research and the demography program at Stanford’s Center for the Demography and Economics of Health and Aging. He is a member of the Center for the Demography and Economics of Aging at the University of California, Berkeley. He has led a panel on aging for the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and served on the Technical Advisory Panel to the US Social Security Administration. He received the 1996 Mindel Sheps Award from the Population Association of America, and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1998.