Jim Alm

In my comments, I discuss potential tradeoffs in designing policies to improve tax compliance, focusing especially on the frequent use of tax amnesties and also on the increasing emphasis on the enhanced use of third-party information. As currently used, do these tools actually present tradeoffs between efficiency, equity, and revenues – as well as taxpayer rights? Or can these tools be designed to minimize these tradeoffs, thereby enhancing the achievement of most all policy objectives? I discuss recent research that examines the use of these – and other – policies, research that suggests several promising approaches to policy (re-) design.