

## Symposium on Measuring Inequality in the 21st Century

HDRO Offices

304 E 45<sup>th</sup> St, FF-11<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York

**Thursday 28 March and Friday 29 March 2019**

### Context and Vision

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During 2019 the discussion about inequality will be central in the global stage. The theme of the ‘Super’ High Level Political Forum “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” and the “Human Development Report 2019: Tackling Inequalities in the 21st Century” (among other initiatives), open the space to move the frontiers in the field building a forward-looking agenda. This is a precious opportunity to take stock of our collective knowledge about inequality, identifying where the gaps are in its concept and measurement, what are the main innovations in methodology and data collection to overcome those gaps, and what are the actions that should be promoted among UN Member States, policy makers, academics and global data providers/aggregators. This is also urgent in a context of disconnect between public concern about inequality and its destabilizing effects, and the data coming from traditional inequality indicators.

The Human Development Report Office, LIS, the Stone Center, UNU-WIDER, and the World Inequality Lab are joining forces to host a Symposium on Measuring Inequality in the 21st Century. The Symposium will revisit the frontier debate on inequality measurement to generate a basic consensus on the issues and priorities to guide policy makers, inform intergovernmental consultations regarding the state of measures of inequality in the world, and push a collaborative agenda to refine concepts, data and methodological approaches on inequality.

There is need for this conversation. From the point of view of countries --in particular for those with limited resources and statistical capacities--, it is important to find a common narrative among global experts and supra-national institutions to frame their new efforts in data collection and monitoring. This common narrative should be able to push for steady progress, while accommodating innovation in methodologies and concepts, open discussion of alternative options, experimentation, and learning.

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*In partnership with:*



JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE  
**CENTER ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**  
HOME TO THE US OFFICE OF LIS



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
UNU-WIDER**

## Thursday 28 March

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Conference Room 11th Floor, FF building  
304 East 45th Street, New York, NY, 10017

**(8:45 - 9:10) Registration and breakfast**

**(9:10 - 10:10) Opening session**

- Pedro Conceição (HDRO)
- Abdoulaye Mar Dieye (UNDP)
- Daniele Checchi (LIS/University of Milan)
- Lucas Chancel (WIL)

**(10:10 – 11:25) Session 1: Reconciling different data sources I**

*Moderator: Janet Gornick (LIS/SC CUNY)*

- Thomas Blanchet (WIL), “Reconciling surveys and tax data”
- Salvatore Morelli (SC-CUNY), “Reaching the top of the income and wealth ladder reconciling data sources”
- Amory Gethin (WIL), “Mobilizing all inequality data (survey, tax, national accounts) in the context of Europe”

**(11:25 – 11:40) Coffee break**

**(11:40 – 12:55) Session 2: Reconciling different data sources II: Distributional National Accounts**

*Moderator: Milorad Kovacevic (HDRO)*

- Lucas Chancel (WIL), “A General Presentation of DINA”
- Peter Van de Ven (OECD), “Compiling Distributional Measures Consistent with the System of National Accounts: The OECD-approach”
- Michael Smedes/Ivo Havinga (UN-DESA), “Global Standards on Measures of Inequality”

**(12:55 – 14:00) Lunch**

**(14:00 – 14:50) Session 3: Reconciling different data sources III: Measuring Inequalities in middle income groups and countries**

*Moderator: Wenyan Yang (UNDESA)*

- Sanjay Reddy (New School University), “Inequalities in “Middle-Income” Countries: Concepts, Evidence, Challenges”
- Carlos Gradin/Kunal Sen (UNU-WIDER), “Measuring inequality in the developing giants”

**(14:50– 16:05) Session 4: On the effect of gender inequalities on household outcomes**

*Moderator: Astra Bonini (UNDESA)*

- Janet Gornick (LIS/SC CUNY), “The Interplay between Women’s Earnings and the Income Distribution”
- Shahra Razavi (UN WOMEN)
- Stefan Kühn (ILO), “Labour markets, gender and inequality”

**(16:05 – 16:20) Coffee break**

**(16:20– 17:35) Session 5: Regional view: Measuring Inequalities in Latin America**

*Moderator: Heriberto Tapia (HDRO)*

- Mario Cimoli/Nunzia Saporito (ECLAC), “Measuring Inequality in Latin America: ECLAC’s contribution”
- Marc Morgan (WIL), “Revisiting Inequality in Latin America through the Lens of DINA: Lessons from Brazil”
- Roxana Maurizio (UBA), “Informality and inequality in Latin America”

**(19:00) Dinner :** Restaurant Pescatore (955 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue, NY, NY 10022)

**Friday 29 March**

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Conference Room 11th Floor, FF building  
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**(8:45 - 9:10) Breakfast**

**(9:10 - 10:00) Session 6: Reconciling different data sources IV: Measuring inequalities at the bottom**

*Moderator: Roxana Maurizio (UBA)*

- Christoph Lakner (World Bank), “National inequality around the world: Trends, measurement issues and possible solutions”.
- Zachary Parolin (Columbia University), “Extreme Poverty & Homelessness in the United States”

**(10:00 – 10:50) Session 7: Social Mobility**

*Moderator: Marta Roig (UNDESA)*

- Miles Corak (SC-CUNY), “Intergenerational Mobility between and within Canada and the United States”
- Daniele Checchi (LIS/University of Milan), “The long term evolution of inequality of opportunity”

**(10:50 – 11:05) Coffee break**

**(11:05 – 12:20) Session 8: Fiscal policy and inequality: how to increase progressivity?**

*Moderator: Pedro Conceição (HDRO)*

- Nora Lustig/Stephen Younger (CEQI), “Fiscal policy and commitment to equity”
- Alberto Arenas (ECLAC), “Fiscal Policy and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean”
- Alex Klemm (IMF), “Tax Progressivity and Growth”

## **Friday 29 March**

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Express Bar 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, General Assembly Building  
United Nations Headquarters, New York City, 10017

**(13:00 – 15:00) Open Dialogue: Inequality in the 21st Century**

*Moderator: Achim Steiner (UNDP)*

*Keynote speaker: Paul Krugman (SC CUNY)*

*Panelists:*

- Mario Cimoli (ECLAC)
- Lucas Chancel (WIL)
- Janet Gornick (LIS/SC CUNY)
- Nora Lustig (CEQI)
- Kunal Sen (UNU WIDER)