

STANFORD CENTER ON POVERTY & INEQUALITY



Measuring Poverty in the 21st Century

March 11-12, 2016

Paul Brest Hall, Stanford University

FRIDAY

8:00-9:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:40am Welcome

Michael Laracy, Director, Policy Reform & Advocacy, The Annie. E. Casey Foundation
David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor, Sociology and Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University

9:40-10:55am Session 1. *The Validity of the SPM: Have We Got the Poverty Concept Right?*

Moderator: David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor, Sociology and Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University

Fine Tuning the Supplementary Poverty Measure for the Next Fifty Years

Christopher “Sandy” Jencks, Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Harvard University

Does SPM Measurement Accord with the Qualitative Experience of Poverty?

Kathryn Edin, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, The Johns Hopkins University

The Quality and Inequality of Consumption

Luigi Pistaferri, Professor of Economics, Stanford University

The Validity of the SPM and Conceptual and Practical Issues in Poverty Measurement

Bruce D. Meyer, McCormick Foundation Professor, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

10:55-11:10am Break

11:10-Noon Keynote

Innovative Flash Measures of Poverty Trends

Hal Varian, Chief Economist, Google, Inc. and Professor Emeritus Haas School of Business, University of California-Berkeley

Noon-1:00pm Lunch

1:00-2:15pm **Session 2. *Are the Thresholds Right?***

Moderator: Pat Ruggles, Senior Fellow, NORC, University of Chicago

The Rationale for the Current Poverty Threshold

Thesia Garner, Supervisory Research Economist, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Price and Index Number Research

The Case for Measuring Extreme Poverty

Kathryn Edin, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, The Johns Hopkins University

The Case for Measuring Deep Poverty

Kathleen Short, Social Economic, and Housing Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Is the “Near Poverty” Concept Well Defined and Useful?

Katherine Newman, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, Torrey Little Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

2:15-2:30pm **Break**

2:30-3:45pm **Session 3. *Persisting Measurement Problems: Are We Making Headway?***

Moderator: Dahlia Remler, Professor, School of Public Affairs, Baruch College, City University of New York

Measuring Medical Expenses: MOOP in Thresholds versus MOOP Subtraction

Thesia Garner, Supervisory Research Economist, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Price and Index Number Research

Census Efforts on Measuring Noncash Benefits and Necessary Expenses

Kathleen Short, Economist, Economic Characteristics, Social Economic, and Housing Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Measuring Poverty and Program Use Among Immigrants: Methods from California

Sarah Bohn, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

Geographically Adjusting Poverty Thresholds in Historical SPM Analyses: Issues and Future Questions

Christopher Wimer, Research Consultant, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University and Co-Director, Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia Population Research Center, Columbia University and Laura Nolan, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, School of Social Work, Columbia University

3:45-4:00pm **Break**

4:00-5:00pm **Session 4. *Innovations in Poverty Measurement***

Moderator: Donald T. Oellerich, Deputy Chief Economist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Why Don't We Measure Poverty as Frequently as We Measure Unemployment?

Charles Varner, Associate Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University

The Administrative Turn? Using the AOS, Social Security, and Tax-Return Data to Measure Poverty

Tim Smeeding, Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison and David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor, Sociology and Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University

The National Poverty Study

David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor, Sociology and Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University

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SATURDAY

8:00-8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:45am **Session 5. Local Poverty Measurement: Current Initiatives**

Moderator: Caroline Danielson, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

The California Poverty Measure

Beth Mattingly, Research Consultant, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University and Director of Research on Vulnerable Families, Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire

The New York City Poverty Measure: Balancing a Research Measure with Policy and Program Needs

Jihyun Shin, Research Scientist, Poverty Research Unit, NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, Office of the Mayor, City of New York

The Wisconsin SPM Experience

Tim Smeeding, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Oregon as a New Entrant

Bruce Weber, Professor of Applied Economics, Director, Rural Studies Program, Oregon State University

9:45-10:00am Break

10:00-11:00am Session 6. *Protecting and Institutionalizing SPM*

Moderator: Danilo Trisi, Senior Research Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Implementing the SPM in the ACS

Trudi Renwick, Assistant Division Chief, Economic Characteristics, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Should State SPMs be Centralized?

Laura Wheaton, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Politics, Strategy, and the Future of the SPM

David Johnson, Deputy Director of PSID and Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

11:00-11:30 Closing

Laura Speer, Associate Director, Policy Reform & Advocacy, The Annie. E. Casey Foundation

David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor, Sociology and Director, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

11:30 Lunch

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