Call for Papers: IARIW-World Bank Conference on

New Approaches to Defining and Measuring Poverty in a Growing World

The International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) and the World Bank are partnering to host a special conference entitled "New Approaches to Defining and Measuring Poverty in a Growing World." The conference will be held at the World Bank in Washington, DC November 7-8, 2019.

Conference Objective

Reducing extreme poverty has for decades been a cornerstone of international economic development, as evidenced by this objective being at the forefront of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The World Bank estimates that in 2015, 736 million people lived in extreme poverty (defined as living on less than $1.90 per person per day in 2011 PPP terms). The proportion of the population living in extreme poverty has fallen from more than 35 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 2015. Extreme poverty is now less than 3 percent in more than half the countries of the world.

While focusing on a single, fixed definition of poverty over many years has helped to unify the policy objectives of a wide variety of international agencies, the global success in reducing extreme poverty is creating both a need for improved methodologies to effectively identify the shrinking population of the extreme poor and space for new concepts to capture those who continue to be poor by more socially relevant measures and thresholds. This opening for new approaches to identifying and defining the poor offers opportunities and risks for all policy makers. The social sciences literature on poverty measurement is abundant in diverse conceptualizations of poverty, while advances in data sciences offers a vast array of data capture methods and tools to identify the poor. The objective of this special conference is to draw lessons from these disciplines to help inform and shape how the international development community moves forward in defining, measuring and monitoring poverty.

Papers are invited that contribute to a discussion of the following issues, among others:

- On the connections between health, wealth, income and consumption. How best to measure wellbeing for poverty-reduction policies in low and middle-income countries.

- Implications of adopting recommendations of the Atkinson Commission on Global Poverty (http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/commission-on-global-poverty), for example:

  o Implications of fixing spatial price differences with the 2011 purchasing power parity indices, or alternative approaches for capturing cross-country price differences

  o Comparisons of multi-dimensional poverty indices and overlaps with consumption poverty

  o The costs and benefit of greater detail on within household distribution of wellbeing, the value of identifying poor individuals rather than poor households

  o Ways to improve harmonization of income- and consumption-based measures of poverty

  o Conceptualizing total error in poverty counts, moving beyond sampling error

  o Quantifying the missing poor, i.e. those poor people not captured in poverty estimates

  o On the connections (or disconnects) between national accounts and poverty statistics

- The value of data for improved policy to reduce poverty

- o Can we quantify the value of poverty data, of open data? Can we link improvements in poverty monitoring to improved policy?

- o New methods for improved data capture on dimensions of well-being linked to poverty

- o The costs and benefits of panel or retrospective data for improved policy design

- o How measurement error in poverty estimates affects policy inference, how measurement error differs across poverty concepts, the trade-offs between conceptual refinements and measurement challenges

- o On the optimal frequency of poverty measurement, the trade-offs associated with lighter but more frequent measurement

- o How to support the costs of poverty monitoring systems in low-population countries

- o Identifying weak links in data architectures for poverty measurement, on the importance of complimentary data such as Census, CPI, NIA, PPP data for poverty measurement

- Lessons learned from high-income countries to improve the measurement and monitoring of poverty in low and middle income countries

  - o What historical lessons learned from currently rich countries in poverty reduction provide useful guidance for low-income countries?

  - o As low-income countries become richer, how will they need to change their approach to poverty monitoring (e.g. Issues of respondent burden, increased rates of nonresponse, greater need for improved poverty targeting, greater use of technology in data capture)

  - o How changing demography and geography as a country grows, both in terms of age structure and level of urbanization, can change poverty policies and data capture methods

A program committee composed of experts in the areas of poverty policy, poverty and inequality measurement, and survey methods will review submission proposals. There will be no registration fee for the conference, but presenters of papers are expected to be or become members of the IARIW. Paper presenters are responsible for their own travel and hotel costs. Financial assistance for paper gives is available on a needs basis. Selected papers from the conference will be published in supplemental issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth.* Additional information on the conference can be found at http://iariw.org/proposal2019washington.pdf

Persons interested in presenting a paper at the conference are invited to submit a proposal (up to 2,000 words) at http://iariw.org/paper_submission2019washington.php. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2019.