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Bristol Poverty Institute presents:
Poverty and Social Justice in a Post-COVID World
The Seventh Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
5-6 June 2024 (in-person and online)

Delegate Pack: Day 2 (Thurs 6th June, online)

Table of Contents

Contents

Bristol Poverty Institute
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Conference summary

The [Bristol Poverty Institute](#) (BPI) are delighted to welcome you to our conference on [Poverty and Social Justice in a Post-COVID World](#). This important conference marks the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research at the University of Bristol, which established the foundations the BPI has built upon since our launch in 2017.

We aim to attract a broad audience, representing the public, private and civil sectors alongside academics from across the globe at all career stages. Together, we will explore how the pandemic has impacted on different dimensions of poverty and how we can combine our different expertise, approaches, and perspectives to help improve the lives of those suffering from poverty and address issues of social justice.

The COVID pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, disrupting all of our lives. Inevitably, some were worse affected than others and, as with many things, it was often those already marginalised who felt the heaviest impact. New inequalities emerged and existing inequalities were exposed and exacerbated. Many of these have persisted long beyond the peak of the pandemic and, even now, when life has settled into a so-called 'new normal' for many. Political choices resulted in a pandemic that was experienced unequally, killed unequally and impoverished unequally and this has reduced trust in government and health systems.

We need to explore and understand all of the ways that the pandemic has impacted on our societies and what needs to be done to mitigate the negative impacts and harness the opportunities. In order to do this, we need to bring together a multi-sector audience – including those with lived experience – with varied perspectives, approaches and knowledge. Our conference seeks to do this, across our two-day programme with a mix of thematic and regionally focussed sessions and a combination of in-person and online engagement opportunities to try to open the door for everyone to be part of the conversation.

The conference will be delivered across two days: the first in-person in Bristol and the second, online. On [Day 1](#) (Wednesday 5th June), we will convene in-person in the fantastic Wills Hall Conference Centre in Bristol to explore the impacts of the pandemic on different dimensions of poverty within the UK, with thematic sessions on topics such as mental health, structural inequalities, education, employment, and social mobility, as well as dedicated networking spaces. On [Day 2](#) (Thursday 6th June), we will bring together a global online audience to take a journey around the world with us exploring the impacts of the pandemic in different regions. We will start with an Asia and Oceania-focused session in the morning, moving on to Europe and Africa in the middle of the day and, finally, the Americas later in the day, corresponding with respective time zones.

Code of Conduct

Our conference is an inclusive event, with attendees from a wide range of backgrounds. Please be respectful of other attendees and avoid language or comments which could be perceived as offensive, derogatory, or inciting hatred. Questions for speakers and/or comments in the Q&As should please relate to the topic of the presentations themselves. Attendees whose comments or questions are deemed inappropriate may be asked to leave. Please note that the speaker's comments are their own opinion and don't necessarily represent the BPI or the University of Bristol.

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Your Hosts: The Bristol Poverty Institute

About the Bristol Poverty Institute

The Bristol Poverty Institute (BPI) is dedicated to multi-disciplinary research on the causes, effects, and measurement of poverty to inform effective policy and practice. We tackle poverty-relevant issues at all scales from the local to the global, and actively seek to co-produce our research with partners representing different disciplines, sectors, and nationalities.

The Bristol Poverty Institute is a Specialist Research Institute at the University of Bristol, working in partnership with NGOs, CSOs, governments and private sector bodies united by the common goal of SDG1: *To reduce poverty in all its forms everywhere*. We support researchers from across the University to develop and expand their internal and external networks, promote inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, showcase and promote their work, catalyse and support new routes for engagement and research, and link up with other opportunities across the University and beyond.

Our researchers work on a wide range of poverty-relevant issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives across all of the University's Faculties, with particular strengths and coalescence around the themes of child health and development, education, livelihoods and debt, and food and water, all of which contribute to the multidimensional nature of poverty. Through our work we aim to cement the University of Bristol's position as a global centre of research excellence on the causes, effects and measurements of poverty. This will increase our potential for impact on policy and practice, driven by our ultimate aim of reducing the extent, scale and severity of poverty around the globe.

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- Email for conference enquiries: bpi-conference-2024@bristol.ac.uk
- SharePoint (University of Bristol only): https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/bpi

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Day 2 Programme

Time (BST)	Session details
08:00-10:00	**Poverty and COVID-19 in Asia and Oceania** • Professor Maggie Lau (劉嘉慧), Lignan University ***Child poverty and well-being in Hong Kong and the effects of the pandemic*** • Dr Viliami Fifita, World Bank ***Poverty in the Pacific Island Countries using Consensual Approach measurement giving examples from Tonga*** • Professor Aya Abe (阿部 彩), Tokyo Metropolitan University ***Are we getting closer to consensus? An analysis of changes in socially perceived necessities over time in Japan*** • Dr Qiujie Shi, University of Bristol ***Multiple vulnerabilities: Migrant-local disparities in China's urban labour market during the zero-COVID era*** *Chair: Professor David Gordon*
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-12:30	**Poverty and COVID-19 in Europe** • Dr Alba Lanau, Universitat Pompeu Fabra ***First the children, then the employed: Deprivation and intra-household inequality in Europe*** • Mr Eric Marlier, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) ***Breaking the Vicious Cycles Perpetuating Disadvantage*** • Dr Anne-Catherine Guio, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) ***Access for children in need to the key services covered by the European Child Guarantee in the 27 EU Member States*** • Ms Amy Raub, WORLD Policy Center UCLA ***COVID-19, Gender, and Caregiving: Understanding Progress and Gaps Across 193 Countries in Laws that Support Balancing Work and Care Responsibilities*** *Chair: Professor David Gordon*
12:30-13:30	Break

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Time (BST)	Session details
13:30-15:30	**Poverty and COVID-19 in Africa** • Professor Leon Tikly, University of Bristol ***Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures in Africa*** • Dr Nkechi Owoo, University of Ghana ***Spatial and Regression Analyses of Climate Shocks and Household Food Insecurity in Ghana*** • Professor Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town ***Inequality and poverty through the prism of a pandemic: Covid-19 in South Africa*** • Dr Cynthia Fonta, University of Bristol ***A cross-comparative analysis of child poverty across sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Francophone and Anglophone African states*** *Chair: Professor Leon Tikly*
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-18:00	**Poverty and COVID-19 in the Americas** • Dr Héctor Nájera on behalf of Professor Fernando Cortés, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México ***Poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic: findings from new data*** • Dr Flávia Uchôa de Oliveira, Universidade Federal Fluminense ***Charting the Course: Measuring Multidimensional Poverty in Brazil*** • Mr Enrique Delamónica, UNICEF ***Nowcasting child poverty during COVID: Lessons learnt from Latin America*** • Professor Alberto Minujin, Equity for Children, The New School ***More is Possible: Post-Covid Voice and Participation for Children and Families Living in Poverty*** *Chair: Dr Camilla Morelli*

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Speaker Biographies and Talks

POVERTY AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

Professor Aya Abe (阿部 彩), Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan

Speaker biography

Professor Aya Abe holds a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. After working at the United Nations and Japanese aid agency, she worked for 16 years at the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research. In 2015, she took up a professorship at the Tokyo Metropolitan University and established the Center for Research on Child and Adolescent Poverty at the University. Her interests includes poverty (especially child poverty), inequality and social exclusion in Japan. She published numerous books and articles in both Japanese and English.

Abstract: Are we getting closer to consensus? An analysis of changes in socially perceived necessities over time in Japan

The measurement of poverty using the material deprivation scale has become widespread throughout the world. One of the technical challenges in constructing the material deprivation scale is the identification of socially perceived necessities. Researchers have used methods ranging from focus groups to separate public opinion surveys to develop a list of socially perceived necessities. However, material deprivation is a relative concept. As society undergoes economic, demographic, and political change, the list needs to be reviewed for its relevance.

The aim of this study was to examine the stability of perceptions of children's necessities in Japan at a time when public awareness of child poverty in Japan has risen sharply. The results of the analysis show that, using the 50% criterion, the list of socially perceived necessities for children has been surprisingly stable over 20 years. However, there has been a statistically significant change in the public's perception of necessity for 16 of the 25 items, even after controlling for age, gender, income and whether they have children. Furthermore, the analysis shows that although the consensus between genders and between income quintile groups is fairly stable or converging, there is a greater divergence in the consensus between age groups and between respondents with and without children. In a society with increasing numbers of elderly and childless people, we need to be increasingly careful that the items selected for the deprivation scale not only meet the 50% criteria but are also agreed by different segments of the population.

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Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita, World Bank, Tonga

Speaker biography

Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita is the International Resident Advisor to the Kiribati National Statistics Office at the World Bank. He holds a Ph.D. with Thesis: 'Child and Adult Poverty in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS): A case Study of Tonga' from Bristol University, England, a Master of Applied Statistics from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Pure Mathematics from Waikato University, New Zealand.
Dr Fifita has a distinguished career in public service, beginning in 1996 as an Assistant Teacher in Tonga's Ministry of Education. He progressed to senior roles, including Senior Lecturer and Assistant Government Statistician at the Statistics Department. As Government Statistician for the Bureau of Statistics of Tonga, he contributed to regional statistical projects, designing poverty measurement tools and providing training for various national surveys across the Pacific.

Dr Fifita has also served in advisory roles, including as a short-term Technical Advisor for TVET programs; a Consultant for UNICEF and an Advisor to the Skills and Employment for Tongans (SET) project of the World Bank. His expertise and leadership in statistics have made significant impacts on data collection and analysis in the Pacific region.

Abstract: Poverty in the Pacific Island Countries using Consensual Approach measurement giving examples from Tonga

Poverty has not been considered a serious issue in the Pacific developing member countries (PDMCs). This is because, Pacific society has long been seen as a traditional culture of having a safety net of caring for and sharing with family and clan. Images of hunger and destitution and of absolute poverty frequently seen in other parts of the developing world have been largely absent in the Pacific. Not until recently and mostly due to the countries report requirement from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), amongst others, PDMCs had obligated to produce poverty reports. In addition to the controversy of the subject matter (poverty), together with countries bilateral relationships with donors and development partners' plays a role in what methodology and definition of poverty being used in the PDMCs. This presentation outlined how SDG framed the poverty dialogues by Pacific countries with the introduction of multi-dimensional poverty measurements that I argue to be more appropriate and contextually appropriate to a small island developing state such as those in the Pacific Islands. In particular, how Tonga had used the Consensual Approach to measuring poverty had gone beyond SDG requirements to meet Government demands for poverty estimates and further to improves its policy and work programs towards poverty reduction.

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Professor Maggie Lau Ka Wai (劉嘉慧), Lignan University, Hong Kong

Speaker biography

[Maggie Lau](#) is Research Associate Professor of the School of Graduate Studies and Research Fellow of the Institute of Policy Studies at Lingnan University. Her research fields and expertise include development and policy studies, poverty and social exclusion, children's health and well-being.

Her publications have appeared in *Social Policy & Administration, Social Indicators Research, Child Indicators Research, Children and Youth Services Review, Quality of Life Research, Journal of Public Health, and Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. She is a co-editor of *[Handbook of Children's Risk, Vulnerability and Quality of Life: Global Perspectives](#)* (with Habib Tiliouine and Denise Benatuil, Springer, 2022), *[Poverty in a Rich Society: The Case of Hong Kong](#)* (with David Gordon, The Chinese University Press, 2017), and *[Managing Social Change and Social Policy in Greater China: Welfare Regimes in Transition](#)* (with Ka Ho Mok, Routledge, 2014). She led the *[Poverty and Social Exclusion in Hong Kong](#)* project (with David Gordon), funded by the Research Grants Council and the UK Economic and Social Research Council. She is a co-investigator of the Strategic Public Policy Research (SPPR) funded project on Trends and Implications of Poverty and Social Disadvantages in Hong Kong: A Multi-disciplinary and Longitudinal Study. She has also led the grant awards from the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

She serves as the team leader of Hong Kong and has recently completed the third wave of [Children's Worlds Survey](#), which is a comparative study on children's daily activities and well-being from their own perspectives. This international research collaboration was laid the foundation for the related research grant funded by the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF (Principal Investigator), which aims to examine Hong Kong children of ethnic minority background's views of their own lives and well-being and compare how their situations fare against ethnic Chinese children in Hong Kong. She is an Editorial Board Member of *[Child Indicators Research](#)* and serves on the Board of the [International Society for Child Indicators](#).

Abstract: Child poverty and well-being in Hong Kong and the effects of the pandemic

Empirical evidence showed that school closures and subsequent pandemic recession have exacerbated child poverty and had long-term effects of children's health and well-being. Childhood poverty has a profound impact on children's growth and development, but also

brings into extra public money to tackle with physical and mental health issues (e.g., risk behaviours and anxiety), and lower education attainment and consequently lower economic productivity in the long term. This presentation will review poverty studies in Hong Kong and discuss the significance of a child-focused and multidimensional approach to child poverty measures. The session will also discuss how the likely updates to the Hong Kong official poverty measure will have implications for poverty alleviation policies in Hong Kong.

Dr Qiujie Shi, University of Bristol, UK

Speaker biography

Dr Qiujie Shi is a Lecturer in Quantitative Human Geography at the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, United Kingdom. Before this, she was a Boya Postdoctoral Fellow at Peking University and a Clarendon Doctoral Scholar at the University of Oxford. Her scholarship employs comparative and critical perspectives and uses quantitative methods and state-of-art visualisations to analyse the emerging transformations in population, economy, and space in urban China. She is particularly interested in social and spatial inequalities in megacities that are structured by economic and institutional conditions.

Abstract: Multiple vulnerabilities: Migrant-local disparities in China's urban labour market during the zero-COVID era

This presentation explores the resilience of China's urban labour market in the pandemic and the disparities between migrant and local workers within it. The pandemic's economic impact was felt widely by China's urban workforce, primarily as minor income declines, and mainly within the initial few months. Migrants suffered more job losses than local workers, as those who returned home during the Spring Festival were prevented from resuming work by interregional travel restrictions. Income losses were more prevalent among migrants, as their access to the least affected sector was restricted by the household registration system. Migrants were more likely to remain in the urban labour market after job losses, driven by their lack of access to public funds in destinations. These results highlight the multiple economic vulnerabilities of migrants in urban China and the importance of considering both the temporalities of migration behaviours and the institutional exclusions in addressing their vulnerabilities.

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POVERTY AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN EUROPE

Dr Anne-Catherine Guio, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Luxembourg

Speaker biography

Dr Anne-Catherine Guio is an economist, with expertise in statistics and comparative data analysis. She also has a strong interest in qualitative and policy-oriented research. Her main research focuses on material deprivation, poverty, social exclusion, and well-being – applied to both the overall population and children specifically. She has published and lectured extensively in these fields. She is very much involved at national and international level in research relating to child well-being and child-related policies. She was scientific coordinator of the feasibility study for a European Child Guarantee, and of the follow-up study on the economic implementing framework for this child guarantee. She also was involved in the construction of the material and social deprivation indicators, which are now used by the European Commission and the 27 European Union (EU) countries, and in a number of non-EU countries. She is currently a senior researcher at the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

Abstract: Access for children in need to the key services covered by the European Child Guarantee in the 27 EU Member States

On 14 June 2021, the EU Member States unanimously adopted the Council Recommendation establishing a "European Child Guarantee" (ECG). The objective of the ECG is to offset the impact of poverty on children and to prevent and combat their social exclusion. To this end, Member States are recommended to guarantee for "children in need" (defined as persons under 18 who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion): effective and free access to four services: high-quality early childhood education and care, education and school-based activities, at least one healthy meal each school day and healthcare; effective access to two services: healthy nutrition and adequate housing.

The presentation will present a cross-country study, which aims at assessing the extent to which children at risk of poverty or social exclusion have access to the six services covered by the ECG.

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Mr Eric Marlier, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Luxembourg

Speaker biography

Mr Eric Marlier has been International Scientific Coordinator at the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) since 2002. Before joining LISER, he worked *inter alia* for the Belgian Government and Eurostat. Eric has done extensive research for the European Commission, the United Nations, the OECD, the World Bank, the Council of Europe, and various national Governments. Since 2014, he has managed the "European Social Policy Analysis Network" – an EU-funded network of independent experts on social protection and social inclusion which covers 39 European countries. He was previously in charge of the "Network for the analysis of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions" (Net-SILC, 2008-2020) and a member of the World Bank's "Atkinson Commission on Global Poverty" (2015-2016). Eric has written widely on the development of social indicators and their use in the policy process (at national, EU and global levels), on comparative socio-economic analysis (with a special interest in child poverty) and on international comparative social policy. For a full reference of his publications, visit his ResearchGate page.

Abstract: Breaking the Vicious Cycles Perpetuating Disadvantage

This talk will consist of a brief presentation of the book "*The Escape from Poverty. Breaking the Vicious Cycles Perpetuating Disadvantage*" by De Schutter, Frazer, Guio and Marlier (Policy Press, 2023), available in open access on the Bristol University Press website. The talk will discuss why poverty is carried on from one generation to the next and what needs to be done to eradicate it. Why the perpetuation of disadvantage across generations damages lives. Why it weakens social cohesion and solidarity and undermines environmental sustainability. It will highlight the considerable social and economic advantages for the society as a whole to fight against poverty and inequality.

Dr Alba Lanau Sánchez, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain

Speaker biography

Dr Alba Lanau is a tenure track professor and Ramon y Cajal fellow at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona). Her main areas of research are poverty and social policy. She has authored over 30 publications on child poverty, child well-being, poverty dynamics and the welfare state using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Currently she is PI for the project '*Child poverty and neighbourhood opportunity structures*', that studies how existing networks and services shape households' everyday experiences and their ability to respond to unexpected difficulties. Dr Lanau is also associate editor of the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice.

Abstract: First the children, then the employed: Deprivation and intra-household inequality in Europe

Using data from 22 European countries this paper examines intra-household inequality between children and adults. Households allocate resources according to dynamic rules that consider age, gender, kinship, and labour market participation. Parents and the unemployed are the most likely to experience deprivation. Extended co-residency is a helpful but limited strategy to reduce child poverty: extended households are more likely to protect children, but also to be poorer. The prioritisation of children is nearly universal, with no evidence of an association between income or education and the prioritisation of children. Individual deprivation data provide valuable information on intra-household inequality.

Ms Amy Raub, WORLD Policy Center UCLA, USA

Speaker biography

Ms Amy Raub is Director of Research of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center and leads WORLD's research developing and analysing quantitative measures of national policy approaches that advance health, economic security, education, and equity in all 193 UN countries with a deep focus on creating actionable evidence for policymakers and civil society. Over the course of more than a decade and a half at WORLD, Raub has advanced the development of quantitatively comparable indicators that enable the rapid identification of structural inequalities embedded in law, make legal loopholes transparent, support monitoring and accountability for whether countries are meeting their international commitments, and highlight gaps in legal protections that undermine effective implementation and enforcement of fundamental rights. This work spans a wide range of topics including aging, early childhood, gender, education, economic security, caregiving, health, migration, disability, working conditions, social protection, non-discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual orientation and gender identity, and constitutional rights.

Raub has presented WORLD's findings to UN human rights committees, civil society groups, researchers, and at international conferences on five continents. She has authored and edited two books, more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, and numerous reports and policy briefs for a wide range of audiences. Raub is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, holds a MS in Economics from The University of Texas at Austin and received her BA in Economics from Rice University. Prior to joining WORLD, Raub worked in economic consulting using econometrics to assess disparities across race, gender, and age in a variety of spheres, including mortgage lending, policing, and employment.

Abstract: COVID-19, Gender, and Caregiving: Understanding Progress and Gaps Across 193 Countries in Laws that Support Balancing Work and Care Responsibilities

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered what many have termed a global 'she-cession,' in large part due to the unique care needs of widespread school and daycare centre closures. Yet, even prior to the pandemic, care responsibilities disproportionately impacted women's economic opportunities and security. Laws and policies have a powerful role to play in supporting health and income security for working caregivers and their families. Drawing on free, publicly downloadable data from *Equality Within Our Lifetimes* and the WORLD Policy Analysis Center for 193 countries, this session will explore laws and policies in place during the pandemic and beyond that enable workers to address family caregiving and health needs across the life course. It will highlight how legal gaps in many countries perpetuate gender, socioeconomic, and health disparities. It will demonstrate how this data can be used to identify structural inequalities embedded in law and to rigorously assess the impact that laws have on health, education, and economic outcomes.

POVERTY AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

Dr Cynthia Fonta, University of Bristol, UK

Speaker biography

Dr Cynthia Fonta has a diverse background that integrates practical medical work with deep academic research. Her career as a general practitioner and medical officer in Nigeria, combined with her volunteer work at the Institute de Recherche en Science de la Santé and UNICEF in Burkina Faso, has provided her with a robust foundation in clinical practice and public health research.

Now, as a doctoral student at the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, Cynthia's research focus on child poverty and the deprivation of material needs in Africa, particularly examining the disparities between Francophone and Anglophone countries, is both timely and essential. By studying the social determinants of health and material inequalities and their intersectionality with infectious diseases and the broader macro environment, she contributes critical insights that could inform policies aimed at reducing these disparities.

Cynthia's exploration into how food poverty correlates with poor mental health among adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa addresses a significant gap in understanding the multi-layered impacts of poverty on health. Her multi-disciplinary approach, enriched by her extensive field experience in Nigeria, Ghana, and Burkina Faso, underscores the importance of integrating field-based knowledge with policy research to craft more effective public health interventions.

Abstract: A cross-comparative analysis of child poverty across sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Francophone and Anglophone African states

The historical influence of French and British colonial rule may have contributed to the unequal distribution of child poverty in present-day Africa. This research aims to assess child poverty disparities within the context of colonial origins, explicitly focusing on Francophone and Anglophone Africa. The investigation involved analysing data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in 22 former British and French colonies in Sub-Saharan Africa between 2000 and 2009. Child poverty was measured using an SDG-updated Gordon et al. 2003 methodology, also known as the *Rights-Based* or *Bristol Approach*, to examine differences in child poverty between and within countries based on colonial origins.

The study's findings reveal that the legacy of colonial rule is still evident in the health and education sectors of Francophone countries, which generally had poorer services and greater health inequality than their Anglophone counterparts. These disparities highlight the need to effectively decentralise the health and education sectors and implement pro-poor health policies in Francophone countries. However, the study also found that child poverty in relation to household material needs did not show any significant differences between the two colonial origins, suggesting that factors other than colonial origins, such as current governance, economic policies, and social structures, may play a more significant role in these aspects of child poverty.

Professor Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Speaker biography

Professor Murray Leibbrandt is the University of Cape Town Chair in Poverty and Inequality Research, served as the Director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University from 2002 until July 2023, and is the Director of the Africa Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research within the African Universities Alliance. He is a Visting Professor in the Jackson School of Global Affairs at Yale University and a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER.

His research uses survey data and especially panel data to analyse South African and African poverty, inequality, and labour market dynamics. From 2007 to 2019 he was a founding Principal Investigator on the National Income Dynamics Study, South Africa's national longitudinal study.

In 1995-96 he served on the President Mandela's Labour Market Commission to advise on post-apartheid labour market legislation and, from 2016-17, served on Deputy President Ramaphosa's Advisory Panel on the National Minimum Wage. In 2021 he served on the Expert Group to advise the Minister of Social Development and the President on Basic Income Support and in 2021/22 served on a Ministerial Task Team of the Department of Higher Education and Training to support a policy review of student funding.

Abstract: Inequality and poverty through the prism of a pandemic: Covid-19 in South Africa

Individuals' vulnerability to the risk of COVID-19 infection varies due to their health, socioeconomic, and living circumstances. These factors also impact the effectiveness of social and economic policy interventions. In this presentation, I first present a COVID-19 vulnerability index that was developed using data from two nationally representative South African household surveys in order to sharpen the measurement of socioeconomic-related inequalities in COVID-19 vulnerability. I then present the evidence that was used to design South Africa's COVID-19 emergency relief measures and an assessment of the effectiveness of these policies using a five-wave longitudinal tracking survey that was implemented in 2020 and 2021.

Dr Nkechi Owoo, University of Ghana, Ghana

Speaker biography

Dr Nkechi S. Owoo is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Ghana. She also holds a number of local and international Visiting/ Research Fellowship positions. In addition to being a Visiting Scholar at the World Bank's Development Economics Research Group (DECRG) in Washington DC from 2023- 2024, she is also a Non-Resident Research Fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington DC; as well as the IZA Institute of Labour Economics, in Bonn, Germany. She is also associated with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) in Nairobi, Kenya; as well as the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR) and the Environment for Development (EfD) institute both in Accra, Ghana. She was a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at the Population Institute in Washington, DC, and has also been a Visiting Research Fellow at Cornell University and the University of Michigan, both in the US, as well as the University of Pretoria in South Africa and the University of Bristol in the UK. She currently represents the Africa region on the Governing Board of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) based in France and is an Invited Researcher with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL).

Prof Owoo has been featured as part of the International Economic Association's (IEA) *Featured Economist* series, as well as JPAL's *African Scholar Spotlight* blog series. She has also been a resource person for the World Bank, International Labor Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Her research focuses on spatial

econometrics, health and demographic economics, poverty and inequality, gender economics, as well as climate change and environmental sustainability. She has published articles in notable peer-reviewed journals such as *Oxford Development Studies*, *Feminist Economics*, *Journal of International Development*, *Journal of Demographic Economics,* among others. She received her Masters and PhD in Economics from Clark University, Massachusetts, in 2009 and 2012, respectively.

Abstract: Spatial and Regression Analyses of Climate Shocks and Household Food Insecurity in Ghana

In early 2022, close to half the population of Ghanaians (about 15.1 million people) experienced some degree of food insecurity, with 12.3% of them experiencing severe food insecurity. Ghana's growing population also faces elevated threats from floods and droughts, deforestation and land degradation, poor air and water quality, rising heat stress, and depletion of natural resources. Although studies have attempted to explore the linkages between climate shocks and food insecurity, these have focused on small, geographical areas of the country, and/or often operationalize food security with agricultural production. This research uses the 2016/17 wave of the nationally representative Ghana Living Standards Survey and data on households' Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) to explore connections between climate shocks (using micro-level shocks data from the Geocoded Disasters (GDIS) dataset) and mild, moderate, and severe food insecurity.

Using bivariate localized indicators of spatial autocorrelation (LISA), the paper highlights varied locational relationships between climate shocks and household food insecurity across the country. Regression analyses further indicate positive associations between climate shocks and food insecurity. Resilience factors comprise male household headship and education. Risk factors for food insecurity in Ghana include large household sizes, unemployment, involvement in fishing and farming activities, as well as poverty. Interestingly, the odds of food insecurity are lower for poor households that have experienced climate shocks, likely due to the presence of social safety nets like the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) social programme.

Professor Leon P Tikly, University of Bristol, UK (Chair)

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University of Bristol

Speaker biography

Professor Leon Tikly is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and UNESCO Chair on Transforming Knowledge and Research for Just and Sustainable Futures at the University of Bristol. He has recently directed a UKRI-funded network plus on Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures with partners in India, Rwanda, Somalia/ Somaliland and South Africa (UKRI; £4.75 million; 2019-23). His scholarship over many years has focused on globalisation and education policy in the postcolonial world and on initiatives to improve the quality of education for disadvantaged learners, particularly in Africa. Between 2005-11 he directed a research programme consortium on Improving Education Quality in Low Income Countries (EdQual) (DfID; £2.5 million). He has also conducted a number of research projects and written extensively on issues of race, ethnicity and education in the UK and globally. More recently he has written at the intersection between decolonial scholarship and education for sustainable futures. His work is informed theoretically by critical realism, postcolonial and decolonial perspectives and is underpinned by a commitment to social, environmental, and epistemic justice. Leon is also a valued member of the BPI Advisory Board.

Abstract: Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures in Africa

The presentation reports on the findings from the Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures Network Plus (TESF) which is a global network of researchers funded by the UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) at £4.75 million, 2019-2023. We have funded 67 projects across four hub partner countries of India, Rwanda, Somaliland/ Somalia and South Africa. Based on principles of transdisciplinarity, knowledge co-creation, social, environmental, and epistemic justice, the projects brought together diverse interests including those of researchers in higher education, activists based in grass roots and non-governmental organisations, policy makers and practitioners so as to realise transformative change through formal education in schools and universities but also through forms of social learning within communities. The project teams were supported by capacity mobilisation activities including bespoke workshops in research methodology targeted at early career researchers and researchers based outside of formal academic settings as well as by processes of ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning and the development of communities of practice that can support the knowledge co-creation process. The presentation provides a synthesis of findings from the network. It reflects on the power but also the challenges of the co-creative approach adopted.

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POVERTY AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN THE AMERICAS

Mr. Enrique Delamónica, UNICEF, USA

Speaker biography

Mr Enrique Delamónica, UNICEF Statistics and Monitoring Senior Adviser for Child Poverty and Gender Equality, was Social and Economic Policy Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean and Chief of Social Policy and Gender Equality in Nigeria.
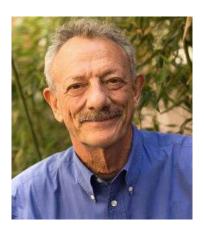
He has written and co-edited books and articles on economic development, children's rights, social protection, macroeconomic trends impacting children, socioeconomic disparities, the green economy, quality of life, social exclusion and discrimination, and financing social services - always focused on improving the lives of children, adolescents, and their families. He has advanced degrees in political science and economics. He has taught economic principles, macroeconomic policy, international development, policy analysis, statistics, and research methods at, among other places, Columbia University, the New School for Social Research, and Saint Peter's College (New Jersey). He is Secretary of the board of the Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy of the International Sociological Association.

Abstract: Nowcasting child poverty during COVID: Lessons learnt from Latin America

During 2020, UNICEF and Save the Children engaged in a nowcasting exercise to assess the impact of COVID on child poverty. The results were published and the time and then updated. The assumptions, results, and limitations of the exercise will be described in the presentation. Moreover, the assumptions (and some of the results) will be contrasted to trends after 2021 to evaluate the merits of the nowcasting exercise.

Professor Alberto Minujin, Equity for Children, The New School, USA

Speaker biography

Professor Alberto Minujin is a Professor at The New School University, New York. He is the Founder Executive Director of Equity for Children, a non-profit working to improve living conditions for deprived children. A UNICEF Senior Officer from 1990-2005, Minujin is a mathematician with training in Applied Statistics and Demography. He has authored many books and articles. Minujin was awarded the Bicentennial Medal by the government of Argentina in recognition of his work on behalf of the world's most impoverished children and adolescents.

Abstract: More is Possible: Post-Covid Voice and Participation for Children and Families Living in Poverty

Based in my experience in Equity for Children during and after the pandemic, my presentation uses a lens that focuses on local development as a way of overcoming the permanent accumulation of obstacles that face those living in poverty, especially children and women, but making clear that the presence and participation of government, through public social policy, is central in all the cases.

Dr Camilla Morelli, University of Bristol, UK (Chair)

Speaker biography

Dr Camilla Morelli is an anthropologist of childhood and youth with a specialised interest in child-centred participatory methods, specifically animation coproduction. She has conducted research with forest-dwelling children in Amazonia for the past 15 years, examines how children and young people's imaginations are powerful catalysts for social, economic, and environmental change. Her book, Children of the Rainforest, is published by Rutgers University Press and was awarded the ACYIG – American Anthropological Association 2024 Book Prize. Camilla is also a valued member of the BPI Advisory Board.

Dr Héctor Nájera on behalf of Professor Fernando Cortés, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Speaker biography: Dr Héctor Nájera

Dr Héctor Nájera completed his PhD at the Centre for Poverty and Social Justice at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. He also received a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the same institution and worked as a senior associate researcher on various poverty measurement and analysis projects in both developed and developing countries, including advisory roles for UNICEF in Africa and countries in the South Pacific. Héctor was part of the technical team that developed and produced the official poverty measurement for the European Union using the relative deprivation approach, which is considered the gold standard in poverty measurement. He has been involved in various training and research

projects in collaboration with UNICEF in over ten developing countries. In 2020, he joined PUED as an Associate Researcher C, where he conducts research on poverty and social inequality measurement and analysis using advanced statistical methods such as structural equation modelling and Bayesian statistics. In particular, his focus is on estimating and analysing poverty at the level of small areas such as municipalities and localities. He teaches in the Economics postgraduate program at UNAM and holds a Level 2 position in the National System of Researchers

Speaker biography: Professor Fernando Cortés

Professor Fernando Cortés is an Emeritus Professor by the National Researchers System and currently works as honorary fellow at PUED-UNAM in Mexico. He has been a Professor at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Quito, San José de Costa Rica and Mexico, Central American Higher Confederation (CSUCA), in San José de Costa Rica, El Colegio de México, in the Centres for Sociological, Literary Linguistic, Economic Studies and International Studies, He has a degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires, the Centre for Research on Social Anthropology (CIESAS), the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago and the National University of Montevideo, Uruguay.

Abstract: Poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic: findings from new data

According to the official data, the COVID-19 pandemic had a small effect upon multidimensional poverty in Mexico (Increase of two pp). However, newly released data shows that the during the pandemic poverty increased seven pp. The observed changes in the prevalence of multidimensional poverty depend fundamentally on changes of income and, to a lesser extent, on those that occur in the domain of social rights (material and social deprivation). The main source of income that brought down poverty were the salaries. Social programs (cash transfers) and remittances from abroad played a meagre role. The multidimensional measurement of poverty in Mexico has, in accordance with the General Law of Social Development, a focus on social rights that are explicitly considered in the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States in articles three, four and 123. However, the analysis has shown that social deprivation has had a limited effect on changes in poverty prevalences.

Dr Flávia Uchôa de Oliveira, Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Brazil

Bristol Poverty Institute
University of Bristol

Speaker biography

Dr Flávia Uchôa is a Social Psychologist specializing in precarious work and its societal impacts. Since 2018, her work has focused on developing measures of multidimensional poverty, pioneering the use of the Consensual Approach in Brazil. Flavia currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the Business and Public Administration School of Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Abstract: Charting the Course: Measuring Multidimensional Poverty in Brazil

Since 2018, through a cooperation agreement between Cardiff University, the State University of Campinas, and various research, educational, and governmental institutions, efforts have been underway to develop a scientifically valid measure of multidimensional poverty in Brazil. The research project "*Multidimensional Poverty in Brazil*" was launched in 2019 with the pioneering application of the Consensual Approach, starting with focus groups in the city of Campinas, in the state of São Paulo. Since then, several stages of the project have been carried out: in addition to Campinas, two stages were conducted in the city of São Paulo during the pandemic, including a pilot study in three communities (Brasilândia, Paraisópolis, Vila Vietnã) in 2020, and a survey administered to over 2300 households with a representative sample of the city, in mid-2021. Beyond the southeast, we conducted seven focus groups and a survey with a representative sample of 1100 households in the municipality of Botuporã, in the south of the state of Bahia, in northeastern Brazil. Currently, we continue the project in the metropolitan region of Campinas, in the cities of Hortolândia and Valinhos, by conducting focus groups.

In these stages, the results show a broad consensus among the groups studied regarding socially perceived needs and the groups most vulnerable to deprivation of these needs, such as families with children. Additionally, we were able to carry out important empirical exercises on the relationship between work and poverty, contributing to the discussion on app-based workers; and theoretical-methodological exercises on the concept of adaptive preferences and its potential impact on the Consensual Approach. The results of these stages are compiled in articles and book chapters published over the last five years. We hope that the next steps will include expanding the project to other regions of the country and developing reports that fulfil the tasks announced by Peter Townsend: going beyond income to construct a scientifically valid and socially legitimate measure of poverty in Brazil.

BRISTOL POVERTY INSTITUTE

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