

Inequality and the Status of the Middle Class

Lessons from the Luxembourg Income Study

28 – 30 June 2010

University of Luxembourg, Walferdange

PROGRAM

DAY 1

28 JUNE

19:00 Keynote Address by Professor Paul Krugman (Princeton University):
"Inequality and Crises: Coincidence or Causality?"
Sponsored by the Alphonse Weicker Foundation.
This one lecture is by special invitation only.

DAY 2

29 JUNE

8:30 to 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 to 9:45 Welcome, Introductions and Comments from the Conference Host and Co-Sponsors:
National Research Foundation (FNR); Luxembourg Income Study; University of Luxembourg;
Ministry of the Economy/STATEC; Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research (MCESR)

9:45 to 11:30

Panel I. INCOME

Trends in Household Income Inequality: The Position of the Middle Classes

Coordinator/Moderator: Markus Jäntti (LIS, Stockholm University)

Local Discussant: Michel Beine (University of Luxembourg)

Presenters:

- Arthur Alderson (Indiana University) and Kevin Doran (Indiana University),
How Has Income Inequality Grown? The Reshaping of the Income Distribution in LIS Countries
- Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy),
On the Identification of the "Middle Class"
- Louis Chauvel (SciencesPo Paris),
Between Welfare State Retrenchments, Globalization: The Southern Continental European Middle Classes under Strain

12:00 to 13:15 Conference Lunch

13:30 to 15:15

Panel II. EMPLOYMENT

The Role of Women's Work in the Economic Status of Families

Coordinator/Moderator: Janet Gornick (LIS, CUNY/GC)

Discussant: Raymond Wagener (Luxembourg Ministry of Social Security)

Presenters:

- Susan Harkness (University of Bath), (to be presented by Janet Gornick)
The Contribution of Women's Employment and Earnings to Household Income Inequality: A Cross-Country Analysis
- Nancy Folbre (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Janet Gornick (LIS, CUNY/GC), Helen Connolly (LIS) and Teresa Munzi (LIS),
Women's Employment, Unpaid Work and Economic Wellbeing: A Cross National Analysis
- Margarita Estévez-Abe (Syracuse University) and Tanja Hethy (Syracuse University),
Women's Work, Family Income and Public Policy

15:15 to 15:45 Coffee Break

- 15:45 to 17:45 **Panel III. ASSETS AND DEBT**
The Distribution of Assets and Debt: The Middle Class, Pensions, and Home Ownership
Coordinator/Moderator: Markus Jäntti (LIS, Stockholm University)
Discussant: Jean-Pierre Schoder (Central Bank of Luxembourg)
- Eva Sierminska (CEPS/INSTEAD), Serge Allegrezza (STATEC), Timothy Smeeding (University of Wisconsin),
Net worth and the Middle Class: Patterns of Wealth and Debt
 - Bruce Bradbury (University of New South Wales),
The Fourth Retirement Pillar in Rich Nations
 - Markus Jäntti (LIS, Stockholm University), Eva Sierminska (CEPS/INSTEAD), Philippe Van Kerm (CEPS/INSTEAD),
The Middle Class in the Joint Distribution of Income and Wealth: Luxembourg in Comparative Perspective
 - Joachim Frick (SOEP/DIW Berlin) and Markus Grabka (SOEP/DIW Berlin),
Wealth Inequality and the Importance of Public Pension Entitlements
- 18:00 to 19:00 Keynote Address by Sir Anthony Atkinson (Nuffield College - University of Oxford):
"Top Incomes Over the Long Run of History"
- DAY 3 30 JUNE**
- 8:30 to 9:00 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 to 10:45 **Panel IV. POLITICS**
Institutions and Politics: Politics, Political Behavior, and Public Opinion “In the Middle”
Coordinator/Moderator: Janet Gornick (LIS Director, CUNY/GC)
Discussant: Georges Heinrich (Luxembourg Ministry of Finance)
- Vincent Mahler (Loyola University Chicago), David Jesuit (Central Michigan University), Piotr Paradowski (LIS),
The Political Sources of Government Redistribution in the Developed World: A Focus on the Middle Class
 - Lane Kenworthy (University of Arizona),
The Politics of Helping the Poor
 - István György Tóth (TÁRKI Social Research Institute), Tamás Keller (TÁRKI Social Research Institute),
Income Distribution, Inequality Perception and Redistributive Claims in European Societies
- 10:45 to 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15 to 13:00 **Panel V. INEQUALITY IN THE “NEW LIS COUNTRIES”**
Coordinator/Moderator: to be determined
Discussant: Hubert Strauss (European Investment Bank)
- Colin McKenzie (Keio University), *Inequality in Japan*
 - Stefán Ólafsson (University of Iceland) and Armaldur Kristjánsson (University of Iceland),
Income Distribution in a Bubble Economy – The Case of Iceland 1992-2008
 - Reeve Vanneman (University of Maryland) and Amaresh Dubey (Jawaharlal Nehru University),
Horizontal and Vertical Inequalities in India
- 13:00 to 14:00 Conference Lunch
- 14:00 to 16:00 **Panel VI. REFLECTIONS ON INEQUALITY: LESSONS LEARNED**
Steven Pressman (Monmouth University)
Daniele Franco (Bank of Italy)
Michael Förster (OECD – Social Policy Division)
Francesco Scervini (University of Milan)
- 16:00 Adjournment

Generous support for the conference provided by: