Measuring Poverty in the 21st Century
March 11-12, 2016
Paul Brest Hall, Stanford University

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

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 Supplemental 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

10:55-11:00am  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

1:00-2:20pm  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

2:20-2:35pm  Break

2:35-3:55pm  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

3:55-4:10pm  Break
4:10-5:45pm  **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 MARCH 12

8:00-8:30am    Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:50am    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

9:50-10:00am    Break
10:00-11:00am  **Session 6. How Should State SPMs be Delivered in the Future?**
Moderator: Danilo Trisi, Senior Research Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

*Innovations in State Measures*
Mark Levitan, Adjunct Professor, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College, CUNY

*Implementing the SPM in the ACS*
Trudi Renwick, Assistant Division Chief, Economic Characteristics, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau

11-11:45am  Lunch

11:45-12:45pm  **Session 7. Protecting and Institutionalizing the SPM**
Moderator: Sheela Kennedy, Research Assistant Professor at University of Michigan School of Public Health

*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

12:45-1:00pm  **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

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