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
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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