

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

Thirty-second General Conference—Boston, USA, August 5–11, 2012

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference consists of (a) sessions with themes selected in advance by the IARIW Council (see below), and (b) other contributed paper sessions. Accepted papers submitted via route (a) are organised by named session organisers into Plenary sessions, and ‘A’, ‘B’ and one additional ‘C’ Parallel sessions. Papers accepted from submission route (b) are organised by the Programme Committee into the ‘C’, ‘D’, and Poster sessions. (This organisational structure is illustrated by the programme for the previous General Conference: see <http://www.iariw.org/c2010.php>)

Submissions of abstracts are now invited for papers to be presented in both (a) and (b) sessions. Submissions may consist of a conventional abstract, or of a longer paper outline. All submissions should contain the following information:

- (i) type of submission—the name of the thematic session if submission by route (a) or ‘Contributed’ if by route (b);
- (ii) title of paper;
- (iii) name of corresponding author;
- (iv) email address and affiliation of the corresponding author;
- (v) names of any co-authors (if any); and
- (vi) text of the abstract.

Papers are sought in all fields of interest to the IARIW, i.e. all papers that advance knowledge about income and wealth, from both a macro and micro perspective. The topics and organisers of the main thematic sessions are given below. Papers will also be considered in other areas. The conference programme committee will group these papers into coherent sessions. Abstracts are to be submitted online at http://iariw.org/paper_submission.php.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is August 31, 2011.

The Plenary, ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ sessions will have the same format: a formal session chair will be appointed, the paper will be presented by a discussant nominated in advance and, after discussion from the floor, the author(s) will be able to respond to comments. Other papers deemed appropriate for IARIW conference presentation will be organised into one or more poster sessions. Poster sessions are an integral part of the IARIW conference, and a Poster paper prize (US\$500) was instituted in 2008.

Financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses will be available on a needs basis for a number of paper givers (for all session types). Information

on this financial assistance program is available at <http://www.iariw.org/finstandorders.php>. The formal method and deadline for applications will be announced later. Potential applicants should indicate informally when submitting their abstracts whether they are likely to apply for support.

For general information about IARIW conferences, please see <http://www.iariw.org/FAQforconference.php>.

Plenary Session 1: The Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi

Organiser:

Steve Landefeld, Bureau of Economic Analysis, USA. steve.landefeld@bea.gov

Current plans by national statistical offices and international organisations call for a number of concrete products in adopting the recommendations of the report by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (SSF). This session will review that progress and plans. The organisers hope to be able to recruit Professor Stiglitz or one of the other members of the commission as the key note speaker for this plenary session. The keynote speech will be followed by a panel discussion by representatives of national statistical offices and international organisations on their progress and plans. This plenary session will be a joint IARIW-CRIW session that will also be part of the CRIW coincident meeting to be held on August 6th and 7th.

Parallel Session 2A: Measurement of Productive Activities by Households

Organisers:

Barbara Fraumeni, University of Southern Maine, USA. bfraumeni@usm.maine.edu

Joachim Frick, DIW Berlin, Germany. jfrick@diw.de

The Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi has pointed out the importance of expanding measures to take into account activities not included in GDP. Among others, these consist of unpaid household production, human capital, and social capital measures. The emphasis of this session is on household productive activities. The topic of papers can include household production as well as other non-market activities by individuals such as education and health-related activities.

Parallel Session 2B: Productivity Measurement under Alternative Assumptions

Organisers:

Marshall Reinsdorf, Bureau of Economic Analysis, USA. marshall.reinsdorf@bea.gov

Marcel Timmer, University of Groningen, The Netherlands. m.p.timmer@rug.nl

A wave of new data is becoming available at statistical institutes, international organisations and in academia to analyse economic growth at the industry and firm level. The organising principles of these data sets are those of neoclassical

growth accounting as outlined by Dale Jorgenson and his collaborators. The logical and internally consistent framework that these principles provide is a great advantage in organizing the data and as a starting point in the empirical analysis of sources of growth. Yet the neoclassical assumptions are not well-suited to investigating certain kinds of questions about sources of growth, nor are they always an adequate representation of how the economy actually functions. For example, the 2008 SNA calls for the measurement of R&D assets and researchers have recently highlighted the importance of other kinds of intangible assets. But because returns on these assets often take the form of monopoly profits, the assumption of perfect competition may be inappropriate for analyzing their contribution to growth. More generally, relaxing stringent assumptions such as perfect competition in output and input markets, constant returns to scale, perfect information, and full efficiency may allow the development of more robust measures of productivity change and lead to new insights into the processes of economic growth. The session will focus on issues related to measuring and analyzing productivity growth under alternatives to the standard neoclassical set of assumptions. Both methodological and empirical contributions in this area are welcomed.

Plenary Session 3: The Impact of the Great Recession on the Well-being of Households

Organiser:

Tim Smeeding, University of Wisconsin—Madison, USA. smeeding@lafollette.wisc.edu

The Great Recession began in 2008 and is continuing in labour markets as well as other markets. The crisis includes large declines in flows (earnings, employment, incomes) and stocks (financial wealth, housing wealth). The recession also redistributed income and wealth between and across groups. The damage, winners and losers have yet to be assessed. Moreover the recession had differential impacts across nations and between sectors within nations.

In this session, the aim is to pinpoint the effects of the Great Recession through 2011 or later on indicators of well-being including levels and distributions of income and wealth. The papers should preferably be cross nationally comparative and should include micro level (household) and macro level (country) comparisons. At the micro level, distributions of earnings, incomes, life satisfaction, wealth and employment are all of interest. At the macro level, effects on financial balance sheets, housing values, and the effects of fiscal policy on growth, recovery, employment and GDP are all good topics. Those using innovative methodologies are especially urged to apply.

Parallel Session 4A: Ageing Society

Organisers:

Ed Wolff, New York University, USA. edward.wolff@nyu.edu

Barbara Liberda, Central Statistical Office, Poland. barbara.liberda@uw.edu.pl

The session will focus on issues connected with population ageing. Both macro and micro papers will be considered. International comparisons will be particularly welcome. Some of the issues to be considered in the session are the character and trends of aging of the world population due to lower fertility and higher life expectancy; comparisons both over time and across countries of the economic status of the elderly; the size and distribution of social security (public pension) wealth both across time and among members of different societies; the burden of aging for pay-as-you-go and partially funded pension systems—estimates of the explicit public debt due to aging; inter-generational perspective of aging—implicit indebtedness of pension, health and education systems; generational accounting and intergenerational public liability—present value of future taxes and benefits; impact of the last financial crisis on sustainability of fiscal systems versus aging; the productivity growth of future versus present generations; and institutional factors of aging—“new institutions” for aging societies.

Parallel Session 4B: Measuring Economic Performance in China and India

Organisers:

Harry Wu, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. harry.wu@ier.hit-u.ac.jp

Ramesh Kolli, Indian Association for Research in National Income and Wealth, India. rameshkolli52@gmail.com

Because of their sheer size, rapid growth and deepening integration with the world economy, it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of correctly measuring Chinese and Indian economic performance to the world economy. Yet, data gaps, methodological problems, and institutional deficiencies are still main obstacles to the construction of proper measures for these economies in the areas of income levels and growth, prices, consumption, savings and investment, productivity, and inequality. This session invites researchers in both academia and statistical offices to construct these measures in line with international standards, and analyse the dynamics of these two important economies in time and space. It also encourages researchers to develop novel approaches that make better use of the historical data, fill important data gaps, and provide better alternatives to the existing official measures. Empirical analysis using the available official data without seriously considering underlying problems will not be considered.

Plenary Session 5: Income and Wealth: Theory and Practice

Organisers:

Ruth Meier, Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland. ruth.meier@bfs.admin.ch

Tom Priester, Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland. thomas.priester@bfs.admin.ch

According to the Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi, income and consumption are crucial for assessing living standards, but need to be complemented by information on wealth, its sources and distribution. Wealth affects the

possibility of current and future consumption and is therefore central to measuring well-being of households and sustainability.

So far most income studies take income as a homogeneous variable. No difference is made regarding the sources of income (i.e. labour income, property income or transfers). Furthermore, wealth as a source of income has in the past not been systematically analysed. Questions about wealth were raised mainly in connection with other specific themes like housing, financial services and so forth. The current economic crisis has shown that information on the impact of the crisis is lacking, not only on the distribution but also on the sources of income and wealth, in theory as well as in statistical methodology and practice.

The purpose of this session is to encourage research on trends and sources of wealth and income of households in order to strengthen the theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge. This is an essential condition to build up a complete and integrated framework on measuring well-being. The requested papers could analyse micro as well as macro aspects related to wealth and income and might answer questions related to the definition of wealth, the main sources of household wealth and how these wealth elements are distributed among households, the components of income and wealth and their significance (labour income, property income, transfers, financial and other assets, real estate). Papers could also address issues in relation to the appropriate means for collecting information on income and wealth components (on micro and macro level). Finally, papers on issues relating to the valuation of the different components of wealth, including the impact of different methods and concepts of calculating the value of wealth components on property income, are welcomed.

Parallel Session 6A: Households and the Environment

Organisers:

Stephan Klasen, Göttingen University, Germany. sklasen@gwdg.de

Gerlinde Verbist, University of Antwerp, Belgium. gerlinde.verbist@ua.ac.be

The recent concern about climate change has made policy makers and researchers more attentive to the economic and social effects of ecologically relevant behaviour. This is exemplified by the fact that Volume 3 of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (which will be produced in 2014) focuses on the economic assessment of the consequences of climate change as well as policy options to affect the drivers of climate change. While there are many existing (largely model-based) estimates of both drivers and consequences of climate change available, they often are based on highly crude assumptions, ignore a great deal of heterogeneity, and do not sufficiently delve into the tricky measurement issues at the aggregate and more disaggregated level. More research is needed to gain a better understanding of the various relationships between (non-) ecological behaviour and attitudes, values and beliefs to economic well-being and inequality. Energy use (including source and provider of energy) and other ecologically relevant topics (e.g. commuting, choice of transportation, choice of foods and

clothing, recycling, vacation, impact of weather shocks) are inevitably linked to the income and consumption of individuals and households. Understanding how different households make decisions about these ecologically relevant topics and how this links to poverty and inequality is a central focus of this session. To the extent that households are also producing units (as they often are in the case of rural households in developing countries) the ecological implications of production and technology decisions will also be relevant.

In this session papers are invited that focus on the interaction between household-level consumption and production decisions and their ecological implications. Papers are also invited on drivers of such decisions, such as studies investigating ecological behaviour and attitudes, the relevance of institutional settings, and economic well-being (i.e., measured by income and wealth) as drivers of these choices. Institutional settings can refer to tax policies (e.g. fuel excises), social benefits (e.g. energy allowances for low-income people), subsidy mechanisms (e.g. for public transport or for solar panel installations), etc. How do these policies affect ecological behaviour of individuals? What are the distributive consequences across and within households? What are possible fiscal and other aggregate effects (e.g. in relation to sustainable economic growth)? Comparative (e.g. cross-national and longitudinal) papers are encouraged, and we invite papers examining these issues in the context of industrial or developing (or cross-country) perspectives.

Parallel Session 6B: Income Distribution in Middle-Income Countries

Organisers:

Francisco Ferreira, World Bank, USA. fferreira@worldbank.org

Markus Jantti, Akademi University, Finland. markus.jantti@sofi.su.se

According to the World Bank's 2008 classification, 101 countries qualify as middle income. Their gross national income (GNI) per capita falls between \$996 and \$12,195 per year, measured in purchasing power parity (PPP). Together, these countries now account for 69% of the world's population, and 41% of its economic output (again, at PPP exchange rates). Many are among the world's most dynamic economies and some of the larger ones, including China, India and Brazil, are leading the recovery in the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008/09.

The sometimes dramatic transformations experienced by these economies are often accompanied by substantial changes in their internal income distribution. As China and India have grown rapidly, both have experienced steadily rising income inequality in the 2000s. Yet, a rising trend is not universal. Over the same period, Brazil's Gini coefficient fell by almost five points. From 2002 onwards, Argentina and Mexico have also experienced declines in inequality.

This session invites innovative papers that shed light on recent trends in inequality, poverty, socio-economic mobility or inequality of opportunity in middle-income countries. Theoretical work is as welcome as empirical papers. Multi-country

comparisons are encouraged, but single-country empirical papers will also be considered. Methodological innovation and/or data quality and originality will be two key criteria for selection, and simple replications of standard empirical techniques to well-known data sources are discouraged.

Parallel Session 6C: Gender and Well-Being

Organisers:

Holly Sutherland, University of Essex, UK. hollys@essex.ac.uk

Gerry Redmond, University of NSW, Australia. g.redmond@unsw.edu.au

With women's increasing engagement in paid work and higher levels of education, and with changing family structures and increased care needs in an ageing society, the relative economic positions of men and women are undergoing a transformation in many advanced and developing nations. Papers are invited that address these changing positions, account for evolving gender inequalities, or examine the within household distribution of resources and responsibilities. Analyses should focus on individual (rather than household) income, wealth and well-being. Papers could, for example, (a) examine the impact of childbirth, care responsibilities or separation on women's economic position, (b) explore the effects of public policies on gender inequalities, (c) analyse the accumulation of wealth by men and women or (d) consider the implications of home production and care for micro level and aggregate measures of income and well-being. Papers that compare across countries, or time (or both) would be particularly welcome.

Parallel Session 7A: The Role of the Housing Market in the Economy

Organiser:

Robert Hill, University of Graz, Austria. robert.hill@uni-graz.at

The recent financial crisis has demonstrated the importance of the housing market to the economy. However, price trends in the housing market and their sustainability are still poorly measured, and there is disagreement over how housing, particularly owner-occupied housing (OOH) should feature in the CPI and the national accounts. Also, the interaction between the housing market and the economy is still not well understood, nor is the impact of housing booms and busts and the tax treatment of housing on inequality. This session aims to help shed light on these issues. More specifically, the themes of interest include methods for constructing house price indices, as well as methods for determining whether house prices are above or below their equilibrium level. Papers could also address issues in relation to the treatment of OOH in the national accounts and the treatment of OOH in the CPI. Finally, papers dealing with the measurement of the impact of the housing market on the economy, and the impact of booms and busts and taxation in the housing market on inequality are also very much welcomed.

Parallel Session 7B: New Frameworks for Measuring Poverty and Deprivation

Organisers:

Gordon Anderson, University of Toronto, Canada. anderson@chass.utoronto.ca

Grazia Pittau, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. grazia.pittau@uniroma1.it

Specifying poverty and deprivation frontiers can be technically difficult, contentious and politically sensitive. This is especially the case when well-being is measured in many dimensions where weighting and trade-off issues abound (for example establishing a multidimensional poverty frontier requires specification of the trade-offs between various deprivations at the margin). There is need for developing more general techniques for welfare measurement that can avoid or overcome such difficulties. The club convergence literature for example establishes sub-groups in the population empirically which provides a more flexible means of identifying and measuring the plight of the poor (and rich) which can avoid the weighting issues that occur in multidimensional analysis. This session is interested in new approaches to identifying and measuring aspects of multidimensional illness and wellness that address the many frontier and weighting issues.

Parallel Session 8A: How to Capture Multinationals in the National Accounts

Organisers:

Mark de Haan, Statistics Netherlands, The Netherlands. mhaa@cbs.nl

Alice Nakamura, University of Alberta, School of Business, Canada.
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SNA 2008 and BPM6 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/bopman6.htm>) provide changed guidelines to record the activities of international operating companies such as merchanters, industrial processors and more generally global manufacturers. The updated SNA no longer allows for the imputation of ownership transfer of goods shipped abroad for processing. In addition, the trade margins of merchanters are no longer considered the export of a trade service. Instead goods subject to merchanting are recorded as (net) export, purchases as negative export and sales as positive export, the difference between the two representing the trade margin.

Processing and merchanting type of activities are frequently carried out within the context of multinational operating enterprises. When applying the new guidelines to these types of enterprises, there are several conceptual, measurement and analytical issues to consider. On the basis of what criteria can we distinguish between processing and merchanting activities of enterprises engaged in global manufacturing? Key in this context is how economic ownership (and ownership transfer) is being assessed within globally operating enterprises. How should the so-called factory-less enterprises be characterized: as traders, manufacturers or something else?

Data sources may be insufficient to measure the domestic economic activity of global manufacturers. For example, in many countries the international trade in goods statistics will stick to a crossing border registration. This will seriously

complicate the implementation of SNA 2008 and BPM6. What alternative data sources are available to adjust for cross border movement of goods that are not subject to ownership change? And how can we observe purchases (and sales) of goods that never physically enter the territory of the purchaser? Are there also implications for the measurement of the quantity and remuneration of labour, and for inflation measures?

The new guidelines clearly have consequences for the analytical use of national accounts and balance of payments statistics. Do they contribute to a better understanding of the economic operations of multinational companies and factory-less companies in particular? And what are their consequences for analysing labour and/or multifactor productivity, and the physical characteristics of economic performances in the context of sustainability (material flow accounting and environmental accounting more generally)?

Parallel Session 8B: Well-Being over Time

Organisers:

Andrew Clark, Paris School of Economics, France. andrew.clark@ens.fr

Dirk van de Gaer, University of Gent, Belgium. dirk.vandegaer@ugent.be

The measurement of well-being is very much at the heart of the current public policy debate. However, much of the empirical analysis of both objective and subjective well-being has been atemporal, describing individual well-being uniquely as a result of some set of outcomes at date t . This is the case for subjective well-being, where outcomes at date t are correlated with well-being measures at the same date; it is also the case in the objective approach, which concentrates on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth at date t to make welfare statements.

In this session, papers are invited that examine the relationship between well-being and the profiles of income, consumption, wealth and any other variable aiming at capturing an individual's well-being. Here, profiles do not only refer to the different levels of the variables over time, but also explicitly to their variance, the number of experiences of gains, the number of experiences of losses, and so on. These profiles may be those experienced in the own individual's past, but also those that they expect in the future, or indeed those that they observe for others.

Papers are invited that deal with the measurement of well-being, both from a theoretical and applied perspective. The kinds of topics in this context could include insecurity, vulnerability, poverty, inequality and mobility.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Peter van de Ven, Chair (Statistics Netherlands), Barbara Fraumeni, (University of Southern Maine), Joachim Frick (DIW Berlin), Steve Landefeld (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis), Andrew Sharpe, ex officio (IARIW)