



## SOUTHERN CENTRE FOR INEQUALITY STUDIES SYMPOSIUM: UNDERSTANDING INEQUALITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

### **Pre-Conference Event: Wealth Inequality Workshop 9th April 2019**

#### **Background:**

Much of the research on inequality has focussed on inequality of income and of opportunities. There is a large gap in understanding wealth inequality, and its impact on other spheres of society. In economics and quantitative-based sociological studies, much of the research has focussed on measuring wealth distribution, how wealth is held, and the mechanism through which wealth distribution is produced and reproduced. In sociology and anthropology, insightful research on elites show why and how wealth privileges reproduced, and reveal the non-money metric factors that are crucial to understanding the top shares in the distribution in the form of power, culture, and other social structures. Crucially, these studies also help us understand the political economy in which policy efforts to redress inequality is done.

Much of the theorising on wealth inequality has been done in the 'Global North', where the Northern experience has been universalised and applied to the South. However, the roots of inequality in the South are different, and the manifestation of inequality are different both in and within the South.

We propose that using 'wealth inequality' as a conceptual tool can bring together different disciplinary approaches to studying this phenomenon, and research originating in the South provide an alternative base from which to theorise about wealth inequality. In better understanding wealth inequality in the South, we hope to provide a basis in which to redress inequality.

#### **Aim:**

The event is bringing together a new group of researchers from different disciplines across the world. The goal is to share ideas and experiences to workshop a common approach to understanding wealth inequality in the Global South. Further, many researchers work on this area in isolated spaces, and we hope that this network will motivate and build momentum in this area of research.

Specifically, we aim to discuss:

- What are the key questions that need to be researched?
- What would a multi/trans-disciplinary approach look like?
- What are the challenges facing research?
- How can this network support and grow this research agenda?

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## Agenda:

08:30 – 09:00	Registration + Coffee		
<b>Phase 1. Introduction</b>			
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome remarks	Aroop Chatterjee	Research Manager: Wealth Inequality Project
	Why inequality, why wealth, why Southern?	Imraan Valodia	Dean of Commerce, Law and Economics, Wits University
<b>Phase 2. Introduction to researchers' work</b>			
09:30 – 11:00	<b>Measuring wealth inequality</b>	<b>Chair: I. Valodia</b>	Wits University
	India	S. Subramanian	Independent Scholar, Chennai
		A.Thampi & I.Anand	Azim Premji University; Ambedkar University Delhi
		V. Vakulabharanam	University of Massachusetts
	Uganda	S. Ssewanyana	Economic Policy Research Centre, Kampala
	Ghana	I.Osei-Akoto	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)
	South Africa	A.Chatterjee	SCIS, Wits University
	How could multidisciplinary approach contribute?	All	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break		

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11:30 – 13:00	<b>Understanding wealth inequality</b>	<b>Chair: E. Webster</b>	SCIS, Wits University
	Mexico	A.Krozer	Colegio de Mexico
	Chile	J.Atria	Centro de Economía y Políticas Sociales, U. Major, Santiago
	Brazil	J.Sklair	University of Sussex
	India	U.Ponniah	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
	South Africa	F.Duca	PARI, Wits
	How could a multidisciplinary approach contribute?	All	
<b>13:00-14:00 Lunch</b>			
<b>Phase 3. The Unconference – Key questions and challenges</b>			
14:00 – 14:15	Reflections on key issues to be discussed		All
14:15 – 15:45	Session 1		
	Session 2		
	Session 3		
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break		
<b>Phase 4. Summary of main outcomes and discussion of next steps</b>			
16:00 -17:00	Conclusions: What's the story so far, and what do we need to research?		A.Chatterjee
	A Wealth Inequality Research Fund and call for papers		

In the afternoon session, we will have a participant-led structure. Following the discussion in the morning, the participants together will decide an agenda for the afternoon. Then three sessions either can occur as breakaway groups or can follow on from each other.

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