Minda de Gunzburg
CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Weatherhead Center
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CROP
Comparative Research
Programme on Poverty

FRENCH EMBASSY
IN THE UNITED STATES

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Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication

An international workshop organised by the
Comparative Research Programme on Poverty - CROP (ISSC/UiB), Social Exclusion and Inclusion Study Group of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (both at Harvard University), and with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, 17-18 November 2016

Thursday 17th November

Venue: Center for European Studies – Lower Level Conference Room

8:30   Breakfast

09:00   Welcome remarks and presentation of the objectives of the workshop
- Michèle Lamont, Director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
- Hilary Silver, CROP Fellow, Affiliate, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies
- Alberto D. Cimadamore, Scientific Director, Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (ISSC/UiB)

Session 1: Stigmatizing, Shaming and Isolating the Poor

Chair: Devah Pager, Sociology (FAS) and Social Policy (KSG), Harvard University

09:15   Robert Walker, Social Policy, Oxford University, UK
Shame, stigma and the take-up of social assistance: Insights from rural China

Discussant: William P. Alford, Harvard Law School, Harvard University

Stigma is one of the reasons for low take-up of social assistance benefits, deterring participation in anti-poverty programs despite financial need and social rights. China is an apparent deviant case, with rapidly falling poverty and high up-take of *Dibao*, the world's largest social assistance scheme. Given the poor targeting and considerable local discretion in administering the program, recipients must balance two stigmas, of poverty but also abuse of the system. There are dangers of implementing social assistance without supportive political, legal and cultural infrastructures.

10:00   Nora E. Groce, Leonard Cheshire Disability & Inclusive Development Centre, University College London, UK
Persons with disability: At risk and too often overlooked

Discussant: Kathryn A. Sikkink, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Until the new Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, SDGs, inclusion and anti-poverty policies neglected the cumulative disadvantages of people with disabilities, who were treated under a medical model. Under the new SDG resolutions, they are now mentioned throughout the international call to 'leave no one behind.' This paper reports on research that establishes clearer links among disability, social inclusion and poverty, drawing upon three research projects in Africa, such as the life trajectories of persons with disabilities who beg for their living.

10:45   Kim Samuel, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, Canada
Social connectedness and poverty eradication: A South African perspective

Discussant: Sue Goldie, T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University

Social isolation is a deprivation of social connectedness intricately linked to the causes and consequences of both social exclusion and poverty. This paper presents case studies on this neglected dimension of multidimensional poverty analysis, drawn from the Social Connectedness Programme in South Africa. It illustrates mechanisms for overcoming exclusionary relations affecting children and youth, and shows how local support of social relationships are linked to social-economic empowerment by enabling resource mobilisation and enhancing the employability and well-being of young people.

11:30   Morning coffee break

Session 2: Caste, Indigenous and Racial Exclusion, Affirmative Action and Poverty: India

Chair: S. V. Subramanian, T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University

11:45   Sukhadeo Thorat, Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Indian Council of Social Science Research, India
         Why does caste discrimination persist despite its illegality in India: Reflections on theories of discrimination

Discussant: *Lant Pritchett, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*

The paper reviews the evidence that caste discrimination persists in India although the Constitution outlawed it, in light of Darity's identity theory of norms formation, Akerlof and Kranton's theory of Identity Economics, and Ambedkar's theory of caste.

12:15   Surinder S. Jodhka, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
         Exclusionary rural transformations: Social dynamics of caste and community in the non-farm economy in India

Discussant: Rohini Pande, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

This paper examines the increasingly marginalized rural nonfarm population of India that has long been internally differentiated on caste and community (religious) lines. Caste and community are not merely distinctions of cultural identity and ritual status, but also regulate access to material resources, such as agricultural land, and produce rigid and exclusionary social structures grounded in institutionalized practices of discrimination and denial. Further, the relationship of the rural and urban reproduces poverty and newer forms of exclusion by caste, community and gender.

13:00   Lunch

Session 3: Inclusion Policies and Anti-Poverty Programs in the European Union

Chair: Daniel Ziblatt, Government, Harvard University

14:00   Nonna Mayer, Centre d'études européennes de Sciences Po, France
         Social exclusion, poverty and politics: The French case

Discussant: Michèle Lamont, Sociology and African and African American Studies, Harvard University

The paper will show how even very precarious people have political orientations and preferences, quite similar to the rest of the electorate except a higher rejection of mainstream parties, but have much higher rates of abstention, and not much would be necessary to help them express their voice and be heard.

14:45   Maria Petmesidou, Professor of Social Policy, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
         Can the European Union 2020 strategy deliver on social inclusion?

Discussant: Hilary Silver, Visiting Senior Fellow, Ash Center, Kennedy School of Government and Brown University

The EU Agenda 2020 set a quantified goal of reducing poverty and social exclusion as part of the strategy for "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth." This paper critically examines how this new strategy has fared so far. It finds increases since 2009 in the three EU measures of the poverty and social exclusion: the at- risk- of poverty rate (AROP), i.e. the relative poverty measure based on disposable income; severe material deprivation (SMD); and joblessness (LWI), i.e. people living in households with zero or low work intensity. Reasons for ineffectiveness include unresolved tensions and opposing normative visions of poverty and social exclusion among EU countries that erect serious barriers to social inclusion, as well as flawed European coordination and governance mechanisms.

15:30   Axel Cronert, Visiting Student Researcher, MIT & Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden
        Trends in social investment and poverty in Sweden: The enlightened path or 'The Third Way'?

Discussant: Peter A. Hall, Government, Harvard University

The paper assesses criticisms of the EU Social Investment package pointing to a lack of complementarity between the program's multiple goals of increasing employment and decreasing poverty. Arguing that the criticisms apply mainly to the Third Way approach to social investment, it describes an alternative Nordic model and, with data from Eurostat and Swedish governmental agencies, it finds a dilution in the investment quality of policy interventions, especially in active labor market policy, and drifting redistribution policies, making it more difficult to combat old as well as new social divisions. It calls for a more enlightened recasting of the social investment policy package.

16:15   Afternoon coffee break

16:30   **Keynote speech**

        Introduction: Michèle Lamont

        Vijayendra Rao, Lead Economist, Development Research Group, The World Bank

        Active Development: Using Social Theory to Improve Policy Practice for Poverty Reduction and Social Empowerment

        Discussant: Michael Walton, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Community-driven development approaches are widely used to address persistent poverty and social exclusion in developing countries. Their goal is to harness local capacities for collective action to help people help themselves. In practice such approaches have been criticized for being poorly managed and subject to elite dominance and capture, particularly when implemented on a large scale. The Active Development approach is an attempt to address this by (a) integrating social and economic theory to diagnose problems and design better interventions, (b) develop nimble approaches to large-scale management which allow interventions to adapt to different contexts and trajectories of change, and (c) to give citizens the ability to collect and analyze their own data, and employ deliberative processes of decision making, to make them informed and active co-producers of policy design and implementation. This talk will discuss the work of the World Bank's Social Observatory team in India that has been developing the Active Development approach with women's self-help groups for the last five years.

17:30   Reception for participants of the public sessions

19.30   Dinner for invited presenters and discussants   Venue: Harvard Faculty Club

Friday 18th November – PLEASE NOTE: SPACE IS LIMITED, PLEASE RSVP TO ENSURE A PLACE
Venue: Center for European Studies – Hoffman Room
8:30 Breakfast
Session 4: Inclusionary Policies in Developing Countries

Chair: Tarun Khanna, Harvard Business School, Harvard University

09:00   Lázaro I. Rodríguez, United Nations Consultant - Transformatorio Cultural para el Desarrollo
        Intercultural approach as a tool for social inclusion and poverty eradication in Central America

Discussant: Ajantha Subramanian, Anthropology, Harvard University

The paper presents the intercultural approach to promoting inclusion of culturally excluded groups living in disadvantaged areas in Central America and Southern Africa. Acknowledging that reducing the economic gaps is not enough to eradicate exclusion, it looks for inclusive ways to address complex forms of discrimination, violence

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and stigmatization based on cultural values, related to ethnicity, race, skin color, identity and sexual orientation, gender, physical or mental disability, religion, migrant status or nationality. It presents some experiences of inclusion of vulnerable populations in local-level policy decision- making and its impact on improving access to services and participation in social, cultural and political life.

09:45   Dr. Babatunde Omilola, Head of Development Planning and Inclusive Growth, United Nations
        Development Program, New York
        Human Rights-Based Approach for Addressing Poverty and Social Exclusion in South African in the Era of the SDGs

Discussant: Alberto D. Cimadamore, Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (ISSC/UiB)

Based on a comprehensive review of the literature and with both quantitative and qualitative data, the paper explores the complex relationship between poverty, growth and inequality. The paper further explores how the human rights-based approach can address poverty and social exclusion in South Africa based on overall definition of poverty adopted by the United Nations to tackle 'social discrimination and exclusion' and 'lack of participation in decision-making civil, social and cultural life'.

10:30   Morning coffee break

Session 5: Rights as Inclusion Mechanism

Chair: Jacqueline Bhabha, T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University

10:45   John C. Mubangizi, College of Law and Management Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
        A constitutional and human rights-based approach to reducing poverty and social exclusion in South Africa

Discussant: Lucie White, Harvard Law School, Harvard University

The paper considers the international human rights norms relevant to poverty and social exclusion in general and in South Africa in particular. Given that country's history, a constitutional approach to reducing poverty and social exclusion – especially of women, children, and rural populations - is especially promising.

11:30   Shreya Atrey, Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
        Poverty: An intersectional castaway in discrimination law

Discussant: Frank Dobbin, Sociology, Harvard University

This paper clarifies a contradiction in terms between discrimination law theory and practice to show that poverty's intersectional character actually strengthens the case for its recognition as a ground for charges in discrimination law. Analysing leading examples of housing discrimination and housing rights from some of the most progressive discrimination law regimes – Canada, South Africa and India –it refutes the single-axis framework of discrimination law that points to its intersectionality and refutes the claim that the poor are not a group, when homelessness, for example, does lead to a claim for equal protection.

12:15   Book presentation: *Child Poverty, Youth (Un)Employment, and Social Inclusion*
        (October 2016, Ibidem Verlag, Germany) Presented by Maria Petmesidou (editor)

12:30   **Wrap-up and future plans (for authors only)**

13:00   Lunch & end of workshop