

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

Thirty-third General Conference— The Netherlands, August 24-30, 2014

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 organized by named session organizers into Plenary sessions, and 'A', 'B' and one additional 'C' Parallel sessions. Papers accepted from submission route (b) are organized by the Programme Committee into the 'C', 'D', and Poster sessions. (This organizational structure is illustrated by the programme for the previous General Conference: see <http://www.iariw.org/c2012.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 organizers 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. Instructions for submission of abstracts will be posted shortly. **The deadline for receipt of proposals is August 31, 2013.**

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 organized 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>.

Session 2A: Challenges in Output and Productivity Measurement,

Organizer:

Marcel Timmer (University of Groningen) m.p.timmer@rug.nl

Despite recent progress, there are still major (and growing) areas in the economy that are resistant to measurement of outputs, inputs and productivity. This session invites contributions in the area of improving these measures. In particular the session would like to address these problems for important market services activities such as legal and consulting, but also educational, health care and government activities which fall within the current boundaries of the national accounts. We also encourage studies on activities outside the current boundaries such as non-market child care and rearing, household activities and other non-profit activities. Papers which examine the measurement of inputs only or outputs only will be considered for inclusion into this proposed session, as well as those which combine inputs and outputs to form a productivity measure.

Session 2B: Equivalence scales over Time and Space

Organizers:

Pat Ruggles (Orlin Research) patricia@orlinresearch.com

Equivalence scales are crucial to adjust for differences in family size and composition for the estimation of the levels and trends in poverty, inequality, and median income or consumption. There has been much research to show that the choice of scale can affect the levels poverty or inequality. But the equivalence scales of 30 years ago may not be the correct adjustment today. This session will examine both the conceptual and empirical issues with choosing and estimating equivalence scales that change over time and space. This could include papers that develop consistent scales to use for individuals as their needs or living arrangement change, papers that consider trends using equivalence scales that change over time, papers that examine the impact of using different scales across countries, papers that examine the impacts of changing needs, household composition, and household work on equivalence scales.

Session 3: What about STIK: How to Treat in-kind Government Benefits at Micro and Macro Levels

Organizers:

David Johnson (US Census Bureau) Johnson_David_Scott@bls.gov

Maryse Fesseau (OECD) maryse.fesseau@oecd.org

Households receive social benefits from the government both in cash and in kind. The latter, called Social Transfers In Kind (STIK), includes services such as health care, education, long-term elderly care, and childcare services. At both the macro and micro level international standards (the System of National Accounts – SNA – and the Canberra Handbook) recommend to include STIK in the definition of household income.

There are several issues to be addressed when it comes to include STIK in income. Some issues have to be addressed at both micro and macro levels (e.g. how to estimate the monetary value of the public services? which public services to include? what time of recording to apply?). Some

other issues are specific to the micro level (e.g. how to allocate the relevant benefits to individuals or households? which equivalence scale should to use?).

This session will evaluate how STIK should be included in poverty, income and other measures of economic well-being and relating these measures to those included in the national accounts. More specifically, papers are welcomed that present alternative methods to impute the value of in-kind government benefits, examine the impact of in kind benefits on economic well-being, compare economic well-being across countries or over time, compare and evaluate the treatment of STIK in macro versus micro data, or discuss the conceptual issues regarding the inclusion (or exclusion) of health care or education benefits from measures of economic well-being.

Session 4A: Improving the Measurement of Intangible Assets

Organizer:

Robert Inklaar (University of Groningen) R.C.Inklaar@rug.nl

After the pioneering work by Corrado, Hulten and Sichel and their early followers, the importance of investment in intangible assets is clear. Intangible investment is similar in scale to tangible investment and estimates show sizeable contributions to economic growth.

Yet there are many open issues in this field that need addressing:

- We know little about the price and depreciation of these assets;
- The return to these assets is often uncertain, but this is not reflected in estimating their contribution to growth;
- There are likely positive and negative spillovers that drive a wedge between the private and social return to intangible investment
- Research so far has focused on private investment, but the public sector invests in intangible assets as well, with likely important consequences for growth in both the public and private sector;
- Can intangible investment be directly measured through surveys or are indirect estimations the best that can be done;
- How should intangible investments by multinationals show up in national statistics.

In addition, extensive data collection and compilation efforts are taking shape that should provide new insights into the importance of intangibles for investment and growth across countries, industries and over time. Both methodological and empirical contributions are welcome in this session.

Session 4B: Poverty Measurement and the Durations of Poverty Spells

Organizer:

Lars Osberg (Dalhousie University) Lars.Osberg@dal.ca

In recent years, theoretical work on poverty measurement has emphasized its multi-dimensional nature and has started to recognize the importance of poverty spell durations (Journal of Economic Inequality, Special Issue June 2012). Nevertheless, the actual statistical practice of poverty measurement overwhelmingly remains one-dimensional (focussed on the aggregate

money value of either income or consumption) and locked in a “slice in time” perspective. How can this gulf be bridged?

This session welcomes papers that address both the theoretical and practical measurement issues surrounding recognition of the welfare consequences of income and consumption volatility and household composition changes for poverty entry and exit, the distribution of poverty spell durations and the construction of aggregate measures of poverty.

Session 4C: Global Production: Measurement, Causes, and Consequences

Organizers:

Peter van de Ven (OECD) Peter.VANDEVEN@oecd.org

Gaaitzen de Vries (University of Groningen) g.j.de.vries@rug.nl

Production is becoming increasingly fragmented across national borders. Fostered by rapidly falling tariff barriers and communication and coordination costs, the allocation of production processes become more and more dispersed across countries. This session seeks papers that advance on two important issues.

First, the increasing global nature of economic transactions and arrangements presents a challenge to the application and measurement of national concepts, as defined in the System of National Accounts. It also raises issues in relation to the use of data collected and compiled for measuring developments in the domestic economy. Work that advances on conceptual and measurement issues related to global production is needed. Also research on the (in)adequacy of traditional indicators and/or work providing alternative indicators for use in policy and analysis is very much welcomed.

Secondly, globalization can have a significant impact on a country’s performance, be it on economic developments, on developments in the social sphere (e.g. impact on income and wealth distribution) or on environmentally related issues. An ongoing debate is over the importance of globalization on societal developments more in general, for better or for worse. Improved measures of global production sharing and understanding of the implications for issues affecting society are highly needed.

Session 5 (plenary:) Time Use and Well-Being

Organizers:

Joachim Merz (University of Lueneburg, Germany) merz@uni-lueneburg.de

Paul Schreyer (OECD) Paul.Schreyer@oecd.org

Time affects individual well-being by enabling and restricting any activity. Information on time use is thus important for indicators of individual and a society’s well-being (e.g. see the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi 2009 report).

The session will focus on time and profiles of time use as one of the determinants of well-being (in addition to e.g. income) The session will bring together time use profiles (with a family/household context) for paid and unpaid work, investment in human capital, social time, care giving, leisure and their implications for well-being (e.g. measured as satisfaction and/or

other outcome measures). Thereby, time poverty and the relative prevalence of time use choices and time constraints constitute crucial issues.

On the micro side, new measures of well-being, inequality and distribution may be derived based on individual time use diary data that rely on novel approaches of asking the respondents for their time use. On the macro side, contributions on the use of aggregated time use data to enhance the traditional income and wealth approaches are welcomed.

Session 6A: Measuring the Size and Structure of the World Economy

Organizers:

D.S. Prasada Rao (The University of Queensland) p.rao@economics.uq.edu.au

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula (International Comparison Program, The World Bank)

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The latest round of the International Comparison Program, ICP 2011, covers 180 countries from all the regions of the world. Of particular note is the full participation of China in this ICP round with nationally representative price surveys compared to its limited participation in the last round where price surveys in China covered only 11 capital cities. In addition, a number of Pacific-islander countries have been included in the ICP for the first time. Results on the size, shape and structure of the world economy from the ICP 2011 are scheduled to be released electronically late in 2013 and the final report is expected early in 2014.

The proposed session will provide a forum for analysis and discussion of the methodological and data related innovations and the main findings from the 2011 ICP; and the reconciliation of 2011 ICP results with the 2005 ICP benchmark results. The scope of the session extends beyond the ICP to include the following topics: sub-national PPPs and inter-area price and real income comparisons; PPPs based on alternative sources of prices including web-based price surveys; PPPs for sectoral output and productivity comparisons; index number methods for spatial comparisons; and measures of global and regional inequality and poverty.

Session 6B: Multidimensionality and Growth Pro-pooriness

Organizers:

Paola Ballon (Oxford University) paola_ballon@hotmail.com

Florent Bresson (Université d'Orléans) florent.bresson@univ-orleans.fr

The aim of this session is to bring together two topics that were the subject of vivid interest during the last decade, namely multidimensional poverty and pro-poor growth. The primary goal of the session is to contribute to the ongoing debate about reframing the post-2015 MDG's into a multidimensional framework with sustainable growth. Hence it is of interest to assess the relationship between observed monetary pro-poor growth spells and pro-poor patterns of non-monetary attributes. Although studies on growth pro-pooriness have been numerous, few of them have addressed, either at the theoretical or at the empirical level, the joint issue of multidimensionality and pro-pooriness, or have succeeded in assessing the drivers of pro-poor growth patterns.

This session will welcome policy and methodological papers that investigate the topic of multidimensionality and pro-pooriness in developing countries. From the policy angle, the

session aims to provide insights about achieving successful economic growth together with poverty alleviation. From a methodological standpoint, we are interested in papers that i) examine pro-poorness tests, with the methodological and practical issues involved in the construction of counterfactual scenarios used in the testing exercise; ii) study the joint distribution of multiple deprivations and growth. This is whether multiply-deprived individuals are also those that benefit the most from economic growth, and whether growth is associated (or not) with a spread of the number of deprivations among the poor.

Session 7A: Measurement of Tax Evasion and Its Impact on the Income Distribution

Organizers:

Francesco Figari (University of Insubria and University of Essex) francesco.figari@uninsubria.it

Alari Paulus (University of Essex) apaulus@essex.ac.uk

Despite the growing interest of economists and policy makers in the effects of tax evasion on income distribution, given its nature, empirical research on tax evasion remains limited. Nevertheless, the increased availability of administrative datasets, often combined with individual survey data, provides new opportunities to enhance the measurement of tax evasion and broaden knowledge about its effects on income distribution.

The session will look for contributions focussing on measurement aspects of tax evasion of income tax and payroll taxes, employing a range of methods including a combination of high quality micro and macro data, survey and administrative data and microsimulation. Estimates of the determinants and extent of evasion as well as the distribution of undeclared income should be a central part of analyses. Papers exploring the implications of tax evasion on the overall income distribution will be particularly welcome.

Session 7B: Measuring Capital Stock and Capital Services

Organizer:

Marshall Reinsdorf (Bureau of Economic Analysis) marshall.reinsdorf@bea.gov

Measuring the capital stock is a key element of understanding sources of growth, and a new chapter in the 2008 version of the SNA encourages statistical agencies to develop measures of capital services. Furthermore, recent research has shown that in advanced economies the composition of the capital stock has evolved to give critical roles to intangible types of capital.

For emerging economies, measures of capital stock and capital services are needed that can help us to analyze the past sources of growth accelerations and changing sources of growth today. Papers are also invited on questions such as: (a) estimation of the initial capital stock in emerging economies and the sensitivity of current year estimates to the variation of the estimate of the initial stock within its plausible range; (b) estimation of stocks and services of intangible types of capital, such as R&D, artistic originals, and economic competencies, and their contribution to economic growth; (c) estimation of service lives and depreciation rates for traditional or newly recognized types of capital assets; (d) the role of exogenous or endogenous obsolescence in depreciation of physical or intangible capital stocks; (e) measuring prices and volumes of traditional or newly recognized types of capital assets; (f) relationships between

capital services and capital stocks; and (g) accounting for international transactions in capital assets and services.

Session 8A: Measuring and Explaining Individual Attainment of Economic and Social Justice

Organizer:

Gordon Anderson (University of Toronto) anderson@chass.utoronto.ca

Much work has been done on developing aggregate measures of the extent to which particular definitions of economic and social justice have been achieved in a society but little has been done to study and explain the extent to which individuals in that society have failed achieved the just state. This is surprising given that most aggregate measures (poverty, deprivation and inequality measures for example) are really an aggregation of some form of distance that individuals are from the just state in that society. From a social justice policy perspective it is these individual distances that we need to understand and explain. This session is interested in papers which address the measurement and explanation of individual distances from the just state (however defined). A deprivation measurement example will suffice. Most deprivation measures are based upon some aggregation of individual distances from a pre-specified deprivation frontier, given a suitable individual or household cross sectional (or panel) data set, these individual distances could be related to other individual, household or societal characteristics to study what aspects of those individuals, households and societies alleviate or promote deprivation. Similar exercises can be performed with respect to poverty, inequality or generational mobility measures that are based upon Rawlsian basic needs, Sens' Functionings and capabilities or Dworkin's Equality of Opportunity concepts of social justice. This session is interested in such exercises.

Session 8B: Issues in the Implementation of the 2008 SNA

Organizers:

Albert Braakmann (Statistisches Bundesamt) Albert.Braakmann@destatis.de

Alice Nakamura (University of Alberta) alice.nakamura@ualberta.ca

Many countries are now busy implementing the new System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, or soon will begin doing so. The implementation process requires finding satisfactory and reliable solutions for the roughly 44 areas in the SNA where changes have been introduced in the 2008 revision. Of particular importance, given their possible impact on GDP, are the changes to the treatment of R&D, military weapons, pension obligations, and the financial sector. The financial sector is of major importance for understanding economic fluctuations and growth, and also for understanding the financial crisis of 2008-2009. Issues related to the treatment of banks in particular, including the treatment of FISIM and the FISIM reference rate, are sure to be areas in which the national statistics offices are seeking guidance, and also where further changes to the SNA in subsequent revisions seem likely. Experience with developing new types of (satellite) accounts could be also be usefully shared. Theoretical contributions as well as contributions focusing on practical matters are welcomed.