



Understanding Poverty and Inequality in South Africa

Executive Course

12—16 March 2018, Cape Town (*venue tbc*)

Presented by UCT's Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) in collaboration with the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD II) in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)

Grappling with poverty and inequality, two of the key challenges facing South Africa, lies and the heart of most of government's work.

Widespread poverty remains a concerning feature of South African society: according to a recently released report by Statistics South Africa, over 30.4 million people were still living in poverty in 2015, and approximately 13.8 million of these were living below the Food Poverty Line. Poverty in South Africa is a function of our history and is structural: conversations about poverty and inequality must address thus issues of justice, discrimination, power and distribution, which underpin poverty and inequality in the country.

Due to structural inequalities in South Africa and the global economy, the benefits of economic growth have accrued to elites. In South Africa, research by SALDRU indicates that income shares are stacked towards the top 10% (who earn up to 60% of all income, and own up to 95% of all assets); the poorest 50% of the population, who still earn about 10% of all income, own no measurable wealth at all (Orthofer, 2016). Inequalities between social classes and countries combine with discrimination based on gender, race, culture and sexual orientation to form patterns of poverty and exclusion that pervade the world today.

Dealing with inequality is a complex social and economic challenge. There is no silver bullet for addressing inequality. Labour and financial markets matter, and if structured correctly, can contribute towards more inclusive growth. However, they are insufficient on their own to eradicate poverty and inequality. Provision of social services – education, health and social protection – is important and helps to support poorer sections of society, but other substantial changes are required to address the structural imbalance in the country. Policies that facilitate inclusion are important for creating opportunities and improving the lives of citizens.

The programme

The aim of this course is to:

- (I) Provide senior government officials and policy makers with information on current debates within the poverty and inequality discourse;
- (II) Stimulate critical reflection of how their work is positioned relative to the poverty and Inequality response; and
- (III) Explore potential levers and strategies that can be applied towards the attainment of greater impact on poverty as well as inequality in South Africa

As far as possible, the course will highlight lessons that can be derived from experiences locally, within Africa as well as internationally. Specific attention will be given to identifying ways in which to ensure lessons gained within the course is translated into daily work practices.

The course will target officials in key line departments whose work is important in addressing the challenge of poverty and inequality. This includes the Presidency, National Treasury and the Departments of Social Development, Basic Education, Health and Human Settlements as well as the economic departments.

What will participants gain from attending the course?

1. A conceptual understanding of poverty, inequality and inclusive growth
2. An understanding of the dynamics and causes of poverty and inequality at an individual, household and societal level
3. An understanding of growth measurements and the relevance to understanding poverty and inequality
4. Recognition of potential levers of change and strategies for tackling poverty and inequality as well as creating growth
5. Deeper insight into trends in poverty and inequality reduction from around the world
6. An understanding of the implications of existing government strategies and programmes on poverty and inequality in the country
7. A set of possible approaches and tools that departments can utilise to strengthen their responses to poverty and inequality

Previous participants' descriptions of the course

“The course was great as an introduction to the concepts and nature of P&I in South Africa. The quality of the speakers and presenters was excellent.”

“It clarified the spectrum and the depth of issues of poverty and inequality.”

“As a result of the course, I am a better, more empowered change agent. I have a clear understanding of poverty and how it is experienced and how it can be combatted.”

“The concepts of poverty, economic growth and equality are now clear and will inform my approach to policy development.”

Resource people

PROF MURRAY LEIBBRANDT is the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Poverty and Inequality, at the University of Cape Town, a Professor in the School of Economics and the Director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit. He holds the DST/NRF National Research Chair in Poverty and Inequality Research and is an IZA Research Fellow. He chairs the ASSAF Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality. His research analyses South African poverty, inequality and labour market dynamics using survey data and, in particular, panel data. He is one of the Principal Investigators on the National Income Dynamics Study.

DR PHAKAMA NTSHONGWANA is the Head of Missionvale Campus at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Prior to this, she was a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include social policy in developing countries and social citizenship. She conducted research on the implementation of the Child Support Grant and the attitudes of benefit recipients to employment, labour activation strategies and social grants. Her Social Security research has a gender focus, in particular the experiences of women in receipt of the Child Support Grant in relation to their children, partners and their communities.

PROF TREVOR MANUEL is a senior advisor to the Rothschild Group worldwide and Deputy Chairman of Rothschild in South Africa. He served as a Cabinet Minister from 1994 to 2014 under the first four successive presidents in democratic South Africa. His cabinet responsibilities included Trade and Industry (1994 - 1996), Finance (1996 - 2009), and in the Presidency, responsibility for the National Planning Commission (2009 - 2014). While a Cabinet Minister he also served as a Member of Parliament, representing the African National Congress.

As Minister of Trade and Industry he led the process of reintegration of South Africa into the global economy after decades of sanctions, and introduced extension support measures for SMMEs. During his lengthy tenure as Minister of Finance he stabilised the macro-economy, significantly transformed the fiscal system in respect of taxation, expenditure and the intergovernmental system. As Chairperson of the National Planning Commission he oversaw the drafting of the broadly accepted first-ever National Development Plan for the country.

As Minister he assumed a number of ex officio positions on International bodies, including the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, the IMF, the G20, the African Development Bank and the Southern African Development Community. He was often elected to chair several of these bodies. Mr Manuel was appointed as Special Envoy for Financing Development on two occasions by successive Secretaries General of the United Nations. He served on various international commissions and has received a number of awards, including Africa's Finance Minister of the Year and the Woodrow Wilson Public Service Award. He has 7 honorary doctorates from South African tertiary institutions and a Doctor of Laws from MacMaster University, Ontario Canada. He has served as the Chancellor of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) since May 2008.

Additional speakers include **Alan Hirsch** (Director, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, UCT) and **Haroon Borhat** (Director, Development Policy Research Unit, UCT).



About the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice at the University of Cape Town

The School provides professional and academic training for senior government officials, elected office bearers and those engaged in public policy in South Africa, as well as for other African countries and beyond.

It also engages in research, consultancy and policy advice on issues related to development policy and practice in Africa. In doing so, it builds on the academic resources of the different faculties at the University of Cape Town, as well as those of local and international partners.

The School seeks to strengthen links between the research community and the policy community and promotes the development of strategic leadership in government, including a strong emphasis on accountability in government.

About the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development II (PSPPDII)

The Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development II (PSPPDII) is a research and capacity building programme that is located within the renamed Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME).

The PSPPD focuses on promoting the use of research and other evidence in policy interventions that address poverty and inequality. Attention is therefore given to assisting policy makers and researchers in systematically harnessing the best available evidence to inform the policy-making process. The strategies aimed at strengthening the use of research and other evidence in policy-making and implementation is inclusive of supporting various learning platforms that foster the exchange of knowledge among policy makers and researchers. The Poverty and Inequality course is one of the flagship courses of the PSPPD II, specifically providing opportunities for senior policy makers in government to grapple with critical issues facing South Africa.

How to apply?

Complete the application form provided.

Any queries can be directed to Poverty.GSDPP@uct.ac.za

The closing date for applications is **Friday 16 February 2018**. Space is limited so we suggest you apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Participation will be confirmed by **21 February 2018**. On confirmation, you will receive payment details after which payment / purchase order must be received no later than 02 March 2018 in order to secure the booking.

Who should apply?

Senior officials from Deputy Director General, Chief Director and Director level in a national or provincial government department in South Africa, tasked with managing programmes that address poverty and inequality alleviation and reduction. (It is preferable that a management team from a department attends, as they will benefit more from the course and find it easier to implement learnings in the department.)

Costs

- Course fees R12,000 (twelve thousand ZAR) per delegate payable in advance. *Course fees include course attendance, course materials, meals and parking.*

Note that transport and accommodation need to be booked and paid for by your department.

For more information please contact

Veleska Maphike at Poverty.GSDPP@uct.ac.za; Tel: (021) 650-1770