

Call for Papers: Poverty, equity, and growth in developing and transition countries

Inaugural Conference of Courant Research Center “Poverty, Equity, and Growth in Developing and Transition Countries: Statistical methods, empirical analyses, and policy issues” on July 1-3, 2009 at the University of Göttingen, Germany

The University of Göttingen, Germany, with funding from the ‘excellence initiative’ of the federal government, has recently founded a new research center dedicated to the empirical analysis of poverty, equity, and growth issues in developing and transition countries. Among the critical research questions to be examined are measurement issues (e.g. definitions, dimensionality, and reference units), *ex ante* poverty risk and vulnerability analyses, determinants of poverty change across time and space (including assessments of spatial poverty traps and small-area poverty and inequality analyses), drivers of distributional change (including regional inequality), and determinants of improvements in agricultural productivity and income-earning opportunities in rural areas, where price and policy reforms as well as new technologies often fail to reach the poor. These issues pose substantial methodological challenges to model the spatial and temporal dynamics of poverty and inequality (*ex ante* and *ex post* and at high levels of spatial disaggregation), to analyze the transmission of prices, policies, and technologies, to deal with high dimensional data in space and time, and to address causality and measurement error issues, among others.

The inaugural workshop aims to bring together scholars from all over the world working on the overall themes of the conference. Confirmed invited speakers include Martin Ravallion (World Bank), Petra Todd (University of Pennsylvania), Betty Sadoulet (University of California, Berkeley), Ludwig Fahrmeir (University of Munich), and Manfred Deistler (University of Vienna).

Contributed papers are invited on all areas related to the themes of the conference with particular emphasis on papers dealing with:

- poverty, inequality, and vulnerability measurement, determinants, policy issues and dynamics across space and time
- market access and the transmission of prices, policies and technologies across space and time in rural areas
- associated statistical and empirical methodologies.

The conference organizers will provide hotel accommodation for participants for the duration of the conference. Limited funding is available to contribute towards covering travel costs of Ph.D. students, and presenters from developing countries.

Paper submission is possible through the following webpage <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/102280.html> where extended abstracts or complete papers should be uploaded by February 15, 2009. For further questions, please contact Stephan Klasen (sklasen@gwdg.de) or Dominik Noe (dnoe@uni-goettingen.de).