



HARVARD Kennedy School  
MALCOLM WIENER CENTER  
for Social Policy



MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

Inequality and Social Policy

## 10 BIG IDEAS

in the study  
of inequality

# 10 Big Ideas

## Inequality & Wealth Concentration

*10 Big Ideas. 8 minutes each. Infinite possibilities.*

Thursday, October 13, 2016 | 4:10-6:00 pm

Harvard Kennedy School: Starr Auditorium (Belfer 200)

# 10 Big Ideas in Inequality

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- WELCOME** **Devah Pager**, Professor of Sociology and Public Policy, and Director of the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy.
- INTRODUCTION** **David Ellwood**, Isabelle and Scott Black Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- MODERATOR** **Bruce Western**, Professor of Sociology and Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy. Chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School.
- TEN BIG IDEAS** **Lawrence Katz**, Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics.
- Matthew Desmond**, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences.
- Douglas Elmendorf**, Dean of the Harvard Kennedy School and Don K. Price Professor of Public Policy.
- Theda Skocpol**, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and of Sociology
- Stefanie Stantcheva**, Assistant Professor of Economics.
- Dani Rodrik**, Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School.
- Alexandra Killewald**, Professor of Sociology.
- Khalil Gibran Muhammad**, Professor of History, Race, and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School; Suzanne Young Murray Professor, Radcliffe Institute.
- David A. Moss**, Paul Whiton Cherington Professor, Harvard Business School.
- Sendhil Mullainathan**, Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics.
- Q & A** **Questions and discussion: Led by Bruce Western**

# 10 Big Ideas

## Inequality and Wealth Concentration

### The speakers

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#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

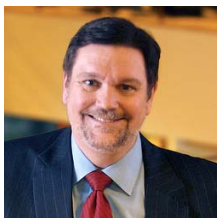


#### **Devah Pager**

**Professor of Sociology and Public Policy, and Director of the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy.**

Devah Pager is Professor of Sociology and Public Policy at Harvard University. She is the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Her research focuses on institutions affecting racial stratification, including education, labor markets, and the criminal justice system.

Pager's research has involved a series of field experiments studying discrimination against minorities and ex-offenders in the low-wage labor market. Her book, *Marked: Race, Crime, and Finding Work in an Era of Mass Incarceration* (University of Chicago, 2007), investigates the racial and economic consequences of large scale imprisonment for contemporary U.S. labor markets. Her current research examines the longer-term consequences of labor market discrimination for job seekers and employers.



#### **David T. Ellwood**

**Isabelle and Scott Black Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School.**

David T. Ellwood, the Isabelle and Scott Black Professor of Political Economy, served as Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2015. He began his appointment as Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy on July 1, 2016.

Ellwood joined the Kennedy School faculty in 1980 and served two separate terms as the School's Academic Dean.

In 1993, he was named Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he served as co-chair of President Clinton's Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence. At HHS, Ellwood played a key role in the Administration's development

and implementation of critical social policy.

Recognized as one of the nation's leading scholars on poverty and welfare, Ellwood's work has been credited with significantly influencing public policy in the United States and abroad. A labor economist who also specializes in family change, low pay and unemployment, his most recent research focuses on the changing structure of American families. Ellwood is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Welfare Realities: From Rhetoric to Reform*, co-authored with Mary Jo Bane. His book, *Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family*, was selected by the New York Times Book Review as one of the notable books of 1988 and by the Policy Studies Organization as the outstanding book of the year.



**Bruce Western**

**Professor of Sociology and Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy. Chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School.**

Bruce Western is Professor of Sociology, the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy, and faculty chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Western served as vice chair of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Causes and Consequences of High Incarceration Rates in the United States, and he is the principal investigator on the Harvard Executive Session on Community Corrections and the Boston Reentry Study. He is the author of the award-winning book, *Punishment and Inequality in America*.

## TEN BIG IDEAS



**Lawrence Katz**

**Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics.**

Lawrence F. Katz is the Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics at Harvard University and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research focuses on issues in labor economics and the economics of social problems. He is the author (with Claudia Goldin) of *The Race between Education and Technology* (Harvard University Press, 2008), a history of U.S. economic inequality and the roles of technological change and the pace of educational advance in affecting the wage structure.

Katz also has been studying the impacts of neighborhood poverty on low-income families as

the principal investigator of the long-term evaluation of the Moving to Opportunity program, a randomized housing mobility experiment. And Katz is working with Claudia Goldin on a major project studying the historical evolution of career and family choices and outcomes for U.S. college men and women. His past research has explored a wide range of topics including U.S. and comparative wage inequality trends, educational wage differentials and the labor market returns to education, the impact of globalization and technological change on the labor market, the economics of immigration, unemployment and unemployment insurance, regional labor markets, the evaluation of labor market programs, the problems of low-income neighborhoods, and the social and economic consequences of the birth control pill.

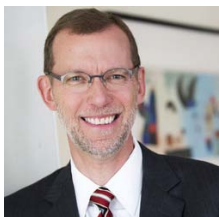


**Matthew Desmond**

**John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences.**

Matthew Desmond is John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences and codirector of the Justice and Poverty Project. After receiving his Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he joined the Harvard Society of Fellows as a Junior Fellow. His primary teaching and research interests include urban sociology, poverty, race and ethnicity, organizations and work, social theory, and ethnography.

Desmond is the author of four books: *On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters* (2007), *Race in America* (with Mustafa Emirbayer, 2015), *The Racial Order* (with Mustafa Emirbayer, 2015), and *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (2016). He also is the editor of the inaugural issue of *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, Volumes 1 & 2: *Severe Deprivation in America* (2015).



**Douglas Elmendorf**

**Dean of the Harvard Kennedy School and Don K. Price Professor of Public Policy.**

Douglas W. Elmendorf is Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he also serves as the Don K. Price Professor of Public Policy.

Doug Elmendorf served as the director of the Congressional Budget Office from January 2009 through March 2015. Prior to joining CBO, he was at Brookings, where he was a senior fellow, the Edward M. Bernstein Scholar, and the director of The Hamilton Project. He was previously an assistant professor at Harvard University, a principal analyst at CBO, a senior economist at the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, a deputy assistant secretary for economic policy at the Treasury Department, and an assistant director of the Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board. In those positions, he worked on

budget policy, health care issues, the macroeconomic effects of fiscal policy, Social Security, income security programs, financial markets, macroeconomic analysis and forecasting, and other topics.



**Theda Skocpol**

**Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and of Sociology.**

Theda Skocpol is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University and Director of the Scholars Strategy Network. Skocpol's research focuses on health reform, social policy, and civic engagement amidst the shifting inequalities in American democracy. Current projects include tracking the implementation of health reform in the U.S. states; analyzing the dynamics of local Tea Party groups; and probing how the Democratic Party has handled – and mishandled – political battles over taxes and public revenues. Skocpol speaks regularly to community groups and writes for blogs and public-interest magazines. She has met with groups of Congressional Democrats and attended White House sessions that included the president during the Clinton years.



**Stefanie Stantcheva**

**Assistant Professor of Economics.**

Stefanie Stantcheva's research focuses on the optimal design of the tax system, taking into account important labor market features, social preferences, and long-term effects such as human capital acquisition and innovation by people and firms. She is also interested in the empirical effects of taxation on inequality, top incomes, migration, human capital, and innovation.

She received her Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 2014 and was a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows 2014-2016.



**Dani Rodrik**

**Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy,  
Harvard Kennedy School.**

Dani Rodrik is an economist whose research covers globalization, economic growth and development, and political economy.

He is the Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He rejoined the Kennedy School faculty in July 2015 after two years at the Institute for Advanced Study as the Albert O. Hirschman Professor in the School of Social Science.

Professor Rodrik's most recent book is *Economics Rules: The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science* (Norton, 2015).



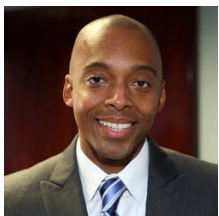
**Alexandra Killewald**

**Professor of Sociology.**

Alexandra (Sasha) Killewald is Professor of Sociology, as well as a faculty member in the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Sociology from the University of Michigan in 2011. Prior to her appointment at Harvard she was a researcher at Mathematica Policy Research. Her research takes a demographic approach to the study of social stratification. Much of her work focuses on the work-family intersection. She has published (with Margaret Gough) several articles on the ways in which earnings and employment shape women's time in household labor. Her current research in this area explores the effect of marriage and parenthood on workers' wages.

Another area of her research examines the influence of parental wealth on adult outcomes, including the role of parental wealth in explaining the Black-White wealth gap. She has also written (with Kerwin Charles and Erik Hurst) on assortative mating by parental wealth.

She is also the author (with Yu Xie) of *Is American Science in Decline?* (2012), which documents trends in the size of the American scientific workforce, public attitudes toward science, youth interest in science, the production of scientific degrees, and transitions to scientific employment, in addition to evaluating the position of American science on the international scene.



**Khalil Gibran Muhammad**

**Professor of History, Race, and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School;  
Suzanne Young Murray Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.**

Khalil Gibran Muhammad is a professor of history, race, and public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Suzanne Young Murray Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. His academic work focuses on racial criminalization and the origins of the carceral state. He is the author of *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* (Harvard University Press, 2010), which won the 2011 John Hope Franklin Publication Prize for the best book in American studies.

During his fellowship years at the Radcliffe Institute, Muhammad hopes to extend the work he began with *The Condemnation of Blackness* from the late 19th century well into the 20th

century, asking along the way why white crime is never quantified.

Muhammad is a native of the South Side of Chicago. He graduated with a BA in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and received his PhD in American history from Rutgers University, specializing in 20th-century United States and African American history. He also holds honorary doctorates from the New School (2013) and Bloomfield College (2014). His articles and scholarship have appeared in many publications, including the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Washington Post*.



**David A. Moss**

**Paul Whiton Cherington Professor, Harvard Business School.**

David Moss is the Paul Whiton Cherington Professor at Harvard Business School, where he teaches in the Business, Government, and the International Economy (BGIE) unit. He earned his B.A. from Cornell University and his Ph.D. from Yale. In 1992-1993, he served as a senior economist at Abt Associates. He joined the Harvard Business School faculty in July 1993.

Professor Moss's early research focused on economic policy and especially the government's role as a risk manager. He has published three books on these subjects: *Socializing Security: Progressive-Era Economists and the Origins of American Social Policy* (Harvard University Press, 1996), which traces the intellectual and institutional origins of the American welfare state; *When All Else Fails: Government as the Ultimate Risk Manager* (Harvard University Press, 2002), which explores the government's pivotal role as a risk manager in policies ranging from limited liability law to federal disaster relief; and *A Concise Guide to Macroeconomics: What Managers, Executives, and Students Need to Know* (Harvard Business School Press, 2007), a primer on macroeconomics and macroeconomic policy. In addition to these books, he has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and case studies, mainly in the fields of institutional and policy history, financial history, political economy, and regulation.

More recently, Professor Moss has devoted increasing attention to questions pertaining to government regulation, economic inequality, and democratic governance. One notable article from 2009, "An Ounce of Prevention: Financial Regulation, Moral Hazard, and the End of 'Too Big to Fail'" (Harvard Magazine, Sept-Oct 2009), grew out of his research on financial regulation for the TARP Congressional Oversight Panel. He has also co-edited three volumes on economic regulation since 2009, including most recently *Preventing Regulatory Capture: Special Interest Influence and How to Limit It*, co-edited with Daniel Carpenter (Cambridge University Press, 2014).





**Sendhil Mullainathan**  
**Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics.**

Sendhil Mullainathan is the Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. He has worked on poverty, behavioral economics and a wide variety of topics such as: the impact of poverty on mental bandwidth; whether CEO pay is excessive; using fictitious resumes to measure discrimination; showing that higher cigarette taxes makes smokers happier; modeling how competition affects media bias; and a model of coarse thinking. His latest research focuses on using machine learning to better understand human behavior.

He enjoys writing, having recently co-authored *Scarcity: Why Having too Little Means so Much* and writes regularly for the New York Times.

He helped co-found a non-profit to apply behavioral science (ideas42), co-founded a center to promote the use of randomized control trials in development (the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab), serves on the board of the MacArthur Foundation, has worked in government in various roles, is affiliated with the NBER, BREAD, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM  
**i** **e** **quality and Social Policy**



### Meet our fellows

#### FELLOWS AND ALUMNI

##### DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Each year 8-12 new Doctoral Fellows are selected from Harvard's Ph.D. programs in the social sciences.

[Meet the 2015-2016 fellows ▶](#)

##### ON THE JOB MARKET (New)

Hire a Harvard Ph.D. Inequality doctoral fellows on the job market in AY 2015-16.

[View job market candidates ▶](#)

##### ALUMNI

Over 150 Inequality doctoral fellows have earned their Ph.D.'s. [See where they are now ▶](#)

#### NEWS ROUNDUPS



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### Seminar and events

#### SEMINAR—UP NEXT

**DEC 07** Paul Jargowsky: The Architecture of Segregation: Civil Unrest, the Concentration of Poverty, and Public Policy  
12:00pm to 1:45pm

##### Location:

Harvard Kennedy School  
Allison Dining Room

**Paul A. Jargowsky**,  
Professor of Public Policy and Director, Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE), Rutgers University-Camden.

[Read more ▶](#)

[View all upcoming seminars ▶](#)

#### SPOTLIGHT

Event video: Coping with Extreme Poverty on \$2.00 a Day  
November 27, 2015



#### Latest News & Commentary

#### Academic Articles

#### Books

#### LATEST NEWS AND COMMENTARY



Opportunity, responsibility, and security: A consensus plan for reducing poverty and restoring the American Dream  
December 3, 2015

**Joint AEI-Brookings event** | David T. Ellwood, a member of the working group that developed the plan, presented an overview of three fundamental ideas that motivated their work at a launch event held at the National Press Club. The proposal is the result of a joint initiative by the American Enterprise Institute and The Brookings Institution to overcome the political polarization and gridlock that impede efforts to tackle problems of poverty and economic mobility in the U.S. AEI and Brookings convened a group of experts with diverse viewpoints and intellectual perspectives, who worked over 14 months to craft a comprehensive plan that all contributors could support.

[View the plan \(PDF\)](#)

[View event video ▶](#)



'Our Kids' selected for Books of the Year 2015  
December 5, 2015

**The Economist** | Robert Putnam's *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, selected as one of the best books of 2015. Also making the list, *Inequality: What Can Be Done?*, by Anthony Atkinson (University of Oxford).



How fringe attacks on American Muslims became mainstream  
December 3, 2015

**Washington Post** | By Christopher Bat (Ph.D. '11, now UNC-Chapel Hill)  
How anti-Muslim sentiment becomes mainstream and

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