



Inequality Reexamined

A conference in honor of Christopher “Sandy” Jencks

3 provocative discussions.

10 Big Ideas.

180 social scientists.

Infinite possibilities.

Harvard Kennedy School | October 11, 2013

Contents

3	Schedule
7	The honoree
10	Speakers
11	<i>Session I: Reflections</i>
12	<i>Session II: Disciplinary approaches</i>
15	<i>Session III: New empirical findings</i>
17	<i>Session IV: Ten Big Ideas</i>

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN INEQUALITY & SOCIAL POLICY

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL
79 JOHN F. KENNEDY STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
WEB: WWW.HKS.HARVARD.EDU/INEQUALITY



If you have questions or wish to RSVP, we may
be reached at the following email address.
Inequality40th@hks.harvard.edu

Inequality Reexamined

A conference in honor of Christopher "Sandy" Jencks

Friday, October 11, 2013

Taubman Building, Nye ABC, 5th Floor | Harvard Kennedy School

8:30-9:00 am **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN**

9:00-9:05 am **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** **Kathryn Edin**
The occasion and aims of this conference. Harvard Kennedy School

9:05-9:30 am **I. REFLECTIONS ON THE WORK OF CHRISTOPHER JENCKS**
*Two longtime colleagues assess the significance of Christopher Jencks's defining contributions
for our understanding of inequality and social policy.*

**Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family
and Schooling in America**, by Christopher Jencks,
Marshall Smith, Henry Acland, Mary Jo Bane, David
Cohen, Herbert Gintis, Barbara Heyns, and Stephan
Michelson. Basic Books, 1972.

Christopher Winship
Sociology, Harvard University.

**Rethinking Social Policy: Race, Poverty, and the
Underclass**, Harvard University Press, 1992.

William Julius Wilson
Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler
University Professor,
Harvard University.

9:30-11:30 am

II. WHAT DISCIPLINE “X” CAN TEACH US ABOUT INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY

What are the most important recent insights about inequality from different branches of the social sciences? What are the biggest unsolved problems and the most promising avenues for future research in each discipline?

A CONVERSATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES

David T. Ellwood, Dean,
Harvard Kennedy School.
(Moderating)

THE PROBLEM

**Social and Economic Inequality in America:
Some Facts and Figures**

Bruce Western
Sociology, Harvard University.

FOUR DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

- **Economics**

Lawrence F. Katz
Economics, Harvard University.

- **Political Science**

Ian Shapiro
Political Science, Yale University.

- **Sociology**

Katherine S. Newman
James B. Knapp Dean of the
Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and
Sciences, Johns Hopkins
University.

- **Psychology**

Eldar Shafir
Psychology, Princeton University.

QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

11:30-12:30 pm

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Program resumes at 12:30 with a working lunch.

12:30-1:00 pm
(Working lunch)

MACRO vs. MICRO STORIES ABOUT INEQUALITY

Christopher Jencks
Harvard Kennedy School.

1:00-2:30 pm **III. NEW EMPIRICAL FINDINGS**
(Working lunch) *An opportunity to grapple with three new empirical papers.*

**Does Widening Income Inequality Explain the
Widening Income Achievement Gap?**

Sean F. Reardon
Stanford Graduate School of
Education

Income Inequality, Mobility, and Volatility in the U.S.

Deirdre Bloome
Sociology & Social Policy,
Harvard University

**The Summer Drug Holiday: Medical Adaptation to
Academic Pressure**

Jennifer L. Jennings
Sociology, New York University

2:30-2:45 pm **BREAK**

2:45-4:25 pm **IV. 10 BIG IDEAS**
*Ten Big Ideas in inequality and social policy. From 10 social scientists. In 10 minutes each.
Ten minutes guaranteed to be as thought-provoking as Christopher Jencks.*

1. **Sara S. McLanahan and Laura Tach**
Sociology, Princeton University | Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
2. **Matthew Desmond**
Sociology, Harvard University
3. **Kay L. Schlozman and Sidney Verba**
Political Science, Boston College | Government, Harvard University
4. **Richard B. Freeman**
Economics, Harvard University
5. **Timothy M. Smeeding**
La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

6. **Scott Winship**
Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
7. **Mary Jo Bane**
Harvard Kennedy School
8. **Michèle Lamont**
Sociology and African and African American Studies, Harvard University
9. **Robert H. Frank**
Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University
10. **Daniel Kahneman**
Psychology, Princeton University

4:30-6:00 pm

CELEBRATING SANDY

The not-to-be-missed reception. Surprises, stories, toasts, and more.

Toasts

David T. Ellwood

Dean of the Harvard Kennedy School

Eric Wanner

President of the Russell Sage Foundation, 1986-2013

Bruce Western

Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy

Professor of Sociology and the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor
of Criminal Justice Policy, Harvard University

Film premiere

"Unequaled: The Incomparable Sandy Jencks"

Sandy

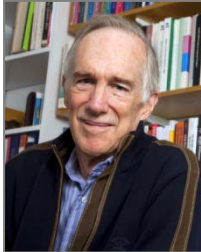
Christopher Jencks

Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Inequality Reexamined

A conference in honor of Christopher “Sandy” Jencks

The honoree



Christopher “Sandy” Jencks

Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School.

Christopher “Sandy” Jencks is the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. His current research focuses on the social and economic consequences of economic inequality, intergenerational economic mobility, and school accountability systems. He is the first author of *The Academic Revolution*, *Inequality, Who Gets Ahead*, *Rethinking Social Policy*, and *The Black-White Test Score Gap*.

Sandy has taught at Harvard, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. A graduate of Harvard College, he earned an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and studied Sociology at the London School of Economics. He went on to become an editor of *The New Republic* (1961-63) and a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC (1963-67). He served as Executive Director at Harvard’s Center for Education Policy Research (1968-69) and Director of the OEO Educational Voucher Project at the Center for the Study of Public Policy in Cambridge (1969-70). He has served on the Board of Directors for the Spencer Foundation, and is currently on the Editorial Board of *The American Prospect* and the Advisory Board of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

He is the recipient of fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Guggenheim Foundation. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the National Academy of Sciences, and has been a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Sandy received the Willard Waller Award for lifetime achievement from the American Sociological Association’s Sociology of Education Section in 1992, and the Robert M. Hauser Award for lifetime achievement from the ASA’s Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section in 2013. His other awards include the 1995 Harry Chapin Media Award for his articles on homelessness, the 1994 Association of American Publishers Best Book in Sociology and Anthropology Award for *The Homeless*, the 1974 American Sociological Association award for Best Book in Sociology for *Inequality*, and the 1968 American Council on Education Borden Prize for Best Book on Higher Education for *The Academic Revolution*. In 2002, he was awarded the Excellence in Mentoring Award by the Harvard Graduate Student Council.

Christopher Jencks

By Andrew Clarkwest and David J. Harding

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 2008.

Christopher Jencks is among the most widely respected and influential social scientists in the United States. His career has been driven by an interest in economic opportunity and the welfare of individuals at the bottom of the income distribution. Following a brief tenure as a high school teacher, Jencks entered the social policy world in the early 1960s as a self-described “journalist and political activist,” working at *The New Republic* and the Institute for Policy Studies, a left-leaning Washington, D.C., think tank. The public impact of the “Coleman Report” (Coleman et al. 1966) impressed Jencks with the power of fact-based social science research to influence public attitudes. He subsequently began a distinguished academic career marked by an adherence to data-driven conclusions that challenge the preconceptions of all ideological perspectives.

He joined the faculty of the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s newly formed Center for Educational Policy Research in the late 1960s, where he and his collaborators produced *Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family and Schooling in America* (1972) and *Who Gets Ahead? The Determinants of Economic Success in America* (1979). *Inequality* challenged the received wisdom that equalizing educational opportunities would eliminate economic inequality by showing, not uncontroversially, that while both schools and family background have sizable effects on economic success, they still explain only a modest fraction of the total variation in income.

Who Gets Ahead? argues for the importance of cognitive skills and personality, though it also highlights the roles of family background and schooling. The findings in these volumes catalyzed much subsequent research on the causes of economic inequality and on policies to reduce inequality.

In his influential 1992 book, *Rethinking Social Policy*, Jencks focuses on a set of policy issues that had risen to prominence in the preceding decade—including affirmative action, welfare, and the “underclass.” His measured analyses aim to both illuminate and temper debates over those controversial issues by, as he writes, “unbundl[ing] the empirical and moral assumptions that traditional ideologies tie together” (Jencks 1992, p. 21). For example, while the nature versus nurture debate polarizes individuals on opposite ends of the political spectrum, Jencks argues that the question is neither completely resolvable—since the two interact—nor necessarily relevant to deciding what policy choices are best for dealing with poverty and inequality. Jencks’s research has also challenged the validity of income-based measures of poverty, instead arguing for increased government efforts to directly track material hardship. His ensuing policy recommendations regarding the safety net emphasize both the importance of the responsibilities of society to its members and those of individuals to the collective.

The Homeless (1994) attributes the rise in the number of homeless people in the United States during the 1980s to the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, the crack cocaine epidemic, the rise in long-term joblessness, the decline in the value of welfare benefits, the decline in marriage among women with children, and the decline in the availability of cheap “skid row” housing. It also proposes a series of policies aimed at different groups within the homeless population.

Jencks returned to the potential of human capital policies to reduce inequality in his edited volume (with Meredith Phillips), *The Black-White Test Score Gap* (1998). Contrary to his prior assertions that human capital policies would have little effect on reducing inequality, he argues that “reducing the test score gap is probably both necessary and

sufficient for substantially reducing racial inequality in educational attainment and earnings” (Jencks and Phillips 1998, p. 4). This new conclusion is warranted because “the world has changed” (p. 4).

In addition to his empirically based analyses, Jencks has contributed to philosophical perspectives on the meaning of equal opportunity. Seemingly all political groups in the United States support the ideal of equal opportunity. In his essay, “Whom Must We Treat Equally for Educational Opportunity to be Equal” (1988), Jencks shows that the apparent consensus is due to the multiple meanings attached to the term. While equal opportunity’s popularity is largely due to its pliancy, Jencks laments that this impreciseness ultimately renders it of little use as a guide to policy.

After a career focused on the causes of inequality, Jencks turned his attention to its consequences for social outcomes such as family structure, educational attainment, and civic engagement. Jencks is known for his clear, penetrating writing style, and he frequently publishes in nonacademic venues such as *The New York Review of Books* and *The American Prospect*, where he serves on the editorial board. His numerous awards and honors include four book awards and memberships in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Jencks has been the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government since 1998.

Bibliography

Coleman, James S., Ernest Q. Campbell, Carol F. Hobson, et al. 1966. *Equality of Educational Opportunity*. Washington, DC: National Center for Educational Statistics.

Jencks, Christopher. 1988. Whom Must We Treat Equally for Educational Opportunity to Be Equal? *Ethics* 98: 518–533.

Jencks, Christopher. 1992. *Rethinking Social Policy: Race, Poverty, and the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Jencks, Christopher. 1994. *The Homeless*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Jencks, Christopher, Susan Bartlett, Mary Corcoran, et al. 1979. *Who Gets Ahead? The Determinants of Economic Success in America*. New York: Basic Books.

Jencks, Christopher, and Susan E. Mayer. 1989. Poverty and the Distribution of Material Hardship. *The Journal of Human Resources* 24: 88–114.

Jencks, Christopher, and Paul Peterson, eds. 1991. *The Urban Underclass*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Jencks, Christopher, and Meredith Phillips, eds. 1998. *The Black-White Test Score Gap*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Jencks, Christopher, and David Riesman. 1968. *The Academic Revolution*. New York: Doubleday.

Jencks, Christopher, Marshall Smith, Henry Acland, et al. 1972. *Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family and Schooling in America*. New York: Basic Books.

Inequality Reexamined

A conference in honor of Christopher "Sandy" Jencks

The speakers

9:00-9:05 AM

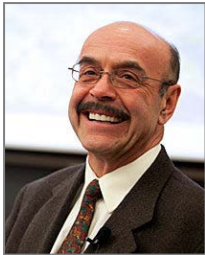
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



Kathryn Edin

Director of the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy and Professor of Public Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School.

Kathryn Edin is a Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her research focuses on urban poverty and family life, social welfare, housing, child support, and non-marital childbearing. Her most recent book with Timothy J. Nelson, *Doing the Best I Can: Fatherhood in the Inner City* (2013), is a multi-year ethnographic study of 110 black and white low income unmarried fathers in inner-city Philadelphia and Camden, NJ. Previous books include *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage* (2005, with Maria J. Kefalas), the results of an ethnographic study of 165 black, white, and Puerto Rican low income single mothers, also drawn from poor neighborhoods in Philadelphia and Camden; *Unmarried Couples with Children* (2007, with Paula England), an analysis of a four-year study of 48 unmarried couples who shared a birth in 2000; and *Making Ends Meet: How Low Income Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low Wage Work* (1997, with Laura Lein), a four-city study of low income single mothers' economic survival strategies. Her next books are tentatively titled *It's Not Like I'm Poor* (with Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Laura Tach, and Jennifer Sykes), an examination of how low wage earners make ends meet in a post-welfare world, and *Marginal Men: Economic Struggles, Child Support, and Fatherhood* (with Timothy Nelson and Laura Lein). Edin received her Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University in 1991.

**Christopher Winship****Diker-Tishman Professor of Sociology, Harvard University.**

Christopher Winship, Diker-Tishman Professor of Sociology, and Harvard Kennedy School of Government faculty member, holds his BA in sociology and mathematics from Dartmouth College and Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard. He held postdoctoral fellowships at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin and National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. He was a Professor of Sociology, Statistics, and Economics (by courtesy) at Northwestern University, and served as director of the Program in Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences before he returned to Harvard in 1992. He has edited *Sociological Methods & Research* since 1995. He is Co-Director of the Boston Area Research Initiative and affiliated with the Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science and Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations. He researches The Ten Point Coalition, a group of black ministers working with the Boston police to reduce youth violence; statistical models for causal analysis; effects of education on mental ability; causes of racial difference in performance at elite post-secondary institutions; and changes in the racial differential in imprisonment rates.

**William Julius Wilson****Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Harvard University**

William Julius Wilson is the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor at Harvard University. He has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Education and the Institute of Medicine. He is also past President of the American Sociological Association, and is a MacArthur Prize Fellow. In 1998 he was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest scientific honor in the United States, and was awarded the Talcott Parsons Prize in the Social Sciences by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003. In 2013 he was awarded the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize from the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the Robert and Helen Lynd Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Sociological Association's Community and Urban Sociology section. Other honors include the Seidman Award in Political Economy (the first and only noneconomist to receive the Award); the Golden Plate Achievement Award; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Washington State University; the American Sociological Association's Dubois, Johnson, Frazier Award (for significant scholarship in the field of inter-group relations); the American Sociological Association's Award for Public Understanding of

Sociology; and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award (granted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Los Angeles).

His books include *Power, Racism and Privilege* (1973), *The Declining Significance of Race* (1978), *The Truly Disadvantaged* (1987), *When Work Disappears* (1996), *The Bridge over the Racial Divide* (1999), *There Goes the Neighborhood* (2006, co-author), *Good Kids from Bad Neighborhoods* (2006, co-author), and, most recently, *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City* (2009).

9:30-11:30 am

II. WHAT DISCIPLINE “X” CAN TEACH US ABOUT INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY



David T. Ellwood

Dean and Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School

David T. Ellwood, the Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy, has served as Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government since July 1, 2004. 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. 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. Recognized as one of the nation's leading scholars on poverty and welfare, his work has been credited with significantly influencing public policy in the United States and abroad. He 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. He was recipient of the David N. Kershaw Award, given by the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management to outstanding individuals under the age of 40 who have made a distinguished contribution to the field of public policy. He also received the Morris and Edna Zale Award for Outstanding Distinction in Scholarship and Public Service from Stanford University. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a Senior Research Affiliate of the National Poverty Center at University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.



Bruce Western

Professor of Sociology and the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy, Harvard University

Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy

Bruce Western is Professor of Sociology and the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy. He is the Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy and Faculty Chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School. Western's research broadly studies the relationship between political institutions and social and economic inequality. He has longstanding interests in criminal justice policy, incarceration, and the effects of incarceration on poor communities. His research on economic inequality has analyzed labor unions and their effects on income inequality, and trends in income inequality and mobility in the United States. His books include *Between Class and Market: Postwar Unionization in the Capitalist Democracies* (Princeton University Press, 1997) and *Punishment and Inequality in America* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), which won the 2007 Albert J. Reiss Award from the Crime Law and Deviance Section of the American Sociological Association and the 2008 Michael J. Hindelang Award for the most outstanding contribution to research on criminology from the American Society of Criminology. He received his B.A. in government from the University of Queensland, Australia, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Lawrence F. Katz

Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics, Harvard University

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. He has been editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* since 1991 and served as the Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Labor for 1993 and 1994. He has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Econometric Society, and the Society of Labor Economists. Katz serves on the Panel of Economic Advisors of the Congressional Budget Office as well as on the Boards of the Russell Sage Foundation and the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1981 and earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1985.



Ian Shapiro

Sterling Professor of Political Science and Henry. R. Luce Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University

Ian Shapiro is Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University, where he also serves as Henry R. Luce Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. He has written widely and influentially on democracy, justice, and the methods of social inquiry. He received his J.D. from the Yale Law School and his Ph.D from the Yale Political Science Department where he has taught since 1984 and served as chair from 1999 to 2004. Shapiro is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a past fellow of the Carnegie Corporation, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Cape Town, Keio University in Tokyo, and Nuffield College, Oxford. His most recent books are *The Real World of Democratic Theory*; *Containment: Rebuilding a Strategy against Global Terror*; *The Flight From Reality in the Human Sciences*; and *Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Fight Over Taxing Inherited Wealth* (with Michael Graetz). His current research concerns the relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth.



Katherine S. Newman

James B. Knapp Dean of the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University

Katherine S. Newman is the James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. She is a widely published expert on poverty and the working poor. She was previously the Malcolm Stevenson Forbes '41 Professor in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. Previously, during eight years at Harvard University, she was the first dean of social science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Urban Studies. Newman has focused much of her scholarly work on the lives of the working poor and mobility up and down the economic ladder. Her forthcoming book (in collaboration with Ariane DeLannoy) is *After Freedom: The Rise of the Post-Apartheid Generation in Democratic South Africa* (Beacon Press, 2014), an analysis of the political aspirations and social dilemmas of women and men now in their thirties, for whom apartheid is a childhood memory. She is the author most recently of *The Accordion Family* (Beacon Press, 2012) and *Taxing the Poor: Doing Damage to the Truly Disadvantaged* (University of California Press, 2011). Newman graduated in 1975 from the University of California, San Diego, where she double majored in philosophy and sociology. She earned a Ph.D. in anthropology in 1979 from the University of California, Berkeley.



Eldar Shafir

**William Stewart Tod Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs,
Princeton University**

Eldar Shafir is the William Stewart Tod Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs in the Department of Psychology and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His research focuses on descriptive analyses of decision making, and on issues related to behavioral economics. Most recently, he has focused on decision making in the context of poverty and, more generally, on the application of behavioral research to policy. In recent collaborative projects, he has been studying the ways in which poverty (and other forms of scarcity) captures people's attention, distracts from other decisions, and can exacerbate already difficult situations. Shafir is co-author with Sendhil Mullainathan of *Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much* (Times Books, 2013). Shafir is Past President of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, a member of the Russell Sage Foundation Behavioral Economics Roundtable, a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and co-founder and co-director of Ideas42, a social science R&D lab. In January 2012, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Hillel Einhorn New Investigator Award from the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and the Chase Memorial Award. He received B.A. from Brown University and his Ph.D. in Cognitive Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1:00-2:30 pm

III. NEW EMPIRICAL FINDINGS



Sean Reardon

**Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education
Director, Stanford Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Program in Quantitative
Education Policy Analysis**

Sean Reardon is professor of education and (by courtesy) sociology at Stanford University, specializing in research on the effects of educational policy on educational and social inequality, on the causes, patterns, trends, and consequences of social and educational inequality, and in applied statistical methods for educational research. His primary research examines the relative contribution of family, school, and neighborhood environments to racial/ethnic and socioeconomic achievement disparities. In addition, he develops methods of measuring social and educational inequality (including the measurement of segregation and achievement gaps) and methods of causal inference in educational and social science research. He teaches graduate courses in applied statistical methods, with a particular emphasis on the application of experimental and quasi-experimental methods to the

investigation of issues of educational policy and practice. Sean received his doctorate in education in 1997 from Harvard University. He has been a recipient of a William T. Grant Foundation Scholar Award, a Carnegie Scholar Award, and a National Academy of Education Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Deirdre Bloome

Ph.D. candidate in Sociology and Social Policy, Harvard University

Deirdre Bloome is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University and a graduate student fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Her research interests include economic and racial stratification, social mobility, family demography, policy, and statistical methodology. Her dissertation explores the relationships between inequality and mobility in the United States using a demographic approach. Bloome holds an AM in statistics from Harvard University and a certificate in demography from Princeton University's Office of Population Research. Her research has been supported by organizations including the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, the Russell Sage Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science.



Jennifer L. Jennings

Assistant Professor of Sociology, New York University

Jennifer Jennings is Assistant Professor of Sociology at New York University. Her research interests include education; stratification; racial, socioeconomic, and gender disparities in educational and health outcomes; and organizational accountability systems. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University in 2009 and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at Harvard University in 2009-2011. She has received grants and awards from the Spencer Foundation, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the American Educational Research Association, among others. Her research has appeared in *Social Science Research*, *Sociology of Education*, *Urban Affairs Review*, and other journals and publications.

**Sara S. McLanahan****William S. Tod Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University
and Director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing**

Sara McLanahan is the William S. Todd Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, where she directs the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing. She is the principal investigator on the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study and Editor-in-Chief of *The Future of Children*. Her books include *Fathers Under Fire: The Revolution in Child Support Enforcement* (1998); *Social Policies for Children* (1996); *Growing Up with a Single Parent* (1994); *Child Support and Child Wellbeing* (1994); *Child Support Assurance: Design Issues, Expected Impacts, and Political Barriers, as Seen from Wisconsin* (1992); and *Single Mothers and Their Children: A New American Dilemma* (1986). In 2004, she received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Sociological Association Family Section. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the W.T. Grant Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation and the Advisory Boards for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars program, the National Poverty Center, and the Pew Charitable Trust Economic Mobility Project. She is a past President of the Population Association of American and has served on the Boards of the American Sociological Association and the Population Association of America. She also served on the Institute of Medicine Board on Children, Youth, and Families. In 2005, she was named the James S. Coleman Fellow of the American Academy of Political Science, and in 2011 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. McLanahan earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1979.

**Laura Tach****Assistant Professor of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University**

Laura Tach is Assistant Professor of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. Her current research examines how social policies affect urban poverty and family life. Her first area of research studies how neighborhood inequality has changed as a result of housing policies designed to deconcentrate poverty. With funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Science Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she has conducted mixed-method studies of the dynamics of mixed-income neighborhoods in the United States. A second area of research examines family structures and economic coping strategies among the urban poor. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, she has examined how family instability and complexity influence the

well-being of unmarried parents and the dynamics of paternal involvement following nonmarital births. She is the author (with Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Kathryn Edin, and Jennifer Sykes) of *It's Not Like I'm Poor: The Financial Lives of the Working Poor*, which is under contract at University of California Press.



Matthew Desmond

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Studies

Matthew Desmond is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Studies. 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, race and ethnicity, poverty, social theory, organizations and work, and ethnography. Desmond is the author of three books: *On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters* (2007), *Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America* (with Mustafa Emirbayer, 2009), and *The Racial Order* (with Mustafa Emirbayer, forthcoming). He has written essays on educational inequality, dangerous work, political ideology, race and social theory, and the inner-city housing market. Most recently, he has published on eviction and the low-income rental market, network-based survival strategies among the urban poor, and the consequences of new crime control policies on inner-city women in the *American Journal of Sociology* and *American Sociological Review*.



Kay L. Schlozman

J. Joseph Moakley Endowed Professor of Political Science, Boston College

Kay Lehman Schlozman serves as J. Joseph Moakley Endowed Professor of Political Science. She received a B.A. from Wellesley College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is co-author of *The Unheavenly Chorus: Unequal Political Voice and the Broken Promise of American Democracy* (with Sidney Verba and Henry Brady), which won two PROSE Awards (for Government and Politics and Excellence in Social Sciences) awarded to scholarly books by the American Association of Publishers; *The Private Roots of Public Action: Gender, Equality, and Political Participation* (with Nancy Burns and Sidney Verba), which was co-winner of the APSA's Schuck Prize; *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics* (with Sidney Verba and Henry E. Brady), which was the winner of the APSA's Philip Converse Prize and the Book Award of the American Association for Public Opinion Research; *Organized Interests and American Democracy* (with John T. Tierney); and *Injury to Insult: Unemployment, Class and Political Response* (with Sidney Verba). She has written numerous articles in professional journals and is editor of *Elections in America* and co-editor of *The Future of Political Science* (with Gary King and Norman H. Nie).



Sidney Verba

**Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor Emeritus
and Research Professor of Government, Harvard University**

Sidney Verba is the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Government at Harvard University, where he taught for 35 years. At Harvard, he was also chair of the Department of Government, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Undergraduate Education, and Associate Provost, among several other senior administrative posts. In addition, he served as the chair of the Board of Directors of the Harvard University Press and has been the author of University-wide reports on many complex subjects. He is the author of over 20 books, including *The Civic Culture*, *Participation in America*, *Participation and Political Equality*, *The Changing American Voter*, *Voice and Equality*, and *Designing Social Inquiry*. Much of his writing is on the role of citizen engagement and activism in a democracy, with an emphasis on issues of equality in political, social, and economic life. He has been President of the American Political Science Association and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (where he has chaired the Social and Political Science Section and currently chairs the Committee on Human Rights), the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among his awards are the James Madison Prize of the American Political Science Association, the Association's highest award, given every three years for a career contribution to political science; and the Skytte Award from Upsalla University in Sweden, the major international award for significant contributions to political science worldwide.



Richard B. Freeman

Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics, Harvard University

Richard B. Freeman holds the Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics at Harvard University. He is currently serving as Faculty co-Director of the Labor and Worklife Program at the Harvard Law School. He directs the National Bureau of Economic Research / Sloan Science Engineering Workforce Projects, and is Senior Research Fellow in Labour Markets at the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science. In 2006, he received the Mincer Lifetime Achievement Prize from the Society of Labor Economics. In 2007, he was awarded the IZA Prize in Labor Economics. In 2011, he was appointed Frances Perkins Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. His recent publications include: *Can Labor Standards Improve Under Globalization* (2004), *Emerging Labor Market Institutions for the 21st Century* (2005), *America Works: The Exceptional Labor Market* (2007), *What Workers Want* (2007 2nd edition), *What Workers Say: Employee Voice in the Anglo American World* (2007), *International Differences in the Business Practices & Productivity of Firms* (2009), *Science and Engineering Careers in the United States* (2009), *Reforming the Welfare State: Recovery and Beyond in Sweden* (2010), and *Shared Capitalism at Work: Employee*

Ownership, Profit and Gain Sharing, and Broad-based Stock Options (2010). His forthcoming IZA Prize book is *Making Europe Work: IZA Labor Economics Series* (2013).



Timothy M. Smeeding

**Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison
and Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty**

Timothy Smeeding is the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty. Professor Smeeding’s recent publications include: *From Parents to Children*, co-edited with John Ermicsch and Markus Jantti (Russell Sage Foundation, 2012); *The Handbook of Economic Inequality*, co-edited with Brian Nolan and Weimer Salverda (Oxford University Press, April 2009); *Poor Kids in a Rich Country: America's Children in Comparative Perspective*, co-authored with Lee Rainwater (Russell Sage Foundation, 2003); *The Future of the Family*, co-edited by Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Lee Rainwater (Russell Sage Foundation, 2004; paperback ed., 2006); *The American Welfare State: Laggard or Leader?*, with Irv Garfinkel and Lee Rainwater (Oxford University Press, February 2010). In 2011 he published two additional edited volumes: *Young Disadvantaged Men: Fathers, Families, Poverty, and Policy*, with Irv Garfinkel and Ron Mincy (ANNALS Volume 635, May 2011), and *Persistence, Privilege and Parenting: The Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility*, with Robert Erikson and Markus Jantti (Russell Sage Foundation, 2011). His recent work has been on low-income men and their role as fathers; mobility across generations; and inequality of income, consumption, and wealth and the measurement of poverty in a national and cross-national context.



Scott Winship

Walter B. Wriston Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

Scott Winship is the Walter B. Wriston Fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Previously a fellow at the Brookings Institution, his areas of expertise include living standards and economic mobility, inequality, and insecurity. Earlier in his career, Winship was research manager of the Economic Mobility Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and a senior policy advisor at Third Way. His research has been published in *National Affairs*, *National Review*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *Breakthrough Journal*, and *Real Clear Markets*, among other outlets. Winship received a B.A. in sociology and urban studies from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in social policy from Harvard University.



Mary Jo Bane

Thornton Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School

Mary Jo Bane is the Thornton Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she has been on the faculty since 1981. From 1993 to 1996 she was Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. From 1992 to 1993 she was Commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Services, where she previously served as Executive Deputy Commissioner from 1984 to 1986. From 1987 to 1992, at the Kennedy School, she was Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy. From 2006 to 2011, she was Academic Dean at HKS. She is the author of a number of books and articles on poverty, welfare, families, and the role of churches in civic life, including *Poverty and Poverty Alleviation Strategies in North America* (edited with Rene Zenteno), *Taking Faith Seriously* (edited with Brian Coffin and Richard Higgins), *Lifting up the Poor: A Dialogue on Religion, Poverty, and Welfare Reform* (with Lawrence M. Mead), *Who Will Provide? The Changing Role of Religion in American Social Welfare* (edited with Brian Coffin and Ronald Theimann), *Welfare Realities: From Rhetoric to Reform* (with David Ellwood), and *Here to Stay: American Families in the Twentieth Century*, among others. She is currently doing research on poverty in the United States and international context.



Michèle Lamont

Professor of Sociology and African and African American Studies and Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies, Harvard University

Michèle Lamont is Professor of Sociology and African and African American Studies and the Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies at Harvard University. She is a fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and has co-directed its research program on Successful Societies since 2002. A cultural sociologist, Lamont specializes in the sociology of inequality, race and ethnicity, the sociology of knowledge, the sociology of higher education, sociological theory and comparative and qualitative sociology. She is the author of *Money, Morals and Manners: The Culture of the French and the American Upper-Middle Class* (University of Chicago Press, 1992), *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class and Immigration* (Harvard University Press, 2000) and *How Professors Think: Inside the Curious World of Academic Judgment* (Harvard University Press, 2009). *The Dignity of Working Men* won several book awards including the 2002 C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Lamont has also published over eighty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has led multi-year collaborative projects that have resulted in collective books: *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology: Repertoires of Evaluation in France in the United States* (with Laurent Thévenot, Cambridge University Press, 2000), *Successful Societies: How Institutions and Culture Affect Health* (with Peter A. Hall, Cambridge University Press 2009), and *Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era*

(with Peter A. Hall, Cambridge University Press, 2013). A former Guggenheim Fellow, Lamont's research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation and a number of foundations in the United States and abroad.



Robert H. Frank

**Henrietta Johnson Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics,
Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University**

Robert H. Frank is the Henrietta Johnson Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics at Cornell's Johnson Graduate School of Management and the co-director of the Paduano Seminar in business ethics at NYU's Stern School of Business. His "Economic View" column appears monthly in *The New York Times*. He is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos. He received his B.S. in mathematics from Georgia Tech, then taught math and science for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Nepal. He holds an M.A. in statistics and a Ph.D. in economics, both from the University of California at Berkeley. His papers have appeared in the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and other leading professional journals. His books, which include *Choosing the Right Pond*, *Passions Within Reason*, *Microeconomics and Behavior*, *Principles of Economics* (with Ben Bernanke), *Luxury Fever*, *What Price the Moral High Ground?*, *Falling Behind*, *The Economic Naturalist*, and *The Darwin Economy*, have been translated into 22 languages. *The Winner-Take-All Society*, co-authored with Philip Cook, received a Critic's Choice Award, was named a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, and was included in *Business Week's* list of the ten best books of 1995. He is a co-recipient of the 2004 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. He was awarded the Johnson School's Stephen Russell Distinguished teaching award in 2004, 2010, and 2012, and its Apple Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005.



Daniel Kahneman

Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School, Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology Emeritus, and Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Public Affairs, Princeton University

Daniel Kahneman is a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is also Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs Emeritus at the Woodrow Wilson School, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology Emeritus at Princeton University, and a fellow of the Center for Rationality at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Kahneman has held the position of professor of psychology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (1970-1978), the University of British Columbia (1978-1986), and the University of California, Berkeley (1986-1994). Dr. Kahneman is a member of the National Academy of Science, the Philosophical

Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the Society of Experimental Psychologists, and the Econometric Society. He has been the recipient of many awards, among them the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association (1982) and the Grawemeyer Prize (2002), both jointly with Amos Tversky, the Warren Medal of the Society of Experimental Psychologists (1995), the Hilgard Award for Career Contributions to General Psychology (1995), the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (2002), the Lifetime Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association (2007), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2013).



Eric Wanner

President Emeritus of the Russell Sage Foundation

Eric Wanner served as President of the Russell Sage Foundation from 1986 to September 2013. During his tenure, he played a leading role in the development of the Foundation's long-standing research programs on behavioral economics, poverty and inequality in the United States, the economic and social impacts of U.S. immigration, and the causes and consequences of the accelerating changes in the nature of work in modern economies. Before assuming the presidency of the Russell Sage Foundation, Wanner served as a vice president and program officer at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, where he started new interdisciplinary research initiatives in behavioral economics and cognitive neuroscience. With a doctorate in psychology from Harvard University, Wanner served on the faculties at Harvard, Rockefeller University, and the University of Sussex before turning to foundation work. Wanner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

