

Challenging the Two Americas: New Policies to Fight Poverty

UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity Conference

March 23 & 24, 2006

Alumni Center, UNC- Chapel Hill Campus

Thursday, March 23

Registration 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Welcome- Sen. John Edwards, *Director, Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity* 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Swimming but Sinking? The Privatization of Household-Level Financial Risk (Panel One) 10:30 - 12:00 noon

Panelists will share new data on the financial risks faced by working families and discuss how insights from these data should shape concrete proposals for policy change.

Moderator – **Melissa Jacoby**, *Associate Professor, UNC School of Law*

Jacob Hacker, *Peter Strauss Family Associate Professor of Political Science, Yale University;*
Fellow, New America Foundation

Elizabeth Warren, *Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law, Harvard Law School*

Commentators:

Melissa Jacoby, *Associate Professor, UNC School of Law*

Leslie McCall, *Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University*

Lunch and Presentation- A Quarter Century of Growing Economic Inequality 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Miles Rapoport, *President, Demos*

James Lardner, *Senior Fellow, Demos and Founder, Inequality.org*

Community Building: Investing in Human Capital (Panel Two) 1:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Most everyone agrees that building and maintaining strong communities is a key to combating poverty. But how does one build community? This panel will explore some innovative approaches.

Moderator – **Thomas Kelley**, *UNC Clinical Professor, Director of the Community Development Law Clinic,*
UNC School of Law

Edgar Cahn, *Distinguished Professor, University of the District of Columbia School of Law, Founder, Time Banks USA;*
Co-Founder, National Legal Services Program

Angela Glover Blackwell, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer, PolicyLink*

Commentators:

Kevin McDonald, *President and CEO, TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers)*

Ruston Seaman, *Executive Director, World Vision Appalachia*

Race, Poverty and Inequality: How Can We Create Opportunities (Panel Three)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

This panel will examine racial inequalities in wealth accumulation in the U.S. We will discuss the way these inequalities are passed along from one generation to the next, along with the role of public policies in perpetuating these inequalities. This panel will also explore ideas on how to design and develop inclusive policies that will create opportunities for social and economic development for all.

Moderator- **Michal Grinstein-Weiss**, *Assistant Professor, UNC School of Social Work*

Dalton Conley, *University Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Director, Center of Advanced Social Research, New York University*

Thomas Shapiro, *Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, The Institute for Assets and Social Policy, Brandeis University*

Commentators:

Martin Eakes, *Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Center for Community Self-Help*

Glenn Loury, *Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences, Brown University*

Meizhu Lui, *Executive Director, United for a Fair Economy*

Friday, March 24

Creating Opportunities Through Work (Panel Four)

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

This session will provide empirical evidence on the extent to which people are able to move out of low-wage jobs, and a discussion of the kinds of policies that are most likely to enable them to escape working poverty.

Moderator- **Arne Kalleberg**, *Kenan Distinguished Professor, UNC Department of Sociology;*
Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

Heather Boushey, *Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research*

Harry Holzer, *Professor of Public Policy; Associate Dean, Georgetown Public Policy Institute;*
Visiting Fellow, Urban Institute

Commentators:

Ted Mouw, *Associate Professor, UNC Department of Sociology*

David Spickard, *Chief Executive Officer, Jobs for Life*

The Economic Impact of Globalization (Panel Five)

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Globalization has led to the emergence of new economic powers and new challenges for America. This panel will assess the impact these changes are having on the American economy, with particular emphasis on the American worker.

Moderator- **Sen. John Edwards**, *Director, Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, UNC School of Law*

Lael Brainard, *Vice President and Director, Global Economy and Development Center, Brookings Institution,*
New Century Chair for Trade and International Economics

Patrick Conway, *Professor of Economics, UNC Department of Economics*

James K. Galbraith, *Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations and Professor of Government,*
University of Texas at Austin

John Russell, *Executive Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer, Quintiles Transnational Corp.*

Lunch Panel - The Media's Portrayal of Employers, Labor Unions and the Working Class

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Moderator- **Marion Crain**, *Deputy Director, UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity,*
Paul Eaton Professor of Law, UNC School of Law

Nancy Cleeland, *Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times*

David Moberg, *Senior Editor, In These Times*

Gender, Work and Economic Opportunity (Panel Six)

1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

This panel will focus on the issues of gender and work opportunities among low-income/poverty households and persons. We will explore the issue of men in poverty, including their lack of engagement in stable relationships and the lack of policy support for their work and family involvement. At the same time, women are struggling with their own issues in balancing work and family demands. These reciprocal issues play out differently for men and women but often foster further inequality between men, women and their economic opportunities.

Moderator- **Dennis Orthner**, *Professor, Associate Director for Policy Development and Analysis, Jordan Institute for Families, UNC School of Social Work*

Kathryn Edin, *Associate Professor of Sociology and Research Associate, Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania*

Ron Mincy, *Maurice V. Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Practice, Columbia University*

Commentators:

Tyrone Everett, *Regional Director, Center for Employment Training*

Ron Haskins, *Senior Fellow, Economic Studies Program, Brookings Institution; Senior Consultant, Annie E. Casey Foundation*

Federal Housing Programs and Access to Opportunity (Panel Seven)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

This session will address the role that federal housing programs have played in both restricting and enhancing the social advancement of lower-income families. It will also present new policy proposals for expanding opportunities and thereby helping low-income families move up in society.

Moderator: **William Rohe**, *Boshamer Professor, Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, UNC Department of City and Regional Planning*

Peter Dreier, *E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics and Director of the Urban and Environmental Policy Program, Occidental College*

Howard Husock, *Director, Case Studies in Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Contributing Editor, City Journal (Manhattan Institute for Policy Research)*

Commentators:

Chris Estes, *Executive Director, North Carolina Housing Coalition*

Nick Tennyson, *Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties*

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