



WORKSHOP ON “SYNTHETIC PANELS” AND “HUMAN OPPORTUNITY INDEX (HOI) APPLICATIONS”

**XX Annual Meetings of the LACEA / IADB / WB/ UNDP Research
Network on Inequality and Poverty (NIP)
Washington DC – May 6th and 7th, 2013**

The next meeting of the LACEA/IDB/WB/UNDP Network on Inequality and Poverty (NIP) will be held at the World Bank headquarter in Washington DC on May 6th and 7th, 2013. The NIP is an initiative that aims to advance the state of knowledge and expertise regarding the causes and consequences of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as on the whole range of policies, institutions, and social structures that influence their dynamics. For more information on the NIP, go to lacea/nip. The NIP meetings cover all topics related to poverty and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean. This edition of the conference will cover two broad subjects: ‘Markets and Equity’ and ‘Middle-class, Vulnerability and Poverty Transitions’ in the region.

On that regard, on May 7th and as part of the meetings we are programming a workshop with two short courses, one on ‘Synthetic Panels’ and another related with ‘Human Opportunity Index (HOI) Applications’. Those interested in participating of the workshop must fill-in the form at [this link](#). The programmed agenda for the day is the following:

9.00-10.45: Workshop on Synthetic Panels

10.45-11.15: Coffee Break

11.15-13.00: Workshop on Equality of Opportunities

The first course will introduce a technique developed by Dang, Lanjouw, Luoto, and McKenzie (2011) to convert two or more rounds of cross-sectional data into a synthetic panel. This technique has been applied by the World Bank to estimate intra-generational mobility of incomes in the short- and long-run, identify characteristics of those who were likely to move up and those who move down, and determine the factors associated with such movements (Ferreira et al, 2013). The approach builds on an “out-of-sample” imputation methodology described in Elbers, Lanjouw, and Lanjouw (2002, 2003) for small-area estimation of poverty. The workshop will cover the theoretical underpinnings of the DLLM method and present an illustration for selected Latin American Countries. This course will be delivered by Peter Lanjouw (London School of Economics) and Leonardo Lucchetti (Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Peter Lanjouw (PhD London School of Economics) is Research Manager of the Poverty Group in the Development Economics Research Group of the World Bank and an Honorary Fellow of the Amsterdam Institute of International Development, Netherlands. He

holds a Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics. He was a visiting scholar at the Agriculture and Resource Economics department at UC Berkeley, and he held the appointment of Professor of Economics at the VU University of Amsterdam. He has taught in the Masters in Development Economics program at the University of Namur, Belgium and taught at the Foundation for the Advanced Study of International Development in Tokyo, Japan.

Leonardo Lucchetti is an Economist at the Poverty, Gender, and Inequality Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean (LCSP). He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master in Economics from Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina. Leonardo also worked for the Social Protection Unit for Latin America (LCSHS) where he produced analytic work on pensions, child malnutrition, and the impact of the food price shock in Brazil on households' welfare. Prior to joining the Bank, Leonardo worked at CEDLAS in La Plata, Argentina, and at the Economic and Financial Affairs Unit of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. Leonardo has recently published articles in the Journal of Development Economics and the Journal of Agricultural Economics.

The second course will introduce the technique developed by Paes de Barros, Ferreira, Molinas, and Saavedra Chanduvi (2009) to measure and monitor country's progress towards achieving universal access to basic opportunities: the Human Opportunity Index (HOI). The index considers how personal circumstances (like birthplace, wealth, ethnicity, or gender) affect children's probability of accessing basic goods and services that are necessary to succeed in life, such as education, safe water, electricity, and sanitation. The index combines two concepts: (i) coverage of a basic good or service (i.e., the percentage of people with access) and (ii) the dissimilarity in the access to that good or service. This technique has been applied by the World Bank to estimate access to opportunities at the regional level, as well as in country-specific studies. The session will introduce the methodology and present an illustration for Latin America and the Caribbean and selected countries in the region. Two particular extensions to this HOI methodology will be presented. The first combines data on public spending with the HOI to compute the so called "opportunities Benefit Incidence Analysis" and the second will be on the progress that has been made and the limitations of using this for analysis of inequality in labor market outcomes. This second course will be delivered by Maria Ana Lugo (University of Oxford) and Sailesh Tiwari (Brown University).

Maria Ana Lugo (PhD University of Oxford) is an Economist at the Poverty, Gender and Inequality Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean (LCSP). She holds a BA in Economics from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, and MA and PhD in Economics from the University of Oxford. Maria Ana was a research office at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and an ESRC post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford. Since 2010 she has been working at the World Bank, at the Chief Economist Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Poverty Unit of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Poverty Group in the Development Economics

Research Group, and presently, at the Poverty, Gender and Inequality Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sailesh Tiwari (PhD Brown University) is an Economist in the Poverty Reduction and Equity Group at the World Bank. His recent work is focused on food security and nutrition, shocks and vulnerability and the measurement and analysis of poverty and inequality. He holds a BA in Economics from Connecticut College, an MSc in Finance and Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an MA and a PhD in Economics from Brown University.

Participation in this workshop is free and open to the public, provided participants register before the event and become LACEA members. Young researchers are invited to send their expression of interest to participate in the workshop. For that purpose, those interested should send a PDF file with their CV and a short (two-paragraph) statement about their interest and potential benefits from participating at the workshop. Please send this material to: nip@cedlas.org by April 30, 2013. Compliance with this deadline is required.

Executive Committee, NIP