

Munk School International Institute on Social Policy

SOCIAL POLICY IN UNSETTLED TIMES



October 24-25, 2024

Campbell Conference Facility
1 Devonshire Place, Toronto

munkschool
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Thursday, October 24, 2024



Opening Keynote and Welcome Reception

7:00 PM **HOPE, DESPAIR, AND DIVIDED FUTURES IN AMERICA AND BEYOND: CAN WELLBEING SCIENCE SAVE US FROM DESPAIR?**

Carol Graham, Senior Fellow, Economics, Brookings Institution and College Park Professor, University of Maryland

Moderator: **Daniyal Zuberi**, Professor of Social Policy, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Reception to follow

Friday, October 25, 2024



8:00 AM Registration and Light Breakfast

8:30 AM **SESSION #1: UNSETTLED TIMES: WHAT ROLE FOR SOCIAL POLICY? TRACKING WELL-BEING ACROSS NATIONS AND TIME**

Well-being and Social Protection in Times of Change

- **Stefano Scarpetta**, Director, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Inequality in Canada Across (Multiple) Unsettled Times

- **Kelly Foley**, Associate Professor, Economics, University of Saskatchewan

The Public Outlook in “Unsettled Times”

- **Andrew Parkin**, Executive Director, Environics Institute

Moderator: **Paul Thompson**, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

10:00 AM **SESSION #2: SUPPORTING THE HOME**

No Country for Young Children

- **Mike Moffatt**, Senior Director of Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute and Assistant Professor, Ivey Business School, Western University

It’s Time to Think More Seriously About the Care Economy

- **Ito Peng**, Director, Centre for Global Social Policy and Professor, Department of Sociology and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Long-term Trends, Recent Policy Developments, and Poverty Among Families with Children in the United States

- **Christopher T. Wimer**, Co-Director, Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University

Moderator: **Catherine Adam**, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

Friday, October 25, 2024



11:15 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM **SESSION #3: SUPPORTING PATHWAYS THROUGH THE NEW WORLD OF WORK**

Adjusting to New Labour Market Realities: Global Trends in Workforce Development Strategy and the Lessons for Canada

- **Josh Hjartarson**, Global Leader for the Human and Social Services, Deloitte Inc., and National Leader for the Human and Social Services, Deloitte Canada

Who Will be Included in the Future of Work? Understanding Labour Market Trends and Emerging Inequities

- **Arif Jehta**, Associate Scientific Director and Scientist, Institute for Work & Health and Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

After Inequality: Policy Lessons from Recent US Wage Growth

- **Nathan Wilmers**, Sarofim Family Career Development Associate Professor and Associate Professor of Work and Organization Studies, MIT Sloan School of Management

Moderator: **Karen Myers**, President and CEO, Blueprint

12:45 PM Lunch

1:45PM **SESSION #4: SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES**

Protecting the Health of Children with Child Cash Transfers: Evidence from Around the World and in the United States

- **Luke Shaefer**, Hermann and Amalie Kohn Professor of Social Justice and Social Policy and Professor of Public Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan

What is the Basis for Our Social Policy Decisions? A Provocation

- **Arjumand Siddiqi**, Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity and Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Where is Our Safety Net? Understanding the Breadth of How Social Policy Shapes Risk and Security

- **Michael Stepner**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto and a Research Principal at Opportunity Insights, Harvard University

Moderator: **Anita Stellinga**, Vice President, Corporate Communications & Public Policy and Corporate Secretary, United Way of Greater Toronto

3:00 PM Coffee Break

3:15 PM

SESSION #5: MAKING IT HAPPEN: BUILDING SOCIAL BUY-IN

How Inequality Undermines Collective Provision

- **Alan M. Jacobs**, Head of Department and Professor, Political Science, University of British Columbia

Imagine if We Really Wanted People to Use These Things: Rethinking Policy Delivery and Administrative Burdens

- **Jennifer Robson**, Associate Professor, Political Management, Carleton University

Social Policy Preferences in Canada

- **Michael Donnelly**, Associate Professor, Political Science and Munk School, and Director, Professional Master's Programs, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Moderator: **Carolyn Hughes Tuohy**, Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow, Department of Political Science and Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

4:45 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Daniyal Zuberi, Professor of Social Policy, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

5:00 PM

Adjournment

Speaker Bios:



Catherine Adam

Catherine Adam was appointed to the position of Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic and Service Policy Branch at Employment and Social Development Canada in August 2017. Prior to joining Employment and Social Development Canada, Catherine was the Assistant Secretary to Cabinet for Intergovernmental Affairs Policy with the Privy Council Office (PCO), and the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Federal–Provincial Relations and Social Policy at the Department of Finance. She has extensive experience in social and economic policy issues in Canada including labour market, income security, early learning and childcare, health policy, Indigenous programming and policies and intergovernmental affairs.



Michael Donnelly

Michael Donnelly is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Munk School. He is the Director of Professional Master's Programs at the Munk School. His research and teaching focus on issues at the intersection of public opinion and public policy in North America and Europe. He asks questions about what people think about welfare states, immigration policies, and their relationship, and studies how these preferences, in turn, shape policy outputs. Michael recently published a book on regional and ethnic inequalities as determinants of welfare state support and is currently working on projects related to LGBTQ identity in Canada, political polarization in Turkey, immigration attitudes in Japan, and Canadian attitudes toward homelessness and housing policy.



Kelly Foley

Kelly Foley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan and an Associate Member of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Dr. Foley serves as a co-editor for *Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politiques* (Canada's foremost journal examining economic and social policy) and on the management board of the Canadian Labour Economics Forum. Her recent research focuses on how education and training affect inequality and economic well-being, including the ways in which disadvantage persists across generations.



Carol Graham

Carol Graham is Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at Brookings, College Park Professor at the University of Maryland, and a Gallup Senior Scientist. She served on a National Academy of Sciences panel on well-being metrics in 2012-13, received Pioneer Awards from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2017 and 2021, and a Lifetime Distinguished Scholar award from the International Society of Quality-of-Life Studies (2018). She has twice served as a Vice President at Brookings, as Special Advisor to the Inter-American Development Bank, Visiting Fellow at the World Bank, and consultant to the IMF. Her most recent books are: *The Power of Hope: How Wellbeing Science Can Save us from Despair* (Princeton, 2023); *Happiness for All? Unequal Hopes and Lives in Pursuit of the American Dream* (Princeton, 2017); *The Pursuit of Happiness* (Brookings, 2011); and *Happiness around the World: The Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires* (Oxford, 2010).



Josh Hjartarson

Josh Hjartarson is Deloitte’s Global Leader for the Human Services and Deloitte Canada’s National Leader for the Human and Social Services. He has advised governments globally and across Canada on income security reform, employment and workforce development modernization, and social care policy. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Toronto, taught at the Munk School of Public Policy from 2010-2016 and helped build (from 2010 to 2013) the Mowat Centre as its inaugural Policy Director. He led KPMG Canada’s Public Sector Management Consulting Practice for five years and was a public servant in Ontario’s Office of Economic Policy and the Cabinet Office.



Alan M. Jacobs

Alan M. Jacobs is Head of Department and a Professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia, specializing in comparative political economy, the politics of public policy, political behavior, and research methodology. Jacobs’ current work focuses on the politics of economic inequality in democracies, including the forces that constrain redistributive responses to inequality and the effects of growing material disparities on citizens’ willingness to invest in collective goods. Jacobs’ 2023 book *Integrated Inferences* (Cambridge, with Macartan Humphreys) develops a formal Bayesian approach to qualitative and mixed-method inquiry. Jacobs is co-host of the podcast *Scope Conditions*, which showcases cutting-edge research in the field of comparative politics.



Arif Jetha

Dr. Arif Jetha is associate scientific director and scientist at the Institute for Work & Health. He is also an associate professor at the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He earned his PhD in behavioural sciences and public health at the University of Toronto, and holds an MSc in health community and development from the London School of Economics and Political Science. His program of research aims at understanding how sociopolitical, technological, environmental and economic changes that characterize the future of work affect the health and employment participation of vulnerable workers. He is specifically interested in the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) on the health, safety and well-being of workers



Andrew Parkin

Andrew Parkin is the Executive Director of the Environics Institute. His career has been driven by a commitment to bringing diverse interests together, mobilizing evidence to inform decision-making and deliberation, and bridging the gap between policy research and public dialogue. He has held a variety of senior positions including Director of the Mowat Centre, Director General of the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC), Associate Executive Director and Director of Research and Program Development at the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and Co-Director of the Centre for Research and Information on Canada. A political sociologist by background, he has authored or co-authored numerous publications on Canadian public policy, and is a frequent commentator in both English- and French-language media.



Ito Peng

Ito Peng is the Canada Research Chair in Global Social Policy and the Director of the Centre for Global Social Policy at the Department of Sociology, and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. She is a leading researcher and expert in global social policy and political economy, specializing in the care economy, and family, gender, migration, and climate change policies. She currently leads three international policy and research projects: Care Economies in Context; Care and Climate Change Policies project, and City Learning Labs. She is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a distinguished fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and currently serves as a thought leader for the foundation's Women's Business Missions to Asia Pacific initiative.



Michael Moffatt

Dr. Mike Moffatt is the Senior Director of Policy and Innovation at the Smart Prosperity Institute and co-host of the podcast 'The Missing Middle'. Mike's research at SPI focuses on the intersection of regional economic development, building child-friendly, climate-friendly housing and communities, and clean innovation. In 2017, Mike was the Chief Innovation Fellow for the Government of Canada, advising Deputy Ministers on innovation policy and emerging trends. He has also previously held the titles of Director (Interim) of the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management, Directory of Policy at Canada 2020, and Chief Economist for the Mowat Centre at the University of Toronto. Mike has worked with politicians and policymakers of all political stripes in several countries to craft more effective public policy.



Karen Myers

As Blueprint's founder and leader, Karen leads a diverse team of researchers to develop innovative solutions that enable evidence-informed design and delivery. Over the past 20 years she has developed a strong reputation for delivering real-world solutions to even the most complex challenges and has helped establish Blueprint as a leader in the use of innovation and evidence to address pressing public policy issues.



Jennifer Robson

Jennifer Robson is an Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Political Management at Carleton University. In 2024-25 she is both a McConnell Visiting Scholar with the Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University and a Visiting Scholar with the Institute for Research on Public Policy. Her research addresses social and tax policy, poverty in Canada and public administration. She has served on federal advisory bodies for the Government of Canada for the Department of Finance, Employment and Social Development Canada, and the Canada Revenue Agency, and was a member of the COVID-19 Task Force of the Royal Society of Canada.



Stefano Scarpetta

Stefano Scarpetta is Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the OECD since 2013. He is responsible for the design and the implementation of the medium-term strategy of the Organisation on labour market and social policy issues, international migration and health issues. As a member of the Senior Management team of the Organisation, he contributes to support and advance the strategic orientations of the OECD. Previously, he held several positions in the Economics Department and in his current Directorate. From 2002-2006 he worked at the World Bank, where he took over the responsibility of labour market advisor/lead economist.



H. Luke Shaefer

H. Luke Shaefer, Ph.D. is the Kohn Professor of Social Justice and Social Policy at the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. At U-M, he also directs Poverty Solutions, a presidential initiative that partners with communities and policymakers to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty. His co-authored book, *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, was named one of the 100 Notable Books of 2015 by the New York Times. His new co-authored book, *The Injustice of Place*, has been featured on MSNBC, The Atlantic, and TIME, among other outlets. He is the co-director of Rx Kids, the nation's first citywide maternal and infant health cash prescription program launched in Flint, Michigan in January 2024. Shaefer received his B.A. in politics from Oberlin College and A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration.



Arjumand Siddiqi

Arjumand Siddiqi is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, and Senior Scientist and Edwin S.H. Leong Chair of Child Policy Research at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. At University of Toronto, she is appointed in Sociology, Public Policy, and Women and Gender Studies, and is a Senior Fellow of Massey College. She holds Adjunct Professorships at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Siddiqi's research focuses on understanding the nature and causes of health inequities, with particular emphasis on how they are influenced by social policies and other societal conditions. She frequently works with organizations, including governments and international agencies, on issues of social determinants of health, health inequalities, and related matters.



Anita Stellinga

Anita Stellinga is an accomplished professional with over 30 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector with a focus on leadership, strategic planning, governance, communications, public policy, and community development. As Vice President, Community Investments, United Way of Peel Region she led the development of new investment models focused on poverty reduction, equity and inclusion, public policy, research, multi-sectoral partnerships and evaluation. In 2017, Anita was appointed the Interim President and CEO of United Way of Peel Region. During this time she led the organization through a successful merger with United Way Toronto and York Region to form United Way Greater Toronto. Currently, as the Vice President of Corporate Communications and Public Policy, and Corporate Secretary, Anita leads a dynamic team that drives long term change to improve social conditions across the GTA.



Michael Stepner

Michael Stepner is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Toronto, where he studies public finance and health economics. His research examines the relationship between health and economic inequality—with a focus on how public policy can improve the health and financial security of low-income populations. His studies in economics began with his bachelor’s degree at McGill University, and his PhD from MIT in 2019, and his dissertation research was awarded the top dissertation award in 2020 from the National Academy of Social Insurance. In between his undergraduate and graduate studies, Michael was a pre-doctoral fellow at Harvard University’s Opportunity Insights lab where he now serves as an affiliated Research Principal.



Paul Thompson

Paul Thompson was appointed Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Development on September 18, 2023. Previously, he served as Deputy Minister of Public Services and Procurement, beginning in January 2022, and as Associate Deputy Minister at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, starting in November 2017. Prior to these roles, Paul has held several senior executive positions at Employment and Social Development Canada, such as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister for the Skills and Employment Branch, as well as executive positions in various departments, including the Privy Council Office, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.



Carolyn Hughes Tuohy

Carolyn Hughes Tuohy is a highly regarded scholar in comparative public policy, particularly social policy, in advanced industrial nations. She has authored, co-authored and edited eight books, numerous journal articles and book chapters on health and social policy including patterns of policy change, medical politics, professional self-regulation, long-term care, regulation of occupational health hazards, and comparative approaches in public policy. Her most recent book is *Remaking Policy: Scale, Pace and Political Strategy in Health Care Reform* (University of Toronto Press 2018). She is currently working on a book on the power of narrative discourse in public policy. Tuohy held a number of senior roles at the University of Toronto from 1992-2005, including Deputy Provost and Vice-President, Government and Institutional Relations. The Carolyn Tuohy Impact on Public Policy Award was created on the occasion of Tuohy’s departure from her role as Vice-President, Government and Institutional Relations.



Christopher T. Wimer

Christopher Wimer directs the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at the Columbia University School of Social Work. He is also a Principal Investigator on the Robin Hood Poverty Tracker, which measures poverty and wellbeing in New York City. Wimer conducts research on the measurement of poverty, as well as historical trends in poverty and the impacts of social policies on the poverty rate. He also focuses on how families cope with poverty and economic insecurity, with a particular focus on how families manage food insecurity and other forms of material hardship. His work pays particular attention to the role of government policies and programs and their potential impacts on the wellbeing of low-income families and children.



Nathan Wilmers

Nathan Wilmers is an Associate Professor of Work and Organization Studies at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Wilmers researches wage and earnings inequality, economic sociology, and the sociology of labor. His research has been published in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *ILR Review*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *PNAS*, and *Social Forces*. Wilmers holds a BA in philosophy from the University of Chicago and an MA and PhD in sociology from Harvard University.



Daniyal Zuberi

Daniyal Zuberi is Professor of Social Policy with a Joint Appointment to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Previously he was the William Lyon Mackenzie King Research Fellow (2011-2012) at Harvard University and a faculty member in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. His innovative social policy research has made important contributions to the study of urban poverty, inequality, health, education, employment and social welfare. He has published scholarly monographs, journal articles and book chapters that examine the impact of public policy on vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in Canada and the United States, and that recommend reforms to reduce hardships and improve social welfare. His current research focuses on social policy, urban poverty, healthcare, labour social welfare, education, and immigration.





Organizing Committee:

Daniyal Zuberi, Chair, Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Keith Banting, Stauffer Dunning Fellow, School of Policy Studies and Professor Emeritus and Research Chair Emeritus, Department of Political Studies, Queen's University

Margaret Biggs, Matthews Fellow in Global Public Policy, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University

Michael Donnelly, Director, Professional Master's Programs, Munk School and Professor, Political Science and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Shari Eli, Director, Research, Munk School and Associate Professor, Economics and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

Karen Myers, President and CEO, Blueprint

Andrew Parkin, Executive Director, Environics Institute

Ito Peng, Director, Centre for Global Social Policy and Professor, Sociology and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

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