



THE AFRICAN PROGRAMME ON RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (APORDE)

Economic Inequality: A binding constraint

Speakers: Gabriel Palma, Neva Makgetla and Basani Baloyi

A coherent strategy for the South African economy requires a response to one of its foremost challenges – that of economic inequality. For decades, South Africa has had the highest reported level of income inequality in the world. Yet a multitude of studies demonstrate that unusually unequal societies generally see slower and less consistent growth. Understanding the factors that reproduce inequality globally and in South Africa, and how they affect access to economic resources and opportunities as well as the prospects for sustained development, is critical for establishing appropriate responses. In this context, it is important to explore the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequality in order to ensure that the reconstruction strategy helps overcome economic and social divisions as well as accelerating economic growth.

About the Speakers



José Gabriel Palma is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University, where he has taught Econometrics, Macroeconomics, Development and Economic History since 1981. He is also co-editor of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, and a member of four “Task Forces” in Joseph Stiglitz’s Initiative for Policy Dialogue. His research interests predominantly focus on three areas: the economic history of Latin America, the political economy of recent economic reforms in Latin America and Asia, and why inequality is so unequal across the world. He has also published on the history of ideas in Development Economics and Politics, especially on radical critiques of the current orthodoxy.



Neva Makgetla has been Senior Economist: Trade and Industrial Policy at TIPS (Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies) since 2015. She was Deputy Director General for Economic Policy in South Africa’s Economic Development Department from 2010 to 2014. Before joining EDD, Makgetla worked for the Presidency, the DBSA and COSATU as well as other government departments. Prior to 1994 she worked in various universities in Africa and the United States. Dr Makgetla’s research centres on aspects of industrial policy and value chain analysis, and on socio-economic challenges facing South Africa, especially around employment creation, inequality, and most recently the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.



Basani Baloyi is a feminist development economist and activist. She is Oxfam South Africa’s inequality lead in the Economic Justice Unit. She gained her research experience working in academia at the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED) and the Corporate Strategy and Industrial Development (CSID) Unit focused on issues of industrial policy. She is also the former Director of Industrial Policy at the Department of Trade and Industry. Her expertise is in Economic and Gender Inequality, Work and Wages. She is also a board member at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies. Dr Baloyi holds a PhD in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, an MA in Public Policy and an Mcom in Economics from Wits University.

Tuesday

8 Sept 2020

Virtual Seminar ZOOM

15h30 (SAST)

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