

IAP-SPEC Conference
**How Can Science and Technology Contribute to the
Reduction of Poverty and Inequality**
Rio de Janeiro, March 27-29, 2019

AGENDA

March 27 - Venue: Museum of Tomorrow

09:30-10:00 - **Opening Ceremony**

10:00-11:00 - Keynote Lecture: **Reflections on Poverty, Inequality and Science**
Ismail Serageldin (Library of Alexandria)

11:00-12:30 - Session 1: **Poverty as a Multi-Dimensional Problem**

Description: How can science better contribute to tackle the complexity of factors that together make it so difficult to overcome poverty? A more comprehensive assessment of the multiple dimensions that accrue to perpetuate poverty may enhance the contribution of science to offer policy makers knowledge resources to tackle the problem. The interdependent effects of education, nutrition, health, market conditions are some of the key factors that impact not only people's income level but also their opportunities to move out of poverty.

Chair: Elisa P. Reis (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

- Maria Emma Santos (IIESS-UNS-CONICET & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative)
- Paulo Buss (Fiocruz)
- Allison Loconto (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique)

12:30-14:00 - **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 - Session 2: **Inequalities and Differences: Tensions and Complementarities**

Description: Affirmative action policies have long been the source of controversy among policy makers as well as the subject of ideological battles. Positive discrimination targeting, for example, gender, ethnicity or particular age groups deserve to be further discussed to expand our knowledge about the ways inequalities and differences relate to each other. Should social policies to reduce inequality aim at enforcing universal measures or should they instead target vulnerable social groups? Do we need to contradict the equality principle to empirically enforce equality?

Chair: Aishah Bidin (National University of Malaysia)

- Alex Shankland (Institute of Development Studies)
- Jacqueline Pitanguy (Cepia)
- Adilson José Moreira (Mackenzie Presbyterian University)

15:30-16:00 - **Break**

16:00-17:30 - Session 3: **Improving Living Conditions of the Poor**

Description: Eradicating poverty in all its forms and reducing inequality within and among countries are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. In parallel, income and wealth inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10 percent earning up to 40 percent of the total global income. Widening disparities requires the adoption of sound policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.

Chair: Ratemo Michieka (Kenya National Academy of Sciences)

- Ricardo Paes de Barros (Ayrton Senna Institute & INSPER)
- Liu Jinlong (Renmin University of China)
- Anamika Dey (Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network)

March 28 - Venue: Museum of Tomorrow

10:00-11:00 - Keynote Lecture: **The Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals for Inequality, Poverty and Technology**

Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven (University of York)

11:00-12:30 - Session 4: **Innovation as a Tool for Poverty and Inequality Reduction**

Description: By 2050, around 2/3 of the human population will be living in urban areas. This will increasingly require new infrastructure and innovation, which will be essential to promote economic growth and sustainable development. New industries and technologies will be needed to provide renewable energy alternatives, mass transport systems, adequate water and sanitation services, affordable and appropriate housing, etc.; all of which are prerequisites for the reduction of poverty and inequality. Information and communication technologies must be made accessible and further developed, to help bridge the digital divide. Similarly, new strategies and forms of organizations that help satisfy social needs must be developed.

Chair: Yousuf Maudarbocus (Network of African Science Academies)

- Nova Ahmed (North South University)
- Dion Jerling (Connect Earth)
- Rodrigo Baggio (Recode/CDI International)

12:30-14:00 - **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 - Session 5: **Assuring Access to Clean Water, Sanitation, and Adequate Food for All**

Description: Ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation, and sufficient and nutritious food all year round are minimum requirements not only for building sustainability, but also for providing basic conditions for human wellbeing. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems such as forests, mountains, wetlands and rivers is essential if we are to mitigate water scarcity. Similarly, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, supporting small-scale farmers and allowing equal access to land, technology and markets is crucial if we wish to promote food security. Science, technology and international cooperation are essential to promote adequate nutrition, food and water security, as well as basic sanitation services, all of which are essential to assure human health, socioeconomic development and a sustainable and more equitable planet.

Chair: Peter Fritz (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research)

- Maurício Lopes (Embrapa)
- Canisius Kanangire (AMCOW)
- Maciej Zalewski (UNESCO European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology)

15:30-16:00 - **Break**

16:00-17:30 - Session 6: **Disaster Risk Reduction: Predicting, Preventing, and Mitigating the Impact over Vulnerable Populations**

Description: Disasters caused by natural hazards strike human lives and economies globally, impacting most particularly vulnerable populations. There is a general understanding that both the frequency and the intensity of extreme weather and climate events that trigger hydrometeorological and geotechnical events will continue to increase, presenting a significant challenge to development. Disaster risk reduction and resilience therefore requires a more central consideration in the post-2015 development agenda if the objectives of sustainable development are to be achieved.

Chair: Lai-Meng Looi (IAP for Health & University of Malaya)

- José Marengo (CEMADEN)
- Toshio Koike (International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management)
- Vidya Diwakar (Overseas Development Institute)

March 29 - Venue: Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES)

10:00-11:00 - Keynote Lecture: **STI for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation and Sustainability**
Mohamed Hassan (TWAS)

11:00-12:30 - Session 7: **Tackling Poverty and Inequality**

Description: While the contribution of science to improve the lot of the poor and to reduce inequality can take multiple forms, this session illustrates some of them exploring how knowledge related to urban mobility conditions, preventive health, and nutrition security are powerful resources to promote a more just society.

Chair: Julian May (University of the Western Cape)

- Romulo Dante Orrico Filho (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)
- Tolu Oni (University of Cambridge)
- Alex Ezeh (Drexel University)

12:30-14:00 - **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 - Session 8: **Social, Political, and Economic Strategies to Empower the Poor**

Description: No prescription to eradicate poverty can neglect the fact that the task requires the active engagement of the poor. The contribution of science here involves knowledge about conditions that enhance social inclusion such as processes that foster social trust, provide incentives to political participation, expand communication resources, promotes social diversity, etc.

Chair: Wang Yi (Chinese Academy of Sciences Institutes of Science and Development)

- Sarah Cook (University of New South Wales)
- Ratna Ghosh (McGill University)
- Marcelo Carvalho de Andrade (Pró-Natura International)

15:30-16:00 - **Break**

16:00-17:30 - Session 9: **Building Better Science-Policy Interfaces for Poverty Eradication and Inequality Reduction**

Description: Science and technology play an increasing role in the policy process. The value of science and technology is well established in the fields of health, agriculture and natural resource management, but topics such as climate change, food and water security have recently attracted a high profile in international policy debates about sustainable development and poverty reduction. Nevertheless, there is very little research that systematically examines the science–policy interface in developing countries, and little practical advice on how to strengthen linkages between scientific knowledge and the policy process.

Chair: Luiz Davidovich (Brazilian Academy of Sciences)

- Daya Reddy (International Science Council)
- Volker ter Meulen (InterAcademy Partnership)
- E. William Colglazier (American Association for Advancement of Science)
- Rashid Bajwa (National Rural Support Program)

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