

## 21st Century Economic Policy: Anthropoeconomics

### The Policy Corner – Essay Competition and Event

15. February 2018

6:30 – 8:15 pm

Freie Universität Berlin, Otto-von-Simson Str. 26, Room L-116

On 15 February 2018 *The Policy Corner* will hold a panel discussion and award ceremony for its 2017 essay competition entitled “*Rethinking Economic Policy*”.

### Background

[The Policy Corner](#) is an inclusive platform for students and young professionals to publish research-based articles on global issues. Founded in 2016, we aim to empower young scholars to engage in public debates while providing readers with innovative commentaries on current policy challenges.

*The Policy Corner* received a grant from the [Young Scholars Initiative](#) (YSI) of the [Institute for New Economic Thinking](#) (INET) for conducting an essay competition and event on the topic of “Rethinking Economic Policy”. The event builds upon *The Policy Corner*’s [essay competition](#) and shall serve as both an award ceremony for the winners of the competition and a forum for engaging in an in-depth panel discussion on inequality and other issues related to new economic thinking.

### Objective of the Event

We aim to initiate a debate on new economic thinking, with a particular focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges such as inequality, populism, and climate change. Moreover, we seek to introduce young scholars to new perspectives relevant to this topic area.

The discussion will provide an opportunity for innovative thinking and collaboration among a new generation of thinkers, while also fostering exchange between students and established economic experts and scholars.

The audience will include approximately 40-60 interested students and professionals, the winning essayists, and members of the Policy Corner team. The event will be held in English.

### Panel Discussion

Experience shows that high rates of economic growth do not necessarily lead to prosperity and wellbeing for everyone. Despite the fact that poverty rates are decreasing globally and more people have gained access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water and electricity, the world faces manifold challenges such as climate change, armed conflicts, digitalization, and populism. Inequality,

which is relevant to many of the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will provide the starting point for the panel discussion.

The discussion will be organized as follows: firstly, different perspectives on the problem will be identified; secondly, it will assess current approaches for addressing inequality; and finally, consideration will be given to the prospects of economic policy that puts human beings at its center (anthropoeconomics).

The event shall reflect the structure of an op-ed, which comprises a description and evaluation of the problems and policy proposals. It aims to incorporate the expertise of the different panellists, coming from a range of backgrounds including research, civil society, and politics.

1) Description of the problem (15 min):

Inequality is often presented as one of the major challenges facing mankind, and as a problem that steadily continues to worsen. This block discusses the nature of inequality and how it impacts different societies. It touches upon questions related to inequality and its impact on individuals and, by extension, on society. This block will also address the question of how the global economic system reproduces inequality. In a more concrete manner, the link between inequality and poverty, and the effects of digitalization shall be discussed. In this part of the discussion, the panellists will also share perspectives from their respective areas of expertise on the issue at hand.

2) Evaluation and policy proposals (30 min)

This block discusses policies that have been implemented to address inequality. Moreover, it touches upon challenges that might arise in the implementation of proposed policies, and raises questions for further research and debate.

Economics, and related fields, use a variety of tools to understand the phenomenon of inequality. Behavioral economics, for example, seems to be at the forefront of understanding inequality (and poverty more concretely) on a micro level.

On the macro level, civil societies and governments try to foster policies to find an internationally coherent approach to the challenges of the 21st century. By discussing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we aim to identify prospects and shortcomings of the current approach of the international community to reach these goals.

Concrete examples from countries in the Global North and Global South will enrich this block. Keeping in mind the overall topic of “Anthropoeconomics,” this block seeks to identify economic policies that put human beings at the centre of their analysis and work to the benefit of everyone.

## Speakers

### **George Bauer, Sciences Po Paris**

George Kibala is the winner of the Policy Corner essay competition. He studies International Economic Policy at Sciences Po Paris with concentrations in African Studies and Emerging Economies. His research interests include public development finance, political economy of industrial policy, and intra-African trade and investment. He has previously worked in government, economic research, and consulting, and his writing frequently appears on *Africa is a Country*.

### **Tyson Barker, Aspen Institute Berlin**

Tyson Barker is program director and fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany responsible for the Institute's digital and cyber program. In the past, he has served as Senior Advisor at the US State Department and was Director for Trans-Atlantic Relations at the Bertelsmann Foundation in Washington D.C. He has written for numerous publications on both sides of the Atlantic, including Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Politico, the Atlantic, National Interest and Spiegel.

### **Anna Cavazzini, Bread for the World**

Anna Cavazzini supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World). She develops strategies pursuing a socio-economic transformation of our society. Before, she worked at the European Parliament, the United Nations and Compact on sustainable development, trade and just globalization.

### **Prof. Rajshri Jayaraman, PhD, ESMT Berlin**

Rajshri Jayaraman is a development economist whose research has focused broadly on the role of incentives and social preferences on the decisions and performance of students, workers, and consumers. Her recent empirical work has examined the effect of incentive pay on worker productivity; school feeding programs on student outcomes; and defaults on charitable donations. In collaboration with theorists, she has also worked on the identification of peer effects in social interaction models. At present, she is working on a series of projects concerning immigration, with a focus on Germany's recent refugee influx.

### **Prof. Dr. Philipp Lepenies, FU Berlin**

Philipp Lepenies is an economist and political scientist. Currently, he acts as visiting professor for comparative political sciences at the Otto Suhr Institute at Free University Berlin as well as interim director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) in Berlin. His research focuses on poverty alleviation/ poverty measurement, political economy of statistics and development policy.

## Program

The event will last approximately 90 minutes. The winning essayist will open the discussion and present his work (for approximately 15 minutes). A moderated panel discussion will follow, before opening the floor to questions from the audience.

The event is scheduled to run as follows:

- 6:30 – 6:40 pm Welcome notice and introduction by *The Policy Corner*
- 6:40 – 7:00 pm Award ceremony and keynote speeches by the winning essayists
- 7:00 – 7:45 pm Moderated panel discussion
- 7:45– 8:00 pm Open panel for questions from the audience
- 8:15 pm Closure of the event by *The Policy Corner*

After the closure, a small catering will be provided.

Please note that *The Policy Corner* envisages to livestream the event.

If you have any queries, please contact us at [competition@policycorner.org](mailto:competition@policycorner.org).