

What to do to reduce poverty and inequality?

Looking at the evidence of the impact of social cash transfers from NIDS-CRAM data as well as the potential impact of Expanded Public Works Programme as a key driver of poverty eradication.

2:00pm – 4:00pm on 10 May 2021

Programme

2:00 – 2:05	Welcome Prof Himla Soodyall, Executive Officer, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
2:05 – 2:10	Background to the Webinar Series Prof Julian May, University of the Western Cape (UWC), Chair of the Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality (SCSfRPI)
2:10 – 2:20	Remarks from co-host SPII and Introduction to the Webinar Ms Isobel Frye, Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) & Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality (SCSfRPI)
2:20 – 2:40	National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM) Dr Reza Daniels, University of Cape Town (UCT)
2:40 – 3:00	Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Ms Shirin Motala, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
3:00 – 3:15	Responses
3:15 – 3:55	Discussion Moderator: Ms Isobel Frye
3:55 – 4:00	Vote of Thanks and Closure Prof Himla Soodyall

Biographies

Reza Daniels is an Associate Professor with the School of Economics at UCT. As a Senior Research Fellow at EPRU, he contributes to EPRU's emerging research in greener economic growth, waste management and beneficiation, biomass commercialisation technologies, and behavioural nudges that inform plastics use and mis-use. He is also a research associate with the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) in the UCT School of Economics. In 2020, Reza is also a visiting Associate Professor at the Economics and Planning Unit at the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi, India.

Isobel Frye is the founding Director of Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) in Johannesburg. She worked as a director at a commercial law practice before moving to work as the Black Sash National Advocacy Manager. From there she moved to work as a senior researcher at NALEDI, the research service organisation of the trade union federation COSATU, before starting SPII. SPII undertakes both primary and secondary research into poverty and social exclusions, and policy analysis in the field of anti-poverty policies, inequalities, socio-economic and constitutional rights and social protection. Isobel serves on the Academy of Science of South Africa Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality. She has served on the Boards of a variety of national and regional bodies. She serves on a global strategic advisory body for a leading ecumenical development agency. Isobel is a former member of the UIF Board, and is a current representative of Community Constituency at NEDLAC. She is an active contributor to print and broadcast media on policy issues on poverty, inequality and socio-economic rights. She is co-producer of a Podcast series REWIRED! with acclaimed financial journalist Duma Gqubule focusing on topical social, economic and Covid Build Back policy debates. Isobel was appointed as one of the first National Minimum Wage Commissioners by the Minister of Labour in January 2019.

Shirin Motala is a Chief Research Manager in the Inclusive Economic Development (IED) Programme of the Human Sciences Research Council. She is Head of the Impact and Research Development Portfolio. Her experience of public employment programmes spans a period of nine years and includes impact evaluations of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) KZN Programme in Phase 2, Impact Evaluation of the Department of Environmental Affairs EPWP programme between 2016-2018, Review of the Community Work Programme in 2012 and more recently she served as part of the International Labour Organization (ILO) team supporting the Department of Public Works in the design of Phase 4 of EPWP.