



***Special Session (SS13) on:  
Global Perspectives on Income Inequality and Poverty  
Transformation***

**Organizers:**

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**The aim and scope:**

Income inequality, or the unequal distribution of income among a population, has increased significantly over several decades in various countries across the globe. After examinations of extreme concentrations of wealth in a small percentage of a population, some scholars have described income inequality as the gap between the richest and the rest. In an interdependent world shaped by the forces of globalization, diverse communities in disparate geographic regions often grapple with the kinds of economic uncertainty that exacerbates disparities.

While there are many factors that contribute to income inequality, including educational attainment, pay disparities based on gender, and the innate abilities of the individual; three significant socioeconomic trends merit particular consideration: (1) modern growth in technology and rapid development in artificial intelligence is widening the income gap by allowing computers and robots to perform knowledge-based jobs; (2) underlying shifts in the global economy are increasing incomes in emerging markets, like Brazil, China, and India, and making those countries more competitive in the global marketplace; and (3) efforts by governments to reduce or eliminate restrictions on industries via deregulation policies often benefit businesses more than wage earners.

Inequality is the main cause of persistent poverty. Researchers suggest inequality and poverty affect each other directly and indirectly through their link with economic growth. Poverty can be reduced through increases in income, through changes in the distribution of income, or through a combination of both. Finding suitable solutions to alleviate poverty can be challenging since poverty rates vary across geographic areas because of the differences in both person-specific and place-specific characteristics. People-based strategies for addressing poverty tend to focus on investments in individuals so they can improve their lives, while place-based policies target specific locations in an effort to enhance impoverished communities.

Although inequality and poverty have often been separated conceptually both in research and in operational work, this session aims to show how both concepts are inextricably linked. Through the examination of interdisciplinary research that falls under the broad theme of this special session, authors and session participants will consider specific trends and assess certain findings from different regions of the world that underscore the importance of addressing poverty and inequality.

**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT**