



# UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development  
Institut de Recherche des Nations Unies pour le Développement Social

## Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization

**UNRISD International Conference**  
7–9 November 2018

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

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## ▪ ROUNDTABLE ▪

## ***Engines of Inequality? Elites, Politics and Power***

**7 November 2018 ▪ 18.30 – 20.00 ▪  
University of Geneva, Auditorium W. Yung (MR 280)  
Geneva, Switzerland**

### **Background**

The roundtable will bring together thought leaders, influencers and advocates for change to discuss the growing influence of elite power and the deepening of global inequalities, and what can be done to counteract these trends. Key questions are: How did we arrive at this moment in which the richest 1% of the population holds half of the world's wealth? What kinds of fractures has this extreme concentration of wealth wrought, be they economic, political, cultural, social, spatial, or environmental? And what space is there for progressive change in a context where those in power work to preserve the systems from which they benefit?

### **Speakers**

- Naila Kabeer, London School of Economics
- Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Institute of Strategic and International Studies
- Saskia Sassen, Columbia University

### **Opening Remarks**

- Jonas Pontusson, Professor, UNIGE
- Paul Ladd, Director, UNRISD

### **Moderator**

Imogen Foulkes, BBC

In collaboration with



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

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**▪ CONFERENCE AGENDA ▪**


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## **Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization**

**8–9 November 2018 ▪ Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland**

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**DAY ONE: 8 NOVEMBER 2018**

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08.15–09.00

ARRIVAL PREGNY GATE

**Conference Opening  
Room XXIII**

09.00–9.30

Opening

- [Paul Ladd](#), Director (UNRISD)
- [Hubert Schillinger](#), Director (FES Geneva Office)
- [Katja Hujo](#), Senior Research Coordinator (UNRISD)

**Session 1:**

**Inequality and Institutions: Political Barriers to Transformative  
Change  
Room XXIII**

09.30–11.15

Chair: Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Institute of Strategic and International Studies

- [Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz](#) (University of Maryland) — *Inequality: A World-Historical Perspective*
- [Michael Danquah](#) (University of Ghana) — *Inequality and Institutions: Exploring the Mediating Role of Political Settlements in Some Selected African Countries*
- [Max Lawson](#) (Oxfam International) — *The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index: What drives Governments to do the Right Thing and Reduce the Gap between Rich and Poor?*
- [Emma Lynn Dadap-Cantal](#) (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague), [Andrew Fischer](#) (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) and [Charmaine Ramos](#) (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) — *The Institutional and Political Legacies of Conditional Cash Transfers on Social Provisioning in the Philippines*
- [Gabriela Ramalho Tafoya](#) (University of Connecticut) — *Social Protection in Latin America: Electoral Dynamics and Welfare Generosity in Comparative Perspective*

11.15–11.45

COFFEE BREAK

**Plenary Session  
Room XXIII**

11.45–12.45

Chair: Paul Ladd, UNRISD

Keynote address: [François Bourguignon](#), Paris School of Economics  
*Global and National Inequalities: A Worried Look into the Future*

12.45–14.00

LUNCH BREAK

With the support of



**Session 2a: Networks of Power in a Fractured World: The Role and Influence of Elites**

14.00–15.45

**Venue: Room XXIII**

Chair: Graziella Moraes Silva, The Graduate Institute

- [Tom Lavers](#) (University of Manchester) – *Elites, Ideas and the Politics of Inclusive Development*
- [Luna Glucksberg](#) (London School of Economics) and [Louise Russell-Prywata](#) (London School of Economics) – *Philanthropy, Elites and Inequality: Understanding Connections and Complexities to Generate Policy Insights*
- [Megan Tobias Neely](#) (Stanford University) – *Hedged Out: Inside the ‘Boys’ Club’ on Wall Street*
- [Julián Cárdenas](#) (Free University of Berlin and Alice Salomon University) and [Francisco Robles-Rivera](#) (Free University of Berlin and University of Costa Rica) – *The Role of Business Elite Networks and Media Capture in the Success or Failure of Redistributive Political Projects*
- [Jonas Pontusson](#) (University of Geneva) – *On the Relationship Between Economic and Political Inequality: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go from Here?*

**Session 2b: The Role of Institutions in Perpetuating or Curbing Inequalities**

14.00–15.45

**Venue: Room XVIII**

Chair: Yusuf Bangura, UNRISD

- [Roberto Rocha Coelho Pires](#) (Institute for Applied Economic Research, Brazil) – *Reproduction of Inequalities in the Implementation of Social Policies in Latin America*
- [Imraan Valodia](#) (University of the Witwatersrand) and [David Francis](#) (University of the Witwatersrand) – *A Minimum Wage for South Africa – Challenging Labour Market Inequalities*
- [Lars-Erik Cederman](#) (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich) and [Simon Hug](#) (University of Geneva) – *Power-Sharing Institutions and Political and Economic Inequalities*
- [Ghazala Mir](#) (University of Leeds) – *Achieving SDG 10: A Global Review of Public Service Inclusion Strategies for Ethnic and Religious Minorities*
- [Mi Young An](#) (Kookmin University) – *Gendered Power Relations in Transition? Division of Paid and Unpaid Work in Japan and Korea from a Comparative Perspective*

15.45–16.00

**COFFEE BREAK****Session 3a: Elite Ideology and Perceptions of Inequality: Implications for Redistribution and Social Cohesion**

16.00–17.45

**Venue: Room XXIII**

Chair: Katja Hujo, UNRISD

- [Graziella Moraes Silva](#) (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva), [Matias López](#) (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile), [Elisa Reis](#) (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), and [Chana Teegeer](#) (London School of Economics) – *Elites’ Perceptions of Inequality: Who Supports Redistribution? Why, When and How?*
- [Alice Krozer](#) (Colegio de México) – *Seeing Inequality? Relative Affluence and Elite Perceptions in Mexico*
- [Jorge Atria Curi](#) (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile) – *The Merit of Ascription?*

**Session 3b: Shifting Class Structures and Identities in the Age of Neoliberalism**

16.00–17.45

**Venue: Room XVIII**

Chair: Christine Verschuur, The Graduate Institute

- [Sophie Plagerson](#) (University of Johannesburg) and [Leila Patel](#) (University of Johannesburg) – *How does Social Protection Address Vertical, Horizontal and Spatial Inequalities: Towards Achieving the SDGs in South Africa*
- [Kate Meagher](#) (London School of Economics) – *Rewiring the Social Contract: Digital Taxis and Economic Inclusion in Nigeria*
- [Nitya Rao](#) (University of East Anglia) and [Renganathan Manimohan](#) (Fisheries Management Resource Centre) – *Challenging Elite Capital Control Through*

<p><i>Economic Elite Perceptions of Inheritance Taxation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Jeremy Seekings</u> (University of Cape Town) – <i>Inequality, Popular Attitudes and Elite Ideology in Africa: The Case of Social Protection</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>New Forms of Cooperation: The Case of Small-Scale Fishers in the Coromandel Coast, Tamil Nadu</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Carla Beatriz de Paulo</u> (University of Brasilia) – <i>Brazil's Economic Upsurge in the 2000s: The Rise of a "New" Middle Class or the Fragmentation of the Working Class?</i></li> <li>▪ <u>Alrich Nicolas</u> (Université d'Etat d'Haïti) – <i>Le Processus d'Appauvrissement des Classes Moyennes en Haïti et ses Conséquences Economiques et Sociales</i></li> </ul>
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**DAY TWO: 9 NOVEMBER 2018**

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**Opening Session**

09.00–10.00      Chair: Katja Hujo, UNRISD

Keynote address: Vandana Shiva, Author, scientist,  
*Oneness Vs. the 1%*

**Room XXIII**

10.00–10.30      **COFFEE BREAK**

**Session 4a: Cities for Whom? Causes and Consequences of Urban Socio-spatial Inequalities**

10.30–12.15

**Venue: Room XXIII**

Chair: Rowland Atkinson, Sheffield University

- Gustavo Glodes Blum (University Center Curitiba) – *The Spatial Face of Inequality: Mobility and the Impact of Neoliberal Policies on Transportation Infrastructure in Paraná, Brazil*
- Imren Borsuk Eroglu (Stockholm University) – *Women's Changing Assets and the Spatialities of Gender and Poverty from Squatter Settlement into Mass Housing: A Case Study from Turkey*
- Julie MacLeavy (University of Bristol) and David Manley (University of Bristol) – *Intergenerational Relations, Socioeconomic Fracturing and Cultural Marginalization: Spatializing the Processes That Compound Inequalities*
- Adriana Portella (Federal University of Pelotas) and Gisele Pereira (Federal University of Pelotas) – *The Olympic Legacy of Rio 2016: A City for Whom?*

**Session 4b: Between Climate Justice and Social Exclusion: Towards an Eco-Social Approach**

10.30–12.15

**Venue: Room XVIII**

Chair: Gabriele Köhler, Independent Researcher

- Ramapurath Chemmencheri Sudheesh (University of Oxford) – *Persistence of Poverty in an Indigenous Community in Southern India: Bringing Agrarian Environment to the Centre of Poverty Analysis*
- Gerardo A. Torres Contreras (University of Sussex) – *Two Decades Under Windmills in La Venta, Mexico: From an Annoyance to a Blessing – for Some*
- Iwebunor Okwechime (Obafemi Awolowo University) – *Exploring the Relationship Between Environmental Governance, Social Inequalities and Politics of Exclusion: Evidence from the Niger Delta, Nigeria*
- Diego Geng (Pontifical Catholic University of Peru) – *Desigualdades en la Gobernanza del Agua en un Contexto de Extractivismo Minero: El Caso de la Cuenca alta Río Locumba (Tacna, Perú)*
- Kalyani Monteiro Jayasankar (Princeton University) – *Negotiating a Failing City: An Ethnographic Account of Flood Adaptation in Mumbai*

12.15–13.30

LUNCH BREAK

### Session 5a: Towards Transformative Public Policy: Undermining Elite Power Through Local Collaboration and Social Mobilization

13.30–15.15

Venue: Room XXIII

Chair: Shalini Randeria, The Graduate Institute/IWM

- [Bettina Schorr](#) (Free University of Berlin) – *Regulating the Regulators: Tracing the Emergence of the Political Transparency Laws in Chile*
- [Prapimphan Chiengkul](#) (Thammasat University) – The Political Economy of the Agri-Food System in Thailand: Power, Accumulation, and the Search for Sustainability
- [Borja M. Iglesias](#) (University of Lleida and Network for Strengthening the Informal City) – *Fighting the Socio-Spatial Exclusion: Learning from Recent Decent Housing Public Policies in the Global North and South*
- [Fritz Nganje](#) (University of Johannesburg) – *City-to-City Cooperation and the Promise of a Democratic 'Right to the City'*
- [Rossella Ciccía](#) (Queen's University Belfast and Scuola Normale Superiore) and [César Guzmán-Concha](#) (Independent Researcher) – *The Dynamics of Redistributive Social Policy in Latin America: Collective Mobilizations, Political Allies and Institutions*

### Session 5b: Actors, Alliances and Strategies for a New Social Compact

13.30–15.15

Venue: Room XVIII

Chair: Valeria Esquivel, ILO

- [Antonio Roman-Alcalá](#) (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) – *Othering and Solidarity in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Agrarian California: What Can We Learn About Efforts to Create Cross-Sector Alliances for Progressive Political Change?*
- [Laura Alfers](#) (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing and Rhodes University) – *Informal Workers Co-Producing Social Services in the Global South – Task Shifting or Political Strategy Towards a New Social Contract?*
- [Raquel Rojas Scheffer](#) (Free University of Berlin) – *Entangled Inequalities and Network Building: Organizational Experiences of Paid Domestic Workers in Uruguay and Paraguay*
- [Mauricio Torres-Tovar](#) (National University of Colombia) – *Inequidades en la Realización del Derecho a la Salud en el Mundo del Trabajo en Colombia: Caminos Para su Superación Desde la Movilización Social de las y los Trabajadores*
- [Gabriele Köhler](#) (Independent Researcher) – *Creative Coalitions in a Fractured World. An Opportunity for Transformative Change?*

15.15–15.45

COFFEE BREAK

### The Politics of Transformative Change: UN and Civil Society Roundtable

Room XXIII

15.45–17.15

Chair: Paul Ladd, Director, UNRISD

- [Elliott Harris](#), UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist (via videolink)
- [Ben Phillips](#), Launch Director, Fight Inequality Alliance
- [Anita Nayar](#), Director, Regions Refocus
- [Richard Jolly](#), University of Sussex

### Closing Session

Room XXIII

17.15–17.30

Paul Ladd, Director and Katja Hujo, Senior Research Coordinator, UNRISD