Call for Papers for the 37th IARIW General Conference, Luxembourg, August 22-26, 2022

The call for papers for the 37th IARIW General Conference is now open. Persons interested in presenting a paper at the conference are asked to submit a proposal by January 15, 2022 at https://forms.gle/jMBH9KwsLAJaEbPz7. All proposals must be submitted under one of the 15 session themes or in the other category. Proposals will be evaluated by the session organizers and decisions communicated by February 28, 2022.

Session Themes

Theme 1: Advancing Measurement and Valuation in the System of National Accounts

Lead Organizer: Catherine Van Rompaey (World Bank)

Co-organizer: Peter van De Ven (OECD, retired)

The international community has embarked on an update of macroeconomic standards, including the 2008 System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments Manual (Version 6) and related manuals to better describe new economic phenomena and address key statistical challenges. Updates are focused in targeted areas, including globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability, and financial markets and payment systems.

New guidance will also reexamine and clarify SNA valuation principles and techniques. While the main principle for SNA valuation is the market price or exchange value, in the absence of market prices alternatives are recommended, including cost-based approaches or the use of market prices for analogous goods or services. In case of stock measures, one may accumulate and revalue transactions over time or estimate the discounted present value of future returns expected from a given asset. While these principles may appear unambiguous, in practice their interpretation can diverge, leading to measurement and cross-country comparability risks in a range of domains, including natural resources and ecosystem assets, unpaid household activities, human capital, government non-market output, and new types of assets such as AI and data.

As new SNA guidance becomes available, testing, and early implementation is key to accelerate the adoption of the new standards, which are targeted for endorsement in 2025. Along with these foreseen updates and clarifications, other challenges have arisen due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a heightened need for real time data, increased granularity, and the need for clear linkages to social, regional and environmental statistics.

This session will invite papers pertaining to the update of the SNA guidance, including the evolving standards themselves or work to enhance methods and accelerate implementation. Contributions could relate to e.g. digitalization (for example, the recording of data, artificial intelligence, or free services), well-being and sustainability (unpaid household production of services, health, human capital, and the environment within a broadened SNA framework) and globalization (accounting for MNEs and global production arrangements). Exchange of best practices on valuation techniques and examination of the pros and cons of specific measurement options are also welcome, as are papers that modernize methods and explore novel data sources to meet new demands for timely and granular SNA estimates.

Theme 2: Accounting for Environmental Sustainability

Lead organizer: Peter van de Ven (OECD, retired)

Co-organizer: Gerard Eding (Statistics Netherlands)

Recently, significant advances have been made in the area of environmental-economic accounting. A major landmark is the recent endorsement of international statistical standards for the measurement of ecosystem services and related ecosystem assets in physical and monetary units: the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting: Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). Although the valuation part has not yet been fully agreed upon, these new standards may guide the way forward in accounting for environmental sustainability. In this theme, papers are invited on especially the development of data sources and methodologies for the statistical measurement of natural capital, and the communication and engagement with policy and the public at large.

Theme 3: Measuring Comprehensive Consumption and Implications for Equivalence Scales, National Accounts, Poverty, and Inequality

Lead Organizer: Thesia I. Garner (BLS)

Co-organizers: Diane Coyle (Cambridge University) Thomas Crossley (European University Institute, Italy), Nancy Folbre (University of Massachussetts, Amherst), Dean Jolliffe (World Bank), Leonard Nakamura (Federal Reserve Board of Philadelphia), Sabrina Pabilonia (BLS), and Paul Schreyer (OECD)

There is a long history of using consumption as a measure of economic well-being. However, most measures of consumption are limited. This session explores new directions in the development and understanding of broader measures of consumption. We hope to provide a more complete picture of how households use all their resources (e.g., income, in-kind benefits, financial and non-financial wealth, time, social relationships, and culture) to meet the needs and wants of their members.

One key ingredient in consumption is the use of time. Data from time use surveys can be used to help us value home production for consumption. Such data also can help us understand how we consume; self-reports about how we feel during non-work time help us evaluate consumption.

Questions arise regarding implications for use. Are different measures of consumption preferable for national accounts? How are household equivalence scales affected by broader measures of consumption? How do social and cultural norms and institutions affect consumption? Would it be desirable to combine objective measures of consumption with subjective measures of well-being resulting in "quality adjusted consumption (QUAC)"?

The goal of this session is to share information on the development and use of comprehensive measures of consumption at the country and cross-national levels. Papers from both micro- and macro-perspectives will be included. The session will include papers that:

1. Examine new methods to produce broader measures of consumption, pushing outward to include consumption that is conceptually challenging to price (e.g., time/leisure, public goods and infrastructure);

2. Examine the comparability of consumption measures across and within countries;

3. Examine consumption from the perspective of the household, focusing on decision making and power dynamics, and how these influence consumption and time allocation, and the derivation and use of equivalence scales;

4. Examine valuations of consumption, home production, and consuming activities at home, including the impacts of geography and labor choices on consumption;

5. Address consumption as an expression of values that go beyond the individual, e.g., familial, social, patriotic, and religious, and other contributions to the larger community and the future;

6. Capture different aspects of the quality of consumption, including the value of information, knowledge, and experience affecting the utility of consumption;

7. Propose combining subjective measures of well-being with more objectively defined measures of consumption; and

8. Discuss the broadening of the economics of consumption and the empirical theory of consumption, including subjective valuation surveys and experiments.

Theme 4: Understanding the Child Well-Being Impacts of the Pandemic

Organizer: Surajit Deb (University of Delhi)

As the world continues to suffer due to the coronavirus, there have been some extensive analyses on the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The research has mainly focused on the loss of human lives-livelihood-GDP, the impact on poverty or exploring whether women suffer more due to the lockdowns. However, attempts to examine the likely impacts of COVID-19 on child well-being have remained unexpectedly inadequate. One may recall that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the objective of leaving no one behind placed children as the top agenda, along with other vulnerable/marginalized groups. The children's progress in SDG framework is monitored through over 44 indicators under five dimensions of child rights, where every child: i) survives

and thrives, ii) learns, iii) protected from violence, exploitation and harmful practices, iv) lives in a safe and clean environment, and v) has a fair chance in life. It is also claimed that progress for children within the SDG was uneven even before the pandemic outbreak.

The pandemic may very well have affected child well-being or specific dimensions of the child growth and development, education or health. The analyses that focus on the COVID-19 impacts have argued that the effects remain currently hidden, but bear potentials to be devastating for marginalized children. Another extension that deliberates on the child well-being in rich countries has found evidence of mixed performances in their health, skills and happiness levels. The recent ILO-UNICEF (2020) and ILO (2020) reports have issued warnings that the coronavirus crisis may push millions of youngsters into child labor by 2022. It is also maintained that the pandemic induced closures may lift the school dropout rates in specific regions. It is therefore inferred that the young children around the world could be at the risk of being left behind, if governments do not support with social protections.

One realizes that there is a need to explore the pandemic experiences of children throughout the world in the context of country's educational, health services, social and economic contexts. This session invites papers on the impacts of the pandemic on children's nutrition, learning, and poverty and that explore specific social protection policies or on the measurement of child well-being. Papers may also consider whether the pandemic-led-development bears the risk of delaying the progress in achieving the SDG targets for some countries.

Theme 5: New Measures of Global Comparisons in Well-Being and Sustainability

Lead Organizer: Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD)

Co-organizers: Ann Lisbet Brathaug (Statistics Norway) and Michail Moatsos (university of Utrecht)

Global comparisons of economic welfare span across a wide range of concepts and specifications. Gross Domestic Product as available from the System of National Accounts (SNA) is often used as a proxy, but it falls short of capturing relevant elements that determine households' well-being. In turn, the quest for alternatives has been flourishing, both in academia and in political institutions. At the same time, the topic of well-being and sustainability is also a priority area in the SNA Research Agenda. New SNA guidance aims to link the main indicators at an aggregate level and include cross-classifications for more detailed insights into specific household groups or topics.

The focus of this session is to highlight new measures of well-being and sustainability indicators both from an SNA and from a global indicators' perspective. Our session welcomes papers on new and emerging ways to measure and compare economic welfare, well-being and sustainability across countries. The studies may be of a stand-alone nature or may be contributing to the development of new satellite accounts on well-being and sustainability, or on the development of relevant new metrics and/or analyses in combination with traditional macroeconomic measures. Contributions that use longitudinal and cross-sectional data in

combination, and studies that explore the underlying uncertainty of the concepts and the data (e.g. price volatility) involved are encouraged.

Theme 6: Natural Capital and Productivity

Lead Organizer: Bart van Ark (University of Manchester and The Productivity Institute)

C0-organizers: Rebecca Riley (ESCoE and Kings College London) and Matthew Agarwala (University of Cambridge)

The adoption of the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in early 2021 is an important step forward towards improving our understanding of the impact of changes in nature, environment and climate on economic growth, productivity and well-being. Building on previous work (e.g. Brandt et al. 2014, 2017; OECD, 2016; Hamilton, 2018), this session showcases new research at the frontier of natural capital economics. We are especially looking for papers which connect natural capital and productivity, either in a conceptual manner or in an accounting or other empirical context. This could include papers demonstrating the effect of changes in natural capital on productivity, as well as papers that redefine productivity measurements to better reflect natural capital inputs and outputs (for example, asset degradation). We also encourage papers looking at natural capital in combination with other productive resources (either as a substitute or complement) and that consider the valuation of externalities associated with economic activity. And we invite papers on the impact of changes in usage of natural capital on productivity in the energy transition to net zero.

 References:

Brandt, Nicola, Paul Schreyer and Vera Zipperer (2014), Productivity Measurement with Natural Capital and Bad Outputs, OECD Economics Department Working Papers, 2014.

Brandt, Nicola, Paul Schreyer and Vera Zipperer (2017), Productivity Measurement with Natural Capital, Review of Income and Wealth, Series 63, Supplement 1, February, pp. S7-S21.

Hamilton, Kirk (2018), Expanding Measures of Productivity to Include Natural Capital, in: The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018: Building a Sustainable Future, World Bank.

OECD (2016), Greening productivity measurement. Environmentally adjusted multifactor productivity growth, Policy Perspective, 2016.

Theme 7: Public Sector: Activity, Productivity and Outcomes

Lead Organizer: Robert Inklaar (University of Groningen)

Co-organizer: Mark de Haan (Statistics Netherlands)

The Covid pandemic and the climate crisis have, again, shed new light on the importance of the public sector (public administration, health, education, environmental protection) for understanding what they do and their impact on society. One of the main conclusions of the Atkinson (2005) review was to do more in the National Accounts to capture public sector activity and productivity, rather than relying on input-based output measures. Since then, there have been many new initiatives, conceptual frameworks and changes to official statistics. But these have also shed light on the continuing challenges in conceptualising and measuring public sector activities and the tension between measuring activities (surgeries, classroom hours, traffic tickets, waste collection) and societal outcomes (healthier, smarter and safer people in a sustainable environment). Furthermore, the Covid pandemic has put a spotlight on the unequal access to public services and their unequal impact, with, for example, more adverse health effects of Covid in more obese people and school closures having larger negative effects on children from lower-income households. These effects emphasise that linking public sector activity and outcomes cannot ignore inequality within the population. Furthermore we need to assure that public sector finance statistics are made ready to monitor shifting government output towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For this session, we are looking for papers that shed new theoretical or applied light on topics such as:

- Output and productivity measurement in (parts of) the public sector
- Linking public sector spending, activity and outcomes
- Adapting the functional government expenditure statistics (COFOG) to new measurement challenges (Covid, inequality, climate change)
- Inequality of access to public services and their impact on outcomes

Theme 8: Proposal on Big Data: Economic Value, Digital Transformation, Productivity and Policy

Lead Organizer: Daniel Ker (UNCTAD)

Co-Organizers: Wendy Li (Moon Economics Institute) and David Nguyen (OECD)

As the world enters the era of widely deployed fibre networks, 5G, and the Internet of Things, data have become the key digital input to firms' productive activities. Firms using data to organize production enjoy higher productivity and market valuations. How can we capture the impacts of big data in firms' production and innovation in terms of the valuation of firms, firms' productivity, and in official statistics? What data do we need to accommodate new measurement approaches? And how can measurement be rolled-out across countries (including developing countries)? This proposal aims to address important economic and policy issues related to big data. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1) measuring the value of big data

2) investigating how digital transformation, innovation and productivity are affected by data sharing

3) exploring the distribution of the value of data amongst firms, between firms and consumers, and across countries (including developing countries)

4) analyzing data governance policies

Theme 9: Measuring the Self-employed, Contract Work, and Gig Workers

Lead Organizer: Wendy Li (Moon Economics Institute).

Co-Organizer: Sabrina Pabilonia (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Measuring the self-employed proves to be much harder than measuring the employment of wage and salary workers. The self-employed cover a range of work arrangements: entrepreneurs running their own "brick and mortar" businesses or factories; independent contractors or freelancers who obtain their own customers to provide a service, often using a long-term contract; and gig workers who perform short-term jobs, virtually coordinated by an online intermediary, often for many employers. These jobs may be done as a primary source of income or on the side as supplemental income. Countries have mainly relied on household surveys to measure the self-employed, but household respondents sometimes have difficulties correctly classifying these alternative work arrangements or recalling short spells of supplemental work. Administrative tax records can also provide estimates of the self-employed, but workers may have different incentives to report this type of work to tax authorities, and the threshold to report self-employment income varies across countries.

It is important to measure the self-employed to understand their contributions to productivity and growth and changes in the workforce. In developing countries, the self-employed make up a very large segment of the workforce. The self-employed constitute a much smaller segment of the workforce in developed countries; however, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are observing a great resignation by workers alongside a surge in new business applications in some of these countries. Moreover, as the pandemic speeds up the digital transformation of the economy around the world, there is evidence of a growing class of non-employee workers taking part in the online platform economy.

We invite submissions on measuring the self-employed in both developed and developing countries using different methods and data sources, including household surveys, time-diary data, and administrative sources. Papers measuring the entire informal sector or one type of self-employment are welcome. In addition, we welcome papers that document recent changes in self-employment during the COVID-19 pandemic and/or their potential effects on productivity and growth.

Theme 10: New Developments in Poverty Measurement with a Focus on National Statistical Office Efforts

Lead Organizer: Shatakshee Dhongde (Georgia Tech, United States)

Co-Organizer: Thesis Garner (BLS, United States)

The measurement of poverty has always been a contentious topic in economics. There are multiple conceptual notions of poverty, several methodological assumptions to measure any given notion and finally, numerous data adjustments which must be undertaken to estimate poverty in a particular region or country. In this session, we will invite papers which shed light on the latest developments in poverty measurement.

Poverty can be conceived as objective or subjective. The poverty thresholds can be defined as absolute, relative, or a combination of both. Poverty can be measured in terms of lack of income, lack of consumption, or a simultaneous lack of multiple dimensions. Papers can undertake a comparative analysis of how different countries' statistical offices define poverty. Have these definitions been revisited and updated? Papers doing a deep dive into how poverty is conceptualized in a particular country, particular in various contexts, are welcome. Statistical offices in many countries now publish official estimates of multidimensional poverty. How do these multidimensional poverty measures compare across countries? Do they use similar well-being indicators, weights, and thresholds? What are the latest developments in multidimensional poverty measures in countries?

Countries often undertake a revision of the methodology involved in measuring poverty. Poverty thresholds can change and so can the ways in which resources are measured for poverty purposes. Papers are expected to shed light on price indices used to make temporal and spatial adjustments, and/or household equivalence scales used to measure resources or consumption. For instance, in recent years Canada and the U.S. have conducted major studies to consider alternative measures of poverty. Papers may discuss recommendations from such studies and evaluate changes in poverty measurement are impacting (when changes have been implemented) or will impact welfare policies associated with alternative poverty measures in the future.

Papers focused on empirics of poverty estimation are also welcome. They may discuss problems such as measurement error, data attrition, lack of survey response, lack of data to track transitional and intergenerational transmission of poverty. Papers providing solutions in terms of new statistical techniques, better estimation methods, different survey methodologies are welcome. Empirical papers providing latest estimates of poverty during the COVID pandemic may also be submitted to this session

In addition to the above topics, papers on any other topics related to poverty measurement are encouraged.

Theme 11: Fighting Inequality and Poverty: Exploiting within and across Country Variations to Evaluate Distributive Impacts of Policy

 Lead Organizer: Petra Sauer (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) and Luxembourg Income Study (LIS))

Co-Organizer: Phillipe van Kerm (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-economic Research (LISER) and University of Luxembourg)

Countries pursue different policy goals with alternative policy instruments, and government turnover leads to changes in policy objectives and implementations over time within the same country. Can such variations in policy decisions across countries and over time be exploited to measure policy impacts on inequality and poverty? While a large literature describes variations in inequality and poverty, there is much less on variations in policy packages (incl. welfare policies, tax policies, labour market regulation, educational policies) and on their impact of inequality and poverty estimates.

In this United States, a wealth of research exploits variations across states and over time to assess the impact of policy decisions on a wide range of dimensions. Hoynes and Patel's (Journal of Human Resources, 2018) recent analysis of the Earned Income Tax Credit impact on inequality and poverty reduction is one of many examples. Such research design is largely unequalled elsewhere. There is however a need for analysis of policy impacts in different demographic, economic, and institutional environments. This session therefore invites papers undertaking rigorous causal distributive policy impact analysis by exploiting cross-country and over-time variations in policy and distributive outcomes, including papers developing new datasets of consistently comparable "measurements" of policy packages. We also welcome research which analyses the (causal) impact of policy changes onto several other social dimensions, such as education, labour market participation, employment, household formation, health or well-being.

Theme 12: Dynamics of the Wealth Distribution around the World

Lead Organizer: Michael Moatsos (Utrecht University and World Inequality Database)

Co-organizer: Simon Toussaint (Utrecht University and World Inequality Database)

Growing wealth inequality is a major and widely recognized socio-economic phenomenon. Following Piketty's publication of *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* on the long-run dynamics of the wealth distribution, a flourishing research field with clear policy implications has emerged. However, there are still important gaps in the literature both in terms of data and in methodology.

The focus of this session is to highlight recent developments on global and country level research in the topic of wealth distribution with a contemporary as well as a long-run perspective. We seek for papers which contribute on empirical, methodological, and theoretical aspects of wealth distribution research, such as:

- New evidence on countries or regions which have been notably absent in the literature on wealth distribution so far;
- Methods to efficiently aggregate information from heterogeneous data sources such as surveys, fiscal data, and rich lists to estimate top wealth shares;

- Theoretical studies on mechanisms that explain the recent increase in top wealth shares, such as the role played by changing asset prices, increasing returns to scale in wealth, or other sources of heterogeneity in returns.

Theme 13: Reducing Gaps between Micro and Macro Statistics on Household Income, Consumption and Wealth in Compiling Distributional National Accounts

Lead Organizer: David Johnson (University of Michigan)

Co-organizer: Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD),

Recent years have seen increased interest in household distributional results in line with national accounts' totals and several initiatives to develop such estimates. This includes work by Piketty et al., as well as work by the international statistical community, amongst others the OECD-Eurostat Expert Group on Disparities in a National Accounts framework (EG DNA) (focusing on distributional results on income, consumption and savings) and the ECB Expert Group on Distributional Financial Accounts (EG DFA) (focusing on distributional results on wealth). All these initiatives combine household micro data with national accounts' totals. As a consequence, the results are highly dependent on the quality of both the macro and micro totals, as well as on the size of any gaps between the two and the number of items for which micro data is lacking. In case of large gaps between micro and macro results, assumptions will be needed to overcome these gaps, and dependent on the available information, this may increase the margins of error surrounding the outcomes.

In order to be able to publish high quality distributional results at granular levels of detail, more alignment is welcomed between micro and macro statistics on household income, consumption and wealth, both at the conceptual as at the methodological level. This may involve better aligning the concepts as used in micro and macro household statistics, but also analysing other reasons that may explain gaps between the relevant aggregates, for example timing differences, the issue of the 'missing rich' in household surveys, and possible mismeasurement in micro and/or macro statistics. Furthermore, it will involve coming up with clear guidance on how to allocate amounts for items that are usually not captured in micro data statistics as they may be specific to the system of national accounts (such as investment income disbursements, imputed rent, FISIM, and social transfers in kind). This session welcomes papers on work to close gaps between micro and macro statistics on household income, consumption and wealth, both at the conceptual and at the methodological level, tackling issues such as suggested above, that may benefit the compilation of household distributional results in line with national accounts' totals.

Theme 14: Globalization – Addressing Conceptual and Practical Measurement Issues in a Rapidly Changing World

Lead Organizer: Philippe Stauffer (Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland)

Co-Organizers: Sanjiv Mahajan (UK Office of National Statistics), Ann Lisbet Brathaug (Statistics Norway), and Marshall Reinsdorf (IMF, retired)

It is well-known that globalization issues, including the relocation of intangibles by multi-national enterprises (MNEs) and production arrangements involving cross-border economic ownership, have caused significant statistical challenges and changes in key economic aggregates.

Statistical offices and central banks have responded to the new challenges, notably by setting up specialised units or addressing specific MNEs. These units, often called large case units (LCU), have developed privileged contacts and access to MNEs. The session will include case studies with a focus on conceptual issues, as well as lessons learned, and the interpretation of affected economic statistics. It is important for users from all arenas to understand the basis of what is represented, and not being represented, in the published economic statistics.

This session will invite papers related to experiences gained via the LCU mechanisms, developing Global Value Chains, considerations on international Data Sharing and case studies that illustrate the challenges of dealing with MNEs.

Theme 15: Economic Insecurity: Measurement, Causes and Consequences

Lead Organizer: Anthony Lepinteur (University of Luxembourg)

Co-Organizers: Nicholas Rohde (Griffiths University, Australia) and Barry Watson (university of New Brunswick, Canada)

Economic insecurity is attracting growing attention in social, academic, and policy circles. A number of contributions shows that economic insecurity affects individuals in many ways: voting behavior (Bossert et al., 2019; Watson et al., forthcoming), educational aspirations (Watson et al., 2021), fertility (Clark and Lepinteur, forthcoming), marriage probability (Clark et al., 2020), obesity (Smith et al., 2013), suicide rates, (Reeves et al., 2014), health (Rohde et al., 2016; Lepinteur, 2021) and gun violence in US schools (Pah et al., 2017). There is also evidence to suggest that economic insecurity resulting from the threat of job loss is more psychologically distressing than the actual occurrence of unemployment (Watson and Osberg, 2018). Despite the depth of interest, there is no established definition or measure of economic insecurity (see Rohde and Tang (2018) for a recent literature review). With the rise of job instability and the fear of job loss due to recent macroeconomic shocks such as the Great Recession or COVID-19, a better understanding of economic insecurity is of primary importance.

This session seeks contributions that advance the conceptualization and the measurement of economic insecurity as well as the understanding of its causes and consequences. Contributions can be theoretical or empirical, using a micro- or macro-level approach.