Poverty, Prosperity, Inequality, & Social Mobility: Data & Measurement Issues

VENUE

University of Economics and Business, Viet Nam National University, 144 Xuan Thuy Street, Cau Giay District, Hanoi, Vietnam

TARGET AUDIENCE

Researchers, analysts, and advisors to policy makers interested in measuring and estimating poverty, prosperity, inequality, and mobility.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants are expected to have some training in economics and statistics, and they are also expected to have some basic knowledge of the statistical software Stata.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 1-day course will discuss the data and measurement details underpinning several measures of wellbeing, including poverty, prosperity, inequality, and social mobility. The focus of the course is on how the World Bank defines and estimates these concepts both at a very small area and globally. There will be relatively more time spent on the data underpinning the global poverty estimates as reported by the World Bank for target 1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, but the course will also review conceptual issues around measuring mobility and offers some illustration using survey data from Viet Nam. In addition to discussing theoretical/ conceptual issues, the course will offer practical hands-on instructions and tools that allow participants to access global data from the World Bank's Poverty and Inequality Platform and data sources for estimating inter-generational mobility. The course will also provide instructions to construct synthetic panel data that can be employed to analyze intra-generational mobility. The course was developed with financial support from the UK government through the Data and Evidence for Tackling Extreme Poverty (DEEP) Research Programme and World Bank's Institute for Economic Development.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to improve the ability to think critically about reported measures of poverty, prosperity, inequality and social mobility – both to assess the ways in which they can be used to better inform policy and also to understand their shortcomings. In addition to this broad objective, a very specific objective of the course will be to teach how to use online tools to access data on these concepts and develop in some cases, global, regional and country estimates.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 (approximate agenda)

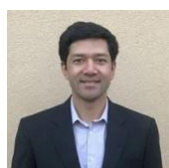| 09:00 – 10:45	Global poverty, prosperity, and inequality analysis (Dean)
10:45– 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Concepts of mobility, with illustration using Vietnam data (Hai-Anh)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:45	Measuring poverty, prosperity, and inequality using the World Bank's Poverty and Inequality Platform, PIP (Nishant and Daniel)
15:45 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:00	Intra-generational mobility using synthetic panel (Hai-Anh) & inter-generational mobility database (Daniel)

INSTRUCTORS

Dean Jolliffe is a Research Manager of the Poverty, Inequality and Human Development team at the World Bank. He was previously, co-director of the 2021 World Development Report on Data for Better Lives. He holds appointments at Johns Hopkins Univ, the Institute for the Study of Labor, and the Global Labor Organization. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed, journal articles and received his PhD from Princeton University.

Hai-anh Dang is a Senior Economist, Data Analytics Unit, Development Data Group, World Bank. His research focuses on poverty, inequality, and mobility measurements. He has held visiting (senior) fellowship positions with different organizations, including Indiana University, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and IZA. He received his PhD from University of Minnesota.

Daniel Gerszon Mahler is a Senior Economist in the Development Data Group, where he is part of the Sustainable Development Statistics team. His areas of expertise are the measurement of poverty, well-being, and justice. Mahler was a core team member of the 2021 World Development Report: Data for Better Lives. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Copenhagen.

Nishant Yonzan is an Economist with the Development Data Group at the World Bank. His work involves improving the monitoring of global poverty and inequality, including managing the Poverty and Inequality Platform, the home of the World Bank's global poverty numbers. He is interested in the measurement of poverty and inequality, as well as understanding the relationship between institutions, inequality, and conflict. Nishant is from Nepal and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

KEY REFERENCES

Dang, H. A., & Lanjouw, P. F. (2023). Measuring poverty dynamics with synthetic panels based on repeated cross sections. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 85(3), 599-622.

Dang, H. A., Jolliffe, D., & Carletto, C. (2019). Data gaps, data incomparability, and data imputation: A review of poverty measurement methods for data-scarce environments. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 33(3), 757-797.

Kraay, A., Lakner, C., Özler, B., Decerf, B., Jolliffe, D., Sterck, O., & Yonzan, N. (2023). A Simple Decomposable Distribution Sensitive Welfare Index. Policy Research Working Paper; 10470.

Van der Weide, R., Lakner, C., Mahler, D. G., Narayan, A., & Gupta, R. (2024). Intergenerational mobility around the world: A new database. *Journal of Development Economics*, 166, 103167.