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THE STANFORD CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

**CONFERENCE ON INEQUALITY IN A TIME OF CONTRACTION
NOVEMBER 12 – 13, 2009, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DRAFT PROGRAM WITH DISCUSSANTS PRELIMINARY**

DAY 1: FACTS AND CONTROVERSIES ABOUT WELFARE INEQUALITIES

- 9:00 – 10:00 Key note Overview of Research in a Comparative Perspective: Sir Anthony Atkinson, London School of Economics and Nuffield College
- 10:00 – 10:15 Morning Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 Enrico Moretti, UC Berkeley. *Real Wage Inequality*
- Discussants: Daniel Waldenström, IFN Stockholm Sweden, Luigi Pistaferri Department of Economics Stanford University
- 11:30 – 12:30 Jonas Pontusson, Princeton University. Inequality, Mobility , and Social Affinity in the Politics Redistribution Co-authored *with* Noam Lupu
- Discussants: John Ferejohn, Department of Political Science Stanford University, Jha Saumitra GSB Stanford University
- 12.30 – 1.30 Lunch
- 2:30 – 3:30 Bruce Western, Princeton University. *The Effects of the Recession on the Labor Market, Unemployment Rates by Education* Co-authored with Hank Farber
- Discussants: Seema Jayachandran Department of Economics Stanford University, David Card UC Berkeley
- 3:30 – 3:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:45 – 4:45 Thomas Di Prete, Columbia University. *Has the Great Recession Increased Inequality in Educational Achievement?* Co-authored with Jennifer L. Jennings
- Discussants: Susanna Loeb, School of Education Stanford University, Sean Reardon School of Education Stanford University



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- 6:00 – 7:00 **Panel I: Labor Markets and Inequality, Panelists:** Orley Ashenfelter, Princeton University; Anthony Atkinson, Oxford University; Jim Heckman, University of Chicago; Tim Smeeding, University of Wisconsin;
Moderator: Chris Giles, Economics Editor, *Financial Times*
- 7:00 Dinner – Location TBA

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DAY 2: DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE TREND(S)

- 9:00 – 10:00 Richard Blundell, University College London. From Income to Consumption: Understanding the Transmission of Inequality
- Discussants: Damon Jones SIEPR Stanford University, Aprajit Mahajan Department of Economics Stanford University
- 10:00 – 10:15 Morning Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 Philippe Aghion, Harvard University. *Growth and Inequality*
- Discussants: Renee Bowen GSB Stanford University, Mark Granovetter Stanford University
- 11:15 – 12:15 Kim Weeden, Cornell University. *Gloom and Doom and the Take Off. Why Standard Accounts of the Rise in Inequality are Wrong*
- Discussants: Giacomo DeGiorgi Department of Economics Stanford University and Xuequang Zhou Department of Sociology Stanford University
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 John van Reenen, London School of Economics. *Has Technology Lead to a Polarization of the Workforce?* Co-authored with Guy Michaels and Ashwini Natraj



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Discussants: Petra Moser Stanford University, Dennis Nekipelov Department of Economics UC Berkeley

2:30 – 3:30 Really Uncertain Business Cycles by Nick Bloom, Max Floetto, Nir Jaimovich
Department of Economics Stanford University.

Discussants: Erik Swanson SF Fed Reserve Bank, Maria Guadalupe Columbia University

3:30 – 3:45 Afternoon Break

3:45 – 4:45 Richard Freeman, Harvard University. *When Inequality Gets too Big:
Can Lower Inequality Help Economic Recovery and Reduce the Risk of
Another Financial Meltdown*

Discussants: John Pencavel Department of Economics and David Grusky Department of Sociology and The
Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality Stanford University

6:00 – 7:00 **Panel II: Consequences for the Fabric of Societies/The Dynamics of
Inequality**

Richard Freeman, Harvard University; Robert Frank, Cornell University; Jonas
Pontusson, Princeton University, [Anjini Kochar Stanford University](#). **Moderator:** Chris
Giles, *Financial Times*

7:00 Dinner – Location TBD