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## IIEP's Monthly Newsletter: February 2015



### Professors Ajay Chhibber and Sabina Alkire Join the Institute



IIEP is the home to an extraordinary group of faculty and staff, and this Spring, we are happy to welcome two new members to the Institute who have provided groundbreaking research to the economic community.

**Ajay Chhibber** joins us after serving in numerous positions, including as the first Director General of India's Independent Evaluation Organisation, as United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, and as Assistant Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme. An expert in global development, Dr. Chhibber has worked on reports spanning aspects of human development including women's rights and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr.

### In the News

Former three-term Congressman and IIEP affiliate, Hon. Mark Kennedy, has been busy writing fascinating political and economic analyses in publications like Foreign Policy and the Huffington Post. Immediately following President Obama's State of the Union, Kennedy analyzed the speech's implication for a major trade agreement - and suggested that [it could be on the horizon for 2015](#). After the buzz surrounding some groundbreaking Super Bowl advertisements, Kennedy also analyzed the campaigns: [were they altruistic or simply focused on the bottom line?](#)

Professor Tara Sinclair recently published an article on [ere.net](#) examining the job market differences between Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. With data obtained through her position as [Indeed.com Chief](#)

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economy and service delivery. With a long history of working in governance and service delivery issues, we look forward to outstanding work from Dr. Chhibber.

**Sabina Alkire**, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), joins the University as the Oliver T. Carr Jr. Professor of International Affairs. The Institute for International Economic Policy has had a long relationship with OPHI in partnering together on various projects. Joint with the United Nations Development Programme and working with IIEP's former Director, James Foster, Alkire helped develop the Multidimensional Poverty Index - a groundbreaking new approach to the way the international community considers poverty and how to eradicate it.

### **The Multidimensional Poverty Index: Shaping the Fight to End Extreme Poverty**



Central to eliminating extreme poverty is the challenge of locating the people and regions that feel its harshest effects. However, not all poverty looks alike: daily income tells one piece of the story, but factors like literacy, access to clean water, and healthcare shape each community in different ways. According to IIEP affiliates Dr. James Foster and Dr. Sabina Alkire, many people across the world are multidimensionally poor, as determined by complex and comprehensive indexing that evaluates broad categories of life. This type of analysis is crucial in establishing an accurate representation of global poverty and in making sure states, institutions, and development economists focus on

three populations look fairly similar in the job search. Surprisingly, members of Generation X might often possess ideal qualities as job candidates. [Check out her article here.](#)

Professor Sabina Alkire was quoted in a TIME article regarding her work creating the Multidimensional Poverty Index. The MPI reveals some surprising information about where the poorest regions of the world truly are, and [the article](#) examined the implications of the Index on global poverty work.

For students of economics, foundational concepts such as opportunity cost can be the most difficult to master - and research has found that even economists struggle with these ideas. Professor Irene Foster, working with student Connor Delaney, may have found a breakthrough in teaching young undergraduate students the basis of economics: through painstakingly constructed concept-maps that illustrate ideas in a new, easy to understand way. [Read about their work here.](#)

Following a recent Senate Finance Committee Hearing regarding President Obama's proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, Professor Susan Aaronson [wrote an IIEP blog piece](#) calling the hearing a "dance around the key questions." Professor Aaronson raised questions about how to involve the American public in understanding trade, how trade will affect labor, and what the consequences could be for Internet openness.

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even more prominent traction in [major publications](#), academic discussions, and institutional research. Recently, [UNICEF even adapted the approach](#) to focus heavily on understanding child poverty. We are proud of our affiliates for their incredible work to change the field of poverty research and eradication, providing the world a more nuanced approach to a complex issue.

### **The Future of U.S. Labor Markets: Our Interview with Prof. Tara Sinclair**



Each month, the U.S. Jobs Report is released to update the nation on the spectrum of gains - and losses - in the labor market. IIEP affiliate Tara Sinclair is on the front lines of labor analysis, serving as Indeed.com's Chief Economist and using big data to attempt to answer big questions about the future of employment and labor sectors. In an IIEP blog post, we sat down with Professor Sinclair to answer a few key questions. What fields are expanding? What skills should millennials focus on gaining for the job market? What does the unemployment rate actually tell us? During the recession of 2008, a significant number of the labor force dropped out entirely. Economists are still trying to determine who they are and what they're now doing. Sinclair explained that a small increase in unemployment could actually mean an eventual increase in the overall employment rate - meaning the return of a population to labor participation.

Read the full piece [here](#) and be sure to [follow Tara on Twitter](#) for coverage and analysis of the upcoming jobs report on February 6th!

### **Recent Events**



January 26th, 2015:  
**"Governments and Internet Governance"**, a panel discussion featuring experts from ICANN, the Internet Society, international embassies, and other organizations. If you're interested in net neutrality issues, you can still [watch the event here!](#)



January 27th, 2015:  
**"USAID and GW Discuss Ending Extreme Poverty"**, co-hosted by IIEP and the GW Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Administration. USAID's Alex Thier joined us to discuss their goal, past accomplishments, and obstacles in eliminating extreme poverty by 2030. IIEP's Stephen Smith shared GW's work in addressing this challenge.



February 3rd, 2015:  
**"Markets, Contracts, and Uncertainty"**: a Trade and Development Workshop with World Bank Lead Economist,

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take place on February 17th, 2015. For information about upcoming Institute events, check your inbox for announcements, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), or check out our [website](#)!

research in rural India, finding instability and uncertainty in groundwater transactions due to weather instability.

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