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June 30, 2015

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IIEP's Monthly Newsletter: *June 2015*

Blog Post:
Increasing Trust & Transparency in Trade Agreements

Visit our blog for 5 U.S. policy recommendations from Professor Susan Aaronson.

In the News

Professor David Alan Grier, along with GWU alum Tamara Carleton, recently released a "binge" version of their new Podcast series, <u>How We Manage Stuff</u>. The series stands at the intersection of technology and management, examining the forces that shape software and business. Professor Grier's personal Podcast <u>Errant Hashtag</u> similarly looks at how technology is changing our social landscape.

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Unemployment data was released from the Bureau of Labor Statistics early this month, finding a big boost in

House of Representatives have engaged in endless back-and-forth over a number of trade packages promoted by President Obama. The most current developments include the Senate's passing of Trade Promotion Authority, known commonly as Fast-Track. The primary driver behind the divisiveness of each piece of legislation has been the extraordinary secrecy under which negotiations with other nations have been held.

Although trade negotiations are often conducted under a certain level of secrecy, many on both sides of the aisle argue that recent developments have gone too far - especially since access to the evolving document is restricted to a handful of individuals. IIEP Professor Susan Aaronson proposed recently in a paper of trade recommendations that while many call the packages detrimental to U.S. business and human rights, trade negotiations inherently provide many possibilities for aiding human and workers' rights issues internationally - a subject she has researched extensively. Secrecy and a lack of expert input then become barriers preventing trade agreements from accomplishing their ultimate goal of increasing public welfare. Speaking with the Washington Post, Aaronson argued that "there's no evidence that you lose negotiating clout if you're transparent."

According to Professor Aaronson, transparency is vital in increasing public trust and enabling experts and civil society alike to come together to provide input to the U.S. Trade Representative - creating an agreement that benefits the most parties. Visit our newly redesigned blog for a list of 5 Ways the U.S. Can Increase Transparency, Responsiveness, and Trust in Trade Negotiations.

Upcoming Event:
The 2015 Internet Governance Forum USA

Sinclair provided insights to publications like the *Investor's Business Daily* and *U.S. News and World Report*, highlighting the uptick in unemployment - and that it means more individuals stepping into the job search. Sinclair also spoke with Forbes later in the month discussing companies with the most openings for STEM majors and labor trends in these fields.

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New Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Data was released this month, finding 1.6 billion living in multidimensional poverty out of more than 100 countries studied. Professor Alkire was quoted in an article about the report, stressing the importance of combining income-based and multidimensional measures of poverty to insure inclusivity. Alkire also authored an op-ed in the *Guardian* on the MPI and its ability to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). http://bit.ly/1Ls62BQ Sabina Alkire, measuring poverty, MPI crucial for SDGs http://bit.ly/1Rr8J68

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Mark Kenendy, IIEP affiliate and Director of the GW Graduate School of Political Management, wrote several pieces for *Foreign Policy* and the *Huffington Post* on Trade Promotion Authority - first outlining how President Obama could win the fight for TPA, and later praising the passing of the legislation as "democracy at work." He also examined Taylor Swift's framework for political advocacy (seen in her recent appeal to apple for artists' compensation), comparing her strategy to the decades-long effort of raisin farmers in

Jeff Campbell of Cisco Systems discussed net neutrality around the world at IGF-USA 2014.

Thursday, July 16th
8:00 am - 7:00 pm
800 21st St. NW, Washington, D.C.
Marvin Center, Grand Ballroom
RSVP Here!

 Following last year's extremely successful conference that brought together hundreds of leaders to discuss Internet governance, we are excited to announce the 2015 Internet Governance Forum USA! IGF-USA 2015 is a full-day conference at the George Washington University that features key members of the Internet multistakeholder community engaging in discussions and debates about issues that drive the future of the Internet. Discussions will highlight topics ranging from free speech online to the cooperation of multistakeholders. For anyone engaged in these discussions or interested in Internet governance, privacy, and data issues, the IGF-USA has become a much-anticipated event in the Washington, D.C. metro area - and across the country.
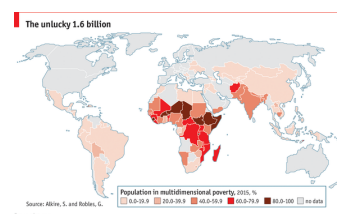
Some topic areas will include:

- Encryption, Backdoors, Security, and Privacy
- The State of Digital Rights and Free Expression Online
- Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation
- The Internet of Things
- Connecting the Next Billion
- And much more.

Join us and dozens of speakers including keynote speakers Catherine Novelli and Ambassador Daniel Sepulveda of the U.S. Department of State, Lawrence Strickling of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Vint Cerf of Google, Steve Crocker of ICANN, and Kathryn Brown of the Internet Society.

Remi Jedwab's research on urbanization without growth was recently featured in pieces from the *Boston Globe* and *The Atlantic*'s City Lab. Professor Jedwab's work looked at 500 years of urbanization history, finding that urbanization often occurs without being accompanied by economic development, and that a correlation between the two might be an exception to the norm.

Do major incentive packages from states actually influence big decisions from companies - like when and where to move their locations? Nathan Jensen was interviewed by DelawareOnline and shared his thoughts regarding a proposed move by Chemours that has made states in the Delaware Valley put together a series of packages to incentivize the large company to choose their state as a potential location.
http://delonline.us/1Ii6Bxa

Multidimensional Poverty Index:
New Global Data and Book Release

The Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative just released data on global multidimensional poverty - using the multidimensional poverty index created by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire and IIEP former Director James Foster.

A recent working paper from Professor Stephen Smith examines the impacts of agricultural extension and technology adoption on food security in Uganda.

Alongside events, blog pieces, and faculty citations in the press, the Institute produces an extraordinary volume of research in areas like poverty alleviation, urbanization, humanitarian aid, trade policy, international political economy, and global development. IIEP's working paper series features new ideas and fresh insight into international economic issues. Recent working papers include:

Continuing research into poverty measures that diverge from traditional, income-based approaches, Former affiliate **Tony Castleman** and Professors **James Foster** and **Stephen C. Smith** argue against a reliance on traditional headcount measures in evaluating poverty. They argue that these ignore many tangible dimensions of poverty, often presenting "distorted views" of alleviation and prevalence over time. In this paper, Castleman, Foster, and Smith present a "person equivalent" headcount, a new measurement technique that finds a far different geographical dispersion of poverty than traditional headcount methods by focusing on depth of poverty. The measurement particularly found a higher prevalence of poverty compared to traditional headcounts in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa; the opposite is true in South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific.

Examining urbanization, **Remi Jedwab** studied city- and country-level data over five centuries, finding evidence against the common idea that urbanization typically coincides with economic growth. In contrast, he found that this correlation might be an exception to the rule - and that different factors that influence urbanization and income might have worked to impact the connections we can see historically. Building on prior work, this paper takes a historical look at the relationship of urbanization and development and considers the possibility that "something fundamental has changed...in the late 20th century compared to prior experience." His work was also highlighted in an extensive piece by The Atlantic's City Lab.

approximately 1.6 billion people are currently multidimensionally poor - as indicated by a number of factors including nutrition, school attendance, sanitation, electricity, and child mortality. The report also found that among those living in multidimensional poverty, 54% live in South Asia.

Alongside the release of OPHI's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index updates, Professors Alkire and Foster launched their book, Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis, which provides an in-depth look at different methodologies for multidimensional poverty comparison. By examining the Alkire-Foster method, providing an introduction to counting approaches, looking at comparisons over time, and more, the book serves as an important tool for understanding and employing multidimensional poverty analyis - a method already being used by many countries across the globe.

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the past academic year - and check back as more work is added regularly.

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