



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW EVIDENCE ON POVERTY TRAPS**

**6-7 OCTOBER 2011**  
**Paris – FRANCE**

**Co-organized by the CES-Development and Globalisation research group (School of Economics, Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University), the FERDI, and the African Development Bank**

**With the collaboration of the School of Development Studies (University of KwaZulu-Natal), the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), and the World Bank**

Empirical evidence has repeatedly demonstrated that countries do not converge to the same level of development, they may diverge, and multiple equilibriums are possible. The existence of poverty traps has been offered as one explanation for these different experiences. Poverty traps are observable at the sub-national level, resulting in marginal territories within a country, ghettos within a city, or even at the individual level.

This question is most often analysed at the macroeconomic level, and it has nourished a rich and long lasting body of both theoretical and empirical literature. Similar bodies of literature have emerged at intermediate and micro levels, e.g., models of economic growth with multiple steady state equilibriums, or of nonlinearities in asset accumulation pathways, as well as numerous variants of the new economic geography explaining regional core-periphery divergences. The implications of these different explanations are far from trivial. They can contribute to the design of social policies, some of which may fail to eradicate poverty if the reasons why some individuals are trapped in poverty are not clearly identified. They contribute to our analytical understanding of why globalization does not benefit everybody everywhere, and can immiserate some populations.

Recent evidence highlights that a broader understanding of the causes for entrapment in poverty is needed. For instance, governance issues, rent seeking, and political economy issues may create a vicious circle where high logistics costs, low traded volumes, capture of rents in services, and increasing marginalization reinforce each other. At the microeconomic level, the lack of human capital has always been identified as one of the main obstacle to convergence. Further, in the case of least developed countries, a recent and fruitful strand of the literature shifts the focus to health issues. Recurrent and widespread diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, as well as neglected diseases such as diarrheas and respiratory diseases, are shown to alter dramatically children's cognitive capacities. This alteration has permanent effects, which affect the quantity/quality of school performance at the macro-level.

## Call for Papers

The emphasis of this conference will be placed on both micro and regional new evidences about poverty traps, noticeably in least developed countries. Empirical and theoretical contributions from different neighboring fields, notably economics, demography, public health, political sciences, sociology, geography and history, are particularly welcome.

## Submission of Papers

Submissions should be made in the form of extended abstracts (max. 1000 words) including the aim of the paper, the proposed methodology and the expected results, in pdf or rtf format;

All papers must include authors' full name, affiliation and contact details for corresponding author, such as address, phone and e-mail.

Papers should be sent by email to:

Mathilde Maurel: [maurelm@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:maurelm@univ-paris1.fr)

Marie-Josée Desaignes: [marie-josee.desaignes@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:marie-josee.desaignes@univ-paris1.fr)

Final acceptance is conditional on receipt of a full contribution by the relevant deadline.

A small number of travel grants might be funded by the African Development Bank, for African presenters with contributions of exceptional quality. Submissions should indicate whether they would like to apply for a travel grant.

## Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Decisions will be communicated: **June 31<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Deadline for final papers: **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## Scientific Committee

Jean Claude Berthélemy, Professor, Dean of the School of Economics, Paris 1 University

Mathilde Maurel, Deputy-Head of the CES, CNRS, Paris 1 University

Célestin Monga, Economic Adviser to the Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of the World Bank

Julian May, School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Shantanu Mukherjee, Policy Advisor, Poverty Group (UNDP)

Boris Najman, Université de Paris Est

Richard Pomfret, Université d'Adélaïde

Gaël Raballand, Banque Mondiale

Abebe Shimeles, Development Research Department, African Development Bank

## Location

The Conference will take place at the following address:

**Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne  
106-112 Boulevard de l'Hôpital PARIS 75013**