



**Max Weber Programme and  
Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Conference:**

**Contemporary Approaches to Inequality  
in the Social Sciences**

5-6 May 2010 at Villa La Fonte  
European University Institute

Inequality is a classical subject for historians, economists, sociologists, political scientists, legal scholars and political theorists. Causes, justifications, temporal changes, and patterns of inequality are major research questions in all these disciplines, and have recently received new attention. We aim to discuss and link these different perspectives on inequality in an interdisciplinary two-day conference, to be held on 5th and 6th of May in Florence. The conference is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme project, and is supported by the European Report on Development at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAD-ERD), both based at the European University Institute (EUI). In order to guarantee that different disciplines truly engage with each other, most panels will themselves be interdisciplinary, and each day will end with an interdisciplinary round-table discussion.



**5 May 2010**

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*10.15 Welcome and coffee*

**10.45 Welcome Words**

*Christian Schemmel (Max Weber Fellow), Holger Döring (Max Weber Fellow), Ramon Marimon (Director MWP)*

**11.00 to 13.00 -- What do we demand when we demand Equality?**

Chair: *Christian Schemmel (Max Weber Fellow)*

Should Egalitarians be interested in Equality of Opportunity?

*Jonathan Wolff (University College London -- Political theory)*

*13.00 to 14.30 Lunch break*

**14.30 to 16.30 -- Social Stratification and Political Participation**

Chair: *Armen Hakhverdian (Max Weber Fellow)*

Social Mobility: Social Origin and Inequality in Educational Attainment

*Fabrizio Bernardi (European University Institute -- Sociology)*

Returns to Education: The Links between Educational and Occupational Attainment

*Walter Müller (Mannheim University -- Sociology)*

Labour Market Dualism: The Status, Attitudes and Preferences of Insiders and Outsiders

*Silja Häusermann (University of Zürich -- Political Science)*

*16.30 to 17.00 -- Coffee break*

**17.00 to 18.30 -- Round-table Discussion: What can Different Disciplines learn from each other about Inequality?**

Chair: *Miriam Ronzoni (Max Weber Fellow)*

*Cornelius Torp (RSCAS European University Institute -- History) -- Introductory Statement*

*Silja Häusermann (University of Zürich -- Political Science)*

*Martin Scheinin (European University Institute -- Law)*

*Paul Segal (Oxford University -- Economics)*

*Jonathan Wolff (University College London -- Political Theory)*

*18.30 to 19.30 - Reception for all conference participants*

*20.00 - Conference dinner for speakers, chairs and organisers*

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**6 May 2010**

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**10.00 to 12.45 -- Urban Studies: The Provision of Urban Basic Needs**

Chair: *Ivana Bajic-Hajdukovic* (Max Weber Fellow)

The "Right to Food" in African Cities: A Longitudinal Perspective with Special Reference to Cairo and Kinshasa  
*Johan Pottier* (School of Oriental and African Studies, London -- Anthropology)

Urban Poverty in China

*Fulong Wu* (Cardiff University -- Urban Geography)

*11.15 to 11.30 -- Break*

Colorblind Contradictions: The Limits of Formal Equality in the Post-Racial Era

*Kimberle Crenshaw* (University of California, Los Angeles -- Law)

From Bombay to Florence: State and Corporate Obligations under the Human Right to Water and Shelter

*Jernej Letnar Černič* (Max Weber Fellow -- Law)

*12.45 to 14.15 -- Lunch break*

**14.15 to 15.45 -- Inequality in Developing Countries**

Chair: *Laura Hering* (Max Weber Fellow)

Economic Inequality in a Historical Perspective: The Case of Latin America

*Leandro Prados de la Escosura* (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid -- Economics)

Resource Rents, Redistribution and halving Global Poverty: The Resource Dividend

*Paul Segal* (Oxford University -- Economics)

*15.45 to 16.15 -- Coffee break*

**16.15 to 17.30 -- Round-table Discussion: From Academia to Policy: How to tackle Inequality in Developing Countries**

Chair: *Guido Ruta* (Max Weber Fellow)

*Stephan Klasen* (University of Göttingen -- Economics) -- Introductory Statement

*Nai Rui Chng* (Max Weber Fellow -- Social and Political Science)

*Giorgia Giovannetti* (University of Florence and EUI-ERD -- Economics)

*Seda Unsar* (Max Weber Fellow -- History)

*Fulong Wu* (Cardiff University -- Planning and Development)

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## Short Biographies of Speakers and round-table Participants (in alphabetical order)

[Fabrizio Bernardi](#) is Professor of Sociology at the European University Institute, while on leave from the UNED, Spain. His current research interests lie in social stratification, inequality in educational opportunities and educational returns ([fabrizio.bernardi@eui.eu](mailto:fabrizio.bernardi@eui.eu))

[Jernej Letnar Černič](#) is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute. His research interests are in human rights law, international criminal law, and transitional justice. ([jernej.letnar@eui.eu](mailto:jernej.letnar@eui.eu))

[Nai Rui Chng](#) is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute. He works on contentious politics, and politics of regulation and development. ([nai.chng@eui.eu](mailto:nai.chng@eui.eu))

[Kimberlé W. Crenshaw](#) is Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and the Columbia Law School, New York. She is a specialist on race, gender and the law. A founding coordinator of the Critical Race Theory workshop; co-editor of Critical Race Theory: Key Documents That Shaped the Movement. ([crenshaw@law.ucla.edu](mailto:crenshaw@law.ucla.edu))

[Holger Döring](#) is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute. His research interests are in comparative politics, mainly political institutions and issues of representation. ([holger.doring@eui.eu](mailto:holger.doring@eui.eu))

[Giorgia Giovannetti](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Florence and visiting Professor at the European University Institute, where she acts as Scientific Director of the European Report on Development. Her research interests include macroeconomics, political economy, international trade and development economics. ([giorgia.giovannetti@eui.eu](mailto:giorgia.giovannetti@eui.eu))

[Silja Häusermann](#) is Lecturer at the University of Zürich and was a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in 2008/09. Her research interests are in comparative politics, comparative political economy and welfare state regimes. ([silja.haeusermann@ipz.uzh.ch](mailto:silja.haeusermann@ipz.uzh.ch))

[Stephan Klasen](#) is Professor of Development Economics and the head of the Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research at the Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen. His research interests include microeconomic investigations of changes in inequality, measurement and interpretation of poverty and inequality, and vulnerability in income and non-income dimensions. ([sklasen@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:sklasen@uni-goettingen.de))

[Ramon Marimon](#) is the Director of the Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme and Professor in the Economics Department of the European University Institute. His research interests include macroeconomics, political economy, and the economics of science and innovation. ([ramon.marimon@eui.eu](mailto:ramon.marimon@eui.eu))

[Walter Müller](#) is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Mannheim and affiliate of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University. He is a central proponent of European cross-national comparative research on education and training systems, and on the role played by education in determining people's life chances. ([wmueller@sowi.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:wmueller@sowi.uni-mannheim.de))

[Johan Pottier](#) is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. His regional expertise is in Africa, more specifically Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo. His research interests and expertise include rural development, food security, ethnic conflict and post-conflict rehabilitation. ([jp4@soas.ac.uk](mailto:jp4@soas.ac.uk))

[Leandro Prados-de-la-Escosura](#) is Professor of Economic History at Universidad Carlos III, Madrid. His current research interests are economic freedom in historical perspective, inequality and well-being in Latin America since independence, and the rise and decline of Spain (800–1850). ([leandro.prados.delaescosura@uc3m.es](mailto:leandro.prados.delaescosura@uc3m.es))

[Martin Scheinin](#) is Professor of Public International Law at the European University Institute. He works on public international law, human rights law, comparative constitutional law and the law of countering terrorism. ([martin.scheinin@eui.eu](mailto:martin.scheinin@eui.eu))

[Christian Schemmel](#) is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute, and Research Fellow at the University of Frankfurt. His research interests are in contemporary normative political theory, mainly social justice and the political value of equality. ([christian.schemmel@eui.eu](mailto:christian.schemmel@eui.eu))



[Paul Segal](#) is a Development Economist and Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and New College, Oxford University. He works on global inequality and poverty, on growth and the distribution of income in resource-rich countries and on energy economics. ([paul.segal@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:paul.segal@economics.ox.ac.uk))

[Cornelius Torp](#) is a Marie Curie Fellow at the EUI History and Civilization Department and the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. His research interests include the history of globalization, nineteenth and twentieth century German and British history, economic history and methodologies in the social sciences. ([cornelius.torp@eui.eu](mailto:cornelius.torp@eui.eu))

[Seda Unsar](#) is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute. Her research focuses on historical institutional analysis, globalization, redefinition of state and democracy, justice and identity. ([seda.unsar@eui.eu](mailto:seda.unsar@eui.eu))

[Jonathan Wolff](#) is Professor of Philosophy at University College, London, and the Director of UCL's Centre for Philosophy, Justice, and Health. He works on a wide range of topics in political philosophy and theory, including equality and disadvantage. ([j.wolff@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.wolff@ucl.ac.uk))

[Fulong Wu](#) is Professor of East Asian Planning and Development and the Director of the Urban China Research Centre in the School of City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University. He is working on China's urbanism and urban development, urban and regional governance, urban poverty, and social spatial differentiation ([wuf@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:wuf@cardiff.ac.uk))

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## Organizing Committee (Max Weber Fellows).

Coordinators: Holger Döring and Christian Schemmel

*Law and Political theory:* Valentina Calderai, Merilin Kiviorg, Miriam Ronzoni, Christian Schemmel

*Sociology and Political Science:* Holger Döring, Armen Hakhverdian, Nadia Steiber

*Economics:* Shikeb Farooqui, Laura Hering, Sarolta Laczo, Guido Ruta

*Urban Studies:* Gergely Baics, Ivana Bajic-Hajdukovic, Nai Rui Chng, Shikeb Farooqui, Jernej Letnar Černič, Seda Unsar

*History:* Naomi Beck, Claudius Torp