

"The Working and the Poor: Poverty among working people in Israel and abroad"

Joint Conference of the Economics and Society Program at the Van Leer Institute and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Tuesday, 24 January, 2017, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Modern economies are characterized by rising inequality of two groups: skilled and unskilled workers. While the vast majority of unskilled workers receive the minimum wage as stipulated by law, most of them fall short of the poverty line. Consequently governments intervene through wage subsidies such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and active labor market programs. Despite government effort to cope with this issue there is a growing number of Working Poor households both in Israel and abroad. In this conference we aim at analyzing the current situation and proposing government remedies to the Working Poor phenomenon.

13:30-14:00 *Reception and Refreshments*

Location: *Polonsky Hall*

14:00-14:15 *Opening Remarks*

Prof. Michel Strawczynski, Head of Economics and Society Program, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and the Hebrew University, Department of Economics and School of Public Policy.

Dr. Michael Borchard, Director, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung, Israel

14:15-16:15 *Paper Session*

Chair: **Prof. Leah Achdut**, Economics and Society Program, Head of Department of Economics and Management at The Ruppin Academic Center,

14:15-15:15

Poverty, Part-time Work and the Earned Income Tax Credit

Prof. Michel Strawczynski

Prof. Leah Achdut

Mrs. Miri Endeweld, National Insurance Institute and The Hebrew University

15:15-16:15

Child allowances and human capital accumulation: the case of Israel

Mr. Shai Tsur, Bank of Israel; Tel Aviv University

16:15-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-17:30 *Keynote Lecture*

Chair: **Prof. Leah Achdut**

“Working Poor Reform: Implications for Minimum Wage and Quality of Life”

Prof. Dr. Ronnie Schöb, Professor for international public economics, Freie Universität, Berlin

17:30-19:00

Symposium

Can the labor market be the only medicine for the poor? Insights from Israel and Abroad

Chair: **Prof. Avia Spivak**, Senior Research Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Ben Gurion University, Department of Economics.

Participants:

Prof. Dr. Ronnie Schöb, Freie Universität, Berlin

Dr. Sami Miaari, Israel Institute for Democracy; Tel Aviv University

Mr. Yoel Naveh, Chief Economist, Israeli Ministry of Finance

MK Michal Biran, Member, Labor, Welfare and Health Committee, The Zionist Union

*The Conference will be held in Hebrew with simultaneous translation to English

19:30

Concluding Dinner

Location: *Olive & fish*, Ze'ev Jabotinsky St 2, Jerusalem