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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE LEVY ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF BARD COLLEGE  
PRESENTS “EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE POLICIES:  
THEORY AND PRACTICE” A CONFERENCE ON  
OCTOBER 13 AND 14**

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N.Y. – On October 13 and 14, The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College presents a conference entitled “Employment Guarantee Policies: Theory and Practice,” which will explore policy options designed to create a safety net through public service employment for individuals who are ready, willing, and able to work but find themselves in an economic environment that does not offer employment opportunities.

The underlying premise of the conference is that unemployment and involuntary “inactivity” are structural macroeconomic problems of both developed and developing economies. The negative effects of unemployment reach beyond the immediate economic losses to individuals and their families and to the potential growth of the economy. Joblessness is often accompanied by poor health and psychological problems, depreciation of human capital, social exclusion, and overall lack of motivation for future work.

Protracted periods of unemployment lead to multidimensional poverty, deterioration of communities, erosion of decent job conditions, and intolerance along racial and gender divides. There appears a connection, then, between the *right to work* and the role of government in guaranteeing employment, and this ought to be part of the public policy dialogue.

In this conference academics and policy analysts will present research findings and exchange views on:

- Past and current country-level experiences of employment guarantee programs
- Public service employment and price stability
- Public job creation programs that can substitute for unpaid work disproportionately carried out by women and children
- Feasibility of implementing public service employment programs
- Improving the design and effectiveness of existing programs
- Designing tools useful for policy and impact analysis including time-use surveys and economic modeling
- The effects of public service employment in promoting gender equality and pro-poor growth

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Access to employment is important for all countries, in that it can be a contributing factor in ameliorating poverty and social exclusion and in promoting economic development. For many countries, achieving the Millennium Development Goals provides a timely opportunity to assess the impact that employment guarantee schemes have had thus far, and analyze their potential impact for the future.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### “Employment Guarantee Policies: Theory and Practice”

October 13-14, 2006

#### Friday, October 13

- 8:30-9:15 a.m.** Breakfast and Registration
- 9:15-10:00 a.m.** Welcome and Introduction  
**Dimitri B. Papadimitriou**, President, The Levy Economic Institute
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Session 1—**Employment Guarantee Policies: For and Against**  
**Matt Forstater**, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
“Working For a Better World: The Social and Economic Benefits of Employment Guarantee Schemes”  
**Dimitri B. Papadimitriou**, The Levy Economic Institute  
“The Macroeconomics of Achieving Full Employment”  
**Steven Miller**, Employment-Intensive Investment Branch, Employment Strategy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)  
“Employment-Intensive Investment Strategies: Linking Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Social Transfers”
- 12:00-2:00 p.m.** **Lunch**—Speaker: **James K. Galbraith**, University of Texas at Austin and The Levy Economics Institute  
“Equality, Efficiency and the Goal of Full Employment”
- 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Session 2—“**Employment Guarantee Policies: Price Effects and Budgetary Implications**”  
**L. Randall Wray**, University of Missouri-Kansas City and The Levy Economics Institute  
“ELR and Price Stability”  
**Philip Harvey**, Rutgers University School of Law; New Jersey  
“Funding a Job Guarantee Program”  
**Pinaki Chakraborty**, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi  
“Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India: Spatial Dimension and Fiscal Implications”
- 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Session 3—**Modeling Employment Guarantee Policy**  
**Rania Antonopoulos**, The Levy Economics Institute, and **Marzia Fontana**, The Levy Economics Institute and IDS  
“Hidden Vacancies: From Unpaid Work to Gender-Aware Public Job Creation”  
**Scott T. Fullwiler**, Wartburg College  
“Stimulating an Employment Guarantee Policy in the U.S.”

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**Fadhel Kaboub**, Drew University, New Jersey  
“From ‘Solidarity’ to Full Employment: A Gradualist ELR Plan for Tunisia”

**6:30-7:00 p.m.**

Reception

**7:00 p.m.**

Dinner—Speaker: **Amit Bhaduri**, Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Pavia  
“Institutional and Legal Requirements for Effective Demand Management for Employment”

**Saturday, October 14**

**8:30-9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast

**9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Session 4—**Institutional Arrangements**

**Daniel Kostzer**, Ministry of Labor, Argentina  
“Full Employment in the Center of Economic and Social Policies”

**Jan Kregel**, United Nations, Department of Social Affairs  
“ELR as an Alternative Development Strategy”

**Santosh Mehrotra**, Planning Commission of the Government of India, Rural Development

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Session 5—**Country Experiences: Argentina, India, Morocco**

**Pavlina R. Tcherneva**, Economics, Bard College  
“Public Service Employment as an Institutional Vehicle for Transforming Gender Inequalities: The Case of Argentina”

**Corinne Pastoret**, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and **Martha Tepepa**, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
“Community Development and ELR, a Gender-Oriented Perspective: The Jefes y Jefas Program in Argentina”

**Pavlina R. Tcherneva**, Economics, Bard College  
“Public Service Employment as an Institutional Vehicle for Transforming Gender Inequalities: The Case of Argentina”

**Corinne Pastoret**, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and **Martha Tepepa**, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
“Community Development and ELR, a Gender-Oriented Perspective: The Jefes y Jefas Program in Argentina”

**Indira Hirway**, Director and Professor, Center for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad, India, and The Levy Economics Institute; IWG-GEM  
“Employment Guarantee for Promoting Pro-Poor Development Issues and Concerns with Reference to NREGA in India”

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**Hind Jalal**, Head of Sector Activities Section, Financial Forecast and Study Department; Ministry of Economy and Finance, Rabat, Morocco; IWG-GEM  
“Promotion Nationale: 45 Years of Experience of Public Works in Morocco”

**1:00-2:30 p.m.**

Lunch

**2:30-4:00 p.m.**

Session 6—**Country Experiences: South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh**

**Olagoke Akintola**, School of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa  
“Public Works Program, Unpaid Care Work and HIV/AIDS”

**Sanjay Desilva**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Bard College  
“The Impact of Sri Lanka’s ‘Employer of Last Resort’ Policy on Educational Incentives: A Cautionary Tale”

**Mehnaz Rabbani**, Senior Research Associate, BRAC, Bangladesh; Research Associate, Economics Research Group, Bangladesh; IWG-GEM  
“The Bangladesh Rural Maintenance Programme: Can it Ensure Employment for All?”

**4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Session 7—**Roundtable Discussion**

Moderator: **Dimitri B. Papadimitriou**, The Levy Economics Institute

**Amit Bhaduri**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and University of Pavia

**Rania Antonopoulos**, The Levy Economics Institute

**Steven Miller**, Employment-Intensive Investment Branch, Employment Strategy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Rathin Roy**, Senior Public Finance Advisor, Poverty Group, Bureau For Development Policy; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Hind Jalal**, Head of Sector Activities Section, Financial Forecast and Study Department; Ministry of Economy and Finance, Rabat, Morocco; IWG-GEM

**Nilüger Çagatay**, Professor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; IWG-GEM

**6:00-6:30 p.m.**

Reception

**6:30 p.m.**

Dinner

#### **ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS**

**Bola Ankanji**, Senior Economist, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research; IWG-GEM

**Arnaldo Bocco**, Governor, Central Bank of Argentina, Buenos Aires

**Ahmed El Bouazzaoui**, Tax Analyst, Morocco

**Leonardo Burlamaqui** (TBC), Program Officer, Governance & Civil Society Ford Foundation; New York

**Francisco Cos-Montiel**, London School of Economics; IWG-GEM; Former Senior Gender Specialist, The Ministry for Social Development of Mexico

**Valeria Renata Esquivel**, Assistant Professor of Economics, Universidad Nacional De General Sarmiento, Buenos Aires, Argentina; IWG-GEM

**Rebeca Grynspan**, Assistant Secretary-General; Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York; Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Stanley Henderson**, Chief Director: Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Expanded Public Works Programme, South Africa

**Martha Melesse**, Senior Program Officer, International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Canada

For additional information about The Levy Institute conference: “**Employment Guarantee Policies: Theory and Practice**,” October 13-14, 2006, call 845-758-7700 or visit the Levy Institute website at [www.levy.org](http://www.levy.org).