

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEVY ECONOMICS INSTITUTE RECEIVES \$80,000 GRANT TO EXPLORE LINKS BETWEEN PUBLIC SPENDING AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY – The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College has been awarded a \$80,000 grant by the Groundwork Collaborative to investigate the connections between public spending and economic insecurity among US households.

The year-long project, **Interrogating Austerity: An Intersectional Political Economy Perspective**, will use the [Levy Institute Measure of Economic Well-being](#) (LIMEW) to investigate how dramatic changes in government expenditure during 2020—and in particular the rescue packages passed in response to the pandemic—contributed to overall economic well-being against the backdrop of significant fluctuations in labor income, private wealth, and time spent in household work. The project—undertaken by Institute scholars Luiza Nassif-Pires, Ajit Zacharias, Thomas Masterson, and Fernando Rios-Avila, and in consultation with Katherine Moos (assistant professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst)—will focus on the distributional effects of public spending from an intersectional perspective: breaking down the impacts on economic well-being with respect to age, race, gender, education, and class.

“This investigation is intended to help reframe broader debates about changes in government spending—which tend to get fixated on the overall ‘size’ of a policy intervention—around a more targeted understanding of the impacts of fiscal policy with respect to well-being and social justice,” said Levy Institute Research Fellow Luiza Nassif-Pires.

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The [Levy Economics Institute of Bard College](#), founded in 1986 through the generous support of the late Bard College trustee Leon Levy, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy research organization. The Institute is independent of any political or other affiliation, and encourages diversity of opinion in the examination of economic policy issues while striving to transform ideological arguments into informed debate.

The [Groundwork Collaborative](#)’s mission is to advance an economic vision for strong, broadly shared prosperity and true opportunity for all.

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