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V.B. SINGH MEMORIAL LECTURE

What if all the Output in the World was Produced by One Person?

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ABSTRACT

By imagining a world at the extrapolated end of current trends in employment saving technical change, the paper highlights the issues that will have to be addressed well before we get there. These include: (i) the growing importance of redistribution, (ii) the balance between pre-market and post-market redistribution, (iii) in post-market redistribution the balance between universalism and targeting, (iv) what exactly is meant by the dignity of work and why it is important, and (v) the relevance, if any, of employment creation policies.

SPEAKER'S PROFILE



Ravi Kanbur researches and teaches in development economics, public economics and economic theory. He is the T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs and International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, as well as Professor of Economics, at Cornell University. He is well known for his role in policy analysis and engagement in international development. He has served on the senior staff of the World Bank including as Chief Economist for Africa. He has also published in the leading economics journals, including Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Economic Theory and Economic Journal.

The positions he has held include: Chair of the Board of United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research, Co-Chair of the Food System Economics Commission, Co-Chair of the Scientific Council of the International Panel on Social Progress, member of the OECD High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance, President of the Human Development and Capability Association, President of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, member of the High Level Advisory Council of the Climate Justice Dialogue, and member of the Core Group of the Commission on Global Poverty.



CHAIR'S PROFILE



Martha (Marty) Chen is an Associate at the Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, where she taught for 35 years, and Co-Founder, Emeritus International Coordinator and board member of the global network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). An experienced development practitioner and scholar, her areas of specialisation are employment, gender, and poverty, with a focus on the working poor in the informal economy.

Before joining Harvard in 1987, she had two decades of resident development experience working in Bangladesh (with the well-known NGO BRAC) and in India (as field representative of Oxfam America) with a focus, in both countries, on the economic empowerment of women from poor households. In 1987, Dr Chen co-founded WIEGO which she then led for 20 years, Under her leadership, WIEGO grew into a global network renowned for its work to improve the status of the working poor in the informal economy, through stronger organisations, improved statistics and research, and a more favourable policy environment.

Dr Chen received a PhD in South Asia Regional Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. She was awarded a high civilian award, the Padma Shri, by the Government of India in April 2011, and a Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War award by the Government of Bangladesh in December 2012.

Currently, Dr. Chen is the Chair of the Boards of BRAC Global and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU WIDER).

ABOUT V.B. SINGH



Dr. V.B. Singh was one of the co-founders of the Indian Society of Labour Economics whose partnership was crucial for Shri V.V. Giri's own tireless efforts to bring to inception the Society in 1957, at the time of which, Dr.Singh was a teacher in the University of Lucknow. Dr. Singh was also the editor of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics until his untimely death when he was only at 50. Dr. Singh was not merely an academic, but also participated actively in peasant and progressive movements. His journey started at a very young age when he was jailed during the Quit India Movement. He was also a member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and also contributed significantly to policy making. As an eminent economist, he was well known for his works in economic history, political economy, labour history and post-Keynesian economics. He was also the Head of the Department of Economics at Lucknow University and founded the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow which is now an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) national research institute.

