

Call for Papers
XIV Annual Meetings of the LACEA / IADB / WB/ UNDP Research Network on
Inequality and Poverty
New Orleans, United States – April 9, 2010

The next meeting of the LACEA/IDB/WB/UNDP Network on Inequality and Poverty (NIP) will be held in New Orleans, USA on April 9, 2010 at the *Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR), Tulane University*.

The NIP is an initiative that aims to advance the state of knowledge and expertise regarding the causes and consequences of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as on the whole range of policies, institutions, and social structures that influence their dynamics. For more information on the NIP, go to www.lacea.org/nip.

Next meeting will focus on two separate but related themes. The first theme is “Household Responses to the Economic Crisis” and will prioritize papers on the following topics:

- Crisis impacts on poverty, vulnerability, human capital accumulation or well-being broadly defined
- Adjustments by households in the face of the crisis: consumption smoothing strategies, household labor behavior, social program participation, etc.
- Evaluation of policy interventions to mitigate the impact of the crisis on poor/vulnerable households.

The second theme is “Incentives to Informality of Social Programs”. In *Good Intentions, Bad Outcomes: Social Policy, Informality and Economic Growth* (Brookings Institution, 2008), Santiago Levy has forcefully argued on the potentially negative impact of some social policies on economic growth. The argument is based on the fact that contributory programs increase the labor costs of (tax) formal employment while non-contributory programs lower the labor costs of (subsidize) informal employment. This distortion creates incentives for informal employment and thus a suboptimal allocation of labor with its concomitant negative impact on efficiency and, potentially, productivity growth. We are looking for papers which present estimates of the statistical significance and orders of magnitude of the negative effects on efficiency (static) and/or growth (dynamic) that such distortions potentially generate.

The program will feature a keynote address by **Santiago Levy** (Vice President of Sectors and Knowledge of the Inter American Development Bank) based on his book entitled: *Good Intentions, Bad Outcomes: Social Policy, Informality and Economic Growth*.

Papers (in Word and PDF) should be sent to: Miguel Jaramillo (mjaramillo@grade.org.pe) and Elia Carrasco (elia.carrasco@undp.org) by February 22, 2010. Strict compliance with this deadline is required.

Papers will be selected on the basis of academic merit. Submitted papers will be reviewed by a program committee, which includes members of the Executive Committee of the Network. Authors of the selected papers will be notified by e-mail by the first week of March 2010. Every accepted paper will be included in the program and will have a discussant.

The NIP may offer partial funding for travel expenses for those participants who are not able to obtain full financial support from their institutions or other sources. If authors require financial support, they should indicate it at the time of submission of the paper. In order to receive funding from NIP, authors whose papers were accepted must be members of LACEA and current on their membership dues by the time of the meeting.

Inquiries concerning the meeting should be sent to: Miguel Jaramillo (mjaramillo@grade.org.pe) and Elia Carrasco (elia.carrasco@undp.org).

Miguel Jaramillo
Chair of the Executive Committee, NIP