HDCA Summer School on Capability and Multidimensional Poverty
Organised by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford

To be held at the Delft University of Technology
24 August – 3 September 2011

The capability approach formulated by Amartya Sen, and further developed by the philosopher Martha Nussbaum and others provides a conceptual framework that grounds many multidimensional approaches to poverty and social protection, including the MDGs, PRSPs, rights-based development, integrated social policy, and other specific initiatives.

In the past few years, interest in multidimensional quantitative techniques of analysis has surged. New quantitative methodologies have been developed for measurement, comparisons, and analysis. Many more are still under development. It is a fast-moving area.

The purpose of this intensive summer school is to provide a thorough conceptual and technical introduction to current literature on the capability approach and on techniques of measuring multidimensional poverty with a strong emphasis on the Alkire-Foster methodology.

The summer school will be led by the researchers and director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), including Sabina Alkire, José Manuel Roche, Suman Seth, Gaston Yalonetzky, and Diego Zavaleta. Please see www.ophi.org.uk.

Who Should Apply:

Pre-requisites: The summer school teaches quantitative techniques, hence a demonstrable knowledge of STATA is an absolute pre-requisite for attending the course, and exceptions will not be made. For those who are very familiar with SPSS, an online course on STATA must be completed prior to the summer school. Every attendant to the summer school will need to have STATA 9.2 or higher installed in his/her laptop. The software cannot be provided by the summer school.

Audience: The summer school is primarily addressed to PhD students, post-docs and economists (academic or professional – including those working in government or international institutions) who are working on or actively interested in pursuing research on multidimensional poverty and capability measurement or analysis. Applicants who are already at the stage of pursuing a research project are particularly welcome. Other candidates having a demonstrated research interest in empirical analysis in these topics can be considered on the basis of their experience and space availability.

Participants are required to have a background in quantitative methods (econometrics, statistics) and should be familiar with the capability approach and social science research methods. As the participants will undertake problem sets in the course of the summer school, participants without these qualifications cannot be accepted. The syllabus and background readings will be made available to participants prior to the summer school. Throughout the summer school, participants will be actively involved in discussions and problem-sets, and will be invited to present their research work as well as to share their experiences regarding different techniques of empirical analysis.
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Format:

The summer school will consist of 10 days of instruction and working group sessions. Teaching sessions will cover: unidimensional poverty & inequality measures, multidimensional poverty and inequality measures, inequality of opportunity, poverty dynamics, human development indices, and econometric tools for the analysis of multidimensional poverty. The programme will further include problem sets and working group activities. Participants need to bring a laptop with them to do the problem sets.

Dates:

Wednesday 24 August to Saturday 3 September 2011. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend the First Annual Amartya Sen Lecture on the evening of 5 September and the HDCA International Conference, 6-8 September 2011 (www.hd-ca.org).

Venue:

Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

Costs:

The course fee is $750 USD for students and academic researchers based in low income countries, as defined by the World Bank http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATASTATISTICS/0, contentMDK:20420458~menuPK:64133156~pagePK:64133150~piPK:64133175~theSitePK:239419,00.html and $1,500 USD for other participants. In addition, participants will need to pay for very simple accommodation and meals.

Financial Support:

Limited financial support will be available. Therefore, participants who require financial support should indicate: a) if they require summer school fee support; b) if they require accommodation/board support; c) if they require air ticket support, and d) whether they require HDCA conference support. They should specify the other sources of financial support they are seeking, and whether the financial support is essential or helpful. Competition for financial support will be strong; however well qualified and committed candidates are strongly encouraged to reply regardless of their financial situation.

All scholarship recipients must attend the HDCA International Conference.

Application:

To apply, please send your CV and the following application form to: summerschool@hd-ca.org. PhD students should also provide an outline of their on-going research project (max. 500 words); others having a particular project may share this. The deadline for application is 1 May 2011. The selection of candidates tends to be quite competitive. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of the information provided in their application. The candidates selected will receive an e-mail notification of the decision starting 1 June 2011 to allow time to secure visa and cheap air tickets.

For further information, please write to summerschool@hd-ca.org.