

# OPHI

August 2012      OPHI e-Update

Welcome to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's regular email update of announcements, opportunities and new publications. If you have any problems viewing this email, you can read it online here: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news/ophi-updates/>

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Multidimensional poverty measurement in China**

OPHI is pleased to announce its collaboration with the [International Poverty Reduction Center in China](#) (IPRCC). The IPRCC is developing a multidimensional measure of poverty in the Wu Ling Mountain Region, one of the poorest in China. To construct the measure it will field a new, purpose-built survey in this region, which crosses four provinces and has a mostly rural population of more than 36 million people. OPHI will support IPRCC's work to design the survey and create a multidimensional poverty measure. [[Multidimensional poverty measurement in China...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#0>

### **Training materials for Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)**

Resources created by OPHI for calculating the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), an innovative measure of the empowerment, agency and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector, are now available on our website. The new materials include: videos on constructing the WEAI and using the stata do files to calculate the WEAI; an audio file explaining the WEAI autonomy module; and the stata do files themselves. Questionnaires and survey modules are also available. The new resources were created for a training course hosted by OPHI at the end of June for staff of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with whom OPHI collaborated to develop the WEAI. [[WEAI resources in full...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/the-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-in-agriculture-index/>

### **OPHI 'MPI Construction and Analysis' Primer now available**

A training primer on producing national human development reports, written by Maria Emma Santos and Sabina Alkire for the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report Office, is now available on OPHI's website. The primer covers all elements of Multidimensional Poverty Index construction and analysis, including: components of the global MPI; measurement; potential innovations; analysis and decomposition; data presentation; multidimensional poverty, income poverty and the MDGs; and the relationship with earlier indices and limitations. [[MPI Construction and Analysis Primer...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/MPI-Primer.pdf?cda6c1>

## PUBLICATIONS

### **OPHI special issue of *Econometric Reviews* published online**

An OPHI special issue of *Econometric Reviews* on 'Robustness in Multidimensional Well-Being Analysis', guest edited by OPHI Research Associate Gaston Yalonetzky, has been published online. In addition to an introduction by Yalonetzky and Esfandiar Maasoumi, the issue includes an article by Yalonetzky on 'Stochastic Dominance with Ordinal Variables: Conditions and a

Test', and a developed version of OPHI Working Paper 26, 'Composite Indices: Rank Robustness, Statistical Association and Redundancy', by James Foster, Mark McGillivray and Suman Seth. Other papers featured are: 'Weights in Multidimensional Indices of Well-Being: An Overview', by Koen Decancq & María Ana Lugo (a developed version of OPHI Working Paper 18); 'Multidimensional Poverty: Measurement, Estimation, and Inference', by Christopher J. Bennett and Shabana Mitra (OPHI Working Paper 47); 'Testing for Restricted Stochastic Dominance', by Russell Davidson and Jean-Yves Duclos; and 'Institutions and Economic Outcomes: A Dominance-Based Analysis', by Gordon Anderson and Kinda Hachem.

[[Econometric Reviews special issue...](#)] <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/lecr20/32/1>

### **New OPHI Working Paper 51: 'On the Generalization and Decomposition of the Bonferroni Index'**

A new paper by Elena Bárcena-Martin and Jacques Silber proposes a simple algorithm which greatly simplifies the decomposition of the Bonferroni index by income sources or classes and population subgroups. It also links the Bonferroni index to the concepts of relative deprivation and social welfare, and leads to a generalization where the traditional Bonferroni and Gini indices are special cases. [[OPHI Working Paper 51...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ophi-wp-51.pdf>

### **New OPHI Working Paper 52: 'Measuring Chronic Poverty'**

James Foster and Maria Emma Santos' paper 'Measuring Chronic Poverty' constructs a new class of chronic poverty measures that builds upon Jalan and Ravallion (1998), but does not require resources in different periods to be perfect substitutes when identifying the chronically poor. Foster and Santos use a general mean to combine the resources of a person into a permanent income standard that is then compared to a poverty line to determine when a person is chronically poor. [[OPHI Working Paper 52...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ophi-wp-52.pdf>

### **New OPHI Working Paper 53: 'Selecting a Targeting Method to Identify BPL Households in India'**

This new paper by Sabina Alkire and Suman Seth proposes how to select a methodology to target multidimensionally poor households, and how to update that targeting exercise periodically. The methodology is presented in the context of discussions regarding the selection of a targeting methodology in India. The emphasis of the paper is to illustrate how a particular targeting method can be justified, rather than to advocate any particular solution. [[OPHI Working Paper 53...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ophi-wp-53.pdf>

### **'Understandings and Misunderstandings' on JEI 'most downloaded' list**

Sabina Alkire and James Foster's paper 'Understandings and Misunderstandings of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement' is available free after becoming one of the top five most downloaded documents from the *Journal of Economic Inequality*. First published as OPHI Working Paper 43, the article elucidates the strengths, limitations, and misunderstandings of multidimensional poverty measurement in order to clarify the debate and catalyse further research. [[Download 'Understandings and Misunderstandings'...](#)]

<http://www.springer.com/economics/growth/journal/10888?hideChart=1#realtime>

### **'Robust Poverty Comparisons' paper published in ECINEQ**

A developed version of OPHI Working Paper 44b, 'Conditions for the Most Robust Poverty Comparisons Using the Alkire-Foster Family of Measures' by Gaston Yalonetsky, has been published as 'Conditions for the Most Robust Poverty Comparisons Using Counting Measures and Ordinal Variables' in the working paper series of ECINEQ, the Society for the Study of

Economic Inequality. [[ECINEQ Working Paper 257...](http://www.ecineq.org/milano/WP/ECINEQ2012-257.pdf)]  
<http://www.ecineq.org/milano/WP/ECINEQ2012-257.pdf>

### **Paper on multidimensional welfare indices forthcoming in *JEI***

A developed version of OPHI Working Paper 27, “A Class of Distribution and Association Sensitive Multidimensional Welfare Indices” by Suman Seth, is forthcoming in the hard copy of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*. The paper, which was published online in October 2011, axiomatically characterizes a class of two-parameter generalized mean social welfare indices having two or more dimensions of well-being. [[JEI article...](#)]  
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/g1876470758n4854/>

## **OPHI EVENTS**

### **28-29 June 2012 OPHI workshop on ‘Value Judgements’**

Resources are now available from an intensive workshop held by OPHI at the end of June on ‘Value Judgements in Multidimensional Poverty Measurement Design’. The workshop brought together philosophers and economists to discuss how to use insights from statistical and normative reasoning in the choice and justification of indicators, weights and cut-offs in a poverty measure, and what kind and quality of public debate or deliberative discussion is ‘enough’ for national official poverty measures. Among the resources now available on OPHI’s website are the introductory presentation, literature review, and details of the discussion. [[Research workshop...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/workshop-on-value-judgements-in-multidimensional-poverty-measurement-design/>

### **OPHI Summer School 2012 to be held 23 August-4 September**

The annual OPHI-HDCA two-week training course on Capability and Multidimensional Poverty will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 23 August – 4 September 2012. Hosted by the University of Indonesia’s Institute for Economic and Social Research (Lembaga Penyelidikan Ekonomi dan Masyarakat Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, LPEM-FEUI), it will bring together a vibrant mix of more than 50 participants to learn about multidimensional poverty measurement and the capability approach. It will also provide an introduction on how to implement a national or organisational Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The application process has now closed, but training materials from the 2012 Summer School will be available from September on OPHI’s website, where resources from previous courses can already be found on our [Online Training Portal](#). [[OPHI Summer School 2012...](#)]  
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/summerschool2012/>

### **Professor Jacques Silber delivers special seminar on inequality in Latin America**

Founding editor of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*, Professor Jacques Silber of Bar-Ilan University, Israel, gave a special seminar in June which was co-hosted by OPHI and Oxford University’s Department of Economics. ‘On Relative Bi-Polarization and the Middle Class in Latin America’ was webcast live, and a Twitter feed enabled followers to ask questions and make comments during the seminar. Slides from the presentation are now available on OPHI’s website. [[Special seminar details...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/live-from-oxford-special-seminar-on-bi-polarization-and-the-middle-class-in-latin-america/>

## **PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

**OPHI researcher gives Delhi seminar on inter-temporal poverty in India**

OPHI Research Officer Suman Seth gave a seminar entitled ‘Trends and Analyses of Multidimensional Poverty in India, 1998/9-2005/6’ at the Delhi School of Economics on 3 August. The seminar presented Seth and Sabina Alkire’s construction and analysis of multidimensional poverty in India using the National Family and Health Survey datasets, an analysis which finds a strong reduction in multidimensional poverty that varies significantly across states, castes, and other groups. The seminar was co-hosted by the Delhi School of Economics’ Department of Economics, and the Centre for Development Economics, at which Alkire and Seth have both been visiting fellows this summer. [[Poverty in India seminar...](#)] <http://econdse.org/suman-seth-research-officer-oxford-poverty-human-development-initiative-ophi/>

#### **OPHI paper to be presented at meeting of Society for Social Choice and Welfare**

Suman Seth will also be presenting at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 17-20 August 2012. Seth will present ‘Sub-National Disparities and Inter-Temporal Evolution of Multidimensional Poverty across Developing Countries’, a paper he co-authored with Sabina Alkire and José Manuel Roche in December 2011. The paper confirmed previous research which showed that even though the incidence of poverty in low-income countries is much higher, a larger number of poor people live in middle-income countries. [[11<sup>th</sup> meeting in New Delhi...](#)] <http://www.isid.ac.in/~sscw2012/Welcome.html>

#### **4<sup>th</sup> OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy**

OPHI Director Sabina Alkire will be a panellist at a workshop on ‘Reducing Inequalities and Poverty’ at the 4<sup>th</sup> OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, which this year has the theme ‘Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making’. The conference will be held in New Delhi from 16-19 October 2012, and speakers on the programme include India’s Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh; Professor Joseph Stiglitz of Colombia University; and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, also at Colombia University. [[OECD World Forum...](#)] <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>

#### **OPHI to present three papers at DSA conference**

OPHI is to present three of its papers at the annual Development Studies Association conference in London on 3 November 2012. The research presented will include Paola Ballon Fernandez and Mauricio Apablaza’s work on chronic poverty in Ethiopia; a paper by José Manuel Roche on child poverty measurement; and Sabina Alkire and Suman Seth’s paper on targeting methods to identify Below the Poverty Line (BPL) households in India. Alkire will also take part in a panel discussion on ‘Global Poverty and Middle-Income Countries: Is Global Poverty Becoming a Matter of National Inequality?’. [[DSA conference...](#)] <http://www.devstud.org.uk/events/conference/>

## **OPHI PEOPLE**

OPHI was pleased to welcome a number of visiting academics and students during spring/summer 2012.

OPHI Research Associate **Professor James E. Foster**, George Washington University, visited OPHI during Trinity Term, April-June 2012.

**Professor Jacques Silber** of Bar-Ilan University was with us in June 2012 as an OPHI Visiting Research Fellow.

OPHI Research Associate **Maria Emma Santos**, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas (CONICET), Argentina, also visited OPHI in June.

**Murilo Fahel**, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil, is with us throughout 2012 as a Visiting Research Fellow.

OPHI also has a new member of staff; **Emma Feeny** took over from Joanne Tomkinson as Research Communications Officer at the beginning of July.

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**August 2012 - OPHI e-Update “Advancing freedoms and overcoming poverty.”**

OPHI e-Updates aim to highlight key resources and information materials. We welcome your feedback and participation.

OPHI gratefully acknowledges support from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)/(DFID) Joint Scheme, Robertson Foundation, UNICEF N’Djamena Chad Country Office, Praus, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), John Fell Oxford University Press (OUP) Research Fund, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report Office, national UNDP and UNICEF offices, and private benefactors. International Development Research Council (IDRC) of Canada, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UK Department of International Development (DFID), and AusAID are also recognised for their past support.

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<http://www.ophi.org.uk/mailling-list/>

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