



# December 2013 OPHI e-Update

Welcome to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's regular email update of announcements, opportunities, new publications and events.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### **OPHI calls for a new household survey to further 'data revolution'**

The [post-2015.org](http://post-2015.org) website has published a [blog](#) by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire which calls for a new household survey to meet the need for more and better data. OPHI propose for 'a brief, multi-topic survey that includes indicators on the key goals identified by the post-2015 development discussions (including economic, social and environmental aspects of poverty), and allows space for nationally chosen questions.' It identifies three characteristics necessary for data to be relevant in the post-2015 context: they should be timely; cover multiple dimensions; and show if no one is left behind. The blog is one of a series titled '[What kind of data revolution do we need for post-2015?](#)', which includes contributions from Michael Green of the Social Progress Imperative; Margo Cointreau of PARIS21; and Mahesh Subedi from Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics. [[OPHI calls for new household survey...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-director-calls-for-a-new-household-survey-to-further-data-revolution>

### **MPPN works to advance multidimensional poverty measurement post-2015**

At a teleconference call on 31 October 2013, participants of the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network](#) (MPPN) shared updates of their recent work to develop new national and sub-national multidimensional poverty measures, and recapped the knowledge-sharing taking place between participants. In addition, MPPN participants renewed their commitment to advancing [multidimensional poverty measures in the post-2015 development context](#), and discussed a new household survey to meet the need for more and better data. Stay up to date by checking the dedicated [MPPN section](#) on OPHI's website, which now has its own 'Network News' sidebar. [\[MPPN updates...\]](#)  
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/policynetwork/>

### **Outreach activities and poverty training courses**

OPHI is active in providing training and technical assistance at the country level. Team members Mauricio Apablaza, Mihika Chatterjee and John Hammock conducted a training workshop in Ha Noi, Vietnam as part of the Vietnamese Government programme to develop its national MPI. John participated in a workshop on measurement in St Lucia, which was followed up by a training session by Mauricio and Adriana Conconi for member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States – who are also in the process of developing an MPI. John and Adriana participated in a two day workshop in Brasilia, Brazil on multidimensional measurement. Diego Zavaleta and Adriana recently visited Uruguay to meet the Minister of Social Development and his staff to discuss their efforts to develop a multidimensional measure. Following meetings between the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) and OPHI team members Diego and Mauricio, the partnership with ECLAC has moved to a more active level, focused around joint research on a Latin American MPI. The OPHI team has also continued to provide assistance by Skype to El Salvador, Zambia and Ecuador, and also in Bhutan, where Ana Vaz and Sabina Alkire are providing support for the country's national MPI. [\[MPPN and outreach updates...\]](#)  
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/policynetwork/>

### **OPHI participates in panel on multidimensional poverty at DSA conference**

OPHI Researcher Suman Seth took part in a panel discussion on ['Power of Evidence on Multidimensional Poverty and Poverty Dynamics'](#) on 16 November 2013 at the [2013 Development Studies Association Conference](#). Six papers were presented during the session, including one written by Seth and OPHI Director Sabina Alkire on 'Analysis of Inequality across Multidimensionally Poor and Population Subgroups for Counting Approaches'. Among other things, the discussion that followed focused on how aid architecture has shaped notions of rigour and accountability, and how evaluation frameworks and methodologies can respond to more fluid and context-specific development goals post-2015. [\[DSA conference panel...\]](#)  
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-to-participate-in-panel-on-multidimensional-poverty-at-dsa-conference>

### **Gates Foundation publishes article on measuring women's empowerment**

The [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#) blog [Impatient Optimists](#) has published [an article](#) on the measurement of women's empowerment, including the use of the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\)](#) to analyse new data from India. The Gates Foundation and the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Markets and Institutions is funding the collection of new data in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra in India, which will help researchers examine changes over time on key gender-related health, nutrition and institutional metrics, with the aim of measuring women's empowerment. The WEAI

was developed by OPHI with US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to measure the empowerment, agency and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector. [[Gates Foundation blog on women's empowerment...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/gates-foundation-publishes-article-on-measuring-womens-empowerment>

### **Growing uptake of the WEAI**

OPHI recently participated in a learning event on the WEAI which focused on how it has been used by other organisations beyond the US Government, including CARE and Oxfam Sabina Alkire, Ana Vaz and John Hammock are part of a working group with IFPRI and USAID on next steps on the WEAI. [[WEAI applications...](#)]. <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/the-womens-empowerment-in-agriculture-index/>

## **PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS**

Recent presentations and talks given by members of the OPHI team include:

- **OPHI Director Sabina Alkire on post-2015 panel at European Development Days conference** – the panel discussed how to identify and combat the multiple dimensions of poverty. [[EUDevDays conference...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-director-on-post-2015-panel-at-european-commissions-edd-conference>
- **Professor James Foster discusses multidimensional poverty in video interview with WIDER** where he explains the importance of moving beyond income-only measures to capture the multidimensional aspects of poverty [[Foster video interview...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/james-foster-discusses-multidimensional-poverty-in-video-interview>
- **OPHI's Suman Seth recently gave two lectures in the US**, presenting both on poverty measurement in the post-2015 context and 'Multidimensional Deprivation'. [[Seth lectures in the US...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-researcher-to-deliver-lectures-in-the-us-this-week>
- **OPHI Research Associate Maria Emma Santos gives Spanish video interview on MPI workshop and multidimensional poverty** [[Santos interview on MPI workshop...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-research-associate-gives-video-interview-on-mpi-workshop>
- **OPHI Researcher Paola Ballón Fernández presents on multidimensional poverty measures in Peru** at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru in Lima [[OPHI Researcher lectures in Peru...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-researcher-presents-the-benefits-of-multidimensional-poverty-measures-in-peru>
- **Sabina Alkire takes part in London debates on ending poverty** – including a debate entitled 'Can We Really End Poverty? A Debate on the Future of Development' [[London debates...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#Chatham%20House%20Sabina%20Alkire%20Growth%20Nexus>

## **BLOGS**

Recent blog posts by OPHI team members include:

- **Al-Jazeera has published OPHI Researcher Mihika Chatterjee's article on food security in India** – the piece explores the controversies surrounding the Public Distribution System (PDS), through which centrally procured food commodities are distributed to households across India [[Al-Jazeera article on food security in India...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/al-jazeera-publishes-ophi-researchers-article-on-food-security-in-india)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/al-jazeera-publishes-ophi-researchers-article-on-food-security-in-india>
- **The *Huffington Post* publishes article on call for MPI2015+** by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire argues for a new measure post-2015 that accurately captures poor people's experiences of poverty [[Huffington Post article on MPI2015+...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/the-huffington-post-publishes-article-on-mpi2015-by-sabina-alkire)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/the-huffington-post-publishes-article-on-mpi2015-by-sabina-alkire>
- **OPHI Director's post features on World We Want poverty eradication debate** – contributing to a consultation on the question 'How is poverty eradication best pursued?' [[World We Want debate...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-directors-post-features-on-world-we-want-poverty-eradication-debate)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-directors-post-features-on-world-we-want-poverty-eradication-debate>

## EVENTS

### Lunchtime Seminar Series podcasts available online

OPHI's Lunchtime Seminar Series has drawn to a close for Michaelmas Term, but you can catch up with some of the talks you may have missed by listening to the podcasts and downloading the presentations. Among the many seminars for which these resources are available, you can listen again to OPHI's Director Sabina Alkire and Researcher Suman Seth as they provide '[An Introduction to OPHI](#)'; hear Seth discuss '[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement Methodologies](#)'; and listen to OPHI Researcher China Mills' seminar titled "[“If you're poor then you can't be my friend”: Intersections of shame, humiliation, isolation and poverty in South Africa and Mozambique](#)". The listings for next term's seminar series will be available shortly; check the [OPHI Seminars page](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to ensure you don't miss out. [[Lunchtime Seminar Series...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/courses-events/seminars/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/courses-events/seminars/>

## PUBLICATIONS

### OPHI contributes to OECD report on '*Ending Poverty*'

The OECD has launched the [Development Co-operation Report 2013: \*Ending Poverty\*](#), which this year explores what needs to be done to achieve rapid and sustainable progress in the global fight to end poverty. The report focuses on the very poor and sets out, in concrete terms, the nature and dimensions of poverty today, and what development co-operation – and the global partnerships it supports – can do in the fight against poverty. It includes a chapter by OPHI's Director Sabina Alkire, titled '[How to measure the many dimensions of poverty?](#)', which makes the case for a [new headline indicator](#) to measure progress towards eradicating poverty in its many dimensions. It also features a chapter by OPHI Research Associate Andy Sumner titled '[What will it take to end extreme poverty?](#)'

You can access the full report [here](#). [[Alkire chapter in OECD report...](#)]  
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-directors-chapter-published-in-oecd-report-on-ending-poverty>

### **Human recognition and economic development**

OPHI Working Paper 63, by Tony Castleman of the Institute for International Economic Policy at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, introduces the concept of human recognition, defined as the extent to which an individual is acknowledged by others to be of inherent value by virtue of being a fellow human being. By defining and formally modeling human recognition and its role in economic development for the first time, 'Human Recognition and Economic Development: An Introduction and Theoretical Model' identifies a new component of economic development and offers an example of how such intangible components can be formally modeled. [[OPHI Working Paper 63...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/human-recognition-and-economic-development-an-introduction-and-theoretical-model/>

### **Measuring Autonomy: Evidence from Bangladesh**

OPHI Research Paper 38a explores the value-added of a new measure of autonomy in the context of Bangladesh. The authors, Ana Vaz, Sabina Alkire, Agnes Quisumbing and Esha Sraboni, provide a detailed examination of a measure of individuals' autonomy, the Relative Autonomy Index, using data representative of Bangladeshi rural areas. The paper presents two distinct analyses. In the first part of the paper, several descriptive statistical analyses are performed to investigate the conceptual validity of the measure, and to assess the internal consistency of its scale. The second part provides an analysis of autonomy of men and women in rural Bangladesh and investigates to what extent this concept is captured by other common proxies of empowerment. [[OPHI Research in Progress 38a...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-research-in-progress-38a/>

### **'Compromising conventions' paper published in *Work, Employment & Society***

A paper co-authored by former OPHI Researcher José Manuel Roche with Jacqueline O'Reilly and Tiziana Nazio has been published in the journal *Work, Employment & Society*. 'Compromising conventions: attitudes of dissonance and indifference towards full-time maternal employment in Denmark, Spain, Poland and the UK' examines cross-national variations in attitudes towards gender roles and the extent to which they map onto regime types. It explores intra-national variation in attitudes to non-traditional gendered behaviour drawing on the theoretical approach of the 'economy of conventions', informed by feminist perspectives from comparative research. [['Compromising conventions' paper...](#)]  
<http://wes.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/12/02/0950017013491307>

## **PEOPLE**

### **José Manuel Roche joins Save the Children as Head of Research**

OPHI warmly congratulates former OPHI Research Officer José Manuel Roche, who joined Save the Children at the beginning of November as Head of Research. We would like to thank Jose for the enormous contributions he made to OPHI during the four years he spent with us, and wish him every success in his new role. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with him in his new capacity. He continues his affiliation with OPHI now as a Research Associate.

### **OPHI welcomes new Research Officer Bouba Housseini**

OPHI is delighted to announce that we have appointed a new Research Officer, who will be joining us in January. Bouba Housseini has just submitted his doctorate in University of Laval and wisely departed for a holiday with family.

### **OPHI is pleased to welcome a number of visiting academics during autumn/winter 2013:**

**Thomas Morgan**, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), remains with us as a Visiting Fellow. The IEP is responsible for the Global Peace Index, a measure of peace at the nation-state level, and Thom will be analysing the cost of violence to the UK as well as working with OPHI on the nexus of poverty and peace.

We are delighted that our longstanding policy advisor, **Kim Samuel**, remains with us as Scholar in Residence. Kim is working with our Missing Dimensions team to conduct research on social isolation as a critical experiential and measurable component of multidimensional poverty.

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### **December 2013 - 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, Praus, UNICEF N'Djamena Chad Country Office, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), John Fell Oxford University Press (OUP) Research Fund, 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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