

# OPHI

January 2011 OPHI Update

Happy New Year from the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)! We look forward to collaborating with you in the year ahead to build on all the encouraging initiatives reported on below.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- OPHI/UNDP Human Development Report Office Training in Oxford in February
- 2010 UNDP Human Development Report Launched
- OPHI and World Bank Co-host Workshop on Inequality of Opportunities
- OPHI Director Listed in Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2010
- Summer School on Multidimensional Poverty in Chile
- Multidimensional Poverty and its Discontents ~ AFD-EUDN Conference
- The Guardian ~ OPHI Director on the UK Government's Proposed Happiness Index
- Missing Dimensions Collaborators Visit from the Philippines
- OPHI in Action
- OPHI's Oxford Seminar Series Will Resume in May 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

- Alkire Foster 'Counting and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement' Forthcoming in the Journal of Public Economics
- New Results on the Robustness of the MPI to Changes in Weights
- New OPHI Working Papers
- New OPHI Research in Progress
- New OPHI Resources on the MPI

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **OPHI/UNDP Human Development Report Office Training in Oxford in February**

OPHI and the UNDP Human Development Report Office are organising a course on the innovative aspects of the 2010 Human Development Report, with a particular focus on the new measures introduced by the 2010 Report, to be held this February. Demand for places has been high and 60 participants have been accepted to take part in the course, including UNDP staff from around the globe, as well as participants from National Governments, particularly national planning and statistics offices with roles linked to policy planning.

[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#training1>

### **2010 UNDP Human Development Report Launched**

UNDP's 2010 Human Development Report – "The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development" was launched on 4 November, in New York by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. As part of a close collaboration with the UNDP HDR this year, OPHI provided inputs to conceptual and measurement agendas behind the 2010 Report, including the new Multidimensional Poverty Index, new Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index and the re-statement of human development.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#undplunched>

### **OPHI and World Bank Co-host Workshop on Inequality of Opportunities**

OPHI and the World Bank Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) Network co-hosted a workshop on Inequality of Opportunities organised by OPHI in Oxford on 22-23 November. Sixteen experts in this field, including Francisco Ferreira (World Bank) and Professors John Roemer of Yale University and Jacques Silber of Bar Ilan University, presented work ranging from conceptual and philosophical issues, to new methodologies and empirical evidence.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#worldbankwsd>

### **OPHI Director Listed in Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2010**

OPHI Director Sabina Alkire is listed in Foreign Policy magazine's annual list of the top 100 global thinkers of 2010 for her work on multidimensional poverty.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#FP>

### **Summer School on Multidimensional Poverty in Chile**

OPHI taught a two week summer school on multidimensional poverty in Spanish, from 6-15 December, at the Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) in Santiago, Chile. Forty people participated in the course, including students, policy makers and technical experts from government offices in Latin American countries.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#chiledec>

### **Multidimensional Poverty and its Discontents ~ AFD-EUDN Conference**

Sabina Alkire presented "[Multidimensional Poverty and its Discontents](#)" to 1,800 people at the Agence Française de Développement and European Development Research Network Conference, in Paris, on 1 December. Alkire's paper tackles the question of how multidimensionality should be reflected in measures of poverty.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#eudn>

### **The Guardian ~ OPHI Director on the UK Government's Proposed Happiness Index**

Read Sabina Alkire's op-ed in The Guardian on 7 December: "Happiness is a key indicator – but it's not the only one". "We need a serious measure of wellbeing which includes health, education and other factors", she says. "To take this forward in a way that will visibly improve wellbeing and outlast any single government, the measure needs to be designed with policy in mind."  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#Guard>

### **Missing Dimensions Collaborators Visit from the Philippines**

Celia Reyes and Jeremy de Jesus of the Community Based Monitoring System in the Philippines visited OPHI as part of their collaboration on the missing dimensions of poverty data.  
[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#cbmsvisit>

### **OPHI in Action**

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Workshop** OPHI Research Officer Suman Seth taught a session on the UNDP Human Development Index and the Multidimensional Poverty Index at this workshop held by the UN ESCWA statistics division in Beirut on 2-5 November.

**Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Gottingen** Suman Seth presented “Rank Robustness of Composite Indices: Dominance, Ambiguity and Association”.

**A New Tool to Fight Poverty: Understanding the Multidimensional Needs of People Living in Poverty** Sabina Alkire spoke to Oxford Alumni in New York on 2 December at this special event.

**Acute Multidimensional Poverty: A New Index for Developing Countries** Maria Emma Santos, OPHI Research Associate and Postdoctoral Fellow at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas in Argentina, presented the MPI at the XV Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association to Medellín, from 11-13 November.

**Values and Measurement of Poverty: the MPI** OPHI held this panel session on the MPI at the Development Studies Association Conference, Westminster, on 5 November. Lawrence Haddad, Director of the Institute of Development Studies and Séverine Deneulin, Lecturer at the University of Bath both gave their comments on the MPI. Read Lawrence Haddad’s blog post on the MPI. [read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#ophiactdec>

### **OPHI’s Oxford Seminar Series Will Resume in May 2011**

OPHI will hold closed lunchtime discussion groups this term and our Oxford Lunchtime Seminar Series will resume again in May 2011.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Alkire Foster ‘Counting and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement’ Forthcoming in the Journal of Public Economics**

Sabina Alkire and James Foster’s paper proposing their methodology for measuring multidimensional poverty has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Public Economics. The article in press is available now.

[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#journpublicecon>

#### **New Results on the Robustness of the MPI to Changes in Weights**

OPHI’s new paper presents the results of robustness tests, which show that the Multidimensional Poverty Index is robust to a range of different weights.

[read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-RP-22a.pdf>

#### **New OPHI Working Papers**

‘A Dissimilarity Index of Multidimensional Inequality of Opportunity.’ Gaston Yalonetzky. (OPHI WP39 November 2010).

[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/publications/ophi-working-papers/#wp39>

‘A Report on Mexican Multidimensional Poverty Measurement.’ James E Foster. (OPHI WP40 November 2010).

[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/publications/ophi-working-papers/#wp40>

‘Revisiting Informality: Evidence from Employment Characteristics and Job Satisfaction in Chile.’  
Lea Cassar. (OPHI WP41 November 2010).  
[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/publications/ophi-working-papers/#wp41>

### **New OPHI Research in Progress**

‘Multidimensional Poverty and its Discontents’. Sabina Alkire. (OPHI RP23a November 2010).  
[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-RP-23a.pdf>

‘A Sensitivity Assessment of Multidimensional Poverty to various sets of Missing Dimensions’  
Indicators: The Chilean Case.’ Carlos De Los Rios and Jessica De Los Rios. (OPHI RP24a  
December 2010).  
[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-RP-24a.pdf>

### **New OPHI Resources on the MPI**

OPHI released new materials on the MPI to mark the launch of the 2010 HDR, including:

- ❖ Research Brief on the Robustness of the MPI to Different Weights
- ❖ Research Brief on the MPI and the MDGs
- ❖ One Page Summary of the MPI
- ❖ Interviews on the MPI with leading experts, including Sir Tony Atkinson and François Bourguignon
- ❖ MPI Frequently Asked Questions

[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>

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“Advancing freedoms and overcoming poverty.”

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

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