

UBS Center Forum – the online edition

Rethinking inequalities

Determinants and implications
of economic and social inequalities

*Economics.
For Society.*

Save the dates

Special times call for special measures. That is why – much to our regret – our annual forum will this year take place online. Despite the change in format, we have sought to maintain our customary standards. We have a series of events in store for you, focusing on different aspects of inequality – a topic that has become even more important in light of the global pandemic and its devastating consequences, which has hit many of the most vulnerable people in the world particularly hard.

We are looking forward to stimulating discussions in virtual space and hope to welcome you again on-site to the Forum next year.

Ernst Fehr
Director, UBS Center for Economics in Society



Joachim Voth
Scientific Director, UBS Center for Economics in Society



Program overview

Wednesday, 21.10.2020, 16:30–17:30 (CET)

Research slam

(In-)Equality and prosperity

Moderator: Nir Jaimovich

Speakers: participants as listed

Wednesday, 28.10.2020, 16:00–17:00 (CET)

Panel session

Inequality: facts and consequences

Speakers: Janet Currie, David Dorn, Branko Milanovic

Tuesday, 3.11.2020, 16:00–17:00 (CET)

Webinar

Taxing the superrich

Speaker: Florian Scheuer

Wednesday, 11.11.2020, 18:00–19:00 (CET)

Keynote lecture

Inequality and the future of capitalism

Speakers: Angus Deaton

Nobel Laureate Sir Angus Deaton Inequality and the future of capitalism



Professor Angus Deaton believes that today's inequalities are signs that democratic capitalism is under threat, not only in the US, where the storm clouds are darkest, but in much of the rich world, where one or more of politics, economics, and health are changing in worrisome ways. "But we need to think about repairs for democratic capitalism, either by fixing what is broken, or by making changes to head off the threats," he stresses. Drawing on his most recent research, Deaton will reflect on whether and how the flaws of capitalism can be addressed to help build a more prosperous and just world.

Sir Angus Deaton is Senior Scholar and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University and Presidential Professor of Economics at USC. His interests span domestic and international issues and include health, happiness, development, poverty, inequality, and how to best collect and interpret evidence for policy. In 2015, he received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel "for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare."

Panel and webinar speakers



Janet Currie

Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University



Branko Milanovic

Presidential Professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center and senior fellow at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality



David Dorn

UBS Foundation Professor of Globalization and Labor Markets at the University of Zurich



Florian Scheuer

UBS Foundation Professor of Economics of Institutions at the University of Zurich

Event series

In the past four decades, the incomes of many of the world's poorest citizens have increased and extreme poverty has fallen faster than ever before in human history. However, while we are now living in a period of falling global inequality, overall inequality is still high and new forms of inequality in income, health, and life prospects have emerged. What are the reasons for this and how can we improve the situation to ultimately build a more prosperous and just world?

In our event series, experts from different fields will analyze the determinants and implications of economic and social inequalities and discuss possible solutions on how to address these issues. We start with an interdisciplinary research slam on the topic of inequality and prosperity, in which ten researchers will give us an insight into current findings from their research areas in short presentations. One week later, behavioral economist Janet Currie, globalization and labor markets expert David Dorn, and inequality expert Branko Milanovic will discuss the facts and consequences of inequality. In a webinar at the beginning of November, Florian Scheuer will give an outline of his research on the taxation of the superrich.

Concluding the event series, Nobel Laureate Sir Angus Deaton will elaborate on the topic of inequality and the future of capitalism, drawing on his most recent research.

Research slam participants

Several members from the University's Department of Economics will participate at the event, covering a broad range of economics, such as development and behavioral economics, innovation, labor, trade, and globalization:

Anne Ardila Brenøe
David Dorn
Ernst Fehr
David Hémous
Nir Jaimovich (Moderator)
Elisa Macchi
Florian Scheuer
Ulf Zoelitz

Confirmed speakers from other fields (more to follow):

Silja Häusermann
Professor at the Department of Political Science,
University of Zurich

About the UBS Center

The UBS Center was established in 2012, enabled by a founding donation by UBS, which the bank made on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The UBS Center's mandate is to enable world-class research in economics at the University of Zurich, and to serve as a platform for dialogue between academia, business, politics, and the broader public, fostering the continuous knowledge transfer.