



# PEP-Talk

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## SOME WORDS FROM THE CODIRECTORS

Welcome to this edition of PEP-Talk! As you will see, PEP is developing at an extraordinary pace. Our researchers are completing research projects, organizing national policy conferences, publishing working papers and an impressive number of peer-reviewed journal articles (attesting to the scientific rigour of the policy analysis they are conducting), presenting in international conferences and producing powerful one-page policy briefs.

We are particularly pleased to announce substantial new funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), through two separate agreements. The first provides core and program funding for PEP's regular activities, whereas the second launches a major new research initiative on the distributive impacts of different growth strategies. Our Latin American office has also launched a new impact evaluation initiative on the effectiveness of interventions to reduce teenage childbearing in Latin America with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank. Meanwhile, in Africa, a second edition of the popular PEP School on modeling the micro impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks, with a third edition, the first in English, organized by South Africa's Fiscal and Financial Commission now open for registration. PEP also collaborated in the design and conduct of a pilot workshop on Poverty and Social Analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is planned to lead a new series of PEP Schools in this area. Our policy modeling group (MPIA) has been busy publishing a series of standard CGE models for policy simulations, while at the same time piloting a global study on the impacts of the current economic crisis on developing countries.

With over 7000 registered members, the PEP web site is a meeting place for researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders interested in poverty issues. To facilitate the promotion of our members and the exchange of information, the web site now makes it possible for you to post a short biography, your CV, your fields of expertise, your contact details and even your photo. This information can be searched by web site visitors by country, field of expertise and name.

With several other new Community-Based Monitoring System initiatives also in full swing, PEP is in full expansion mode. In this context, we are looking forward to bring the PEP family together in Dakar this June for the 8<sup>th</sup> PEP General Meeting, which will feature a one-day policy conference and donor forum entitled "After the Crisis: Measuring the Impacts and Charting the Way Forward".

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of PEP-Talk!

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

**Note:** Research findings are based on PEP policy briefs ([www.pep-net.org/no\\_cache/publications/policy-briefs/](http://www.pep-net.org/no_cache/publications/policy-briefs/)), and generally based on recently published PEP working papers : [www.pep-net.org/publications/working-papers/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/working-papers/)

**Effects of Education on Earnings Inequality in Urban China: 1988-2003** by Xiaohua Li, Yaohui Zhao, Lili Lu.

Accompanying rapid economic growth, China has experienced one of the fastest increases in income inequality ever recorded. What does this mean? Did the poorest become poorer, or did they simply share less in the benefits of rapid growth? Given the observed drop in poverty rates, it appears that the latter explanation pertains.

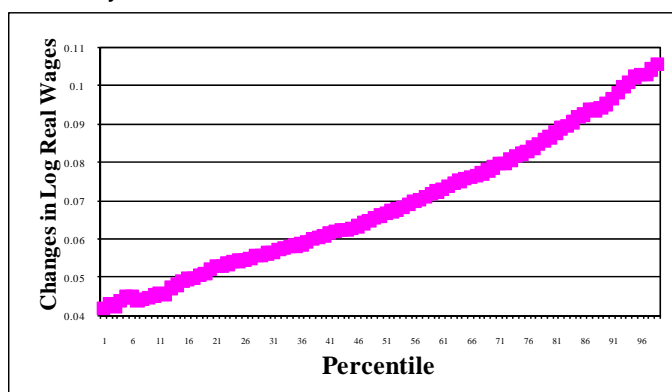
Helping the poor participate in the growth process – so-called "pro-poor" or "inclusive" growth – has become a major preoccupation for policy makers and researchers. Education is often identified as the best tool to combat the perceived link between globalization and earnings inequality. While theoretical explanations exist, the actual relationship and its magnitude is an empirical matter.

This study contributes to this important policy debate by evaluating the effects of education on earnings inequality in urban China during the country's recent 1988-2003 growth period.

The first finding is that wage gains were experienced in all income brackets, but these were much greater among the rich. Thus, inequality in urban China has been a story of the rich getting richer faster than the poor, with the earnings of all workers improving to some degree in the process. As growth outweighed rising inequality, poverty fell.

The second finding is that the majority of the increase in overall earnings inequality is found **within** education groups, particularly among workers with higher levels of formal education. This may be explained by differences in the quality of education or its relevance to new technology and suggest that efforts should be made to improve the quality and relevance of higher education.

Our analysis also tested the effect of increased education, but found that the increase in



earnings inequality among male workers is almost entirely accounted for by changes in earnings within education groups, rather than by movement of workers between these groups. This suggests that a policy of education expansion might not significantly reduce inequality in urban China, although it remains an important tool to reduce absolute poverty.

**Wage gains by income level, 1988-2003** (Log real earnings)

*Based on Working paper PMMA 2008-09*

**Family Allowances and Child School Attendance. An ex-ante Evaluation of Alternative Schemes in Uruguay** by Gioia De Melo, Veronica Amarante, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo.

*Asignaciones Familiares* is a child allowance program that began in Uruguay in 1942 and was significantly modified in 2008. The program is focused on children aged 0 to 18 and aims at alleviating poverty and promoting school attendance, particularly among teenagers. A team of Uruguay researchers conducted an evaluation of the likely effects of this reform on teenage school attendance, labor participation, poverty and inequality, as well as on adult labor supply. Results provide important insights to further improve the design and implementation of this program.

The researchers first attempted to predict the impacts of the recently implemented *Asignaciones Familiares* regime that includes a premium for each child attending secondary school and adjusts for the number of children in the household (Table). This regime is shown likely to lead to a six percent increase in teenage school attendance rates nationwide. It is also found to be very progressive, with a near doubling of attendance rates among the very poorest (Graph). The reform slightly reduces poverty incidence and income inequality. However, it significantly reduces extreme poverty. The program is also likely to slightly decrease adult labor supply.

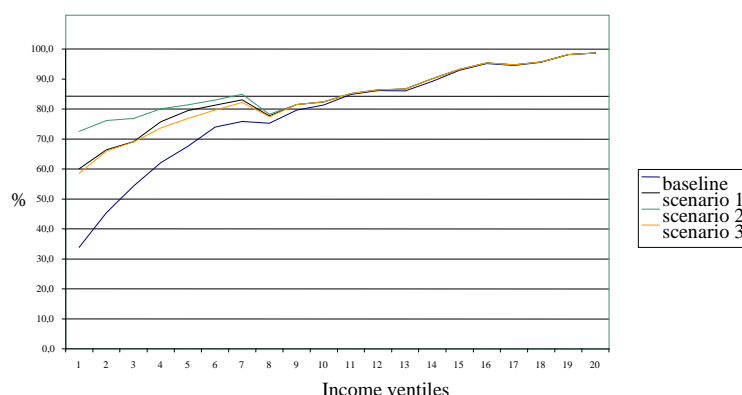
**Table: Simulation Scenarios**

Scenario	Children under 18	Children under 18 in secondary school
Asignaciones Familiares	\$700	\$300
More targeted	\$400	\$900
Universal	\$500	\$0

The researchers go on to explore two alternative regimes with the same overall budget. In the first, there is no reduction in the allowance per child according to the number of children in the household and the premium for children attending secondary school is increased. The impact on secondary school attendance is larger. Even stronger impacts on teenage school attendance rates are observed among the poor – more than doubling for the poorest – and the nationwide rate rises a further two percent. Results for adult labor, poverty, extreme poverty and inequality are not different from the first scenario.

The final scenario provides the same allowance to all children, whether they attend secondary school or not and regardless of the number of children in the household. Its impacts are virtually indistinguishable from those of the current regime. Again, results in regards to adult labor, poverty, extreme poverty and inequality are similar across scenarios.

**Graph: Secondary-school attendance rates by scenario and income ventile (% change; Children, 14-17)**



This Policy brief is based on PEP Project PMMA 11083. [portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11512](http://portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11512)

**Poverty and Inequality Impacts of the 2007 Tax Reform in Uruguay** by Mery Ferrando, Cecilia Llambí, Juan Marcelo Perera, Silvia Laens - October 2009.

In the context of increasing, a major Tax Reform was introduced in the middle of 2007 in Uruguay with the explicit goals of promoting greater efficiency and equity. The Reform substantially increased personal income taxes with increasing marginal rates. It also reduced VAT and direct taxes on firms, harmonized employer contributions to social security over sectors and eliminated some highly distortionary taxes.

Such a policy shock is expected to provoke changes in the behavior of agents, induce a reallocation of resources and generate feedback effects on household income, consumption and savings. We assess the impact of the Tax Reform on macro balances, the labor market, poverty and inequality taking into account general equilibrium ("second round") effects that are frequently omitted in public debate.

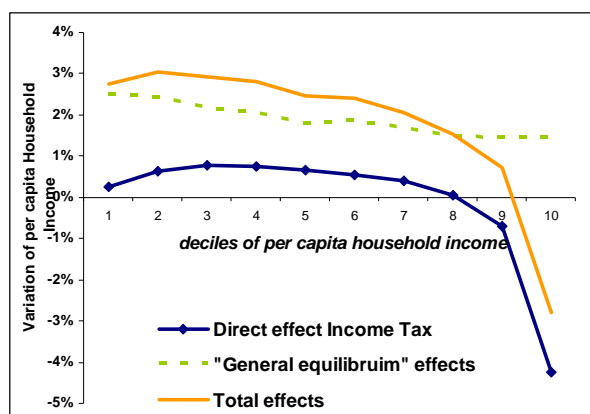
Our estimates indicate that these "second round" effects are significant and tend to reinforce the progressive nature of its main component, i.e. the replacement of the previous wage and pensions tax by a dual direct personal income tax (Figure 1).

The Reform leads to an increase in aggregate activity (around 1 percent of GDP) and employment, though it actually increases the overall tax burden. This expansion mostly explains the reduction of around 1 percent in poverty incidence. Regarding poverty, the magnitude of the "second round" effects is significantly larger than the direct effect of the introduction of the new personal income tax.

We also find a one percent reduction of the Gini coefficient - which measures inequality - entirely due to the progressive nature of the direct income tax. General equilibrium effects of the full reform do not play a significant role regarding inequality. Households in the richest decile are the clear "losers" from the Reform.

The reduction, elimination or harmonization of distortionary taxes reduces distortions in goods and factor prices, leading to a better allocation of resources and economic growth. Although personal income taxes can also be distortionary, we find that the Reform is also desirable from the point of view of efficiency, as the previous tax system was even more distortionary.

**After-tax per capita household income by decile Full reform (variation w.r.t base). Simulations with budget neutral assumption, VAT compensated**



The main redistributive effects come from the direct impact of the new (progressive) personal income tax. Considering that individuals in the lower half of the income distribution currently face a very low effective tax rate, further modifications in marginal income tax rates on income would have limited distributive effects.

Our estimates also indicate that VAT rates could be further lowered in order to make the Reform budget neutral. Under a budget neutral assumption, with

further reductions in the VAT rate, the Reform would generate a larger positive effect on economic activity and the best results in terms of poverty and inequality. This suggests that further reductions in VAT rates are desirable both with respect to efficiency and equity.

Based on PEP project MPIA-11061  
[portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11633](http://portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11633)

**Free Primary Education in Kenya: An Impact Evaluation Using Propensity Score Methods** by John Olwande, Esther Mwanzia, Stella Wambugu - August 2009.

The government of Kenya is committed to expanding the education system in order to combat ignorance, disease and poverty. The government first introduced free primary education (FPE) in the late 1970s, but this was later abolished in 1988 under the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) to ease the financial burden on the public education system. This led to low enrolment, high dropouts, grade repetition, low completion rates and poor primary to secondary transition rates. To reverse this tendency, the government re-introduced the free primary education (FPE) program in January 2003.

A team of Kenyan researchers evaluated the preliminary impacts of the FPE program. Results indicate that, while primary and secondary school enrolment rates have significantly improved in the period after the introduction of the FPE program, grade progression has worsened.

The improvement in primary school enrolment rates (see Table) can to a large extent be attributed to the FPE program and the primary education sensitization campaign that accompanied it. Increased secondary school enrolment is a consequence of the increase in primary school enrolment, as well as several secondary school bursary schemes that were introduced alongside the FPE program. Declining grade progression could indicate declining quality of primary education as a result of congestion, lack of adequate number of teachers and inadequate primary school infrastructure resulting from increased enrolment.

There is a need to improve primary school infrastructure and recruit more teachers. Secondary school enrolment rates remain low, especially among children hailing from poorer households and in some regions. This is an indication of a need for government intervention at the secondary school level. Recently introduced subsidized secondary education is a step in the right direction and should be sustained.

Government spending on the FPE program was found to be progressive. Despite lower enrolment rates, the 20 percent poorest households capture more than twice the benefits of their counterparts in the 20 percent wealthiest income group, as poorer households tend to have more children. However, under this program, primary school enrolment rates increased most among children from the wealthier households (see Table). This finding suggests that the factors that prevent poorer children from attending primary school go beyond the inability to pay school fees.

**Primary school enrolment by income group**

Income group	2000	2004	2007
Quintile 1 (lowest)	82	82	83
Quintile 2	83	88	88
Quintile 3	83	88	90
Quintile 4	81	86	91
Quintile 5 (highest)	82	85	91
Overall	82	86	89

Based on PEP Project PMMA-10810  
[portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11533](http://portal.pep-net.org/projects/view/zone/public/id/11533)

## NEWS

### **New Core and Program Funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)**

AusAID has agreed to provide the PEP network with \$AUS 800,000 in core and program funding. In addition to covering some of PEP's core staff costs, this funding will also finance 11 of the 15 grants PEP expects to award at its next general meeting (June 2010). Together with parallel funding for the Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI), PEP's study on the Impacts of Financial and Economic Crisis on Developing Countries, a new research Initiative on "Simulating the Distributive Impacts of Different Growth Strategies" (below), the 2008 ARTNeT-PEP Policy Forum: Trade, Investment and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth, and a CBMS Pilot Test of Indicators on Missing Dimensions of Poverty, this brings AusAID's contribution to PEP's third phase (2008-2011) of activities to over \$AUS 3 million.

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### **New Research Initiative on "Simulating the Distributive Impacts of Different Growth Strategies"**

PEP has successfully bid for a \$AUS 420,000 study on the distributive impacts of different growth strategies. Governments encourage growth through various policies: infrastructure, education, training, health, agricultural extension, trade, etc. Each strategy has wide-ranging impacts on the entire economy (sectoral production, wages and other factor returns, consumer prices, public finances, etc.) with very different distributive consequences. By building these "motors of growth" into an economy-wide model linked to a household survey-based microsimulation model, the project will simulate the distributive impacts of various growth policies, provide insights on accompanying policies to allow greater participation by the poor and a tool for researchers and policy makers.

In addition to funding for PEP resource persons to develop the core methodology, this initiative will also finance two of three country studies by teams of local researchers. This project will draw on the philosophy of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) network and will be carried out in collaboration with an international coordinating team of experienced researchers in macro and micro-modeling.

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### **Evaluating the effectiveness of alternative interventions to reduce teenage childbearing in Latin America**



With funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Latin-American office of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network, hosted by the Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE), has launched an initiative to provide technical and financial support to two projects, selected through an open competition, that evaluate the effectiveness of alternative interventions to reduce teenage childbearing in Latin America:

- Evaluating policies to reduce teenage childbearing: policies reducing education costs of households (Colombia, led by Dario Maldonado, Universidad del Rosario)
- Teenage Pregnancy and Educational Expectations (Chile, led by Claudia Martinez, University of Chile)

## Analyzing the Impacts of the Current Economic and Financial Crisis and Appropriate Policy Responses.

PEP's MPIA program has launched a multicountry research initiative on the impacts of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries. The program is receiving financial support from AUSAID, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and PEP. The project will include three Asian countries (Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan), three Latin America countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia) and five African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa). All researchers are either participating in current or have participated in past MPIA projects. R. Flores, D Laborde (from IFPRI) and B Decaluwé are leading this project with support from Helene Maisonnave, Veronique Robichaud, Ismael Fofana and Martin Cicowiez. Initial results from studies in Burkina Faso and South Africa were presented at the AERC conference on "Rethinking African Economic Policy in Light of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis" in December 2009. Final results will be presented during PEP's general meeting in June 2010 to be held in Dakar, Senegal.

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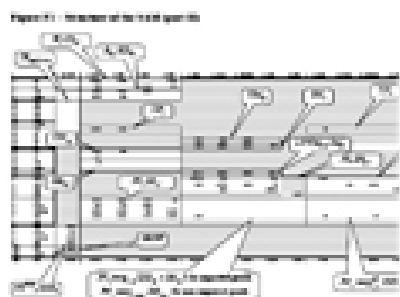


**Participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual GTAP conference:** A special session has been organized by Selim Raihan at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual GTAP conference in Bangkok in June 2010 with presentations of global crisis studies in Pakistan (Vaqr Ahmed), the Philippines (Erwin Corong) and Bangladesh (Selim Raihan). The South Africa crisis study will be presented in a separate session by H el ene Maisonnave. A two-day workshop bringing together the Asian teams participating in the global crisis study and PEP resource persons V eronique Robichaud, H el ene Maisonnave and Andr e Lemelin will also be organized immediately before the conference with from funding from AusAID.

Advancing training workshop on « Methodologies for Monitoring and Analyzing the Impacts of the Global Crisis », June 14, 2010 in Dakar as part of the PEP general meeting.

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## PEP Standard CGE Models for Policy Simulations



Andre Lemelin, Veronique Robichaud, Helene Maisonnave and Bernard Decaluw e are developing a series of "standard" models to help researchers implement a CGE approach in their respective countries. The first two models are already available: PEP 1-1 (national static model: "1 country and 1 period") and PEP 1-t (national dynamic model: "1 country and t periods"). PEP w-1 (world static model: "world and 1 period) and PEP w-t (world dynamic model: "world and t periods) will also be available very soon. With these models, researchers will be able to easily construct and apply a relatively standard model to their country. They are freely available to the public at: [www.pep-net.org/programs/mpia/pep-standard-cge-models/](http://www.pep-net.org/programs/mpia/pep-standard-cge-models/).

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**2<sup>nd</sup> PEP School on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling**, organized by the *Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES)* in Dakar, December 9-19 2009

The school, which lasted 10 business days, including Saturday, was held in cosy and well equipped premises of *l'École nationale d'administration (ENA)*, located at the Point E, in Dakar, in front of the Lycée Blaise Diagne, twenty minutes from Dakar Plateau. 24 participants, economists, statisticians or agronomist engineers attended.

The school was led by François Joseph Cabral, master-assistant at UCAD and researcher at the CRES, Hélène Maisonnave, Project coordinator at the *Financial and Fiscal Commission from South Africa and André Martens*. The chairpersons have benefited from an unwaivering logistic support by El Hadj Alioune Camara, in charge of the Economic Department of l'Université polytechnique de Thiès and researcher at the CRES, as well as by Yaya Ky, researcher at the CRES.

Many participants had previously received a training from the PEP website [www.pep-net.org](http://www.pep-net.org), which had taught them the basics of General Equilibrium (CGE); the coordination of the training was provided by Ismaël Fofana, researcher at the Laval University PEP office in Quebec. Each participant received *La politique économique du développement et les modèles d'équilibre général calculable* (Collection Universités Francophones, Presses de l'Université de Montréal, Montréal, 2001).

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### **FFC-PEP School Training on Poverty and Economic Policy Analysis**

After the successful completion of the second edition of the PEP School in Dakar (December 2009), this initiative is expanding to English-speaking Africa with a PEP School later this year in South Africa. The "*Financial and Fiscal Commission*" (FFC) in Midrand, South Africa, has taken the lead in launching the third year of PEP school on the theme of ***modeling the micro impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks***. The FFC-PEP school includes distance learning, training workshop and technical support components. Véronique Robichaud and Hélène Maisonnave will lead the training. Further information and registration at [www.pep-net.org/events/pep-school/](http://www.pep-net.org/events/pep-school/).

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### **Pilot Workshop on Poverty and Social Analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa**

This workshop was co-hosted by Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Economic Policy Research Center, Université Laval and UNDP, 23-27 November 2009. Strengthening national capacities for welfare analysis and formulation of inclusive growth policies is a key objective for UNDP and for PEP. The specific objectives of the pilot workshop are to:

- (a) test a new set of training materials using DASP;
- (b) enhance the skills of researchers and officials to conduct poverty and social impact assessments using quantitative data and state-of-the-art methods;
- (c) immediately begin to generate specific country analyses that deal with pressing policy concerns;
- (d) support the building of country teams that can collaborate and strengthen national networks for welfare analysis beyond the duration of the workshop;
- (e) and share experiences between African countries that have made important advancements in the area of poverty analysis.

Training materials will be finalized and made available to more country teams on a need basis through targeted workshops, a web-based interface and strengthened collaboration with academic and research-oriented institutions.

## EVENTS

### National policy conferences organized by PEP researchers

#### Joint MPIA-PMMA Policy conference at 6TH CBMS Philippines National Conference, December 9, 2009, Manila Diamond Hotel



CBMS-Philippines held its 6th National Conference on December 8-10 2009 at the Manila Diamond Hotel with the theme “*Building Partnerships, Strengthening Capacities and Fostering Responsive and Accountable Governance*”. One of the highlights of the Conference was the presentation of three PEP research papers in a joint policy conference:

- Impact Assessment of National and Regional Policies: An Application of the Philippine Regional General Equilibrium Model, Dr. Roehlano Briones - Philippines Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)
- Poverty Impacts of Preferential and Multilateral Trade Liberalization on the Philippines, Mr. Angelo Taningco, De La Salle University (DLSU)
- Labor Supply Responses to Adverse Shocks under Credit Constraints: Evidence from Bukidnon, Philippines - Ms. Jasmin Suministrado - Knowledge for Poverty Alleviation Programs, Center for Conscious Living Foundation, Inc. (CCLFI).

The Session was attended by more than 150 participants coming from the national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), research and academic institutions, international donor agencies and other development stakeholders. The participants from NGAs include representatives of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Investments (BOI), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) and Housing and Urban Development Council (HUDCC).

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#### National Conference, “*Impactos económicos y distributivos de la Reforma Tributaria*”, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, CINVE – Centro de Investigaciones Económicas, Montevideo, Uruguay



The Conference sought to ensure a wide dissemination of the study, its results and implications, as well as to provide a space for discussion between policy makers, researchers and experts in tax issues. In order to achieve these goals, the Conference consisted of a presentation of the paper “Assessing the Impact of the 2007 Tax Reform on Poverty and Inequality in Uruguay” (MPIA 11061), by Cecilia Llambí, and comments from two distinguished discussants: Mario Bergara, ex Vice- Minister of Economics and Finance of Uruguay and

coordinator of the Commission for the 2007 Tax Reform, created by the Ministry of Economics and Finance (MEF); and Juan Carlos Gomez Sabaini (Fiscal economist, expert in tax issues, Argentina)(see Conference Program below).

The main conclusions from the Conference were the following:

- a) It is clear that the 2007 Tax Reform represented progress in equity and efficiency of the tax system. This is not a frequent result, as it is often pointed out the existence of a tradeoff between efficiency and equity in the tax system design. But it is also true that the previous tax scheme was very distortionary.
- b) Main effects on inequality came from the “direct effects” of the implementation of the new progressive Direct Income Tax (IRPF). But considering that individuals in the lower half of the distribution currently face a very low effective tax rate, further modifications in marginal income tax rates on income are expected to have limited distributive effects.

The study was in general very welcome, as it is the first to analyze the Tax Reform as a whole, and the first to take into account general equilibrium effects of this important policy shock.

**Assessing the Impact of the 2007 Tax Reform on Poverty and Inequality in Uruguay**  
(MPIA Project 11061), by Cecilia Llambí, Uruguay,

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**National Conference entitled: *Políticas de Apertura Comercial e Impactos en Pobreza*, organized by Sara Wong and the Graduate School of Management–ESPAE, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2009**



Sara presented the results of her team’s PEP project “***Políticas Fiscales y Mayor Apertura Comercial: Impactos de Pobreza en Ecuador de un posible TLC con EE.UU.***”

The participants included a mix of university professors, students, and people from government agencies. The discussion was lively, with many questions from the participants mostly concerning policy implications of the research.

Sara says that the experience of organizing a national seminar was interesting. “... *It was very interesting to have people participating in this type of seminar, with a*

*formal discussion on policy issues. In particular, on issues regarding poverty and trade, which despite being a pressing issue for Ecuador, is not an issue that is discussed in this type of forum (that is, a seminar held in a university) –at least in Ecuador. The participants were please to have been invited to this type of discussion. At school, I hope this will become a regular practice.”*

**Poverty Impacts of Increased Openness and Fiscal Policies in a dollarized economy: A CGE-Micro Approach for Ecuador** (MPIA Project 10644), by Sara Wong, Ecuador

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**PAE/EAESP/FGV Evaluation of Family Scholarship: Taxation and Poverty, Samir Cury (EAESP-FGV)**, held at “Fundação Getúlio Vargas – São Paulo” in September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

This event was supported by the Economic Department from “Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo (FGV)”, which provided all the necessary infrastructure for the conference.

The seminar was planned and organized to achieve two main purposes. The first was the dissemination of the research final results ((MPIA11086) and the second was the debate about the research findings and its methodology in a non PEP environment.

The seminar was a mix of presentation and round table debate. Following the presentation, there were three invited well known commentators:

- **Ricardo Paes de Barros (IPEA)**: a leading researcher in poverty/income distribution field at this moment in Brazil.
- **Senator and professor Eduardo Suplicy (PT –SP)**: a 9 million votes senator by the state of Sao Paulo in his third term; and also a professor at FGV in Sao Paulo.
- **Andre Portela (Economics School professor at FGV-SP)**: is the president of Brazilian Econometric Society (SBE) and one of the main specialists on education and social programs.

The seminar was attended by more than 100 persons including several professors, students from the business and economic schools (grad and undergrad), NGO and research specialists and the press (mainly newspaper). Practically all the attendants stayed until the end and were very engaged in the debate.

Also, the seminar was entirely filmed by “GV Pesquisa” (The FGV research department) for its project “Pesquisa em Foco”. The intention was to prepare a video with the best conference parts. The edition is in the final process and is available on Internet: <http://eaesp.fgvsp.br/pt/ensinoeconhecimento/gvpesquisa/eaespemfoco>

The event was attended by journalists (invited through the press-release) including the two most important Brazilian newspapers (“Folha de São Paulo” and “O Globo”). Also, due to the above news in the main Brazilian newspaper, several online services reported news related to the research and/or the seminar.

<p><b>The impacts of income transfer programs on income distribution and poverty in Brazil: An integrated microsimulation and computable general equilibrium analysis</b>, (MPIA Project 11086) by Samir Cury, Brazil</p>
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## Presentations by PEP researchers at international conferences

### **IEN (Impact Evaluation Network) Third Meeting, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.**

The Third Meeting of the IEN was held at the Universidad de los Andes (Bogota, Colombia) on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 and was organized by the CEDLAS (Centro de Estudios Disruptivos, Laborales y Sociales, Universidad Nacional de la Plata), OVE (Office of Evaluation and Oversight) the Universidad de los Andes and the PEP Network. The organization committee was formed by María Laura Alzua (CEDLAS-Universidad Nacional de La Plata), Felipe Barrera-Osorio (Human Development Network-The World Bank), Ana María Ibañez (Universidad de los Andes) and Ana Santiago (Vice-Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge – Inter-American Development Bank). The keynote speaker was David Card from University of California, Berkeley

The meeting had an academic panel and a policy conference. The policy conference consisted of a brief course for policy makers and a special session held by 3ie (International

Initiative for Impact Evaluation) focusing on the main findings of Conditional Cash Transfers Programs, Supply of Day Care for disadvantaged children interventions and Water and Sanitation Projects. The main objective of this policy meeting was to bridge research and policy. The target audience of this meeting was public officers involved in areas related to program evaluation. 300, mainly government officials and students from Colombia were attending. The second day the meeting consisted of an academic panel focused specifically on capacity building. A set of papers chosen from an open call for papers were presented together with a presentation of David Card. Seven papers out of fifty five submitted were chosen. On the academic day: around 35 people attended.

**Social Security Reform in Argentina: Impact on Poverty, Income Inequality and Vulnerability** (MPIA Project 10411), by Maria-Laura Alzua

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PEP continuously updates a list of events outside PEP that are judged to be of potential interest to PEP and other poverty researchers: [www.pep-net.org/events/related-events/](http://www.pep-net.org/events/related-events/).

## NEW PEP RESEARCH GRANTS

In addition to substantial scientific and technical support provided by PEP, teams selected through an open and competitive call for proposals, receive a CAD 20,000\$ grant, and are eligible for additional financial support of up to 30,000\$ for various activities: participation in a PEP General meeting (to present their final report), participation in a four-week study visit to the institution of their choice, participation in an international conference, publication of a PEP working paper, publication of a journal article, and organization of a national policy conference.

**Dario Maldonado, Colombia**, Evaluating policies to reduce teenage childbearing: policies reducing education costs of households.

**Claudia Martinez, Chile**, Teenage Pregnancy and Educational Expectations

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### New Working Papers

Three new working papers have been published since our last PEP-Talk.

**Assogba Hodonou, Damien Mededji, Armande Gninanfon and Astherve Totin**, Dynamique de la pauvreté au Bénin : Approche par le processus Markovien

**Cosme Zinsou Vodounou**, Pauvreté multidimensionnelle et politiques sociales au Bénin

**Alaya Ouarme, Idrissa Ouli and Awa Maty Basse**, Pauvreté et vulnérabilité au Burkina Faso: Indicateur composite de Noyau dur de la pauvreté

PEP working papers are available at: [www.pep-net.org/publications/working-papers/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/working-papers/)

## New External Publications:

**Tabi Atemnkeng Johannes (2009)**, “*Who Benefits from Combined Tax and Public Expenditure Policies in Cameroon?*”, *The Journal of Developing Areas*, Volume 43, Number 1, Fall 2009, pp. 1-23

The work jointly and separately examines the redistributive and poverty effects of tax and public expenditures (education and health) in Cameroon. The tax system is generally progressive but less so than the benefits of public expenditure. While overall public spending is mostly progressive in rural areas, followed by semi-urban and urban areas, the opposite is true for tax incidence. Tax burden weighs more on the urban, followed by rural and semi-urban population. Putting the two sets of policies together, they are found to mainly reflect fiscal policies in that they are more progressive and poverty-reducing when we use relative poverty lines, in rural areas, followed by semi-urban and urban areas, respectively. Though we also realized a poverty-increasing effect of the net tax system using absolute poverty lines, the poverty impact still remains minimal in the rural areas where poverty is high and inequality actually increased between 1996 and 2001.

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**Sugata Marjit (2009)** “*Urban Informal Sector and Poverty*”, *International Review of Economics & Finance*, October 2009, Volume. 18 Issue 4, p 631-642

Many studies analyzed the bond between trade and poverty, theoretically and empirically for the developing countries. We offer another glance on the possible implications of the liberalization of the trade on urban poverty by the use of the urban abstract sector like a catalyst. In addition, using provincial data on wages, capital stock and value added in the informal sector, show us that real wages have increased with trade and the favourable impact on reducing poverty.

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**Margaret Chitiga (2009)**, “*Short-run Effects of Tariff Reform in Zimbabwe: Applied General Equilibrium Analysis*”, *Journal of African Economies*, Volume 10 Number 2

This paper applies a short-run computable general equilibrium model for Zimbabwe to analyse how tariff reform could have modified the effects of the actual trade liberalisation that took place in the 1990s. This is important because the trade liberalisation removed quantitative restrictions but left tariff rates intact. The results show that tariffs on intermediates have held back production in traded sectors. Thus, the nature of the trade reform taken contributed to more deindustrialisation than necessary. The results also show the tradeoff with respect to the fiscal balance, which points to the need to ensure that an alternative tax system is in place before removing customs tax revenue

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**Lucas Ronconi (2009)**, “*Estimates of the Benefit Incidence of Workfare*”, *Economia*, Volume 9, Number 2,

In 1996 the Argentine government, with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank, implemented a temporary public works program known as *Programa Trabajar*. The program was targeted toward poor and unemployed people, and a main objective was to increase the current income of recipients. Program participants received a maximum benefit of 200 pesos per month (equal to the legal minimum wage) in exchange for working in community projects. Approximately 80,000 people a year participated in the program between 1996 and 2002, representing less than one percent of total employment.

In 2001 Argentina suffered a severe political and economic crisis. The poverty rate increased from 30 percent to more than 50 percent in a year. A new government took office in 2002, and one of its principal policies was to make the public works program universal. The number of beneficiaries expanded exponentially, reaching two million people in a country of thirty-nine million. The name of the program was also changed from Trabajar to Jefes de Hogar.

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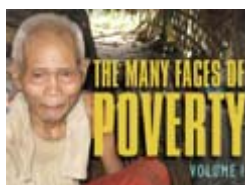
**Gustavo Yamada (2009)**, "*Educational attainment, growth and poverty reduction within the MDG framework: simulations and costing for the Peruvian case*", *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, Volume 12, Issue 1.

We propose a model that accounts for the feedback between access to educational services, human capital accumulation and long-run GDP growth. With this framework, it is possible to simultaneously assess the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) education targets in terms of their impact on aggregate income growth and poverty incidence. We simulate our model using Peruvian data and different planner preferences regarding access to distinct education cycles. Results reveal that to attain a significant impact on GDP growth and poverty reduction, Peru needs to extend the original set of MDG indicators to account for access to higher education levels besides primary.

For a complete list of PEP external publications: [www.pep-net.org/publications/external-publications/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/external-publications/)

## New Books

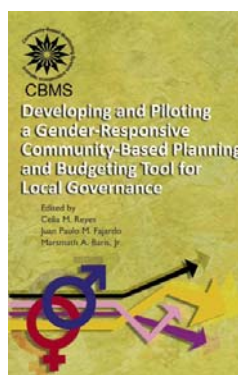
### The Many Faces of Poverty (Volume 1)



This volume of statistical tables and poverty maps of seven provinces generated through the CBMS methodology represents part of what we hope will be a series of publications that will emerge from the collaborations between the CBMS Network Coordinating Team and its partner-LGUs. These partnerships have been in place for several years now, and these partner-LGUs are finally enjoying the fruits of their hard labor.

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### "Developing and Piloting a Gender-Responsive Community-Based Planning and Budgeting Tool for Local Governance" & "The Many Faces of Poverty" (Volume 1)



Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) "gender budgeting" has been promoted in many countries to get a deeper insight on actual government expenditure programming. Analyzing budgets from a gender perspective is seen to help governments make informed decisions on how to implement policies, adjust courses of action when necessary and reallocate resources where needed in order to narrow down disparities in living conditions and socioeconomic standings, not only across sexes but also age groups and social clusters.

The CBMS-GRB initiative in the Philippines attempted to show how CBMS can facilitate GRB. The enhanced BBMS will be used to formulate plans and budgets and to analyze the impact of these spending on the situation of men and women, boys and girls in this country.

**Forthcoming book: Libéralisation commerciale et pauvreté en Afrique, by John Cockburn, Bernard Decaluwe and Ismael Fofana (published by the Presses de l'Université Laval)**

In this book, local and international researchers collaborate in implementing recent research techniques to analyze the distributional impacts of trade liberalization while taking into account the diversity and specificity of African economies. The studies presented in this book adopt a common micro-macro framework of analysis in order to capture both the overall structure of the economies studied and the household-specific distributional impacts. These methods make it possible to understand the role of economic structure and national specificities in determining whether trade liberalization increases or reduces poverty within specific populations. In particular, all studies use integrated computable general equilibrium (CGE) microsimulation models that explicitly and individually incorporate all households from nationally representative household surveys.

The origin of the book is a project on trade liberalization and poverty in Africa commissioned by the World Bank and funded as part by the Bank-Netherlands Partnership Program (BNPP). The studies were conducted by African researchers and a team of resource persons from Université Laval in Canada. The project included studies of four African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Senegal. Similar studies carried out in Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Guinea were subsequently invite to contribute to the current book. The book is addressed to African policy makers, to African civil society organizations and professionals, staff of international agencies and to individuals interested in trade liberalization and poverty in Africa.

For a complete list of PEP books: [www.pep-net.org/publications/pep-books/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/pep-books/)

## NEW POLICY BRIEFS

In a continuing effort to share the results of PEP-funded research with policy makers and other potential research users, PEP researchers continue to contribute to our policy brief series. PEP Policy Briefs are one-pagers that emphasize the key policy lessons from the research done by PEP researchers. They are primarily designed to stimulate informed debate about the research subject as well as facilitate evidence-based policymaking. Each brief provides the findings of a PEP-funded study, highlighting their policy implications and/or recommendations. These policy briefs outline important policy issues and provide evidence-based insights and recommendations in their regard. Each policy brief features a link to an underlying working paper, which develops the arguments in more detail for interested readers.

### PMMA

**PMMA 61** - [Politiques pour sortir de la pauvreté au Bénin](#) by Mèdessè Armande GNINANFON, Assogba HODONOU, Astherve Houénafa TOTIN, Damien Mededji - January 2010 (Based on PMMA Working Paper )

**PMMA 60** - [Family Allowances and Child School Attendance. An ex-ante Evaluation of Alternative Schemes in Uruguay](#) by Gioia De Melo, Veronica Amarante, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo - October 2009 (Based on PMMA Working Paper ) Uruguay

**PMMA 58** - [Effects of Education on Earnings Inequality in Urban China: 1988-2003](#) by Xiaohua Li, Yaohui Zhao, Lili Lu - September 2009 (Based on PMMA Working Paper 2008-09) - China

**PMMA 54** - [Inequality, Polarization and Poverty in Nigeria](#) by Isaac Oluwatayo, Oluwakemi Adewusi, Taiwo Timothy Awoyemi - June 2009 (Based on PMMA Working Paper ) - Nigeria

## MPIA

**MPIA 63** - [Impact Assessment of National and Regional Policies using the Philippine Regional General Equilibrium Model \(PRGEM\)](#) by Ella Antonio, Roehlano Briones, Grace Borja, Kristine Villarino, Cielito F. Habito - February 2010 (Based on MPIA Working Paper )

**MPIA 62** - [Poverty Impacts of Preferential and Multilateral Trade Liberalization on the Philippines](#) by Rachel Reyes, Angelo Taningco - February 2010 (Based on MPIA Working Paper )

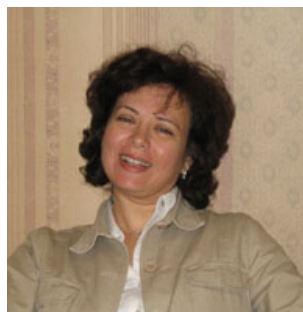
**MPIA 59** - [Poverty and Inequality Impacts of the 2007 Tax Reform in Uruguay](#) by Mery Ferrando, Cecilia Llambí, Juan Marcelo Perera, Silvia Laens - October 2009 (Based on MPIA Working Paper )

**MPIA 55** - [Fiscal Policies and Increased Trade Openness: Poverty Impacts in Ecuador](#) by Sara Wong, Ricardo Arguello, Ketty Rivera - June 2009 (Based on MPIA Working Paper 2008-19) – Ecuador

PEP Policy Briefs are available at: [www.pep-net.org/no\\_cache/publications/policy-briefs/](http://www.pep-net.org/no_cache/publications/policy-briefs/)

## PORTRAITS OF PEP MEMBERS

### Ghada Barsoum, Egypt



Ghada Barsoum holds a Doctorate in Sociology from University of Toronto (2005) and a Master's degree in Sociology/Anthropology from the American University in Cairo (1999). She is currently a Senior Program Manager at the Population Council's West Asia and North Africa office located in Egypt. As such, she is responsible for a portfolio of grants in the thematic areas of poverty, gender and youth. Recent major projects include a youth survey, the Survey on Young People in Egypt, which has a nationally representative sample of 15,000 young people in Egypt aged 10-29. This multi-donor initiative seeks to update the state of knowledge on youth in Egypt, an area with serious dearth in data. With a team of collaborators from both inside the Council and elsewhere, she has recently concluded a study on job quality in Egypt, Morocco and Jordan with support from IDRC. Barsoum has also lead programmatic activities as part of a capacity building initiative on gender and work in the MENA region, which provides young researchers with training workshops, small grants and dissemination venues. The initiative has been supported by IDRC. Very recently, she started a project on equality of access to higher education in Egypt, with support from the Ford Foundation. Barsoum is currently part of the team of a PEP-funded project entitled: Assessing the Impact of the Ishraq Intervention, A Second-Chance Program for Out-of-school Rural Adolescent Girls in Egypt.

Barsoum was recently invited to teach a course at the American University in Cairo entitled "Problems in the Middle East". The course focused on gender and youth issues in the region with emphasis on employment, education and poverty.

Barsoum has a published book entitled "The Employment Crisis of Female Graduates in Egypt, An Ethnographic Account" by the American University in Cairo. She is also author of three papers in peer-reviewed journals on micro-finance in Egypt and international migration.

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### **Renato Flôres, President of the PEP Program Committee, Brazil**



After graduating as a Systems Engineer, I realised that my cup of tea was mathematics and started a PhD in probability theory. Less than halfway to completing the doctorate, two facts began to annoy me. Though not enduring hard times, I lived short of money; moreover, if still fascinated by the elegant probabilistic reasoning, I sought involvement with real problems and people. I quit for a position recently opened in the Ministry of Planning, which offered an answer to both my needs. It meant a professional revolution.

As an applied mathematician, I interacted with economists (the subject in which I later got his doctorate), sociologists and geographers. My knowledge – the tests, the experimental designs I mastered and the modelling abilities I learned to develop – improved the quality of fieldwork and was useful in guiding policy and concrete actions. In a successful career, I received the huge responsibility of co-ordinating the 1980 General Census – a war operation in Brazil – and ended up in top executive posts. But the academic call resurfaced, driving me to an extended leave in Brussels. Life changed again, as during the Belgian years my attention was drawn to international trade and applied general equilibrium. From trade, a smooth evolution took place, to eventually encompass the serious questions of poverty and inequality, passing through the legal issues connected to the GATT-WTO.

Back in Brazil, I spent nearly three years collaborating with the IADB, Washington D.C., thanks to my European integration and modelling expertises. All along this path, the dynamics in different societies, countries and organisations added an extra touch to my education: the key role of politics, enabling one to identify the impact that even a small community programme in a tiny island has. In Lima, Peru, I met the PEP team. This text is one of many results of the ensuing love affair. Personal life histories are no model to anyone, but I would close with a statement: do – with passion – what you like and you will arrive in peaceful havens, or perhaps, never, but a *journée grandiose is ensured*".

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### **Christian Arnault Emini, Cameroon**



Christian Arnault Emini holds a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Yaounde2 in Cameroon, where he is currently a Senior Lecturer and teaches Microeconomics and Macroeconomic Modeling. His research works focus on issues related to economic policy analysis, international trade, taxation, and poverty.

Dr Emini possesses expertise in Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models, including several most up-to-date techniques and extensions. Since his earlier modeling works, he has contributed to show how important is to genuinely model "imperfect" Value Added Tax (VAT) usually in force in developing countries; instead of specifying this tax in CGEs as a simple pure VAT, as commonly done.

Furthermore, he contributed in building the earlier versions of the CGE model of the Quebec Ministry of Finance, in Canada, within a work team led by Professor Bernard Decaluwé. He has also done CGE works partly on the basis of which the World Bank recently and officially made some policy recommendations to the Cameroonian Government. He also contributed in recent years to the database underlying the GTAP (Global Trade Analysis Project) worldwide CGE model at Purdue University (USA).

He has been collaborating for a long while with the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network and was, for instance, the lead researcher for the PEP-funded project: *“Decomposing the Effects of Economic Policies on Poverty Trends in Cameroon: A Double Calibration Micro Simulated General Equilibrium Analysis”*.

Apart from PEP, Dr Emini has worked for several other national and international organizations or governments as a consultant, including the World Bank, IMF, GTZ (German Technical Assistance), Government of Cameroon, Government of Rwanda, the African Economic Research Consortium, GTAP, and UNICEF.

He is author or co-author of several chapters in books and has several working papers in the World Bank Policy Research Working Papers, and the PEP Research Network Working Paper series. He has just released, with co-authors from PEP and the “UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre” (Florence, Italy) a study on the impacts of the recent world economic crisis and policy responses on children in West and Central Africa.

His ongoing researches include the appraisal of impacts of the Economic Partnership Agreements between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Since September 2005, Dr Emini occupies the position of Adviser for Economic and Prospects’ Affairs at the Prime Minister’s Office in Cameroon, following an appointment by a presidential decree.

### **Cecilia Llambí, Uruguay**



Cecilia Llambí is an Economist from the Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay. She is currently an Associate and Senior Researcher at CINVE–Centro de Investigaciones Económicas, Montevideo. Her main research interests are income distribution, education and labour economics and public spending and taxation. She has been the lead researcher in a project supported by PEP, and is currently part of a research team working on an IFPRI–PEP funded project.

Her current research activities focus on education (focusing on evaluation of public policies on child care in early childhood, primary and basic education); public spending and income distribution; and the effects of the international economic crisis in Uruguay and evaluation of alternative policy options.

She has previously consulted for the Inter American Development Bank (IADB), the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); among other institutions. She has also participated in and presented papers at many local, regional and international workshops and conferences, including World Congresses in her areas of research.

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### **Jean-Yves Duclos (Laval University, Québec, Canada)**



Jean-Yves Duclos completed his bachelor’s degree at the University of Alberta in 1988 and his master’s degree and Ph.D. in Economics at the London School of Economics in 1989 and 1992. He has been teaching at Université Laval since 1993, after working at the STICERD Centre of the London School of Economics as a researcher on transition economies. He was also visiting professor at the University of New South Wales in Australia (1999) and visiting research fellow at the Institut d’Anàlisi Econòmica, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2000-2001 and 2008-2009). He was president of the Société canadienne de science économique (2005-

2006), co-director (2002-2005) and director (2005-2008) of the Interuniversity Centre on Risk, Economic Policies and Employment (CIRPÉE) and has been program director of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network since 2001.

Jean-Yves' research is concerned mainly with applied econometrics, labour economics, public economics and development economics. It can be divided into three main themes. The first theme addresses statistical tools enabling the analysis and comparison of distributions of living standards. The second theme studies the impact of public policy on the distribution of welfare and on individual behaviour (including consumption, employment and social assistance receipt.) The third theme deals with normative analysis in economics and, more specifically, ethical principles and measures that may guide welfare comparisons and the analysis of equity, poverty and inequality issues.

Jean-Yves' work has been published in several international scientific journals. Since 2007, he is also editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*. In 2006, he published (with Abdelkrim Araar) the book *Poverty and Equity: Measurement, Policy and Estimation with DAD* at Springer. This book complements the DAD distributive analysis software ([www.mimap.ecn.ulaval.ca](http://www.mimap.ecn.ulaval.ca)), which has been downloaded by more than 5000 users around the world and is used as a teaching tool in some universities. This software greatly simplifies the normative and statistical analysis of welfare distributions in terms of inequality, social welfare and poverty. The software has more recently evolved into a Stata-compatible set of routines called *DASP: Distributive Analysis for STATA Package*, available free of charge at [dasp.ecn.ulaval.ca](http://dasp.ecn.ulaval.ca).

## Hot PEPpers: News of PEP members



### Habiba Djebbari, Canada

We are proud to announce that the Executive Committee of the Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque, les Politiques Économiques et l'Emploi (the Interuniversity Centre on Risk, Economic Policy and Labor) has unanimously accepted to welcome Habiba Djebbari, leader of PEP's Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative program, as a regular member.

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### Pierre Joubert Nguetse Tegoum, Cameroon

The project entitled: «*Impact de la Discrimination de genre sur la pauvreté et les inégalités au Cameroun: une approche distributionnelle*» has allowed the young Pierre Joubert NGUETSE TEGOUM, from Cameroon, to enhance his knowledge, bringing him to the position of Project Manager for the *Consortium pour la Recherche Économique en Afrique (CREA)*. Furthermore, he just won the best international award Jan Tinbergen (gold medal) for young statistician for developing countries. This award will be granted to him between August 16 and 22 in Durban, South Africa. See results at: <http://isi.cbs.nl/awards-prizes.htm>

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### Roxana Maurizio, Argentina

Roxana Maurizio obtained last year a Ph.D. in Economics (at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina) and has been accepted as member of the Career of Scientific and Technological Researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) – the National Council for Science and Technology of Argentina



### **Vaqar Ahmed, Pakistan**

Vaqar Ahmed, a PEP researcher since 2007, has been selected to head the Integrating Policy with Research Initiative (IPRI) Project of the Government of Pakistan. His research duties will include advising the government on the ongoing IMF standby arrangement, providing policy input on Medium Term Budgetary Framework (in collaboration with DFID) and coordinate the 10th Five Year Development Plan currently under preparation at the Planning Commission. Vaqar is also a technical associate for the Panel of Economists constituted by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to advise on the current economic crisis situation. His team is actively making use of the quantitative models developed under the guidance of PEP network. The team will also be releasing its findings on the welfare impact of possible introduction of VAT in Pakistan. This study uses the tax-focused CGE model developed in collaboration with other PEP researchers in 2009.

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### **Ismaël Fofana, Canada**

After having obtained his B.A. in Agricultural Economics and Management (Tunisia), his Engineer in Agricultural Economics license (Tunisia), his M.A. in Economics at Université Laval (Canada), Ismaël has defended, with Success, his PhD in Economic Sciences on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Université Paris I-Sorbonne.

Congratulations to Ismaël for his good work.

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### **Erwin Corong, Philippines**

MPIA researcher and resource person, Erwin Corong is proud to introduce us to his new baby girl Marie-Therese. The baby was born on January 21 2010. Both the baby and the mother (Marge) are well. Erwin informed us that he recently updated his resume by adding his new talent as a nappy changer.

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Rafael Ribas (PIERI-11242, Brazil) has been accepted into the PhD programme at the Department of Economics of the University of Illinois. Joana Costa (also PIERI-11242, Brazil) has been accepted into the PhD programme at the Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ).

## ABOUT PEP

### A Brief Overview of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network

***PEP's Vision: A global network of developing country researchers with the skills and reputation to participate in and influence national and international academic and policy debates on poverty issues.***

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network brings together and provide technical and financial support to developing country researchers working to reduce poverty. PEP is managed by four principal partners:

- **African Office:** Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale (CRES), Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
- **Asian Office:** Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI), De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines
- **Latin American Office:** El Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), Lima, Peru
- **North American Office:** Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque, les Politiques Économiques et l'Emploi (CIRPÉE), Université Laval, Quebec, Canada

and is composed of four programs:

- Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS).
- Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA);
- Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI);
- Poverty Measurement, Monitoring and Analysis (PMMA);

### PEP Web site

As a member of the PEP Network, you join the ranks of more than 6,000 policy makers, researchers, civil society representatives and other individuals interested in reducing poverty worldwide, who interact and network on the PEP website! Our website has registered over 250,000 visits to date. In order to ensure that we can keep in contact with you and share our newsletters and calls for proposals, we kindly ask that you keep your personal information updated on the website. To do so, please follow these simple steps:

- Open a session ([www.pep-net.org](http://www.pep-net.org))
- Login with your username and password (If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, click on the "Forgot username or password?" link and follow the instructions.)
- Click on "Profile"
- Update your information and then click on "Submit" (at the bottom);
- You may even add your picture (we encourage you to do so) by selecting it from your computer and then clicking on "Submit";
- You may also add a short biography and post your CV. If you want this to be public, check "Check if you want your CV, full address and phone numbers to be published on the Web site"
- You may also indicate the e-mail addresses at which you would like to receive PEP announcements and PEP-TALK;
- If you do not wish to be part of this mailing list any more, please deselect the box "I want to receive the PEP-TALK".

Thank you for taking the time to update your account and do not hesitate to contact us at [pep@ecn.ulaval.ca](mailto:pep@ecn.ulaval.ca) if you have any questions.

### Other Funding for PEP Researchers

All members of PEP-funded research teams are reminded that they are eligible to apply for additional funding for various activities: publication of a journal article, organization of a national policy conference, participation in an international conference. This additional funding is provided on a competitive basis. Details are provided in the **PEP Grants Manual**: [www.pep-net.org/funding/guides/](http://www.pep-net.org/funding/guides/).

### Online Literature Search Tools

The PEP web site offers a guide to on line research tools: [www.pep-net.org/links-resources/other-links-resources/](http://www.pep-net.org/links-resources/other-links-resources/). In particular, this page outlines the Research Database Service offered by our funder, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to all PEP-funded research teams.

### Editorial Team

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Evelyne Joyal, editor, [evelyne.joyal@ecn.ulaval.ca](mailto:evelyne.joyal@ecn.ulaval.ca)

For more information or to register, please visit: [www.pep-net.org](http://www.pep-net.org)

If you have news you would like to share, please email us at [pep@ecn.ulaval.ca](mailto:pep@ecn.ulaval.ca) and it will be our pleasure to publish it in the next edition of PEP-TALK.

**Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues!**

**THE PEP NETWORK IS FUNDED BY:**

- The International Development Research Centre (IDRC, [www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)) through its Globalization, Growth and Poverty (GPP) program.



- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA, [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca))



- The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID, [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)).



**REGIONAL OFFICES**

- Asia: The Angelo King Institute (AKI, [www.dlsu.edu.ph](http://www.dlsu.edu.ph))



- Africa: Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale ([www.cres-ucad.org](http://www.cres-ucad.org))



- Latin America: Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE, [www.grade.org.pe](http://www.grade.org.pe))



- North America: Laval University ([www.ulaval.ca](http://www.ulaval.ca))

