

Launch and Presentation of WIDER Study on Rising Spatial Disparities and Development: why do they matter?

Ravi Kanbur and Anthony J. Venables

Monday 3 October 2005, 12:30 – 14:30 at

The Department for International Development (DFID), London

Spatial disparities are a measure of the unequal distribution of income, wealth, power and resources between peoples in different locations. As a dimension of overall inequality, spatial disparities have added significance when combined with regional divisions and political and ethnic tensions that can undermine social and political stability. The accurate measurement of spatial disparities and the analysis of their causes and consequences are therefore of particular importance.

The study by the **World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University (UNU-WIDER)** focuses on issues of poverty and inequality that are directly related to the Millennium Development Goals. It addresses a wide range of issues including conflict-inequality, inter-linkages, poverty mapping, and the causes and consequences of inequality. It applies the latest research techniques such as regression-based decomposition, poverty decomposition and computable general equilibrium models.

The authors examine spatial disparities in countries and regions that are attracting considerable professional and political attention, including Africa, central Asia, China, Latin America, and Russia.

Containing theoretical and empirical contributions by some of the most prominent economists in the area of inequality and development studies, this study will be of interest to economists, sociologists and policy makers.

Admission is free; please register in advance:

The Department for International Development (DFID)

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE

E-mail: sj-williams@dfid.gov.uk

www.dfid.gov.uk

CHAIRPERSON

Anthony Shorrocks is the Director of UNU-WIDER and has previously held positions at the LSE and University of Essex. He has published widely on income and wealth distribution, inequality and poverty.

SPEAKERS

Ravi Kanbur is T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics at Cornell University. He was previously Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick, and Chief Economist for Africa at the World Bank. He is the Co-Director of the WIDER study on Spatial Disparities.

Anthony J. Venables is chief economist in the UK Department for International Development and professor of international economics at the London School of Economics. He also directs the globalization programme at the LSE Centre for Economic Performance and is a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research. He is co-director of the WIDER study on Spatial Disparities.

DISCUSSANT

L. Alan Winters is the Director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank, has worked previously in the Bank as Division Chief and Research Manager (1994-99) and Economist (1983-85). He is on leave from the University of Sussex where he is Professor of Economics. He is a Research Fellow and former Programme Director of the CEPR and has worked in the Universities of Cambridge, Bristol, Wales and Birmingham.



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The presentations are based on the following publications

<p>Spatial Issues in Africa</p> <p>Edited by Ravi Kanbur and Anthony Venables</p> <p>Journal of African Economies Volume 12 Number 4 (December 2003) Oxford University Press</p>	
<p>Spatial Inequality and Development</p> <p>Edited by Ravi Kanbur and Anthony J. Venables (hardback) 0-19-927863-6, (January 2005) UNU-WIDER Studies in Development Economics Oxford University Press www.oup.co.uk</p>	
<p>Special issue on Spatial Inequality and Development</p> <p>Edited by Ravi Kanbur and Anthony J. Venables</p> <p>Journal of Economic Geography Volume 5 Number 1 (January 2005) Oxford University Press</p>	
<p>Special Issue: Spatial Inequality and Development in Asia</p> <p>Guest Editors: Ravi Kanbur, Anthony J. Venables and Guanghua Wan</p> <p>Review of Development Economics Volume 9 Number 1 (February 2005) Blackwell Publishing</p>	
<p>Symposium on Spatial Inequality in Latin America</p> <p>Edited by Ravi Kanbur, Luis F. López-Calva and Anthony J. Venables</p> <p>Cuadernos de Economía, Latin American Journal of Economics, Volume 42, Number 125 (May 2005)</p>	
<p>Spatial Disparities in Human Development: Perspectives from Asia</p> <p>Edited by Ravi Kanbur, Anthony J. Venables and Guanghua Wan</p> <p>(paperback) 92-808-1122-3 (November 2005) United Nations University Press</p>	

World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University (UNU-WIDER) was established in 1985. The institute undertakes multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on structural changes affecting the living conditions of the world's poorest people; provides a forum for professional interaction and the advocacy of policies leading to robust, equitable and environmentally sustainable growth; and promotes capacity strengthening and training for scholars and government officials in the field of economic and social policy making.

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