You are cordially invited to the 2016 WIDER Annual Lecture by Martin Ravallion. He will discuss the economic and political issues of the use of direct interventions, such as cash transfers and in-kind contributions, against poverty. The event is organized in collaboration with the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE).

The new millennium has seen a huge increase in the use of direct interventions against poverty in the developing world. Payments in cash or in kind are targeted in ways to identified poor families. There is much hope for these interventions, but also much frustration; their performance in reality has often fallen short of policy makers’ expectations. The lecture will review the economic and political issues that arise, and the evidence on both the successes and failures, based on the many impact evaluations that have been done over the last 15 years. Lessons will be drawn for making these programmes more effective, and challenges will be identified for future research aiming to better inform policy choices. The lecture will draw in part on Ravallion’s new book, The Economics of Poverty: History, Measurement and Policy.

The event will be webcast live.

PROGRAMME
14:30 – 15:00 Registration and coffee
15:00 – 17:30
Welcome
Torbjörn Becker, Director of SITE and Lena Ingelstam, Director of Partnerships and Innovations at Sida
Introduction
Finn Tarp, Director of UNU-WIDER
Annual Lecture
Martin Ravallion, Edmond D. Villani Chair of Economics at Georgetown University
Discussion
Annika Sundén, Chief Economist of Sida and Tony Addison, Chief Economist & Deputy Director of UNU-WIDER
Q&A
17:30 – 18:30 Reception and refreshments