Addressing group-based inequalities

Rachel Gisselquist

Broad global consensus around the importance of addressing inequality has attracted considerable research and policy attention. This is underscored in the core SDG principle of Leave No One Behind as well as in SDG 10. A rich body of research provides evidence on the nature and impact of inequalities and on policy options and their effectiveness. Drawing on the UNU-WIDER project *Addressing Group-based Inequality*, this presentation highlights two key areas in which we need to know more. First, the politics of addressing inequality: Given we know quite a lot about policies that can mediate inequality, why aren't such policies implemented? How do countries build the political will to address inequality, and why do they adopt one policy rather than another? How does local context influence implementation and sustainability? Second, group-based and ethnic inequality: We know much more about policies to address vertical inequality than horizontal or group-based inequality. The second half of the presentation focuses on emerging findings in these areas from the project. It presents a new mapping of policy options to address ethnic inequality and a framework for comparing the influence of distributional politics across contexts. Focusing on Global South countries, it offers illustrations from diverse case studies and a new cross-country database on affirmative action around the world.