

## A Joint Approach to Measuring Poverty and Gender Disparity

Professor Thomas Pogge,

Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (an Australian Research Council Special Research Centre at Charles Sturt University and the University of Melbourne) & Yale University

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Doors at 4:30, Talk begins 5:15 - 6:30 pm

The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton.



The importance of reducing poverty and gender disparity is widely accepted. But how is their evolution over time to be tracked? Leaving these indexing tasks to officials in governments and international agencies was not a good idea: such officials are not well equipped to ponder the important moral issues involved and have substantial career incentives to come up with rosy pictures. Highly influential, existing indexes are also deeply flawed: distorting our moral judgments and misguiding resource allocations by governments, international agencies, and NGOs. Based on a clear understanding of these flaws, our research team is working toward improved measures whose construction involves substantial discussions with poor people at 18 sites in six countries. This work is not yet complete, but there are some preliminary findings that will influence the next stages of the research as well as the kinds of indexes likely to emerge.

### **The Project** *Measuring Poverty and Gender Disparity*

This research project seeks to provide an answer to the question: what is a just and justifiable measure of poverty that is truly gender sensitive and capable of revealing gender disparities? An interdisciplinary team of academics has partnered with leading NGOs to investigate this question by combining the expertise and insights of poor men and women with leading figures from a variety of disciplines.

[www.genderpovertymeasure.org](http://www.genderpovertymeasure.org)

### **The Speaker** *Professor Thomas Pogge*

Having received his PhD in philosophy from Harvard, Professor Thomas Pogge has published widely on Immanuel Kant and in moral and political philosophy, including various books on John Rawls and global justice. Thomas Pogge will soon take up a professorial research fellowship at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University and is Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University. With past support from the Australian Research Council, the UK-based BUPA Foundation and the European Commission (7th Framework) his recent work has been devoted to a team effort towards developing a complement to the pharmaceutical patent regime that would improve access to advanced medicines for the poor worldwide.

[www.healthimpactfund.org](http://www.healthimpactfund.org)

This is an event in the 2012 seminar series of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics [www.cappe.edu.au](http://www.cappe.edu.au) and conducted in association with the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/accc/> both at Charles Sturt University