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Workshop Program - Earnings Inequality

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◦ The Jerome Levy ◦
Economics Institute
of Bard College

LEVY INSTITUTE

Workshop on Earnings Inequality

June 6, 2000

PROGRAM

- 9:00–9:30 A.M. BREAKFAST
- 9:30–11:00 A.M. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, Levy Institute
- SESSION 1. MOBILITY
CHAIR: **Paul Solman**, The NewsHour
Martina Morris, Department of Sociology, Penn State University, “Job Instability and Long-Term Wage Growth”
Peter Gottschalk, Department of Economics, Boston College, “On the Evaluation of Economic Mobility—Is the U.S. More Mobile than Germany?” (with **Enrico Spolare**)
- 11:00–11:15 A.M. BREAK
- 11:15 A.M.–12:45 P.M. SESSION 2. TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS I
CHAIR: **Paul Solman**, The NewsHour
Kenneth R. Troske, Department of Economics, University of Missouri–Columbia, “Wage and Productivity Dispersion in U.S. Manufacturing: The Role of Computer Investment”
Roberto M. Fernandez, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, “Skill-Biased Technological Change and Wage Inequality: Evidence From a Plant Retooling”
- 12:45–1:45 P.M. LUNCH
- 1:45–3:15 P.M. SESSION 3. TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS II
CHAIR: **Edward N. Wolff**, Levy Institute; New York University
Eli Berman, Department of Economics, Boston University, “Skill-Bias, Technology, and Manufacturing—An Update”
Michael J. Handel, Levy Institute, “Is There a Skills Crisis?”
- 3:15–3:30 P.M. BREAK

3:30-5:00 P.M.

SESSION 4. BIG PICTURE/EFFECTS OF 1990s EXPANSION

CHAIR: Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, Levy Institute

James K. Galbraith, Levy Institute; LBJ School of

Public Policy, University of Texas at Austin, "Inequality, Unemployment,
and Growth"

John Schmitt, Economic Policy Institute, "Changes in the U.S. Wage
Structure, 1989-99"

how the aggregate cross-sectional trends play out in terms of job instability and wage growth. Some of the findings from this project will be presented here. She has written many articles and book chapters and worked, with M. S. Handcock, to develop fully distributional statistical methods for data analysis, an introduction to which was published as *Relative Distribution Methods in the Social Sciences* (July 1999), a monograph in the Springer Verlag "Statistics for Social Science and Public Policy" series. Morris received a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou is president of the Levy Institute, executive vice president of Bard College, and Jerome Levy Professor of Economics at Bard College. He is currently serving as vice chairman of the Trade Deficit Review Commission, a bipartisan congressional panel. Papadimitriou's current research focuses on poverty and employment issues. With Levy Institute Visiting Senior Scholar L. Randall Wray, he is examining the effects of demographic shifts on the labor market in an evaluation of the need to revise policies concerning employment and Social Security. Papadimitriou is the general editor of The Jerome Levy Economics Institute book series and is a contributor to and editor of many titles in the series, including *Modernizing Financial Systems* (Macmillan and St. Martin's Press, 1999). He is a member of the editorial board of *Review of Income and Wealth*. Papadimitriou received a Ph.D. from New School University.

John Schmitt is a labor economist with the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. He is a co-author of the biennial *State of Working America* (Cornell University Press). He received a Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics.

Paul Solman is a business correspondent for The NewsHour. He was the co-originator and executive editor of PBS's business documentary series, *Enterprise*, and the founding editor of *The Real Paper* and East Coast editor of *Mother Jones* magazine. He has taught finance, media, and business history at Harvard Business School and co-wrote *Life and Death on the Corporate Battlefield* (1983), which has appeared in Japanese, German, and a pirated Taiwanese edition.

Kenneth R. Troske is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His primary field is labor economics. Previously he was research economist at the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau, where he created the Worker Establishment Characteristics Database, which is the largest employer/employee matched data set containing information on U.S. workers and their employers. He has used these data to examine issues such as the effect of technology on worker wages and wage dispersion and labor market discrimination. Troske received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Edward N. Wolff is a senior scholar at the Levy Institute and a professor of economics at New York University. He is also managing editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, a council member of the International Input-Output Association, an associate editor of *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, and an editorial board member of *Economic Systems Research*. His principal research areas are productivity growth and income and wealth distribution. He is the author (or co-author) of many edited volumes and books including *Economics of Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination* (South-Western College Publishing, 1997). He is the author of many articles published in books and professional journals and provides frequent commentary on radio and television. Wolff received a Ph.D. from Yale University.

PARTICIPANTS

Eli Berman is a professor of economics at Boston University. His research interests include labor economics, environmental economics, fertility, applied econometrics, skill-biased technological change, applied microeconomics, and the economics of religion. He has published articles in numerous journals, including the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, and *Journal of Public Economics*. Berman received a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

Roberto M. Fernandez is a professor of organizational behavior at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and (by courtesy) a professor of sociology at the School of Humanities and Sciences. His research interests include skills retraining during periods of technological change, the social impact of firm relocation, and the effects of hiring channels on employee performance. His articles have been published in journals that include *Economic Geography* and *American Journal of Sociology*. Fernandez received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

James K. Galbraith is a senior scholar at the Levy Institute, a professor of public affairs and government at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, director of the University of Texas Inequality Project, and national chairman of the Economists Allied for Arms Reduction (ECAAR). He has served in several positions on the staff of the U.S. Congress, including executive director of the Joint Economic Committee. His most recent book is *Created Unequal: The Crisis in American Pay*, Twentieth Century Fund (Free Press, 1998). Galbraith writes a column on economic and political issues for the *Texas Observer*. He received a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

Peter Gottschalk is a professor of economics at Boston College, a research affiliate at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin, and a research associate at the Joint Center for Poverty Research at Northwestern University. His research interests include labor economics, returns to work for less-skilled individuals, cross national comparisons of inequality, and economic mobility. Recent books include *America Unequal* (1996), which examines the effects of changes in the economy, public policy, and demographics on poverty, and *Generating Jobs* (1998), which explores policies to increase the demand for less-skilled workers. Gottschalk received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael J. Handel is a resident scholar at the Levy Institute. His research interests include the growth of wage inequality in the United States over the last 20 years and its relationship to changes in technology, skills, work roles, organizational structure, and labor market institutions. He is currently examining whether the diffusion of computers has induced a mismatch between the skills employers demand and those workers possess, the effect of workplace participation practices on workers' wages, and restructuring of management and supervisory layers in organizations. Handel received a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University.

Martina Morris holds a joint appointment in the sociology and statistics departments at Penn State University. She has been examining the nature of earnings changes in the United States and, following some early work on the variation in these trends by race and sex, turned to longitudinal data to examine