Income Distributions and Inequality Measurement

A three-day intensive course presented by the Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis
School of Economics, University of Queensland (UQ)

26 -28 September, 2007

The course provides a comprehensive review of the techniques used in modelling and comparing income distributions and for the measurement of inequality and poverty. The course will include a practical component where various analytical techniques are empirically implemented. Use of Excel, Eviews and POVCAL will be made during the practical sessions. Empirical illustrations will make use of income distribution data drawn from various national sources.

Who could benefit from the course?

- Postgraduate students researching on inequality and poverty
- Students interested in development economics
- Economists, statisticians and consultants interested in inequality related issues

When and where?

Wednesday 26 September to Friday 28 September, 2007
9.00 am to 5.00 pm each day
School of Economics, University of Queensland

Fees

The fee for the 3-day course is AUS1,000. This fee covers tuition and study materials. Students of UQ who are formally enrolled in this course do not need to pay any fees.

Key benefits

The course is designed to provide participants with the background and skills to:

- undertake research at the advanced postgraduate level, and
- read and understand advanced analyses conducted and reported by others (e.g., in research bulletins, government reports, and academic journals).
Course Outline

This course will cover the following topics.

(1) **Modelling income distributions**: Statistical Concepts; Statistical Distributions for modelling income distributions including Pareto, lognormal, Singh-Maddala, generalised exponential and beta distribution – properties and estimation techniques; Statistical models generating income distributions; Stochastic Dominance and ranking income distributions;

(2) **Lorenz curves**: properties, specification and estimation; Lorenz ordering of income distributions; POVCAL package;

(3) **Measurement of inequality**: Axiomatic framework; positive and normative measures including Gini Coefficient, Theil’s entropy based measures; Atkinsons’s measures; Decomposition analysis; Asymptotic distributions of standard measures of inequality; and

(4) **Poverty measurement**: Axiomatic framework; poverty measures including Sen index and Forster-Greer-Thorbecke index; Additive decomposability of poverty indexes.

(5) **Measurement of global and regional inequality**: International and inter-country inequality; Modelling income distributions using grouped data; Mixtures of distributions to measure regional and global inequality; Levels and trends in global inequality.

The course will make use of Excel, EViews and POVCAL for empirical implementation of methods discussed.

**Presenter**

D.S. Prasada Rao, School of Economics, University of Queensland

**Contacts**

- For registration enquiries, send an email to Maree Apolloni ([m.apolloni@economics.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.apolloni@economics.uq.edu.au)) who will then send out an invoice. Marie can also provide advice on local transport and accommodation if required.
- For enquiries relating to the course content, contact D.S. Prasada Rao ([p.rao@economics.uq.edu.au](mailto:p.rao@economics.uq.edu.au))