Helpdesk Query Response: Mapping Research on Inclusive Growth
Date: 30.04.2010

Query: Which researchers/organisations are leading the latest thinking on inclusive growth?

Enquirer: Growth Team, DFID

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1. Overview

This query response provides a mapping of organisations undertaking work on inclusive growth, highlighting key research themes. Where possible the contact details of relevant researchers are also provided.

A large range of issues can be seen to have a bearing on the achievement of inclusive growth. These include: human capital accumulation, enabling institutions, inclusive financial services, employment creation and labour standards, access to markets, rural development and agriculture, land and property rights etc. However, due to time constraints this query response includes research in these areas only where it is explicitly linked to inclusive/pro-poor growth. The final section on related research provides links to a selection of more specialised organisations working on some of these broader issues as a starting point for further investigation.

2. Inclusive growth research

Research Institutes

Center for Global Development (CGD): Economic Growth
http://cgdev.org/section/topics/economicgrowth

CGD’s work on economic growth includes exploring strategies to ensure that economic growth is “pro-poor” and that donor organizations and government agencies encourage broad-based, pro-poor growth. Other work contributes to and supplements research on economic growth, including research on encouraging innovative private investment, expanding access to financial services, and reducing global inequality.

A full list of CGD experts working on economic growth can be found here:
http://cgdev.org/content/expert/list/?topic=2660&initiative
The GGP programme focuses on three overarching research areas.

- **Patterns and drivers of inclusive growth**: This research area focuses on elucidating the patterns of growth (geographic, sectoral, technological) that are more conducive to poverty reduction, and the engines of such inclusive growth. It also addresses the functioning of the labour market and the policy changes (in and beyond the labour market more narrowly defined) which contribute to generating more and better remunerated jobs.

- **Markets, other institutions and inclusive growth**: This research area focuses on the equity and poverty implications of various trade, competition, and regulatory policy scenarios; in particular, on the pace and sequencing of policy reforms to achieve their efficiency goals while maximizing their contribution to inequality and poverty reduction. It also includes examination of non-economic institutions (e.g., power or custom-based household or exchange arrangements) that mediate between growth, equity, and poverty.

- **Social Protection**: This research area focuses on clarifying what groups of households or individuals need State-provided protection in various developing country settings, and of what kinds and in what forms. It also looks at how to strengthen the capacity of states to finance social protection equitably and without negatively affecting growth.

*Contact: Marion Sandilands msandilands@idrc.ca*

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**Overseas Development Institute (ODI): Growth and Equity Programme**


ODI’s Growth and Equity Programme focuses on three broad themes:

- Inclusive growth
- Exclusion, discrimination and exploitation
- Risk and vulnerability

The programme’s approach is designed to complement and bridge the growth related work being carried out on related issues across ODI, including work on Protected Livelihoods and Agricultural Growth, Growth and Investment, and Social Development.

*Contact: Claire Melamed c.melamed@odi.org.uk*

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**CMI: Poverty Reduction Research Group (PRRG)**

http://www.cmi.no/research/group/?poverty-reduction

The PRRG focuses on analytical research into the mechanisms that reproduce social and economic inequalities: the very reasons why poverty exists and persists. The key areas of research are:

- Assessments of the design of pro-poor policies and evaluating their impact
Studies of the socio-cultural and economic barriers preventing poor people from escaping poverty
Analyses of the ethical justifications for pro-poor policy interventions

The group comprises economists, social anthropologists and political scientists, and seeks to develop multi-disciplinary research designs and methodologies that realize synergies between quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Contact: Dr. Arner Wiig, Research Director arne.wiig@cmi.no

Oxford Policy Management (OPM): Growth and Resources
http://www.opml.co.uk/policy_areas/growth_and_resources/index.html

OPM links a strong understanding of the economics of growth and poverty reduction with expertise in many of the sectoral issues that are generally included in growth strategies, and expertise in related political economy and accountability issues. OPM’s work includes:

- Analysis of the economics of growth and poverty reduction
- Support to the design and implementation of pro-poor growth strategies, both at the regional and national level
- Assistance to donors in planning their support to growth strategies
- Work to support the sectoral components of growth strategies, in particular trade policy, infrastructure strategies, private sector policies, agriculture and rural development, and natural resource policy. As well as having expertise in these specific areas, its work emphasises the importance of the links that exist between them in policy-making.

Contact: Stephen Jones stephen.jones@opml.co.uk

Ibero-American Institute for Economic Research: Pro-poor growth
http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/65507.html

The Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research’s programme on pro-poor growth, poverty, inequality, and gender focuses on the following research themes:

- Determinants of pro-poor growth in Latin America
- Determinants of growth and inequality in Latin American countries
- Measurement and interpretation of poverty and inequality in developing countries
- Labour market dynamics in Latin America
- Income distribution dynamics in Latin America
- Determinants of undernutrition and child mortality in developing countries
- The impact of gender inequality on economic growth and development

Contact: Professor Stephan Klasen, Director sklasen@uni-goettingen.de

LSE Asia Research Centre: Sustaining Growth and Promoting Inclusion in India
http://www2.lse.ac.uk/asiaResearchCentre/countries/p_india/research/growth.aspx

The Project on Sustaining Growth and Promoting Inclusion in India aims to enhance the understanding of India’s growth process, the role of greater inclusion in driving and sustaining growth and the ability of growth to benefit all sections of the society. In particular it asks first, how
the current weak inclusion of people (eg. women), regions (eg. Bihar), and sectors (eg. agriculture) constrains growth and will eventually slow it down; second, how current growth processes are likely to influence inclusion; and third, what policies can promote both growth and inclusion.

The project focuses on the following four themes:

- Macroeconomic view of Growth and Inclusion in India - Nick Stern, Danny Quah, Surjit Bhalla
- Geography, infrastructure and institutions in Indian Development - Dave Donaldson, Tim Besley and Robin Burgess
- Women's participation in economy and development - Ruth Kattumuri, Surjit Bhalla and Ravinder Kaur
- Financial Inclusion - Greg Fischer and Indian collaborators

A full list of researchers working on these themes can be found at: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/asiaResearchCentre/people/Home.aspx

Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) Tanzania: Micro-level Perspectives of Growth in Tanzania
http://mlpg.esrftz.org/

'Micro-level Perspectives of Growth in Tanzania', a research project being undertaken by the Department of Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam, focuses on micro-level processes to help explain the unevenness of Tanzania’s improved macroeconomic performance since market reforms in the 1980s. This entails a close examination of not only households, firms and communities, but also the institutional settings and regulatory frameworks that affect the ability of these groups to escape poverty. Working closely with policy-makers during the research phase, a key aim of this project is to use the evidence gathered through analysis of primary and secondary data to inform policy processes.

Contact: mlpg@esrf.or.tz

Multilateral organisations

World Bank
http://www.worldbank.org/

The World Bank runs a number of complimentary research programmes devoted to inclusive growth and/or poverty analysis. The most relevant of these are:

- **PovertyNet: Achieving Shared Growth** [http://go.worldbank.org/N365JLK0K0](http://go.worldbank.org/N365JLK0K0)
  This website brings together much of the Bank’s work on inclusive growth under one portal, providing tools, methods and key readings to analyse linkages between growth, inequality, and poverty reduction.

- **Diagnostic Facility for Shared Growth** [http://go.worldbank.org/1I8SO2G0](http://go.worldbank.org/1I8SO2G0)
  The overall objective of this programme is to improve the quality and policy relevance of shared growth diagnostics to accelerate poverty reduction. The knowledge management programme aims to facilitate the use of existing and emerging tools to improve shared growth analysis by Bank country teams, donors, and governments.
• **Operationalizing Pro-Poor Growth (OPPG) Work Programme**
  [http://go.worldbank.org/67QHUB6VR0](http://go.worldbank.org/67QHUB6VR0)
The outputs from this programme include 14 country case studies, 7 sectoral papers that summarize key findings on methodological approaches, policy trade-offs and sectoral and structural policies, and a series of literature reviews and studies using cross-country econometrics.

• **Poverty and Inequality Research: Pro-poor Growth**
  [http://go.worldbank.org/KOMSUF7NT0](http://go.worldbank.org/KOMSUF7NT0)
This component of the World Bank’s poverty research programme explores pro-poor growth and inequality at the country and sub-national levels as well as income dynamics, risk and vulnerability, and social exclusion and poverty.

• **Employment and Shared Growth**
  [http://go.worldbank.org/Y8VA992BO0](http://go.worldbank.org/Y8VA992BO0)
The main objective of this programme is to support policy makers in the design and implementation of effective employment-focused development strategies and in monitoring the impact of these strategies on the welfare of the poor.

• **Social Protection and Labour**
  [http://go.worldbank.org/FJ6LLR2LU0](http://go.worldbank.org/FJ6LLR2LU0)
The mission of the Social Protection & Labor Sector is to assist World Bank country clients to alleviate poverty and promote equitable and sustainable growth through:

(i) **Expanding opportunities:** helping the creation of good jobs through better labor market regulations, active and passive labor market policies, and wage setting processes;

(ii) **Providing security:** assisting in better managing risks to reduce vulnerability, securing an asset-base and being able to engage in higher risk/higher return activities;

(iii) **Enhancing equity:** providing minimum levels of subsistence and helping to correct market-based distributive outcomes.

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**International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)**
The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) is a partnership between the UNDP and the Government of Brazil. IPC-IG facilitates South-South learning with the aim of expanding developing countries’ knowledge and capacities to design, implement and evaluate effective policies towards the attainment of high inclusive growth. Key research themes include:

• Inclusive Growth
• Rural and Sustainable Development
• Social Protection

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**Asian Development Bank: Economics and Research Department (ERD)**
The Economics and Research Department's research on inclusive growth focuses on

• **Examining Inclusive Growth and Public Policy**— This initiative examines the relationship between educational systems, economic policies, and the adoption of technology crucial to driving economic growth; the social protection systems needed in an increasingly globalized workplace; and the governance structures and institutions essential for sustainable and inclusive growth.
• **Diagnosing Critical Constraints to Growth**—This initiative identifies critical constraints to inclusive growth and the development and formulation of policy actions—expanded to include regions, subregions, economic sectors, and thematic issues such as agricultural productivity and food security, urban poverty and slums, housing for all, structural transformation, and efficiency of financial intermediation.

• **Monitoring Poverty**—As well as undertaking training and advice for national statistics offices, this initiative aims to improve ADB staff access to household survey data and execute analytical studies that use survey data to strengthen understanding of how economic and other shocks, and policy changes and interventions, affect poverty and labour market outcomes.

• **Statistical Capacity Building**—Statistical capacity building activities facilitate the monitoring of and evidence-based research on development issues, with a particular focus on poverty.

• **Coordinating the International Comparison Programme**—In 2011, ERD will coordinate the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in Asia and the Pacific. ICP aims to improve statistical capacity in collecting price data for a basket of goods and services; producing internationally comparable price levels and economic aggregates in real terms; and estimating purchasing power parity of Asia's principal economies.

See also: ADB Institute Research Programme: Inclusive and sustainable growth
http://www.adbi.org/poverty.reduction

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**United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER): Poverty, Inequality and Wellbeing**

UNU-WIDER’s cross-cutting research project on poverty, inequality and well-being covers a wide range of issues related to economic development, including growth, inequality, poverty reduction, social protection, and human development. Key research themes are:

• Rising Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction: Are They Compatible?
• Insurance Against Poverty
• Global Trends in Inequality and Poverty
• Spatial Disparities in Human Development
• Social Development Indicators - Measuring Human Well-being
• Inequality and Poverty in China
• Millennium Development Goals: Assessing and Forecasting Progress
• Hunger and Food Security: New Challenges and New Opportunities
• Health Inequalities and Development
• Gender and Food Security
• Personal Assets from a Global Perspective
• Growth and Poverty Conference
• Development in an Urban World
• Frontiers of Poverty Analysis

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**Research Networks and Consortia**

**International Growth Centre (IGC)**
http://www.theigc.org/research

The IGC is a collaborative venture between policy stakeholders in the developing world, a range
of public, civil society and private sector partners, and researchers from around the world. IGC runs ten research programmes, directed and staffed by leading researchers. These are:

- **Human capital** - The aim of the human capital research programme, directed by Steve Machin and Imran Rasul, is to generate a better understanding of the role of health and education in economic growth.
  
  Contact: Steve Machin s.machin@ucl.ac.uk

- **Governance, accountability and political economy** - The governance, accountability and political economy research programme, directed by Eliana La Ferrara and Gerard Padro i Miquel, aims to offer new insights on political constraints on growth in developing countries.
  
  Contact: Eliana La Ferrara eliana.laferrara@unibocconi.it

- **Agriculture** - The agriculture research programme, directed by Chris Udry, aims to understand how agricultural productivity can be encouraged, and how agricultural growth is linked to overall development.
  
  Contact: Chris Urdy christopher.udry@yale.edu

- **Infrastructure and urbanisation** - The infrastructure and urbanisation research programme, directed by Enrico Moretti, aims to explain persistent economic differences across countries and regions, and the role of infrastructure investments in growth policy.
  
  Contact: Enrico Moretti moretti@econ.berkeley.edu

- **Climate change, environment and natural resources** - The climate change, environment and natural resources research programme, directed by Douglas Almond, aims to provide insights into the connections between growth and environmental issues, and to stimulate growth policies that integrate environmental costs.
  
  Contact: Douglas Almond da2152@columbia.edu

- **Macroeconomics** - The macroeconomics research programme, directed by Christopher Adam and Silvana Tenreyro, aims to identify obstacles to growth, causes of fluctuation, and effective macro-level policies to remedy these.
  
  Contact: Christopher Adam christopher.adam@economics.ox.ac.uk

- **Finance** - The finance research programme, directed by Greg Fischer and Colin Mayer, aims at providing new insights on how to utilise finance to encourage growth in the world’s poorest countries.
  
  Contact: Greg Fischer g.fischer@lse.ac.uk

- **State capabilities** - The state capabilities research programme, directed by Oriana Bandiera and Raj Chetty, aims to understand what makes states effective in raising revenues, procuring goods and services, and providing public goods, security and an effective legal system.
  
  Contact: Oriana Bandiera o.bandiera@lse.ac.uk

- **Firm capabilities** - The firm capabilities research programme, directed by Luis Garicano, aims to understand why firm productivity varies across countries, with a view to informing policy.
  
  Contact: Luis Garicano l.garicano@lse.ac.uk

- **Trade** - The trade research programme, directed by Andrés Rodríguez-Clare and Eric Verhoogen, aims to help developing countries derive maximum benefit from their engagement with the world economy.
  
  Contact: Andres Rodriguez-Clare andres@psu.edu
Commission on Growth and Development
http://www.growthcommission.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=58

Established in 2006, the Commission on Growth and Development is a network of practitioners and policymakers. The Commission aims to gain a better understanding of the policies and strategies that underlie rapid and sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. It identifies the following set of themes related to economic growth and development:

- The nature of the growth challenge
- Our understanding of growth
- Governance
- The macroeconomics of growth
- Projecting future trends
- Global integration as a force of growth, and the role of industrial and trade policies
- Demographics and migration
- International trade in services
- Bottom-up development strategies
- Technological catch up, internet and communications technology
- Urbanization
- Labor Market policies and employment
- Infrastructure and growth
- Agriculture
- Human resources and social policies as a source of growth
- Women in development and in labor and capital markets
- Income inequality
- Risk management and mitigation
- Development finance
- Lagging Regions and Growth

Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet)
http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/

PEGNet is a network of researchers with an interest in the poverty-inequality-growth nexus. It is maintained by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. PEGNet's research agenda focuses on the following topical and methodological research areas:

- The rural sector: Key to poverty reduction
- Resource-based development and poverty reduction
- Feasible options for redistribution

In addition to these three topical issues, PEGNet intends to deal with overarching methodological questions regarding the measurement and the empirical analysis of pro-poor growth.

- Extending the measurement of pro-poor growth
- Assessing the poverty impact of policies

A list of network members conducting research on these themes can be found here:
http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/members/researchers
Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth (iiG)
http://www.iig.ox.ac.uk/

Established in 2007, Improving Institutions for Growth (iiG) is a Research Programme Consortium focusing on pro-poor growth and poverty reduction in Africa and South Asia. The overarching narrative of iiG research is that differences in economic opportunities determine which institutions are likely to be important for pro-poor growth. Within this broad narrative, the research centres around three themes:

- **Institutions for Accountability**: Research within this theme considers how governance affects public goods provision. Understanding how political institutions affect public goods provision and service delivery also leads to more fundamental issues about the working of these political institutions themselves.
- **Institutions for Manufactured Exports**: A key concern of this research is whether institutional change would significantly assist African countries in breaking into global markets for manufactured exports.
- **Institutions for Rural Transformation and Development**: This research centres on issues involved in the transformation of a large rural, agricultural sector to an urbanised economy with large-scale employment in manufacturing and services. It seeks to understand the constraints on this process. The focus is on the economic transformation of the rural economy, and specifically the roles that agriculture, rural economic growth and skill formation play.

A list of iiG researchers can be found here: http://www.iig.ox.ac.uk/about/members.htm

Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth (IPPG)
http://www.ippg.org.uk

IPPG is a DFID-funded Research Programme Consortium which supports scholarly research, and seeks to influence development policy and practice that contributes to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). IPPG’s research programme focuses on three broad themes:

- State-business relations (Africa and India)
- Rural territorial dynamics (Latin America)
- Institutional architecture.

A list of research projects and researchers can be found here: http://www.ippg.org.uk/archive.html

Global Poverty Research Group (GPRG)
http://www.gprg.org/

The GPRG is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded research group of economists, political scientists, sociologists and anthropologists undertaking a multi-disciplinary programme of work investigating issues of poverty, inequality and the quality of life.

The programme of the Research Group is organised around five themes:

- Poverty, intra-household allocation and well-being
- Income opportunities, inequality and the poor
- Human capital, institutions and well-being
- Social capital, the provision of public services, and social safety nets
- Governance, social norms and social outcomes
A full list of GPRG researchers can be found here: http://www.gprg.org/about/staff.htm

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC)
http://www.chronicpoverty.org/page/index

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) is an international partnership of universities, research institutes and NGOs which exists to focus attention on chronic poverty. CPRC research themes aim to deepen our understanding of poverty dynamics and particularly to consider the nature, causes and remedies of chronic poverty:

- Conceptualisation of poverty dynamics and persistent poverty
- Empirical approaches to the study of poverty dynamics and economic mobility
- Empirical approaches to the study of intergenerational transmission of poverty
- Insecurity, risk and vulnerability
- Assetlessness, low returns and inequality
- Adverse incorporation and social exclusion

Contact: Dr Andrew Shepherd, CPRC Director A.Shepherd@odi.org.uk

3. Related research – Access to markets, finance and employment

Access to Markets

Making Markets Work Better for the Poor
http://www.markets4poor.org/

Making Value Chains Work Better for the Poor
http://www.valuechains4poor.org/

Growing Inclusive Markets
http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org/

Inter-American Development Bank (IDAB): Opportunities for the Majority
http://www.iadb.org/topics/om/home.cfm

Majority Markets
http://www.majoritymarkets.org/

Next Billion
http://www.nextbillion.net/

Base of the Pyramid Knowledge Network
http://bopnetwork.ning.com/

Access to Finance

Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) India
http://www.ifmr.ac.in/researchcenters.html
Financial Access Initiative  
http://financialaccess.org/

Centre for Financial Regulation and Inclusion  
http://www.cenfri.org/

Finmark Trust  

Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) Network  
http://www.seepnetwork.org/Pages/Default.aspx

**Employment**

Employment Policy Network  
http://www.employment-policy.net/epn_themes

Centre for Poverty, Employment and Growth, HSRC, South Africa  
http://www.hsrc.ac.za/CPEG.phtml

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)  
http://www.wiego.org/index.php

**4. Additional Information**

**Author**

This query response was prepared by Andrew McDevitt andrew@gsdrc.org

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**About helpdesk research reports:** Helpdesk reports are usually based on 2 days of desk-based research. They are designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues; and a summary of some of the best literature available. Experts are contacted during the course of the research, and those able to provide input within the short time-frame are acknowledged.

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