

Global Justice, Poverty and Human Rights

DATE: 18 May 2016 (Wednesday)
TIME: 4:00-5:45 p.m.
VENUE: Lecture Theatre 6, 2/F, Yasumoto International Academic Park
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T.
(5 mins walk from the University MTR Station)
REGISTRATION: <https://www.med.cuhk.edu.hk/registration/view.php?id=244977>
All are welcome (Free Admission)

ABOUT THE TALK:

Readily available evidence suggests that (a) basic social and economic human rights remain unfulfilled for around half of the world's population and (b) the design of increasingly influential supranational institutional arrangement plays a major role in explaining why the poorer half of humanity is confined to so small a share (now ca. four percent) of global household income. These institutional arrangements are shaped through inter-governmental negotiations that the already most advantaged constituents (large corporations, banks, industry associations, hedge funds, billionaires) are in an especially good position to influence in their own favor. As a foreseeable but unintended consequence of such lobbying, the needs and interests of the global poor are sidelined, ensuring that they cannot partake proportionally in global economic growth.

When our government is a powerful participant in those intergovernmental negotiations, we share responsibility for the harms that slanted supranational institutional arrangements do to the poor. A strong case can be made, then, that people like myself – well-to-do citizens of influential states – collaboratively violate the human rights of the global poor on a massive scale. In light of this responsibility, we have an obligation (i) to work toward institutional reforms that take better account of the needs and interests also of the world's poor and/or (ii) to compensate by supporting effective organizations that protect the poor from harms inflicted on them.

SPEAKER: *PROF. THOMAS POGGE*

Leitner Professor of Philosophy & International Affairs, Yale



University

Having received his PhD in philosophy from Harvard, Thomas Pogge is Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs and founding Director of the Global Justice Program at Yale. He holds part-time positions at King's College London and the Universities of Oslo and Central Lancashire. Pogge is a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science as well as President of *Academics Stand Against Poverty* (ASAP), an international network aiming to enhance the impact of scholars, teachers and students on global poverty, and of *Incentives for Global Health*, a team effort toward developing a complement to the pharmaceutical patent regime that would improve access to advanced medicines for the poor worldwide (www.healthimpactfund.org). His recent publications include *Global Tax Fairness*, co-edited, Oxford 2016; *Politics as Usual*, Polity 2010; *World Poverty and Human Rights*, 2nd edn, Polity 2008; *Global Justice and Global Ethics*, co-edited, Paragon House 2008; *John Rawls: His Life and Theory of Justice*, Oxford 2007; and *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right*, edited, Oxford & UNESCO 2007. More

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