The Middle Class in World Society

Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore/India

December 16-17, 2016

INVITED PANELISTS

Satish Deshpande, University of Delhi, Dehli, India
Darrick Hamilton, The New School, New York, USA
Surinder Singh Jodhka, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
P.G. Jogdand, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India
Jessica Peña, University of Maryland, USA
R. Balasubramaniam, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, Mysore, India

Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C., USA
Kris Marsh, University of Maryland, College Park, USA
D Narasimha Reddy, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, India
Jessica S. Welburn, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
N. Jayaram, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India
G. Haragopal, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

7:30 PM Welcome reception at the “The Lalit Ashok Hotel”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

9:30–11:00 AM Inaugural function

Chairperson: A.Ravindra (Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and Chairman, Board of Governors, ISEC, Bangalore)

Welcome
M.G.Chandrakanth (Director, ISEC, Bangalore)
Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel and President World Society Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland)

Guest of Honour
Conny Camenzind (Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Switzerland, Bangalore)

About the Conference
S. Madheswaran (Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, ISEC, Bangalore)

Inaugural address
V.K.Malhotra (Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi)

Keynote address

Vote of Thanks
B.P. Vani (Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, ISEC, Bangalore)

11:00–11:30 AM Tea/Coffee

11:30–1:30 PM Invited panel discussion 1: Conceiving the middle class

Chairperson: Volker Bornschier (World Society Foundation, Zurich)

N.Jayaram (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Conceptualizing Middle Class in Changing India

G.Haragopal (National Law School of India University, Bangalore): Typologies of Middle Class in India

Surinder Singh Jodhka (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): Caste and the Indian Middle Class

R.Balasubramaniam (Chairman, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, Mysore): Voice Poverty in the Middle Classes of India - Lethargy or a Self Induced Impotency?

Kris Marsh and Jessica Peña (University of Maryland, USA): Marriage, Household Composition, Class Status by Nativity for Women of Color: 1980-2014
1:30–2:30 PM  Lunch

2:30–4:15 PM  Workshop session 1: Middle Class Formation and Evolution
Chairperson: Daniel Künzler (University of Fribourg and World Society Foundation, Zurich)

Ilan Bizberg (El Colegio de México, Mexico D.F): The Growth of the Middle Class in Asia and Latin America: Why is it Important? Is it Sustainable?
Chiara Assunta Ricci (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy): What Has Happened to the Middle Class? Incomes and Perceived Social Position Dynamics in Different Countries
Roger Southall (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa): The “Middle-Classing” of Development: Key Problems in Southern Africa
Jason Musyoka (University of Pretoria, South Africa): South Africa’s Black Middle Classes, Entanglement and State Dependence
Sandhya Krishnan and Neeraj Hatekar (University of Mumbai, India): Emergence of the New Middle Class in India and its Structural Composition: An Empirical Investigation from 1999-00 to 2011-12

4:15–4:45 PM  Tea/Coffee

4:45–6:30 PM  Workshop session 2: Middle Class Lifestyles and Consumption
Chairperson: K.S.James (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Mansi Awasthi (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Framing India’s New Middle Class Politics of Lifestyle in the Globalisation Era
Devanshi Kulshreshtha (Symbiosis School of Economics, India), Abhishek Behl (Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development, India), and Abhinav Pal (Symbiosis School of Economics, India): An Analysis of Non-Food Expenditures of the Middle Class in India
Manish K Jha and M. Ibrahim Wani (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Exploring the “New” Middle Class in Lived Experience: Identities, Anxieties and Contestations
Amrita Basu Roy Chowdhury (Jadavpur University, India): Globalization and the Rise of New Middle Class: Construction of New Gender Roles in Bengali Print Advertisement, 1991–2010

8:00 PM  Conference dinner at the “The Lalit Ashok Hotel”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

9:30-11:15 AM  Invited panel discussion 2: Living a middle class life
Chairperson: Rakesh Kochhar (Pew Research Center, Washington DC)

Satish Deshpande (University of Delhi): Meaningness of “Middle Class” in India
Jessica S. Welburn (University of Iowa, Iowa City): Managing Public Sector Contraction in Detroit: The Experiences of Working Class and Middle Class African Americans
P.G.Jogdand (University of Mumbai): Dalit Middle Class: A Discussion on Activism
11:15–11:45 AM  Tea/Coffee break

11:45–1:30 PM  Workshop session 3: Middle Class Diversity and Heterogeneity
Chairperson: Patrick Ziltener (University of Zurich and World Society Foundation, Zurich)
Dieter Neubert (University of Bayreuth, Germany): The Simplified Assumptions of the Global Middle Class Narrative: Global Middle Income Groups in Kenya
Shaoni Shabnam (IIT Mumbai): In Defence of Sustho Sanskriti (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Class-ness in Neo-liberal India
Stefanie Strulik (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, Switzerland): Competing Narratives of Modernity and Muslim Middle Class in Lucknow
Kalidas S Khobragade (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Middle Class Dalits in India: Their Issues and Challenges
Meenoo Kohli (University of California, Santa Cruz): Middle Class Strategies for Addressing Built Environmental Challenges: A Case Study of Planned Neighborhood in Delhi

1:30–2:30 PM  Lunch break

2:30–4:15 PM  Workshop session 4: Social Capital and Civil Society
Chairperson: Supriya Roychowdhury (ISEC, Bangalore)
Lena Kroeker (University of Bayreuth, Germany): The Kenyan Middle Class and Responses to Social Security
Anindita Tagore (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): An Enquiry into Middle Class's Engagement with Social Activism: Understanding Emerging Trends and Challenges
Sibtosh Bandyopadhyay (Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Haripal, India): Colonial Legacy and Post Colonial Fanaticism: Changing Face of Bengali Middle Class in 21st Century
Venkatesh Kurandwad (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Building and Leveraging Middle Class Capital through Convergent Forces
Anup Hiwrale and Chakradhar Jadhav (ISEC, Bangalore): Emergence of Dalit Middle Class in India

4:15–4:45 PM  Tea/Coffee break

4:45–6:15 PM  Valedictory function
Chairperson: R.S. Deshpande (Former Director and BOG Member, ISEC)
Valedictory address: D. N. Reddy (Institute for Human Development, New Delhi): Neoliberal Regime and Lower Middle Class Stress in a Lower Middle Income Country
Vote of thanks: S.Madheswaran (ISEC, Bangalore), and Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel/World Society Foundation, Switzerland)

8:00 PM  Conference dinner at the “The Lalit Ashok Hotel”