



TRANSNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

APRIL 14, 2008

Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Littauer-Fainsod Room
4 pm to 6 pm

Transnational, organized philanthropies such as the Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur and other large foundations have funded poverty reduction programs in the developing world for several decades. Levels of philanthropic funding dedicated to poverty reduction are increasing significantly, in part due to the entry of new philanthropies, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to the international funding arena.

Members of a panel drawn from philanthropy, the nonprofit sector and development economics will explore a number of questions related to philanthropy's strategic contributions to poverty reduction. Are foundations especially well-positioned to support innovative and untested approaches to poverty reduction? How do promising approaches, once tested with philanthropic funding, come to have system-wide impacts? How do the priorities of philanthropies influence the strategic decision-making of nonprofits, and vice versa? How important is private philanthropy to the financial sustainability of nonprofit organizations concerned with poverty reduction?

PANELISTS

Steven Lawry, *panel moderator*, is **Senior Research Fellow at the Hauser Center, and co-principal investigator of the Hauser Center project on transnational philanthropy and poverty reduction.** Dr. Lawry held various positions at the Ford Foundation from 1992 to 2006, and served as Ford's Representative to the Middle East and North Africa from 1997 to 2001. He was Associate Director for Africa programs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Land Tenure Center from 1998 to 1992. Dr. Lawry was President of Antioch College from January 2006 to August 2007.

Barry Gaberman is **chair of BoardSource, which provides consulting and training services on effective governance to nonprofit boards.** He joined the Ford Foundation in 1971 and was Senior Vice President upon his retirement from Ford in 2006. In the course of his career at Ford, Mr. Gaberman served as an assistant program officer in Indonesia, Director of the Office of Program Related Investments, and Deputy Vice President of the Program Division. Mr. Gaberman serves or has served on the boards of the Council on Foundations, the Independent Sector, the European Foundation Centre, the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe, the Scholar Rescue Fund and the Institute for International Education. He is also past chair of the board of the Foundation Center. Mr. Gaberman is currently Visiting Professor at the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo.

Sheela Patel is **the founder and Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC),** which was established in Mumbai in 1984 to assist the efforts of pavement dwellers to secure better living conditions, including secure housing and sanitation and other public services. SPARC's approach to poverty reduction gives strong emphasis to building collaborative relationships among community organizations, nonprofits and government agencies and leveraging funding from a variety of sources, including micro-lending and philanthropic and government grants. Ms. Patel is a co-founder of Slum Dwellers International, a global network of organizations representing poor urban communities.

Lant Pritchett is **Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.** After receiving his PhD from MIT in economics in 1988, Dr. Pritchett joined the World Bank, holding a number of positions in Washington, Indonesia and India. At the World Bank, he participated in the preparation of several major reports, including *World Development Report 1994*, *Better Health Systems for India's Poor* (2003), and *Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform* (2005). He serves as a consultant to Google.org, is a non-resident fellow of the Center for Global Development, and is a senior fellow of BREAD. He is co-editor of the *Journal of Development Economics*.

This event is co-hosted by The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, the Center for International Development, and the South Asia Initiative at Harvard, and is part of the Hauser Center 10th Anniversary panel series "The Future of the Nonprofit Sector."