

## **- Call for Papers -**

### **Social Statistics, Poverty and Social Exclusion: perspectives from Quebec, Canada and Abroad**

*November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011- Montreal, Canada*

**Quebec Inter-University Centre for Social Statistics (QICSS)  
Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (MESS)**

Since the mid-90s, many countries have developed strategies to fight poverty and social exclusion. Among them, countries like France and Great Britain have led other European nations to adopt national action plans for social inclusion. These initiatives have inspired other societies, like Quebec, which in turn has inspired other Canadian provinces like Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick to do the same.

This conference aims to take stock of the state of current research and identify knowledge gaps. How can poverty data be used to compare the situation in different industrialized nations? What are the scope and the limitations of such comparisons? How can we define the main dimensions and develop appropriate indicators of social exclusion? How can we develop process indicators that will allow us to recognize situations of exclusion? How can social statistics be used to study the influencing factors and the consequences of all dimensions of poverty, including geography, education, health, work, housing, justice and security, as well as access to culture? How can statistics be used to study the financial and social cost of poverty, material deprivation, the use of rights, life courses and solutions?

We invite all researchers working in the following areas to submit a proposal (oral or poster):

*Theme 1: Interprovincial and International Comparisons of Poverty: indicators and data sources*

Income indicators are interesting in that they enable us to tell how many people are below or above a given threshold, and how far. We can also follow the evolution of the data in time and use it to make comparisons with other societies that use similar measures. However, these comparisons, as promising as they are, are not without limitations, which are important to identify.

*Theme 2: Influencing Factors and Consequences of Poverty*

Poverty is not simply a question of low income; it is a multidimensional phenomenon. A number of indicators can reveal different factors that influence poverty and social exclusion, as well as their consequences. For example, geography, which reveals the environmental or socioeconomic context, can be an influencing factor of poverty and even contribute to its reproduction.

*Theme 3: Dimensions of Social Exclusion*

While there are many situations of exclusion, those that interest us relate directly to poverty, either because they are conducive (a particular pattern or chain of events that prevent an individual from escaping poverty – what we might call the exclusion spiral), or because they are themselves created by poverty.

#### *Theme 4: Recent Developments and future perspectives*

Researchers have begun to explore other avenues and to identify new dimensions of poverty and exclusion, like the financial and social cost of poverty and its solutions, and other themes such as material deprivation, use or non-use of rights, or life courses. However, statistical models are still in the early stages of development. What progress has been achieved recently in these matters?

#### **Pre-Conference Workshops**

Methodological workshops will be held prior to the Conference. They will consist in invited presentations but all participants are invited to attend. The themes covered are:

- Potential and Limitations of Target Development Methodology
- Methodological issues of inter-regional and interprovincial comparisons and possible solutions
- Methodological issues of international comparisons and possible solutions
- Current Statistical Systems and Data Coupling

#### **Paper submission guidelines**

Proposals are to be submitted no later than **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**, with the following elements:

1. Name, affiliation and full contact information of the author(s)
2. Identification of theme addressed by your paper
3. A 500-word proposal including the following :
  - Research questions and objectives
  - Description of the methodology and data sources used
  - Main findings
  - Status of the research project

Proposals can be submitted in French or English. Responses to the authors will be forwarded no later than **mid-April, 2011**.

#### **Information**

For more information, please contact Guy Fréchet ([guy.frechet@mess.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:guy.frechet@mess.gouv.qc.ca)) and/or Jean Poirier ([jean.poirier@umontreal.ca](mailto:jean.poirier@umontreal.ca)).

Conference website: [www.ciqss.umontreal.ca/en/poverty/](http://www.ciqss.umontreal.ca/en/poverty/)