

# Rising Economic Inequality in the 21st Century

QIPSR, University of Kentucky

This conference is sponsored by the Quantitative Institute for Policy and Social Research, the Departments of Psychology, Political Science and Sociology, and the UK Center for Poverty Research.

Register [here!](#)

## March 2, Friday, William T. Young Library Auditorium

**8:30-9:00:** Sign-in and continental breakfast, in the **Gallery** next door.

**9:00-9:10:** Welcome and Introduction: Mark Peffley

### **Morning Session: Economic Inequality: Policy Sources and Social Consequences**

**9:10-9:50:** [Lane Kenworthy](#) (Sociologist, U AZ). "America's Struggling Lower Half."

Abstract: Over the past generation, the incomes of American households in the lower half have grown very slowly. Why is that? What is the likelihood that things will improve?

**9:50-10:20:** Discussion: James Ziliak (UK, Economics), Thomas Janoski (UK, Sociology).

**10:20-10:40: Break**

**10:40-11:20:** [Rashmita Mistry](#) (Psychologist, UCLA). "Poverty, inequality, and child development research: Promoting healthy development for children at risk."

Abstract: I present several studies highlighting the pathways of influence by which economic inequality compromises children's well-being, and discuss implications for intervention and prevention efforts to promote healthy development for children at risk.

**11:20-12:10:** Discussion: Christia Brown (UK, Psychology), Brea Perry (UK, Sociology).

**12:10-1:00: Lunch buffet in Gallery**

### **Afternoon Session: Economic Inequality: Public Dissatisfaction, Political Inequality**

**1:00-1:40:** [Leslie McCall](#) (Sociologist, Northwestern). "American Beliefs about Income Inequality from the 1980s to Occupy Wall Street."

Abstract: Why have Americans been so dissatisfied with existing levels of income inequality since the 1980s?

**1:40-2:10:** Discussion: Ed Morris (UK, Sociology), Mark Peffley (UK, Political Science)

**2:10-2:30: Break**

**2:30-3:10:** [Martin Gilens](#) (Political Science, Princeton), "*Affluence & Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America.*"

Abstract: How and why has political inequality in the U.S. increased so dramatically over the last several decades, and why do policy outcomes mirror the preferences of more affluent citizens but not those of low- or middle-income Americans?

**3:10-3:45:** Discussion: Richard Fording (AL, Political Science)

**3:45 to 4:30: Conclusion of the conference, followed by a brief reception in the Gallery**