Reducing Poverty and Economic Distress

after The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Conference Papers

Author Biographies

Lawrence Aber
Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University

Lawrence Aber is Distinguished Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University, where he also serves as board chair of its Institute of Human Development and Social Change. Dr. Aber earned his Ph.D. from Yale University and an A.B. from Harvard University. He previously taught at Barnard College, Columbia University and at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, where he also directed the National Center for Children in Poverty. He is an internationally recognized expert in child development and social policy and recently has co-edited Neighborhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children (1997, Russell Sage Foundation), Assessing the Impact of September 11th 2001 on Children Youth and Parents: Lessons for Applied Developmental Science (2004, Erlbaum) and Child Development and Social Policy: Knowledge for Action (2007, APA Publications).

His basic research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. Dr. Aber also designs and conducts rigorous evaluations of innovative programs and policies for children, youth and families, such as violence prevention, literacy development, welfare reform and comprehensive services initiatives. He has been a recipient of a William T. Grant Faculty Scholar award as well as a Visiting Scholar award from the Russell Sage Foundation. Dr. Aber testifies frequently before Congress, state legislatures and other deliberative policy forums. The media, public officials, private foundations and leading non-profit organizations also frequently seek his opinion or advice about pressing matters concerning child and family well-being. In 2006, Dr. Aber was appointed by the Mayor of New York City to the Commission for Economic Opportunity, an initiative to help reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity in New York City. In 2007, Dr Aber served as the Nannerl O.Keohane Distinguished Visiting Professor at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2008 and 2009, he served part-time as Visiting Research Professor in Evidence-based Social Interventions in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford. He is also Chair of the Board of Directors of the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa; and of the Forum for Youth Investment in Washington, D.C.
Maria Cancian
Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Maria Cancian is Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work and an affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research considers the relationship between public policies and changes in marriage, fertility and employment, with a focus on the implications of child support policy for the well-being of divorced and never-married families, the employment and income of women who have received welfare, and the impact of married women's growing employment and earnings on marriage patterns and the inter- and intra-household distribution of income. Ongoing research projects consider the implications of multiple partner fertility for family organization and policy, as well as the interactions of the incarceration, child welfare and child support systems.

Professor Cancian has been a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, a Visiting Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, and will spend 2010-11 as a W. T. Grant Foundation Distinguished Fellow in residence at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. She has served as Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Vice President of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. She received her doctorate in Economics from the University of Michigan.

Anthony Carnevale
Director, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce: Education and Workforce Development

Anthony Carnevale currently serves as Research Professor and Director of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. Between 1996 and 2006 Dr. Carnevale served as Vice-President for Public Leadership at the Educational Testing Service (ETS). While at ETS Carnevale was appointed by President George Bush to serve on the White House Commission on Technology and Adult Education. Before joining at ETS, Carnevale was Director of Human Resource and Employment studies at the Committee for Economic Development (CED), the nation’s oldest business-sponsored policy research organization. While at CED Carnevale was appointed by President Clinton to Chair The National Commission on Employment Policy (NCEP), and in 1994 Secretary of commerce Ronald Brown appointed Dr. Carnevale to the Board of Overseers for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Dr. Carnevale was the founder and President of the Institute for Workplace Learning (IWL) and led the IWL between 1983 and 1993. The IWL worked directly with consortia of private companies to develop “high performance work systems” and to develop more effective work and training systems. While at the IWL Carnevale was appointed by President Reagan to the human resources subcommittee on the White House Commission on Productivity which met between 1982 and 1984. Prior to founding the IWL Carnevale also served as Director of Political and Government Affairs for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest union in the AFL-CIO. Prior to joining AFSCME he was a senior staff member in both houses of the U.S. Congress. He was appointed Majority Staff Director on the Public Financing Sub-Committee of the House Committee on Government Operations, during consideration of the value added tax proposals and revenue sharing.
Carnevale joined the Senate Budget Committee shortly after it was established by the passage of the Budget Impoundment and Control Act of 1974. Carnevale was responsible for budget development and enforcement in Budget Function 500: all accounts in Education, Training, Employment Policy and Social Services. Subsequently, he also served as Senior Economist for the Senate Democratic Leadership Council. Dr. Carnevale received his B.A. from Colby College and his Ph.D. in public finance economics from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Before coming to Washington, DC, Dr. Carnevale worked as a research economist with the Syracuse University Research Corporation. During that time, he co-authored the principal affidavit in Rodriguez v. San Antonio, a U.S. Supreme Court action to remedy unequal tax burdens and education benefits. This landmark case resulted in significant fiscal reforms in a wide variety of majority of states.

**Ajay Chaudry**

Director, Labor, Human Services, and Population Center, Urban Institute

Ajay Chaudry directs the Center on Labor, Human Services and Populations at the Urban Institute. The center examines public policies and initiatives affecting the U.S. labor force, children, and immigrants. Dr. Chaudry’s research focuses on low-income working families, the employment dynamics of low-wage working mothers, the well-being and development of children from immigrant families, and the early childhood care system for young children. From 2004 to 2006 Dr. Chaudry served as the Deputy Commissioner for Child Care and Head Start at New York City Administration for Children Services, where he oversaw the early childhood development programs serving 150,000 low-income children in the city. He is the author of the book, Putting Children First: How Low-wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care, and articles related to child poverty, welfare reform, and the children of immigrant families. He has expertise in using in-depth qualitative research methods and working with low-income working families in urban neighborhoods.

**Clifford Johnson**

Director, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, National League of Cities

Clifford Johnson is the executive director of the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families at the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C. In this role, Mr. Johnson is leading NLC’s efforts to strengthen the capacity of municipal leaders to meet the needs of children, youth, and families in their communities. The Institute is working in five core program areas: education, youth development, early childhood development, the safety of children and youth, and family economic security. Prior to his appointment as executive director of the Institute in 2000, Mr. Johnson spent three years as a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities working on the development of transitional jobs and other innovative approaches to public job creation. For more than a decade from 1985 to 1996, he served in senior staff positions at the Children's Defense Fund, including three years as director of CDF's Programs and Policy Division. For many years, Mr. Johnson led CDF’s work on issues related to youth employment and family economic security, and he played a major role in organizational initiatives focused on adolescent pregnancy prevention. Mr. Johnson began his career as a legislative aide in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also co-authored two books on labor and social policy while serving as a research associate with the late Sar Levitan at George Washington University's Center for Social Policy Studies.
Nicholas Johnson
Director, State Fiscal Project, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: State Budgets and Federalism

Nick Johnson is Director of the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since joining the Center in 1996, Johnson’s research has included work on the interaction of state and federal fiscal policy, tax and spending limits, trends in tax policy, and state Earned Income Tax Credits, among other topics.

Nick’s analysis or commentary has been featured in the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and numerous state and regional newspapers, and he has appeared as a guest on such television and radio programs as ABC's Nightline and National Public Radio's All Things Considered and the Diane Rehm Show, as well as Fox News, PBS, and BBC television.

In 2004 Mr. Johnson received the Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy, a program financed by the New Zealand government and administered by Fulbright New Zealand. Through this fellowship, he spent six months as an advisor to the New Zealand Treasury and the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development, conducting research on that country’s programs of tax relief and cash assistance for low-income families.

He came to the Center from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, where he worked on rural development, food stamps, child nutrition, and related budget issues.

Johnson holds a graduate degree from Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

Daniel Meyer
Professor, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Daniel Meyer is the Mary C. Jacoby Distinguished Professor of Social Work and an Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has an MSW/MBA from Washington University and a PhD in social welfare from University of Wisconsin - Madison. His research and writing focuses on anti-poverty policy, especially welfare and child support policy.

Manuel Pastor
Professor of Geography and American Studies and Ethnicity, University of Southern California

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC and is co-director, with Dowell Myers, of USC’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. He holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, the California Air Resources Board, and many others.
Pastor’s research has generally focused on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. His most recent book, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America* (Cornell University Press 2009; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuoka), suggests how regional organizing is charting a new path for progressive politics and policies in America’s urban areas. Previous volumes include *Staircases or Treadmills: Labor Market Intermediaries and Economic Opportunity in a Changing Economy* (Russell Sage 2007, co-authored with Chris Benner and Laura Leete), *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America* (W.W. Norton 2002; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwoh) and *Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together* (University of Minnesota Press 2000; co-authored with Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garza), a book that has become a standard reference for those looking to link neighborhoods and regions.

Dr. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets as the Los Angeles Times, the San Jose Mercury News, and the San Francisco Chronicle. He served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California’s Speaker of the State Assembly, and in January 2002 was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership.

**LaDonna Pavetti**

Director, Welfare Reform and Income Support, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Dr. LaDonna Pavetti is the Director of the Welfare Reform and Income Support Division at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In this capacity, she oversees the Center’s work analyzing poverty trends and assessing the nation’s income support programs, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Before joining the Center in 2009, Dr. Pavetti spent 12 years as a senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., where she directed numerous research projects examining various aspects of TANF implementation and strategies to address the needs of the hard-to-employ. She has also served as a researcher at the Urban Institute, a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on welfare reform issues, and a policy analyst for the District of Columbia’s Commission on Social Services. In addition, for several years she was a social worker in Chicago and Washington, DC.

Dr. Pavetti has an A.M. in social work from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

**Deborah Reed**

Mathematica Policy Research

Debbie Reed is Director of Research of Mathematica’s Oakland, California, office. She is an expert in child poverty and well-being, immigration, income and labor market issues, and racial and ethnic disparities. Prior to joining Mathematica in 2009, Reed was director of research and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Her recent publications include *Sanctions and Time Limits in California's Welfare Program*, *Poverty in California: Moving Beyond the Federal Measure*, and *Retention of New Teachers in California*. She holds a PhD in Economics from Yale University.
**Dottie Rosenbaum**  
**Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

Dorothy Rosenbaum is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Her work focuses primarily on federal and state issues in the Food Stamp Program as well as issues that involve the coordination of food stamps and other state-administered health and income security programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, and child care. In addition, Rosenbaum has expertise on the federal budget and budget process.

Before joining the Center, Rosenbaum was a budget analyst at the Congressional Budget Office for six years. She projected federal spending and provided Congress with cost estimates for a variety of programs including: Food Stamps, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Child Nutrition, and Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Amy Rynell**  
**Director, Social IMPACT Research Center, Heartland Alliance**

Amy Rynell has worked at Heartland Alliance since 1997, and currently serves as Director of the Social IMPACT Research Center, formerly the Mid-America Institute on Poverty. Ms. Rynell has also served as the Director for the National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) since 2007. In this role, Ms. Rynell works to strategically advance the NTJN as a leader in the field of employment programs and policy solutions for the hardest to employ across the country. She provides financial oversight, strategic planning guidance, media communications, policy analysis, and staff supervision to the NTJN. Currently Ms. Rynell serves as co-chair of Grantmakers Concerned with Poverty for the Donors Forum of Chicago, and serves as a guest lecturer on social issues in classes at Universities across the city. Ms. Rynell also managed the first evaluation of Transitional Jobs programs serving TANF recipients in Illinois. Ms. Rynell received her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and her M.A. from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

**Margery Austin Turner**  
**Vice President for Research, Urban Institute**

Margery Austin Turner is Vice President for Research at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Ms. Turner has analyzed issues of residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Much of her recent work has focused on the Washington metropolitan area, investigating conditions and trends in neighborhoods across the region.

Ms. Turner served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD’s research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America’s metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD’s research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education.
Wayne Vroman
Senior Fellow, Labor, Human Services, and Population Center, Urban Institute

Dr. Vroman, an economist at The Urban Institute since 1977, has directed several Institute research projects. His academic experiences have included positions in two economics departments (Oberlin College and the University of Maryland) and a visiting appointment in the business school at the University of California at Berkeley. He has worked at two federal agencies (the Social Security Administration and the Office of Economic Opportunity) and at the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws.

Much of Dr. Vroman's research starting with his Ph.D. thesis has been concerned with the economic effects of social insurance. He has conducted projects on the earnings test in the OASDHI program and projects on the incidence of employer payroll taxes. Dr. Vroman's research on workers' compensation includes an examination of the incidence of the employer insurance premiums which finance the program and three studies of permanent partial disabilities. He has also examined numerous issues associated with the provision of unemployment insurance benefits. He has developed an unemployment insurance modeling capability implemented as spreadsheet software and used in analyses of UI funding issues. Models to examine state trust fund solvency and related policy questions have been developed in fifteen states, most recently in Virginia, Montana, Missouri and Ohio. He has authored five books on social insurance topics, Employment Termination Benefits in the U.S. Economy, The Funding Crisis in State Unemployment Insurance, Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Adequacy in the 1990s, Topics in Unemployment Insurance Financing and Unemployment Compensation Throughout the World: A Comparative Analysis (with Vera Brusentsev).

Dr. Vroman has investigated several other topics in labor economics such as money wage inflation, union wage contracts, cost-of-living adjustments and incomes policies. The effects of immigration, imports and minimum wages on wage inflation have been studied. He has conducted several analyses of the earnings of black men. These studies have focused on changes in relative earnings since 1964, the effects of transfer payments on labor supply and relative earnings, the effects of industrial change on relative earnings, and the effects of urban central city employment growth on black unemployment. He is co-editor of the 1992 Urban Institute book Urban Labor Markets and Job Opportunity.

Dr. Vroman has worked on projects dealing with social protections and labor markets in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, CIS and Asian countries. He has studied worksharing and job creation programs in Germany, Sweden and Belgium. He has worked on World Bank missions to Armenia, Slovakia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Barbados and Belize; IMF missions to Armenia and Georgia and U.S. AID supported projects in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. He developed for the World Bank a simulation model of unemployment benefit payments in CIS countries. He has also authored reports for the World Bank on labor markets and social protection in Turkey and Indonesia.
Melissa Young
Associate Director, National Transitional Jobs Network, Heartland Alliance

Melissa Young is the Associate Director of the National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) at Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights. Ms. Young's work includes managing the Network's technical assistance efforts in order to strengthen the capacity of existing and emerging Transitional Jobs programs, translating lessons learned at local levels into federal policy, and managing the development of Network communications for diverse audiences. In this role she has worked to advance the visibility of the NTJN as a national expert in Transitional Jobs - both in the delivery of technical assistance and policy advancement - in order to further support the development and implementation of the Transitional Jobs strategy for persons who have a hard time getting and keeping a job. Ms. Young's previous work at the Mid America Institute on Poverty focused on youth poverty, income supports, and an analysis of Illinois' appropriations and funding streams for youth programs. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her M.A. from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.