

## **PSE 2011 Second Townsend Conference**

### **Who are the poor- international perspectives**

#### **Julio Boltvinik**

Well Mexico is a very poor country which means that most of the population is poor. And it has been aggravated by the international crisis and the violence that has grown tremendously in Mexico related to drug dealing. It's not pockets of poverty; it's poverty all around and pockets of non-poverty. That's a reality of most poor countries.

#### **Bjorn Hallerod**

I think if you look at Sweden, where I'm working, you know, where I come from now, I think the most pressing discussion around poverty is really about segregation. Between the people that are fully integrated on the labour market and people that are not on the labour market. And it is a particularly difficult situation in Sweden because most of the social policy, the welfare state, are built on the assumption that people should be on a labour market. You will find young people that are in the transition from leaving home, leaving education and enter labour market. You will also find lone mothers with children. And you will also find immigrant families.

#### **Maidor Fall**

The most visual figures in poverty is young people in West Africa who are beggars, living in street without shelter.

#### **Aye Abe**

In Japan the single mothers face a lot of hardships including poverty and social exclusion. They're probably the one group that really are disadvantaged within the society. Another group is elderly women, and who's lost their husbands, or has been, has not married.

#### **Brian Perry**

In New Zealand the, the one of the key groups is children in working families as well as children in families in receipt of benefits.

#### **Aye Abe**

We have fairly good guesses of who are excluded in society. But we do not really know the extent of the problem. And so we can say, for example, that homeless people excluded from society. But we do not know how much percent of the

#### **Julio Boltvinik**

In Mexico modernisation of the country has only been partial, so high productivity, high salaries is only in a small sector of the economy, so most of the people live and work on very low productivity levels and are being exploited, so their income is very low. No medical services for more than half of the population;

you won't have social security for 65 percent of the population and housing conditions are terrible for most of the population.

### **Maidor Fall**

You have many reason, many reason for poverty. You have war at first. After that you have corruption. You have bad governance and there are some countries who don't have natural resources. And it's a little bit complicated to, to tackle poverty in those countries.

### **Aye Abe**

Young men are not being able to get a job, and that is one big new change that we are beginning to see. Cos young men was not risk group before and now it is. And it is kind of ironical that when the poverty was really concentrated among single mothers and homeless people and elderly women. It never really became a political problem. But when it becomes the problem of young men and that we are beginning to see young men on the streets, that it really became a big problem. I mean the public perception of poverty suddenly heightened.

### **Bjorn Hallerod**

What we try to understand is what happens if, if what is the connection between low income and health problem, for example, over time, and what is cause, what is causing low income? Is it so that people are have a bad health? And because of that, they have low income? Or is it so that they are in low income jobs and that's creating bad health? You know, we try to find the causality, what causes what and so on.

### **Maidor Fall**

For me, measuring poverty, for measuring poverty is nonsense. You have to measure poverty in the goal of tackling poverty.