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29 August 2012

This paper will be presented at the *Strategies to Overcome Poverty and Inequality Conference* to be held at the University of Cape Town from 3 until 7 September 2012. The 2012 conference will focus on understanding the experiences and causes of inequality, and particularly on considering practical strategies – policies and actions – that are aimed at significantly reducing inequality and poverty in both the short- and long-term.

There will be a host of experts in the social, economic, labour and health fields and will include contributions from Trevor Manuel (Minister in the Presidency, National Planning Commission) and Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

Tuberculosis and structural poverty; what can be done?

Solomon Benatar and Ross Upshur, University of Cape Town
(solomon.benatar@uct.ac.za)

Poverty in South Africa shares common causes and manifestations with poverty globally. How we choose to address ongoing widespread poverty (local and global) lies at the heart of the potential either for tuberculosis to become untreatable due to total drug resistance, or for deliberate action to greatly reduce the burden of this devastating disease. As severe poverty is the result of human agency we can choose either of these futures.

Efforts to address poverty, tuberculosis and many other pressing global problems have failed as they have been dominated by a 'development' agenda rooted in market-oriented policies that both reflect and reinforce the dominant neo-liberal discourse.

Critical reflection is required on how current economic policies can be changed. The use of new metaphors to re-shape thinking and action should include a shift from

the idea of sustainable development to the more credible notion of developing sustainability.

Pursuit of change in the national and global distribution of resources will be essential and this will require acknowledging and addressing upstream societal and economic forces that drive the global political economy and aggravate poverty. The paper makes recommendations for a series of complex, interdigitating actions needed to reshape macro-economic forces over the short and longer terms.

The long recognized failures of socialism, now accompanied by recognition of radical failures in a distorted form of capitalism make it necessary to seek system change towards 'economic democracy' that could allow human ingenuity to generate and utilise resources to improve the human condition.

Note to journalists

**For full programme visit
For accreditation please RSVP**

www.carnegie3.org.za
kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za or 021 652 5627
Accredited media will have access to all sessions of the conference.

Parking

Plenty of free parking will be available near the venue (on the south side: P5, P4 and P17)

Updates

Key sessions will be record and webcasts can be accessed via the conference website or UCT's youtube site. Daily blogs and links to media reports will also be placed on the conference website.

Conference venues

The main conference will be held in the Leslie Social Science Building on UCT's upper campus. All evening events will be in the Baxter Theatre on Rondebosch Main Road. (Please note that media wishing to attend the Impumelelo Social Innovation awards ceremony should contact Impumelelo directly at (021) 424 6360 or info@impumelelo.org.za

ENDS

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