



Social Realignment

Reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities in a Post-Pandemic World

Speakers:

Panelists:

- **Michelle Muschett**, Senior Policy Leader, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford
- **Brian Nolan**, Professor of Social Policy and Director, Employment Equity and Growth Programme Department of Social Policy and Intervention and Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School
- **Steven Durlauf**, Professor in Educational Policy, University of Chicago
- **Irene Natividad**, President, GlobeWomen Research & Education Institute

Moderator:

- **Sebastian Schwark**, Senior Advisor, FleishmanHillard Germany

Session description:

The Covid-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on inequalities and vulnerabilities in our societies. Infection rates and risks, deaths, income losses, educational deficits resulting from school closures, and many more – all these consequences from the pandemic were distributed very unequally across societies. It turned out that our societies and economies were not resilient, inclusive and sustainable enough to withstand a global shock such as the pandemic. The recovery has to be used to work on addressing the inequalities and vulnerabilities in a sustainable way. This requires a broad variety of measures, e.g. directing more investment into social infrastructure, a strengthening of the middle class to stabilize polarized societies, or keeping housing affordable. Understanding the nature and shape of the problem will enable a holistic policy response at various levels of governance.

Objectives:

- Contribute to an understanding of how differently Covid-19 has impacted countries and the various social groups within the countries.
- Discuss policy options that help addressing the disparities.
- Suggest ways to make societies resilient enough to withstand emerging shocks.
- Address the various levels and areas of governance that must work together.