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UNU-WIDER SESSION @ AERC DECEMBER 2022 BIENNIAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP

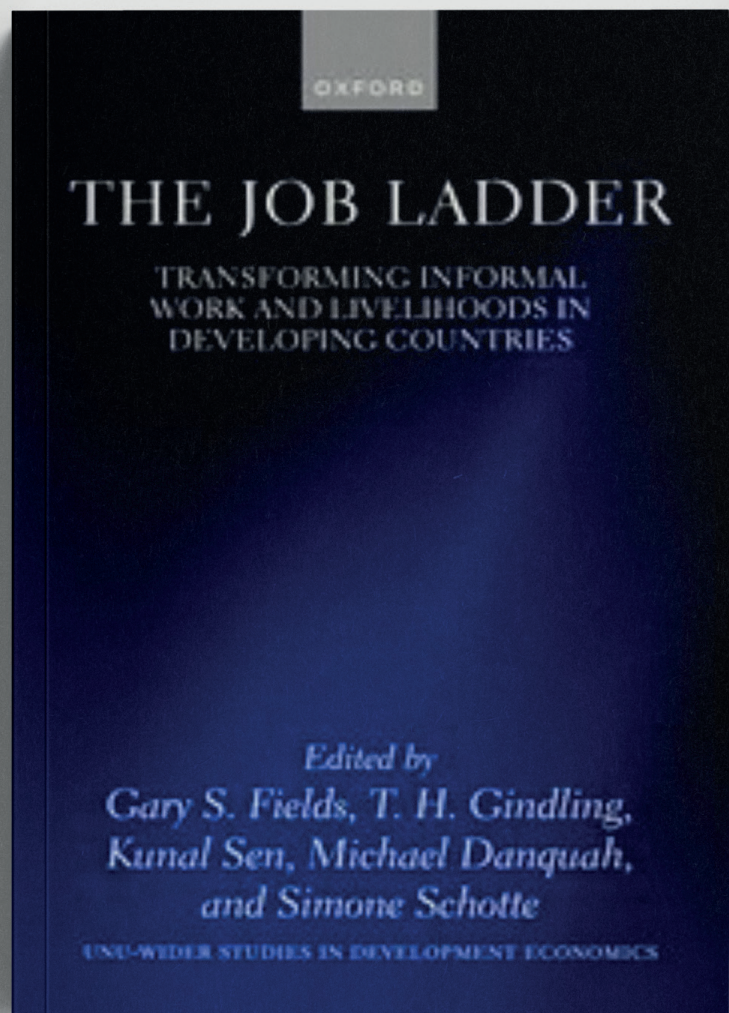
Book Launch

The Job Ladder: Transforming informal work and livelihoods in developing countries

*Edited: Gary Fields, Tim
Gindling, Kunal Sen, Michael
Danquah and Simone Schotte*

30 November 2022

16:00 -17:15 Hrs



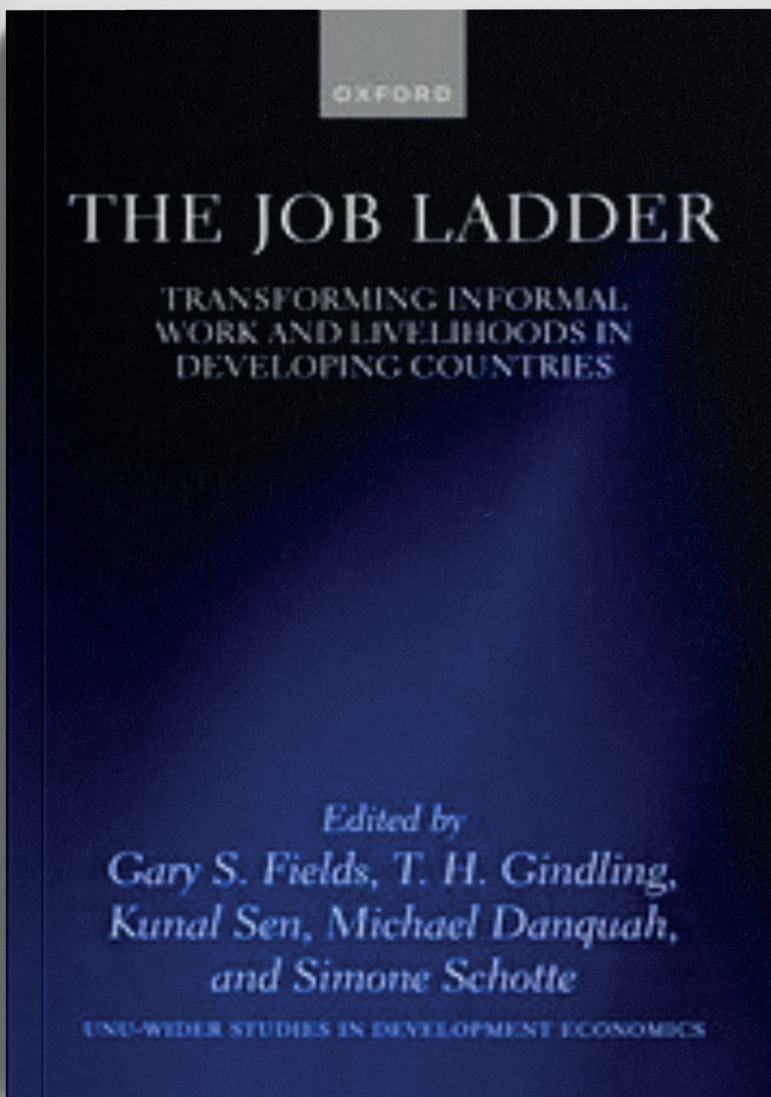
<https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/job-ladder-0>

Programme

Chair of the Session	Professor Théophile Azomahou , Ag. Executive Director, AERC
Presentation 16:00 -16:30	Dr. Michael Danquah , Research Fellow, UNUWIDER
Discussant I 16:30 -16:40	Dr. Maureen Were , Manager, Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting Division, Research Department, Central Bank of Kenya
Discussant I 16:40 -16:50	Professor Anthony Wambugu , Department of Economic, University of Nairobi.
16:50 – 17:10	Floor Discussions
Wrap Up 17:10 -17:15	Professor Théophile Azomahou , Ag. Executive Director, AERC

Book Summary

Edited: Gary Fields, Tim Gindling, Kunal Sen, Michael Danquah and Simone Schotte



Using a range of countries from the Global South, this book examines heterogeneity within informal work by applying a common conceptual framework and empirical methodology. The country studies use panel data to study the dynamics of worker transitions between formal and heterogeneous informal work. The range of country studies (covering Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa) in the book allow us to present a comparative perspective across developing countries. Each country study provides a nuanced view of informality, dividing workers into six work statuses: formal wage-employees, upper-tier informal wage-employees, lower-tier informal wage employees, formal self-employed, upper-tier informal self-employed. Based on this common conceptual framework, the country studies examine the distribution of workers between each of these work statuses. Using panel data, the country studies document transition patterns across different formality and work statuses. The panel data analysed in each country study gives a basis for making statements about labour market transitions that are not warranted when using comparable cross sections. In addition to measuring the distribution of workers and transitions between work statuses, each country study also examines individual- and household-level characteristics associated with workers in each work status. Using these characteristics each country study constructs a 'job ladder' that ranks each work status. The country studies then examine the characteristics of workers that are associated with transitions up (and down) the job ladder.

Bios Editors



Gary Fields is the John P. Windmuller Professor of International and Comparative Labor and Professor of Economics at Cornell University, Program Coordinator of the IZA Institute for Labor Economics Program on Labor and Development, and a UNU-WIDER Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow. He is the 2014 winner of the IZA Prize in Labor Economics, the top world-wide award in the field. He has been an Ivy League teacher and professor for fifty years, first at Yale University and then at Cornell University. He teaches and conducts research on labor economics and development economics. Fields has published more than 200 books, articles, and book chapters. His most recent books are *Growth, Employment, and Poverty: Latin America in the 2000s* with Guillermo Cruces, David Jaume, and Mariana Viollaz (Oxford University Press, 2017) and *Employment and Development* (Oxford University Press, 2019).



T.H. (Tim) Gindling is a professor in the Department of Economics and the 2020-2021 Lipitz Professor of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). His research has focused on the study of factors influencing the distribution of wages, income and work in developing economies. Dr. Gindling is a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER, an IZA Research Fellow, and subject editor for economic development for the *IZA World of Labor*.



Kunal Sen is Director of UNU-WIDER and Professor of Development Economics, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester (on leave). He has over three decades of experience in academic and applied development economics research. He is the author of eight books and the editor of five volumes on the economics and political economy of development. He has performed extensive research on international finance, the political economy determinants of inclusive growth, the dynamics of poverty, social exclusion, female labour force participation, and the informal sector in developing economies. His research has focused on India, East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. His books include *The Political Economy of India's Growth Episodes* (2016), *The Process of Financial Liberalization in India* (1997), and the *Economic Restructuring in East Asia and India: Perspectives on Policy Reform* (1995). He is a co-editor of *Deals and Development: The Political Dynamics of Growth Episodes* (2018) and *The Politics of Inclusive Development* (2016). And has also written twenty-five chapters in other volumes and published more than ninety peer-reviewed journal articles on topics in his field.

Bios Editors



Michael Danquah, a development economist, is a Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER. Michael is a co-chair of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Scientific Panel on Population, Inequality and Climate Change and a visiting Research Fellow at the Transfer Project. Previously, he worked at the Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Legon. His research interest is in economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily focussing on issues such as informality, inclusive growth, climate change, and productivity growth among others. Michael's research has been published in journals such as *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Small Business Economics*, *Energy Economics* among others. He has been awarded the Most Promising Young Scholar and Best Researcher in the School of Social Sciences, University of Ghana. Michael has also been interviewed by the BBC World Service on issues related to poverty reduction as well as the pandemic effects of COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa.



Simone Schotte is Research Associate at UNU-WIDER. She is a development economist with research interests at the cross-roads of inequality, social stratification, and labour markets research. At UNU-WIDER, Simone's main research focus is on horizontal inequalities and affirmative action, as well as questions related to understanding the drivers and livelihood implications of transitions between different types of formal and informal work, and the interlinkage between occupational change and earnings inequality dynamics in developing countries. Simone's research has been published in journals such as *World Development*, *Journal of Economic Inequality*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Kyklos*, *International Migration Review*, among others.

Session Panelist Profiles



Chair of the Session

Théophile Azomahou is a Professor of Economics, Acting Executive Director, and the Director of Training at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). His research resonates around development economics at the frontier of evidence-based policy, quantitative empirics, and economic theory. He has a proven track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and is he is a guest editor for several academic journals. Prior to joining AERC in January 2021, he was Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University, UNU (2008-2018) in which capacity he led the UNU research group on 'Economic Development, Innovation, Governance and Institutions', Professor of Development Economics at the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (2010-2020), Professor of Research at the National Centre for Scientific Research, CNRS (2018-2020), and Professor of Economics at the University Clermont Auvergne, CERDI (2015-2021) among other positions. Prof. Azomahou holds a PhD and a master's degree in Economics, both from the University of Strasbourg, France. He also received an executive education on 'A Cutting Edge of Development Thinking' from Harvard Kennedy School, USA. He is a Senior Fellow of the Pan-African Scientific Research Council and has been serving as AERC resource person since 2019.



Discussant

Maureen Were – is a manager in the Research Department of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK). She has previously worked for the United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) as a Research Fellow responsible for the UNU-WIDER collaborative research project with the UONGOZI Institute in Tanzania, 2018–2021. She has a wealth of experience in economic policy, research, macroeconomic modelling and teaching. Some of her awards include the Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellowship award won in 2013. Before joining the CBK in 2008, she previously worked at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) as a policy analyst and taught economics at Egerton University. She has authored several articles in refereed journals, working papers and book chapters. Her research interests include macroeconomics, financial inclusion, trade and gender perspectives to development in Africa

Session Panelist Profiles



Discussant

Anthony Wambugu - is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He holds bachelor's degree in Education (Economics and Business Studies) from Kenyatta University, M.A. degree in Economics from the University of Botswana and PhD degree in Economics from the University of Gothenburg. He has conducted research on labour markets, poverty, inequality and human capital development. He has successfully supervised graduate students' research over a period of 20 years and is intent on collaborations which strengthen networks for knowledge generation and application

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