

# HUMAN CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WORKING GROUP

[WWW.HCECONOMICS.ORG](http://WWW.HCECONOMICS.ORG)

## BUILDING A GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL RESEARCH NETWORK

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# What is the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group?

- ❑ The Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group is a global network of researchers from multiple disciplines that seeks to restore and strengthen human capital development research, including undergraduate and graduate curricula and support.
- ❑ The Working Group is a community of researchers, educators and policymakers focused on human development (including health and psychology) and related issues in finance, macroeconomics and inequality, with the aim of to promoting easy, effective collaboration.
- ❑ The Working Group will use [www.HCeconomics.org](http://www.HCeconomics.org) and topical working groups to organize and disseminate discussions and research.

# What is the focus of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group?

The Working Group will focus on human capital development including health, behavior, education and training, and finance and policy, and their implications for economic development and growth, inequality, fiscal sustainability, and the failure of markets to accurately price the economic value of human capital.

# Who is funding the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working?

- ◎ The Working Group is housed at the University of Chicago's Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics (BFI)
- ◎ The Working Group's initial funding is from the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)
- ◎ Additional funding from foundations, private individuals and governments is actively being sought.

# What will the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group provide?

## ✓ **Community**

- Academic, institutional, government and private researchers, with special encouragement to undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate students
- Discussion, debate and collaboration
- All aspects of human development, opportunity, inequality, and economic growth and development theoretical, applied and policy research
- Opportunities for research funding

## ✓ **Working Paper series**

- Send papers you want comments on to [humcap@uchicago.edu](mailto:humcap@uchicago.edu)

# What will the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group provide?

## ✓ Meetings

- Workshop series at the University of Chicago open to Working Group members
- Members may be invited to Chicago for one-week visits
- Ability to post blogs on the Working Group web site and on the topical working group web pages
- Website postings of workshop and web meeting videos, voice and webcasts for later listening and viewing
- Topical working group conference call and web meeting support

# What will the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group provide?

- ✓ **Public access to member work**
  - A place for interested parties including institutions, governments, press and other media to follow the Working Group's activities and progress
  - A "contact us" portion of the website (<http://mfi.uchicago.edu/humcap/contact/contact.shtml>) will enable others to reach individual members and provide their contact information



# Seven initial topical working groups



## Early Childhood Interventions (ECI)

To investigate the early origins of inequality and their lifetime consequences.



## Family Inequality (FI)

FI will focus on the relationship between the family and the sources of inequality.



## Health Inequality (HI)

HI will build a comprehensive framework for the emergence and the evolution of health disparities.



## Identity and Psychology (IP)

To understand the role of personality in all of its varied forms on shaping and perpetuating inequality and to understand the evolution of personality over the lifecycle.



## Markets (M)

The interface between markets for financing human capital and markets for physical capital.



## Measuring and Interpreting Inequality (MIE)

To understand and interpret frameworks for inequality in all of its manifestations using economic theory and the philosophy of social justice.



## Youth Human Capital and Economic Development (YHC)

Investing in the intersection between youth human capital and economic growth.



# What are “topical working groups”?

- ❖ To help initiate discussion, seven topical working groups have been established to explore specific aspects of human capital development. See <http://mfi.uchicago.edu/humcap/groups/groups.shtml>
- ❖ These topical groups are expected to grow and evolve in the directions researchers take them. New topical groups are expected to be formed as research needs emerge.

## **As a member of the HINet working group...**

- ❖ **The aim of the Health Inequality Network is to synthesize and extend insights from several disciplines into a unified approach, in order to build up a comprehensive framework for the emergence and the evolution of health disparities over the lifecycle and across generations which incorporates the study of: socioeconomic determinants; genetic inheritance; epigenetic mechanisms; biological and neuronal pathways; policy interventions and behavioral responses.**

# **WELCOME to the inaugural meeting of the HINet working group!**

- ❖ **The objective of this first HINet conference** is to allow the network members to deepen the knowledge of each other's work and to start interacting, towards the development of a synergistic approach to understanding the evolution of health disparities over the lifecourse and across generations, integrating frontier approaches in different disciplines.

# HINet is part of <http://HCeconomics.org>

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## Human Capital and Economic Opportunity: A Global Working Group Health Inequality


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### Health Inequality

The Health Inequality (HI) group will build a comprehensive framework for studying the emergence and the evolution of health disparities.

←  →



**James Heckman**  
University of Chicago  
Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Economics, University of Chicago; Professor of Science and Society, Geary Institute and University College Dublin; Senior Research Fellow at the American Bar Foundation

### News

**First Meeting of the Health Inequality Network**  
The first meeting of the Health Inequality Network will be held Thursday and Friday, September 15–16, 2011, on the University of Chicago campus. HINet Members can log in to view details here

**World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Set**  
Register now for the congress to be held September 18–21 in Portland, Oregon.


**Heckman Awarded European Research Center Grant**  
This five-year multidisciplinary project will study origins and evolution of health inequalities over the human lifespan. George Davey Smith is co-investigator. Colm Harmon is also participating. [Details » \(pdf\)](#)

**Group Plans Inaugural Conference for September 2011**  
Watch here for details about the event slated for September 2011.

**New Link between Mother's Pregnancy Diet and Child's Chances of Obesity**  
Godfrey, Gluckman and Hanson have discovered that a mother's pregnancy diet can strongly influence her child's risk of obesity many years later.

**Obama Names Otopade to National Cancer Advisory Board**  
She is among five named to the board that advises the heads of NCI and NCI.

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 **THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

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