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**"Hurst Seminar on Higher Education and Equality of Opportunity:
Cross-National Perspectives"**

June 3-5, 2008

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

Invitation to Participate

The Seminar is sponsored by Lynn and Lloyd Hurst Family Chair in Local Government; Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society, the Department of Politics and Government and the Center for Research in Higher Education of Ben Gurion University, INRUDA (International Network on the Role of Universities in Developing Areas), Policy Studies Organization & French Institute of Beer Sheva.

The members of the steering committee are Fred Lazin (BGU) chair, Nachum Finger (BGU), Sharon Pardo (BGU), Samuel Aroni (UCLA & INRUDA); David Wilmoth (INRUDA), Paul Rich (PSO) and N. Jayaram (Institute for Social & Economic Change (India) & INRUDA).

We want to bring together scholars to discuss issues related to higher education and equality of opportunity within specific countries. Among subjects of interest are equal opportunity, affirmative action and accessibility to higher education. Focus will be on the experiences of several countries represented by the research interests of the participants. We hope to have papers dealing with the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

The venue for the conference will be at a hotel in the Dead Sea resort area in Israel. The conference will begin in the late afternoon on June 3 and finish before dinner on June 5, 2008. Sponsors will make every effort to cover hotel, meal and domestic travel costs in Israel for presenters at the conference. Most participants will have to arrange and pay for their own flights.

Call for Papers

Some scholars have viewed higher education in the United States and in other countries as fostering equality of opportunity among a wide range of their citizens. This was particularly true of land grant colleges throughout the United States. Other examples include several urban public colleges in New York City which in the 20th century provided opportunities for immigrant populations to obtain necessary academic credentials and training to advance in the American economy and labor force. Even more prestigious establishment universities offered educational opportunities to lower and working class students following World War II. Has the American academic experience changed in recent decades? Are newer immigrant groups and emerging minorities being given access to higher education? Has affirmative action been successful?

In contrast the higher educational systems of some countries restrict entry and limit educational opportunities to an established elite and their offspring. In effect higher education does not serve as a means of opportunity or economic mobility for the mass of the population. Accessibility to higher education is denied to many.

We invite papers that deal with higher education and equality of opportunity (or lack of it) in country specific studies. Also welcome are papers that focus on particular case studies within a specific country and or region.

We are interested in having a broad representation of studies covering higher education throughout the world. Preference will be given to presenters who enable us to cover a maximum number of countries.

Participants whose proposals are accepted must submit a full version of the paper by May 1, 2008 so that we can distribute them to all participants. Papers should be between 6000-8000 words. Instructions on format will be distributed later.

Interested participants should submit a paper title, an abstract of up to 300 words and a CV. The second due date for proposals is January 20, 2008. All proposals should be sent to:

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