

### **Development Policy Seminar Series**

Will the Poor be “Always With Us”? Global Growth, Distribution and the Prospects for Poverty Eradication in a Carbon-Constrained World  
presented by David Woodward

Global economic growth may help to reduce poverty, but can it eradicate poverty? How long would it take? And is the growth this would require compatible with global carbon constraints?

This seminar will present the preliminary results of a study of the evolution of incomes by deciles of the world population (including and excluding China) since 1981, and assess the implications for poverty eradication were the pre-crisis (1993–2008) pattern of income growth to be resumed. The findings strongly indicate a need for much greater attention to the global distribution of income, rather than reliance on global growth, if poverty eradication is to be achieved in a meaningful sense in a remotely acceptable timeframe.

**David Woodward** has been a professional development economist for 30 years, working for international organizations, national government and the voluntary sector and independently. His work has covered debt, structural adjustment, globalization, trade and foreign direct investment, with a particular focus on linkages between policies and developments at the global level and impacts on poverty and health. As well as, and articles in journals in the fields of development, health and political economy, and many discussion papers, he is the author of *Debt, Adjustment and Poverty in Developing Countries* Volumes 1 and 2 (Pinter Publishers, 1992) and *The Next Crisis? Direct and Equity Investment in Developing Countries* (Zed Books, 2001), and co-editor of *Global Public Goods for Health: Economic and Public Health Perspectives* (OUP, 2003).

David is currently an independent writer and researcher, based in the Netherlands. His current work focuses mainly on the nexus between growth, inequality, poverty and carbon constraints at the global level; the development of alternative economic approaches to development to reconcile the tensions between global carbon constraints and poverty reduction; and democratization of global economic governance, with a particular focus on the International Monetary Fund.