

**CNSTAT Public Seminar**

# **Modernizing Poverty Measurement**

Friday, September 29, 2023

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (ET)

The Keck Center, Conference Room 100

[Event Page & Webcast](#)

[Registration](#)

[Committee's Report](#)

## **AGENDA**

- 3:00 p.m. **Welcome, Introductions**  
- Melissa Chiu (Director, CNSTAT)  
- Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland; Chair, CNSTAT)
- 3:05 **Dedication to Rebecca Blank**  
- James P. Ziliak (University of Kentucky; panel chair), Bruce Meyer (University of Chicago), Katharine Abraham
- 3:15 **Session 1: Future Directions for the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)**  
*Recommendations from the CNSTAT report for updating/modernizing the Census Bureau's SPM* [30 minutes]  
- James P. Ziliak; panel members Sanders Korenman (CUNY), Ingrid Gould Ellen (NYU), Sarah Bohn (Public Policy Institute of California), David Johnson (CNSTAT)  
*Update from the Census Bureau and BLS: Process and timeline for implementing changes; status update on research underway and future plans* [20 minutes]  
- Liana Fox, John Creamer (Census Bureau)  
- Thesia Garner (BLS)

4:05

**Session 2: Alternative Conceptual Approaches to the SPM—**  
consumption/expenditure-based measures; relative vs absolute measures

**Moderator:** Indivar Dutta-Gupta (CLASP)

*Opening statements* [5-8 minutes each]:

- Bruce Meyer
- Robert Moffitt (Johns Hopkins)
- David Brady (UC Riverside)

**Roundtable discussion**

How do alternative measures differ from the SPM (and other resource-based measures)? What knowledge gaps do they fill? For what purposes/policy applications are they preferable? How do the data demands differ?

- Above listed presenters and panel members
- Melissa Boteach (National Women's Law Center)
- Vanessa Calder (Cato Institute)
- Kevin Corinth (American Enterprise Institute)
- Wendy Edelberg (The Hamilton Project)
- Juan Manuel Pedroza (UC Santa Cruz)

**Q&A - Audience**

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

**Abstract**

The Fall CNSTAT seminar on poverty measurement will feature the recent report, *An Updated Measure of Poverty: (Re)Drawing the Line*, written by the Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure. The seminar will also address broader conceptual questions concerning the strengths, weaknesses, and intended purposes of different poverty measures, including the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), and expenditure/consumption-based approaches. The discussion will include members of the panel as well as experts in poverty measurement from the statistical agencies and academic institutions.