

J.M. BOVING LECTURE 2014



Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, The New School

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr is Professor of International Affairs at The New School. She is a development economist interested in human development and capabilities and the broad question of national and international policy strategies. Her current research includes projects on public policies and economic and social rights, and the impact of global goal setting on international development agendas. From 1995 to 2004, she was lead author and director of the UNDP Human Development Reports. Prior to this, she worked at the World Bank and UNDP on agriculture, aid coordination in Africa, and capacity development.

Her publications, in addition to the Human Development Reports, include *Human Rights and the Capabilities Approach: An Interdisciplinary Conversation* (co-edited with Diane Elson and Polly Vizard; 2011); *The Gene Revolution: GM Crops and Unequal Development* (2007); and *Capacity for Development: New Solutions to Old Problems* (2002), as well as numerous papers and book chapters on issues of poverty, gender, human rights, and technology.

Fukuda-Parr serves on the UN Committee on Development Policy as Vice Chair, The Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health, and the boards of the International Association for Feminist Economics, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, and Knowledge Ecology International. She also serves on the editorial boards of *Feminist Economics* and *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*.

Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights

One of the most ambitious legacies of the 20th century was the universal commitment to ensure freedom from want as a human right. How far have we progressed; to what extent are countries across the world living up to this commitment? This lecture presents a forthcoming book that charts new territory in examining the performance of countries in realizing social and economic rights – the rights to education, food, health, housing, work and social security. States have long escaped accountability for these commitments by claiming inadequate resources. Developing a new measure the *Social & Economic Rights Fulfillment (SERF) Index* and Achievement Possibilities Frontier methodology, the book provides an overall global picture of progress, regress and disparities amongst and within countries and explores the factors influencing performance—including whether treaty and legal commitments, gender equity, democracy/autocracy, and economic growth, explain good performance—revealing surprising results. The data provide empirical evidence to resolve some long standing controversies over the principle of ‘progressive realization’. The book concludes by observing how the SERF Index can be used in evidence based social science research, policy making and accountability procedures to advance social and economic rights. By defying the boundaries of traditional research disciplines, this work fundamentally advances our knowledge about the status of and factors promoting social and economic rights fulfillment at the dawn of the 21st century.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: ARTS 241

There will be a reception to follow the lecture.

Information: Phone: 306-966-5197, Email: mj.hanson@usask.ca

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