

The future of asset-based policies in the US and UK 8-9 March 2012

Speaker Details

Professor Michael Sherraden (University of Washington in St Louis)

Michael Sherraden is an Advisory Board Member of CHASM and Benjamin E. Youndahl Professor of Social Development at Washington University in St Louis, and the founding director of Brown School's Center for Social Development (CSD) Michael is the author of the ground-breaking book, *Assets and the Poor* (1991), which first proposed the idea of asset-based welfare policies and Individual Development Accounts (IDAs): matched savings accounts enabling low-income households to save and accumulate assets. IDAs have been adopted in federal legislation, in more than 40 states across the US, and in many countries across the world including Canada, Taiwan and the UK. Between 2000-2004, Michael worked with the UK government on asset-building policies as an anti-poverty strategy, social mobility and the Child Trust Fund. He has served as an adviser and consultant to the White House, Department of Treasury, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Carnegie Council and many other US organisations. Michael was named one of Time's Most Influential People of 2010 in recognition of his work on asset-building for low-income families.

Professor Thomas Shapiro (Brandeis University)

Thomas Shapiro is the director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) and is the Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. He co-authored the award-winning book, *Black Wealth, White Wealth*, which received the 1997 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association. The book also won the 1995 C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems, whilst the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America named it an Outstanding Book of 1996. Thomas also authored, *The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality* published by Oxford University Press in 2004, which received a number of awards. IASP is a leading US research centre that informs asset policy development, and is able to draw upon evidence-based research in tackling issues of asset inequality, security and well-being. IASP has conducted ground-breaking research around the affect of assets on outcomes of well-being, and engages in key national public debates in this area.

Professor William Darity (Duke University)

William Darity is Arts & Sciences Professor of Public Policy Studies and Professor of African and African American Studies and Economics at Duke University. William is the director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality (The Network) at Duke Human Rights Center and is a fellow at the Carolina Population Center at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. William is one of the leading US academic on race and economic inequality and intergenerational exchanges of wealth. He has published over 200 articles in professional journals spanning the fields of economics, public health, sociology and the wealth inequality. William has authored or edited 10 books including lead editorship of the International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences and was, Visiting Scholar, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve.

Professor Dalton Conley (New York University)

Dalton Conley is currently Senior Vice Provost and Dean for the Social Sciences, as well as a University Professor at New York University (NYU). He holds a number of academic positions, including faculty appointment in NYU's Sociology Department, School of Medicine and the Wagner School of Public Policy. Dalton serves as an Adjunct Professor of Community Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). He is widely acknowledged as one of the leading US academics on racialised asset inequality and intergenerational transmission of wealth. His research interest also explores sibling differences in socioeconomic success; measurement of class and the way biology affects, and are affected by social position. In 2005, he became the first sociologist to win the highly prestigious National Science Foundation's Alan T. Waterman Award given annually to one young researcher in any field of science, mathematics or engineering. Dalton is the author of the highly influential book, *Being Black, Living in the Red: Race, Wealth, and Social Policy in America*, in its 10th anniversary edition published in 2010, which argued that the foundation of class inequality between ethnic groups in the US is based on assets rather than household income. Dalton is a CHASM Advisory Board Member

Professor Margaret Sherraden (University of Missouri – St Louis)

Margaret Sherraden is Professor of Social Work at the University of Missouri – St Louis and Research Professor at the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St Louis. Her research focuses on matched savings accounts for low-income adults in the US, school-based savings for college, asset building and financial education. Margaret was President of the Missouri association for Social Welfare from 2002-2003 and received the University of Missouri – St Louis Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004.