

**ÖFSE Development Lecture No.1**  
**„Combating Poverty and Inequality.**  
**Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics“**

**May 31, 2011, 17:00-19:00**

**C3 - Centre for International Development, Alois-Wagner Saal**  
**1090 Vienna, Sensengasse 3**

**Abstract**

Poverty reduction is a central feature of the international development agenda and contemporary poverty reduction strategies increasingly focus on “targeting the poor”, yet poverty and inequality remain intractable foes. The new UNRISD Flagship Report „Combating Poverty and Inequality“ argues that this is because many current approaches to reducing poverty and inequality fail to consider key institutional, policy and political dimensions that may be both causes of poverty and inequality, and obstacles to their reduction. Moreover, when a substantial proportion of a country’s population is poor, it makes little sense to detach poverty from the dynamics of development. For countries that have been successful in increasing the well-being of the majority of their populations over relatively short periods of time, the report shows, progress has occurred principally through state-directed strategies that combine economic development objectives with active social policies and forms of politics that elevate the interests of the poor in public policy.

Dr. Sarah Cook, Director of UNRISD, will present the report in Vienna, and will be available to discuss the report’s findings and policy conclusions with distinguished commentators and the audience.

With the ÖFSE Development Lectures, ÖFSE is initiating a series of high-level events in the new C3 - Centre for International Development, which aim at

- presenting innovative international academic work and research findings to the Austrian development community, and
- providing a venue for open interchange between academia and development practitioners.

**Programme**

**17.00 Welcome:** *Werner Raza, Director, ÖFSE*

**17.15 Keynote:**  
**„Combating Poverty and Inequality. Structural Change,**  
**Social Policy and Politics“**  
*Sarah Cook, Director UNRISD, Geneva*

**18.00 Comments:**  
*Marcel Fink, Department of Government, University of Vienna*  
*Manfred Schnitzer, Head of Unit, Austrian Ministry of European*  
*and International Affairs*  
*Michaela Moser, Österreichische Armutskonferenz*

*Facilitator: Karin Küblböck, ÖFSE*

**19.00 Wine reception**

*Conference language: English*

**Registration**

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