



The Middle Class in World Society

Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore/India

December 16-17, 2016



INVITED PANELISTS

Satish Deshpande, University of Delhi, Dehli, India

Darrick Hamilton, The New School, New York, USA

Surinder Singh Jodhka, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

P.G. Jogdand, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Jessica Peña, University of Maryland, USA

R. Balasubramaniam, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, Mysore, India

Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C., USA

Kris Marsh, University of Maryland, College Park, USA

D Narasimha Reddy, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, India

Jessica S. Welburn, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

N. Jayaram, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

G. Haragopal, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India



Organization and contact *Admission is free.*

Contact: wsfconference2016@isec.ac.in

Further information: www.worldsociety.ch

Conference venue: Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, India

Organizing committee: K.S. James, S. Madheswaran, B. P. Vani, Daniel Künzler, Christian Suter, and Patrick Ziltener

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

7:30 PM **Welcome reception at the “The Lalit Ashok Hotel”**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

9:30–11:00 AM **Inaugural function**

Chairperson : A.Ravindra (Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and Chairman, Board of Governors, ISEC, Bangalore)

Welcome

M.G.Chandrankanth (Director, ISEC, Bangalore)

Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel and President World Society Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland)

Guest of Honour

Conny Camenzind (Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Switzerland, Bangalore)

About the Conference

S. Madheswaran (Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, ISEC, Bangalore)

Inaugural address

V.K.Malhotra (Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi)

Keynote address

Rakesh Kochhar (Pew Research Center, Washington DC): A Global Middle Class: Is More Promise than Reality

Vote of Thanks

B.P. Vani (Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, ISEC, Bangalore)

11:00–11:30 AM **Tea/Coffee**

11:30–1:30 PM **Invited panel discussion 1: Conceiving the middle class**

Chairperson: Volker Bornschier (World Society Foundation, Zurich)

N.Jayaram (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Conceptualizing Middle Class in Changing India

G.Haragopal (National Law School of India University, Bangalore): Typologies of Middle Class in India

Surinder Singh Jodhka (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): Caste and the Indian Middle Class

R.Balasubramaniam (Chairman, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, Mysore): Voice Poverty in the Middle Classes of India - Lethargy or a Self Induced Impotency?

Kris Marsh and Jessica Peña (University of Maryland, USA): Marriage, Household Composition, Class Status by Nativity for Women of Color: 1980-2014

1:30–2:30 PM **Lunch**

2:30–4:15 PM **Workshop session 1: Middle Class Formation and Evolution**

Chairperson: Daniel Künzler (University of Fribourg and World Society Foundation, Zurich)

Ilan Bizberg (El Colegio de México, Mexico D.F): The Growth of the Middle Class in Asia and Latin America: Why is it Important? Is it Sustainable?

Chiara Assunta Ricci (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy): What Has Happened to the Middle Class? Incomes and Perceived Social Position Dynamics in Different Countries

Roger Southall (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa): The “Middle-Classing” of Development: Key Problems in Southern Africa

Jason Musyoka (University of Pretoria, South Africa): South Africa’s Black Middle Classes, Entanglement and State Dependence

Sandhya Krishnan and Neeraj Hatekar (University of Mumbai, India): Emergence of the New Middle Class in India and its Structural Composition: An Empirical Investigation from 1999-00 to 2011-12

4:15–4:45 PM **Tea/Coffee**

4:45–6:30 PM **Workshop session 2: Middle Class Lifestyles and Consumption**

Chairperson: K.S.James (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Mansi Awasthi (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Framing India’s New Middle Class Politics of Lifestyle in the Globalisation Era

Devanshi Kulshreshtha (Symbiosis School of Economics, India), Abhishek Behl (Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development, India), and Abhinav Pal (Symbiosis School of Economics, India): An Analysis of Non-Food Expenditures of the Middle Class in India

Manish K Jha and M. Ibrahim Wani (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Exploring the “New” Middle Class in Lived Experience: Identities, Anxieties and Contestations

Amrita Basu Roy Chowdhury (Jadavpur University, India): Globalization and the Rise of New Middle Class: Construction of New Gender Roles in Bengali Print Advertisement, 1991–2010

8:00 PM **Conference dinner at the “The Lalit Ashok Hotel”**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

9:30–11:15 AM **Invited panel discussion 2: Living a middle class life**

Chairperson: Rakesh Kochhar (Pew Research Center, Washington DC)

Satish Deshpande (University of Delhi): Meaningness of “Middle Class” in India

Darrick Hamilton (The New School, New York): An Absent Asset-Based Black American Middle Class: The Iterative Role of Hard Work, Education and Intergenerational Poverty.

Jessica S. Welburn (University of Iowa, Iowa City): Managing Public Sector Contraction in Detroit: The Experiences of Working Class and Middle Class African Americans

P.G.Jogdand (University of Mumbai): Dalit Middle Class: A Discussion on Activism

11:15–11:45 AM **Tea/Coffee break**

11:45–1:30 PM **Workshop session 3: Middle Class Diversity and Heterogeneity**
Chairperson: Patrick Ziltener (University of Zurich and World Society Foundation, Zurich)

Dieter Neubert (University of Bayreuth, Germany): The Simplified Assumptions of the Global Middle Class Narrative: Global Middle Income Groups in Kenya

Shaoni Shabnam (IIT Mumbai): In Defence of *Sustho Sanskriti* (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Class-ness in Neo-liberal India

Stefanie Strulik (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, Switzerland): Competing Narratives of Modernity and Muslim Middle Class in Lucknow

Kalidas S Khobragade (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Middle Class Dalits in India: Their Issues and Challenges

Meenoo Kohli (University of California, Santa Cruz): Middle Class Strategies for Addressing Built Environmental Challenges: A Case Study of Planned Neighborhood in Delhi

1:30–2:30 PM **Lunch break**

2:30–4:15 PM **Workshop session 4: Social Capital and Civil Society**
Chairperson: Supriya Roychowdhury (ISEC, Bangalore)

Lena Kroeker (University of Bayreuth, Germany): The Kenyan Middle Class and Responses to Social Security

Anindita Tagore (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): An Enquiry into Middle Class's Engagement with Social Activism: Understanding Emerging Trends and Challenges

Sibtos Bandyopadhyay (Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Haripal, India): Colonial Legacy and Post Colonial Fanaticism: Changing Face of Bengali Middle Class in 21st Century

Venkatesh Kurandwad (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai): Building and Leveraging Middle Class Capital through Convergent Forces

Anup Hiwrale and Chakradhar Jadhav (ISEC, Bangalore): Emergence of Dalit Middle Class in India

4:15–4:45 PM **Tea/Coffee break**

4:45–6:15 PM **Valedictory function**
Chairperson: R.S. Deshpande (Former Director and BOG Member, ISEC)

Valedictory address: D. N. Reddy (Institute for Human Development, New Delhi): Neoliberal Regime and Lower Middle Class Stress in a Lower Middle Income Country

Vote of thanks: S.Madheswaran (ISEC, Bangalore), and Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel/World Society Foundation, Switzerland)

8:00 PM **Conference dinner at the "The Lalit Ashok Hotel"**