



## Poor Participation

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9:00am – 4:30pm

### Summary

The poor have long been consigned to a group of "included-out" citizens. They are legally living in a place, but they are not afforded the same courtesies, entrusted with the same responsibilities, or respected in parallel processes, as those citizens of greater means and those who behave in manners that are more consistent with "middle class" values.

A common sentiment in discussions of poverty and social policy is that decisions made about those living in poverty or near-poverty are illegitimate, inadvisable, and non-responsive to the needs and interests of the poor if the poor themselves are not involved in the decision-making process. In this workshop, Dr. Bryer argues that active citizenship and poverty are indeed inextricably linked.

How does poor or low quality public participation of the poor and non-poor contribute to ongoing subsistence poverty across our societies? How are the poor themselves restricted as full participants in democratic life? This workshop delves into these important questions and explores the linkages between engaged citizenship and poverty, drawing on examples from the United States, Canada, parts of Western and Eastern Europe, and South Africa.

### Outline

- I. Ethical Dilemmas Regarding the Poor: Getting the Conversation Started
  - a. "Nothing Without Us About Us Is For Us"
- II. Defining Poverty
  - a. Subsistence Poverty
  - b. Status Poverty
  - c. Agency Poverty
- III. Dilemma of the "Included-Out" Citizen
  - a. Forms of Citizenship
    - i. Legal Citizenship
    - ii. Political & Ethical Citizenship
    - iii. Cultural & Religious Citizenship
  - b. Inclusion of Citizens
    - i. Included-In Citizens
    - ii. Included-Out Citizens
    - iii. Excluded Citizens
- IV. Moving the Poor from Included-Out to Included-In: The Meaning of "With" in "Nothing Without Us About Us is For Us"
  - a. Organize the power structure
  - b. Expand the power structure
  - c. Confront the power structure
  - d. Assist the power structure
- V. Reducing Poverty through Empowerment, Not Manipulation





## **Required Readings** [SEE LIBRARY RESERVES\\*](#)

- Mancilla, Alejandra. 2016. Chapter 1: "Reviving the Right of Necessity", In *The Right of Necessity: Moral Cosmopolitan and Global Poverty*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, p. 1-22.
- Bloom, Paul. 2016. Chapter 1: "Other People's Shoes", In *Against Empathy: The Case for Rational Compassion*. New York: HarperCollins, p. 15-56.
- Ci, Jiwei. 2013. "Agency and Other Stakes of Poverty." *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 21(2), 125-150.
- Downie, Elaine. 2016. "Nothing About Us, Without Us, is For Us!" SCVO.  
<https://scvo.org.uk/post/2016/09/05/nothing-about-us-without-us-is-for-us>
- Erni, John Nguyet. 2016. "Citizenship Management: On the Politics of Being Included-Out." *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 19(3), 323-340.

## **Additional Resources**

- Bryer, Thomas A. and Sofia Prysmakova-Rivera. (2018) *Poor Participation: Fighting the Wars on Poverty and Impoverished Citizenship*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. (Order at <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498538954/Poor-Participation-Fighting-the-Wars-on-Poverty-and-Impoverished-Citizenship>)

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca)

