

Professor Peter Lanjouw: “The evolution of well-being in the north Indian village of Palanpur”

This key-note will bring together data collected in the north Indian village of Palanpur, Uttar Pradesh, to explore trends in rural living standards and their distribution over recent decades. The processes at work in this specific village will be compared to those emerging from National Sample Survey data for rural India as a whole. Particular attention will be paid to the growing importance, and influence, of the non-farm sector in the rural economy and how the process of structural transformation out of agriculture is affecting both absolute poverty as well as the distribution of income. The unique nature of the Palanpur study and the data that have been assembled offer an ability not just to examine trends in well-being over time, but to also study welfare trajectories of individual households over time. This key note will link findings on income mobility in Palanpur to insights derived from the application of synthetic panel methods to NSS data.

[Peter Lanjouw](#) is after a distinguished career with the World Bank, most recently as Research Manager of the Poverty and Inequality Group, incoming Professor at [VU University Amsterdam](#). He is widely known for his many contributions to the measurement of poverty and inequality; income distribution dynamics; rural non-farm employment; incidence of public spending; and village studies in India.