

Panelist Biographies

Financial Decision Making, Poverty and Inequality Workshop

Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Poverty and Center for Financial Security

University of Wisconsin–Madison (Union South)

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Timothy M. (Tim) Smeeding is the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty. He is also a member of executive committee of the Center for Financial Security. Professor Smeeding's recent work has been on national and cross-national studies of mobility across generations; inequality of income consumption and wealth, and the measurement of poverty in a national and cross-national context. He advises several national and international research projects on intergenerational mobility, economic inequality and public policy.



J. Michael Collins is faculty director of the Center for Financial Security at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is an Associate Professor at the La Follette School of Public Affairs and the School of Human Ecology. He is also a faculty affiliate of the UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, the Institute for Research on Poverty. Collins studies consumer decision-making in the financial marketplace, including the role of public policy in influencing credit, savings and investment choices. His work includes the study of financial capability with a focus on low-income families. Collins brings nearly a decade of applied experience to his research. He founded PolicyLab Consulting Group, a research consulting firm working with national foundations and government agencies, and co-founded MortgageKeeper Referral Services, an online database for mortgage servicers and counselors. He also worked for NeighborWorks America (Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation) and the Millennial Housing Commission. He holds a Masters from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, a PhD from Cornell University, and a BS from Miami University (OH).

Jonathan Morduch studies the financial decisions of low-income households. Morduch is Professor of Public Policy and Economics at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and Executive Director of the Financial Access Initiative. Morduch is co-author of *Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day* (Princeton 2009) and *The Economics of Microfinance* (MIT Press, 2nd edition 2010). He is co-editor of *Banking the World: Empirical Foundations of Financial Inclusion* (MIT Press, 2012). Morduch is also the author (with Dean Karlan) of *Economics*, a new text focused on economic principles and the way they shape the world (McGraw-Hill 2013). Morduch holds a BA from Brown and Ph.D. from Harvard.



Mary Fairchild is a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) where she focuses on legislative management and public policy. Currently, she manages a cross jurisdictional initiative on family economic success that is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In addition, Mary oversees staff who serve as the principal contacts between NCSL and all 50 state legislatures. Mary has been with NCSL for 25 years. Her experience includes providing services to state legislatures on children and family policy, family economic success, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and legislative operations. Mary has served as a consultant to private foundations and local government on system change, multi-agency collaboration, the legislative process, asset building, delinquency prevention, and sentencing policy. She has also served on several boards for non-profit organizations working to improve conditions for vulnerable families. She holds an M.S.W. from the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work and a bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado State University.



David Sieminski is a Policy Analyst in the Office of Financial Empowerment at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Office of Financial Empowerment is guided by the Dodd-Frank Act mandate to provide “information, guidance, and technical assistance regarding the offering and provision of consumer financial products or services to traditionally underserved consumers and communities.” Dave is currently the lead staff for the CFPB tax time savings campaign, *Ready, Set, Save*. Prior to joining the CFPB Dave spent 15 years working in the asset building field in Seattle, Washington. He helped to start and managed a countywide individual development account program, a large scale free tax preparation and EITC campaign, and a non-profit affiliated with a low-income community development credit union. Dave has over 25 years of experience in program management in both the private and non-profit sectors.

Mae Watson Grote is the founder and Executive Director of The Financial Clinic. She has been a member of New York City’s public interest legal and social service communities for over a decade. Ms. Grote has led a number of diverse initiatives for organizations such as the Legal Aid Society and FoodChange. As the Clinic’s founding Executive Director, Ms. Grote created one of the nation’s first nonprofit financial development organizations; its mission is to improve working poor people’s financial security. The Clinic does this by addressing their immediate financial challenges and mapping trajectories for long-term goals. In less than seven years, the Clinic has accumulated over \$20 million in new savings, canceled debt and accessed tax credits.

Prior to the Clinic, Ms. Grote was a senior labor market policy analyst with Public/Private Ventures, a national nonprofit research and policy organization. She has extensive experience in work supports and low-wage, low-skilled workers’ self-sufficiency issues. Among her publications, *Unrealized Gains: How Workforce Development Organizations Can Put Money In the Pocket of Low-Wage Workers* examines how nonprofit organizations address their constituents’ financial security within the fabric of their preexisting services. She received a B.A. from Rutgers University and a J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law.



Michal Grinstein-Weiss is an Associate Professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Associate Director at the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. Grinstein-Weiss is a leading researcher in the asset-building field and is an influential voice in the design of savings policies, both in the United States and internationally. She is the Principal Investigator for a 10-year follow-up study of the American Dream Demonstration (ADD), the first large-scale test of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). In addition, she is leading the Refund to Savings initiative, the largest savings experiment in the United States to date. The initiative builds on her work on innovative tax refund savings programs such as the \$aveNYC program and it is a collaborative effort with leading behavioral economist Dan Ariely and Intuit, Inc. Grinstein-Weiss also serves as consultant to the Israeli government on developing innovative universal savings policies. In 2011, Grinstein-Weiss was selected as the winner of the Society for Social Work and Research Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award. Her research has been supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, several leading national research centers, and numerous philanthropic foundations.

Grinstein-Weiss received a PhD in Social Work at George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis and an MS in economics from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Bob Jones is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP). WISCAP is the statewide trade association for Wisconsin’s Community Action Agencies; locally controlled, not-for-profit corporations dedicated to helping low-income families become self-sufficient. A member of WISCAP’s staff since May 1994, Bob was appointed Executive Director in July 2011 after previously serving at the association’s Public Policy Director. Bob has 37 years of experience in community action, including 8 years as the Executive Director of the Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, serving five rural-Wisconsin counties.



Ida Rademacher is CFED's Chief Program Officer. In this capacity, she provides strategic direction and leadership to CFED's program, policy and research teams and oversees the successful implementation of the strategic plan. She also serves as a key spokesperson for CFED and works closely with a range of partners from public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors to design, implement, evaluate and scale proven strategies that expand financial security for low- and moderate-income Americans. Ida previously served as Research Director and Vice President for Policy & Research at CFED. Her publications include *Building Economic Security in America's Cities: New Municipal Strategies for Asset Building and Financial Empowerment*, *Upside Down: The \$400 Billion Asset-Building Budget*, the 2009 *Assets & Opportunity Scorecard* and *Weathering the Storm: Have IDAs Helped Low Income Households Avoid Foreclosure*.

Janet Gordon is Chief of the Community Affairs Section at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection (DCP) at the Headquarters Office. The Section includes the regional Community Affairs Officers and works with other regulators, federal partners, State, local and national organizations to encourage economic inclusion and community development partnerships between banks and government, nonprofit and other private organizations. The FDIC sponsored or co-sponsored more than 130 partnership events in 2013 and promotes local collaborations through its support of 15 Alliances for Economic Inclusion operating in large metro areas and multi-county rural areas. Janet also has served as a Senior Policy Analyst in DCP's Supervisory Policy Section at the FDIC with responsibilities that included serving as Chairman of the FFIEC Consumer Compliance Task Force sub-committee on the Community Reinvestment Act. Janet previously worked as the compliance manager for two large mortgage lenders, as a manager for a major consulting firm advising many banking companies on community reinvestment and fair lending strategies, and was also Associate Director of the Community Development Corporation and Investment Program at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in its Community Development Division. She graduated from The University of Michigan and holds an MBA in finance from George Washington University.

Fenaba R. Addo is a RWJF Health & Society Scholar at UW-Madison, where she is also an affiliate of the Center for Demography and Ecology, Center for Financial Security, and an Honorary Fellow of the Department of Consumer Science. Dr. Addo's research examines how economic resources and financial behaviors influence family and household dynamics, such as cohabitation, marriage, relationship quality, and health outcomes. In Fall 2014 Dr. Addo will join Consumer Science at UW-Madison as an Assistant Professor.



Ken Taylor is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF), a position he has held since December 2009. Previous positions include: Policy Advisor in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF); Director of the American operation of Dartington-I, and international research and practice organization focused on improving outcomes for children in need; Special Assistant to the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Families; and Lieutenant US Navy. Ken resides in Madison with his wife Kristin and his son Will. Ken has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Duke University and a Masters of Public Policy degree from the University of Chicago.

Frank Kaplan is Senior Vice President of Business Development at NetSpend Corporation. NetSpend Corporation is a leading provider of prepaid debit cards in the United States. The company's mission is to empower consumers with the convenience, security and freedom to be self-banked. Frank joined NetSpend in 2007 with more than 25 years of executive leadership experience in technology sales, marketing and business development. Before joining NetSpend, Mr. Kaplan served as Vice President of Worldwide Sales at WholeSecurity, a software security company that was acquired by Symantec. He has also served in executive sales and marketing roles at Compression Labs, VTEL, Clear Commerce and AT&T. Mr. Kaplan holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University and a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio State University.





Jeanne Hogarth is Vice President of Policy at the Center for Financial Services Innovation's (CFSI). Jeanne works to strengthen CFSI's research program and engagement efforts with government and other key stakeholders. Prior to joining CFSI, Jeanne worked as an economist in the Consumer and Community Affairs at the Federal Reserve Board, managing the Consumer Research section. There, she led research projects on consumer financial decision-making, financial services access and inclusion, and household economic stability. She also spend 13 years as an Associate Professor of consumer economics at Cornell University where she worked with Cooperative Extension on translating research into practice in community development and consumer finance. Before getting her graduate degrees, she taught high school in Ohio. She has been a keynote speaker at national and international conferences on financial education and family financial stability. She is the author of numerous consumer education resources on consumer financial management as well as research articles. She served as a guest editor for the Journal of Consumer Affairs special issue on Financial Literacy, Public Policy, and Consumer Self-Protection. Both her research and her consumer education programs have received awards for their excellence. Jeanne received a BS in education from Bowling Green State University and an MS and PhD in family and consumer economics from The Ohio State University.

Hanns Kuttner is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. Hudson is now more than 50 years old. A continuing theme of work at Hudson has been the use of technology by government. His first work in this area was a study ("The Move to Digital Payment: When the Check is No Longer in the Mail") of how payment cards came to be a solution for government officials who wanted to reduce financial transaction costs. More recently, he has written (with Jeanne Hogarth of Center for Financial Services Innovation) "Double Duty: Payment Cards as a Doorway to Greater Financial Health" which presents options for how payment cards adopted largely to advance government efficiency might also serve as a path to more financial services for government program participants who use them.



Jonathan Mintz is Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund, a national non-profit organization that supports municipal efforts to help low-income families and individuals achieve long-term financial stability. He also founded and co-chaired the Cities for Financial Empowerment Coalition (CFE Coalition), which brings together pioneering municipal governments from across the country to advance innovative financial empowerment initiatives on the municipal, state, and national level. Jonathan was previously the longest-serving Commissioner in the history of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), having been appointed to the role by former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. During this time, Mintz redefined the Department's regulatory enforcement powers toward a focus on consumer financial stability, re-envisioning consumer rights in fields such as debt collection, process serving, employment, and finance. While there, he launched the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE), which has been replicated by local governments across the nation to systematically advance programs in financial counseling and education, asset building, and safe banking. Mintz has pioneered the "Supervitamin Effect," a growing body of programs, policies, and research that measures the positive impacts of integrating financial empowerment services into mainstream local government antipoverty programs such as workforce development, public housing, domestic violence, prisoner reentry, and more.

Beadsie Woo is a Senior Associate in the Center for Community and Economic Opportunity at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Her work to increase financial stability for families and children focuses on strategies that facilitate asset development and protect asset holdings. She is a co-author of *Weathering the Recession: The Financial Crisis and Family Wealth Changes in Low-Income Neighborhoods*, that examines at what happened to assets, debts and home equity for families living in low-income neighborhoods during the Great Recession, using data from the longitudinal *Making Connections* Survey. Beadsie holds an AB in Economics from Davidson College, a MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and earned her PhD in the Department of Economics from the University of North Carolina.



James Gatz is a Policy Analyst with the Treasury Department's Office of Consumer Policy, where he focuses on innovations in financial services, including the growing use of data and new technologies to expand the availability of financial services and to assist with personal financial decision-making. Prior to joining Treasury, he worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on community services and asset building programs and policy. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.