

An Economic Bill of Rights for the 21st Century

Program

8:30-9:00 AM Continental breakfast

9:00 -9:15 AM **Welcome remarks,**

Robert Pollack, Director, Columbia University Seminars Program

9:15 – 9:30 **Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Economic Bill of Rights, historical background**

David Woolner, Senior Fellow and Resident Hyde Park Historian, The Roosevelt Institute

9:30 -11:00 **PANEL I: Economic Rights: What are they? How are they interconnected? To what extent have they been achieved? The economics (then and now) of securing the right to work along with the other rights. The social costs of not securing these rights. Updating these rights for the 21st century.**

CHAIR

June Zaccone, Associate Professor Emerita of Economics, Hofstra University

PANELISTS

Philip Harvey, Professor of Law and Economics, Rutgers University, Camden

William Quigley, Prof. of Law, Loyola University

Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg, Professor Emerita of Social Policy, Adelphi University

Sheila D. Collins, Professor Emerita of Political Science, William Paterson University

Discussion

11:00 – 12:30 **PANEL II: Full employment and the right to a job: What does it mean? How do we get there?**

CHAIR

Eduardo Rosario, Executive Board, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (NYC Chapter);

PANELISTS

Helen Lachs Ginsburg, Professor Emerita of Economics, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Darrick Hamilton, Associate Professor of Economics and Urban Policy,

Milano Graduate School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy, The New School

Dean Baker, Co-Director Center for Economic and Policy Research

Discussion

12:30 – 2:30 **LUNCH**

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Chuck Bell, Programs Director, Consumers Union

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable John Conyers

2:30-4:00 **ROUNDTABLE: How can we secure these rights in the present political climate?**

CHAIR

Logan Martinez, Outreach Coordinator, National Jobs for All Coalition and the Miami Valley Full Employment Council

PANELISTS

Katrina vanden Heuvel, Editor and Publisher, *The Nation*

Gary Dorrien, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary

Michael Lighty, Director of Public Policy, California Nurses' Association/National Nurses United

Chris Policano, Director of Communications, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees

David Woolner, Senior Fellow and Resident Hyde Park Historian, The Roosevelt Institute

Discussion

4:00– 4:30 **What have we learned? What's next?**

Peter Marcuse, Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning, Columbia University

SEMINAR CO-CHAIRS AND CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

Sheila D. Collins

Helen Lachs Ginsburg

Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg

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The Murphy Center for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Union Theological Seminary
Left Labor Project

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA

The University Seminars program at Columbia University was founded in 1945 by Professor Frank Tannenbaum and his wife, Jane Belo Tannenbaum, who established a trust to be included in Columbia's permanent endowment. Professor Tannenbaum was interested in having groups of Columbia professors and other experts explore matters beyond the scope of any single discipline. Intellectual fellowship, he believed, “encompasses both the theorist and the practitioner.” Today, following that sentiment, the Seminars link Columbia with the intellectual resources of its surrounding communities. This outreach also offers to both worlds the fruits of interaction and mutual criticism, as well as the advantage of close contacts. For further information, <http://universityseminars.columbia.edu//>

THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON FULL EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND EQUITY

The Columbia University Seminar on Full Employment, Social Welfare and Equity is one of eighty-eight seminars that currently comprise the University Seminars program. Founded in 1987, it was originally called the Seminar on Full Employment. The name change reflected recognition that the scope of the Seminar had expanded because of the many interrelationships among full employment, social welfare and equity. For example, social welfare policies such as Social Security and Medicare, really workplace benefits, were closely related to the level and continuity of employment.

The impetus for the Seminar's establishment came from the late Professor Sumner Rosen, an economist at the Columbia University School of Social Work, who, at a time of declining interest in full employment, had been working on the issue with a diverse network of academics, social welfare professionals, clergy, trade unionists, and social activists that became, in 1994, the National Jobs for All Coalition. Professor Rosen thought one function of the seminar would be to provide these reformers with the most informed thinking about unemployment and its solutions.

The Seminar focuses on analytical and policy issues and includes cross-national perspectives, primarily in the other relatively rich nations with which the United States can be

compared. The aim is to identify and clarify the more difficult and central intellectual questions which relate to and affect the national commitment and capability to assure full employment, social welfare and equity.

Participants in the seminar include New York metropolitan area faculty and graduate students from a diversity of fields, including economics, sociology, social welfare, history, political science, social work and labor studies. Others are clergy and staff of government or non-profit agencies, labor unions, and other organizations. Several are leaders of the National Jobs for All Coalition. Parts of books and a number of journal articles were initially presented at seminars and benefited from the comments of participants.

As well as drawing speakers from its own ranks, the Seminar has had a wide variety of distinguished guest speakers from the United States and nearly a dozen other countries, including three Nobel Laureates in economics--two of them Columbia University professors: Joseph Stiglitz and William Vickrey. At the time of his untimely death, shortly after being informed of his Nobel award, Vickrey was an active member of the Full Employment Seminar. He firmly believed that full employment is not only desirable and necessary for a decent society but is also achievable. The Seminar on Full Employment, Social Welfare and Equity strives to follow in that tradition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Since our founding in 1987, we have had the privilege of working with three different Seminar directors, Professors Aaron Warner, Robert Belknap and Robert Pollack. This has been an enriching experience for the Seminar. We especially want to thank the Seminars program for its generous contribution to this conference and its Director, Robert Pollack, for encouraging us to undertake it. Without the supportive efforts of Alice Newton, Associate Director of the University Seminars program and also Pamela Guardia, Administrative Assistant and Summer Hart, Archive and Web Administrator, this conference could not have happened. Thanks also to our sponsors for helping to publicize and otherwise support this effort. Others who also contributed their time and expertise to this conference include Chuck Bell, Noreen Connell, David Cundy, Shanna Farrell, Eva Lu, and Robert Pollin.