Poverty in America:  
The Past, Present, and Future  

Rothermere American Institute  
University of Oxford  
10-11 May 2019
Friday 10 May 2019

9:10 – 9:25 – Registration and Coffee [please note that the Institute doesn’t open before 9AM]

9:25 – 9:30 – Conference welcome – Mitch Robertson and Alex Coccia

9:30 – 11:00 – Food Stamps, Farms, and the War on Poverty

Caitlin Rathe (UC Santa Barbara): “After the War on Poverty: The Political Limits of Federal Food Assistance”

David Ballantyne (Keele): “The War on Hunger and the Promise of the New(er) South”

Doug Genens (UC Santa Barbara): “The War on Poverty and Farm Reform in Georgia”

11:00-11:15 – Break

11:15- 12:45 – Income and Dependency: Narratives of anti-poverty policy

Alex Waddan (Leicester): “Taking Income Poverty Serious Again?”


David Riemer (Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, Wisconsin): “The Evidence About How to Cut American Poverty by 50% or More”

12:45 – 1:15 – Lunch (provided)

1:15 – 2:45 - Bringing history to bear on poverty analysis

Jeanna L. Kinnebrew (Boston): “Sex, Poverty, and Philanthropy in the Puritan City, 1915-1965”

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfa (Rutgers): “Ten Lashes upon her Naked Back”: Criminalizing Poverty in the US, from the 18th Century to the Present”

Tamara Boussac (Sorbonne): “The conservatives’ war on welfare in the early 1960s: a perspective from the grassroots”

Daniel Zamora (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Guaranteed income and the War on Poverty: from Milton Friedman to Michael Harrington

2:45 – 3:00 – Coffee and refreshments

3:00 – 4:15 – Examining the Role of the State in areas of Persistent Poverty

Meredith Scalon (Oxford): “Broken Promises by Design: Legacies of the War on Poverty in Central Appalachia”
Alec F. Hickmott (Amherst): “Beyond Anti-Poverty: Analytics of Inequality and Lessons from the Black Developmental Turn”
4:15 – 4:30 – Break

4:30 – 6:00 – Keynote address

Professor Alice O’Connor (University of California, Santa Barbara)

6:00 – 6:45 – Wine reception

7:00 - 10:00 Conference Dinner - King’s Arms, Holywell Street

Sign-up link for dinner will be sent to conference attendees.
Saturday 11 May 2019

[please note that the Rothermere American Institute doesn’t open before 10 AM so please aim to arrive between 10 and 10:10]

10:10 – 11:40 – Poverty and Racial Segregation


Themis Chronopoulos (Swansea): The Making of a Housing Crisis: The Seattle Metropolitan Area since 1980

Michael Light (Wisconsin-Madison): “Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?”

11:40 – 11:45: Coffee and Refreshments

11:45 – 1:15: 1968: A Nation of Hope or a Year of Despair?

Aaron Bryant (Smithsonian Institution): “A Nation of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign”


Lauren Pearlman (Florida): “The War on Poverty and the Limits of Democracy”

1:15 – 3:00: Roundtable: The Role of the Federal Government in Poverty Reduction (lunch provided)

Ezra Rosser (American University): “Holes in the Safety Net”

Andrew Hammond (University of Chicago): “The Old New Property: Food Stamps and Medicaid as Dynamic Statutory Entitlements”

Donald Monyihan (Georgetown/Oxford) and Pamela Herd (Georgetown): “Applying an Administrative Burden Framework to Poverty Reduction”

3:00 – 4:55 – Individualism and Intersectionality


Angie Mejia (Syracuse): “Reproductive In/Justice: Uses of Ethnodrama to Teach Intersectional Analyses”

3:55 - 4:00 - Brief concluding remarks - Mitch Robertson and Alex Coccia

4:00 – 7:00 – Informal Drinks at the Royal Oak (cash bar)