**CSocD55 Side Event: “Decent Work as the Most Important Strategy for Poverty Eradication.”**

Chair: Mary O’Neill Berry, PhD, NGO Representative to the United Nations for the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)

Discussant: Walter Reichman, EdD, OrgVitality

**“Partnerships to Foster Living Wages: Project GLOW.” Presenters: PhD, Massey University, New Zealand, Molefe Maleka, PhD, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.**

"Working" poverty has become a major issue of our time. Minimum wages are failing worldwide. Living wages are an aspirational goal with growing evidence to support their case. Partnerships between communities, NGOs, employers, labor and research networks have the potential to close the gap, and make the social and business case for societal change. Project GLOW (Global Living Organizational Wage) is a 25-country, five-generational, multi-sector, interdisciplinary partnership between all of the above. In partnership with a range of international NGOs in applied psychology, GLOW recently submitted a statement to the Commission for Social Development on the role of such

partnerships in addressing the UN SDGs. This side event will illustrate how these partnerships are already working in GLOW, and call for more partners from the NGO sector to join the project.

**“Climate Change and Employment: Building Sustainable Resilience.” Presenter: Peter R. Walker, PhD, NGO Representative to the United Nations for the International Council of Psychologists (ICP) and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI).**

Poverty reduction and climate change are often treated as separate issues. Incorporating climate-resilience, green-jobs, and adaptation efforts is critical for insuring effective and lasting responses to climate change impacts. Focusing on Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 13, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" and "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts," while informed by the framework for decent work outlined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the presentation will link aspects of mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk preparedness to opportunity for training and employment.

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**“Decent Work, Not Just a Job, as the Pathway Out of Poverty: Voices of Low-Income Women in Nicaragua.” Presenter: Virginia E. Schein, PhD, Gettysburg College.**

Just having a job is not always sufficient to move people out of poverty. Almost one third of the extreme and moderate poor in developing countries do have jobs (ILO, 2016). The purpose of the presentation is to describe the failure of “just a job” to reduce poverty and to contrast such jobs with income-producing opportunities that employ principles of decent work. Based on research on low-income women workers in Nicaragua, the voices of women workers in garment assembly factories will illustrate the way in which “indecent work” aspects, such as substandard wages and poor working conditions, keep them in poverty. By contrast, the voices of women workers in other income-producing situations in Nicaragua, including worker cooperatives and small businesses, will show how income opportunities more in line with the characteristics of decent work can be a pathway out of poverty for women. Other ways to enhance decent work opportunities for low-income women in developing countries will also be discussed.

**“Humanitarian Work Psychology's Contributions to Poverty and Mortality Eradication.” Presenter: Mathian Osicki, PhD, IBM.**

Via the use of a leadership development program created in IBM called the Corporate Services Corps (CSC), we were able to help the Cross River State of Nigeria reduce child mortality and improve the well-being of the most underprivileged parts of the state. The CSC program will be presented and discussed, followed by the work done in Nigeria specifically around the MDGs (at the time) and its relation to the current SDG implementation.

**“Employer Practices to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities.” Presenter: Susanne M. Bruyere, PhD, Cornell University.**

Disability is a development issue; disability increases risk of poverty, poverty may increase risk of disability. Across OECD Countries, 22% of all households with a person with a disability live below poverty threshold (compared to 14% for nondisabled). In the U.S., 28% of Americans with disabilities live below the poverty line, compared to 12% of people without disabilities. Addressing disability poverty issues is an economic and workforce development issue, which requires a collaboration across many stakeholders to effectively address these critical issues. This presentation will focus on the role that employers can play in facilitating enhanced employment outcomes and ultimately the economic security of individuals with disabilities.