

EPPC 2013 – Breaking the cycle: Rethinking Poverty in the Developed World **Paris, 18th-20th April 2013**

>> About the European Public Policy Conference (EPPC)

The EPPC is an annual student-run public policy conference held every year in a different European city. It provides an interactive platform for challenging debates, discussions, and networking between political leaders, scholars and students. As the fifth annual conference, EPPC 2013 will be an exciting addition to a line of successful conferences that continue to grow every year.

>> Conference Theme

The conference “**Breaking the Cycle: Rethinking Poverty in the Developed World**” is a timely response to the problems faced by the most vulnerable in society. The austerity measures, adopted in the wake of the financial crisis, continue to push an ever-greater number into poverty whilst worsening the predicament of those already in need. The conference aims to address this most pressing challenge, which we continue to face in the 21st century.

The conference will be structured around three focus areas: ‘Reconfiguring Poverty’, ‘Challenging Existing Policies’ and ‘Breaking the Cycle’. Each topic will be introduced by a panel discussion, followed by breakout-sessions in smaller groups. The proceedings from the conference will be published to provide a new perspective, resulting from the dynamic collaboration between students and actors in the field.

> Reconfiguring Poverty

This panel will examine our understanding of poverty in the developed world. Different definitions and indicators from institutions, such as the World Bank and the European Union, provide a starting point but the concept and manifestation of modern poverty are constantly evolving. Other dimensions of poverty, such as educational or health poverty, have recently become more salient in the public debate and will change the way we perceive poverty.

> Challenging Existing Policies

This panel will assess the effectiveness of current policy responses to poverty. The participants will discuss the question as to whether existing policies to combat poverty merely alleviate or even perpetuate the problem. As organisations such as food banks find themselves in ever-greater demand, this panel will question the capacity of a system based on charity and public transfer payments – especially at a time of fiscal austerity – to help people out of poverty.

> Breaking the Cycle

This panel will bring together a diverse group of professionals from civil society, business and the state in a unique setting to discuss and develop responses to

poverty. They will explain their own innovative contributions to addressing this ongoing problem, ranging from corporate social responsibility to community-led initiatives. However, the core problem might not be the lack of solutions, but rather society's incapacity or unwillingness to implement them; as public perception hardens towards helping those most in need. Therefore, this part of the conference will seek to inspire proposals that can put existing ideas into practise, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty in developed countries.

>> Participants

EPPC 2013 welcomes all bright and creative candidates with a good knowledge of the issues. We believe that progress stems from the free flow of a range of diverse ideas, which is why we welcome presentations and ideas from a varied group of study fields – be they economic, social, psychological, philosophical, political, or beyond. We hope to tackle the issues from different and unexpected angles.

> *How to apply?*

The conference is primarily aimed at graduate students. However, motivated undergraduate students are also encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit a CV and write an abstract of 500-800 words on one of the three panel topics. The best abstracts will be selected and students will be asked to give a 15 minute presentation related to the topic of the abstract submitted. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best presentations.

Please note that there is only a limited amount of spaces available. The CV and the abstract should be submitted electronically no later than February 25th 2013 (23.59 CET/Berlin time) to submissions@epconference.com. Students will be notified on a rolling basis as to the status of their application.

> *IPLI Best Paper Award*

Candidates can also submit a paper for the International Policy and Leadership Institute (IPLI) Best Paper Award, on the conference's topic ('Breaking the cycle – Rethinking Poverty in the Developed World'). The paper should have a primary focus on Europe.

A paper of 2000 words and CV should be submitted electronically by March 29th, 2013 (23.59 CET/Berlin time) to submissions@epconference.com. Students will be notified of the results by April 5th. The winning candidate of the award will present their paper at the conference and will be awarded a 400€ prize by the IPLI. Please note that the paper has to be an original contribution. We cannot accept papers that have already been written by students for their classes.

Students submitting a paper are *not* required to submit an abstract to apply for the conference, but should still submit their CV by February 25th. For any additional information or questions, please contact academics@epconference.com.

> *Website and Facebook Page*

For updates on speakers and further information please visit our website on www.epconference.com or like us on Facebook!



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Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

