At SCEPA, we are committed to research projects that advance positive change. As a platform for the work of The New School's economists, our projects are based in the principles of education and collaboration. Our formula is simple. We start with peer-reviewed academic research, propose innovative solutions for the nation’s economic questions, and end with high-impact outreach strategies.

This year, we built SCEPA's momentum based on this theory of change. Our economists engaged with the high-profile issues in today’s policy arena. SCEPA hosted experts working with the United Nations in the lead up to the historic Paris agreement on climate change; debated inequality with Thomas Piketty and Sandy Darity, leading economic thought leaders on the defining economic issue of the 21st century; and congratulated our economists for winning a distinguished award for their work on macroeconomics and environmental quality.

Finally, SCEPA's model for retirement reform was passed in several states and is under consideration in dozens more. In recognition of the need for research documenting the retirement crisis and possible solutions, we created the Retirement Equity Lab (ReLab). In 2016, we are excited to welcome economist and retirement expert Anthony Webb as ReLab’s Research Director.

SCEPA is committed to engaging in the issues that affect Americans’ economic well-being and support our hopes for a better future. We are grateful for the generosity of our supporters and partners in these efforts and look forward to sharing our progress as we move forward next year and beyond.

Teresa Ghilarducci
DIRECTOR, SCEPA
Bernard L. and Irene Schwartz Chair in Economic Policy Analysis
WHAT WE DO

Bringing Reality into Conventional Economics

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES

SCEPA is the leader in alternatives to mainstream economics. As the economic policy think tank within The New School’s Department of Economics, our projects empower policy makers to create positive change.

EMPOWERING POLICY MAKERS

We work to focus the public economics debate on the role government can and should play in the real productive economy—that of business, management, and labor—to raise living standards, create economic security, and attain full employment. SCEPA is the economic policy research arm of the Department of Economics at The New School for Social Research. Our team of faculty and research associates works from the broad and critical perspectives of post-Keynesian, neo-classical, classical, and institutionalist schools of thought.

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

With a focus on collaboration and outreach, we provide scholars, non-profits, and government officials with original, standards-based research on key policy issues. We also partner with non-partisan advocates and foundations to engage the public, opinion leaders, and elected officials in the discussion of how to create a more stable, equitable, and prosperous economy.
WHO WE ARE

Teresa Ghilarducci
DIRECTOR
A labor economist, Teresa is a nationally-recognized expert in retirement security, and a professor of economics at The New School. Her book, *When I’m Sixty Four: The Plot Against Pensions and the Plan to Save Them*, investigates the loss of pensions on older Americans and proposes a comprehensive system of reform.

Anthony Webb
RELAB RESEARCH DIRECTOR
Formerly a Senior Research Economist at Boston College’s Center for Retirement Research, Tony also served as a Senior Research Analyst at the International Longevity Center. He holds a doctorate in economics from the University of California, San Diego.

Bridget Fisher
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Bridget is a communications specialist with a background in government and public affairs. She came to higher education from government, where she served as chief of staff for a member of the New York City Council, director of communications for the Working Families Party and press secretary for a member of the U.S. Congress.

Audra Aucoin
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Audra specializes in grant management and visual design. Prior to joining SCEPA, she served as grant writer and development supervisor at Second Harvest Food Bank in Orange County, California. She has an MA in economics from The New School and a BA from UCLA in Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Kyle Moore
Retirement Equity Lab
BA, Morehouse College

Ozlem Omer
Sustainable Growth Project
MS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Michael Papadopoulos
Retirement Equity Lab
BS, St. John’s University

Luiza Nassif Pires
Sustainable Growth Project
MA, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Julia Puaschunder
Economics of Climate Change
Doctor, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Siavash Radpour
Retirement Equity Lab
MA, University of Groningen in the Netherlands and Corvinus University, Budapest
SCEPA PROJECTS

Growth & Jobs

What happened to shared growth? Since the 1980s, U.S. economic growth has failed to produce enough “decent” jobs. To understand wage inequality and unshared productivity growth, SCEPA economist David Howell investigates how institutions affect labor market outcomes.

Economics of Climate Change

Critics of policies that would mitigate climate change often cite negative effects on the economy to forestall change. But are they right? SCEPA is investigating these arguments in a project on The Economics of Climate Change led by Faculty Fellow Willi Semmler. Initiated in 2010 with a comprehensive international conference, this project is questioning how to enact effective climate change policy in light of fragile domestic and global economies and the possibilities and practicalities of renewable energy.

Retirement Equity Lab (ReLab)

ReLab is the newly formed center within SCEPA to house our ongoing, comprehensive project investigating the political economy of aging populations. Led by SCEPA Director Teresa Ghilarducci, the project works to document the need for reform measures to prevent a crisis of downward mobility in retirement resulting from inadequate savings, eroding pension institutions, and decreasing access to and participation in effective retirement savings vehicles.

Sustainable Growth

Economic development is widely accepted as a prerequisite for a stable society. Yet, industrial production contributes to the massively destabilizing phenomenon of global warming. This project documents the research of SCEPA economists Duncan Foley and Lance Taylor as they investigate how nations can reconcile their needs for growth, stability, and sustainability. This project is generously supported by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET).
Growth & Jobs Project

Led by SCEPA economist David Howell, the Growth & Jobs project seeks an answer to the question of “what happened to shared growth?” Since the 1980s, U.S. economic growth failed to produce enough jobs, especially “decent jobs.” To understand wage inequality and unshared productivity growth in the United States, Howell focuses on how institutions affect labor market outcomes. His work compares the United States with Canada, Australia, Germany, and France to determine how the distribution and growth of decent jobs in these countries compare by economic sector, occupation, and demographic group. He then looks at to what extent these outcomes can be attributed to the effects of differing institutions across the five countries.

SUPPORT

David Howell was honored to receive additional support from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth (WCEG) to extend and expand his research.

“Most economists continue to explain the explosion of earnings inequality with conventional supply-and-demand stories, in which worker compensation is believed to accurately reflect the contribution workers make to production. An alternative view is that institutionally-driven bargaining power is a critical piece of the story, whether it is the noncompetitive “rents” earned by top managers and financiers, or the collapsing power of hourly wage employees.”

– SCEPA Economist David Howell (pictured left)

PROGRESS

In the Press

In February 2015, Brad DeLong, a widely-read economist and blogger, cited Howell’s work as a “Morning Must-Read.”
Economics of Climate Change Project

Led by SCEPA economist Willi Semmler, this project was initiated in 2010 with an international conference on the Economics of Climate Change. It seeks to determine the consequences of climate change policy proposals on domestic and global economies and the possibilities and practicalities of renewable energy.

PROGRESS

Additional Funding
In 2015, Semmler was awarded a second grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation to continue a speaker series that brings distinguished scholars, policy experts, and government officials to The New School.

A New Book

EVENTS

Economics of Climate Change Speaker Series

November 2014: “What Would it Take to Reach a Climate Agreement?”
A week after the historic climate change deal between the U.S. and China, Geoffrey Heal joined SCEPA to discuss how to secure a global agreement. Heal is a coordinating lead author of the IPCC reports and professor of social enterprise at Columbia Business School. His presentation put forward an optimistic message based on John Nash’s game theory that cited coalition building and technological innovation as the building blocks of a way forward.

May 2015: “The Road to Paris and Beyond”
In the spring of 2015, all eyes were on Paris, where the United Nations was gearing up for its December meeting on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The goal: to secure a historic, legally binding international climate change agreement.

On May 11th, Selwin Hart (pictured left), director of the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Change Support Team, joined SCEPA to share his insider point of view on the UN’s efforts to mobilize the support necessary to secure an agreement. He also shared the UN’s vision to enforce the hoped-for deal through a potential multilateral, rules-based climate regime.
“In this seminal work, Bernard and Semmler give us an insightful and comprehensive framework to find the social, scientific, and economic initiatives critical to solving humankind’s greatest challenge.”

- Edgar Bronfman, Jr., Executive Chairman at Global Thermostat
Retirement Equity Lab (ReLab)

Led by economist and retirement expert Teresa Ghilarducci, ReLab researches the causes and consequences of the retirement crisis that exposes millions of American workers to experiencing downward mobility in retirement. As a result, SCEPA developed a policy proposal known as Guaranteed Retirement Accounts (GRAs) to provide stable pensions to the 63 million workers who currently have none.

PROGRESS

Additional Funding
Formerly known as the Retirement Income Security project, SCEPA was honored to receive support from Bernard L. Schwartz to create the Retirement Equity Lab for the study of the retirement crisis and needed policy reforms.

City & Federal Commissions
SCEPA Director Teresa Ghilarducci was named to New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer’s taskforce studying how to provide retirement security to New York City residents who lack retirement plans at work. Ghilarducci was also appointed to the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)’s Commission on Retirement Security and Personal Savings. The initiative, led by former Senator Kent Conrad and the Honorable James B. Lockhart, is examining whether savings rates and available savings vehicles are meeting American’s retirement goals and the nation’s investment needs.

National Report
ReLab released a national report that was the first to quantify the real effect of the retirement crisis—poverty. The report, “Are U.S. Workers Ready for Retirement?” identifies the share of people whose projected income in retirement will be below poverty. The possibility of downward mobility is important both to individuals whose retirement institutions are failing them and policy makers who will inherit the impact of increasing poverty on both social welfare and municipal budgets.

Monthly Blog
ReLab initiated a monthly blog, “The Unemployment Report for Workers Over 55,” to dispel the myth that the solution to a systemic lack of retirement savings is for individuals to work longer. The blog provides a rapid-response analysis to the monthly jobs report issued by the U.S. Department of Labor and is shared with reporters covering retirement and the labor market.

SUPPORT

SCEPA’s Retirement Equity Lab is grateful for the support of Bernard L. Schwartz and the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE).

RELAB IN THE NEWS

Forbes: The Retirement Crisis: Why 68% Of Americans Aren’t Saving In An Employer-Sponsored Plan

Time: 1 in 3 Older Workers Likely to Be Poor or Near Poor in Retirement

Financial Buzz: Retirement Savings Paucity in U.S. Workers

Employee Benefit News: U.S. Workers Falling Short in Healthy Retirement Savings

Plan Sponsor: Three-Legged Retirement Income Stool More Wobbly
“33% of current workers aged 55 to 64 are likely to be poor or near-poor in retirement based on their current levels of retirement savings and total assets.”

-ReLab report, “Are U.S. Workers Ready for Retirement?”

**EVENTS**

**Political Economy of Aging Workshops**

ReLab hosts workshops to provide a forum for academics and practitioners to share and engage in cutting edge research in social policy. The series forges interdisciplinary connections and leverages grant opportunities in the field of aging.

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**SHARING OUR RESEARCH: VISUALIZING THE RETIREMENT CRISIS**

Fastest Growing Cities with Higher than Average Unemployment for Older Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate (GMP)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Coral, FL</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

National Unemployment (2.4% GDP)

Unemployment Rate for Workers 55+

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(left to right) SCEPA’s Teresa Ghilarducci, second from left, with fellow retirement experts Diane Oakley, Executive Director of the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS), Karen Dynan, U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist, and Lily Batchelder, Professor of Law and Public Policy at the NYU School of Law and former Deputy Director of the National Economic Council and deputy assistant to President Obama.
Sustainable Growth Project

SCEPA economists Duncan Foley and Lance Taylor are investigating the effects of economic growth on sustainability, distribution, and stability. The project is funded by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), a non-profit think tank supporting the development of a new generation of economic scholars working to shift economic thought to new paths—and away from the theories that helped create the global financial crisis.

According to Foley and Taylor (pictured to the right), who have spent the last 40 years questioning key presuppositions of textbook models of growth, mainstream economics has not adequately dealt with the long-term consequences of economic growth, including the effects on climate change, the shift toward a service-centered economy, and the potential for financial and fiscal instability.

**PROGRESS**

**Distinguished Award**
On March 23, 2015, SCEPA economists Duncan Foley and Lance Taylor received the 2015 Leontief Prize for their research in understanding the relationship between macroeconomics and environmental quality.

The Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought recognizes “outstanding contributions to economic theory that address contemporary realities and support just and sustainable societies,” according to the Global Development and Environment Institute, which administers the award.

**SUPPORT**
The project is grateful to receive two additional years of funding from INET.

**EVENTS**
Given the high-profile debate surrounding Thomas Piketty’s book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, SCEPA economist Lance Taylor released a series of papers based on a structuralist perspective that advance alternative theories to Piketty’s explanation of inequality:

1. Thomas Piketty’s Capital in the Twenty-First Century: Introduction to a Structuralist Symposium, by Lance Taylor (The New School)

2. Capitalism, Inequality and Globalization: Thomas Piketty’s Capital in the Twenty-First Century, by Prabhat Patnaik (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)


5. The Triumph of the Rentier? Thomas Piketty vs. Luigi Pasinetti and John Maynard Keynes, by Lance Taylor (The New School)
“Our Institute’s work has been much influenced, and has greatly benefited, by the ways in which Dr. Foley and Dr. Taylor have crossed the boundaries between economics and other disciplines to produce the kind of rigorous analytical work that the Leontief Prize was created to recognize.”

–SGDAE Co-Director Neva Goodwin
The Irene & Bernard L. Schwartz Lecture
October 3, 2014

An Evening with Thomas Piketty

Economist Thomas Piketty discussed the research supporting his best-selling book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, including the dual contradictions of capitalism that created the sharp divergence between social classes we see today. He warns that the main driver of inequality—the tendency of returns on capital to exceed the rate of economic growth—threatens to stir discontent and undermine democratic values.

Much like Piketty, economists at The New School for Social Research strive to analyze the dynamics of capitalism using historical and empirical analysis and, through SCEPA, its policy implications. Following Piketty’s remarks, New School Economics Professor Anwar Shaikh and Executive Director and Chief Economist at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth (and a New School PhD) Heather Boushey (pictured below) joined in a panel discussion to answer the question, where do we go from here?
Does Racism Make You Sick?

# SCEPA IN THE NEWS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>News Outlet</th>
<th>Article</th>
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<td>6/22/14</td>
<td>MSNBC</td>
<td>States Now Ground Zero for Workers’ Rights?</td>
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<td>7/16/14</td>
<td>Metro Focus</td>
<td>The State of Public Pensions in New York and New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/21/14</td>
<td>Pensions and Investments</td>
<td>Hazel Bradford quotes Teresa Ghilarducci</td>
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<td>7/23/14</td>
<td>Time Magazine</td>
<td>How to Fix the 401(k) and Income Inequality In One Fell Swoop</td>
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<td>9/11/14</td>
<td>Connecticut for Livable Communities</td>
<td>Connecticut Leads Nation Prioritizing Retirement Security for Older Adults</td>
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<td>Huffington Post</td>
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<td>Hartford Business Journal</td>
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<td>10/17/14</td>
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<td>1/23/15</td>
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<td>The President’s Baby Steps Towards Retirement Security</td>
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<td>Institutional Investor</td>
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<td>2/7/15</td>
<td>The New York Times</td>
<td>Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Hillary Clinton’s Campaign</td>
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<td>2/26/15</td>
<td>International Business Times</td>
<td>Job Growth Still Hasn’t Translated Into Wage Gains</td>
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<td>2/27/15</td>
<td>Pensions and Investments</td>
<td>NYC Comptroller Announces Group to Study Retirement Plan for Private-Sector Employees</td>
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<td>3/5/15</td>
<td>INET Blog</td>
<td>Drooping Green Shoots</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/16/15</td>
<td>USA Today</td>
<td>She Wants to Kill Your 401(k)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18/15</td>
<td>LA Times</td>
<td>Employers Must Monitor 401(k) Fees, Supreme Court Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23/15</td>
<td>Boston Globe</td>
<td>Not Even Paul Krugman is a Real Keynesian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23/15</td>
<td>CNBC</td>
<td>For Millions, 401(k) Plans Have Fallen Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27/15</td>
<td>CNBC</td>
<td>Could These Policy Fixes Help You Save For Retirement?</td>
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<td>4/8/15</td>
<td>Time Magazine</td>
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<td>4/11/15</td>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>Clinton Campaign to Center on Economic Security, Opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/16/15</td>
<td>Columbia Journalism Review</td>
<td>How to Bring Clarity and Urgency to Social Security Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/15/15</td>
<td>Pensions and Investments</td>
<td>GFOR: Economists Debate Role of Government in Economy</td>
</tr>
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<td>6/26/15</td>
<td>National Journal</td>
<td>Meet Hillary Clinton’s Least Likely Adviser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCEPA IN SOCIAL MEDIA

As the outreach platform for New School economists’ policy research, SCEPA communicates and engages with audiences ranging from former students and alumni to thought leaders in Congress. As such, we focus on creating a culture of collaboration and dialogue about the economic issues dominating the news as well as academia. This year, we focused on growing our social media presence to expand our relationships with our audiences through direct sharing and interaction. We also increased our use of user-friendly visual communications to illustrate our economists’ conclusions and the impact of their work in the public policy arena.

- **Facebook**: +63%
  - End FY14: 348
  - End FY15: 566

- **SCEPA Twitter**: +52%
  - End FY14: 399
  - End FY15: 606

- **Mailing List**: +60%
  - End FY14: 4,752
  - End FY15: 7,586

- **ReLab Twitter**: +48%
  - End FY14: 603
  - End FY15: 891
www.economicpolicyresearch.org

Founded in 1995 by the influential political economist David Gordon, SCEPA is the economic policy research arm of the department of economics at The New School for Social Research.

Made possible through a generous gift from Irene and Bernard L. Schwartz, SCEPA is distinct from other economic think tanks by its location within The New School. In the heart of New York City, both the university and center are part of a network of leaders dedicated to progressive and innovative education and ideas.
Capitalism

February 13, 2016

This is my thesis. I am glad to have the opportunity to discuss it. The idea for this work came from my professor Prof. X. I would like to express my gratitude to him for his guidance and support.

[Handwritten notes]