Event: Basic Income Roundtable: How to design a basic income experiment and what can be learnt, 10 March 2022

On behalf of the University of Bath Institute for Policy Research (IPR), we would like to help raise awareness around the roundtable event ‘Basic Income Roundtable: How to design a basic income experiment and what can be learnt from such experiments’ happening on Thursday 10 March, 15:00 – 17:00 GMT.

The pandemic has led to growing calls for the introduction of a universal basic income – a tax-free, unconditional, non-contributory flat rate of income payable to everyone. The UK’s radical furlough scheme has helped demonstrate the benefits of such income schemes and how much support there are for such schemes amongst the wider population. Whilst the benefits of universal basic income are increasingly well understood, there are still concerns about cost-benefits and how to operationalise a universal basic income scheme.

Although many basic income experiments have been evaluated, there is limited understanding of the different designs, and what can be learnt from adopting from different designs. In reality ‘pure’ basic income experiments are rare, and schemes are often a hybrid between basic income and minimum income schemes. As a result, the International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO) have commissioned a Rapid Evidence Review by the IPR of basic income experiments in OECD countries to analyse their characteristics and evaluate any outcome research, which has been undertaken.

During this roundtable, organisers will:

- Highlight the main findings of the Rapid Evidence Review.
- Discuss the key characteristics of a basic income experiment and what can be learnt from different designs.
- Hear from various schemes around the world including Finland, USA, Scotland, and Wales, including the lessons learnt and what happens after a basic income experience has been implemented?
- Key recommendations for policy makers in designing new basic income schemes.

This forms part of the work of IPPO, set up to look at the negative social effects of the pandemic by bringing together the best available information and evidence on responses to COVID-19. Their previous work has focused on online education, public inquiries, place, and mental health. Based and led by UCL, with partners across all devolved nations – this being Cardiff University, Queen’s University Belfast, and the University of Glasgow - they connect many universities and research centres, including INGSA the global network of government science advisers and the Blavatnik School at Oxford University.

This event will be held via Zoom on Thursday 10 March, 15:00 – 17:00 GMT. Please do sign up here.

Papers including an agenda will be circulated approximately one week before the event. If any individuals are unable to join us but would like to contribute in anyway, please do email
me. Alternatively, if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please do forward this Link.