

BIEN

BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

NEWSFLASH 65, November 2011

www.basicincome.org

The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of *Paul Nollen, Jean-Paul Brasseur, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Joerg Drescher, Sandro Gobetti, Dirk Jacobi, Philippe Van Parijs, Karl Widerquist, and Thérèse Davio.*

This NewsFlash can be downloaded as a PDF document on our website
www.basicincome.org

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Editorial: BIEN's 25th Anniversary, by Guy Standing

Anniversaries are poignant human moments, points on a journey, never an end in themselves. Twenty-five years ago, on September 4-6, 1986, a small group of us held a workshop on basic income, and on September 6 decided to set up a network, BIEN. The memory is blurred; the documentation is scattered. However, this 25th anniversary is a testament to several aspects of BIEN, and it is perhaps acceptable to reflect on the journey so far...

Read the full story by Guy Standing, Co-President of BIEN, at:
<http://binews.org/2011/09/anniversary-note-biens-25th/>

1. Basic Income News is great success

Basic Income News (<http://binews.org/>) began in the spring of 2011, when Joerg Drescher approached the editors of the BIEN and USBIG Newsletters about creating an online version of the basic income newsletters, in hopes that it would be more up-to-the minute and interactive. Since its inception, it has published numerous news items and opinions, and it attracted a lot of attention from people interested in basic income. Several affiliates of BIEN have joined BINews, such as the Basic Income Korean Network, the Italian Basic Income Network, or UK's Citizen's Income Trust. The editorial staff hopes that many more of BIEN's affiliates will contribute as well. If you have news about Basic Income that you think should be published in Basic Income News, please contact the editors at desk@binews.org

2. Basic income studies: New issue

Basic Income Studies (BIS) has announced the recent publication of one issue of the journal. The contents of volume 6, issue 1, is below. BIS issues are available for free sampling at <http://www.bepress.com/bis>.

Research Articles

'The Basic Income Road to Reforming Iran's Price Subsidies'

Hamid Tabatabai

'Overcoming Dividend Skepticism: Why the World's Sovereign Wealth Funds Are Not Paying Basic Income Dividends'

Angela L. Cummine

'Pathways to a Universal Basic Pension in Greece'

Manos Matsaganis and Chrysa Leventi

'Basic Income From the Bottom Up? Allocating Jobs and Incomes With the Job Sharing Doodle'

Manfred Füllsack

Research Note

'The Case for a Global Pension and Youth Grant'

Robin Blackburn

Book Reviews

‘Review of Peter Baldwin, *The Narcissism of Minor Differences: How America and Europe Are Alike*’

Tord Skogedal Lindén

‘Review of Joseph Hanlon, David Hulme and Armando Barrientos, *Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution From the Global South*’

3. EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

TAMPERE (FI), 16-17 May 2011: Universal Basic Income as a European Alternative

This international workshop took place at the University of Tampere. Johanna Perkiö organized it for the Left Forum and the University of Tampere as the kick-start of a joint international research project, entitled, ‘Basic Income as a Roadmap for a Social Europe.’ Within the framework of this project, cultural and institutional conditions and possibilities for implementing a basic income system in Europe, as well as its potential economic and labor market effects will be studied. A more far-reaching goal of the study is to provide information on what kind of a basic income system could be feasible in the European Union, on how it could be (institutionally) implemented and on what its (cultural and economical) effects would be. Organizers are still looking for new research partners in the project. For more information, contact johanna.perkiö@vasemmistofoorumi.fi

Although the main website is in Finnish, most of the papers and presentations are in English.

The workshop papers are online at:

http://www.vasemmistofoorumi.fi/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=241&Itemid=104

- From USBIG

* **DUBLIN (IE)**, 14 September 2011: Social Justice Ireland’s annual Social Policy Conference

This one-day conference addressed the issue of “Sharing responsibility in Shaping the Future”. The full text of the book containing the papers underpinning the presentations at this conference may be accessed free of charge at:

<http://www.socialjustice.ie/content/sharing-responsibility-shaping-future-full-text>

Each individual paper may also be downloaded separately. Basic Income is named in a number of these papers as being an essential component of a viable, sustainable future.

* **VIENNA (AT)**, 14-15 October 2011: International Symposium “From a compensatory to an emancipatory social policy in Europe”

This conference was organized by Internationaler Runder Tisch Grundeinkommen (basic income networks in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy), and Attac (BI-groups in Austria and Germany). It was held at the Haus der Europäischen Union. For further information please contact: grundeinkommen@ksoe.at

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

* **BRUSSELS (BE)**, 30 November 2011: European Congress for Change

This Congress is organized by “European Alternatives” at the European Parliament. It will bring together activists, citizens and organisations active throughout the continent and sharing a common vision for rebuilding Europe. The Congress aims to clearly spell out that real alternatives to Europe’s social, economic, and political status quo exist, and to work towards the construction of a platform of transnational coordination to better bring those alternatives to fruition over the course of 2012 through a series of transnational campaigns, forums, and assemblies. Basic Income will be among the alternatives to be discussed by the participants.

Further information: <http://www.euroalter.com/ppp/events/424/>

Important note: It is necessary to register by November 27th for this event to receive a pass to access the European Parliament.

* **TORONTO (CA)**, 3-5 May 2012: Eleventh North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress, Call for papers

USBIG announces that the 11th Annual North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress will take place May 3-5, 2012 at the University of Toronto on the theme of “Putting Equality Back on the Agenda: Basic Income and Other Approaches to Economic Security for All”. Featured Speakers are Richard Wilkinson (Co-Author of *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*) and Armine Yalnizyan (Senior Economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives).

Over the past 30 years, Canada, the United States, and many other OECD countries have grown increasingly unequal. While the rich pull farther and farther ahead, the poor and the middle class are struggling just to maintain their income level. Evidence regarding economic disparity suggests that income inequality is accompanied by a range of significant negative consequences, and that these consequences are present in greater numbers at every income level of a less equal society when compared with a more equal society. In January, the World Economic Forum named economic disparity one of the most significant global risks.

Putting Equality Back on the Agenda will consider three central questions:

1. To what degree is there a common public good in reducing economic disparity among all citizens?
2. Is a basic income the best way to provide this public good?
3. How could a basic income best be structured and funded to meet these goals?

The Eleventh North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress is organized by Basic Income Canada Network in cooperation with the USBIG Network. These North American affiliates of the Basic Income Earth Network promote the option of a basic income, an unconditional government transfer that would provide a basic but decent standard of living to all. The congress brings together academics, students, activists, policy analysts, government officials, low income people, and others interested in exploring the merits of this proposal.

Plenary Speakers Include:

- Richard Wilkinson, Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham Medical School and co-author of *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*;
- Armine Yalnizyan, Senior Economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives;
- John Rook, Chair of the National Council of Welfare Senior Associate with Housing Strategies, Inc;

- Evelyn Forget, Professor, University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine; and
- Trish Hennessey, Director of Strategic Issues for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Scholars, activists, and others are invited to propose papers or presentations, organize panel discussions, or submit posters. Proposals are welcome on the following topics:

- What are the costs of economic disparity (economic, social and political)?
- What are the implications for pursuing (or not pursuing) basic income options?
- What are possible models for generating revenue to sustain a basic income and what are their implications for economic disparity?
- What are the practical issues for implementing a basic income policy and what are their implications for economic disparity?
- What communication and engagement strategies are necessary to raise awareness about economic disparity and basic income in the public sphere?

All points of view are welcome. Anyone interested in presenting, organizing a panel, or displaying a poster should submit an abstract of their proposal to the chair of the organizing committee at basicincome2012@gmail.com.

Please include the following information with your proposal:

1. Name(s)
2. Affiliation(s)
3. Address
4. City, Province/State, Postal/Zip Code, and Country
5. Telephone
6. Email Address(es)
7. Paper/Presentation/Panel/Poster Title
8. Abstract of 50-150 words

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: January 13th, 2012

Proposals for panel discussions should include a title, topic, and description of the panel and the information above for each participant. If the participants are not presenting formal papers, the title of the paper and abstract may be omitted. Panels should be limited to four presentations.

USBIG website: <http://www.usbig.net/index.php>

4. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*** BELGIUM: Philippe Van Parijs gets prestigious award**

The Belgian Ark Award for Free Speech (in Dutch: "Ark Prijs van het vrije woord") was created in 1951 by Flemish intellectuals who were opposing restrictions to freedom of expression. In the past decades, it was awarded to several prominent intellectuals, mainly Flemish writers and artists. On May 25, the 2011 Prize was awarded to Philippe Van Parijs (UCLouvain), one of the most prominent advocates of basic income, and a founder of BIEN. In his "Laudatio", Professor Rik Coolsaet (Ghent University) mentioned Van Parijs's defence of basic income as one of the best examples of his lifelong commitment to social justice.

Coolsaet's "Laudatio" was published in the Flemish daily 'De Standaard':

<http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=GP3AI60C>

Van Parijs's speech (in Dutch) is available at: <http://www.uclouvain.be/8611.html>
The list of past laureates is at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ark_Prize_of_the_Free_Word

*** BRAZIL: ReCivitas continues to expand private-funded BIG**

USBIG reports that ReCivitas, the Brazilian organization that distributes a privately-funded basic income in a small village in Brazil, now has a pro-bono partnership with the biggest tax law office in Latin America, Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr. and Quiroga. This partnership will give ReCivitas legal support for contracts for people who invest in the basic income grant (BIG) Bank that supports the initiative. The BIG Bank, started by ReCivitas only a few weeks ago, already has 500,000 Brazilian Reals (About US\$310,000)—thanks to donations and investments from all over the world. A small part of the interest to this fund will support the Basic Income, but the amount of investments in the fund is already enough to ensure that the project is sustainable at its current level. The organizers of ReCivitas say that the fund is very conservative and ethical and that the fund manager is one of the biggest in Brazil, Credit Suisse Hedding-Griffo. The organizers hope soon to use some of the money to support the basic income pilot project in Namibia, and they plan soon to expand to Germany. For more information about ReCivitas, go to their website at:

<http://www.recivitas.org.br/>

Or, email the organizers at:

recivitas@recivitas.org.br

*** FRANCE: “Young leaders” in favour of basic income**

Founded in 1938, the “Centre des Jeunes Dirigeants” (“Centre for young leaders”) is France’s oldest representative organization for employers. With its 4000 active members, it remains an influential group. It recently published a document entitled “Oïkos”, which contains several reform proposals to be submitted to the candidates at France’s next Presidential election (2012). Among the proposals is the idea of an unconditional universal grant (“allocation universelle”).

For further information:

<http://www.comitebastille.org/2011/10/objectif-oikos-le-livre-blanc-2012-du.html>

*** GERMANY: Moves towards a basic pension in Germany?**

Old age poverty increasingly becomes a political issue in Germany. All scientific forecasts predict rising old age poverty in Germany. The Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Ursula von der Leyen just presented a proposal for a minimum pension. However the access to the proposed minimum pension shall be limited to people who have been insured in the pay-as-you-go pension insurance for 45 years and have paid additionally for 35 years into a funded pension scheme. While the socialist party “Die Linke” proposes a means-tested minimum pension, the BIEN life member and member of parliament for the Greens, Dr. Wolfgang Strengmann-Kuhn, followed the Swedish example and proposes a guaranteed basic pension for all who have been insured for 30 years in the pay-as-you-go pension insurance. Years dedicated to child-rearing or care of relatives count just as well as attendance of school.

Proposal of the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs:

<http://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/regierungsdialo-g-rente-2011.html>

Proposal of the Greens: <http://www.strengmann-kuhn.de/2011/09/15/die-grune-garantierente/>

*** INDIA: Basic Income Pilot Projects are underway**

USBIG reports that, although barely reported in the media, two basic income pilot projects are have been underway in India since January 2011. One pilot is being conducted in part of Delhi and the other in eight small rural villages in Madhya Pradesh. The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) began planning and raising money for the rural project in 2008. The Delhi government eventually joined in, working with SEWA to organize an urban pilot project in Delhi.

Publicity about the project has been deliberately kept low because opponents have been using scare tactics to disrupt and to discourage participation in the project. They have spread rumors that the pilot would lead to the reduction or elimination of existing government support for the poor.

Families participating in the urban project receive 1000 Rupees per month (about US\$22). Some participants have reduced access to other government transfers; some participants receive the grant all with full access to other government transfers. In the rural project, adults receive 200 Rupees a month (about US\$4.40) and each child under the age of 14 receives 100 Rupees a month (about US\$2.20). The project organizers will study the consumption, expenditure, and nutrition of the different groups of participations to a “control” group receiving no additional transfers to determine the impact of cash transfers.

These projects are similar to the Namibian basic income pilot project and to the U.S. and Canadian governments’ Negative Income Tax experiments conducted in the 1960s and 1970s, but the rural project adds an important new innovation to the method: the project is being conducted on the village, rather than on the individual, level. All residents of eight Indian villages will receive the basic income, and their behavior will be compared with residents of twelve “control” villages. This method will allow project designers to study village-wide effects of the transfer.

Guy Standing, professor of economic security at Bath University (UK) and an honorary co-president of the Basic Income Earth Network, helped to conceive and organize the project. He argues that it needs to be conducted with scientific dispassion. But he’s hopeful of the outcome. Asked about the results of the Namibian pilot project—which he was also a part of—Standing said that organizers documented many positive effects: “Child school attendance went up dramatically, use of medical clinics went up. Those with HIV/ AIDS started to take ARTs (Antiretroviral Therapy drugs) because they'd been able to buy the right sort of food with the cash. Women's economic status improved, and the economic crime rate went down. Income distribution improved.”

For more about the projects see an interview with Guy Standing in *The Times of India*: <http://www.timescrest.com/opinion/social-insurance-is-not-for-the-indian-open-economy-of-21st-century-5775>

And Guy Standing’s report on his involvement in the project in the opinion section of BI News:

<http://binews.org/2011/08/opinion-two-pilot-schemes-in-india/>

*** ITALY: Demonstration in Bologna turns into riot**

On October 12, 2011, hundreds of protesters demonstrated in Bologna within the framework of the “Indignados” movement, against the effects of the financial crisis. Among the claims was the idea of a guaranteed income (“Reddito per tutti”). Most participants were precarious workers. The demonstration turned violent with the intervention of police forces, as several protesters were beaten and even injured.

Further information: <http://www.bin-italia.org/>

In the meanwhile, the Italian basic income network BIN Italia found a video of the biggest guaranteed income demonstration in Italy, which took place on November 22, 2003, when over 50.000 protesters gathered in Rome.

See http://www.bin-italia.org/videorec.php?id_VREC=48

*** MONGOLIA: Government takes steps toward implementing an Alaskan-style BIG**

USBIG reports that the coalition government of Mongolia is taking steps to make good on promises made in the 2008 election to introduce an Alaska-style resource dividend. Mongolia is a large, sparsely populated land-locked country sandwiched between Russian and China. About half of its citizens still live as nomadic herders. Most of the land in the country is unowned: herders can camp anywhere they find a spot. But the country has recently discovered some of the world's most valuable mineral deposits, including gold, copper, coal, and other resources. International mining companies, under contract from the Mongolian government are already well on their way to begin exploitation of those resources. Revenues from exportation of those resources have the potential to more than double Mongolia's GDP.

The Mongolian government is moving toward implementation of three methods to ensure that every Mongolia receives a financial benefit from that sale. The first method—proposed in the coalition governments draft budget for 2011—is the distribution of a dividend of 21,000 Mongolian Tughrik (about US\$17) per person per month. Reports are sketchy, but if adopted, that would amount to about \$204 per person, or \$816 for a family of four by the end of the year. This is a large sum in such a poor country. Mongolia currently has a per capita GDP of about \$3600 per year (less than one-tenth of U.S. GDP).

The second method is to make every Mongolian a shareholder in the state's mining enterprise. The initial plan calls for 50 percent of the enterprise to be owned by the state; 30 percent by international investors; 10 percent by domestic investors; and the remaining 10 percent to be divided equally between all Mongolia citizens. That plan would make each Mongolian the owner of about 550 shares of stock. Initially citizens will be prohibited reselling their shares, and it is unclear whether this prohibition will be relaxed later. Government officials hope that the shares will eventually start paying dividends. Apparently this would mean a second source of basic income from the mining industry, which might replace or supplement the first.

The third method is the creation of a Sovereign Wealth Fund designed after studying the operation of the Alaska Permanent Fund, the Alberta Heritage Fund, and other existing Sovereign Wealth Funds. This fund could pay regular dividends like the Alaska fund but government officials indicated that it might only pay occasional dividends like the Alberta fund.

Government officials hope that once these policies take shape, they will relieve the abject poverty experienced in Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbataar, without interfering with the traditional nomadic lifestyle half of Mongolians practice. Terence Ortslan, Managing Director of a Canada-based mining research firm called TSO & Associates, said, "Mongolia should recognize and preserve nomadic lifestyle of its people but in modern level of quality of life that they deserve. I would call it 'Modern nomadic lifestyle.'" For example Mongolian nomads could use their share of wealth to obtain devices to generate electricity from solar and wind energy.

These policies are just at the stage of transition from planning to implementation, and the form the will eventually take remains to be seen.

More information about these policies in Mongolia is online at the following links: David Stanway and Khaliun Bayartsogt, “Mongolia frets as giant coal mine launch looms,” Reuters, Mon Aug 8, 2011

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL3E7IP1CG20110808?sp=true>

MDNews, “From January, every citizen will get MNT 21,000 per month”

<http://www.mongoliaeconomy.com/?p=698>

Dale Choi, market commentator of Frontier Securities, “Mongolia is to Set Up a Sovereign Wealth Fund,” *UB Post*, September 15, 2009 (Source: Bloomberg, Frontier Securities, September 11, 2009)

<http://www.fonds-souverains.com/author/admin/page/1590/>

D. Jargalsaikhan, “Ulaan Qatar” *MongolNews*. Friday, 25 February 2011 12:44

<http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/index.php/opinion/5825-ulaan-qatar>

P. Shinebayar “Coalition Government Makes Historical Decision” April 5, 2011

<http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/index.php/national-news?layout=default&start=80>

*** SENEGAL: Presidential candidate in favour of basic income**

Presidential elections will take place in Senegal in February 2012. One of the candidates, Abdoulaye Teye, has announced that his electoral platform would include a strong plea in favour of the implementation of an unconditional basic income in Senegal.

For further information:

Dedicated website (in French): <http://www.rbg-amo.com/>

Email address of the candidate: layeteye@yahoo.fr

The 44 proposals of Teye’s platform summarized at <http://www.nettali.net/Les-44-propositions-du-Docteur.html> (in French)

*** UNITED STATES: 2011 Alaska Dividends safe as the APF rides financial roller coaster**

According to USBIG, the Alaska Permanent Fund (APF) ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2011 with a total value of over \$40 billion. The APF is the Sovereign Wealth fund that finances Alaska’s partial basic income, known as the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). The fund made back all its losses since the 2008 financial meltdown and realized a gain of more than 20 percent for the year. This was the highest yearly percentage increase for the APF since 1986. The high, year-end value of the fund ensures that a healthy PFD will be distributed this fall. Experts predict it will be slightly lower than last year’s dividend of \$1,281.

Unfortunately, following the end of the APF’s fiscal year, stock markets around the world suffered major losses, and many of the APF’s assets suffered as a result. The total value of the APF has fallen from a high of over \$41 billion in July to \$37.5 as of August 26, 2011. Fund managers credit the APF’s overall success to long-term investment strategy, and so they would be likely to say that a large short-term downturn, like this one, are not as important as long-term trends. Mike Burns, CEO of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, has spent a great deal of time lately telling the media just that.

In the midst of the financial downturns this August, Burns was interviewed by National Public Radio’s Melissa Block about Wall Street volatility. Block asked, “So you’re coming at this from a position of strength, ... but still, if you lose a billion dollars in one day, that’s gotta hurt.”

Burns replied, “Well, it certainly does hurt, and obviously it gets your attention. But the most important words that you just said were one day. I mean, the greatest strength of this

fund is our ability to take a very long term view of the markets. These days are difficult. Tuesday was a nice day. Wednesday was another bad day. The markets are up strong today. But it's the long view and it is the very long view that we like to take.”

Burns went on to say that in light of that long view, the APF was buying stocks when they were down in early August. He also told the Anchorage Daily News, “The discipline of rebalancing your assets is, and this is hard to do, but you take money out of what’s working and put it where it isn’t working. That forces you to buy when things are down.”

Recent stories about the APF and PFD can be found online at:

Editorial Board, “Permanent value: Fund’s long-term view pays off for Alaskans,” Fairbanks Daily News Miner, Aug 3, 2011

http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/14944356/article-Permanent-value--Fund%E2%80%99s-long-term-view-pays-off-for-Alaskans?instance=home_opinion_editorial

Becky Bohrer, “Alaska oil wealth fund reports close of \$40.1,” Associated Press – Aug 2, 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5RGQGYXH1CEbgx3U79y7bEIJobYQ?docId=c62a980e21114c58b0552832b02de733>

Alaska Dispatch, “Alaska Permanent Fund tops \$40 billion, but PFD yield is down,” *Alaska Dispatch*, Aug 03, 2011

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/alaska-permanent-fund-tops-40-billion-pfd-yield-down>

Pat Forgey, “Permanent Fund finishes rebound,” *Juneau Empire*, August 2, 2011 (Contact Pat Forgey at patrick.forgey@juenauempire.com.)

<http://juneauempire.com/local/2011-08-02/permanent-fund-finishes-rebound>

Dermot Cole, “Volatility costs Alaska Permanent Fund \$2 billion,” *Fairbanks Dailey News-Miner*, Aug 09, 2011

http://newsminer.com/pages/full_story/push?blog-entry-Volatility+costs+Alaska+Permanent+Fund+-2+billion%20&id=14986456&instance=blogs_editors_desk

Alex Ferreras, “Permanent Fund Loses \$1 Billion in One Day,” LoanSafe.org, August 10, 2011

<http://www.loansafe.org/permanent-fund-loses-1-billion-in-one-day>

Barry B. Burr, Timothy Inklebarger, and Rob Kozlowski, “Returns at 25-year highs for Alaska, Illinois, Idaho funds,” August 3, 2011

<http://www.pionline.com/article/20110803/DAILYREG/110809953>

Ted Land, “Permanent Fund Can Wait Out Market Plunge,” KTUU-TV, August 5, 2011

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-permanent-fund-can-wait-out-market-plunge-20110805,0,3596448.story>

Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute. “The Alaska Permanent Fund Gains 20.6% in FY 2011,” Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute Aug 3, 2011

<http://www.swfinstitute.org/swf-article/the-alaska-permanent-fund-gains-20-6-in-fy-2011/>

5. PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

FORGET, Evelyn L. (2011), ‘The Town with No Poverty: The Health Effects of a Canadian Guaranteed Annual Income Field Experiment’, *Canadian Public Policy*, 37(3), September 2011, pp.283-305, see: <http://economics.ca/cgi/jab?journal=cpp&article=v37n3p0283>

This paper has two purposes. First, it documents the historical context of MINCOME, a Canadian guaranteed annual income field experiment (1974 to 1979). Second, it uses routinely collected health administration data and a quasi-experimental design to document an 8.5 percent reduction in the hospitalization rate for participants relative to controls, particularly for accidents and injuries and mental health. Evelyne Forget also finds that participant contacts with physicians declined, especially for mental health, and that more adolescents continued into grade 12. Forget finds no increase in fertility, family dissolution rates, or improved birth outcomes, and concludes that a relatively modest GAI can improve population health, suggesting significant health system savings.

GOSSERIES, Axel & VANDERBORGHT, Yannick (2011), *Arguing about justice. Essays for Philippe Van Parijs*, Louvain-la-Neuve: Presses universitaires de Louvain.

A collective volume entitled *Arguing about justice* has just been published on the occasion of Philippe Van Parijs’s 60th birthday. The book was launched on October 28th, 2011, during the celebrations of the Hoover Chair (Louvain University) 20th anniversary, and remained a complete surprise for Van Parijs himself. The editors Axel Gosseries and Yannick Vanderborght had managed to convince almost 50 authors from all over the world, who all respect Philippe’s ideas and like him as a person, to join this secret project. The authors were asked to write pieces trying out new ideas, taking risks if possible, without knowing anything about who the other authors were, their number, the publisher’s name, the venue for the gift-giving, etc.

The diversity of Van Parijs’s research interests is reflected in the volume, with contributors from various disciplines covering a wide array of issues. Papers on basic income are of course well represented. They consider how and to what extent such a basic income can be justified (Christian Arnsperger & Warren A. Johnson, Samuel Bowles, Paul-Marie Boulanger, Ian Carter, Robert van der Veen, and Karl Widerquist) as well as the prospects of its implementation, based on experiences from France (Denis Clerc), the United Kingdom (Bill Jordan), Brazil (Eduardo Suplicy), or at a more general level (Almaz Zelleke). Among the other authors are Anne Alstott, Bruce Ackerman, John Baker, Joshua Cohen, Jon Elster, Robert Goodin, Claus Offe, John Roemer, Erik Olin Wright, and many others.

The endorsement by Amartya Sen reads as follows: “A book of quick and sharp thoughts on a grand theme is a novel way of paying tribute to a leading philosopher. But it has worked beautifully here, both as a stimulating book of ideas on justice, and as a fitting recognition of the intellectual contributions of Philippe Van Parijs, who is one of the most original and most creative thinkers of our time”.

Further details about the book (including all abstracts) and how to order it online are available at: <http://www.uclouvain.be/394650.html>

HAMMOND, Jay (2011), *Diapering The Devil*, Homer, Alaska: Kachemak Resource Institute

The full title of this posthumous book by Jay Hammond is *Diapering The Devil: How Alaska Helped Staunch Befouling by Mismanaged Oil Wealth; A Lesson for Other Oil Rich Nations*. The metaphor in the title refers on one of the founders of OPEC who called oil “the devil’s excrement” because of the “resource curse,” which often leaves oil producing nations worse off than they were before they discovered oil. In the book, Hammond argues that Alaska avoided the resource curse in part by saving some of the state’s oil money in the Alaska Permanent Fund and distributing the returns to that fund as the Permanent Fund Dividend. The fund obviously contributes to preventing the resource curse by transforming a short term oil boom into a permanent stream of investments. But Hammond argues that the dividend was also essential to avoiding the curse. He writes, “To put it crudely, I wanted to pit collective greed against selective greed. In the past, those who knew how to play the game were able to secure subsidies for their pet projects, many times at the collective expense of all other Alaskans.”

The book is edited by Lauren Stanford, Jackie Pels, Pam Brodie and Mary Maly and published by Larry Smith and Pam Brodie of the Kachemak Research Institute in Homer. The book is currently on a small print run, available only at libraries in Alaska, but the publisher is planning a larger print run later.

A review of the book by Naomi Klouda, recently published in the Homer Tribune is online at: <http://homertribune.com/2011/06/new-hammond-book-published/>

For more information about the book contact Larry Smith of the Kachemak Research Institute: LEstate@GCI.net.

- From USBIG

LEVITT, Kari Polanyi (2011), ‘Basic Income as a Public Policy to Enhance Democracy and Global Justice’, *Center for Studies on Inequality and Development Discussion Paper*, issue 46, June 2011.

This discussion paper by Kari Polanyi Levitt, of McGill University, Montreal, Canada is subtitled, “Karl Polanyi and Basic Income.” In it, Levitt responds to a question put to her by Senator Eduardo Suplicy (of Brazil): What would her father, Karl Polanyi, author of *The Great Transformation*, have thought about basic income? She says that this question forced her to reread many of her father’s writings because he never addressed the subject and, perhaps, he had never heard of it. She begins the paper with a brief summary of Karl Polanyi’s social philosophy. She concludes that basic income would be a good tool to realize some of the goals that were important to him.

The full text of the paper is online at:

http://www.proac.uff.br/cede/sites/default/files/TD46_0.pdf

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MORGAN, Gareth & GUTHRIE, Susan (2011), *The Big Kahuna; Turning the NZ tax and benefit system on its head*, New Zealand: Public Interest Publishing.

Dr Gareth Morgan is CEO of Gareth Morgan Investments portfolio manager, and a director of economics consultancy Informetrics Ltd which he founded in 1982. He has been discussing his idea of the “Big Kahuna” reform to New Zealand’s tax and welfare system since 2009. This reform would involve a 30 percent flat tax on all income (including capital gains) and an unconditional basic income of NZ\$11,000 (About US\$9,000) after tax for all adults and NZ\$8,500 (about US\$7,000) after tax for all 18-20 year olds. He and Susan Guthrie have now

released a full-length book on the idea. Several reviews and opinion pieces have been written about the Big Kahuna in the New Zealand press.

More information about the book, and a link to ordering the book is online at the Gareth Morgan Investments website:

<http://www.gmi.co.nz/bigkahuna/>

An introduction to the book is online at:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1107/S00311/dr-gareth-morgan-fresh-ideas-for-a-productive-economy.htm>

An opinion piece about the book by Bernard Hickey and an interview with the author are online at:

<http://www.interest.co.nz/opinion/54671/opinion-gareth-morgan-fleashes-out-his-big-kahuna-idea-comprehensive-capital-tax-and-un>

An opinion piece by the author in the New Zealand Herald is online at:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=10748261

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WEEKS, Kathi (2011), *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*, Durham (North Carolina): Duke University Press.

This book makes the case for a post-work society and one of its five chapters is devoted to basic income. According to the publisher, “In *The Problem with Work*, Kathi Weeks boldly challenges the presupposition that work, or waged labor, is inherently a social and political good. While progressive political movements, including the Marxist and feminist movements, have fought for equal pay, better work conditions, and the recognition of non-paid work as a valued form of labor, even they have tended to accept work as a naturalized or inevitable activity. Weeks argues that in taking work as a given, we have “depoliticized” it, or removed it from the realm of political critique. Employment is now largely privatized, and work-based activism in the United States has atrophied. We have accepted waged work as the primary mechanism for income distribution, an ethical obligation, and a means of defining ourselves and others as social and political subjects. Taking up Marxist and feminist critiques, Weeks proposes a post-work society that would allow people to be productive and creative rather than relentlessly bound to the employment relation.”

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PORTUGUESE

BAERT, Anthony (2011), ‘Experiências de transferência de renda universal e recomendações para o projeto de Renda Básica de Cidadania em Santo Antônio do Pinhal’, Center for Studies on Inequality and Development (<http://www.proac.uff.br/cede/>), *Discussion Paper No. 54 – September 2011*, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil. The paper is available at:

<http://www.proac.uff.br/cede/sites/default/files/TD54.pdf>

This timely paper is aimed at contributing to the understanding of the concrete implementation of the Citizen’s Basic Income. Firstly, the author (A. Baert from Louvain University, Belgium) describes the concrete functioning of the three experiences of universal income transfer that have been conducted in the world until today: the Alaska Permanent Fund, the pilot project of the BIG Coalition in Otjivero-Omitara (Namibia) and the pilot project of the NGO ReCivitas in Quatinga Velho (Brazil). For each, Baert distinguishes four aspects of their functioning (institutional structure, funding, eligibility and payment) and

analyzes their sustainability. Secondly, on the basis of this comparative research, the author makes recommendations for the implementation of a Citizen's Basic Income in Santo Antonio do Pinhal (Brazil). Baert concludes that it is not viable on the short and medium term, and he suggests to launch a five-year pilot project instead.

The PDF version of the paper is at: <http://www.proac.uff.br/cede/sites/default/files/TD54.pdf>

6. NEW LINKS

* **South Africa: Policy brief on basic income**

A policy brief written by Isobel Frye (Director, Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute) and Bob Deacon (UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement) puts forward the case for a regional taxation on the extraction industry to fund a regional basic income grant as a form of a social protection floor that meets the needs of citizens and migrants. It can be found online at: <http://www.wahenga.net/node/2140>

- From USBIG

* **Michael Howard on the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend**

This opinion piece discusses some lessons from two forthcoming books (co-edited by Michael Howard and Karl Widerquist): *Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend: Examining its suitability as a model* and *Exporting the Alaska Model: Adapting the Permanent Fund Dividend for reform around the world* (Palgrave MacMillan). Howard argues for the value of a universal resource dividend. The full text of the article is online at:

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/06/20/opinion/contributors/alaska%E2%80%99s-permanent-fund-dividend-a-policy-ripe-for-export/?ref=mostReadBox>

- From USBIG

* **US: Opinion poll shows low support for basic income grant**

Rasmussen Reports is a US electronic media company which specializes in the collection, publication and distribution of public opinion polling information. The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey of Likely Voters shows that only 11% favour a proposal for the federal government to provide every single American with a basic income grant, or enough money to enjoy a modest living regardless of whether they choose to work or not. Eighty-two percent (82%) oppose this idea. 19% of Democrats favour a basic income grant in the United States, a view shared by just 3% of Republicans and 9% of voters not affiliated with either party.

For further information:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/august_2011/11_think_government_should_provide_basic_income_grant_for_all

* **Basic income according to the Namibian Ministry of Environment**

The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism has issued a paper on basic income. The author, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula (Permanent Secretary), is cautious about the potential of a basic income in the Namibian context.

<http://www.met.gov.na/Documents/Article%20on%20Basic%20Income%20Grant%28BIG%29%20VI%20by%20MET%20Permanent%20Secretary.pdf>

* **An interview with Guy Standing in *The Times of India***

Rukmini Shrinivasan, of *The Times of India*, recently interviewed Guy Standing and asked him about his new book *The Precariat* and about India's new basic income pilot project, which Standing is helping to organize. In the interview, Standing explains why a universal basic income is preferable to targeted transfers especially in developing countries like India. The full text of the interview is online at:

<http://www.timescrest.com/opinion/social-insurance-is-not-for-the-indian-open-economy-of-21st-century-5775>

- From USBIG

*** Cash transfers in Somalia**

This editorial in IRIN (IRIN: humanitarian news and analysis a service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, June 30, 2011) argues that cash transfer are a better option for humanitarian relief aid to Somalians.

It can be found online at: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93106>

- From USBIG

*** France: A strong plea in favour of basic income**

Alain Cohen Dumouchel, a member of the small political party ‘Alternative libérale’ (Liberal alternative), argues for an unconditional basic income in France.

<http://leplus.nouvelobs.com/contribution/213759;a-la-place-d-aides-sociales-instaurons-une-allocation-universelle.html>

*** Germany: WordMob for basic income**

During the international week for basic income in September 2011 the local Basic Income Network in Hamburg Germany (www.grundeinkommen-hamburg.de) created a special performance they call “WordMob”. It means: words to be built in public by big mobile letters. The video shows the group spelling the words “BIG” and “human dignity”. It ends by asking “what kind of work would you choose if you’d get BIG?”

It can be found online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i53m63yplRs>

*** Basic Income Italy Newsletter issue 13**

BIN Italia, the Italian basic income network, issues a regular newsletter. Issue 13 (July-October 2011) is now online at <http://www.bin-italia.org/>

7. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

Co-chairs:

Ingrid VAN NIEKERK ivanniekerk@epri.org.za, Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

Karl WIDERQUIST Karl@Widerquist.com, Georgetown University-Qatar

Further details about **BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board** as well as further information about the **Recognised National Networks** can be found on our website www.basicincome.org

MEMBERSHIP

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network. To join them, send your name and address (postal and electronic) to David Casassas david.casassas@uab.cat, Secretary of BIEN, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

B(I)ENEFACTORS:

Joel Handler (US), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Guy Standing (UK),

Eduardo Suplicy (BR), Robert van der Veen (NL), Richard Caputo (US), Rolf Kuettel (CH), Jeanne Hrdina (CH), Wolf D. Aichberger (AT), Einkommen ist ein Bürgerrecht (DE), Ahn Hyo Sang (KR)

BIEN's Life Members:

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network.

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