



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

Harvard Faculty Club

20 Quincy St. Cambridge, MA 02138

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Cocktail Reception

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Dinner & Keynote Address

SANTIAGO LEVY is the Inter-American Development Bank's Vice President for Sector and Knowledge, and previously was the main architect of Mexico's renowned social program *Progres-a-Oportunidades*.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Allison Dining Room, Harvard Kennedy School

Fifth Floor, Taubman Building 79 JFK St. Cambridge, MA 02138

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Welcoming Remarks

DAVID T. ELLWOOD is the Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy, and is the Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

The Challenge of Development and Access to Financial Markets

A retrospective view of economic development over the past several decades shows both notable successes and dismal failures. As we consider new effective approaches, how does access to markets and financial empowerment fit into the equation of creating future prosperity? This presentation will provide an update on current thinking about economic development and introduce the topic of financial empowerment. It will define key terms for the day's discussions include a survey of the current situation. *45 minute presentation followed by 45 minutes of discussion*

RICARDO HAUSMANN is Director of the Center for International Development at Harvard University and Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at the Harvard Kennedy School.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Discussion 1: UNDERSTANDING THE ROOTS OF EXCLUSION

As businesses experiment and uncover innovative ways to reach the under-served, researchers focus their work on detecting patterns and behaviors that might help to understand the effectiveness of current products and services. The faculty members affiliated with the Empowerment Lab focus on solutions-oriented research and recommendations, and have worked with private-sector partners to reveal insights about markets and how to reach the underserved. *Session will consist of a thirty minute interactive interview with panelists, followed by a sixty minute interactive discussion with the entire group.*

*Moderated by **LANT PRITCHETT**, Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University*

Initial comments by:

NAVA ASHRAF, an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School is examining how offering US-based migrants from El Salvador control over spending of remittances to their home country affects remittance flows.

SHAWN COLE, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School integrated weather insurance, an innovative financial risk management product, with BASIX, a microfinance institution in India.

DEAN KARLAN, Professor of Economics at Yale University, explores topics including Commitment Savings products and how social networks affect financial behavior.

ASIM KHWAJA, Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School has partnered with banks and Venture Capital firms to explore psychometric testing for credit screening purposes in South Africa, increasing the availability of financing for entrepreneurs there.

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Lunch Speaker: THE ARCHITECTURE OF COMPLEXITY: LETTING MASSIVE DATA SETS TELL THEIR STORY

ALBERT-LÁSZLÓ BARABÁSI is the Distinguished Professor and Director of Northeastern University's Center for Network Science. He is a principal figure in the creation of this new field of research and the author of the best-selling book “Linked: How Everything Is Connected to Everything Else and What It Means”. His work has influenced many fields including the internet, economic development and cancer research. His latest work analyzes human mobility by studying the trajectory of 100,000 anonymized mobile phone users.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Discussion 2: BUSINESS INNOVATIONS TO EMPOWER THE UNDERSERVED

This session features established entrepreneurs whose businesses currently reach the under-served. The private sector can excel at providing innovative and sustainable solutions, and multilateral organizations and governments are increasingly interested in encouraging enterprise solutions to development problems. This discussion focuses on the opportunities and challenges faced by these businesses as they strive to reach this market and will examine opportunities for support and collaboration from research, regulation, policy, and other private-sector partners. *Session will consist of a thirty minute interactive interview with panelists, followed by a sixty minute interactive discussion with the entire group.*

*Moderated by **MICHAEL CHU**, Senior Lecturer in the Initiative on Social Enterprise of the General Management Group of the Harvard Business School.*

Initial comments by:

ASHEESH ADVANI is the President and CEO of Virgin Money and previously founded CircleLending.

CARLOS DANIEL is one of the co-chief executive officers of Banco Compartamos, the largest microfinance institution in Latin America, serving 400,000 low-income microentrepreneurs, most of them women.

ROY SOSA started his career co-founding Netspend and making it a global leader in pre-paid card services, and continues his efforts to increase access to capital and financial services for the unbanked as the Chairman and CEO of MPower Labs, Inc and a Founding Partner of MPower Ventures, LP.

