

Marcelo Neri

Marcelo Côrtes Neri is director of the Center of Social Policies (CPS) tied to the Brazilian Institute for Economics and Professor at the Graduate Program in Economics at EPGE, both tied to Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV). Ph.D in Economics at Princeton University, he acted as researcher, in the Direction of Social Studies of the IPEA. His main areas of work are evaluation of social programs, measurement of poverty and inequality, labor economics and microeconometrics. He publishes regularly in both national and international journals. His paper "Think Global, Act Local: Social Credit based on MDGs" was awarded during the Global Network Meeting, held in Dakar, during January 2005.

Some of his applied research are connected with the most successful NGO's in Brazil such as the Digital Divide Map with Comitê para Democratização da Informática (CDI (and USAID)); The End of Hunger Map with Ação da Cidadania. Some of his recent books are: "Portrait of Disabilities" (2003) and "Social Security Coverage: Diagnosis and Proposals" (2003). The researcher acts actively in the proposal and evaluation on public policies in Brazil and other countries such as Bolivia and Suriname where he implemented qualitative and quantitative field work. He was also a member in Latin American research networks on Poverty and Macroeconomics and another one on Social Spending coordinated by UNDP. Marcelo organized the Brazilian chapter of the Network on Inequality and Poverty (NIP) and hosted in 2000 an international conference in Rio under the auspices of the Inter-American Development Bank and The World Bank ¹. These institutions funded a series of researches on various topics such as "Assets, Markets and Poverty" and "Access to Infrastructure by the Poor"

In terms of local initiatives, he participated in the design and implementation of the system of states minimum wages in Brazil and of the setting of social goals in Brazilian units of the federation. The social policies of the States of Pará and Alagoas were recently evaluated by CPS. At the National level, Marcelo advised different ministries in Brazil for example Social Assistance Ministry (on safety nets) and Social Security (on informality). He was also a member in key commissions related to Labor Ministry (general advising) and Central Bank Policy (on Microcredit) advising was implemented.

The author participates actively in the public policy debate writing twice a month in the Valor (Jornal Valor Econômico) and the magazine Economic Conjuncture (Conjuntura Econômica). The books "Social Essays" (2003) and "Social Portraits (2005, forthcoming) provide a resume of the vast diversity of themes covered by his research. Some of his work can be found at the website www.fgv.br/cps and <http://epge.fgv.br/portal/pessoas/docente/2021.html>

¹ During this conference James Heckman, the keynote speaker, found out that he was awarded the Economics Nobel Prize. Marcelo is organizing on July another international conference on Education Quality and Pre-School initiatives evaluation that will have James Heckman again as the keynote speaker .