Center Convenes California Executive Roundtable on Philanthropy and Equity

The Center is facilitating an executive roundtable with 17 influential California foundation presidents about equity strategies that are emerging at their foundations for the communities they serve. The California Executive Roundtable on Philanthropy and Equity started in February 2018 and will continue its work over the next year with a series of structured conversations that help enable philanthropic leadership to rethink and improve philanthropy’s response to inequality, including an examination of foundation practices. Meetings cover a broad cross-section of issues and ideas related to the role of foundations in achieving equity-related outcomes including: the implications for equity work on internal operations and culture; foundation strategies to address issues of equity in California; nonprofit capacity building around issues of equity; and inclusive economies and public policies that can reduce structural barriers to economic opportunity. The network of foundation leaders that results from the Roundtable will create new opportunities to help catalyze progress.

Philanthropic Advisors Discuss “Next Gen” Giving

The Center hosted a breakfast salon on May 23 for more than two dozen philanthropic advisors who work closely with donors and their families to discuss the next generation of family philanthropy. The discussion focused on Generation Impact: How Next Gen Donors are Revolutionizing Giving, a book that suggests “next gen” donors are seeking to achieve greater impact by leveraging non-traditional vehicles of giving, blurring the lines between businesses and nonprofit enterprises, and working with others to affect change in new and different ways. Advisors discussed the extent to which their experiences with clients supported the arguments in the book, such as respecting family legacy while forging new paths. They also pushed back on other ideas, like the notion that the next generation has a greater appetite for strategy and experimentation.
Retrospective of The Center’s Work

As The Center approaches its 20th anniversary, it developed a retrospective of its work over the past two decades in helping to build the field of philanthropy to address community problems. The report chronicles various research and convenings on philanthropy and the public policy making process, strategies and structures for cross-sectoral partnerships with government and business, and how philanthropy can serve as a critical community anchor in place-based initiatives. It also details The Center’s most recent initiative on philanthropic leadership, foundation decision-making and board governance as part of the Irene Hirano Inouye Philanthropic Leadership Fund as well as newer efforts to make the giving of donors and their families more meaningful and impactful. The retrospective can be downloaded at the following link:  http://cppp.usc.edu/retrospective/

Call for Papers: Philanthropy & Social Impact Symposium

The Center will mark the beginning of its 20th anniversary with a research symposium on March 14-16, 2019 that examines the role of philanthropy in creating social impact. The symposium will be held at the Sol Price School of Public Policy and coincides with the school’s own 90-year anniversary, presenting an opportunity to take stock of the intellectual developments and research contributions at the intersection of philanthropy, nonprofits, and social innovation as well as insights into the most promising avenues for future work. The Price School has a distinguished legacy of research and expertise on cross-sectoral structures and processes for more effective governance. A call for papers has been issued around a number of themes – philanthropic strategy to scale impact, partnerships and network models, and social movements and community engagement. Proposals for papers are due November 30. For more information, please visit cppp.usc.edu/call-for-papers.
The Center has announced its Fall Research Seminar Series, which brings USC faculty and other scholars to the Price School to present their latest and most relevant research on philanthropy and nonprofits. This year’s series launched with Alex Graddy-Reed, Assistant Professor, Sol Price School of Public Policy and Center Fellow who discussed how third-party intermediaries that rate nonprofits, such as Charity Navigator, impact how nonprofits report spending on overhead costs as well as how overhead ratios and other third party ratings impact individual giving and foundation grants. She finds that nonprofits that meet Charity Navigator’s eligibility requirements for a rating have higher indirect costs. However, when a switches from being ineligible to eligible to be rated, their reported indirect rate decreases dramatically. Importantly, she finds that marginal changes in overhead ratios have no impact on contributions or grants.

The remainder of the semester’s research series includes:

**Monday, October 22, 2018**
"Field Experiments on Directed Giving: From Pilot(s) to Full Phase"
Jonathan Meer
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Texas A&M University

**Monday, November 5, 2018**
“Social Networks and Philanthropy”
Julia Carboni
Assistant Professor
Department of Public Administration and International Affairs
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University

**Monday, December 3, 2018**
“Nonprofit Entrepreneurship as a Research Field: The State of Knowledge and New Data Frontiers”
Jesse Lecy
Associate Professor
School of Community Resources and Development
Arizona State University
New Research Suggests Higher Income Inequality Results in Less Giving

Nicolas Duquette, Assistant Professor, Sol Price School of Public Policy and Center Fellow, uses the tools of economics, politics and history to trace the development and behavior of nonprofit organizations. In a recent research paper, “Inequality and Philanthropy: High-Income Giving in the United States 1917-2012,” he traces donations by high-income households in the United States over a 90-year period using archived income tax records, finding that donations were lower during periods in which income inequality was most severe. He builds this finding out further in a paper with co-author Enda P. Hargaden, Assistant Professor, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville in an experiment that affirms his statistical finding that heightened inequality correlates with decreased giving.

Christine Beckman Joins USC Sol Price School of Public Policy as Professor of Governance and Management

Dr. Christine M. Beckman has joined the faculty of the Price School where she will become the Price Family Chair in Social Innovation. She will apply her expertise in organizations to examine charter schools as an innovation in addressing educational excellence. Dr. Beckman was previously Professor of Management and Organization at the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland where she served as the Academic Director at the Center of Social Value Creation (CSVC) and taught courses in organizational and behavioral theory and implementation strategy. Her research focuses on organizational learning, inter-organizational networks, and entrepreneurship, particularly on how collaborative relationships facilitate organizational change.

For more information about The Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy and these programs, please visit us online at www.usc.edu/philanthropy, call (213) 740-9492 or email cppp@usc.edu.