Rights for the Entrepreneurial Poor

October 26, 2017
Rämistrasse 59 (RAA), Aula G-01, University of Zurich

The Center for Human Rights Studies, the Center for Ethics, and the Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth at the University of Zurich invite to a conference on the legal and economic empowerment of the entrepreneurial poor.

A large number of the working poor in developing countries are informal entrepreneurs. They run unregistered businesses with very limited or null access to legal protection, financial services and basic infrastructure.

This workshop will examine the main challenges to improve the livelihoods of the entrepreneurial poor from an interdisciplinary perspective. A panel in law will discuss the variety of legal standards and rights that can protect the fundamental interests of small entrepreneurs. A panel in microfinance will focus on the basic financial instruments – i.e. savings, credit and insurance services - to alleviate poverty and the role of governments and financial institutions in granting access to such instruments. Both the panels and the keynote lecture will be oriented to a general audience.

The workshop will bring together philosophers, legal scholars, economists and development scholars working on issues concerning the legal and economic empowerment of the entrepreneurial poor, in order to engage in mutually fruitful discussions, focusing both on foundational and applied issues.

Program:

14:00 – 14:15 Introduction: Francis Cheneval (University of Zurich)
15:15 – 15:30 Short break
15:30 – 16:45 Panel in Law: Alison Brown (Cardiff University) Jahel Queralt (Pompeu Fabra University) and Michele Romano (University of Zurich). Chair: Christine Kaufmann (University of Zurich)
16:45 – 17:15 Coffee break
17:15 – 18:30 Panel in Microfinance: Marek Hudon (Free University of Brussels) Lesley Sherratt (King’s College London) and Jonathan Fu (University of Zurich). Chair: Annette Krauss (University of Zurich)
18:30 Reception

This is an open event but we encourage you to pre-register at roberta.fischli@uzh.ch