

ABSTRACT
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION
THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY

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Knowledge Systems for Pro-Poor Development

How can knowledge – the product of specialist research organizations of which the modern research university is the exemplar – be better appropriated to assist pro-poor value creation for pro-poor development, and thereby advance a key objective of the Millennium Development Goals?

This is key public policy question for both developing and developed economies, where there is pressure both to develop high-end investments in science, engineering and technology, and also to tackle high levels of unemployment and underemployment through small business development and entrepreneurship.

The contribution that follows suggests that these objectives can be harmonized through conceptualizing “knowledge systems”, illustrating the argument with examples from South Africa and the United Kingdom.