

SIR ARTHUR LEWIS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL & ECONOMIC STUDIES

Invites you

to a **Research Seminar Presentation**

by **Raynata Wiggins, PhD Candidate**

on **Wednesday 15th July, 2015 at 10.00am**
in the **SALISES Conference Centre, UWI**

ABSTRACT

The Distribution of Human Capital Social Assistance in Trinidad and Tobago: An Empirical Analysis of the Participation of the Poor

This study employs a quintile distribution analysis and a probit model to empirically investigate the coverage of the poor in three in-kind social assistance programmes targeted towards human capital development in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). Micro-data from the 2008/2009 T&T Household Budgetary Survey are analysed to determine the demographic and socio-economic factors that influence participation in the programmes. The results indicate that the poor are considerably under-represented in the country's universal education and health programmes: the Government Assistance for Tuition Expense and the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme. Further, the study also found that a substantial amount of the School Nutrition Programme – a programme targeted towards under-privileged school children – is leaked to the non-poor. Finally, the results reveal that characteristics such as household size, income area, age, sex and ethnicity significantly influence participation in these programmes.

Key Words: Social Assistance, Probit, Trinidad and Tobago, Targeted Programmes, Universal Programmes, Quintile Distribution, In-Kind Transfer, Poor, Participation.