

# Erik Thorbecke

Web Bio

## Information

### Biography

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#### Biographical Statement

Erik Thorbecke is the H.E. Babcock Professor of Economics and Food Economics Emeritus and former Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development at Cornell University. He is presently a Graduate School Professor. His past positions include chairman of the Department of Economics at Cornell, a professorship at Iowa State University, and associate assistant administrator for program policy at the Agency for International Development. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Ghent in 1981. He has made contributions in the areas of economic and agricultural development, the measurement and analysis of poverty and malnutrition, the Social Accounting Matrix and general equilibrium modeling, and international economic policy. The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke poverty measure (*Econometrica*, 1984) has been adopted as the standard poverty measure by the World Bank and practically all UN agencies and is used almost universally by researchers doing empirical work on poverty. A multidimensional variant of the F-G-T measure was recently adopted by the Mexican government and used to allocate inter-regionally federal government funds to educational, health and nutritional programs benefiting the poor. Over the last five years he has co-directed a large scale research project on "The Impact of Globalization on the World's Poor" under the auspices of the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research. He has also continued his research on multidimensional poverty. He is the author or co-author of more than twenty five books and over one hundred and fifty articles.

### Professional

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#### Current Professional Activities

During 2011 Erik Thorbecke was closely involved in research activities of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), as a member of a Steering Committee of a large scale research project on Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Africa. He also chaired the thematic research group of the AERC on "Poverty, Income Distribution and Labor Markets", at the bi-annual workshops in Nairobi in December, 2011.

He presented a Plenary paper at the same biannual meeting on the Inter-relationship among Growth, Inequality and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Erik Thorbecke made a number of presentations, among others, in Seoul.

Erik continues to be a member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute for African Development at Cornell.

## Research

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### Current Research Activities

See text above on current professional activities and publications

## Extension

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## Education

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## Courses

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## Websites

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### Related Websites

<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/econ/et17/>

## Administration

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## Publications

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### Selected Publications

Nissanke M. and E. Thorbecke (editors), *The Poor under Globalization in Asia, Latin America and Asia*. Oxford University Press, 2010

Cornelisse P. and E. Thorbecke, *Exchange and Development; the Anatomy of Economic Transactions*, Edward Elgar Publisher, 2010.

Nissanke M. and E. Thorbecke (editors), Globalization, Poverty and Inequality in Latin America, Special issue, *World Development*, volume 38, Issue 6, June 2010

Foster J., Greer J. and E Thorbecke, "FGT Twenty Five Years Later", *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 2010

Nissanke M. and E Thorbecke, "Introduction: Globalization-Poverty Channels and Case Studies from Sub-Saharan Africa in African Development Review vol. 20, issue 1, April 2008

Nissanke M. and E Thorbecke (editors), *Globalization and the Poor in Asia: Can Shared Growth Be Sustained?*, Basingtoke Palgrave McMillan, 2008

"Economic Development, Equality, Income Distribution and Ethics" in P. Pinstруп-Andersen and P Sandoe (editors), *Ethics, Hunger, and Globalization*. Springer, 2007

'Overview', in M. Nissanke and E. Thorbecke (eds) *The Impact of Globalization on*

the World's Poor: The Transmission Mechanisms, Palgrave Macmillan for UNU/WIDER, 2007

The Impact of Globalization on the World's Poor (M. Nissanke and E. Thorbecke, Editors) Palgrave MacMillan, 2007

The Impact of Globalization on the World's Poor. Special Issue of World Development. Guest Editors M. Nissanke and E Thorbecke, vol. 34, No. 8, August, 2006

"Channels and Policy Debate in the Globalization-Inequality- Poverty Nexus" (with M. Nissanke) in World Development vol. 34, No. 8, August 2006

"Economic Development, Equality, Income Distribution, and Ethics" in M. Altman (Editor), Handbook of Behavioral Economics, M.E. Sharpe, 2006

"Rural Development, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa" (with Germano Mwabu) Journal of African Economies, vol.13, Suppl.1, 2004

"Economic Inequality and Its Socio-Economic Impact" (with Chutatong Charumilind), World Development, Vol. 30, No. 9, September 2002.

Taiwan's Development Experience: Lessons on Roles of Government and Market (with H. Wan, (Eds.) Kluwer Academic Publishers, May 1999.

"A Multiplier Decomposition Method to Analyze Poverty Alleviation", (with H-S Jung) Journal of Development Economics, Vol. 48, No. 2, 1996, pp. 253 277.

State, Market and Civil Organizations: new theories, new practices, and their implications for rural development. (with de Janvry and E. Sadoulet, Eds.), London: Macmillan, 1995, 511 pp.

Intersectoral Linkages and their Impact on Rural Poverty Alleviation: A Social Accounting Matrix Approach, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna, 1995, 99 pp.