

LIVABLE LIVES INITIATIVE

The Role of the Middle Class in Sustainable Economic Growth

Abstract: The Center for New Institutional Social Sciences has formed a research group consisting of Professors Steve Fazzari (Economics), Itai Sened (Political Science) and Robert Walker (Political Science and Applied Statistics), Graduate Ph.D. students Gyanesh Lama (Social Work), Mariana Medina and Ronald Watson (Political Science), and Undergraduate students Kiho Kong (Chinese and Political Science) and Charis Fisher (Political Science). This team has begun a multi-year research project on the making of a middle class and its role in reducing poverty and improving the welfare of society at large. This project seeks to remedy the lack of definitional clarity, the weakness of theoretical foundations, and the sub-par empirical research on the subject. We seek funding to help us construct a major database to serve as a foundation for this research and its extensions and application to provide analytical and data based answers to precisely the type of questions that the livable lives initiative seeks to pursue.

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