



Public SEMINAR

The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality

**Friday, May 9, 2014 • National Academy of Sciences Main Building
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • Lecture Room**

2:00 pm *Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests – First Floor East Court*

2:30 *Welcome*

—Lisa Lynch, CNSTAT member and Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

2:35 *Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office*

—Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician of the United States

2:45 *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*

Presenter: Angus Deaton, Princeton University

Discussants:

David Johnson, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Samuel Preston, University of Pennsylvania

Angus Deaton will present some of the main themes of his book, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*. He will talk about how the world has become an immensely better place, as mortality has fallen and incomes have risen, but at the same time a more unequal place, because only some have escaped leaving others behind. He will also talk about inequality—its positive role in helping those left behind to catch up, and its negative role if the first escapees try to stop others from following. He will argue that aid flows from rich to poor countries often widen the very gaps they are nominally trying to close. He will also focus on the data underpinning his arguments, especially some of the unsolved issues in national and global statistics. These include the need to integrate inequality data from surveys with national accounts data, and the underappreciated difficulties of calculating the price levels that are needed to make international comparisons. There are also great gaps in measures of mortality, especially in Africa; making up data is not a solution.

4:00 *Floor Discussion*

4:30–5:30 *Reception – First Floor East Court*

This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering [here](#).

For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or jsovde@nas.edu.