Inequality, Mobility and Segregation: Essays in Honor of Jacques Silber

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INTRODUCTION

It is our pleasure as editors to dedicate Research on Economic Inequality, Volume 20 to Professor Jacques Silber. Jacques is a long-time friend of the series and has kindly functioned as a mentor and advisor to us.

When one begins to take the measure of Jacques' contributions to the economics profession one thinks of Jacques' early interest in, and definitive works upon inequality, and especially the Gini coefficient. On the Gini itself one finds a half-dozen influential papers beginning in 1985 and continuing until the present. Other areas where Jacques has made definitive contributions include tax progressivity decomposition, positional social evaluation functions, and other distributional concepts such as segregation and polarization. Even this impressive list fails to recognize important contributions to the field of human development and the quality of life, mobility and opportunity, health inequality, labor market discrimination, unemployment and low wage labor markets, as well as macro policy and inequality. Although Jacques will formally "retire" this year he currently has five papers under review and at least a dozen different projects in progress.

Jacques has also edited or coedited some much-valued and widely cited books, including the Handbook on Income Inequality Measurement. Recent projects include editing the (currently seven volume) series, Economics Studies in Inequality, Social Exclusion, and Well-Being. Jacques is the founding editor of the Journal of Economic Inequality, which has thrived from its inception. Jacques has sat on distinguished expert panels and conducted numerous funded research projects. He is the current President of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality.

The above is an incomplete listing of Jacques' contributions. His teaching contributions include the chairing and jury membership for many Ph.D. and MA candidates both in Israel and abroad, memberships on editorial boards, countless scholarly paper reviews, and the organization of many conference sessions. Jacques has eagerly embraced young scholars, often collaborating with them to help them establish their research agendas. Above all Jacques is a "gentleman-scholar," always honest in his opinion, always respectful of others. In addition to his commitment to his profession, he would be pleased to also be recognized for his devotion to his family and friends, and particularly, to his wife Fanny.