

BIEN

BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

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www.basicincome.org

This is the newsletter of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), which was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network and expanded to become an Earth-wide Network in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income. It fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

This NewsFlash, below, can also be downloaded as a PDF document on our website www.basicincome.org.

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For up-to-date information about basic income, see:

<http://binews.org/>

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1. FEATURED ARTICLE: Basic Incomes makes unprecedented political progress around the world

[Liam Upton]

The momentum behind Basic Income has been gaining ground for some time now, with more and more media attention including articles in publications such as [The Economist](#) and [the Washington Post](#) and a [community on reddit](#) that is closing in on 20,000 subscribers and is still growing. That's not to mention the huge amount of signatures collected for the European Citizen's Initiative and the successful campaign for a Basic Income referendum in Switzerland.

But in the last few months, the momentum among political parties and leaders, which will be the focus of this article, has also picked up. The Green Party worldwide has of course had Basic Income on its policy agenda for quite some time, but in February of this year, the general conference of the Liberal Party in Canada approved two motions in favour of Basic Income, one in favour of a [federal pilot programme](#) and one in favour of [implementation](#). Though good news, the leader of the LPC, Justin Trudeau, has yet to mention the policy and the party have not campaigned on the issue in by-elections which took place this year. They are however [leading in current opinion polls](#), but not by enough to achieve a majority government.

This is after the premier of Prince Edward Island province, Robert Ghiz of the Liberal party, [called for a pilot programme](#) for a Guaranteed Minimum Income, a form of Negative Income Tax and the leader of provincial opposition party, the NDP called for the similar [Basic Income Guarantee](#). The Liberal Party and NDP [came first and second](#) respectively in a recent opinion poll in the province.

Meanwhile in Québec province, the minister for Employment and Social Solidarity in the recently elected Liberal provincial government, François Blais is a supporter of Basic Income, [calling it the 'way of the future'](#), though his government does not have any plans to introduce the policy.

Moving on from Canada, in Spain as a reaction to dissatisfaction with regular politics, a new party called Podemos was formed this year, considered by many to represent the 'Indignados' mass protest movement which sprang up in 2011. This party has [called for Basic Income](#) as one of its platforms. An opinion poll in September [placed Podemos](#) as the most popular party in Spain for the first time. With elections due in less than a year, there is a real possibility they will be elected as the largest party. Unfortunately, the party [left Basic Income out](#) of its first economic document published recently, though there is still the chance that they will once again pick up the Basic Income idea before the general election.

But that is not the end of political moves towards Basic Income. In the Netherlands, at their party conference, opposition party D66, [approved a policy](#) to conduct a Basic Income pilot programme if elected into office. In response to the increased discussion

about Basic Income, the Prime Minister from the VVD party [came out opposing the policy](#). D66 is currently the second or third most popular party in the Netherlands [according to the most recent](#) opinion polls, with an election due no later than 2017.

In Finland, during a debate in parliament led by the Centre Party and Left Alliance, the Centre Party leader also [called for](#) Basic Income pilots. The Left Alliance and Green League parties in Finland already had Basic Income as part of their platforms. In the debate, a number of MPs expressed support for Basic Income pilots, including the current Prime Minister, Alexander Stubb. The Centre Party is [currently the most popular](#) party in opinion polls, with an election due next year.

And in New Zealand, the recently elected leader of the Labour party and new leader of the opposition, Andrew Little has come out in favour of a Universal Basic Income, saying in a radio interview that he [would like this to be a focus](#) of policy for the party. Little has a difficult task ahead of him however, Labour in New Zealand have lost the previous four elections, losing vote share on each occasion.

The policies discussed by nearly all of these parties and politicians is Universal Basic Income. While a Negative Income Tax was almost passed in the USA by the Nixon administration, there has never been such a level of support for its sister policy Universal Basic Income, with parties who support either pilot programmes or implementation ahead in the polls in three different countries with the furthest election being just over 2 years away. For the first time in decades, a Basic Income which would end poverty and guarantee true freedom and dignity for all has made real progress in the political arena.

For more information, see:

Liberal Party of Canada, "[97. Basic Income Supplement: Testing a Dignified Approach to Income Security for Working-age Canadians](#)", Liberal Party of Canada, February 23 2014

Liberal Party of Canada, "[100. Priority Resolution: Creating a Basic Annual Income to be Designed and Implemented for a Fair Economy](#)", Liberal Party of Canada, February 23 2014

CBC News, "[Guaranteed livable income plan possible, Ghiz confirms](#)", *CBC News*, April 04, 2014

NDP Prince Edward Island, "[Basic Income Guarantee should go to Committee](#)", *NDP Prince Edward Island*, May 06 2014

Yannick Vanderborcht, "[QUEBEC, CANADA: Minister of Employment for the provincial government reiterates his support for basic income](#)", *Basic Income News*, July 17 2014

Language: Spanish

Podemos, "[Documento Final del Programa Colectivo \[Final Document of the Collective Program\]](#)", Podemos, May 27 2014

Language: Dutch

Jelmer Luimstra, "[D66 pleit voor nieuw onderzoek naar een basisinkomen \[D66 calls for new research into Basic Income\]](#)", *de Volksrant*, November 4 2014

Johanna Perkiö, "[Finland: the opposition leader proposes basic income pilots](#)", *Basic Income News*, October 9 2014

Radio New Zealand, "[What policy changes will Andrew Little usher in?](#)", *Radio New Zealand*, November 19 2014

2. News

INTERNATIONAL: Call for papers for a special issue on the Basic Income Guarantee

The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare—a peer-reviewed, academic research journal—will have a special issue on the Basic Income Guarantee to be published in 2016. Manuscripts submitted by September 30, 2015 will be considered. The editors released the following call for papers:

The financial crisis of 2007-2008 and its recessionary aftermath have, once again, raised the issue of whether a market economy can be relied upon to assure economic security. Although the market economy is dynamic and quite productive, the financial crisis has highlighted its instability and tendency to produce high unemployment, low wages, stagnant wages, greater income inequality or a combination. Many would argue that the social welfare system, with its myriad of safety net programs, is intended to address such conditions. Yet it has holes that have allowed many to still live in poverty, many more to live with a very realistic fear of falling into poverty, and an erosion of the middle class. This instability and tendency toward low wages, stagnant wages for middle class families, or no employment in a market economy, coupled with a social safety net system riddled with holes, suggests that it is time to think about new approaches to income and wealth distribution, not only for purposes of poverty prevention or even poverty reduction, but also for social justice. Are there fairer and more efficient ways to distribute the fruits of our individual and collective efforts to everyone's benefit?

One such program is the basic income guarantee (BIG), also called the guaranteed income. The idea is simple: replace most income support programs with a floor under everyone's income, structured so that no one is in poverty and everyone is better off financially if they earn more in the private market. We're issuing a call for papers for a special issue of *The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (JSSW) to explore the merits of BIG and related proposals such as guaranteed jobs, stakeholder grants, asset accumulation policies, and living wage legislation. We're interested in proposals related to BIG because some have argued that the goals of BIG could be better realized by other approaches, such as government guaranteeing a job instead of an income. The special issue is intended to consider the economic, social, political,

and philosophical questions about BIG and related policies. The papers will be written by social workers and academics in related disciplines. The special issue is intended to explore some of the following Topics:

1. BIG, other related programs, and social justice
2. BIG, other programs, and gender relations
3. Financing BIG and related programs
4. BIG, other programs, and the labor Market
5. BIG, related programs, and civic engagement
6. BIG, related programs, and the bargaining power of workers
7. BIG, related programs, and the family
8. The political feasibility of BIG and related programs

This special issue of JSSW will be co-edited by Professors Michael Lewis, The Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, and Richard K Caputo, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University. We invite authors to submit manuscripts not to exceed thirty double-spaced (12-pitch font) pages (including references) on any of the topics above as well as related topics. Manuscripts received by September 30, 2015 will be considered by a special issue of JSSW with an anticipated publication date in June or September 2016. Please send MS Word manuscripts that adhere to the APA Manual, 6th edition style, electronically, as email attachments to:

Michael A. Lewis, Professor: michael.a.lewis@hunter.cuny.edu

SPAIN: Podemos leave Basic Income out of landmark economic document

Podemos, the Spanish party which stormed into first place in recent opinion polls and who previously declared support for a Universal Basic Income, have left the proposal out of a recent document outlining their economic plans.

The party, which only launched earlier this year, gained prominence with a number of radical proposals including reducing the retirement age to 60 and nationalising all utility companies. Their economic document, released Thursday, was seen as a test for the party, whether or not it could formulate a coherent set of policies. Despite the radical tone of initial party statements, some of the more radical policies were left off the document, including Basic Income.

This is a blow to the Basic Income movement, with Podemos previously looking set to become the first party supporting Basic Income to win an election in Europe, an election which is due in Spain before the end of 2015. However, it doesn't mean the party has stopped supporting the proposal, merely that it has not been placed on this

document, which is not a full manifesto. They mentioned at the press conference to launch the document that they wanted it based on 'realistic proposals'.

Basic Income has been gaining ground politically in the last year, despite this setback there are still a number of parties supporting Basic Income or pilot programmes which have considerable support in other parts of the world, including Canada, Finland and New Zealand.

For more information, see:

Language: Spanish: Vicenç Navarro, Juan Torres “[Un Proyecto Económico para La Gente \[An Economic Project for the People\]](#)”, Podemos, 27 November 2014

Matthew Bennet, “[A Look At The New Podemos Economic Document](#)”, *The Spain Report*, 28 November 2014

Hugo Ortuño, “[The leader of Podemos, Pablo Iglesias presents his economic proposal](#)”, *Demotix*, 27 November 2014

SPAIN: Poll shows Party that endorses BIG most popular

[Toru Yamamori]

Recent poll shows Podemos (We Can) is most supported party in Spain. Podemos was a newly emerged political party in January 2014 out of Indignados, the anti-austerity movement similar to the Occupy Wall Street. The party endorses BIG and got five seats in European Parliament Election in May 2014. According to the poll released November 1st by the Spanish newspaper El Pais, The party got 27.7%, ahead of the opposition Socialist Party 26.2% and of the ruling party Popular Party 20.7%.

For more information, see:

Mike Pope, “[Podemos is the most popular political party in Spain](#)” *The News Hub Beta*, November 2, 2014.

Julian Toyer, “[Poll lead for newcomer shakes up Spain's political system](#)” *Reuters*, November 2, 2014.

To read more on Podemos and BIG, see:

Karl Widerquist, “[SPAIN: New political party that endorses big takes five seats in European parliament](#)” *Basic Income News*, June 1, 2014.

UNITED STATES: Alanna Hartzok, running on a platform including support for Basic Income, receives 37 percent of the vote in Congressional Race

Alanna Hartzok, a long-time support of Basic Income, received 37% of the vote in the Congressional election for 9th Congressional District in Pennsylvania. She received the Democratic Party nomination for Congress earlier this year, and finished second in voting to the Republican incumbent, Bill Shuster.

Hartzok is Founder and Co-Director, [Earth Rights Institute](#) and author of *The Earth Belongs to Everyone*. She is a researcher, an activist, a prominent supporter of land value taxation. She has been a regular contributor to the North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress for the last decade, and she has written about basic income, usually using the term “Citizens Dividend,” which is a basic income financed by resource and rent taxes.

Hartzok’s [campaign website](#) lists 14 fundamental policies and guidelines to help us establish economic democracy, including, “7. Establish a PA Sovereign Wealth Fund similar to the Alaska Permanent Fund and like in Alaska distribute “citizen dividends” to directly share natural resource super profits from our commonwealth of natural resources.”

For more information about Hartzok and her campaign see:

David Wenner. “[Alanna Hartzok, Bill Shuster: Results are in from 9th Congressional District in Franklin County.](#)” *PennLive*, November 04, 2014.

Alanna Hartzok. “[Citizen Dividends and Oil Resource Rents: A Focus on Alaska, Norway and Nigeria.](#)” *Wealth and Want*, February 2004.

See also her [campaign website](#).

NAMIBIA: Poll Finds 78% of Namibians Support the Basic Income Grant

Nearly 8 out of 10 Namibians (78%) favor a Basic Income Grant (BIG—as unconditional basic income is known in the region) for every Namibian citizen according to a recent poll. This result is probably the highest level of support for Basic Income recorded in any representative poll in any country. Most respondents still favored BIG even if it required raising taxes or introducing new taxes. Despite the popularity of BIG, the ruling party remains opposed to it. Despite the ruling party’s opposition to BIG, the ruling party remains popular.

The poll results came from round six of Afrobarometer opinion poll, which interview 1,200 adults all across the country during the period between 27 August and 19 September 2014. The sixth round survey is for the period between 2014 and 2015 covering up to 35 African countries. Survey Warehouse and the Institute for Public Policy Research conducted the Afrobarometer survey in Namibia.

For more information see:

Kuzeeko Tjitemisa, “[Namibians craving for BIG – report.](#)” *New Era*, November 19, 2014.

New Era, "[Unequal income fuels BIG calls – Ngurare.](#)" *New Era*, October 14, 2014.

Institute for Public Policy Research, "[New Release: Namibians express strong policy preferences in comparison to the government.](#)" Windhoek, Namibia. 18 November, 2014.

UNITED KINGDOM: E-petition for BIG

[Toru Yamamori]

Pete Higgins has opened an e-petition on "Replace the Benefit System with a Universal Basic Income for all" in HM Government. If it would collect more than 100,000 signatures by its closing date March 30, 2015, this petition could be discussed in the House of Commons. There are 233 signatures at this stage.

To read the original site for the petition, see:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/71633>

UNITED KINGDOM: UK Basic Income Announces Mission Statement

[Toby Rane]

On September 16, during the [7th International Basic Income Week](#), a new UK activist group called UK Basic Income [met to announce its mission statement](#). Basic Income Week is an event is organized by the [Basic Income Earth Network](#) and has participants from countries throughout Europe. UK Basic Income proposes a universal full living wage.

The statement was followed by an open discussion of the benefits of a basic income and various proposals for funding such an initiative. Many different [methods of funding a basic income](#) have been put forth. Implementing a universal basic income accrues [many benefits](#), and has a [variety of supporters](#) of different political affiliations and ideologies with [many different reasons](#).

Further information about the statement is available at: Christina Brooks, "[Basic Income supporters in London agree on statement](#)", *Basic Income UK*, 2014 September 22

References:

[7th International Basic Income Week](#)

[Basic Income Earth Network](#)

Basic Income Subreddit FAQ, "[How would you pay for it?](#)", Basic Income Subreddit

Basic Income Subreddit FAQ, "[What are the benefits of basic income?](#)", Basic Income Subreddit

Basic Income Subreddit FAQ, "[I believe in \[insert ideology\]. Why should I support a basic income guarantee?](#)", Basic Income Subreddit

3. Events

NEW YORK: USBIG Announces list of forty speakers for NABIG Congress, Feb. 26 – Mar. 1, 2015

The U.S. Basic Income Guarantee (USBIG) Network has released a list of forty participants for the Fourteenth Annual North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress (a joint even of USBIG and the Basic Income Canada Network). The Congress will take place in New York City starting Thursday, February 26 – Sunday March 1, 2015. Most events will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association (EEA) at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers. The Congress will also involve free events including a public discussion at the Hunter School of Social Work on Thursday, February 26 and an activists meeting at the Brooklyn Commons on Sunday March 1.

Conference participants include

1. Alanna Hartzok, the Earth Rights institute, 2014 Democratic Nominee for Congress
2. Ann Withorn, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Boston, author of *Serving the People: Social Services and Social Change*
3. Ashley Engel, University College Dublin
4. Bill DiFazio, St. John's University
5. Brigid Reynolds, Social Justice Ireland
6. Diane Dujon, University of Massachusetts Boston
7. Diane Pagen, Rutgers University School of Social Work
8. Eduardo Suplicy, former member of the Brazilian Federal Senate
9. Eri Noguchi, the Association to Benefit Children
10. Felix Coeln, the German Pirate Party
11. Frances Fox Piven, the City University of New York
12. Frederick H. (Harry) Pitts, University of Bath
13. Ian Shlakman, 2014 Green Party Nominee for Congress
14. James Green-Armytage, Bard College
15. James Jennings, Tufts University
16. Jim Bryan, Ryan/Bacardi Professor of Economics, Manhattanville College
17. Jim Mulvale, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba
18. Jonathan Brun, Basic Income Canada Network
19. Jude Thomas, Freelance writer
20. Jurgen De Wispelaere, McGill University
21. Karl Widerquist, SFS-Qatar, Georgetown University
22. Marshall Brain, author of *How Stuff Works* and *Manna*
23. Mary Bricker Jenkins, Professor of Social Work, Temple University, and US Welfare Rights Union leader
24. Michael Lewis, Hunter School of Social Work

25. Michael Howard, University of Maine
26. Michaelann Berwitz, activist
27. Mimi Abramovitz, Hunter College
28. Oliver Heydorn, The Clifford Hugh Douglas Institute for the Study and Promotion of Social Credit
29. Paul B. Siegel, the World Bank
30. Peter Barnes, author of *Who Owns the Sky?*, *With Liberty and Dividends For All*, and *Capitalism 3.0*
31. Preston Smith, activist
32. Roy Morrison, Greater Boston Capital Partners
33. Seán Healy, Social Justice Ireland
34. Sid Frankel, University of Manitoba
35. Stanley Aranowitz, the City University of New York
36. Steve Pressman, Monmouth College
37. Suezanne Bruce, activist
38. Valerie J. Carter, University of Maine
39. Willie Baptist, the Poverty Initiative

Calendar:

Thursday, February 26, 2015

7pm to 9pm: Public Discussion: “New Possibilities for the Basic Income Movement”

Hunter College, room to be announced

Friday, February 27, 2015

8am to 7pm: Sessions at the Sheraton Hotel, 811 7th Avenue, New York, NY

Evening: social event to be announced

Saturday, February 28, 2015

8am to 6:30pm: Sessions at the Sheraton Hotel, 811 7th Avenue, New York, NY

Evening: social event to be announced

Sunday, March 1, 2015

8am to 12:30pm: Sessions at the Sheraton Hotel, 811 7th Avenue, New York, NY

12:45-m-2:15: Lunch meeting: organizational meeting of the USBIG Network

6:30pm: Activists Meeting: “Are we ready to start an activists movement for BIG in the United States?” We’ll chip in for pizza and drinks, but we’ll share the food and drink unconditionally with everyone who comes—without means test or any requirement to make a reciprocal contribution. We will discuss this question without any more specific agenda. Karl Widerquist will moderate the discussion, but will not

lead the discussion or any effort that might come out of it. Location: Brooklyn Commons, 388 Atlantic Ave. Brooklyn, NY

Everyone attending the events at the Sheraton must register with the EEA and pay their registration fee (all events outside the Sheraton are free and open to everyone). Anyone who registers as a USBIG participant can register for the EEA members' price of \$110 without paying the EEA's membership fee—saving \$65. All registered attendees of the NABIG Congress are welcome to attend any of the EEA's events.

For updated information on featured speakers, registration, and accommodations as more becomes available, visit the USBIG website: www.usbig.net. For more information about the Eastern Economics Association Annual Meeting, visit the EEA website: <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/eea/41st-annual-conference/>.

Essential information:

Conference dates: Thursday, February 26 – Sunday, March 1, 2015

Locations: New York and Brooklyn, NY: The Sheraton Hotel and Towers, 811 7th Avenue, New York, NY, Hunter College, and the Brooklyn Commons

Organizing committee: Karl Widerquist <Karl@Widerquist.com> (organizer), Ann Withorn <withorn.ann@gmail.com>, Shawn Cassiman <scassiman1@udayton.edu>, and Jurgen De Wispelaere <jurgen.dewispelaere@gmail.com>

Website: [USBIG.net](http://www.usbig.net).

EUROPE: UBI-Europe launches a series of conferences on basic income

Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE) is organising a series of five conferences on the theme “UBI in Europe – Promoting civil society” in order to promote Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) in Europe over the next year. The conferences are:

- [UBI as a response to social inequality in Europe](#) – Maribor, Slovenia, 19th-20th March 2015.
- Minimum Income vs. Basic Income – Paris, France, 19th -20th June 2015
- Stimulating Social Cohesion and Peace – The Hague, Netherlands, 17th -18th Sept. 2015
- National UBI vs. UBI in Europe – Budapest, Hungary, 5th – 6th Dec. 2015
- UBI and Degrowth – Cologne, Germany, 26th – 28th Feb. 2016

For each of those events, organizers want to adopt a participative way of elaborating the programs, and therefore, they are seeking for contributions to our first conference to be held in Maribor, Slovenia, 19th-20th March 2015.

The invitation is open to all European citizens with a wider interest in unconditional basic income who wish to share their findings and research with a European network. The conference in Maribor will explore the following key themes:

- Different social support systems and inequality
- Reaching social cohesion in Europe – Basic Income as one possible solution

The deadline for proposals is 8th January. For more details on how to participate, please see [the conference website](#).

See also [UBIE's calendar of events](#).

4. BI Literature

Alicia H. Munnell (ed.), “Lessons from the Income Maintenance Experiments.”

[Toru Yamamori]

In 1986, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and The Brookings Institution co-hosted a conference on “The Lessons from the Income Maintenance.” The proceeding, where Robert Solow and some others contributed, was published. It is available online.

Alicia H. Munnell (ed.), “[Lesson from the Income Maintenance](#).” Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and The Brookings Institution.

Amitai Etzioni, “It’s Economic Insecurity, Stupid”

[Toby Rane]

The author discusses the effect of economic insecurity on elections and advocates for basic income, among other measures.

Amitai Etzioni, “[It’s Economic Insecurity, Stupid](#)”, *Huffington Post*, 2014 November 18

Annette Miersch, "Ein Jahr lang Grundeinkommen [An year of Basic Income]"

Language: German

A business man in Berlin, Michael Bohmeyer, starts on Wednesday paying a monthly unconditional payment of 1000 € to each of four people, raffled from a group of

registrations. The money has been collected from a crowdfunding process and will be paid individually, during one year.

[Annette Miersch](#), "[Ein Jahr lang Grundeinkommen \[An year of Basic Income\]](#)", *Inforadio RBB*, October 1 2014

Ben Southwood, “We’ve actually tried negative income taxes, and they seem to work.”

[Toru Yamamori]

The Adam Smith institute, self-describing as being ‘at the forefront of making the case for free markets and a free society in the United Kingdom,’ recently drew attention to desirability of a Negative Income Tax, by reclaiming the 1970s experiments on it in USA.

Ben Southwood, "[We’ve actually tried negative income taxes, and they seem to work](#)" *Adam Smith Institute*, November 6, 2014.

Bill Christensen, “Time For A Universal Basic Income?”

[Toru Yamamori]

In his post, Christensen inform that a science fiction published in 1967 referred to a basic income. Philip Jose Farmer’s novel *Riders of the Purple Wage* predicted what will follow after the implementation of a basic income. The novel won Hugo Award.

Bill Christensen, "[Time For A Universal Basic Income?](#)" *Science Fiction in the News*, October 30, 2014.

George Dvorsky, “How Universal Basic Income Will Save Us From the Robot Uprising.”

[Toru Yamamori]

In his post, Dvorsky argues that technological unemployment has been increasing and inevitable, and that it makes a basic income absolutely inevitable for a bright future.

George Dvorsky, "[How Universal Basic Income Will Save Us From the Robot Uprising.](#)" *io9: We Come From The Future*, November 4, 2014.

Christopher Balfour, *Learning from Difference.*

This book is a personal and family memoir, of Christopher Balfour—youth employment officer, independent councilor, writer, mechanic, octogenarian, and long-term basic income advocate. The book discusses British industrial self destruction and contains a plea for less inequality. It describes the author’s involvement with the Citizen's income concept when he was involved in Politics and with the Youth

Employment Service in the 1970s. The final chapter sums up its value based on the Balfour's experience since 1970.

Christopher Balfour, [Learning from Difference](#). Tricorn Books. 2014.

See also the [author's website](#).

Clio Chang, “The Kids Need Cash”

[Toby Rane]

The author proposes a universal child benefit, a limited form of basic income specifically for families with children.

Clio Chang, “[The Kids Need Cash](#)”, *U.S. News & World Report*, 2014 November 5

Daniel Ayllón, “Un 15% de hogares no se puede permitir el lujo de encender la luz o la calefacción [15% of homes can't permit themselves the luxury of heat and lighting]”

[Liam Upton]

The author interviews the European Parliament spokesperson for Equo, the Spanish affiliate of the Green Party and supporters of Basic Income. One of the questions is whether he prefers Basic Income or a Job Guarantee.

Language: Spanish

Daniel Ayllón, “[Un 15% de hogares no se puede permitir el lujo de encender la luz o la calefacción \[15% of homes can't permit themselves the luxury of heat and lighting\]](#)”, *La Marea*, November 23 2014

Ed Dolan. “Universal Basic Income vs. Unemployment Insurance: Which is the Better Safety Net?”

A universal basic income (UBI) and unemployment insurance (UI) are two possible forms of social insurance for an economy in which job loss is a significant risk. Alice Fabre, Stéphane Pallage, and Christian Zimmermann (FPZ) address in a recent [working paper from the Research Division of the St. Louis Fed](#). They argue, when compared head-to-head, UI is a better social safety net than a UBI. Skeptics are likely to seize on these findings, but in the Ed Dolan's view, they do not support a blanket rejection of a UBI. Instead, as he explains, they highlight how important it is for UBI proponents to pay attention to details of financing and program design.

Ed Dolan. “[Universal Basic Income vs. Unemployment Insurance: Which is the Better Safety Net?](#)” *EconoMonitor*. November 24th, 2014

Emiliana Armano, Federico Chicchi, Eran Fisher, and Elisabetta Risi, “Boundaries and Measurements of Emerging”

This special issue of the journal *Sociologia Del Lavoro* has several articles, all with English abstracts and five articles are in English (with Italian abstracts)

Languages: Italian and English

Emiliana Armano, Federico Chicchi, Eran Fisher, and Elisabetta Risi (eds.) “Boundaries and Measurements of Emerging Work: Gratuity, Precariousness and Processes of Subjectivity in the Age of Digital Production,” a special issue of [Sociologia Del Lavoro](#), n.133 (I[^]-2014), March 2014

Felix Werdermann, "Utopie trifft Politik [Utopia meets Politics]"

Language: German

In Germany, the unconditional basic income (UBI) idea has been around for years, through political activists. However, its application seems utopian, thundered from critics all around the political spectrum. The author enumerates arguments against the UBI, while defending its merits.

Felix Werdermann, "[Utopie trifft Politik \[Utopia meets Politics\]](#)", *der Freitag*, September 24 2014

Guy Standing, “The age of rentier capitalism”

[Toby Rane]

The article discusses increasing income inequality and how it relates to different sources of income. The author posits that a basic income, among other measures, is a necessity to rectify the current situation.

Guy Standing, "[The age of rentier capitalism](#)", *Aljazeera America*, 2014 September 7

Katrina vanden Heuvel and Stephen F. Cohen, "Edward Snowden: A ‘Nation’ Interview."

[Toru Yamamori]

Henvel and Cohen interviewed Edward Snowden on October 6 in Moscow. In the interview Snowden endorses a basic income. The interview now online and also will be published in the November 17 edition of *the Nation*.

Katrina vanden Heuvel and Stephen F. Cohen, "[Edward Snowden: A 'Nation' interview.](#)" *Nation*, November 17, 2014.

Leila Gharagozloo-Pakkala, “Social protection may be the key to uplifting Africa’s poor”

[Toby Rane]

The author discusses the success of unconditional cash transfer programs in reducing poverty and providing a number of benefits. Cash transfer programs are a form of basic income limited to those with low income.

Leila Gharagozloo-Pakkala, “[Social protection may be the key to uplifting Africa’s poor](#)”, *Mail & Guardian*, 2014 November 17

Malcolm Torry, “Basic Income – a benefits system for our society, today and tomorrow.”

[Toru Yamamori]

Malcolm Torry, who has long been serving as the director of the Citizen’s Income Trust, reflected a time he worked as welfare officer in late 1970s and how uncertain the situation of claimants were because of the nature of means tested benefit. He argues that BIG “will need to be high on the agenda of the Government enquiry into income maintenance.”

Malcolm Torry, “Basic Income – a benefits system for our society, today and tomorrow. “[Basic Income - a benefits system for our society, today and tomorrow.](#)” *Discovers Society: Measured – Factual - Critical*, Issue 13, September 30, 2014.

Mistbreaker News, “Is Basic Income a Viable Concept in the Automated World?.”

[Toru Yamamori]

In this post, ‘newsroom’ of the Mistbreaker news argues current strand to further automation urges us to consider BIG seriously.

Mistbreaker News, “[Is Basic Income a Viable Concept in the Automated World.](#)” *Mistbreaker News – sensing tomorrow*, November 13th, 2014.

Mouvement Français pour un Revenu de Base, avec BIEN-Suisse et le Réseau Belge pour un Revenu de base, “Premier numéro: ‘Revenu de base garanti, parcours de vie choisi [First Appearance: "guaranteed basic income, life course chosen],

[Jenna van Draanen]

Language: French

Mouvement Français pour un Revenu de Base, avec BIEN-Suisse et le Réseau Belge pour un Revenu de base, [“Premier numéro: ‘Revenu de base garanti, parcours de vie choisi \[First Appearance: "guaranteed basic income, life course chosen\]"](#),

L'inconditionnel, November 28, 2014

Pete Higgins, “Why Universal Basic Income is a Better Alternative to the Welfare State.”

[Toru Yamamori]

Pete Higgins is an independent candidate for Stoke on Trent South, a UK parliament constituency where currently represented a Labour MP. He initiated an online petition for a basic income as well. In his post, he displays reasons for BIG such as a failure of the current welfare state, etc., which can be found elsewhere in BI literature. What is unique in his proposal is that he argues that only maximum two children in the same family could get ‘Child UBI.’ According to him this restriction should be made in order to “encourage people to make responsible financial decisions during family planning and help control unsustainable population growth.”

Pete Higgins, [“Why Universal Basic Income is a Better Alternative to the Welfare State.”](#) *Pete Higgins - independent candidate for Stoke on Trent South*, November 5th, 2014.

Sarath Davala, Renana Jhabvala, Soumya Kapoor Mehta, and Guy Standing. *Basic Income: A Transformative Policy for India.*

PUBLISHER’S SUMMARY: Would it be possible to provide people with a basic income as a right? The idea has a long history. This book draws on two pilot schemes conducted in the Indian State of Madhya Pradesh, in which thousands of men, women and children were provided with an unconditional monthly cash payment.

In a context in which the Indian government at national and state levels spends a vast amount on subsidies and selective schemes that are chronically expensive, inefficient, inequitable and subject to extensive corruption, there is scope for switching at least some of the spending to a modest basic income. This book explores what would be likely to happen if this were done.

The book draws on a series of evaluation surveys conducted over the course of the eighteen months in which the main pilot was in operation, supplemented with detailed case studies of individuals and families. It looks at the impact on health and nutrition, on schooling, on economic activity, women's agency and the welfare of those with disabilities.

Above all, the book considers whether or not a basic income could be transformative, in not only improving individual and family welfare but in promoting economic growth and development, as well as having an emancipatory effect for people long mired in conditions of poverty and economic insecurity.

Sarath Davala, Renana Jhabvala, Soumya Kapoor Mehta, and Guy Standing. [*Basic Income: A Transformative Policy for India*](#). New Delhi: Bloomsbury Publishing India, December 2014.

Scott Santens, "'Fit for Work and Fit to Die': A Memorial for the Means-Tested"

[Toby Rane]

The article discusses the suffering and deaths of those who were inappropriately denied various means-tested social safety net benefits and posits that a universal basic income will reduce and alleviate such tragedies.

Scott Santens, "['Fit for Work and Fit to Die': A Memorial for the Means-Tested](#)", 2014 November 17

Stanislas Jourdan, "Le precariat: <<Une classe sociale en devenir>> [The precariat: A class in the making]"

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: This article discusses the concept of a precariat, the "social class in the making" which the author describes as arising from increasing unemployment and underemployment. The concept signifies a unification of two previously identified groups: the precariously employed and the proletariat. The author argues for basic income as a way to solve the issues this emerging precariat is facing.

Language: French

Stanislas Jourdan, "[Le precariat: <<Une classe sociale en devenir>> \[The precariat: A class in the making\]](#)" *Le Souffle C'est Ma Vie*" October 1, 2010.

Stanislas Jourdan, "Sondage : 73% des Français seraient favorables à une allocation unique [Poll: 73% of the French favor a single allowance]"

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: This short article describes a poll done in France indicating that 73% of the population would favor a single allowance, or a streamlined benefit in lieu of the various existing benefit programs. The article notes that while this may indicate support for the simplicity of basic income, the idea of a basic income is not necessarily to merge all social benefits into a single allowance.

Language: French

Stanislas Jourdan, "[Sondage : 73% des Français seraient favorables à une allocation unique \[Poll: 73% of the French favor a single allowance\]](#)" *Revenu de base* . November 12, 2014

Stanislas Jourdan, “Le parti pirate islandais demande au gouvernement de plancher sur le revenu de base [The Icelandic Pirate Party asks the government to consider basic income]”

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: This article summarizes recent action in Iceland on basic income, where the Pirate Party requested that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing establish a working group for basic income.

Language: French

Stanislas Jourdan, [“Le parti pirate islandais demande au gouvernement de plancher sur le revenu de base \[The Icelandic Pirate Party asks the government to consider basic income\]”](#) *Revenu de base* . October 16, 2014

Stephane Pallage, Christian Zimmermann, “Universal Basic Income versus Unemployment Insurance”

[Toby Rane]

ABSTRACT: In this paper we compare the welfare effects of unemployment insurance (UI) with an universal basic income (UBI) system in an economy with idiosyncratic shocks to employment. Both policies provide a safety net in the face of idiosyncratic shocks. While the unemployment insurance program should do a better job at protecting the unemployed, it suffers from moral hazard and substantial monitoring costs, which may threaten its usefulness. The universal basic income, which is simpler to manage and immune to moral hazard, may represent an interesting alternative in this context. We work within a dynamic equilibrium model with savings calibrated to the United States for 1990 and 2011, and provide results that show that UI beats UBI for insurance purposes because it is better targeted towards those in need.

Stephane Pallage, Christian Zimmermann, [“Universal Basic Income versus Unemployment Insurance”](#), *IDEAS*, 2014 November 14

Toru Yamamori, “Why Basic Income Now? Limitations of the Japanese Welfare State”

Yahoo Japan, a Japanese online news site features Basic Income. In the first article written by Toru Yamamori, he explains failure of the Japanese Social Security systems. The article also contains information on Guy Standing talk on Basic Income at the International Sociology Association in Yokohama. The article is written in Japanese.

Toru Yamamori, [“Why Basic Income Now? Limitations of the Japanese Welfare State,”](#) Yahoo Japan News, July 11, 2014.

Tike van der Eijk and Paula Teutscher, "Het is tijd voor een basisinkomen voor iedereen [It's time for a Basic Income for everyone]"

Language: Dutch

Dutch minister Asscher has shown concerns about further automatization and the necessity to apply new instruments to social policy. A possibility is presented through the unconditional basic income, applied to Dutch society, discussing advantages and its financing.

Tike van der Eijk and Paula Teutscher, "[Het is tijd voor een basisinkomen voor iedereen \[It's time for a Basic Income for everyone\]](#)", *de Volkskrant*, October 2 2014

World Without Poverty. "Dilma Rousseff's government guarantees a real increase of 44% for the Bolsa Familia Program"

[Pablo Yanes]

World Without Poverty. "[Dilma Rousseff's government guarantees a real increase of 44% for the Bolsa Familia Program](#)". WWP. Brazil. 02/May/2014

Yannick Vanderborght & Toru Yamamori, "Basic Income in Japan"

A new book has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan in its series "Exploring the Basic Income Guarantee." Entitled "Basic Income in Japan. Prospects for a Radical Idea in a Transforming Welfare State", and co-edited by Yannick Vanderborght & Toru Yamamori, this collective volume provides the international audience with the very first general overview of the scholarly debate on basic income in Japan. The fifteen chapters offer a balanced picture of this debate, using basic income as a test case for analyzing the ongoing transformations of the Japanese welfare state. Contributors address many of the key issues faced by other developed nations today, such as growing economic insecurity, income and gender inequalities, poverty, ageing, migration, and the future of universal *versus* selective programs. Even if some remain skeptical about the immediate prospects for this radical idea, all contributors believe in its relevance for the study of contemporary Japan. The volume includes a foreword by Ronald Dore, one of the most prominent experts of Japan's economy, and a long-standing basic income advocate.

For further information, and the table of contents, see [here](#)

A conference on the book will take place at Maison franco-japonaise in Tokyo (in French and Japanese) on October 31, 2014. More details on the conference [here](#).

Vanderborght, Yannick & Yamamori, Toru (eds.) (2014), *Basic Income in Japan. Prospects for a Radical Idea in a Transforming Welfare State*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

5. Audio-Video

VIDEO: Alberta Primetime, “Money for nothing?”

Alberta Primetime, “[Money for nothing?](#)”, October 10, 2014

VIDEO: Boom Bust, "[240] Coppola on the mess in Europe and Kling on basic income"

[Toby Rane]

Boom Bust, "[\[240\] Coppola on the mess in Europe and Kling on basic income](#)", 2014
November 19

VIDEO: Christian Fernandez, “UBI and victims of abuse: My personal experiences”

[Toby Rane]

Christian Fernandez, “[UBI and victims of abuse: My personal experiences](#)”, 2014
November 20

VIDEO: Daniel Häni and Enno Schmidt, "Grundeinkommen [Basic Income - a Cultural Impulse]"

On the 17th of October, Estonian TV of Tallinn (Tallinna TV), which houses about 400.000 people, shows the film "Basic Income - a Cultural Impulse".

Tallinna TV, [Screening of "Basic Income - a Cultural Impulse"](#), *Tallinna TV*, October 17 2014

VIDEO: First TV broadcast ever in Estonia dedicated to UBI

[André Coelho]

Estonian municipal TV station, Tallinn TV, has broadcasted in the past 7th of October, for the first time ever, a discussion about the universal basic income in its 25-minute program "Mõtleme taas" ("Let's think again!").

Tallinn TV, [Program "Mõtleme taas \[Let's think again\]"](#), *Tallinn TV*, October 7 2014.

AUDIO: Paul Flahive, “The Source: Calls To Eliminate Social Welfare And Simply Cut A Check”

[Toby Rane]

Paul Flahive, "[The Source: Calls To Eliminate Social Welfare And Simply Cut A Check](#)", *Texas Public Radio*, 2014 November 13

VIDEO: Revenu de base, "Le revenu de base face aux défauts du RSA [A basic income in light of the RSA]"

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: This short video cites problems with the existing French social welfare system, Revenu de solidarite active (RSA), including: the paperwork required under the current model; the stigma; and issues with incentives, use, and stability in a fluctuating revenue situation. The video argues for basic income as a way to solve the problems faced with the current RSA program.

Language: French

Revenu de base - France, "[Le revenu de base face aux défauts du RSA \[A basic income in light of the RSA\]](#)" *Youtube*. October 11, 2014

VIDEO: Vox, "We know how to end poverty. So why don't we?"

[Toby Rane]

Vox, "[We know how to end poverty. So why don't we?](#)", 2014 November 14

6. New Links

NEW LINK: Basic Income YouTube channel in Estonian.

[André Coelho]

This is the YouTube channel of the Estonian UBI Network.

[Estonian UBI Network YouTube Link](#), 2014

7. About the Basic Income Earth Network and its NewsFlash

BIEN NewsFlash:

Editor: Karl Widerquist

The BIEN NewsFlash is the newsletter of the Basic Income Earth Network. It is mailed electronically every two months to over 2,000 subscribers throughout the world. If you would like to be added or removed from the subscription list, please go

to: <http://www.basicincome.org/bien/subscribe.php>.

BIEN's news website is BInews.org. It includes many of the articles from the NewsFlash, daily news on basic income, book reviews, opinion, and more.

Items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes and BI News please contact BIEN's News Editor, Karl Widerquist <Karl@widerquist.com>

Or go to the following page on the BI News website: <http://binews.org/contribute.php>

BIEN

Co-chairs:

Louise Haagh louise.haagh@york.ac.uk, University of York, the United Kingdom

Karl Widerquist Karl@Widerquist.com, Georgetown University, SFS-Qatar

Further details about **BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board** as well as further information about the **Recognised National Networks** can be found on our website www.basicincome.org

MEMBERSHIP

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network. To join them, just send your name and address (postal and electronic) to Secretary of BIEN <biensecretary@gmail.com>, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

For a list of members and B(I)Enefactors go to www.basicincome.org.

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