



## Social Innovation: The Renewal of Social Work Practice and Policy

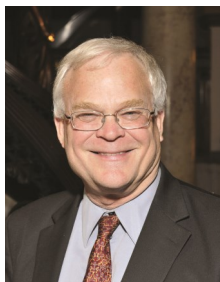
**Professor Michael Sherraden**

S R Nathan Professor

Department of Social Work, National University of Singapore

**Abstract:** In the long emergence of civilization, humans have learned to purposefully create social conditions as a foundation for stable societies and economic development. These social conditions include codes of conduct, organization of knowledge and education, systems of production and trade, design of housing and community life, protections for health and welfare, and so on. In this regard, social innovation is not a luxury in modern society, but a necessity. With a closer look at the meaning and nature of social innovation as exemplified in social work and social policy, Professor Sherraden will discuss social innovation as the creation of new forms of social relationships, including social institutions and the process of turning purposeful social innovations into "public goods" that we eventually take for granted. He will offer perspectives on the potential of a re-envisioned "social work" that views its role as including social innovation in practices and policies, and the revolution in applied social research that makes social innovations more efficient and more effective. Specific strategies for asking productive questions in applied social research and the importance of theories and evidence *in the middle range*, linking social institutions and individual action, will be presented, along with examples and lessons from on-going social innovations. The discussion will focus not entirely on social problems, but also on effective solutions and positive social development.

**About the Speaker:** Michael Sherraden is the inaugural S R Nathan Professor of Social Work at National University of



Singapore (NUS). The S R Nathan Professorship was established in 2012 to honor Mr S R Nathan, former President of Singapore and NUS Chancellor, and eminent alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Professor Sherraden is the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor at Washington University in St. Louis in the United States (WUSTL) and founding director of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at WUSTL, which is a sister to the Centre for Social Development (Asia) at NUS. CSD creates and tests innovations to improve social and economic well-being, and uses research results to inform public policy. In 2015, Sherraden and NUS partners led the set-up of the Next Age Institute (NAI), a university-wide collaboration between WUSTL and NUS to study social innovations that can respond to the challenges of more globalized, aging, and unequal societies. Sherraden is author of several books in social innovations. Recent book publications include *Asset Building Innovations and Strategies in Asia* (2014, Taylor and Francis and Peking University Press), and *Working and Living in the Shadow of Economic Fragility* (2014, Oxford University Press). Sherraden was educated at Harvard and the University of Michigan. He has held a number of national and international professorships. In 2010, he was listed by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

**Date:** Monday, 21 March 2016

**Time:** 10.00am to 11.30am (Registration starts from 9.15am)

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre 9, Block AS1, 11 Arts Link, National University of Singapore, Singapore 117570 (Click [here](#) for map location)

Please click [here](#) to register.

Registration closes on 16 March 2016. Seats are on a first-come, first-served basis.

For enquiries, please contact the Department of Social Work at email: [swkbox10@nus.edu.sg](mailto:swkbox10@nus.edu.sg) or tel: 6516 5197.

Centre for Social Development Asia (CSDA) is a joint partnership between Center for Social Development at George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University (St Louis) and the Department of Social Work, National University of Singapore. The primary mission of CSDA is to conduct applied research, pioneer social development programmes, and build knowledge to inform policies and programmes in social development, with a focus on Asia.