

# CSAI – Escalating Inequality

Session #9 – Trade Impacts on Inequality: TPP (part 1)

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# What is a CSAI?

- “Congregational Study/Action Issue”
- Bi-annual selection by UU General Assembly
- Usually leads to “Statement of Conscience”
- Four year duration (3 plus SOC)
- Recent CSAIs:
  - Escalating Inequality (2014; est 2017 SOC)
  - Reproductive Justice (2012; 2015 SOC)
  - Immigration as a Moral Issue (2010; 2013 SOC)
  - Ethical Eating (2008; 2011 SOC)
  - Creating Peace (2006; 2010 SOC)

# UUA CSAI Charge

**“Study root causes of inequality, such as “**

- corporate globalization,
- “free trade,”
- outsourcing,
- privatization,
- tax shifting and evasion,
- subsidies and bailouts,
- monopoly,
- suppression of labor,
- money in politics,
- “externalizing” social and environmental costs,
- “free market”/libertarian ideologies,
- deregulation,
- unlimited income/wealth.

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The Broad Impact  
Of Trade Agreements

# **Review of our progress so far**

**What is the escalating inequality problem? (Seminar 1)**

**How serious is it? What are its consequences? (Seminar 2)**

**What's (really) causing it? (Seminars 3, 4, 5)**

**What's been tried and what came of it? (Seminars 6, 7)**

**What role does government policy play? (Seminar 8)**

# Current Seminar Approach

- 1) Brief status of TPP and related
- 2) Get a general sense of audience views
- 3) Briefly discuss the main issues
- 4) View arguments and issues (videos)
- 5) Choose issue focus for next seminar

# Trade Agreements' Status

- ▶ Key Past Agreements: NAFTA
  
- ▶ Related Pending Agreements: TTIP, SISA
  
- ▶ TPP Status:
  - Fast Track Authority granted
  - Draft completed
  - Negotiation completed 2/4/16
  - Ratification pending – during 2016

# Initial Audience Survey

## What Are Your Current Impressions?

What is the TPP?

What does the TPP do?

Who favors or opposes the TPP?

What are the most controversial TPP parts?

How does the TPP relate to escalating inequality?

Etc., etc., etc.



# Top-Level Questions About The TPP

- Will it cause the volume of trade increase?
- Will it produce a trade surplus vis-a-vis trading partners
- Will the total number of domestic jobs increase?
- Will the average domestic wage level increase?
- Will domestic inequality be diminished?
- Will the national GDP increase?
- Should trading partners adhere to labor/environmental standards?
- Will reasonable labor standards be applied and enforced?
- Will reasonable environmental standards be applied and enforced?
- Should U.S. taxpayers pay U.S. corporations if laws limit profits?
- Should U.S. Taxpayers pay foreign corporations if laws limit profits?

# Video Clips on TPP Controversy

President Obama Making Public Appeal for TPP 5:04  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXQnti9xtHo>

Elizabeth Warren Critiques TPP 7:34  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzfxv2XQoPg>

Ed Schultz Reacts to Obama Criticism of TPP 8:54  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1P5W8OR8wfo>

Thom Hartmann on Obama Motivation (part 1) 3:44  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA1dl36zV3k>

Thom Hartman on Obama Motivation (part 2) 6:31  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVPkYj3MIN0>

Bernie Sanders on TPP 27:30 – stop @ 5:30  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhD5OOVI8qQ>

Hillary Clinton on TPP 2:21 Earlier on TPP 6:10 stop 2:00  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jeh-14A8Rbc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inrCiD0xQak>

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# Key Issues with TPP

## **Serving the U.S. public interest**

- Increase jobs, wages?
- Impact on inequality?
- Produce economic growth
- Right to exit

## **Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)**

- Fairly run with clear rules?
- Threat to established/future public policies?
- Reverse regulatory policies?
- Mainly focused on expropriation, discrimination?
- Impact limited to foreign firms?
- Corporate access only?

## **Labor and Environmental Standards**

- Important?
- Well-enough defined?
- Enforceable?

## **Intellectual property**

- Expand SOFA domestically?
- Impose tight U.S. laws globally?
- Criminalization of ordinary acts?

# Discussion

- ▶ Q/A on current presentation
- ▶ Preferences on issues priority for next seminar
  - Public interest
  - ISDS
  - Labor/environmental
  - Intellectual property
- ▶ Other comments, suggestions, concerns

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