

Open Research Group at Global Table: Wed 19th April 2017

Present: Paul, Mary (notes),

Apologies, Ellena and Janos, both involved with Easter activities.

We discussed: **UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME** which came up because Mary has been in touch with **Alexander Baron**, who was involved in the early days of the Global Table, and he had sent her a link to his documentary Universal Basic Income: <https://archive.org/details/TheCaseForBasicIncome> which he compiled in 2014. We were able to watch some of this, and it made a cogent case for UBI, based on the alleviation of poverty, which often leads to crime, the fact that money can always be found for waging war and that money is an artificial construct, the rules for which can be changed. The case for UBI has been out there for many years - there are enormous benefits and it will be made affordable by a reduction in the costs of assessment. Reference is made to this website: <http://basicincome.org>

We also noted the the forthcoming lecture by **Guy Standing**, which, coincidentally, had been drawn to our attention by Peter Challen, and has been included on the events page: <http://globaltable.org.uk/wp/forthcoming-events> - here are the details again:

Monday 8th May 2017: 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre, Old Building: "Basic Income: And How We Can Make It Happen" with Professor Guy Standing: Shouldn't everyone receive a stake in society's wealth? Could we create a fairer world by granting a guaranteed income to all? What would this mean for our health, wealth and happiness? A basic income is a regular cash transfer from the state, received by all individual citizens. It is an acknowledgement that everyone plays a part in generating the wealth currently enjoyed only by a few. Political parties across the world are now adopting it as official policy and the idea generates headlines every day.

Guy Standing has been at the forefront of thought about Basic Income for the past thirty years, and in his latest book <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/304706/basic-income/> he covers in authoritative detail its effects on the economy, poverty, work and labour; dissects and disproves the standard arguments against basic income; explains what we can learn from pilot studies across the world and illustrates exactly why a basic income has now become such an urgent necessity. Guy Standing co-founded the Basic Income Earth Network and now serves as its honorary co-President. He has held professorships at the University of Bath and at SOAS, was programme director at the International Labour Organisation and has advised the UN, World Bank and governments around the world on labour and social policy. He is the author of the bestselling *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class* (2011) and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Full details of event series: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities/Event-listings>

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