

BIG IDEAS

BIG IDEAS:

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH AND THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

Please join us for a series of talks addressing some of humanity's shared challenges and opportunities as we work to advance an emerging global civilization. This series brings together current research, experience, contemporary discourses and Bahá'í perspectives.

"Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in and its exigencies and requirements."

~ Bahá'í Writings



Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, 7:30 Eastern Standard Time

Challenging Extreme Wealth:

Limitarianism in Conversation with Bahá'í Principles on Economic Justice

With Shamim Taherzadeh and Arian Taherzadeh

Global wealth inequality has reached unprecedented levels, with the richest 1% controlling nearly half of the world's wealth while billions live in poverty. While much attention is given to alleviating poverty, the ethical implications of extreme wealth accumulation remain underexplored. Increasingly, economists and philosophers are questioning whether there should be limits to individual and corporate wealth and whether society has a responsibility to curtail excessive wealth.

This presentation examines the work of Dr. Ingrid Robeyns, an economist and philosopher who advocates for the principle of 'Limitarianism'—the idea that extreme wealth undermines social equality, distorts democracy, and exacerbates environmental crises. In parallel, we will explore the Bahá'í perspective, which offers a spiritual framework for understanding wealth. Bahá'í teachings emphasize the need to balance material and spiritual well-being and propose practical solutions such as the law of Ḥuqúqu'lláh and the elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty to ensure more equitable prosperity.

By engaging with both economic and spiritual viewpoints, this presentation seeks to deepen our understanding of the ethical challenges surrounding extreme wealth and inequality, and to explore possible remedies rooted in principles of justice and fairness, as articulated in the Bahá'í Writings.

Shamim and Arian are a father-son duo who moved from Europe to Ottawa a decade ago with Arian's mother Johanna and sister Layla-Björt. Shamim practices as a physician, specializing in family medicine and palliative care, while Arian works as a software engineer at Shopify. Their animated dinner table discussions about work, wealth, family, and service inspired this joint presentation. They have recently welcomed Arian's wife, Samia, to these thoughtful discussions.

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m. EST

Live at the Ottawa Baha'i Centre, 211
McArthur Ave., Vanier K1L 6P6
and on Zoom

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Nov 8, 2024 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and
Canada)

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