The dominant approach to economic policy has so far failed to adequately address the pressing challenges the world faces today: extreme poverty, widespread joblessness and precarious employment, burgeoning inequality, and large-scale environmental threats. This message was brought home forcibly by the 2008 global economic crisis.

Rethinking Economic Policy for Social Justice shows how human rights have the potential to transform economic thinking and policy-making with far-reaching consequences for social justice. Professor Balakrishnan will address how this new approach allows for a complex interaction between individual rights, collective rights and collective action, as well as encompassing a legal framework which offers formal mechanisms through which unjust policy can be protested.

Professor Radhika Balakrishnan is the faculty director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University. She is Commissioner for the Commission for Gender Equity for the City of New York and the Co-Chair of the Civil Society Advisory Committee for the United Nations Development Program. Professor Balakrishnan’s work focuses on gender and development, gender and the global economy, human rights and economic, and social rights. Her research and advocacy work has sought to change the lens through which macro-economic policy is interpreted and critiqued by applying international human rights norms to assess macro-economic policy.