

## **BASIC INCOME**

### The Material Conditions of Freedom

#### **Daniel Raventos**

Translated from the Spanish by Julie Wark

Pluto Press London • Ann Arbor, MI



# **CONTENTS**

	List	of tables and figures	x
	Intro	oduction and acknowledgements	1
1.	A provocative but possible proposal		
	1.1	The definition	8
	1.2	What Basic Income is not	10
	1.3	Is there a Basic Income anywhere in the world?	12
	1.4	Historical precedents	13
	1.5	The last 20 years	16
	1.6	Basic Income in the twenty-first century	18
	1.7	Strengths, questions, doubts	21
2.	Normative liberal justifications		25
	2.1	The libertarian justification: property first	28
	2.2	The 'possible' justification of justice as fairness: self-respect to the fore	32
	2.3	The real freedom justification: a real-libertarian	
		society	37
	2.4	Liberal theories and republican theories	44
3.	The normative republican justification		
		Aristotle: material existence as a condition of	
		freedom	49
	3.2	Property in Cicero	54

### CONTENTS

	3.3	The right of existence: Robespierre	57		
	3.4	Republican freedom	61		
	3.5	Republican virtue and neutrality	65		
	3.6	The republican justification of Basic Income	68		
4.	Remunerated work, domestic work and				
	voluntary work				
	4.1	Three kinds of work	78		
	4.2	Basic Income and the job market	79		
	4.3	Basic Income and domestic work	86		
	4.4	Basic Income and voluntary work	92		
5.	Poverty		94		
	5.1	A typology of poverty	95		
		Measuring poverty	105		
	5.3	The poor cannot be free	107		
6.	The welfare state and Basic Income		110		
	6.1	What is the welfare state?	111		
	6.2	The crisis	114		
	6.3	Justifications of the welfare state and			
		some criticisms	118		
	6.4	Minimum income support	121		
	6.5	Basic Income in contrast with means-tested			
		subsidies	124		
7.	Basic Income in comparison with other proposals		131		
	7.1	Traditional measures against poverty and			
		unemployment: a more flexible labour market			
		and reduction of working hours	132		
	7.2	Not-so-traditional measures against poverty			
		and unemployment	142		

### CONTENTS

	1.3	Proposals that are more or less akin to	
		Basic Income	145
8.	Financing		
	8.1	Aims and scope of the model	157
	8.2	Data and sample	159
	8.3	The micro-simulation model	163
	8.4	An ambitious example	166
	8.5	Two more modest examples	169
9.	Basic Income and its critics		177
	9.1.	Ethical criticisms	179
	9.2	Technical criticisms	191
	Not	es	199
	Bib	liography	215
	Ind	ex	224