The traditional narrative of the American Dream — hard work, steady saving, and a little bit of luck will lead to security today and mobility tomorrow — has all but become an American Myth.
Today, insecurity is so pronounced that 92 percent of Americans, when asked to choose between being a little richer or more financially stable, chose stability. But amidst 30 years of wage stagnation and radically decreased mobility, neither has been attainable.

In *The Financial Diaries*, authors **Jonathan Morduch** and **Rachel Schneider** track the financial lives of 235 low- and middle-income households to cast a light on the pervasive economic anxiety felt across the country. The individuals they profile — among them a casino dealer, a street vendor, and a tax preparer — challenge popular assumptions about how Americans earn, spend, borrow, and save and suggest new tools the U.S. needs to correct the broader distress of income and wealth inequality.

Join **New America NYC** for a conversation on the growing financial instability Americans face and the policy interventions needed to better support those who need it most.

**OPENING REMARKS:**

**Xavier de Souza Briggs** @xavbriggs
Vice President, Economic Opportunity and Markets, Ford Foundation

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Jonathan Morduch** @JMorduch
Professor of Public Policy and Economics and Director, Financial Access Initiative, New York University

**Rachel Schneider** @RachelSchneider
Senior Vice President, Center for Financial Services Innovation

**Justin King**
Policy Director, Family-Centered Social Policy, New America
Unique Brathwaite
Executive Director, LIFT–New York

Alex Goldmark @alexgoldmark
Supervising Producer, Planet Money, NPR

The Financial Diaries: How American Families Cope in a World of Uncertainty
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM EST
Interface, 140 W 30th Street, New York, NY 10001

Copies of The Financial Diaries: How American Families Cope in a World of Uncertainty will be available for purchase.

Follow the conversation online using #USFinDiaries and following @NewAmericaNYC.

Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the Digital Age. Our hallmarks are big ideas, impartial analysis, pragmatic policy solutions, technological innovation, next generation politics, and creative engagement with broad audiences.