Participant Biographies

Sabina Alkire

Sabina Alkire is Director of Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), a Research Fellow at Queen Elizabeth House and the Global Equity Initiative at Harvard University, and Secretary of the Human Development and Capability Association. She holds a DPhil in Economics, an MSc in Economics for Development and an MPhil in Christian Political Ethics from Oxford. Research interests include value judgements in economic decision-making, the conceptualization and measurement of individual agency freedoms (empowerment), and further development of the capability approach.

Paola Annoni

Paola Annoni is a post-doc researcher at the Unit of Econometrics and Applied Statistics, IPSC-JRC. Her main research tasks are in the field of composite indicator setting-up and assessment and sensitivity analysis. Formerly she was a researcher at the Department of Economics, Business and Statistics – University of Milan, where her main research interests were linear and non-linear MVA and multi-criteria ranking.

Masood Awan

Masood Sarwar Awan is a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford. He has a PhD in economics from University of Sargodha (Pakistan), and completed his PhD course work at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. He works as an Assistant Professor of Economics at University of Sargodha (Pakistan).

Vivianne Azevedo

Viviane Azevedo is an Economist at the Research Department and the Social Protection and Health Division of the Inter-American Development Bank. She is a PhD candidate in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (US) and holds a Master of Science and BA in Mathematics and Economics from the same university. Her research interests cover broad areas in development economics; most recently including issues related to poverty, inequality, social mobility, education decisions, and social programmes (targeting).

Mario Biggeri

Mario Biggeri is a researcher and lecturer in development economics in the Department of Economics at the University of Florence. He has been a consultant for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), the ILO / UNICEF / World Bank, the Institute for Industrial Development Policy and the Istituto Agronomico per l’Oltremare (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He is coordinator of the thematic group of Human Development Capability Association on Children’s capabilities, and coordinator of the project: Children Conceptualising their Priorities: Developing a Bottom-Up Strategy for Understanding Childhood and Children’s Well-Being.
Jo Boyden is Director of the innovative Young Lives study based at the University of Oxford Department of International Development. She is a pioneer in the emerging field of global childhood studies and is breaking new ground in theorisation, conceptualisation, analysis and methods for researching childhood poverty and influencing policy.

Laura Camfield has a PhD and MA in Anthropology from University of London, and her research focuses on experiences of poverty, resilience, and methodologies for exploring and measuring subjective well-being in developing countries. She has worked with two international research projects – Young Lives and Well-being in Developing Countries Research Group – developing methodologically integrated approaches to well-being.

Jingqing Chai is a senior advisor at the Social Policy and Economic Analyses in Policy and Practices at UNICEF Headquarter. She currently leads the effort to engage in social welfare system reforms in countries undertaking economic structural programmes. Previously she was a senior economist at the IMF, with experience in IMF programme designs and monitoring, country and regional surveillance. She has a PhD in Economics from Stanford University.

Conchita D’Ambrosio is an Associate Professor of Economics at Università di Milano-Bicocca. She is an economist, with a PhD from New York University (2000). Her research focuses on income and wealth distributions, deprivation, polarization and social exclusion. She has recently started to work on subjective well-being and interdependent preferences. She has published in *Economica, Economics Letters, Social Choice and Welfare, the Review of Income and Wealth* among other academic journals.

Stefan Dercon, Professor of Economics, is the Course Director of the MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford. Previously, he worked at the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford, and taught at the University of Addis Ababa, the Catholic University of Leuven, UNU-WIDER in Helsinki, and Jesus College, Oxford. His work focuses on the micro-level analysis of the dynamics of wealth and poverty, conceptually, theoretically and empirically. His recent work has mainly focused on risk, as well on HIV-AIDS, land rights, economic reform, technology adoption, and migration.
Hania Farhan is the Director of Research at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation in London. Before joining the Foundation, she worked as Director of the Middle East and North Africa region at The Economist Intelligence Unit, The Economist Group. Prior to that, Hania worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC, and previously in investment banking in London and Johannesburg. In South Africa she set up a research department at a newly formed ‘black economic empowerment’ bank. She was an economist at ING Barings where she covered the emerging markets of Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Hania studied at London University.

James Foster is a Professor of Economics at Vanderbilt University and a Senior Research Fellow at the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies. He joined Vanderbilt after a decade as a faculty member in the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University. He currently holds a visiting position at the University of Oxford. He holds a PhD in Economics from Cornell University and a BA in Economics and Mathematics from New College, Florida. His main research interests are in micro-economics, with special emphasis on measurement issues related to distribution of income and well-being.

Amie Gaye is a policy specialist for statistics at the Human Development Report Office (HDRO). Prior to joining HDRO in May 2006, she worked as a consultant for the UNDP supported poverty reduction and equity programme in Namibia. From 2000 to 2003, she was a policy advocacy manager and gender coordinator for ActionAid the Gambia. Amie also worked at the Central Statistics Department in the Gambia for 20 years.

Wei Ha is part of the second cohort of UNICEF’s New and Emerging Talent Initiative. He is an economist at UNICEF, and previously a policy specialist of the Human Development Report Office in UNDP. He was also a consultant at the World Bank. Wei received his PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Pamela Hartigan is Director of the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the Said Business School at Oxford. She was the founding Managing Director of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, a founding partner and director of Volans and is co-author of *The Power of Unreasonable People: How Social Entrepreneurs Create Markets That Change the World*.

Kenneth Harttgen is a Post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Economics, University of Göttingen, Germany.

Mats Hårsmar is a Senior Research Associate at the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), Uppsala.
Rozana Himaz is an economist with research interests in the micro-level theoretical and empirical analysis of issues pertaining to poverty, intra-household resource allocation and child wellbeing, with a strong policy focus. At present she is a researcher for the Young Lives Project, an international longitudinal study of child poverty across Peru, Vietnam, Ethiopia and India. She read for her PhD in Economics at the University of Cambridge (2006) and MSc in Economic History at the London School of Economics (2001). She has taught micro and macro economics at the University of Sydney, London School of Economics and Cambridge, worked as a research economist for the Institute of Policy Studies in Sri Lanka and worked as a consultant for the ILO, World Bank and ADB on issues relating to poverty, unemployment, privatisation and the labour market of Sri Lanka.

Alex Hurrell is an economist specialising in the economic and econometric analysis of poverty, policies aimed at alleviating poverty, and the social sectors (health and education in particular). Specific areas of expertise include survey design and implementation, including instrument design, sampling and data processing (data entry, checking, cleaning and management procedures), and the quantitative analysis of survey data and other data sources. Amongst other projects, Alex is currently working on an ongoing two year evaluation of a UNICEF/Government of Kenya cash transfer programme targeted at orphans and other vulnerable children. Prior to this he worked full-time on DFID’s Bangladesh Social Sector Performance Surveys.

David Johnson is Reader in Comparative Education (Developing Countries) and Dean and Fellow of St Antony’s College, University of Oxford. Dr Johnson is a Chartered Psychologist, registered with the British Psychological Society. He works mainly on the monitoring and evaluation of curriculum and policy reform in developing countries, the long term trajectories of educational change, and on the politics of education in Africa. Most recently he has conducted a large scale assessment of teacher professional knowledge in Nigeria, this being a major determinant of the quality of education, and found that low teacher subject knowledge and pedagogical skills are largely responsible for poor pupil performance and that formal teacher qualifications are not necessarily a guide to teacher competence.

Geeta Kingdon is Chair of Education Economics and International Development at the Institute of Education, London University. She is a development economist and has published in *Economics of Education*, *Labour Economics* and the *Economics of Happiness*. She advises governments and donor organisations on education and development issues, particularly on South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Jeni Klugman is the Director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office in New York. Formerly at the World Bank, she worked as an economist, focusing in particular on Africa, Europe and Asia. Her most recent position was as Lead Economist for Ethiopia and Sudan, where she led the Sudan Joint Assessment Mission. Prior to that she was the Lead Economist for the Poverty Group where she was closely involved in the conceptualization and launch of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme approach. She has also worked as an economist focusing on human development in Europe and Central Asia where she helped manage poverty, labour market and social protection programmes.
Casilda Lasso de la Vega

Casilda Lasso de la Vega is a Professor Titular at the Department of Applied Economics IV, University of the Basque Country, where she was Director between 2002 and 2008. She holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of the Basque Country. Her research interests lie in the measurement of multidimensional inequality, poverty and polarization, both in the one-dimensional and multidimensional frameworks. She has taught post-graduate and undergraduate students for more than ten years.

Maria Ana Lugo

Maria Ana Lugo is an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Oxford. Her background is in the fields of microeconomic theory, welfare economics and development, concepts of well-being, measuring poverty and inequality. Her current research is on the impact of economic inequality on children school achievement at school, through socioeconomic segregation. Maria Ana has a degree in Economics, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, an MSc and PhD in Economics from Oxford University.

Ian MacAuslan

Ian has been a consultant in Oxford Policy Management’s social policy programme since October 2007. He works on the economics and politics of social protection, vulnerability, migration, and poverty, specialising in qualitative and quantitative research; and in the design and evaluation of social protection, social policy, and poverty reduction programmes. He has worked for a range of donor, government, and NGO clients around the world, including DFID, Sida, UNICEF, the World Bank, WFP, WHO, ILO, the Institute of Development Studies, the Future Agricultures Consortium, Oxfam, Ockenden International, and Seva Mandir. He is currently working on an international evaluation of the World Bank Fast Track Education Initiative, and on two 3 year evaluations of cash transfer programmes in Kenya: the Hunger Safety Net Programme, and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children cash transfer programme.

David McLennan

David McLennan is a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Oxford. He is Deputy Director of the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) which is based within the Department and he is a Senior Research Associate of Green College. He has experience of working on a number of large government and non-government sponsored research projects in the fields of deprivation and neighbourhood renewal.

Mwiza Mkandawire

Mwiza Mkandawire is a Research and Monitoring Specialist with the African Monitor, which is an independent catalyst operating continentally to enable monitoring of development funding commitments, the delivery and impact on the grassroots, and which brings strong additional African voices to the development agenda.

Hania Farhan, Elizabeth McGrath, Aisling Quirke and Nicholas Ulanov

are at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. An African initiative that has been established to: stimulate debate on good governance across sub-Saharan Africa and the world; provide objective criteria by which citizens can hold their governments accountable; and recognise achievement in African leadership and provide a practical way in which African leaders can build positive legacies on the continent when they have left office.
Marcos Robles is an Economist at the Social Sector Department of the Inter-American Development Bank. He holds a Master of Science Economics from the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (Mexico). Previously he has been Adviser for the National Institute of Planning and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, and Manager of Quantitative Methods for Maximixe Consulting in Peru. His research includes issues related to poverty, inequality, and social programmes (targeting).

José Manuel Roche is a sociologist with research and consultancy experience on socioeconomic analysis, social inequality and assessment of differences in regional development. He is a doctoral student at the Department of Sociology in the University of Sussex, carrying out research on inequalities in capabilities between social groups with an empirical application to the Venezuelan context. He has served as a consultant and social statistics advisor for UNDP, UNICEF, EU, IDS, the Venezuelan National Institute of Statistics and the Venezuelan Ministry of Planning and Development.

Maria Emma Santos is a Research Officer at the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the Department of International Development, University of Oxford. She did her first degree at Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina, her MA in Economic Development at Vanderbilt University, USA, and her Doctorate in Economics at Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina. Her main research interests are the measurement, determinants and analysis of multidimensional and chronic poverty, income inequality, and the quality of education.

Danila Serra is a Lecturer in Economics at Trinity College, Oxford, and in August 2009 will join the Department of Economics at Florida State University. Danila holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Oxford, an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and a BA in Economics from Bocconi University. Her research papers apply experimental methodologies to the study of corruption and accountability.

Shabana Singh is a graduate student at the Department of Economics, Vanderbilt University. Her areas of interest are development economics and econometrics. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt University she received a MA in Economics from Center for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University and a BA in Economics from University of Delhi.

Leon Tikly is Professor in Education in the University of Bristol, Graduate School of Education. He is currently Director of the Research Programme Consortium on Implementing Education Quality in Low Income Countries. His research interests include the impact of globalisation on education in Africa and the achievement of Black and minority ethnic learners in the UK. Originally a science educator in inner London schools and in a school for South African refugees in Tanzania he worked as a policy researcher in South Africa during the transition from apartheid to democracy and as a lecturer at the University of Birmingham.
Tamara Trafton is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Economics at Vanderbilt University. Her research focuses on charitable giving and socially responsible behaviour and utilizes experimental methods. She holds an MA in Economics from Vanderbilt University and a BA in Economics from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Elaine Unterhalter is Professor of Education and International Development at the Institute of Education, University of London. She has more than 25 years experience working on themes concerned with gender, race and class inequalities and their bearing on education. Specialist interests include the capability approach and human development and education in Africa (particularly South Africa). She is currently concerned with education, poverty and global social justice.

Ngaire Woods is Director of the Global Economic Governance Programme and Dean of Graduates at University College, Oxford. In 2005-06 she was appointed by the IMF Board to a three-person panel to report on the effectiveness of the IMF’s Independent Evaluation Office. Since 2002 she has been an Adviser to the UNDP Human Development Report. She was a member of the Helsinki Process on global governance and of the resource group of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Commission into Threats, Challenges and Change, and a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Expert Group on Democracy and Development established in 2002 which reported in 2004.

Gaston Yalonetzky is a Research Officer at the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford. He is currently working on indicators of inequality of opportunity and economic mobility. He holds a DPhil in Economics and an MSc in Economics for Development, both from the University of Oxford. Before his graduate studies he worked in the CIUP Research Centre in Lima, Peru. His research interests are in the fields of population and family economics, socio-economic mobility and opportunity, and multidimensional human development.

Miguel Nino Zarazua is a BWPI Research Fellow. He holds a PhD in Economics (2008) from the University of Sheffield and an MSc in International Development (2002) from Bath University. At Sheffield, he worked on a research project that examined, through a quasi-experimental study, the impacts of microcredit on income poverty, efficiency labour and well-being in the context of urban poverty in Mexico.