



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Inclusive Social Development



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY 2018

Biographical Notes of Speakers



Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development (formerly the Division for Social Policy and Development) at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011. Political scientist with a major in International Politics, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dissertation on “The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities”. She is also a certified journalist and multicultural / life coach. Ms. Bas interest has always been people-centred in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held. In addition to her work at the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles from 1996 until 2011 in the private sector in Italy and was, inter alia, adviser for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on human rights and social affairs. Designated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the European Union Agency of Fundamental Rights; Special Adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini); at the European Union, she was representative on the topic “Tourism for All” on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of her country.



Dr. Yan Ruth Xia is a professor in the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has passion for research, teaching and outreach to advance health and wellbeing of families around the world. Her research focuses on strengths, stress, and coping of Asian American and Chinese families. She also studies youth and family resilience during such contextual changes as China's socioeconomic transition and family migration process. Dr. Xia has collaborated with colleagues and formed the Global Consortium for International Family Studies (GCIFS), and the GCIFS partners jointly created the first graduate program of its kind in family studies. Dr. Xia has worked extensively with communities at local, state, national, and international levels on family service program development and evaluation. She has served two terms as the chair of the International Section, National Council on Family Relations and serves on the editorial board of two family research journals. She has recently received a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award.



Dr. Bahira Trask is Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware. She holds a B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on globalization, social policies, gender and family change in Western and non-Western countries, and she presents regularly on these topics at international, national, and local forums. Dr. Trask has authored and edited a number of books including *Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities* (Routledge, 2014), *Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change*, (Springer, 2010) and *Cultural Diversity and Families* (Sage, 2007). She has also published over sixty peer-reviewed articles, chapters and review articles in significant journals, handbooks and edited works and served as the guest editor on various special edition journals. Much of Dr. Trask's scholarship has been informed through participation with a number of international, national and community-based

research projects that focus on diversity, gender and work, and strengthening low-income families. Her work has been funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Marguirite Casey Foundation, Blueprints Delaware and various local community initiatives. Dr. Trask is a fellow of NCFR, the National Council on Family Relations, and in 2017 she was awarded the University of Delaware Excellence in Teaching Award. Her Tedx talks on global family change and women and work are popular teaching tools internationally.



Prof. Monde Makiwane is a South African National Research Foundation rated scientist who is employed as a Research Director in the Human and Social Development (HSD) research programme of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in Pretoria, South Africa. Monde is also an Honorary Professor at the University of North West. He holds a Masters in Social Science in Sociology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a PhD in Demography from the University of the Witwatersrand. He has lectured undergraduate and graduate students at Walter Sisulu University. In addition, he has held two fellowships: one at Harvard University and another at the University of Pennsylvania. His areas of research interest include: family, intergenerational relations, youth, ageing, teenage sexuality, fertility, social security and migration. His publication record includes a number of international and national conference presentations and authoring and co-authoring a number of journal articles.



Shanthi Thambiah is a social anthropologist and Associate Professor at the Gender Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She received her Phd from the University of Hull and her M.Phil from the University of Cambridge, UK. Her expertise is in the areas of indigenous minority culture and change including changing gender relations in these communities. She has published widely in this area. Her current research interests are in the areas of changing gender relations and livelihood strategies of indigenous communities in Malaysia; gender and migration; changing gender relations in the family; families in flux; gender, work and public policies.



Maria Amparo Cruz-Saco is the Joanne Toor Cummings '50 Professor of Economics at Connecticut College. She graduated with a BS and a Licenciada degree in Economics from Universidad del Pacífico (Lima, Peru), and with a MA and a PhD in Economics from University of Pittsburgh (where she also earned a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies). She has worked at COFIDE, Peru's largest development bank, Universidad del Pacífico, Mount Holyoke College, and Wesleyan University. She is the recipient of two Fulbright Scholar grants—2007/8 and 2015/6, has held senior administrative positions, serves on the editorial boards of two professional journals, and has conducted extensive consultant work with the United Nations (DESA), the InterAmerican Development Bank, the Office of International Labor, non-for-profit organizations, and national offices in Peru and Latin America. Her fields of study include development macroeconomics, international finance, and social protection systems with a focus on pensions. She has authored or co-authored four books, co-edited two volumes —on macroeconomics or social protection—and contributed several chapters and more than twenty journal articles or working papers.