



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF FAMILIES  
15 MAY 2021

## *Families and New Technologies*

**Online Webinar in Observance of the**

**2021 International Day of Families**

**Friday, 14 May, 10:00-11:30 AM (New York time)**

***Biographical Notes of Speakers***

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### **Keynote Speaker**



**Susan K. Walker** is an Associate Professor of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. She holds a PhD in Child and Family Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The emphasis of her teaching and research is on technology integration in family

education, early childhood parenting and childcare policy, and parent learning through social interactions. This work extends her 30+ years of research and teaching on parenting and in parenting education. She designed and currently teaches an undergraduate course on Families and Technology, one of the very few such courses in the US. She is currently writing an open source textbook spanning technology's influences on families in society, impacts on children and family relationships and the preparation of family professionals. Additional courses taught include parent-child relationships (at undergraduate and graduate levels), child development, program evaluation, and curriculum design. For 10 years Dr. Walker directed the licensed Parent and Family Education teacher preparation and Master of Education graduate program at the University of Minnesota. In her work with practitioners, Dr. Walker has designed technology to supplement face to face delivery of parenting education and researched its usability and impact on parent engagement, learning and trust in schools, and mechanisms for implementation. As part of Dr. Walker's international profile, during her guest professorship with the University of Iceland, she helped to create a parenting education graduate program at the institution; one of the few in the world.

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## Moderator



**Olivier Yao** holds an Industrial Engineering Degree. He also received a Program Management Development Degree from MDE Business School Abidjan. He is currently the logistics and export manager in a multinational chocolate manufacturer. In the past, he has worked for many years with Nestlé across many countries in Africa and then shortly in a commodity trading company. With regards to his previous contribution to family enrichment, he has been the coordinator of activities for Famille et Education, the local branch of IFFD in Ivory Coast. He is also a member of the International Innovation Team for IFFD new background documentation in French. He holds a Postgraduate Degree in Marriage and Family Education from UIC. He has been married for more than 20 years to his wife Arlette with whom they have formed a large and joyful family.

## Panelists



**Zach Sims** is the co-founder and CEO of Codecademy, the leading online learning platform for technical skills. Since its founding in 2011, Codecademy has helped over 50 million people from 190+ countries access economic opportunity through technology. Codecademy has raised over \$82M from investors like Union Square Ventures, Owl Ventures, and Y Combinator, supporting its vision to close the technical skills gap and transform people's lives through engaging, flexible, and accessible online education. Zach has been recognized by the World Economic Forum as a Technology Pioneer, voted to TIME's '100 Most Influential People' list, and featured in Forbes and Inc. magazines' respective '30 Under 30' lists. Previously, Zach worked at GroupMe (acquired by Skype) and [drop.io](#) (acquired by Facebook). He was a Columbia University student before dropping out to found Codecademy.



**Amina Fazlullah** is the Director of Equity Policy in Common Sense's D.C. office where she works on a range of issues including privacy, expanding access to technology, and digital well-being. Prior to joining Common Sense, Amina was a tech policy fellow at Mozilla, where she worked to promote broadband connectivity in underserved communities around the world. Amina has also worked with the Benton Foundation, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, for the Honorable Chief Judge James M. Rosenbaum of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota, and at the FCC.



**Mary Dozier** is Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Delaware. She obtained her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1983. She was named the Amy E. DuPont Chair in Child Development in 2007, and in 2016 was named the Francis Alison Professor, the university's highest faculty honor. Over the last 25 years, she has studied the development of young children in foster care and young children living with neglecting birth parents, examining challenges in attachment and regulatory capabilities. Along with her graduate students and research team, she developed an intervention, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up, that targets specific issues that have been identified as problematic for young children who have experienced adversity. This intervention has been shown to enhance children's ability to form secure attachments, and to regulate physiology and behavior normatively, among other things. She is the 2019 recipient of the APA Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contribution in Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society. She has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1989.



**Jessica Navarro** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She received her BA in Public Health from Brown University and MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. Her research interests center on families and technology, in particular the impact of technology on the parent-child relationship.