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Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development

Biographical Notes of Speakers
United Nations Expert Group Meeting,
12 – 13 May 2016, UNHQ in NY, Conference room 12
“Family policies & 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”



Ann Biddlecom is the Chief of the Fertility and Family Planning Section in the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. Before joining the United Nations, she held research positions at the University of Michigan, Guttmacher Institute and the Population Council. Her research focuses on fertility and family planning trends and their determinants and implications, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and approaches to improve the measurement of sexual and reproductive health behaviours.



Scott Behson is a Professor of Management at Fairleigh Dickinson University, a national expert in work and family issues, and was a featured speaker at the recent White House Summit on Working Families. He is the author of the Amazon.com best-seller, *The Working Dad's Survival Guide: How to Succeed at Work and at Home*, has published 17 journal articles, presented over 50 times at prestigious national and international conferences, won six research awards, is a two-time nominee for the prestigious Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Work-Family Research, and was recently named as a Who's Who in Work-Family Research by the Sloan Work-Family Research Network. He was named the Silberman College of Business Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011. Scott also founded and runs the popular blog, *Fathers, Work, and Family*, dedicated to helping working fathers and encouraging more supportive workplaces. He writes regularly for the Harvard Business Review Online, Huffington Post and the Good Men Project, and has also written for Time and the Wall Street Journal.



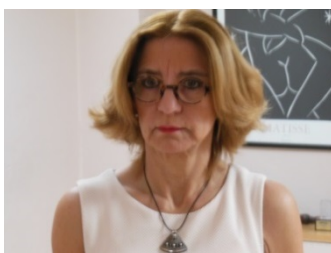
Abdullah Badahdah is the Director of the Family Research Division at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. Before joining DIFI, Dr. Badahdah taught in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Dakota and served as the Director of the Sociology Graduate Program for several years. Prior to his tenure at the University of North Dakota, he worked in the field of management in both the public and private sectors for more than a decade. Dr. Badahdah received a B.A. in psychology and a Ph.D. in sociology from Iowa State University, USA. He has given more than 50 regional, national, and international presentations and has more than 20 publications in several journals such as *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, and *AIDS Care* and encyclopedia entries such as *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* and *The Blackwell Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology*. He has written research reports for many organizations such as the Saudi Ministry of Health, the Oman Ministry of Health/UNICEF, and the North Dakota Department of Health. Dr. Badahdah has been a board member for the Midwest Sociological Society for six years. He also chaired and served in many committees at the University of North Dakota, Qatar University, the American Sociological Association, and the Sociologists AIDS Network.



Annemie Drieskens is the President of the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) since 2012. Under her presidency Coface worked on the topic of *Reconciling Work and Family Life*, organised a European Employers Forum, published the *European Reconciliation Package* and focused on Families in vulnerable situations. In 2014 Coface gained the UN consultative status .She represents Coface at numerous conferences and meetings advocating for family policy and defending the interest of families in their diversity in Europe. She is, inter alia, a member of the Societal advisory board of the JPI “More years better lives”. She holds a Law degree, and is also the Vice President of Gezinsbond, the largest family organisation in Flanders (Belgium). As Vice President she is in charge of parental support and educational training.



Esuna Dugarova is Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) where she specialises in social and family policy in transition economies and monitors the implementation of SDGs in developed and developing countries. During her time at UNRISD, Esuna has also acted as an external expert at the European Commission and lectured at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Prior to joining UNRISD, Esuna worked as a Research Associate at the London School of Economics and Political Science on new migration from the BRIC countries to the UK, did consultancy for the World Bank on social accountability and governance issues in China, and taught at the University of Cambridge. Originally from the Republic of Buryatia in Russia, Esuna holds a PhD degree in Asian Studies from Cambridge University and a BA degree in Chinese and Burmese Studies from St Petersburg State University. She is fluent in Russian, English and Mandarin Chinese and also speaks French and Burmese.



Rosario Esteinou is a family sociologist and has been a researcher for 30 years at the Center of Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology in Mexico City. She is a fellow of the National System of Research of the National Council of Science and technology, fellow and chair of the Social Sciences Division of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, fellow of the National Council of Family Relations, the American Sociological Association, the International Sociological Association, and the International Association for Relationship Research. She has published articles, chapters and books about the family in Mexico, especially in the field of sociology, anthropology, demography, history and social psychology. Currently, her research interests focus on family relations, particularly on adolescent social competence and parenting, and couple relationships. She has been a visiting professor at the Centre of Family Research at the University of Cambridge, the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom, the University of Newcastle in Australia, and the University of Nebraska in the United States.



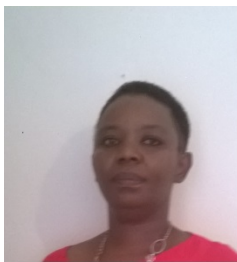
Daryl Higgins, Associate Professor is the Deputy Director (Research) at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, where he has responsibility for the Institute's research program and its knowledge translation and exchange functions. The Institute undertakes a wide range of research, evaluation and dissemination projects focusing on policy- and practice-relevant issues affecting families in Australia. Daryl is also an Honorary Principal Fellow at the Melbourne School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the University of Melbourne. Daryl is a registered psychologist, and has been researching child abuse, family violence, sexuality and family functioning since 1993. He has extensive experience in managing and supervising research, and has led projects looking at child abuse and neglect, child protection, children in out-of-home care, child-safe organisations, Family Court processes for responding to allegations of child abuse, caring for a family member with a disability, welfare reform, family and interpersonal violence, jobless families, past adoption and forced family separation practices, and community development approaches to child and family welfare issues. He has considerable experience in qualitative and quantitative evaluation methodology and frameworks, and has a sound knowledge of state and territory policy contexts across Australia. Daryl has contributed to over 180 publications (including 70 journal/peer-review articles) and 330 presentations and media contacts.



Keiko Hirao teaches at Sophia University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies in Tokyo. Her research interest includes work and family, environment and sustainable lifestyle, and comparative family. She has written extensively on education, labour market, motherhood, and families in Japan from a comparative perspective. She is the author of *Child Rearing War Front* (Chobunsha, 1991) and chapters in *Political Economy of Japan's Low Fertility* (Frances Rosenbluth ed., Stanford University Press, 2006), *Working and Mothering: Images, Ideologies and Identities* (Theresa W. Devasahayam and Brenda S.A. Yeoh eds., NIAS Press, 2007), and *Thinking Body as Intelligence* (Mamoru Suzuki ed., Gakken Marketing, 2014). Her recent book, *Invisible Hand and Invisible Heart*, came out in 2015 from Sophia University Press.



Mahmood Messkoub is a Senior Lecturer at the International Institute of Social Studies, (Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands), teaching and researching in areas of social policy and population studies. An economist, he taught in the United Kingdom at the universities of Leeds and London. His current research is in the areas of economics of social policy and population ageing, migration and universal approach to social provisioning. His recent publications on MENA are related to social policy, poverty and employment policies, unpaid household work, and cash transfers. He has acted as a consultant to ESCWA, ILO, UNFPA and the World Bank.



Zitha Mokomane is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She holds a MA and a PhD in Demography, both from the Australian National University. She has extensive research, policy and programmatic expertise in the fields of family studies, with specific interest in work-family interface; social policy analysis; as well as poverty reduction and social protection. Examples of her recent work in this regard include the development of the South Africa White Paper on Families which was approved by cabinet in June 2013; the drafting of the African Common Position on the Family (African Union Commission, 2012); the development of a Policy Framework on Social Security to Youth in South Africa (National Department of Social Development, 2012); and the development of the Social Policy Framework for Africa (African Union Commission, 2008). Among her most recent publications in these areas is a paper entitled *Social Protection as a Mechanism for Family Protection in sub-Saharan Africa* (International Journal of Social Welfare, 2012) and an edited book entitled *Work-Family Interface in sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and Responses* (Springer publishing, 2014).



Dominic Richardson is a Senior Education Specialist, UNICEF, Office of Research, Innocenti and works on issues of equity in education and the relationships between schooling, school outcomes and child well-being. His position strengthens the research capacity and supports the integration and extraction of findings related to education and learning across all components of the applied research programme on wellbeing. Dominic has worked extensively with OECD Social Policy Division in evaluating child and family policies and in designing frameworks through which indicators of child wellbeing outcomes can be compared. Dominic has been a contributor to UNICEF Innocenti Report Cards on child well-being in rich countries, and authored a joint EC OECD project evaluating large international surveys of school children in developed countries.



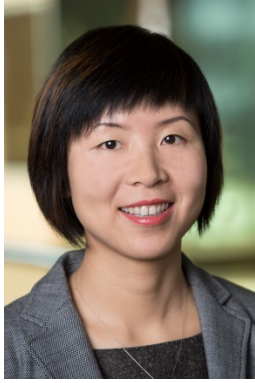
Mihaela Robila is a Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Queens College, City University of New York. Her research is on international migration, family relations and family policies. She edited a “*Handbook on Family Policies across the Globe*” (Springer, 2014), wrote a book on “*Eastern European Immigrant Families*” (2010; Routledge), edited a book on “*Families in Eastern Europe*” (2004; Elsevier), published many articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, and presented to numerous national and international conferences. Her work has been supported by grants and contracts from the American Councils for International Education/ U.S. Dept. of State, Fulbright, Spencer Foundation, Fahs-Beck Fund, among others. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association Divisions 52 (International), 43 (Family Psychology), and 37 (Child and Family Policy).



Bahira Trask is a Professor and Chair of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Delaware. She holds a BA in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from Yale University and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on globalization and family change in Western and non-Western countries. She presents regularly at international forums including at the United Nations, on topics pertaining to family changes and gender related concerns. Dr. Trask has authored and edited a number of books in this area including *Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities* (Routledge, 2014) and *Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change*, (Springer, 2010), Dr. Trask has published over fifty 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. Her Tedx talk on global family change is a popular teaching tool internationally.



Ignacio Socias is a Director of International Relations of the International Federation for Family Development, an umbrella organization for more than 200 Family Enrichment Centers that operate in 66 countries. He is also Director of International Relations of The Family Watch, a think tank committed to researching the family and finding solutions to the problems it faces. Currently, he represents IFFD in the FamiliesAndSocieties 7FP European Commission Project, the biggest European research on families, and has been part of high-level events on family at the European Parliament (2013 and 2014), Committee of the Regions (2012) and Economic and Social Committee(2014 and 2015). He is a Doctor in Law by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and has been CEO of the Grupo de Comunicación Dynamia and Bisel de Comunicación in Spain.



Wendy Wang is a Senior Researcher at Pew Research Center. She conducts demographic research on issues related to family, gender, race, aging, health and time use. Wang is also involved in survey questionnaire and sample designs. Prior to joining Pew Research Center in 2008, Wang was a research assistant at the Maryland Population Research Center. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and a M.A from Arizona State University, both in sociology. Before her graduate studies in the U.S., Wang was a researcher at Shaanxi Academy of Social Sciences in Xi'an, China, researching demographic issues in China. She is an author of reports on Breadwinner Moms, Modern Parenthood, Multi-generational Families, The Rise of Intermarriage, Asian Americans and Growing Old in America. Her publications also have appeared in journals such as the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. She regularly presents research findings at national conferences on population research and survey methodology, and she talks about the Center's reports in print and broadcast media.