



## SPEAKER BIOS






**Bilal Barakat** is a researcher, lecturer, and consultant whose main research interests and areas of expertise are in the area of educational policy modeling and statistics, including demographic, economic, and methodological aspects. From 2018 to 2021 Bilal led the education monitoring and data activities of the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report. He has taught at the University of Vienna, the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the Johannes-Kepler-University Linz, and Paris I Sorbonne. His research has been published in leading international journals in education, demography, international development, and statistics, and featured in major international reports, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Bilal holds a Habilitation in Education & Demography from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, a D.Phil. in Education from the University of Oxford, and Master's degrees in Mathematics from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.







**Astra Bonini** is a Senior Sustainable Development Officer with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals which provides analysis of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including through cross-sectoral approaches. Her work involves evidence-based policy support in such areas as technology facilitation, the green economy, sustainable transport, climate change and the nexus among energy, food and water. She also has research interests and experience related to advancing human well-being in the areas of social mobility, education and inequality. Prior to joining UNDESA, Astra was a senior researcher with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme and a Postdoctoral Research Scholar with the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Astra earned her PhD in sociology from the Johns Hopkins University and has a Master of International Affairs Degree from Columbia University as well as a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.











**Michael Boakye-Yiadom** is the Director-General at the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration under the Auspices of UNESCO, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Dr. Boakye-Yiadom earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, USA. The President of the Republic of Ghana recently appointed Michael as the National Convenor for the Transforming Education Summit. His research interests include diversity and inclusion; educational leadership; educational experiences of underrepresented populations; and contested issues in population, migration and education. Michael is passionate about cultivating culturally-indigenous knowledge. Prior to joining the IEPA faculty, he served as Dean of Students at Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tennessee, USA; Residential Coordinator at Ohio University; and a senior staff at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. His engagement with educational institutions in Africa, Europe and North America is supported through collaborative research and innovations.






	<p><b>Jorge Bravo</b> is Chief of the Population Policies and Development Branch of the Population Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), New York. Previously, he was chief of the Population and Development Section from 2007 to 2015, and before that he worked for 17 years at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), where he served as Expert and Regional Advisor, undertaking policy-oriented research and led several regional cooperation projects, working with national governments, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and other international organizations. His areas of expertise include global demographic trends and development, urbanization, the socio-economic aspects of ageing and intergenerational transfers, as well as published research on socio-economic factors of mortality, demographic responses to economic change, social security systems and the fiscal implications of ageing. In his current position, he oversees the work of the Population Division on international migration, fertility, population ageing, population policies, and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. Jorge has a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of California, Berkeley.</p>
	<p><b>Arne Carlsen</b> is a Danish practitioner, researcher and policy-maker in international education and lifelong learning. He has served as Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, Vice-rector for Education at the Danish University of Education, and Rector of the Nordic Folk Academy. He has chaired the workgroups on the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education, the UNESCO Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education (2015), and initiated with a colleague the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. He is currently Chairman of the International Expert Review Panel, Workforce Development Applied Research Fund, SkillsFuture Singapore. He founded the Nordic-Baltic Summer Academies in Adult Education, was Founding Chairman of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning, and Chairman of the Erasmus Mundus European Masters Programme in Lifelong Learning: Policy and Management. He also has held the function of Executive Director of the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes, and, together with a colleague, he initiated and was Co-Chairing the Global Alliance for Literacy.</p>
	<p><b>Christopher Castle</b> has more than 30 years of development experience in the areas of education and health, working at UNESCO since 2004. After holding a position at UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning, he transferred to UNESCO Headquarters and is currently serving as Chief of the Section of Health and Education and Director a.i. of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development. He supports the implementation of the work plan aligned to UNESCO's Strategy on Education for Health and Well-Being. Mr. Castle holds a BS in International Studies and French from The American University, and an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.</p>
	<p><b>Soledad Coloma</b> holds a Master's degree in Sociology from FLACSO (Ecuador) and a Master's degree in Cooperation and development from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium). She has been the Regional Coordinator in Management and Cooperation in the General Secretariat of the Latin American academic system, FLACSO (Costa Rica). She has worked as a professor for many graduate programs in the Institute of Advanced National Studies (IAEN) of Ecuador. She was a researcher in migration-related topics in FLACSO, Ecuador and a researcher for the Academic Unit of Development Studies in the University Zacatecas, Mexico. Currently, Soledad is an independent consultant United Nations organizations such as UN-Women, ACNUR and IOM. Her research focuses on migration and development, specifically skilled migration from South American countries. Other research topics include gender and migration, social and economic inclusion of migrants in Ecuador and human trafficking.</p>

	<p><b>Amélie A. Gagnon</b> is a Demographer and Senior Programme Specialist (Development) in the Research and Development unit at UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP). Amélie leads the design and implementation of tools, guidelines and methodologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of educational planning and management in Member States. Before joining IIEP, Amélie worked at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, covering the Latin America and the Caribbean education survey, and Statistics Canada within the Canadian Research Data Centre Network in Saskatchewan. Amélie is alternate UNESCO Representative to the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, and has published extensively on the use of geospatial data in educational planning, on spatialized school-age population estimates, travel time to school.</p>
	<p><b>Patrick Gerland</b> is the chief of the Population Estimates and Projections section of the Population Division within the United Nation's Department of Social and Economic Affairs. He oversees the preparation of technical and substantive reports on population estimation and projection published by the UN. During his professional career, Patrick provided technical training and assistance to population data-related projects in over 30 countries in Africa and Asia; collaborated in numerous inter-agency substantive and methodological expert groups; and has been collaborating with several academic research groups to develop new state-of-the-art statistical methods to incorporate uncertainty in demographic modeling, population reconstruction and probabilistic projections relevant to the UN work, and to improve existing methods and empirical datasets to measure child, adult and old-age mortality. Patrick has also published extensively. He holds a DESS d'expert démographe from the University of Paris (IDUP, Paris-I Pantheon-Sorbonne) and a PhD in Population Studies from Princeton University (Office of Population Research).</p>
	<p><b>Anne Goujon</b> became the new IIASA Population and Just Societies (POPJUS) Program Director in April 2022. Goujon is a demographer. She first joined IIASA in 1994 as a research assistant. She received her PhD in social and economic science from the University of Vienna in 2003, and her master's degree in development economics from the University La Sorbonne in Paris in 1990. From 1991 to 1994, she occupied several positions within the development community. Since 2002, she has also been a researcher at the Vienna Institute of Demography (Austrian Academy of Sciences) where she leads the Human Capital Data Lab (since 2014). From March 2020 to March 2022, she worked as a researcher in the Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography (KCMD) at the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Italy. Goujon's scientific interests lie in the macro-level analysis and projections of background characteristics of the population acquired during childhood that rarely change once an individual has emancipated from parental control, such as education and religion.</p>
	<p><b>Danan Gu</b> earned a Ph.D. degree in demography in 2001 from Peking University. He worked at the Nanjing College for Population Programme Management, China in 1986-2003, the Institute of Public Policy, Duke University in 2001-2008, and the Population Center, Portland State University (Oregon) in 2008-2009. Since 2009 after he joined the UN Population Division, he has worked in the Population Estimates and Projections Section, the Demographic Data Systems Unit, and Demographic Analysis Section. He has worked on six revisions of the World Population Prospects, and four revisions of the World Urbanization Prospects. His research mainly covers social determinants of health/longevity, population aging, family demography and its applications, urbanization, population estimation and projections. He has many publications, including recently co-edited Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging by Springer Nature.</p>




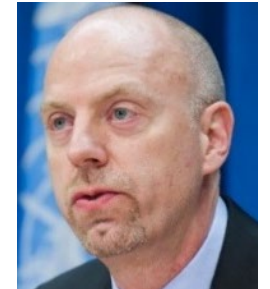


	<p><b>Nicole Haberland</b> is a senior associate at the Population Council. She conducts research on a range of topics related to gender, education, empowerment, HIV prevention, and sexual and reproductive health. Nicole leads the Council's education work, including the Evidence for Gender and Education Resource project, and the Council's work on empowerment-based sexuality education. She co-edited <i>It's All One Curriculum</i>, a user-friendly resource which provides a rationale, content, and sample activities for placing gender and rights at the center of life skills, sexuality, and HIV education curricula. Nicole is co-author of the recently released <i>Girls' Education Roadmap</i>, which synthesizes current data on gender and education needs, practice, and evidence. She is leading a study exploring the pathways through which education impacts health outcomes, and a systematic review of gender-related barriers to education.</p>
	<p><b>Joanna Herat</b> is Senior Programme Specialist at UNESCO HQ, within the Section for Health and Education. Working at UNESCO since 2010, she provides policy and technical leadership to improve health and wellbeing for young people through education with a particular focus on comprehensive sexuality education, school-related gender-based violence and the role of education in improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health. With 20 years of professional experience, Joanna has worked in countries across Asia and Africa, with 10 years focussed on community-based HIV interventions in the NGO sector, and an early career specialisation in theatre-in-education programmes. Joanna holds a Masters in Anthropology of Development from the University of London.</p>
	<p><b>Fabio Jiménez</b> is the head of the Labour Mobility and Markets Unit in the Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion Division (LMI), at IOM Headquarters in Geneva. Before, he worked in IOM's Costa Rica mission where he coordinated the labour migration unit of the Western Hemisphere Program in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (WHP). At the WHP, Fabio implemented regional and national activities to build capacities in government and private sector organizations on a wide range of topics, including ethical recruitment, bilateral labour migration agreements, migration data, labour migration mechanisms and labour market information systems. Fabio joined IOM in July 2018 after finishing his doctorate in Public Policy and Governance at the University of New South Wales, in Australia. He has worked extensively in different development fields, including agriculture and rural development, environmental policy, foreign trade, and education. He has proven experience in engaging with governments and multilateral organizations such as ECLAC, ILO, UNICEF, and the Inter-American Organization for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). Before joining IOM Fabio also worked for the Costa Rican government and taught at the postgraduate level at the University of Costa Rica and the National University. He holds two master's degrees, one in Program Evaluation and one in Political Science from the University of Costa Rica. He also holds a diploma in European Studies from ITAM, Mexico.</p>
	<p><b>Nicole Mun Sim Lai</b> is an economist, with a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Hawaii. She joined UN DESA as a Population Affairs Officer in 2012. Prior to joining the UN, she taught financial and development economics at California State University and Monash University. She is a leading expert on disaggregating national accounts by age and gender (National Transfer Accounts). Her areas of work include gender, education, inequality, population ageing, migration, and urbanization. Her current research focuses on examining why care home residents faced an elevated risk of death from COVID-19.</p>

	<p><b>Pär Liljert</b> is the Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office to the United Nations in New York. Prior to taking up his current post, he was the Chief of Mission for IOM Australia and Regional Coordinator for the Pacific. Mr. Liljert served (from 2013 – 2018) as IOM’s Special Envoy and Chief of Mission in the People’s Republic of China, Chief of Mission in Tanzania (2007 – 2011) and Chief of Mission in Zambia (2002 – 2004) and played an important role in establishing IOM’s Africa Capacity Building Center (ACBC) in Tanzania.</p>
	<p><b>Suguru Mizunoya</b> works for the Data and Analytics Section in UNICEF NY as the Chief of the Education Unit and Senior Advisor on Statistics and Monitoring (Education). Prior to the current position, he worked in the Chinese University of Hong Kong as the Deputy Director of the Global Studies Programme, Chief of Education in UNICEF Kenya, the World Bank (consultant), UNESCO (consultant) in Asia and the Pacific, Middle East, Pacific and Africa. He is a visiting professor of Kobe University and published more than 100 journal papers, UN report and blogs.</p>
	<p><b>Jane Munga</b> is a public policy specialist and a fellow at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in their Africa Program focusing on technology policy. Jane’s career has focused on policymaking with an emphasis on the potential of digital technologies for digital transformation. Jane has previously worked for the Government of Kenya as an Advisor in the Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Interior. She also served as an Economic Expert at the National Communications Secretariat, an ICT policy advisory body for the Government of Kenya. In this capacity, she focused on developing digital economy policies, strategies and programs which included Kenya’s Digital Economy Blueprint for Africa and the Ajira Digital Program—a gig-economy and digital skills program by the Government of Kenya. Jane holds a Doctor of Philosophy in political science and government and master’s degrees in economics and management from the University of Alabama and bachelor’s degrees in international studies and business administration from Stillman College, USA.</p>
	<p><b>Thoai Ngô</b>, PhD, is the Vice President of Social and Behavioral Science Research and the Founding Director of the Girl Innovation, Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center at the Population Council. He is responsible for advancing the Population Council’s global research agenda and implementing its strategy to ensure sexual and reproductive health, rights, and choices, empower adolescents and young people to reach their full potential, achieve gender equality and equity, and pursue justice in the face of climate and environmental changes. An epidemiologist based in New York City, his research focuses on the intersections between gender, health, and poverty globally. Thoai is an advisor on research and policy agenda setting on health and development issues to multilateral and bilateral donors, private foundations, universities, United Nations agencies, and governments around the world. Thoai serves as the board chair for Ibis Reproductive Health, lectures at leading global health universities, and publishes widely in scientific journals and other media. Thoai is recognized as one of the 120 Under 40 leaders making a difference in reproductive health worldwide.</p>

	<p><b>Olanrewaju Olaniyan</b> is a Professor of Economics at the University of Ibadan. He has over 25 years of research, consulting and tertiary teaching experience in health and population economics, economics of education, poverty, and welfare analysis as well as social protection. He was a Senior Associate Member, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, in 2007 and a visiting Research scholar to Cornell University Food and Nutrition Policy Program in 2005. Olanrewaju served as co-Chair of the Academic Steering Committee of the Global master's in Development Practice Association based in Columbia University and was also a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the SDG Academy of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Professor Olaniyan holds a PhD in Economics from the Department of Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and a Bachelor degree in Educational Management and Economics.</p>
	<p><b>Viju Raghupathi</b> is a professor at the Koppelman School of Business, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. She has taught at Baruch College (CUNY) and Temple University over the past years. Prior to this, she was a lecturer and IT consultant at the College of Business, California State University, Chico. She has worked in the industry as a systems integration engineer, an application consultant and an independent software consultant. She is currently teaching in the Department of Business Management of the Koppelman School of Business, as an Associate Professor.</p>
	<p><b>Cheryl Sawyer</b> is Senior Population Affairs Officer in the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She leads the Division's programme planning and management and is a core member of the team responsible for substantive support to the Commission on Population and Development. Over her career in the Division, she has worked on population estimates and projections, mortality analysis, and international migration and has contributed to numerous reports of the Secretary-General and technical publications on population issues. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked in the International Programs Center of the United States Census Bureau.</p>
	<p><b>Sandile Simelane</b> is a Technical Specialist in the Population and Development Branch at UNFPA. Prior to joining the United Nations, he worked for Statistics South Africa for several years. He has also worked for the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) where he was Development Information Analyst and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) where he was Senior Lecturer in the Graduate Program in Population Studies at the School of Development Studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania (2007).</p>
	<p><b>Vegard Skirbekk</b> is a Norwegian population economist and social scientist specializing in demographic analysis and cohort studies. He is a senior researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and also Professor of Population and Family Health at the Columbia Aging Center at Columbia University. He has published as a lead/senior author in journals such as <i>Science</i> and <i>Demography</i>; received larger grants, including from ERC and NIH. His research has received broad media attention across the world, including from <i>New York Times</i>, <i>The Economist</i> and <i>Financial Times</i>.</p>



	<p><b>Rachel Snow</b> is the Branch Chief of the Population and Development Branch in the Technical Division of UNFPA, based in New York, leading the Fund's work on strengthening national population data systems and the greater use of demographic intelligence for inclusive development. Dr. Snow received her doctorate in Population Sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health and has had a distinguished academic research career at Harvard University, University of Heidelberg (Germany), and the University of Michigan before joining UNFPA.</p>
	<p><b>Prachi Srivastava</b> is tenured Associate Professor, Western University, specialising in education and global development. She is also Member, World Bank Expert Advisory Council on Citizen Engagement, and Senior Research Fellow, NORRAG. Previously, she served with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the International Rescue Committee. She holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford. Currently, Dr. Srivastava is working on the global education emergency caused by the pandemic. She has led the authorship of high-level policy briefs on education policy and planning for recovery for the Think 20 (T20), the official global engagement group of the G20. Dr. Srivastava has been commissioned by the UNESCO Education Futures team to write a paper on the role of knowledges to transform education in the pandemic context. Domestically, Dr. Srivastava is an invited expert to the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table to advise on education policy, and is a lead author of the scientific education policy brief and contributing author to the school guidance document for school continuity in the province. She also led the creation of the COVID-19 School Dashboard, an open-access data visualization portal mapping school-level cases in Ontario with school-level demographic data to assess the impact on local school communities, which was featured in the 2021 UN World Data Forum.</p>
	<p><b>Daniela Trucco</b> is Senior Social Affairs Officer in the Social Development Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based in Santiago, Chile. She works in the areas of education, childhood, youth and digital society. Her professional experience has concentrated in research and social policy advisory, from a perspective of social inclusion and gap reduction, in Latin American and the Caribbean. Over the years, she has contributed to the preparation of institutional publications, such as the Social Panorama of Latin America, as well as ECLAC Series and Books. Her latest publications include: "Youth and families. Policies to support inclusion trajectories"; "Access to education for migrant and displaced students in the context of the covid-19 pandemic: challenges and good practices for reducing inequality"; "Childhood and Adolescence in the Digital Age"; and "School violence". Between 2003 and 2009 she participated in the research and preparation of the Human Development Reports in Chile, of the United Nations Development Program. She is sociologist from the Catholic University of Chile and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policies and Business Administration from the University of Maryland in the U.S.A.</p>
	<p><b>John Wilmoth</b> has been Director of the Population Division at the UN DESA since January 2013. He holds a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He was on the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley for more than 20 years, serving as Professor in the Department of Demography. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers on various aspects of population dynamics.</p>



**Yu-Tzu Wu** is a Research Fellow at Population Health Sciences Institute, Newcastle University, UK. She completed a MSc in Social Epidemiology at the University College London and a PhD in Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Cambridge. Before joining the Newcastle University, she was the epidemiologist/statistician for the Improving the Experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life (IDEAL) project at the University of Exeter and the postdoctoral researcher for the Ageing Trajectories of Health: Longitudinal Opportunities and Synergies (ATHLOS) project at the King's College London. Her research interests focus on the epidemiology of ageing and dementia in international cohort studies. She is interested in utilising interdisciplinary data resources to investigate risk factors and determinants of healthy ageing and health inequalities in later life.



**Ayman Zohry** is an expert on population and migration studies based in Cairo, Egypt. He earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Sussex. He is the founding president and president of The Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG). Dr. Zohry is also an Adjunct Professor in the American University in Cairo (AUC). Following his early interests in Arab and Egyptian demography (1987- 1998), Dr. Zohry's research interests have shifted increasingly to the study of migration. Dr. Zohry is the chair of the Scientific Panel on Migration, Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) and former chair of the Scientific Panel on International Migration, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) 2011-2014. His current research interests include internal migration and urbanization, labor migration, irregular migration, migration governance, and migration policies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Europe. Dr. Zohry served as a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, 2005 - 2013. Currently, he serves as a member of the editorial board of the International Migration Review (IMR).