Expert Biographies

Jeffrey Sachs, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is cofounder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is director of the Millennium Villages Project. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General's MDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has authored three New York Times bestsellers in the past seven years: The End of Poverty (2005), Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet (2008), and The Price of Civilization (2011). His most recent book is To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace (2013).

Professor Sachs is widely considered to be one of the world's leading experts on economic development and the fight against poverty. His work on ending poverty, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices, has taken him to more than 125 countries with more than 90 percent of the world's population. For more than a quarter century he has advised dozens of heads of state and governments on economic strategy, in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including membership in the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric Society. He has received more than 20 honorary degrees, and many awards and honors around the world. Professor Sachs is also a frequent contributor to major publications such as the Financial Times of London, the International Herald Tribune, Scientific American, and Time magazine.

Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development and the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

Changing age structures and their impact: youth

Steven Kapsos, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Steven Kapsos is head of the Data Production and Analysis Unit at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. His prior positions include senior economist in the ILO's Research Department, labour economist at the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and researcher at the Malcolm Wiener Centre for Social Policy at Harvard University. Steven's research interests include analysis of the employment intensity of economic growth, determinants of labour force participation, the emerging middle class in developing countries and trends in working poverty. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration/International development (MPA/ID) from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jean-François Kobiané, Université de Ouagadougou

Jean-François Kobiané is a researcher professor and Director of the 'Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population' at the Université de Ougadougou in Burkina Faso. Jean François holds a PhD in Demography from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and a Master in Demography from the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD) in Cameroon. He has previously worked at the National Institute of Statistics and Demography of Burkina Faso and was a postdoctoral fellow of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in the University of Montreal.

Kemi Williams, UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Kemi Williams is the Head of the Human Development team in the Department for International Development (DFID) Nigeria office. Previously, Kemi was the Country Director for Girl Hub in Nigeria from January 2012 – June 2014 and also Country Director for Girl Hub in Rwanda which she established in June 2010. Girl Hub is a Public Private Partnership between DFID and the Nike Foundation that addresses the needs and interests of adolescent girls. She was previously a senior social development adviser in the Department for International Development (DFID) where she has worked in various positions since 1999. She has a first degree in Development Studies from the University of East Anglia, a Masters of Arts (MA) degree in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex University and a Masters of Science (MSc) degree in Public Administration.

Noella Richard, United Nations Development Programme

Noella Richard is a Youth Policy Specialist in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support in New York, in charge of the coordination of UNDP's work on Youth corporately and as part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.She previously served in UNDP's Democratic Governance Group as Special Assistant to the Director and Democratic Governance Specialist and co-led UNDP's Global initiative on Gender Equality in Public Administration. Prior to UNDP, Ms. Richard worked at the Permanent Mission of France. Noella graduated from the Institut d'Études Politiques 'Sciences Po' in Paris and holds a second Master's degree in Development, International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action from Sorbonne University.

Population and global health

Robert Black, Johns Hopkins University

Robert E. Black, M.D., M.P.H. is Professor and Director of the Institute for International Programs, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. He is trained in medicine, infectious diseases and epidemiology and served as an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and at institutions in Bangladesh and Peru conducting research on childhood infectious diseases and nutrition. His current research includes field trials of vaccines, and nutritional interventions, effectiveness studies of health programs, and evaluation of health services in low- and middle-income countries. His other interests are the use of evidence in guiding policy and programs, including estimates of burden of disease. He chairs the UN Technical Advisory Group of the Interagency Group on Mortality Estimation and serves on advisory groups for the International Vaccine Institute, the icddr,b, and the Nutrition Research Institute and on the governing boards of the Micronutrient Initiative and Vitamin Angels.

Prabhat Jha, University of Toronto

Prabhat Jha is the founding director of the Centre for Global Health Research. He is also the Inaugural University of Toronto Endowed Professor in Disease Control, Canada Research Chair at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, co-investigator of the Disease Control Priorities Network, and expert advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on HIV/AIDS control in India and to various governments around the world on disease control strategies. Prior to founding CGHR, Prabhat headed the World Bank team responsible for developing the Second National HIV/AIDS Control Program in India. He also served as a senior scientist for the World Health Organization. Among other projects at CGHR, Prabhat is currently leading one of the world's largest prospective studies of premature mortality called the Million Death Study. Prabhat has a D.Phil in Epidemiology and Public Health from the University of Oxford and a medical degree from the University of Manitoba.

Daniel Kress, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Daniel Kress, is Deputy Director, Integrated Delivery, and focuses on Global Primary Health Care and Health Financing. Dan works on measurement of primary care systems and improving health system performance to improve uptake, coverage and equity for foundation priorities. Dan is a Health Economist and has worked in over 20 countries. Dan began at the foundation as a senior program officer in Global Health Policy and Advocacy and also served as the deputy director for several teams in Global Health. Prior to joining the foundation, Dan worked at the World Bank as Senior Health Economist in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Dan received his doctorate in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also attended the Université d'Aix-Marseille III in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Somnath Chatterji, World Health Organization

Somnath Chatterji currently leads the Surveys, Measurement and Analysis programme in the Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems at the World Health Organization (WHO). He coordinates WHO's Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health (SAGE) supported by the National Institute on Aging, USA. The measurement of health, well-being and other health-related outcomes, their trends and determinants is the main focus of the international studies of the team. He is a psychiatrist by training and co-directs WHO's World Mental Health surveys on the epidemiology of mental disorders in 30 countries. He is currently also engaged with the development of the WHO World Bank Model Disability Survey and standardized modules for household health surveys including for the monitoring of universal health coverage.

Changing age structures and their impact: ageing

John Haaga, National Institute on Ageing

John Haaga has served since October 2004 as Deputy Director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Research of the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Haaga serves directly as program officer for grants and training in health and long-term care systems, demography and epidemiology of aging. He teaches courses on demography and public policy at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, and has previously taught at Georgetown University and the Defense Intelligence College. He has had a long career in demography, having previously worked at the Population Reference Bureau, the National Academy of Sciences, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh, at RAND and at Cornell University. His PhD in Public Policy was awarded by the RAND Graduate School, and he has a BA (first-class honors) in Modern History from Oxford University and an MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

Reiko Hayashi, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan

Reiko Hayashi is the Director of Department of International Research and Cooperation at National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (Japan) since April 2012. Her prior positions include Technical Advisor to the Minister of Health, Republic of Senegal (JICA expert) and Project Assistant Professor of Center for Sustainable Urban Regeneration, the University of Tokyo. Her research interests are on demography including internal and international migration, health and global ageing. She holds a PhD in Policy Studies from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan.

Ronald Lee, University of California, Berkeley

Ronald Lee is a demographer and economist, with an MA in Demography from Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard. Since 1979 he has been at the University of California at Berkeley, currently as a Professor of the Graduate School, and Founding Director (Emeritus) of the Center for the Economics and Demography of Aging. He is also a Research Associate of the NBER. Throughout his career, he has taught economic demography. His current research focuses on the macroeconomic consequences of changing population age distributions and on intergenerational transfers and population aging. He co-directs the National Transfer Accounts project (NTA), which currently includes collaborating research teams in 47 countries. He also continues to work on modeling and forecasting demographic variables including mortality and on evolutionary biodemography.

Jorge Bravo, United Nations Population Division

Jorge Bravo is the Chief of the Population and Development Section of the Population Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York. Previously, he was Expert and Regional Advisor at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). His areas of expertise include socio-economic aspects of mortality, demographic responses to economic change, population ageing, social security systems and fiscal implications of demographic change. His current work focuses on the interrelations between global demographic trends and socio-economic development, urbanization, population and environment, and the socio-economic aspects of ageing and intergenerational transfers. Jorge has a Ph.D. in Demography, University of California, Berkeley. He served a member of the Panel on Socioeconomic Implications of Ageing of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) during 2010-2013, and he is currently serving (since September 2014) on a special assignment as Senior Population Affairs Officer, at the Office of the Director of the Population Division.

Population and reproductive health

Amy Tsui, Johns Hopkins University

Amy Tsui is Professor at the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research interests include family planning, fertility, and related health issues in developing countries. Amy's current research is on the effects of various family planning and health service delivery models on contraceptive, fertility, and sexual health outcomes in sub-Saharan African and other low-income countries. She has a PhD from the University of Chicago.

John Bongaarts, Population Council

John Bongaarts is Vice President and Distinguished Scholar of the Population Council. His research has focused on a range of population and health issues, including the determinants of fertility, projecting demographic trends, the mortality impact of the AIDS epidemic, and population policy options in both the developed and developing world. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars and is a Laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. John received a ME from the Eindhoven Institute of Technology, Netherlands, and a Ph.D. in Physiology and Biomedical Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Shawn Malarcher, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Shawn Malarcher serves as the Senior Advisor on Utilization of Best Practices for United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She has more than 15 years of experience managing and supporting social science research in developing countries. Her work focuses on translating evidence into program and policy guidance. Prior to her current position, Shawn served as a scientist with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Department of Reproductive Health and Research. Shawn received an MPH in epidemiology from Tulane University and has lived and worked in Kazakhstan, Ghana, and Switzerland.

Bruce Campbell, United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Bruce Campbell joined UNFPA in 2000. Before joining UNFPA, Bruce worked for humanitarian public health organizations with Salvadoran, Palestinian and Afghan refugees, the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands, and in the Ministry of Health in Ghana and Nepal. As Director of the Technical Division of UNFPA in New York, Bruce led a team responsible for providing intellectual guidance and technical support to Regional and Country offices, as well as to global intergovernmental processes in relation to the ICPD mandate of UNFPA. He has recently assumed the role of Global Coordinator of UNFPA's Data for Development Platform. Bruce has a Ph.D. from the University of Amsterdam Medical College, an MPA from the business school at Kent State University, and an MPH from Harvard University.

Sustainable urbanization

Shlomo Angel, New York University

Shlomo Angel is a Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning at The Urbanization Project, a think tank and urban action center at the Stern School of Business of New York University. Shlomo leads the NYU Urban Expansion Program there. A key mission of the program is to gain a better understanding of urban expansion a world over by monitoring it in the entire universe of 4,000+ cities and metropolitan areas that had 100,000 people or more in 2010, and by measuring a number of its key attributes in a global stratified sample of 200 cities. Shlomo is the author of Planet of Cities and a co-author of the Atlas of Urban Expansion (both published by the Lincoln Institute in 2012. Dr. Angel holds a PhD degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

Jose Miguel Guzman, ICF International

Since June 2013, Jose Miguel Guzman is the Regional Coordinator of the DHS Program for Francophone Africa and Latin America, His current work requires supporting countries in addressing data requirements in relevant areas to national policies and monitoring of internationally agreed goals. He has 29 years of professional experience in development at the international level, includes extensive experience in data collection, research, training and technical cooperation. His expertise covers a wide range of population and development topics, including fertility transition, population dynamics, ageing, reproductive health, population and poverty, population and environment, and infant, child and maternal mortality and health. Jose Miguel has a Ph.D. in Demography from the Université de Montreal, Quebec.

Lauren Sorkin, Rockefeller Foundation

Lauren Sorkin is the 100 Resilient Cities Platform Director and is a climate change and knowledge management specialist. Lauren spent six years working with the Asian Development Bank promoting climate responsive development in the Asia Pacific region. Prior to this she worked to promote conservation and green infrastructure in Latin America, in particular the Andean Amazon. Prior to joining ADB, Lauren worked with the USAID Eco-Asia Clean Development and Climate Program facilitating in-person and virtual knowledge sharing between clean energy experts in China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Deborah Balk, City University of New York

Deborah Balk is Associate Director of the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research. She is a member of the CUNY Graduate Center faculty in the sociology and economics programs. Her expertise lies in spatial demography and the integration of earth and social science data and methods to address interdisciplinary policy questions. Her current research focus is on urbanization, population, poverty, and environmental interactions (such as climate change). Prior to coming to Baruch, she held appointments at Columbia University, the East-West Center, and the University of Michigan. She received her PhD in Demography from the University of California at Berkeley.

International migration and development

Cris Beauchemin, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques

Dr Cris Beauchemin is a researcher at Ined (French Institute for Demographic Studies / Institut national d'études démographiques, Paris) and is currently invited professor at the Department of Demography of the University of Montreal. His research focuses on migration and connections between places of origin and destination. Covering both domestic and international migration, especially in the African context, his work relates to trends in migration, migrants' investments, return migration, transnational families, integration and transnationalism. Over the last decade, he has been responsible for projects involving large scale surveys: the Migration between Africa and Europe project (MAFE) and the Trajectories and origin survey (TeO).

Pietro Mona, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Pietro Mona is Deputy Head of the Global Programme on Migration and Development at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Takiywaa Manuh, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Takyiwaa Manuh is Director, Social Development Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Prior to joining ECA, she had been Professor of African Studies at the University of Ghana, where she also served as Director of the Institute of African Studies from 2002-2009. She is also a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds a Ph.D in Anthropology from Indiana University, Bloomington. She has served on the boards of several national, regional and international organizations and received several awards and recognitions, including the University of Ghana's Meritorious Service Award, and the Republic of Ghana's Order of the Volta (Officer Class), both in 2007. She has published widely in the areas of African development, gender and women's rights and empowerment, contemporary African migrations, and higher education.

Clare Menozzi, United Nations Population Division

Clare Menozzi is a Population Affairs Officer in the United Nations Population Division.

Justin MacDermottt, United Nations Population Division

Justin MacDermott is an Adviser supporting the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration. Most recently, he served as Senior Policy Adviser in the Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Prior to this, Mr. MacDermott headed the African Security Studies Programme at the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI). Previously, he worked for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh as well as for the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Mr. MacDermott holds an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.