



Biographies of Presenters



Aakanksha Sinha earned her Ph.D degree in Social Work from Boston College, USA. A trained mixed-methods social science researcher, her passion lies in examining social and cultural factors that determine access to basic needs. She utilizes a strength based perspective in her research, thus focusing on community resilience, household and individual level strengths and social capital. Her contributions in the area of child welfare, health and poverty have been published in highly recognized scholarly journals and books such as *Children & Youth Services Review*, *Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the U.S.*, *Sage Encyclopedia of World Poverty*, *Global Social Welfare*, and *BMC Public Health*, amongst others.



Aalok Ranjan Chaurasia is currently Professor at 'Shyam' Institute, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. His PhD is from Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, and he holds Post Graduate Diploma in Population and Development from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has worked as Director, Population Resource Centre, RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, and Professor, Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. He is a member of International Union for Scientific Study of Population and life member of the Indian Association for the Study of Population. He has written and edited many books and monographs and published more than 110 research papers.



Abdul Muheet Chowdhary is a legislative aide to B Vinod Kumar, Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Karimnagar, Telangana. His work involves providing legislative and policy assistance to the Honorable MP. Prior to this he worked in the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan. Abdul is a columnist with the Huffington Post and has written extensively on tax reform. He has also written on good governance at length, and his work has been published by Niti Aayog, UNDP, Ministry of Personnel (GoI) and various state governments.



Abhinav Narayanan is Ph. D Scholar from University of Georgia. He has completed his master's in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research interests include development economics, macroeconomics, labor economics and econometrics. He has received several awards like the E.T Comer Scholarship Award from the University of Georgia, Graduate School Dean's Award for Social Sciences, and University of Georgia Labor Economics Award for Young South Asian Scholars and the South Asia Research Network (SARNET) Award.



Ahmed Moumami is Head of Research in the Center of Initiative of Development Euro-Africa in Meylan, France. Before this period, Mr. Moumami was Senior Research Economist at the Development Research Department of the African Development Bank since October 2007. He has been Task Manager of several projects and flagship studies and Reports on Fiscal policy, poverty and inequality measurement, Inclusive growth and employment analysis. He has been task Manager of the African Economic Outlook Report as well as the African Economic Conference for two editions. He was also Assistant and Associate Professor for 14 years at the University of Mascara, Algeria. Ahmed Moumami holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Tlemcen, Algeria and CERDI-Clermont-Ferrand, France.



Akshaya Kumar Panda has a Master degree in Sustainable Development. He has worked with M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Regional Centre, Jeypore, Odisha, since 2001 in the areas of biodiversity conservation, medicinal plants, community seed management system, food, nutrition and health security, and participatory livelihood improvement. He has experience and understanding of pro-nutrition agriculture interventions, knowledge and experience of participatory assessments, training methodologies, ICT tools and documentation skills. Currently he is working as a senior scientist in the research project “Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA)” and coordinates the Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) initiative in Koraput district, Odisha.



Alejandra Villanueva Ubillús holds a BA and a professional title in Sociology from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, and a MA in International Development and Development Management from the University of Manchester. She has worked at the Universidad delPacífico Research Center as an analyst for consultancies and research projects with a focus on international cooperation, extractive industries and development in Peru and Latin America. She is currently engaged in M&E consultancies for academic institutions, and collaborating with On Think Tanks on research pieces on the challenges thinks tanks face in developing countries. Her research interests include the impact that international development agendas have at a national and subnational level, and the politics of development.



Amir Ullah Khan is a development economist, policy advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Visiting Professor at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. He teaches Economic policy at the ISB and Health economics at the Manipal Institute of Technology. Amir has a PhD in Business Studies from Jamia Millia Central University. He graduated from the Institute of Rural Management in Anand (IRMA) and earlier from the Osmania University College of Engineering. He is on the Governing board at the Welham Girls School, Aequitas Consulting, Digital Empowerment Foundation and the Presidency University. He has worked as Editor at Encyclopedia Britannica and Director of the India Development Foundation. Amir has served as a member of the Post Sachar Evaluation Committee.



Amrita Ghatak is currently working with Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, as an assistant professor. Her doctoral thesis focused on the impact of health on labour supply and wages with a special emphasis on agricultural workers in West Bengal. Her present research interest includes various issues on health, environment and labour. She is presently looking into (a) the environmental regulations and compliance behaviour in textile dyes sector of Gujarat; (b) occupational safety, health and well-being of workers in selected industries in India; and (c) factors determining usage of toilets in rural Gujarat. She uses both qualitative and quantitative techniques as the tools in her research work.



Andrea Frank is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University (Wales, UK). Andrea has a background in both Urban Planning and Architecture. One of her research areas is urban sustainability and she has investigated how sustainability is progressed and implemented in European cities. In particular, she has explored which kind and how institutional and governance arrangements at metropolitan or city region level can enhance sustainability. More recently she started to explore different interpretation of green

infrastructure in different world regions as well as the contributions of green infrastructure to sustainability. She also has expertise in planning education and pedagogy and public participation for planning and urban design.



Anil Methipara is currently an undergraduate economics major in his final year at Carleton College, and will be graduating in mid-June of this year. He is currently looking into careers in public policy, climate policy, and environmental finance. His academic interests vary from the economics of climate change and development to the examination of the Malayalee diasporic experience and race in the United States. His paper for the PES conference was initially inspired by an internship experience he had in Kerala at the Centre for Public Policy Research where he learned more about the “Kerala Model of Development” and the more recent socio-economic challenges emerging in Kerala.



Anjana Thampi is a research scholar at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests include development economics, environmental economics and political economy. Her doctoral thesis studies the nutritional impact of food transfers in India, in the context of the continuing debate on cash versus in-kind transfers. The paper considers the impact of expanded coverage of the Public Distribution System on the nutritional status of beneficiary children, in light of the recent revival of this system in certain states.



Anjani Kumar is Research Fellow at the South Asia Office of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in New Delhi. Before joining to IFPRI, he was Principal Scientist (Agricultural Economics) at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India. Earlier, he has served as Principal Scientist at National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi and as Senior Agricultural Economist in the Asia Office of International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi. His area of research includes food & nutrition security, agricultural diversification, impact assessment, value chain analysis, agricultural trade and food safety.



Annika Surmeier is a human geographer and works at the faculty of Geography, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany. In her research she focuses on sustainability innovations in global value chains and analyses them from an evolutionary, transnational perspective. The focus of Annika’s PhD project is on the development, impact and diffusion of sustainability standards in the South African tourism industry. A central question guiding her research is how actors from emerging economies can influence global institution building. Annika has been a visiting researcher at the University of Manchester and the University of Cape Town, South Africa where she also conducted extensive empirical data collection



Asilata Karandikar has worked as a researcher in the field of gender and health with the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes, Mumbai. She has been associated with advocacy on safe abortion and prevention of sex selection through CEHAT and with the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership. She has done her Masters in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and in Women’s Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.



Bandita Sijapati is Research Director at the Center for the Study of Labor and Mobility (CESLAM) at the Social Science Baha in Kathmandu, Nepal. She received her PhD from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Her main fields of research are labour and migration, political transitions and development. She has worked with various international organizations and served as an expert to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SAARC Secretariat.



Bhim Reddy is an Associate Fellow at IHD, and an Associate Editor of the Indian Journal of Human Development. His Ph.D from the Department of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad, focused on rural-urban labour migration and agrarian change. His research interests are in agrarian political economy, manifestations of caste in contemporary India, everyday lives and politics of migrant/informal labour in urban centres, emerging recruitment practices in urban labour markets, struggles for urban citizenship, and urban violence.



Brian Boshoff, PhD is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He holds degrees in Social Science, Development Planning and Environmental Planning and completed his Ph D at Virginia Tech., USA. His areas of interest include Sustainable Development at large, the Sustainable City, Water and Sustainability, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.



Carlos Gradín (Ph.D in Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 1999) is Professor of Applied Economics at Universidade de Vigo in Galicia, Spain, and a member of the EQUALITAS network of researchers on income distribution. His main research interests are distributive issues such as poverty, inequality, mobility, or polarization, as well as gender and ethnic economics. His research has been published so far in journals such as the Journal of Economic Inequality, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of Household Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Regional Studies, Journal of African Economics, Industrial Relations, among others.



Caryn Bredenkamp is a Senior Economist in the World Bank Health Nutrition and Population Global Practice. Until recently, she was based in the World Bank's Manila office, working on the Philippines, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, and has held previous assignments in the World Bank's Europe and South Asia regions. She recently moved to Hanoi to become the health cluster lead for the Vietnam program. Caryn specializes in issues of health care financing, health insurance, and the promotion and measurement of health system equity. Caryn holds a PhD in Public Policy (Health Economics), a Master's degree in Economics and, before joining the World Bank Group, spent several years lecturing Economics in South Africa and the Netherlands. When not working, she can be found practicing yoga or training her rescue dogs in agility sport.



Chandan Roy is a Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University. He is working on 'Sustainable Rural Development: A Policy Study of Indian Sundarbans'. He has completed his M.Phil from the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University. His research interests revolve around the area of sustainable rural development, environment, economics of adaptation, poverty, livelihood and food security. He worked as a Project Fellow at Vidyasagar

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Charan S Verma is Senior Fellow at Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow. He is working in Health and Development sector and has completed a number of research projects and studies in this area. He has undertaken several action research projects and independent studies. Dr Verma did M.Phil and Ph.D in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr Verma had worked as Associate Professor at Lucknow. He has also contributed as a journalist at National Herald, New Delhi and has written three books and more than twenty research papers in national and international journals and several articles in national dailies. His areas of interest are Health Economics, Public Health and Poverty Studies. Dr Verma lives in Lucknow. He can be approached at charan_verma@rediffmail.com and verma.cs@gmail.com.



Christian Viegelahn works as an Economist in the Research Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO). His current research focuses on international trade, global supply chains and the labour market. He obtained his PhD from the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium, where he has worked with Indian firm-level data, analysing the impact of trade policies on firm behaviour in India. In 2010, he was granted a Best Paper Award from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. Christian Viegelahn published his work in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Economic Integration or the Foreign Trade Review, and contributed to various ILO flagship reports, including the World Employment and Social Outlook and the Global Employment Trends report. He has presented his research at numerous international seminars and conferences.



Daniel Owen is a Senior Social Development Specialist in the ECA Social Development team. He has co-managed the ECA Region Poverty and Social Impact Analysis Trust Fund since its inception and leads work in the region on community-driven development, leading project design and managing teams and programs on rural infrastructure development and social inclusion in Azerbaijan, Poland, Romania, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. He also leads work in support of social dimensions of labour restructuring in the region. Previously he worked as coordinator of the Bank's anchor unit for Community-Driven Development, as a Social Development Specialist at the International Finance Corporation and, during a decade of work in the Africa region, as a participation and poverty specialist based in the World Bank's Mozambique country office. His academic background is in Anthropology and he has attended the universities of Cambridge, Harvard and the London School of Economics.



Dev Nathan is Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development and Visiting Research Fellow at the Center on Globalisation, Governance and Competitiveness (CGGC) at Duke University, USA. An economist, his main research interests are global production networks, labour conditions, rural and indigenous peoples' development, and gender issues. He is a Co-editor of the forthcoming series Development Trajectories in Global Value Chains from Cambridge University Press. Recent publications are Aadhaar: Gender, Identity and Development

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Diderot Sandjong is a PhD student in Economics at the University of Ottawa, Canada. His current research involves study of Business cycle co-movement, Econometrics (Theory and applied) and Public Policy. He has worked for the government of Cameroon as an Economist at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development and the National Institute of Statistics of Cameroon between 2010 and 2011. He has also worked as a Senior Statistician and Chief of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Component under the Malaria Control Program of Cameroon by the Minister of Public Health in the Round 9 project.



Dhushyanth Raju is a Senior Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist, South Asia Region, World Bank. He currently engages in policy research and advice on education, labor, health, and nutrition in South Asia. He holds a PhD in economics from Cornell University, USA.



Ejaz Ghani is Lead Economist at The World Bank. He has worked on Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Corporate Strategy, and Independent Evaluation Unit. He has written on economic growth, macro policies, poverty, employment, entrepreneurship, urbanization, gender, trade, decentralization, and agriculture. He has been a consultant at ILO, UNCTAD, and UNICEF. He has edited several books including *Reshaping Tomorrow--Is South Asia Ready for the Big Leap?* Oxford University Press 2011; *The Poor Half Billion in South Asia*, Oxford University Press 2010; *The Service Revolution in South Asia*, Oxford University Press 2010; *Accelerating Growth and Job Creation in South Asia* (with S. Ahmed) 2009, *Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia* (with S. Ahmed and S. Kelgama), 2009; and *Growth and Regional Integration* (with S. Ahmed) Macmillan 2007. Prior to joining The World Bank, he taught economics at St. Anne's College (Oxford University) and Shri Ram College of Commerce (Delhi University). He obtained an M. Phil. & D. Phil in Economics from Oxford University. He did his schooling in Bihar; Bachelors at St. Stephen's College; and Masters at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. He is an Inlaks scholar.



Felix Muchomba is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University School of Social Work. His research interests include effects of social policies and household resource allocation with a focus on gender inequalities in Eastern Africa and South Asia, and among immigrants from these regions to the United States. Under this research agenda, he has examined land tenure reform, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and other issues that are pertinent to developing societies. He holds a Ph.D. in social policy and policy analysis from Columbia University School Of Social Work.



Hagos Nigussie Kahssay is from Ethiopia, east Africa. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Communication and Social Change, the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Before joining the Centre for Communication and Social Change, Hagos has worked as a Lecturer and Head of the department of Journalism and Communication at Mekelle University, Tigray, Ethiopia. Apart

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Indira Hirway is National Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and Associate at Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York. She is also Professor of Economics and Director at Centre for Development Alternatives Ahmedabad 1999. Major areas of her interest are development alternatives; employment & labour market structures, poverty and human development, environment and development, time use studies, gender and development etc. Her recent publications include *Time Use Surveys and Integrating Unpaid Work in National Policies: With reference to Global South* (editor), 2016 and *Growth or Development: Which Way is Gujarat Going?* (Editor), 2014, both published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi 2014. She has been (is) consultant to ILO, UNSD, UNDP, UNW, UNESCAP, UNECA, and UNECLAC.



Iris Macculi is Economic Affairs Officer at the Social Development Policy Division of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa. She has previously worked as Research Economist at the ILO International Institute for Labour Studies in Geneva, as well as Economist and Social Policy Specialist with UNDP in Benin. Ms. Macculi was also a Research Associate and Lecturer in University of Geneva from 2005 to 2009. She has worked on issues of multidimensional poverty and inequality, and produced independent studies on social exclusion, polarization and deprivation-health linkages.



Jhilam Ray teaches Economics at the University of Burdwan, West Bengal. He completed his graduation and Post-graduation from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His doctoral work has been on Intergenerational Mobility in India. He has written on issues related to Social Discrimination, Intergenerational Mobility, and Agricultural Development. His works have been published in *Indian Journal of Human Development*, *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, *Environment & Ecology*, as also in various edited volumes. He has also co-authored chapters in several District Human Development Reports in West Bengal.



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Joydeep Baruah is an Associate Professor at OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. His research interest include human development, multi-dimensional poverty, livelihoods, etc., in which he has published several papers in various journals. Most recently, he has been involved with the preparation of Assam Human Development Report, based on a large-scale field survey, of which he is the principal author.



Lubna Naz is presently serving as Assistant Professor Economics, Karachi University. She has completed her Ph.D. in Economics in 2016 from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, Pakistan. She has published her research work in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, and Pakistan Development Review. She has participated in many national and international conferences and presented articles on energy, health economics, and growth- poverty-nexus. Presently, she lends her services as reviewer in Pakistan Development review. Dr Naz has coordinated in many research projects at the national and international level.



M.R. Narayana is Professor of Economics in the Centre for Economic Studies and Policy at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (Bengaluru, India). He earned his Ph.D from the University of Tsukuba in Japan. He has over two decades of teaching and research experience with a Visiting Professorship at the faculty of economics in University of Tokyo and University of Victoria. He specializes in Education Economics with focus on public financing of higher education and human development. His current research topics include the construction of National Transfer Accounts for India and analyses of growth effects of age structure transition on economic growth with special reference to public education expenditure.



Manoj Bandan Balsamanta is a Senior Research Associate at IHD. His doctoral dissertation focused on caste, class and social capital in higher education. His research interests are in sociology of Indian Sociology; canon formation; contemporary and unfamiliar caste; (re)production of advantages and marginalities in higher education; and the political economy of inequalities and violence.



Manvendra Singh is a Research Associate at Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), where he works on the Bihar Electrification Project (BEP). Prior to joining J-PAL in June 2016, he worked with Professor Tarun Jain, Assistant Professor of Economics & Public Policy at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, on a variety of projects. He completed my M.S. in Quantitative Economics (QE), Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. His research interests include Development economics, Experimental economics, Public economics, Social networks, Peer effects, Caste and India.



Mario Spiezio is an international consultant specialized in data and policy analysis at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Reduce Rural Poverty Programme". He is mainly working on the production and compilation of data on rural incomes, livelihoods and rural development as part of an inter-agency initiative, namely the Rural Livelihoods Monitor. Mario previously carried out comparative research on social protection systems at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). He is also a Doctoral Researcher in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute of Florence.



Marta Duda-Nyczak is a national of Poland and serves as an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Subregional Office based in Lusaka, Zambia. In addition to playing the role of a Statistics focal point for projects focused on enhancing statistical capacity in the sub-region, she closely works with the subregional stakeholders on other development issues, spanning from industrialization to regional integration. Before joining UNECA in 2015, she worked at International Labour Organization, Job-friendly Macroeconomic Policies Unit in Geneva. A graduate of Warsaw School of Economics with a degree in economics and an MScE from HEC Lausanne, she also followed special programmes at Korea Advanced Institute of Technology and University of Sydney.



Matthew Morton is a Social Protection Specialist in the World Bank with a focus on South Asia. Matt's focus areas include youth development and skills, gender equity, social safety nets, and policy evaluation. He joined the World Bank Group in December 2012 through the Young Professionals leadership development program and initially coordinated the global Gender team's research and activities on women's economic opportunities and prevention of gender-based violence. Prior to joining the Bank, Matt served as Special Advisor on youth and family policy in the United States government where he worked on the US Strategy to End Youth Homelessness, national youth development programs, and developing a priority agenda around addressing child trauma. He has been a fellow and consultant with a number of institutions, including the US Senate, the European Commission, and philanthropic foundations. In several regions and capacities, Mat has focused on the production and uptake of rigorous evidence to inform social policy. He holds a D.Phil. and M.Sc. in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation from the University of Oxford. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Stetson University. Matt is based in New Delhi.



Md. Juel Rana is a Ph. D. research scholar of Population Studies at Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His M. Phil. research work was on "Linkage between family planning and nutritional status of women and their children in select south Asian countries". His research interests are issues regarding family planning, fertility and health.



Mohammad Mainul Islam received his PhD in Demography from the Institute of Population Research, Peking University, China. He completed a Global Health Research Capacity Strengthening Program Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill University, Canada in 2014. Currently he is Associate Professor in the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka. Awarded the 'First Prize of Academic Excellence Award' of Peking University in 2008, he was later named as 'Nick Simons Scholar' of the New Investigator in Global Health (NIGH) of the Global Health Council, Washington, D.C., USA. Dr. Islam works on reproductive health, child health, urban health, and health communication. Other areas of research include population health, with specific interests in global health and population, social demography, population and development, and China Studies.



Mustaq Malla is working as Senior Research Fellow in Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). Before this he has worked as a development practitioner and researcher for more than 6 years in Kashmir and abroad with various international and national institutions and organizations. The author has completed MSc in Social Policy and Development from London School of Economics and Political

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Nabaneeta Biswas is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of Georgia. Her research interests include health economics, applied microeconomics and gender studies. She is currently working with political and household datasets from India to study health policy impact on girls and women. She has a master's and bachelor's degree in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Calcutta, respectively.



Naline Gandhi completed her B.A. Economics from Holy Cross College, Trichy and a gold medalist of the Bharathidasan University. She joined her Master's in Economics at Loyola College, Chennai and passed in first class with distinction. Right now pursuing her research as a full time research scholar at Madras School of Economics under Dr. Brinda Viswanathan, Professor, Madras School of Economics with the UGC-JRF fellowship. Her main area of research interests lies in child health, morbidity and nutrition related issues. She attended lot of workshops and conferences which enhanced the skills. An earlier version of this paper was presented in International Conference on Public Health- 2015 at Sri Lanka where she got 'Best Paper Award' in Nutrition and Wellness session.



Natalie Langford is a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Development Policy and Management (IDPM) at the University of Manchester. Natalie is also a contributor to Rising Powers and Global Standards, a global research network studying the role that Brazil, China and India playing in shaping labour standards in the production of goods and services. Prior to her commencement of the PhD, Natalie worked for a number of non-governmental organisations, focusing on labour issues in global supply chains. She holds a Masters (MSc) in Climate Change and Policy from University of Sussex. Her current research interests include labour rights, regulation and governance and the intersection between public and private institutions within the creation of standards.



Neha Prashar gained her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with Economics at University College London and went onto do her Master's degree in Development Economics at the University of Birmingham. After successfully receiving funding for her PhD, she is currently undertaking her PhD in Economics at the University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on the labour market in India, assessing the impact of affirmative action policies in public employment on targeted groups. Her interests lie in the field of labour, gender and development economics and is presently a teaching associate at the University of Birmingham for Political Economy, Development Theory and Econometrics in Development master level modules for the Department of Economics.



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Palashpriya Halder is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College in Kolkata. A graduate from Presidency College, Kolkata with B.Sc. (Economics Honours) and M.A. (Economics) from Delhi School of Economics, she has qualified for UGC NET-JRF. At present she is engaged in doing Ph.D. from Calcutta University, Department of Economics under supervision of Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay.



Panchanan Das is a Professor of Economics teaching Time Series and Panel Data Econometrics in the Department of Economics of the University of Calcutta. He has published several articles on growth, inequality and poverty in referred journals and edited volume. He is a major contributor of West Bengal Development Report - 2008, published by Academic Foundation, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Planning Commission, Government of India. He has also contributed to the Routledge volume, Springer volume, Science and Technology volume of the CSIR.



Pankhuri Jha works as a Research Consultant with J-PAL South Asia. She completed her graduate studies from South Asian University, New Delhi. Her research interests include rural financial markets, financial inclusion, disaster studies and econometrics. She is working on a number of research assignments involving a great deal of empirical work and qualitative assessments. She has in the past worked with a number of leading Non-Governmental Organizations in the country giving her strong insights about the working of this sector and the challenges of creating sound public policy.



Pedro Arruda holds a (B.A and Honors) in International Relations from the University of Brasilia - UnB (2009) and a Master's degree in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, JNU, India (2012). He has been a researcher at the IPC-IG, UNDP since 2013. During this time he has performed a series of research roles including technical support for constructing social programmes in African countries, Guest-Editing and authoring IPC publications and providing technical assistance to Study Tours. Mr. Arruda is a specialist in social policies and programmes of the Global South, with a focus on South-South cooperation.



Piero Conforti, holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Siena and Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, University of Oxford, Queen Elizabeth House. Since 2003, Piero has worked at FAO as Economist, and then Senior Statistician, in the Economic and Social Development Department. Piero is currently responsible for rural livelihoods statistics, and the development and piloting of indicators of decent work and social protection in agriculture and rural areas. In recent years Piero was responsible for food security statistics, involved in the preparation of the State of Food Insecurity in the World reports and in several capacity building projects. For FAO, Piero has also worked as economist in the Global Perspectives Studies team, in charge of long terms projection of world agricultural markets; and in the Trade and Market Division, in charge of trade policy analysis.



Pouirketa Rita Nikiema earned her Ph.D recently in Applied Economics from University Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal). Her dissertation examined firstly, the impact of school feeding programs on enrollment and attendance particularly for girls; secondly it analyzed the determinants of child nutritional status in particular the role of mother's education in Burkina Faso. Rita is graduated from the University of Koudougou and the University Ouaga II. Her research interests are broadly economics of education, nutrition, health, labors economics and human capital. In future work, she hopes to learn about women empowerment and youth employment through financial inclusion in developing world, and its effect on child health outcomes and local economic development.



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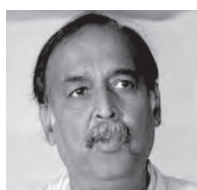
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