

Speaker bios

[Mary Suzan Abbo](#) is Managing Director at the Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) in Uganda. CREEC is a not-for-profit organisation for research, training, consultancy and testing located at, and working closely with, the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT, the former Faculty of Technology) within Makerere University.

[Anannia Admassu Sahle](#) is Managing Director of CHADET, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

[Rukmini Banerji](#) is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pratham Education Foundation. Trained as an economist in India, she completed a BA degree at St Stephen's College and attended Delhi School of Economics. She was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and later earned her PhD at the University of Chicago. She returned to India in 1996 and has been with Pratham ever since. She has extensive fieldwork experience with rural and urban communities as well as in designing and implementing large-scale partnerships with governments. For many years, she led Pratham's research and assessment activities, including the well-known ASER initiative (Annual Status of Education Report) from 2005 to 2014. Originally from Bihar, she is now based in Delhi.

[Dr Sopheak Chann](#) is a Researcher on the Blood Bricks team. He is also a Lecturer at the Department of Natural Resource Management and Development, Royal University of Phnom Penh, and an Honorary Associate in Geography at the University of Sydney. He has a decade of research experience on land and resource management and has a PhD on the political ecology of Cambodian resource frontiers.

[Soumya Chattopadhyay](#) is a Senior Research Fellow in the Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the UK. His expertise is in quantitative approaches to identifying groups that remain persistently marginalised from development processes. His current research includes assessing the impact of policies and programmes on such groups through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development initiatives.

[Matiyas Asfa Chefa](#) Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ethiopia.

[Dr Mushtaque Chowdhury](#) is the Vice-Chair of BRAC – the world's largest development non-governmental organisation (NGO), ranked number one in the world for the third consecutive year by NGO

Advisor. Previously, he was Executive Director of BRAC, the Founding Director of the Research and Evaluation Division and the Founding Dean of the James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University.

Dr Chowdhury is also a founder of the civil society watchdog groups, Bangladesh Education Watch and Bangladesh Health Watch. He is also Professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, New York. He has published nearly 200 articles in international journals on the subjects of poverty, public health, education, NGOs and the environment.

[Professor Andrew Church](#) is Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at the University of Brighton, UK. He is also Professor of Human Geography, focusing on the cultural dimensions of human–nature relations. He undertakes research that is highly interdisciplinary and collaborative and has recently worked on projects funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). He is the current academic lead for the award-winning University of Brighton Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP) and has more than 30 years’ experience of undertaking co-produced research with a range of community and public sector organisations. He and colleagues at Brighton have recently been funded by UK Research and Innovation to produce a national guide on developing partnerships for community university collaborative research.

[Louise Clark](#) has worked as a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) professional for the past 10 years, during which time she has worked for both Oxfam America and ActionAid International and as an independent evaluator. Her work involves all stages of the MEL cycle, from the strategic design of MEL frameworks and approaches, creating MEL processes and products, and supporting monitoring and reporting, to managing evaluations and facilitating spaces for reflection and learning. She has strong facilitation skills with particular interest in Theory of Change as a tool to build shared ownership of project outcomes and to challenge assumptions about how change happens to support learning and improvement. She also has considerable experience in managing project evaluations, having commissioned numerous evaluations for international NGOs as well as designing and implementing fieldwork as an independent consultant.

[Tim Conway](#) is Senior Social Development Advisor at the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Research and Evidence Division. He has spent 20 years working on international development and aid policy for donors, thinktanks and NGOs, including nine years in Cambodia and Ethiopia country offices. He has experience in managing programmes, teams, and national and international policy dialogue, with technical expertise in social protection, poverty measurement and analysis, monitoring and evaluation,

building national capacity for poverty-focused policy processes and coordinating support to these processes, and political/policy system analysis. He is also skilled in communicating concepts, data and recommendations in a variety of formats to a range of audiences.

[Sarah Cook](#) has recently taken up the position of Director at the Institute for Global Development, University of New South Wales, in Sydney, Australia. She previously spent almost 10 years leading research institutes within the United Nations (UN) – as Director of UNICEF’s Office of Research/Innocenti Research Centre, in Florence, Italy, and from 2009 to 2015 as Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva. In these roles, she has led research on transformative social and economic policy, shaping UN debates on equity, sustainability and social justice, and engaging at the intersection of research, policy and programming. Her own research has focused on China, following the country’s social and economic transformations over more than 30 years. Key research interests include social policy and social protection, labour markets and migration, and gender. From 1996 to 2009, she was a Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), at the University of Sussex, and spent 5 years as a Programme Officer with the Ford Foundation in Beijing. She received her PhD in Public Policy from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

[Sarath Davala](#) is a sociologist based in Hyderabad, India. He is Vice-Chair of the Basic Income Earth Network and the co-founder and coordinator of India Network for Basic Income (INBI). Working with Guy Standing and the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), he was the architect behind the Madhya Pradesh Basic Income Pilot.

[Dr Priya Deshingkar](#) is a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK. Her research focuses on migration and poverty, and particularly precarity and agency, migration brokerage and the migration industry, trafficking, modern slavery, migration and development, covering the regions of South and Southeast Asia as well as East, West and southern Africa, where she has worked closely with national partners. Priya holds a PhD from IDS and is an internationally recognised authority on internal migration. She has played a key role in influencing the global policy discourse on internal migration and development. Her most recent book (2009) is *Circular Migration and Multilocational Livelihood Strategies in Rural India* (co-edited with John Farrington). Until 2009, Dr Deshingkar was a Research Fellow at ODI.

[Arjan de Haan](#) is Acting Director of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)’s Inclusive Economies Programme. He leads a multidisciplinary team that strengthens policy research capacity in developing countries on issues of economic policy, governance, and health systems. He has previously led

IDRC programming on poverty reduction, employment, and growth. Before joining IDRC, Arjan was Social Development Advisor at DFID for 10 years in the Policy Division on China and India, leading work on poverty analysis and social protection. He also taught international development at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands, the University of Guelph in Canada, and the University of Sussex, UK. Arjan holds a PhD in Social History from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

[Peter Evans](#) is leader of the Governance, Conflict and Social Development (GCSD) Research Team at DFID's Research and Evidence Division. He has previously been a senior UK government advisor, also working at DFID Malawi and DFID Bangladesh. He studied at Oxford University before undertaking a PhD in Medical Geography at Exeter University.

[Catherine Flynn](#) is Programme Lead for the ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research Programme and Senior Research Portfolio Manager, International Development, at the ESRC.

[Neil C Garcia](#) teaches creative writing and comparative literature at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, where he serves as Director of the University Press and a Fellow for Poetry in the Institute of Creative Writing. He has written numerous poetry collections and works in literary and cultural criticism. His poems, essays and books have received various prestigious prizes, including the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award, the Philippines Free Press Literary Award, and the National Book Award. He regularly contributes film and theatre reviews to GMA News Online. He is Director for the Philippines of Global GRACE: Global Gender and Cultures of Equality – a world-wide research and arts consortium sponsored by Research Councils UK and Goldsmiths, University of London.

[Haris Gazdar](#) is a Senior Researcher at the Collective for Social Science Research. He has contributed widely to social science research and policy debates in Pakistan and elsewhere, teaching and conducting academic research in the UK, India and Pakistan. Besides academic and consultancy assignments, he has worked as an honorary advisor to research programmes, governments and NGOs. His current research interests include poverty, hunger and nutrition, and social protection. He is also interested in innovative methods for making social science research more democratic. He has an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

[James Georgalakis](#) is Director of Communications and Impact at IDS, helping to shape the Institute's approach to research communications, strengthening evidence use and evaluating research impact. He is also Director of the ESRC-DFID Impact Initiative for international development research. He is currently

enrolled at the University of Bath as a Doctoral Candidate in Policy Research and Practice. His research interests relate to the role of networks and relationships in the mobilisation of research knowledge for development.

[Abantika Ghosh](#) is a print journalist with 17 years' experience of working in some of the biggest English dailies in India, including *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express*, where she is currently working. Her strongest interests are health policy, public health, and the intersection of health and politics.

[Dr Irene Guijt](#) leads Oxfam GB's Research and Publishing Team, which uses evidence to influence economic, environmental and social justice. Prior to this, she worked for 25 years in rural development, natural resource management, collective action and social justice. Much of her work has focused on elevating ignored voice – for example, through pioneering the SenseMaker® stories-at-scale approach on issues that include girls' empowerment, inclusive business, accountable democracy, water service delivery, and youth leadership. She previously worked at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and was a Research Associate for ODI and a Research Fellow at the Australian National University. She co-edited a book (2015) entitled *The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules?* She is currently involved in an ESRC-funded research project on zero hunger–zero emissions for Bangladesh. Her PhD from Wageningen University focused on learning processes between smallholder organisations, government and research for transforming food systems.

[Professor Alcinda Honwana](#) is Inter-Regional Advisor on Social Development Policy at the United Nations. She is also a Centennial Professor at LSE and a Visiting Professor of International Development at the Open University. She has carried out extensive research on youth and conflict, youth transitions, social movements and political protest. Her latest books include *Youth and Revolution in Tunisia* (2013) and *The Time of Youth: Work, Social Change, and Politics in Africa* (2012).

[Dr Caroline Ignacio](#) is Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for Instituto Promundo. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to promoting equity through research and action on the social determinants of health. Her PhD research focused on promoting people-centred care, addressing the social determinants of health in primary health care and beyond in Manguinhos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Previously, she worked as a consultant for the International Injury Research Unit of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Belo Horizonte Observatory for Urban Health, and the Public Health Technological Development Programme (PDTSP / Teias). She holds a PhD from the Tropical Medicine

Graduate Programme of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute (IOC / FIOCRUZ). Her main interests are urban health and development, community-based participatory research, and using mixed methods to develop indicators for evaluating interventions.

[Dr Vicky Johnson](#) has more than 20 years' experience as a researcher and consultant in social and community development, both in the UK and internationally. She is Principal Investigator for Youth Uncertainty Rights (YOUR) World Research in Ethiopia and Nepal, supported by the ESRC-DFID Poverty Alleviation Fund (2016–2019). She has recently led research into steps for engaging children in research (Bernard van Leer Foundation), social protection and education for street connected girls in Nairobi (United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)), and Youth Sexual Rights (International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)). She has designed and led academic training on Creating Impact in Social Sciences and has advised on the ethics of carrying out research with marginalised and vulnerable children and youth. She supervises Doctoral and Master's students and teaches on Master's programmes in childhood, youth and international development, international education and child rights.

[Professor Naila Kabeer](#) is an Indian-born British Bangladeshi social economist, research fellow and writer. She is Professor of Gender and Development at the Department of Gender Studies (LSE) and DFID. Her research interests include gender, poverty, social exclusion, labour markets and livelihoods, social protection and citizenship, with much of her research focused on South and Southeast Asia. She is currently involved in research projects funded by ESRC-DIFD on gender and labour market dynamics in Bangladesh and India. She completed a PhD on fieldwork in a village in Bangladesh, awarded by the LSE.

[Melanie Knetsch](#) is the ESRC's strategic lead for Innovation and Interdisciplinarity. Her responsibilities include developing ESRC's thinking and activities around interdisciplinary, challenge-led activities and ensuring that its research portfolio is more visible to potential users as well as creating opportunities to enable researchers from other communities to engage with social science. She is also ESRC's strategic lead for working with Innovate UK and ESRC's strategic liaison for the University of Birmingham and University of Edinburgh.

[Beryl Leach](#) is Director and Head of the Policy, Advocacy and Communication Office (PACO). She is also a member of 3ie's senior management team. At PACO, she leads and provides strategic direction to 3ie's work in supporting the uptake of policy messages based on impact evaluations and systematic reviews, promoting commitment to evidence-based policymaking and translating knowledge through 3ie's integrated approach to communication. Her current research focus is on building understanding of the production and use of

evidence in development policymaking processes. She has more than 15 years' senior-level experience and achievement in international development. She was Founding Executive of Health Action International (HAI) Africa in Nairobi, where she led efforts to build civil society engagement and policy influence on access to affordable essential medicines. She was also a member of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB, and Access to Essential Medicines, and was one of the lead authors of its final report.

[Pam Mason](#) joined the ESRC in 2017 as strategic lead for International Development. As a result of a particular interest in interdisciplinary research, her career since 2006 has spanned several research councils, including the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the AHRC, and most recently working in the International Development Team at the Medical Research Council (MRC). The team is responsible for maintaining ESRC's relationships with key international development agencies, including the DFID, with whom ESRC has a long-standing partnership. The team leads on the ESRC's engagement with the Global Challenges Research Fund, through which a key aim is to expand the capacity of the UK research base to engage in international partnership working to address major development challenges. Pam received a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Nottingham in 2005.

[Sujeeta Mathema](#) is Executive Director, ActionAid International (Nepal).

[Denise Namburete](#) is Executive Director of N'weti Health Communication, an NGO based in Maputo, Mozambique, which uses social and behavioural change practice, policy and advocacy to address adolescents' health needs. She develops and implements programmes to change social norms and behaviours related to a variety of health and gender issues, including discrimination and gender-based violence. She has an MSc in Economics from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

[Pradeep Narayanan](#) is a practitioner of participatory research methods and approaches, working on diverse themes, including community mobilisation, ethics, child rights and bonded labour. He co-developed the India Responsible Business Index, which measures social inclusion in business practices. Over the past 20 years, he has designed participatory monitoring frameworks around diverse issues and themes. He is currently with Praxis as Director of Research and Capacity Building. He is also Director of Partners in Change and serves on the advisory board of the *Community Development Journal*. With Tom Thomas, he co-authored the book, *Participation Pays: Pathways for Post-2015*.

[Dr Laurie Parsons](#) is a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Royal Holloway University of London and co-investigator of the project Blood Bricks. A researcher of Cambodian livelihoods since 2008,

his work investigates how economic and environmental changes combine to reproduce socioeconomic inequalities. His research combines a variety of approaches – including visual and statistical analysis of social networks, and qualitative methods – to discern how norms and social structures both reflect and mediate these new conditions. He has conducted large-scale projects examining Cambodia’s uneven economic development for Transparency International, Plan International, Save the Children, CARE International, ActionAid, the IDRC and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, among others.

[Dr Michal Rutkowski](#) is the World Bank’s Senior Director for Social Protection and Jobs, overseeing work in developing systems that protect the poorest and most vulnerable people from crises and shocks, and supporting private sector-led growth. Until July 2016, he was Director for Multilateral Organizations, and prior to that, he was Country Director for the Russian Federation and the Resident Representative in Moscow for three years. His published work covers issues on labour markets and social security. He was a core team member of the 1995 World Development Report, *Workers in an Integrating World*. He holds an MSc and PhD from the Warsaw School of Economics and finished his postgraduate studies at LSE and Harvard Business School.

[Dr Sara Ruto](#) is Coordinator of the People’s Action for Learning (PAL) network, which currently comprises civil society organisations that are conducting citizen-led assessments in 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Prior to this role, she initiated the citizen-led process in Kenya in 2009 that currently operates as Uwezo. She was then Regional Manager of Uwezo East Africa at Twaweza, a citizen-driven initiative in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which uses evidence to draw public attention to children’s learning. Prior to joining Uwezo, she was a lecturer at Kenyatta University, and was awarded her Doctorate degree from Heidelberg University in Germany. She sits in several committees, such as the Global Education Monitoring Report, the Technical Advisory Board of SABER (systems approach for better education results), the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and the INCLUDE knowledge platform.

[Thokozile Ruzvidzo](#) is Director for the African Center for Gender and Development at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, although she originates from Zimbabwe. She has a wealth of experience in gender, training and management, and has accumulated years of leadership experience in national governments, NGOs and UN bodies. She also has extensive experience working with bilateral and multilateral agencies in support of UNECA’s work, as well as participating in strategic thinktanks of bilateral agencies such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) through the OECD/UN gender network partnership.

[Dr Michael Samson](#) is Research Director of the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) in Cape Town, South Africa, and has 33 years' experience working in social protection. His work in 41 countries across Africa, Latin America and Asia focuses on how comprehensive social protection strengthens cross-sectoral public investments in 'cognitive capital' and enables governments to tackle complex challenges and deliver comprehensive outcomes. On the Economics Faculty at the Williams College Center for Development Economics (USA), he lectures at conferences and courses around the world and holds an Economics PhD from Stanford University.

[Dr Rajesh Tandon](#) is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. He founded the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a voluntary organisation supporting grassroots initiatives in South Asia, and continues to be its Chief Functionary since 1982. Participatory research is a methodology that values experiential knowledge and practitioner's wisdom in addition to the more formal knowledge available in academia and books. In 2012 he was appointed as UNESCO Co-Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. He is Chairperson of the Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research (GACER) network. He has authored more than 100 articles, a dozen books and numerous training manuals on themes such as democratic governance, civic engagement, civil society, governance and management of NGOs, participatory research and people-centred development. He has a PhD from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA.

[Rensje Teerink](#) is the Ambassador and Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh. She was born in Luxembourg and is a Dutch national. She studied cultural anthropology/non-Western sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Specialising in Asian studies, she conducted extensive field research in western India (Gujarat and Maharashtra). She joined the European Commission (EC) in 1995 as Administrator for South Asia. In 2006 she was appointed Deputy Head of Unit for India, Nepal, Bhutan and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In 2011 she joined the newly created European External Action Service as Deputy Head of Division for the same countries. She was nominated by the then High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the EC, Catherine Ashton, as EU Ambassador/Head of Delegation to Nepal and EU Representative to the SAARC in April 2013.