List of Speaker Bios

Sandra Polaski

Sandra Polaski was the Deputy Director-General for Policy of the International Labour Organization (ILO) from 2012-2016. In that capacity she provided leadership to the ILO staff and departments responsible for research, statistics, policy analysis and policy advice for the ILO’s 185 Member States. Prior to joining the ILO, Ms. Polaski served as U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Labour in charge of the International Labour Affairs Bureau (ILAB), where she led bilateral and regional policy dialogues with other governments and was responsible for labour issues in the context of trade and trade agreements. Earlier she directed a research and policy program focusing on development, trade and income distribution at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a global think tank.

She is the author of numerous reports, book chapters, policy briefs and blogs covering issues of employment, inequality, labour rights, social policy, trade policy and development. A sample of her publications can be found at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sandra_Polaski. She has testified before committees on foreign affairs, trade, finance and employment of the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, European Parliament and Canadian Senate and spoken in a wide variety of multilateral fora. She was educated at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), the University of Wisconsin and University of Dayton and holds an honorary doctorate from Middlesex University.

Sangheon Lee

Sangheon Lee is the Director of the Employment Policy Department (EMPLOYMENT) of the ILO which leads ILO’s action for promoting full and productive employment by developing integrated employment, development and skills policies. Before his current position, he was the Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General for Policy on Economic and Social Issues (2014-18).

Mr. Lee has written extensively on economic, employment and labour issues, including articles in the International Labour Review and Socio-Economic Review, as well as editing volumes under the global research project of Regulating for Decent Work (Palgrave Macmillan) and other research projects. He is also one of the main authors of ILO flagship reports such as the Global Wage Report and the World Employment and Social Outlook. He co-authored Working Time around the World (2007 Routledge). Mr Lee holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University.

Yorgos Altintzis

Yorgos Altintzis is the economic and social policy officer of the ITUC. He advocates for workers’ interests in international trade and investment agreements negotiations, the use of trade instruments to promote labour rights, and industrial policy for structural transformation in the global trade agenda. He also coordinates the representation of the global union movement in governance processes (G20, APEC and ASEM).
Jeronim Capaldo

Jeronim Capaldo is Economic Affairs Officer in UNCTAD’s Division on Globalization and Development Strategies and Research Fellow at the Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University. Prior to joining UNCTAD he was Senior Economist at the International Labour Organization. Jeronim’s current research focuses on international coordination of economic policies by using macroeconomic models. His most recent publication is “Labor Market Institutions under Globalization” (with S. Storm) forthcoming in, M. Nissanke and J.A. Ocampo (eds.), Handbook of Development: Critical Reflections on Globalisation and Development, Palgrave. Jeronim holds a PhD in economics from the New School for Social Research in New York, NY, USA.

Jill Rubery

Jill Rubery is Professor of Comparative Employment Systems and the Director of the Work and Equalities Institute, at Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester and a Fellow of the British Academy. She has worked extensively for the European Commission, coordinating its gender and employment expert group for around 15 years, and for the International labour Organisation. Her research focuses on the inter-disciplinary comparative analysis of employment systems, with a particular focus on labour market segmentation, low pay, working time and gender equality. She has published extensively on these topics: her most recent books include: G. Bosch, S. Lehn Dorff and J. Rubery eds.(2009) European Employment Models in Flux Palgrave; D. Anxo, G. Bosch and J. Rubery eds. (2010) The Welfare State and Life Transitions Edward Elgar; and M.Karamessini and J.Rubery ed. (2013) Women and Austerity: The Economic Crisis and the Future for Gender Equality Routledge

İpek İlkkaracan

İpek İlkkaracan is Professor of Economics at Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Faculty of Management, and a visiting researcher at University of Rome Sapienza in 2018-2019. She is also a Research Associate at the Levy Economics Institute in New York and an associate editor of the academic journal Feminist Economics. İlkkaracan holds a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the New School for Social Research, New York City. Her research areas include the care economy, work-life balance policies, economics of time use, gender and macroeconomics, macroeconomics of unemployment and wages, labour market inequalities.

İlkkaracan is a member of the Advisory Board of International Women’s Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) Asia-Pacific based in Malaysia, also a founding member of Women for Women’s Human Rights – New Ways, a feminist NGO based in Istanbul; and the Women’s Labor and Employment Initiative (KEIG) Platform, a network of 30 women’s NGOs in Turkey; Istanbul Technical University’s Women’s Studies Center, and the Gender, Macroeconomics and International Economics GEM-Europe network.forthcoming

Maria Karamessini

Maria Karamessini is professor of labour economics and economics of the welfare state at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Athens) and, since March 2015, Head of the Greek Public Employment Agency (OAED). She has been the President of the Network of the Careers Offices of Greek Universities from 2001 to 2008, the scientific responsible of the first Graduates’ Survey in Greece and currently the scientific counsellor of the Greek Ministry of Education for the EuroGraduate Survey, the Director of the Centre for Gender Studies of Panteion University from 2009 to 2015, a member of all the European Commission expert groups on Gender and Employment from 1997 to 2014 (EGGE, EGGsIE, ENEGE) and, recently, an external collaborator of the ILO for three research projects on the European Social Model, the transformation of the World of Work and Welfare State and their impact on the Middle Classes and the relationship of Industrial Relations and Labour Policies with Inequalities.
Janine Berg

Janine Berg works as a Senior Economist in the Inclusive Labour Markets, Labour Relations and Working Conditions Branch (INWORK) of the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Since joining the ILO in 2002, she has conducted research on the economic effects of labour laws as well as provided technical assistance to ILO constituents on policies for generating jobs and improving working conditions. From 2008 to 2011, Janine worked at the ILO office in Brazil as an employment specialist. She is the author of several books and numerous articles on employment and labour market institutions. Her latest book, *Labour Markets, Institutions and Inequality: Building Just Societies in the 21st Century*, was published in February 2015. Janine is an economist and received her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York, USA.

Alemayehu Geda

Alemayehu Geda is currently Professor of Macroeconomics and International Economics at the Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He is also a Research Professor at the University of London, SOAS, where he had served as Senior Lecture between 2003-2005. His Research interest areas include International Trade; Development Finance, Macroeconomics Policy and Poverty, Macro Econometric Modelling and the Political Economy of Conflict in African context. He is the author of over 40 research journal articles and Chapters in a book and five books on African Economies published, among others, by Palgrave-Macmillan, Addis Ababa and Nairobi University Presses. He has also worked for a number of international organizations and African governments that includes the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan and South Africa as a consultant. Among other expert services, he has served as Macroeconomic expert for African Union (AU) high level panel on the economic negotiation between the North and South Sudan which was led by the former South African president Tambo Mbeki

Rolph van der Hoeven

Rolph van der Hoeven is Professor Emeritus of Employment and Development Economics at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Hague. He has been elected to the Committee for Development Policy of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and will hold this position from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021. In 2009 Professor van der Hoeven was appointed as a member of the Development Cooperation Committee of the International Advisory Council (AIV) to the Dutch Government. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the KNCV Tuberculosis Fund and of the knowledge platform INCLUDE. His latest (co-authored) volume is Sustainable Development Goals and Income Inequality