



CCS-UN Technical workshop on nowcasting in international organizations

3-4 February 2020

Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Programme

Meet the Presenters

Almukhtar Saif Al-Abri currently works as a consultant in the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT) and also as an Associate Professor of Economics at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. He has worked as a visiting scholar in the American University of Sharjah in 2012-2013. His research interests include monetary macroeconomics, economics of GCC countries, and applied econometrics. He has published in a number of internationally refereed journals and participated in many regional and international conferences. Dr. Al-Abri has a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University of USA in 2005 and a Master's in Finance from Boston College of USA in 1999.

Roberto Astolfi is an economist/statistician at the OECD. He is currently the head of the Composite Leading Indicators Unit in the Statistics and Data Directorate. Previously, he was responsible for Health Expenditure data collection and analysis at the OECD Health Division where he also contributed to the design and execution of micro-simulation of the Chronic Disease Policy model. Prior to that, he worked as a researcher in the National Accounts Department ISTAT (Italy), and as business cycle analyst at Eurostat (Luxembourg). Roberto received his PhD in "Economic, Mathematical and Statistical Analysis of Social Phenomena" from the University of Rome "La Sapienza". His major research interests lie in the fields of time series analysis, business cycle, model selection and forecasting, applied macro-economics and health economics.

Enrico Bisogno is currently leading the Data Development and Dissemination Unit at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna. In such capacity, he is responsible for developing and implementing the statistical programme of his Office, including activities related to indicators for Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of violence, security, organised crime, rule of law, corruption and drug treatment. Among the most recent activities, he led the finalisation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and the Manual on Corruption Surveys, capacity-building activities to support countries in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics and the production of global data and reports on selected drug and crime topics. In his previous work experiences, with the National Statistical Office of Italy (ISTAT), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), he developed extensive experience in many areas of social statistics, including gender statistics, migration statistics, and population censuses. An Italian

national, Mr. Bisogno holds a PhD in Demography from the University of Rome and a Master in Statistics and Demography from the University of Padua (Italy).

Rosa Ruggeri Cannata is in charge of the Macroeconomic Indicators at Eurostat – European Commission, covering Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure statistics and Principal European Economic Indicators at Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, and she has worked with sets of policy macro-economic indicators for more than fifteen years. Her methodological work focusses mainly on research on advanced statistical and econometric techniques, such as nowcasting, definition of a statistical system for assessing and monitoring the euro area Business Cycle, and reconstruction of long time series. She has co-authored several chapters in the UN/Eurostat Handbook on Rapid Estimates and in the UN/Eurostat Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators; she recently contributed to the UNECE guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators. Rosa is also active in the definition of harmonisation of practices at the European Statistical System level, in areas such as seasonal adjustment and revision policy and analysis, and she has co-authored the "ESS guidelines on seasonal adjustment", the "ESS guidelines on Revision policy". Prior to joining the European Commission she worked as a researcher for the Max Planck Institut für Informatik of Saarbrücken (Germany) in the field of Computational Set Theory, and for the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in Rome. She has also worked as IT project manager and analyst, as a software engineer and as a university lecturer. Rosa holds a PhD in Mathematics.

Fernando Cantu is a senior statistician at the Statistics and Information Branch of UNCTAD. He works on statistical analysis and the development of methodologies for estimation and forecasting on areas related to trade, services, investment and global finance. Before joining UNCTAD, he worked at the UN regional economic commissions, as well as ILO, OECD and research centres on areas related to statistics, econometrics and development. He holds a Master's in Applied Statistics from the Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico) and both a Master and a PhD in Econometrics from the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

Marcello D'Orazio is a Senior researcher in statistical methodology currently working at the Office of Chief Statistician of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN. He joined FAO in 2016 as seconded expert from the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat). He has been working at Istat for about 20 years in the methodological division, in the quality division as well as in the agriculture statistics division. He has carried out research in many areas including sampling errors, measurement errors, quality of statistics, and data integration. From 1992 to 2000 has worked as adjunct professor in University "del Sannio" at Benevento (Italy) teaching statistics, sampling and operations research. He studied statistics and economics at University of Bari (Italy) and got the master's degree in 1991. PhD in statistics in 1994.

Daniel Gerszon Mahler is a Young Professional in the World Bank's Development Data Group, where he is a part of the team that monitors global poverty. Before this appointment he worked in the Poverty and Equity Global Practice of the World Bank on issues related to poverty and inequality in Southern Africa. Prior to joining the World Bank, Daniel was a visiting fellow in Harvard University's Department of Government and worked for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Ministry for Economic Affairs. Daniel holds a PhD in economics from the University of Copenhagen.

Leonardo Milano currently leads the Predictive Analytics team at the UN OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data. Trained as a physicist, he worked as data analyst in two of the leading scientific research organizations worldwide: CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research and LBL, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, U.S. Passionate about applying innovation and quantitative tools to solve social and humanitarian problems, in 2016 he joined the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) to carry cutting-edge research on the topic of displacement related to conflicts and disasters worldwide.

Jonathan D. Moyer is Assistant Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies and Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures. He works across various disciplines, all of which extend and use the International Futures (IFs) integrated assessment platform. Jonathan works in areas of human development through funded research for organizations like the African Union Development Agency and the United Nations. He leads the creation of new data and tools to better understand and analyze international relations theory contributing to reports such as the U.S. National Intelligence Council Global Trends 2030. Jonathan also researches state fragility as Lead Co-PI on a Minerva-funded research grant that began in the fall of 2014. Jonathan has been working with IFs since he started his MA program at the University of Denver in the fall of 2005.

Coleman Nee is a Senior Economist in the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization. He is responsible for producing the organization's trade forecasts and composite trade indicators including the Goods Trade Barometer (formerly the World Trade Outlook indicator) and the Services Trade Barometer. He has also contributed to several WTO publications including annual World Trade Reports and the World Trade Statistical Review. Before coming to the WTO Mr. Nee worked for the Ontario (Canada) Ministry of Finance on electricity sector restructuring, for the International Energy Agency on energy balances and forecasts, and for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on labour market developments in OECD countries. He holds degrees from McGill University in Montreal and Carleton University in Ottawa.

Andrea Pellandra holds a PhD from the Heinz College's School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and currently works as a Senior Information Management Officer at the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees in Copenhagen. He previously worked as an Economist at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago and Mexico City, and has authored several articles on regional integration and international trade, with a particular focus on the effects of trade policy on social issues, and the influence of trade on individual firms' productivity.

Arief Ramayandi is a principal economist in the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He is mostly responsible in providing inputs for the macroeconomic surveillance part of the Asian Development Outlook (the ADB main flagship publication) and is in charge in some macroeconomic modeling activities within the bank. Prior to joining ADB, he was the director for the Center of Economics and Development Studies at Padjadjaran University in Indonesia. He has published in the field of macroeconomics and development and served as a consultant for the ASEAN Secretariat, Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research

Organization (CSIRO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank and other institutions. He holds a PhD in economics from the Australian National University.

Francesca Rosa is currently part of the Data Development and Dissemination Unit at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna. She is currently involved in the revision of the overall UNODC data-lifecycle with a focus on data dissemination. She is currently addressing many data governance/management issues with the purpose of streamlining the data collection, processing and dissemination of UNODC statistics. This includes methodological statistical activity on drug and crime related data. In her previous work experience, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), she was part of the methodological and innovation team developing methods, standards and tools to improve several FAO data-domains with a focus of agriculture production and food balance sheets. This methodological work included a number of activities beyond the pure statistical research and conceptual design. In particular, she has developed the software routines (R language) to obtain robust, replicable and internationally comparable statistics based on an innovative methodological approach. An Italian national, Ms. Rosa holds a master's degree in Statistics applied to Economics from the University of Rome La Sapienza (Italy).

Julian Slotman is an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Global Economic Monitoring Branch of the Economic Analysis and Policy Division of UN/DESA. Before joining UN/DESA, Julian worked as Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Before his recruitment as a Young Professional with the United Nations Secretariat, Julian worked with the Policy Evaluation Department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CPB Netherlands Bureau of Economic Policy Analysis. Julian holds master's degrees in Public Policy and Human Development as well as Economic Studies and a bachelor's degree in Econometrics and Operations Research, all from Maastricht University. His research interests range from gender and education to climate change and innovation.

Stefan Sperlich made his diploma in mathematics at the University of Göttingen and holds a PhD in economics from the Humboldt University of Berlin. From 1998 to 2006 he was Professor for statistics at the University Carlos III de Madrid, from 2006 to 2010 chair of econometrics at the University of Göttingen, and today is professor for statistics and econometrics at the University of Geneva. His research interests are ranging from nonparametric statistics over small area statistics to empirical economics, in particular impact evaluation methods. He has been working since about 15 years as consultant for regional, national and international institutions, participated in development programs like EUROSociAL or UN assessment reports, is cofounder of the research center 'Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing Countries' at the University of Göttingen, and research fellow at the Center for Evaluation and Development (Mannheim, Germany). He published in various top ranked scientific journals of different fields and was awarded in 2002 with the Koopmans econometric theory prize.

Michael Stanger is a senior economist at the Real Sector division in the IMF's Statistics Department. He specializes in macroeconomic statistics, and in particular on national accounts. At the IMF, Mr Stanger works in capacity development (technical assistance and training), research, supporting policy-related work, and is responsible for some IMF databases. Previously, he was Chief of the Short-Term Statistics Unit at the Central Bank of Chile. He also worked on issues

related to international trade statistics.at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile. Mr Stanger has worked as an assistant professor of economics in some Chilean Universities.”

Valentin Todorov is a Senior Management Information Officer with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He received a doctoral degree in statistics from Vienna University of Technology, Austria and holds a Masters’ degree in mathematics and statistics from the University of Sofia, Bulgaria and the University of Vienna, Austria. His research activities include multivariate data analysis, computational statistics, robust statistics, official statistics and statistical information systems. He is a member of the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) and the Austrian Statistical Society (ÖSG). He has authored one book, several book chapters and many scientific articles in the area of mathematical statistics and statistical information systems. Most of them appeared in peer reviewed international journals. He acts as a reviewer for a number of international statistics journals. Valentin has presented keynote and invited talks at many international conferences and workshops. He has developed and maintains at CRAN several packages for the statistical software environment R. Prior to joining UNIDO in 2006 Valentin worked on large scale international projects in the fields of aviation (Austrocontrol), telecommunications (Ericsson) and academy (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).