



# Social Work and Sustainable Development

World Social Work Day at the UN in Geneva, 2017

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## Speakers' biographies (in alphabetical order)

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### Christina BEHRENDT, Head, Social Policy Unit, ILO

Christina Behrendt is Senior Social Protection Policy Specialist in the Social Protection Department of the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva (Switzerland); her earlier work experience includes assignments as regional social security specialist at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut (Lebanon), as consultant at the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and as lecturer and research fellow at the University of Konstanz. She has worked and published on various aspects of social security in both developed and developing country contexts. Having studied in Konstanz and Edinburgh, she earned her Master degree in Politics and Public Administration and her PhD in Social Policy from the University of Konstanz (Germany).

### Annamaria CAMPANINI, President International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)

Annamaria Campanini - social worker and family therapist, is a PhD professor at Milano Bicocca University. Newly elected President of IASSW, she was the coordinator of the Thematic network "EUSW-European Social Work" and President of EASSW. Campanini has lectured in many European countries and served as an international PhD and MA examiner in many different countries and as expert for A3ES (curricula evaluation Agency of Portugal) and for European ESCO projects.

She has authored many publications in several languages, and she serves as an editorial board member of many international social work journals.

Social work education at international level is, at present, her area of research and interest.

### David CHIPANTA, Senior advisor social protection, UNAIDS

David Chipanta is Senior Advisor Social Protection with UNAIDS based in Geneva. David provides leadership within UNAIDS to develop and implement new and innovative high profile strategies, tools for mobilization of Social Protection actors. He served as UNAIDS Country Director for Liberia before the Ebola Outbreak, as AIDSRelief Kenya Co-ordinator and as Senior Analyst Health Systems with Abt Associates in Bethesda, Maryland. David is a founder member of the Network of People Living with HIV in Africa (NAP+) and the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV (NZP+). He holds a Masters' degree in Public Administration International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard University John F Kennedy School of Government, Massachusetts and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from San Diego State University in California.

### Lena DOMINELLI, Professor, Durham University

*Presentation title (March 22): Green social work, environmental justice and the global agenda*

Lena Dominelli, Professor of Applied Social Sciences and Academician in the Academy of the Learned Societies for Social Sciences, is an experienced educator, practitioner and researcher. She is currently also the Chair of the International Association of Schools of Social Work's (IASSW's) Committee on Disaster Interventions, Climate Change

and Sustainability. In this capacity, she represents social work at the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and at the UNISDR (United Nation's International Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction).

Her current commitments and research interests include: (hu)man-made and natural disasters; climate change and environmental social work; globalisation; social and community development; social change; women's well being and welfare; motherhood; fatherhood; child well-being and children's rights.

Lena has served in various influential offices, including being President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), 1996 to 2004. She led IASSW into a closer organisational collaboration with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), which resulted in the production of the joint international definition of social work, ethics document and global qualifying standards. She is currently IASSW's Head of The Climate Change and Disasters' Intervention Committee and has participated in the United Nations' discussions on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark, Bonn, Germany and Cancun, Mexico.

She has published widely in sociology, social work, community development, and probation. Of her many books, her most significant on environmental issues is *Green Social Work* (2012, Polity Press).

### **Ana-Lima FERNANDEZ, President of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)**

She is the President of the International Federation of Social Workers – Europe region since 2016 and the President of the Spanish General Council of Social since 2006. She serves as Vice-president at Spanish Council on Social Welfare, Special Advisor at Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, and is a Senior lecturer at the University of Complutense University Of Madrid and at the Spanish National Distance Education University. In 2014, she received the award of the International Federation of Social Workers for her outstanding services to social work in recognition of her leadership role in consolidating the Orange Tide. She has more than 20 years' experience in community social services and her areas of expertise are social services management, community capacity building and intercultural social care.

### **Elena GAIA, Senior Advisor for Policy & Partnerships on Violence against Children, World Vision International**

*Presentation title (March 22): Leaving no child behind: the role of social work*

Elena Gaia is Senior Advisor for Policy & Partnerships on Violence against Children, at World Vision International. Elena is a social development professional passionate about human rights and social change. Her areas of interest and expertise are child rights, social and child protection, social inclusion, rights of ethnic minorities, gender equality, and migration. Prior to joining World Vision, she was social policy advisor at UNICEF from 2010 to 2016, working in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. From 2008-2010, she worked as research analyst in Social Policy and Development at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, where she contributed to the flagship report *Combating Poverty and Inequality*. She also collaborated with the Italian NGO CISV from 2003 to 2007, most of this period as the organization's representative in Guatemala where she managed programmes on community development, participation and grass-roots organisations. Elena holds a Master's degree in comparative social policy from the University of Oxford. Some of her publications include: [\*Rapid Review on Inclusion and Gender Equality in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia\*](#), [\*Social protection for child rights and wellbeing in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia\*](#), [\*Violence Against Girls and Boys in Europe and Central Asia\*](#), [\*Realizing the Rights of Roma Children and Women\*](#), [\*Keeping Families Together\*](#) and [\*Preparing for an Uncertain Future: Expanding Social Protection for Children in Eastern Europe and Central Asia\*](#).

### **Christophe GIRONDE, Senior Lecturer, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva**

*Presentation title (March 22): Socio-economic transformation and changing vulnerability in Cambodia*

Christophe Gironde is a political economist and senior lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva. His research interests mainly concern the interdisciplinary study of agrarian change and human development, especially in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia). He is currently doing research on

the process of land commercialization and its gendered consequences on livelihoods and food security in Cambodia and Ghana.

### **Katja HUJO, Senior Research Coordinator, Social Policy and Development Programme, UNRISD**

*Presentation title (March 22): Transformative change for sustainable development: Implications for social work*

Katja Hujo is Senior Research Coordinator in the Social Policy and Development Programme of UNRISD and member of the Institute's Senior Management Group. She is coordinator and lead author of the recent UNRISD flagship report "Policy Innovations for Transformative Social Change – Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Katja's academic work focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and socio-economic development. Much of her research is at the interface of economics and politics, for example her research on the political economy of pension reform, on social protection and poverty reduction, on social policy in mineral-rich contexts, migration governance and social rights for migrants, and more recently, on the politics of domestic resource mobilization for social development. Katja joined UNRISD in 2006. Before, she worked as a research fellow and lecturer at the Latin American Institute at Free University Berlin (FUB). She studied economics (Diplom-Volkswirtschaft) and political science (MA) at Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and National University of Córdoba, Argentina, and holds a doctoral degree in economics from FUB.

### **Denison JAYASOORIA, Researcher and Social worker, member of the Malaysian SDG steering committee**

*Presentation title (March 22): SDG, Social work and addressing inequities*

Dr Denison Jayasooria is the principal research fellow at the Institute of Ethnic studies, National University of Malaysia. He is a member of the National SDG Steering Committee established by the Malaysian government. He is also an exco member of the Malaysian Association of social workers-MASW. He is on the editorial board of the Journal on Human Rights and Social Work. He is the deputy chair of Ripess Asia /Asian Solidarity Economy Council.

### **Klaus KÜHNE, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) main representative at the UN in Geneva**

Klaus Kühne studied Psychology and Sociology. He has been professor of psychology at the University of Applied Sciences in Bern, Switzerland, where he was lecturer for psychology related to social work and social work in the context of international social policy. He was responsible for the international affairs and co-operation. Since 2010 he is main IFSW-representative at the UN in Geneva and has been organising World Social Work Day at the UN in Geneva since 2012.

### **Paul LADD, Director, UNRISD**

Paul Ladd has been Director of UNRISD since October 2015. Before taking up this position he had been at UNDP, where he had most recently been Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Development Agenda.

Previously he led UNDP's policy team on 'inclusive globalization' – including trade, development finance, and migration. From 2008-2009, he provided support to the Office of the UN Secretary-General on the financial and economic crisis, and engagement with the G20.

Before moving to New York, Paul was a policy adviser on international development for the UK Treasury, including the period building up to and through the UK's Chair of the G8 and European Union in 2005.

Previously he had been Chief Economist and acting Head of Policy with UK charity Christian Aid, the UK Department for International Development's economic adviser for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, and a financial adviser in the Central Bank of Guyana.

Paul received his BSc in Economics and his MSc in Quantitative Development Economics from the University of Warwick. In 2016 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law (LLD), also by the University of Warwick.

## **Kirstin LANGE, Senior Disability Advisor, UNHCR**

Kirstin Lange is currently working within UNHCR's Division of International Protection as Senior Disability Advisor. Prior to this role, she worked with UNRWA in Gaza, and had a particular interest in inclusion of persons with disabilities in the UNRWA response to the 2014 conflict. From 2011-12, Kirstin worked as Inclusion Technical Advisor with Handicap International in Afghanistan, a role which included working on a regional project to strengthen inclusion of persons with disabilities in Disaster Risk Management. During 2010- 11, she worked as Disability Policy Advisor at UNRWA Headquarters in Amman, Jordan, developing a policy framework for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Agency's work with Palestine refugees. Prior to this, Kirstin worked with displaced communities in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea; and with refugee communities in Australia. Kirstin has a background in Social Work, having graduated from the University of NSW in Australia.

## **Anne LAVANCHY, Professor, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland – Social Work, Geneva (HETS)**

Anne Lavanchy holds a PhD in Anthropology and is currently Professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Geneva, Switzerland. She has conducted research in South America (Chile) and Europe (Switzerland and UK). Her main topics are racialization processes, indigenusness, gender and intersectionality, with strong focus on political and legal anthropology, racism and discriminations, and kinship. Her recent publications include

Glimpses into the Hearts of Whiteness: Institutions of Intimacy and the Desirable National, in: Purtschert and Fischer-Tine (Eds) Colonial Switzerland. Rethinking Colonialism from the Margins, Cambridge Press, pages 278-296; 'The Wedding Ceremony Binds the Spouses in Marital Union.' Material and Immaterial Flows in the Production of Spouses' Relatedness, in Sociologus 2015, Vol. 65, No. 1: 55–77. "Dissonant alignments: The ethics and politics of researching state institutions" (Current Sociology (Eds) N° 61/2014); Politics of Interculturality (edited with Fred Dervin and Anahy Gajardo, Cambridge, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2011).

## **Joëlle LIBOIS, Director and Professor, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland – Social Work, Geneva (HETS)**

Joëlle Libois holds a PhD in Educational Sciences and a formation in Social work, specialized in work analysis. President of the International Association for education, research and social intervention (AIFRIS) and Vice-President of the Association Surya-Geneva. Recent publications: La part sensible de l'acte, - Editions ies 2013; Animation socioculturelle. Pratique multiples pour un métier complexe - L'Harmattan 2011; Travailler en réseau Editions ies.2010; Analyse de l'activité en travail social. Actions professionnelles et situations de formations – Editions ies 2007.

## **Alejandro MACKINNON, Professor, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland – Social Work, Geneva (HETS)**

*Presentation title (March 22): Social work in the construction of sustainable democratic territories. The case of the prefectures of Haho and Moyen Mono in Togo.*

Alejandro Mackinnon is a senior lecturer in Social Work at the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland – Social Work in Geneva (HETS). Urban-architect planner, graduate in development studies specializing in issues of sustainable urban development, he has a long experience in International cooperation and project management. Secretary General of the Swiss non-profit organization Genève Tiers Monde.

## **Gaétan MOREL, Agenda 21, City of Geneva**

*Presentation title (March 22): Linking Agenda 21, the « Feeding the City » programme and social work*

Gaétan Morel is a Project Manager for local and sustainable economy within the Agenda 21 service of the City of Geneva. He is in charge of the "Feeding the city" program.

## **Juana SOTOMAYOR, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR,**

Juana Sotomayor, Human Rights Officer at OHCHR. Lawyer, with over 17 years of experience in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, both at the national level in civil society, and at international level. She has been the focal point for the Office's work on the right to health and has devoted considerable work to training and developing publications and tools to monitor economic, social and cultural rights. In OHCHR, she started the work on the rights of older persons and was involved in the first year of work of the OEWG on older persons. In the last years, Juana has been part of the Special Procedures Branch, and has worked with both the mandate of the rights to water and sanitation, and for the last three years with the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing. Juana has also had management functions acting as Chief of a section covering other special procedures mandate holders.

## **Samantha TEIXEIRA, Assistant Professor, Boston College School of Social Work**

*Presentation title (March 22): Social Work and Environmental Justice: A Natural Fit*

Samantha Teixeira is an Assistant Professor at the Boston College School of Social Work. She holds a PhD in social work and her current research focuses on how neighborhood environmental conditions affect youth and how youth can be engaged in creating solutions to environmental problems in their communities. She has published on the topics of place-based community interventions that address neighborhood environmental disparities, youth-led participatory research, and environmental justice. Her scholarship is shaped by her practice experience in child welfare, community organizing and development, and local government agencies. Teixeira's research has garnered several prestigious awards including the Marie Weil Award for the best article in the Journal of Community Practice (2013-2014) and the Society for Social Work and Research Outstanding Dissertation Award (2014-2015).

## **Rory TRUELL, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)**

Rory Truell is the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Social Workers. IFSW is the global body representing social work practice, comprising of 120 country-level members and holding consultative status with the United Nations and regional bodies. Dr Truell works directly with frontline social work services, government leaders and international agencies building relationships and promoting understanding on the profession's unique contributions to building economies and the wellbeing of society. He frequently speaks and writes on the importance of building community engagement in social protections systems, challenges for the profession, and social work solutions to community and societal problems. Dr Truell is an Honorary Professor at Durham University (UK) and a visiting professor or keynote speaker globally. He regularly writes on social work practice in the Guardian.

## **Nino ZGANEC, President, European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)**

Nino Zganec is from Croatia where he finished social work study and obtained his PhD. Since 1991 he works at the faculty of social work and currently is associate professor and head of the Social Work study at University of Zagreb. Since 2015 he is the president of the European Association of Schools of Social Work and vice president of the International Association of Schools of Social Work. He was assistant minister and state secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the government of Republic of Croatia since 2000-2005. He is the president of the Croatian Anti-Poverty Network and member of the Executive Committee of the European Anti-Poverty Network.

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### **Coordination Team (in alphabetical order)**

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## **Priska FLEISCHLIN, Representative of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to the UN in Geneva**

Priska Fleischlin graduated with a Master of Science in Social Work in Lucerne, Switzerland. Her Bachelor and Master theses focused on the 'Social worker's empowerment in developing aid' and 'Cohesion in transnational transdisciplinary Project-Teams.' Concerning the latter topic, she also analyzed the conversation of virtual meetings. She works as

Member of the Management of the Blue Cross, Canton Bern. As a representative of the IFSW to the United Nations, she focuses mainly on ageing and Human Rights and Business. She is Secretary of the UN NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva.

### **Laura NICOLLIN, Scientific Advisor, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland – Social Work, Geneva (HETS)**

Laura Nicollin holds a Master of Arts in Social and Human Sciences and is currently a scientific advisor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Social Work, Geneva, Switzerland. She has been working as an Associate Project Officer at UNESCO International Bureau of Education on projects supporting countries in the process of improving the quality and sustainability of their education systems (reading and writing, priority themes in HIV/AIDS, peace education, among others). She also held a researcher position at the Institute of Psychology of University of Lausanne, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

### **David VERGARI, Programme assistant, UNRISD**

David joined UNRISD in September 2015. He supports institutional outreach and communications, monitoring of results and reporting, and provides assistance to programme/project teams in the areas of administration, reporting and event organization. He graduated in Business Administration from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland and holds a diploma of advanced studies in Social Institutions Management from the University of Geneva.