

Expert group meeting on new research on trust and social cohesion - World Social Report 2025

Speaker bios



Patrick Barron is the World Bank's Global Lead for Social Cohesion and Resilience within the Social Sustainability and Inclusion global practice. He was previously lead regional advisor on fragility, conflict, and violence for Asia. After working for local NGOs in Cambodia and China, he joined the World Bank where he ran the Bank's conflict and peacebuilding programs in Indonesia. From 2005–2009 he led the Bank's support to the Aceh peace process and worked across the region with a particular focus on Southern Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Afghanistan. Before returning to the World Bank, Barron served for four years as The Asia Foundation's regional director for conflict and development. He has authored or co-authored three books: *Contesting Development* (Yale University Press), which was awarded International Development Book of the Year by the American Sociology Association; *When Violence Works: Post- Conflict Violence and Peace in Indonesia* (Cornell University Press); and, most recently *Social Sustainability in Development: Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century* (World Bank). He has master's degrees from the University of Edinburgh and Harvard University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford.



Licia Bobzien is a postdoctoral researcher at the Hertie School, Berlin and a visiting fellow at the International Inequalities Institute (III) as part of the CIVICA Research postdoctoral mobility scheme. She completed her PhD at the Hertie School. Her main area of research is at the intersection of sociology and political science with a focus on quantitative research methods and research designs. Her research focusses on understanding the ways in which perceived economic inequalities (i.e., income and wealth inequality) influence the formation of political preferences and attitudes.



Francesco Burchi is a Researcher in the Department of Competitiveness and Social Development at the German Development Institute. He completed his PhD in Development and Environmental Economics in 2008, and his two-year post-doctoral research fellowship at the Department of Economics of the Roma Tre University in September 2010. Since then he worked as adjunct assistant professor of Economics of Development at the John Cabot University, he taught at M.A. and undergraduate level, and held several consultancy jobs with international organizations, universities, and the private sector. Since

2008 he is also the Coordinator of the Human Development Module of the M.A. in Human Development and Food Security. He has several publications in peer-reviewed international journals, and in books and reports in the following topics: human development, food security, well-being, nutrition, poverty, and project evaluation.



Monica Brezzi is Head of the Governance Indicators and Performance Division in the OECD Directorate for Public Governance. She works on issues related to public governance and trust in institutions, and the use of performance information in policymaking and service delivery. She spearheaded the 2021 OECD Trust Survey, a nationally-representative survey on public trust and its drivers implemented in 22 OECD countries. In 2017-19 she was the Director of Technical Assessment and Monitoring at the Council of Europe Development Bank.



Pedro Conceição is Director of the Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since January 2019. Prior to that he held other roles at UNDP, including Director for Strategic Policy, Chief-Economist for Africa, and Director of the Office of Development Studies. He has published on financing for development inequality, global public goods, the economics of innovation and technological change, and development in several journals and books. He is the lead author of the 2019, 2020, and 2021/22 Human Development Reports.

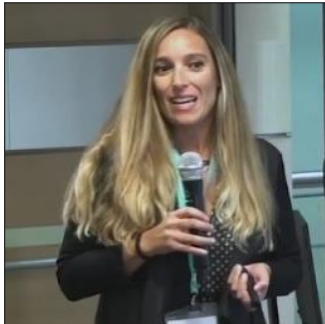
Prior to coming to UNDP he taught at the Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, Portugal. He has degrees in physics from Instituto Superior Técnico, in economics from ISEG (Lisbon School of Economics and Management) and a Ph. D. from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with a Fulbright scholarship.



Patricia Justino is a development economist specializing in applied microeconomics. Her current research work focuses on the impact of violence and conflict on household welfare and local institutional structures, the micro foundations of violent conflict and the implications of violence for economic development. She is currently the Deputy Director of UNU-WIDER and Professorial Fellow at IDS (on leave).



Carlos Maldonado is a Social Affairs Officer at the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris.



Flaviana Palmisano is Associate Professor of Public Economics at Sapienza University of Rome. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Bari, and a Marie-Curie Postdoc fellowship at the University of Luxembourg.



Carlos Scartascini is Head of the Development Research Group at the Research Department and Leader of the Behavioral Economics Group of the Inter-American Development Bank. He has published eight books and more than 70 articles in academic journals and edited volumes. He is a member of the Executive Committee of IDB's Gender and Diversity Lab, member of the Scientific Committee of Elcano Royal Institute, member of the Board of Advisors of the Master of Behavioral and Decision Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, Associate Editor of the academic journal *Economía*, and Founding Member of LACEA's BRAIN (Behavioral Insights Network). A native of Argentina, Dr. Scartascini holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Economics from George Mason University.



Eric M. Uslaner is Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is the author of nine books, including *The Moral Foundations of Trust* (Cambridge University Press, 2002; Chinese translation, Chinese Social Sciences Press, 2007; Korean translation, Today's Books, 2014), *Corruption, Inequality, and the Rule of Law: The Bulging Pocket Makes the Easy Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2008; paperback, 2010; Chinese translation forthcoming 2015, Chinese Social Sciences Press; Japanese translation, Nippon Hyoron Sha, 2011), *Segregation and Mistrust: Diversity, Isolation, and Social Cohesion* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). He is the editor of five other

books, most recently (with Chong-Min Kim) *Inequality and Democratic Politics in East Asia*.(Routledge, in press). *The Historical Roots of Corruption* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)_ and approximately 150 articles. He is the editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Social and Political Trust* (Oxford University Press, 2017). He has received grants from the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage and C.V. Starr Foundations. He was the Fulbright Distinguished Professor of American Political Science at the Australian National University, Canberra in 2010 and in 1981-82 was Fulbright Professor of American Studies and Political Science at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.