# Biographical Sketches

## James Alm

## James Alm is a Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at Tulane University. His most recent research areas include tax compliance and tax evasion, the marriage tax, tax and expenditure limitations, tax amnesties, taxpayer responses to tax reforms, enterprise zones, the determinants of state economic growth, and corruption. He also has worked extensively on fiscal and decentralization reforms in numerous countries, including Bangladesh, Jamaica, Grenada, Indonesia, Turkey, Hungary, China, Egypt, the Philippines, Russia, Uganda, Nigeria, India, Colombia, Nepal, Ukraine, Pakistan, and South Africa. Alm's international projects have been funded by the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United Nations Development Program, and the International Monetary Fund. Before coming to Tulane, Alm served as chair of economics department in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and also as dean of the school. Alm holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Alm is Editor of *Public Finance Review* and Associate Editor of *Review of Economics of the Household*.

## Gary Burtless

Gary Burtless holds the John C. and Nancy D. Whitehead Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He does research on issues connected with the income distribution and poverty, public finance, aging, labor markets, social insurance, and the behavioral effects of government tax and transfer policy. Burtless has written numerous scholarly and popular articles on labor markets, income distribution, pensions, and the economic effects of Social Security, unemployment insurance, and taxes. In recent work he has assessed the impact of the 2008-2011 stimulus programs on U.S. social protection and the economy, evaluated the implications of financial market fluctuations for the design of optimal pension systems, and estimated the impact of public and private health insurance on the distribution of U.S. employer costs and household incomes. Among his books examining retirement and pension policy are *Aging Societies: The Global Dimension*, with Barry P. Bosworth (Washington, DC: Brookings, 1998) and *Closing the Deficit: How Much Can Later Retirement Help?* with Henry J. Aaron (Washington, DC: Brookings, 2013). Burtless graduated from Yale College in 1972 and received a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. Before coming to Brookings in 1981, he served as an economist in the policy and evaluation offices of the U.S. Secretary of Labor and the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. In 1993 he was Visiting Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## Robert Gillingham

Robert Gillingham is currently a private consultant, focusing primarily on fiscal policy issues challenging the United States and other countries throughout the world. From 1988 to 1998, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the United States Department of the Treasury. His areas of responsibility included monitoring and interpreting current economic developments and assessing the impacts of alternative fiscal policy actions on the level and mix of economic activity. Since 1998, he has held a series of positions in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund, where his activities ranged from writing policy papers to leading technical assistance missions to member countries to directing one of the two policy divisions within the department. Mr. Gillingham holds a Ph. D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a B. A. from Haverford College.

## Sean Higgins

Sean Higgins is a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Economics at Tulane University. He is technical coordinator of the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) project, and has co-authored studies for Brazil and Paraguay. His most recent publication appeared in the Journal of Politics and Society.

## Nora Lustig

Nora Lustig is Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics at Tulane University and a nonresident fellow at the Center for Global Development and the Inter-American Dialogue. Her current research focuses on assessing the impact of fiscal policy on inequality and poverty in Latin America. A sample of her publications includes: *Declining Inequality in Latin America. A Decade of Progress?; Thought for Food: the Challenges of Coping with Soaring Food Prices; The Microeconomics of Income Distribution Dynamics; Shielding the Poor: Social Protection in the Developing World.* She was founder and president of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) and co-director of the World Bank’s World Development Report 2000/1, *Attacking Poverty*. She is currently the director of the Commitment to Equity Project (CEQ) and editor of the *Journal of Economic Inequality* ‘s Forum. Lustig received her doctorate in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

## Jorge Martinez-Vasquez

Jorge Martínez-Vázquez is Regents Professor of Economics and Director of the International Studies Program in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. He has published over 20 books and numerous articles in academic journals, such as *Econometrica*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Southern Economic Journal*, and the *Review of Economics and Statistics*. He has directed multiple fiscal reform projects, having worked in over 70 countries including China, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa. He has consulted with the World Bank, the ADB, the UNDP, and the IADB, and is a member of the IMF Panel of Fiscal Experts. He was inducted into the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences in 1997, and in 2006 he was made an Honorary Professor of China Public Finance and Public Policy Academy, Beijing. In 2011 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Vigo, Spain.

## Cormac O’Dea

Cormac is a Senior Research Economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, London and a Board Member of the Irish Fiscal Policy Research Centre (PublicPolicy.ie), Dublin. His current work focuses on household saving behavior, retirement decisions and the measurement of the distributional impact of spending on public services. He is an Economics Graduate from Trinity College Dublin, has an M. Phil in Economics from the University of Cambridge and is currently completing a Ph.D. at University College London.

## Carola Pessino

Carola Pessino is Senior Researcher, Department of Economics at the Universidad del CEMA, Argentina and advisor at international organizations. Previously, she was Visiting Fellow of the Center for Global Development, Washington, DC and full professor and executive director *of Centro de Investigaciones y Evaluación en Economía Social para el Alivio de la Pobreza* (CESyP) at the Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires. Pessino was also professor and head of the economics department at Universidad del CEMA and assistant professor at Duke University. Outside if academia, she was a member of the economic advisors to the Minister of the Economy and Secretary of Fiscal Equity under the chief of cabinet of ministers in the Argentinian government. She assisted in designing and implementing several projects including the reform project for Argentina’s labor laws, tax system, and pension system. . Pessino has been a consultant for the World Bank, United Nations, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Her research and publications have focused on social and fiscal policies, poverty and inequality, and the relationship among fiscal policy, education and labor markets.

## David Phillips

David is a Senior Research Economist, currently working in the Direct Tax and Welfare sector and the Centre for the Evaluation of Development Policy (EDePo@IFS). Most of David's work is arranged around the broad themes of poverty, inequality and the tax and benefit system and includes projects both in the UK and in middle income countries.Recent projects include analysis of the distributional and behavioral impacts of tax reforms in Mexico and El Salvador for the World Bank; an assessment of the impact of welfare reforms on labor supply in Wales; and analysis of poverty and inequality in the UK. He is also working with Magali Beffy, Guy Laroque and Costas Meghir on models of family labor supply, a piece of work that has grown out of his work for the Mirrlees Review. More recent research interests include local government spending and the analysis of fiscal issues in the devolved nations of the UK, especially those related to the Scottish independence debate. He also has experience analyzing social capital, human capital and consumer demand.

## Ian Preston

Ian Preston is Professor in the Department of Economics at University College London. He received his D.Phil in Economics from Nuffield College, Oxford in 1989. He is a Research Fellow of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Deputy Research Director of the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration. He has been the Editor of the Economic Journal Conference Volume and the Editor of Fiscal Studies (IFS). His main research interests are in applied microeconomics, particularly consumer demand, consumption and savings, income distribution, taxation, public spending and child costs. His interests in the economics of migration concern especially the impact on receiving countries and the nature of attitudes towards immigrants.

## Jacob Ricker-Gilbert

Jacob Ricker-Gilbert, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University. His M.S. is from Virginia Tech and his B.S. is from University of Vermont. Jacob’s research and teaching activities are primarily related to economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries Jacob has a special interest in how technology, market access, and public policy affect peoples’ decisions and well-being. He has international experience in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Jacob has been working to analyze and provide policy relevant information on the benefits and costs of input subsidy programs in Africa since 2007. Jacob’s dissertation research, evaluating Malawi’s subsidy program won the 2009 T.W. Schultz award for best paper at the Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Agricultural Economics. His dissertation work was also recognized by the African Association of Agricultural Economists in 2010. Prior to his doctoral studies, Jacob worked as an agricultural economist at the Economic Research Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 2005 to 2007.

## John Scott

John Scott is Professor-Researcher and former Director of the Economics Department at the *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas* (CIDE) in Mexico City, and Academic Researcher and Member of the Board of Directors of the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL), a public institution responsible for poverty measurement and the evaluation of social programs in Mexico. He has a BA in Philosophy from NYU, and an M.Phil and doctoral studies in Economics from the University of Oxford. His principal research areas include the distributive incidence of social spending, poverty and inequality analysis, and evaluation of social policy, rural development policies, agricultural and energy subsidies, and health and social security. He has published extensively in these areas and worked as a consultant for various international organizations (World Bank, IADB, FAO, ECLAC, UNDP, and OECD) and the Mexican Government (Treasury, Social, Health, Agriculture, and Labor Ministries).

## Dominique Van de Walle

Dominique van de Walle is a Lead Economist in the Bank's Research Department. She holds a Masters in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Ph. D. in economics from the Australian National University, and began her career at the Bank as a member of the core team that produced the 1990 World Development Report on Poverty. Her research interests are in the general area of poverty and vulnerability, public policy and gender, encompassing social protection, safety nets and impact evaluation; rural development, land distribution, rural infrastructure and poverty; infrastructure (roads, water and electricity) and women's labor force participation. Much of her recent past research has been on Vietnam and North Africa, and she currently has research projects in India, Mali and Senegal.

## Adam Wagstaff

Adam Wagstaff is a Research Manager of the Human Development & Public Services team in the Development Research Group. He holds a DPhil in economics from the University of York (U.K.). Before joining the Bank, he was a Professor of Economics at the University of Sussex. He was an associate editor of the Journal of Health Economics for 20 years, and has published extensively on a variety of aspects of the field, including: health financing and health systems reform; health, equity and poverty; the valuation of health; the demand for and production of health; efficiency measurement, and illicit drugs and drug enforcement. Much of his recent work has been on health insurance, health financing, vulnerability and health shocks, and provider payment reform. He has extensive experience of China and Vietnam, but has worked on countries in Africa, Latin America, S Asia, and Europe and Central Asia, as well as other countries in E Asia. Outside health economics, he has published on efficiency measurement in the public sector, the measurement of trade union power, the redistributive effect and sources of progressivity of the personal income tax, and the redistributive effect of economic growth.

## Sally Wallace

Sally Wallace is the chair of the Economics Department at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and Director of the AYS Fiscal Research Center. Her principal interests are federal, state, local and international taxation and analysis and intergovernmental fiscal relations. She has consulted widely on tax policy, fiscal decentralization and revenue forecasting and analysis in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Yemen, and China, and served as resident (Moscow) chief of party for the Andrew Young School's Russian fiscal reform project from 1997 through 1999. Wallace formerly worked for the U.S. Treasury. She has done research on income taxation, sales taxation, and distributional effects of taxes, and has published articles in journals such as *Regional Science* and *Urban Economics*, *National Tax Journal, State Tax Notes*, and *Southern Economic Journal*. Wallace holds a PhD from the University of Syracuse.

## Quentin Wodon

Quentin Wodon is an Adviser with the Human Development Network at the World Bank. Previously, he served as the World Bank's Lead Poverty Specialist for West and Central Africa and as an Economist/Senior Economist in the Latin America region. Before joining the World Bank, he worked as Assistant Brand Manager for Procter & Gamble Benelux, volunteer corps member with the International Movement ATD Fourth World, and tenured Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Namur. He holds graduate degrees in business engineering, economics, and philosophy (Université Catholique de Louvain), and PhDs in Economics (American University) and in Theology and Religious Studies (Catholic University of America). He is a Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn and with ECARES in Brussels. Over the last two decades, Quentin’s work has focused on improving policies for poverty reduction in the areas of education and health, social protection and labor, infrastructure and utilities, public expenditure and taxation, gender, climate change, and welfare measurement. He has published more than 20 books and 200 papers and received a number of awards, including the Prize of Belgium’s Secretary of Foreign Trade, a Fulbright grant, and the Dudley Seers Prize. He serves on non-profit and advisory boards, and is a past President of the Society of Government Economists.

## Stephen Younger

Stephen Younger is currently the Scholar in Residence in the Department of Economics at Ithaca College. Previously, he was Associate Director at Cornell University for the Food and Nutrition Policy Program. His research interests include economic development, poverty and inequality, applied econometrics, and public finance. Recent publications include “Partial Multidimensional Inequality Orderings” in the *Journal of Public Economics* and “Fiscal Incidence in Africa: Microeconomic Evidence” from the book “*Poverty in Africa: Analytical and Policy Perspectives*”. His country experience includes stints in Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, South Africa, Ecuador and Peru. Younger holds a PhD from Stanford University in Economics and Agricultural Economics.

## Country Team: Armenia

## Stephen Younger

See above

## Country Team: Ethiopia

## Tassew Woldehanna

Dr Tassew Woldehanna is an Associate Professor of Economics and Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Addis Ababa University. He obtained his PhD in household economics from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. A development economist, he has done intensive research on child poverty as well as on education, health and nutrition, labour market microfinance, employment and food security and the development of micro and small scale enterprises for Ethiopia. He is one of the founders of the Young Lives Study, an international study of childhood poverty that follows 12 000 children in Peru, Ethiopia, Vietnam and India. He is the Principal Investigator of Young Lives Ethiopia. He has published various articles on poverty and children in international journals and books. Dr Woldehanna also supported the Ethiopian government in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and since 2000 he has led the periodic national level poverty analysis for the Ethiopia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Central Statistical Agency. He has been the lead expert in designing the Ethiopian federal grant scheme for the past 8 years.

## Eliana Carranza

Eliana Carranza is Poverty Economistfor Ethiopia at the WorldBank, East Africa , Poverty Reduction andEconomic Management unit. Her work focuses on empirical microeconomics, in particular on the study of household behavior. Eliana holds a PhD in Economics and a MPA in international development from Harvard University.

## Eyasu Tsehaye

Eyasu is an Economist in the poverty team of the World Bank -Ethiopia. His earlier experience is majorly on macroeconomic policy analysis and research in various government offices and research institutes. He has a master’s degree in Economics of Development from the Institute of Social Studies, (ISS) the Netherlands.

## Country Team: Indonesia

## Jon Jellema

Jon Jellema is an Economist and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the World Bank in Indonesia. He has led several evaluations of anti-poverty, social assistance, and social protection programs in the Government of Indonesia's portfolio, including household-based transfers and community-driven development block grants. He has also provided ongoing technical assistance and real-time support for monitoring and evaluation and geographic targeting in CDD programs. He received his PhD in Economics from University of California, Berkeley.

## Matthew Grant Wai-Poi

Matthew is an Economist at the World Bank in Indonesia. He leads the analytical work on poverty, vulnerability and inequality, as well as the technical assistance to the government on the targeting of social assistance. He has a PhD in Economics from Columbia University, a Master of Development Economics from Australian National University, and degrees in law and business from the University of Auckland. He previously worked in management consulting across a range of industries and countries.

## Rythia Afkar

Rythia is an analyst for the Poverty team at the World Bank Office Jakarta Indonesia. She has been working on the issue of social assistance programs, specifically on impact evaluation analysis. She graduated from University of Autonoma Barcelona and University of Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne with a master’s degree in economics. She is currently doing her PhD at the University of Bonn Germany.

## Country Team: Jordan

## Paolo Verme

Paolo Verme is Senior Poverty Specialist for the North-Africa and the Middle-East region at the World Bank. A Ph.D. graduate of the London School of Economics, he was Visiting Professor of Public Economics at Bocconi University in Milan (2004-2009) and contract Professor of Political Economy at the University of Turin (2003-2010) prior to joining the World Bank in 2010. He initiated his career working as a volunteer in the poorest areas of the poorest country in the world (Burundi). For almost twenty years he served as an advisor to ministries, multilateral, bilateral, private and non-governmental organizations on the design, implementation and evaluation of labor market and social protection policies. His research covers labor markets, income distribution and the evaluation of welfare reforms and is published in international journals, books and reports. Paolo speaks fluently five languages and has worked, lived or travelled in over one hundred countries.

## Yusuf Mansur

Dr. Yusuf Mansur is an economist with over 25 years of demonstrated expertise in theoretical and practical research. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Oklahoma and taught at Texas A&M University before returning to Jordan to teach at universities there. He then joined the government first as a Telecom Privatization Adviser, then founder of the National Competitiveness Team, Aid Coordination Unit and Technical Support Unit (trade negotiation support) at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. He was then appointed as the Director General of Telecom Regulatory Commission; then became a Policy and Institutional Support Adviser with the EC-Jordan; UNDP Res Rep; Director General of Jordan Investment Board and Jordan Agency for Investment and Economic Development. Currently works as the CEO of the Envision Consulting Group, which he established in 2004, a regional economic and management consulting firm, as well as serving as industry upgrading, trade and export promotion adviser working in Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and Syria. Moreover, Dr. Mansur is a columnist in English and Arabic in several local and regional publications commenting on development and local/regional economic issues. He has written two books and several refereed articles.

## Shamma Alam

Shamma Alam is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Washington – Seattle. He is also the 2012-2014 recipient of research fellowship from the Hewlett foundation. He has previously worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation as a consultant for their Agriculture Policy team. His current research spans various aspects of development economics, such as, microfinance, child labor and education; impact of economic hardships on fertility decisions; and impact of income shocks on price-seeking behavior of farmers. He earned his BA in Economics and Mathematics at Franklin & Marshall College, and his MA in Economics from the University of Washington.

## Country Team: South Africa

## Mashekwa Maboshe

Mashekwa Maboshe is a PhD student in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town. His thesis focuses on the distributional impact of taxes and transfers in South Africa. He holds a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town, and a Bachelors in Economics from the University of Zambia. Mashekwa has been involved in a number of research studies in Zambia including; an assessment of the relationship between banks and SMEs; a study of the impact of agricultural chemical use on human health; and an economic evaluation of the social cash transfer payment mechanisms in Zambia. Mashekwa has worked as Project Manager at Innovations for Poverty Action and as Senior Audit Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Zambia.

## Ingrid Woolard

Ingrid Woolard is Associate Professor in the School of Economics and a Research Associate of the Southern Africa Labor and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). She holds a PhD in economics from UCT. Ingrid is currently one of the Principal Investigators of the National Income Dynamics Study, now in its third wave. She holds a C1 research rating from the National Research Foundation. Ingrid is the Chair of the Employment Conditions Commission which advises the Minister of Labor on minimum wages and working conditions for more than 4 million workers.

## Country Team: Sri Lanka

## Camilo Gomez Osorio

Camilo Gomez Osorio is the Country Economist for Sri Lanka based in Colombo. He is also the Fiscal Economist for the Maldives and is currently leading the Sri Lanka Public Expenditure Review. Previously, he was Country Economist for Afghanistan based in Kabul where he worked on the Economics of Transition, and was based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he focused on public finance issues. He is a Colombian national, a macroeconomist with emphasis on fiscal issues, and has an academic background from the University of Chicago and Oxford University, St Antony’s College.