



## A Century of maternity protection: Transforming leave and care policies for a better future of work for all

Friday, 08 November 2019

### SPEAKER BIOS

#### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



***Mr. Guy Ryder – Director-General, ILO***

Mr. Guy Ryder was elected as Director-General by the Governing Body in May 2012 and took office on 1 October 2012. Following his re-election, his second term started on 1 October 2017. He is the ILO's 10th Director-General. On taking office, he pledged to position the ILO, through internal reform, as a determined actor, translating principle into action to make a difference in the working lives of people everywhere – including and particularly in the lives of the most vulnerable. He continues to work for an ILO that is respectful of the universality of its membership; an ethical ILO; an ILO free from violence and harassment. The ILO celebrates its centenary during his second mandate. He made a strong call for a forward looking approach to the centenary and to do so through a decent work lens of standards, rights, jobs, social protection and social dialogue with particular attention to persistent gender inequality, and issues of informality and working poverty. He was elected General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in 2006. He is a graduate of Cambridge University.



***Ms. Věra Jourová – EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality (video message)***

Ms. Věra Jourová is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.



***Mr. Gerton van den Akker, Head of Section for Labour & Health issues, European Union Delegation to the UN in Geneva***

Mr. Gerton van den Akker is a senior diplomat with a distinguished service in the UN (FAO, UNHCR, UNDP), Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UN Affairs, Human Resources Department), NATO Brussels and, since 2011, in the European External Action Service. He studied Political Sciences and Public Administration & Management in The Netherlands and Portugal and has been posted to Mozambique, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and the USA. He started his new assignment at the EU Delegation in Geneva as Head of the Social Affairs & Health Section on 1 September after he finished his posting as Chief of Staff and Head of Coordination & Press at the EU Delegation in New York.



***Dr. Naoko Yamamoto – Assistant Director-General, UHC/Healthier Population, WHO***

Since October 2017, Dr. Naoko Yamamoto has been the Assistant Director-General for the Universal Health Coverage and Health Systems Cluster at the World Health Organization. Previously, she was Assistant Minister for Global Health at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan, with Health Industry Strategy added to her responsibility in July 2016, and she became Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health as the first lady medical doctor in Japan. In her career, she held different high-level positions within the Government of Japan and she served as a Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.



***Ms. Christine Löw – Director, Liaison Office Geneva, UN Women***

Ms. Christine Löw has been the Director of the UN-Women Liaison Office in Geneva since October 2017. Before joining UN Women, Ms Löw served as a diplomat in the Swiss Foreign Service for 12 years. She previously headed the international law section at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne (2015-2017) and served at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York responsible for human rights and gender equality (2011-2015). During that time, she was Vice-Chair of the 58th and 59th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and successfully facilitated the negotiations on the outcome of the 58th session on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls as well as an important resolution at the 59th session on methods of work of CSW.



***Ms. Margaret O'Brien – Professor, University College London***

Prof. Margaret O'Brien (PhD, LSE) is Professor of Child and Family Policy and Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit at University College London (UCL) where she co-chairs of UCL's Grand Challenge of Justice and Equality. Ms O'Brien co-leads, with Ann-Zofie Duvander, the International Network on Leave Policies and Research, which spans over 40 countries world-wide. Ms O'Brien's key research is in the field of fathers, work and family life, with a policy and parenting support focus. She seeks to understand how fathers and mothers can work and care together for the welfare of children and gender equality. She has published widely and advised international and national bodies including the EU and the first UN's report on Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World Report.

***Chaired by:***



***Ms. Shauna Olney, Chief, Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch & ILOAIDS, ILO***

Ms. Shauna Olney is Chief of the Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch (GED/ILOAIDS) of the International Labour Organization. GED/ILOAIDS coordinates the ILO Strategy for Indigenous Peoples' Rights for Inclusive and Sustainable Development. She studied law at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and as a postgraduate at the University of Oxford. She has been with the ILO for over 20 years, working in various areas related to labour and human rights. Previously she worked as a barrister and solicitor in Canada, specializing in industrial relations, labour law and human rights, and also worked at the Supreme Court of Canada. She was a Deputy member of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications on gender, equality and non-discrimination.

## **HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: THE FUTURE OF MATERNITY PROTECTION**



***Mr. Francis Bwalya, Counsellor-Health, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations Office***

Dr. Francis Bwalya is a Diplomat and Health Attaché at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia in Geneva. He represents Zambia at bilateral and multilateral dialogue on Global Health. He previously served as Director for Health Promotion, Environment and Social Determinants in the Ministry of Health. Dr Bwalya brings together 22 years of experience in Public Health practice and in technical, managerial and leadership positions in public service, and holds a bachelors degree in medicine from the University of Zambia and a Masters degree in Public Health and Epidemiology from University College Dublin – Ireland, in addition to other certificates.



***Ms. Yolanda Valdeolivas Garcia, State Secretary for Employment, Spain***

The Secretary of State for Employment in the Government of Spain, Ms. Valdeolivas Garcia is responsible for carrying out the government policy on collective and individual labour relations, working conditions, unemployment benefits, promotion of employment, job training, social economy, and promotion of self-employment. She is also responsible for managing the European Union funds of the European Social Fund. She is the author of a considerable amount of research in the field of Labour and Social Security Law.



***H.E. Evan P. Garcia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary - Permanent Representative, Philippines***

H.E. Ambassador Evan P. Garcia is a senior member of the Philippine Foreign Service, having served in numerous destinations such as the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States. He is currently the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Philippines in Geneva. He has a License in International Relations and Political Science from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (the Graduate Institute Geneva) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service, magna cum laude, from the University of the Philippines.



***H.E. Frank Tressler Zamorano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary - Permanent Representative, Chile***

H.E. Ambassador Frank Tressler Zamorano recently took office as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Chile in Geneva. In the course of his 29-year-long diplomatic career, he has served in the Foreign Ministry of Chile, the Planning Directorate, the Directorate of Multilateral Policy as Head of the United Nations Department and the Directorate for Special Policy. He was responsible for the negotiations within the United Nations and Inter-American systems on matters related to defence, disarmament, transnational organized crime, and corruption, among others.



***Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, Member of IOE management board; Executive Director of Federation of Kenya Employers; Titular member of the ILO Governing Body***

Ms. Jacqueline Mugo is the Executive Director of the Federation of Kenya Employers. A lawyer by profession, she is a titular board member of the Governing Body of the ILO and a member of the Management Board of the International Organization of Employers. She is the Secretary General of Business Africa and the first and immediate past Chairperson of the East African Employers' Organization. Ms. Mugo has represented Kenyan and African employers on various forums including the African Union and the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee on Economic Partnership Agreements and the Joint EU-Africa Parliamentary Assembly.



***Ms. Catelene Passchier, Special adviser to the President of the Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV); Chair of the Workers' Group of the ILO***

Ms. Catelene Passchier is currently the Special adviser to the President of the Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV). Previously vice president of the same organization, she was responsible for international and European policy, ILO matters (including as a member of its Governing Body), international trade policy, labour law and industrial relations, worker participation and company law, migration and free movement of workers, and equality/diversity. She studied law at Utrecht University and was a barrister in Amsterdam from 1981-1988. She was legal adviser for the FNV from 1988-2003 and was then elected Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in Brussels from 2003-2010. Throughout her working life, gender equality, work-life balance, precarious work and the informal economy have been her special areas of attention.

*Moderated by:*



***Ms. Shahira Amin, Journalist***

Ms. Shahira Amin is an independent journalist based in Cairo. A former Deputy Head of state-run Nile TV, she quit her job during the 2011 mass uprising against Mubarak to protest censorship of her work. A longtime contributor to CNN's Inside Africa, she has primarily covered women's issues, including gender-based violence, early marriages and girls' education, but also the plight of African refugees, sectarian unrest and the Nile water dispute. Amin has won several awards including Spain's Juan Anguita Parrado Journalism Award 2012 and the Global Thinkers Forum Excellence in Promoting Gender Equity award 2013.

## ROUNDTABLE 1: MATERNITY PROTECTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH



***Ms. María Paz Anzorreguy, Director of ILO Coordination, IOE***

Ms. Maria Paz Anzorreguy is an expert on international labour standards, ILO supervisory system and industrial relations with over a decade of experience. She is currently working at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) as Director of Coordination with the ILO. She is also the coordinator of the representatives of the private sector in the Inter American Conference of Ministers of Labour of the Organization of American States and the focal point for IOE relations with Latin American members. Before joining IOE, Ms. Anzorreguy worked in the ILO STANDARDS Department and for the Special Adviser to the ILO Director General. She earned her law degrees from Harvard Law School (LLM) and Pontificia Universidad Católica (JD) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



***Ms. Catalina Devandas, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar is a lawyer by training and a human rights advocate. She has worked extensively on disability rights and inclusive development for the past 20 years, including with the World Bank, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and international donor organizations. Ms. Devandas Aguilar was previously part and continues to work with the disability rights movement at national, regional and international levels. As the UN Special Rapporteur, she works on socioeconomic inclusion, the promotion of full citizenship of persons with disabilities, and embracing diversity/understanding that persons with disabilities are part of human diversity. She is married, mother of three daughters, and has spina bifida.



***Ms. Jody Heymann, Professor, UCLA WORLD Policy Analysis Center***

Ms. Jody Heymann, MD, PhD, is founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center. WORLD's mission is to strengthen equal opportunities worldwide by identifying the most effective public sector approaches, improving the quantity and quality of globally comparative data available, and working in partnerships to support evidence-based improvements in countries worldwide. Heymann has been leading studies on working families globally and paid parental leave for over 25 years. She is Distinguished Professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Luskin School of Public Affairs, and Geffen School of Medicine. She served as dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health from 2013-2018.



***Ms. Bianca Stumbitz, Research Fellow, Middlesex University London***

Dr. Bianca Stumbitz is a Research Fellow at Middlesex University, London. Her research interests include gender, work and development; working conditions; small business and (social) entrepreneurship. She is an expert on the subject of maternity and paternity workplace policies and practices across the world, and has recently undertaken related research in South Africa, Ghana and Malaysia. Dr. Stumbitz has particular experience in exploring breastfeeding support and other maternity protection issues at work within their specific policy and cultural context and in examining the feasibility of innovative workplace maternity supports at low cost.

*Moderated by:*



***Dr. Francesco Branca, Director, Dep. of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO***

Dr. Francesco Branca is the Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development in the World Health Organization, Geneva. He has been a Senior Scientist at the Italian Food and Nutrition research Institute where he was leading studies on the effects of food and nutrients on human health at the different stages of the life cycle and on the impact of public health nutrition programmes. Dr. Branca graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Diabetology and Metabolic Diseases at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma, and obtained a PhD in Nutrition at Aberdeen University.

## **ROUNDTABLE 2: TRANSFORMATIVE LEAVE POLICIES**



***Ms. Maureen Gouverneur, Ministry of Solidarity and Health – Social Cohesion General Directorate, France***

Maureen Gouverneur is a project manager at the European and International Affairs Office of the General Directorate of Social Cohesion of the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health.



***Ms. Chidi King, Director of Equality Department, ITUC***

Ms. Chidi King is the Director of the Equality Department at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the umbrella organisation for trade union national centres worldwide. She studied law, qualified as a barrister and is a committed social justice and civil rights advocate. She has worked on equality, employment rights and civil liberties issues with the UK Trade Union Congress, as the equality and rights officer with the Global Union Federation Public Services International, as the senior lawyer with the UK public interest disclosure charity Public Concern at Work (now named Protect), and as the equality officer (employment) for the Lewisham Racial Equality Council.



***Ms. Sonia Malaspina, HR Director South Europe, Danone***

Ms. Sonia Malaspina, is graduated in Modern Languages at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan. She joined Mellin, a company in the Danone group, in 2011, and she later worked as HR Director of Danone for the Italy and Greece Cluster and as Director of the South East Europe Cluster. Since the beginning of her career, Ms. Malaspina is passionate about the management of welfare, diversity, intercultural relations and inclusion with the aim to create economic value and a sustainable social impact.



***Ms. Marian Baird, Professor, University of Sydney***

Dr. Marian Baird AO is Professor of Gender and Employment Relations, Head of the Discipline of Work and Organisational Studies, Co-Director of the Women, Work and Leadership Research Group in the University of Sydney Business School, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. She is one of Australia's leading researchers in the fields of women, work and family and for over twenty years has worked with unions, business and government on gender equitable organisational change and work and family policy in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. Dr. Baird has contributed to many government advisory boards and reference groups relating to parental leave, gender equity and sexual harassment in Australian workplaces.



***Ms. Juliana Franzoni, Professor, University of Costa Rica***

Juliana Martínez Franzoni is a Professor at the School of Political Science at the University of Costa Rica. Her research has addresses welfare regimes, care policy and social policy formation in Latin America, and she currently leads an investigation on fatherhood regulation across this region. She is co-editor of Social Politics, International Studies in Gender, State and Society and leads the Latin American network for the analysis of social policy. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh, in the US.

*Moderated by:*



***Ms. Verena Knaus, Senior Policy Advisor, UNICEF***

As a Senior Policy Advisor, Ms. Knaus supports country offices and coordinates UNICEF's global policy, programmes and partnerships for and with children affected by migration and displacement. Previously, she worked in UNICEF's EU Office, where she was responsible for policy dialogue with EU institutions covering child rights, justice, migration and asylum, disability and child protection. She has authored a report series on the experiences and psycho-social impact of returns on children. She completed her studies at Oxford University and at the John Hopkin's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

### **ROUND TABLE 3: ADDRESSING MATERNITY DISCRIMINATION, CHANGING NORMS**



***H.E. Silvia Elena Alfaro Espinosa, Ambassador – Permanent Representative, Peru***

H.E. Ambassador Silvia Elena Alfaro Espinosa was appointed as Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva in March 2019. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1983, Ms. Alfaro Espinosa has held a number of positions in Lima, and she has been posted in Uruguay, Bolivia, France and Spain. Ms. Alfaro Espinosa has a degree in law from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, a Master of Science, with a major in foreign affairs from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a degree in foreign affairs from the Diplomatic Academy of Peru, and a Bachelor degree in law from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru.



***Ms. Liesbet Stevens, Deputy Director, Institute for the Equality of Women and Men, Belgium***

Ms. Liesbet Stevens is the Deputy Director, Institute for the Equality of Women and Men in Belgium since 2014. With a career committed to an equal society and the protection of vulnerable people, she previously worked as an equal opportunities advisor for the Flemish minister of Equal Opportunities and became a member of the Board of Directors of the Interfederal Equal Opportunities Center. She obtained a Baccalaureate Degree in Philosophy and a doctorate in Law at KU Leuven.



***Ms. Marie Clarke Walker, Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Labour Congress***

Ms. Marie Clarke Walker is Secretary-Treasurer at the Canadian Labour Congress, where she previously served as Executive Vice-President. She started her career working with the elderly as well as adults and children with developmental disabilities. She later joined the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and became CUPE Ontario's Equity Vice-President and her union's first-ever national Diversity Vice-President. She is the mother of two sons and a mentor/femtor to many.



***Ms. Annick Masselot, Professor, University of Canterbury***

Ms. Annick Masselot is Professor at the University of Canterbury. Her research interests include European Union and comparative law, specifically with regards to gender equality and equal treatment, social and employment law, reconciliation between work and family life, pregnancy and maternity rights. Her expertise has impacted on policy making in the fields of reconciliation between work and family life, and pregnancy and maternity rights in the context of employment law and social policy.



***Mr. Dean Peacock, Senior Advisor for Global Advocacy, Promundo***

Mr. Dean Peacock is Senior Advisor for Global Advocacy at Promundo, where he coordinates advocacy on the MenCare 50-50 Pledge aimed at getting men to assume an equal share of unpaid care work, and he oversees the organization's efforts to expand attention to children exposed to violence, thereby interrupting intergenerational cycles of violence. Previously, he was the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Sonke Gender Justice, as well as the co-founder and former co-chair of the Global MenEngage Alliance. Mr. Peacock is widely recognized as a global expert and pioneer in the area of engaging men to advance gender equality, address and prevent GBV and HIV, and in health and human rights more generally. He advises many UN agencies on sexual harassment and GBV prevention.

*Moderated by:*



**Ms. Christine Löw**, Director, Liaison Office Geneva, UN WOMEN

Ms. Christine Löw has been the Director of the UN-Women Liaison Office in Geneva since October 2017. Before joining UN Women, Ms Löw served as a diplomat in the Swiss Foreign Service for 12 years. She previously headed the international law section at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne (2015-2017) and served at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York responsible for human rights and gender equality (2011-2015). During that time, she was Vice-Chair of the 58th and 59th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and successfully facilitated the negotiations on the outcome of the 58th session on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls as well as an important resolution at the 59th session on methods of work of CSW.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CONCLUSIONS



**Mr. Gerton van den Akker**, Head of Section for Labour & Health issues, European Union Delegation to the UN in Geneva

Mr. Gerton van den Akker is a senior diplomat with a distinguished service in the UN (FAO, UNHCR, UNDP), Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UN Affairs, Human Resources Department), NATO Brussels and, since 2011, in the European External Action Service. He studied Political Sciences and Public Administration & Management in The Netherlands and Portugal and has been posted to Mozambique, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and the USA. He started his new assignment at the EU Delegation in Geneva as Head of the Social Affairs & Health Section on 1 September after he finished his posting as Chief of Staff and Head of Coordination & Press at the EU Delegation in New York.



**Mr. Peter Moss**, Co-founder, INLPR

Mr. Peter Moss is emeritus Professor of Early Childhood Provision at Thomas Coram Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London. He co-founded the international network on leave policies and for ten years co-edited the book series 'Contesting Early Childhood'. Much of his work has been cross-national, and his interests include early childhood education, democracy in education and the relationship between employment, care and gender.



***Ms. Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO***

Ms. Manuela Tomei is the Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Office (ILO) since 2013. Prior to that, Ms Tomei held various posts in the ILO, both at Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and in the ILO's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru. She was the lead coordinator of the preparatory work which culminated in the adoption of the last two ILO Conventions, namely, C.190 on violence and harassment in the world of work in 2019, and C.189 on decent work for domestic workers in 2011. Together with UN Women and the OECD, Ms Tomei was key to the establishment of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), which was launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2017 to contribute to the realization of SDG 8.5. She authored the first two Global Reports on discrimination at work produced in the framework of the follow-up to the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. She has written and provided policy advice on a range of subject matters, including gender, poverty and work, informal and non-standard forms of employment, and wages and the gender pay gap.

***Chaired by:***



***Ms. Shauna Olney, Chief, Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch & ILOAIDS, ILO***

Ms. Shauna Olney is Chief of the Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch (GED/ILOAIDS) of the International Labour Organization. GED/ILOAIDS coordinates the ILO Strategy for Indigenous Peoples' Rights for Inclusive and Sustainable Development. She studied law at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and as a postgraduate at the University of Oxford. She has been with the ILO for over 20 years, working in various areas related to labour and human rights. Previously she worked as a barrister and solicitor in Canada, specializing in industrial relations, labour law and human rights, and also worked at the Supreme Court of Canada. She was a Deputy member of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications on gender, equality and non-discrimination.

## INAUGURATION OF THE PHOTO EXHIBITION “PORTRAIT OF A (WORKING) MOTHER”



**Mr. Gerton van den Akker**, *Head of Section for Labour & Health issues, European Union Delegation to the UN in Geneva*

Mr. Gerton van den Akker is a senior diplomat with a distinguished service in the UN (FAO, UNHCR, UNDP), Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UN Affairs, Human Resources Department), NATO Brussels and, since 2011, in the European External Action Service. He studied Political Sciences and Public Administration & Management in The Netherlands and Portugal and has been posted to Mozambique, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and the USA. He started his new assignment at the EU Delegation in Geneva as Head of the Social Affairs & Health Section on 1 September after he finished his posting as Chief of Staff and Head of Coordination & Press at the EU Delegation in New York.



**Ms. Brigitte Mantilleri**, *Director, Equality Department, University of Geneva*

Ms. Brigitte Mantilleri is the Director of the Equality Department in the University of Geneva since 2008. She previously led the Communications Department of the Geneva State Council. Mme. Mantilleri brings a wind of innovation to the question of women in academic careers, thanks to her entrepreneurial spirit, her passion for teamwork and the common good. She has authored several books and biographies and has spoken at conferences and major public events. She studied literature at the University of Hamburg and a Magister Prüfung. She also studied journalism and is active in the press, publishing and communication.



**Ms. Marina Cavazza**, *Co-author of “Portrait of a (working) mother”*

Marina Cavazza, Italian photographer, studied Philosophy and then learnt photography while collaborating with leading publishers and photographers in Rome, Barcelona, Paris and Brussels. Her work focuses on the broad theme of Identity, which she explores through reportage, portrait and self-portrait. Marina lives in Geneva with her husband and three kids.

**Ms. Eglė Kačkutė**, *Co-author of “Portrait of a (working) mother”*

Dr Eglė Kačkutė is a Lithuanian researcher and literary critic. She has authored a monograph on identity and published on contemporary women’s writing, and on mothering in migrant. She has taught at Vilnius and Maynooth Universities. Eglė’s current research examines what it means to mother in countries and cultures other than their own. Having studied literature in Lithuania, UK and France, she subsequently spent ten years in Geneva with her husband and son whilst carving out her academic career. She lives, works, and mothers between Ireland and Lithuania.