

**Doha Evidence Symposium**  
**Increasing Youth Productivity in the Middle East and North Africa**  
**Doha, Qatar | March 6-8, 2014**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Maisoon Al-Amarneh, Labour Policy Analyst, Economic and Social Council, Jordan**

Maisoon Al-Amarneh is a labour and education policies analyst at the Economic and Social Council in Jordan. She coordinates a technical team to develop the national employment strategy and provides technical support. She also serves as a consultant to the International Labour Organization and worked as an enterprise advisor to the ILO to provide advisory services such as independent enterprise assessments against labour standards as well as advisory services related to enterprise development.

**Ahmed Al-Mekhlafi, Director General of Labour Market Information, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Yemen**

Dr. Ahmed Al-Mekhlafi is the Director General of Labour Market Information at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) in Yemen. Dr. Al-Mekhlafi is a sociologist and completed his PhD in Morocco in 2006. Prior to his appointment to lead the Department of Labour Market Information, his work focused on the development of small and medium enterprises and social work. In his current position, he contributed to the establishment of Social Services Centers in Sana'a and Aden, the monitoring of private employment offices as well as the collection and analysis of labour force data to inform policy making.

**Abdulkarim H. Alnujaidi, Executive Deputy Director General, Human Resources Development Fund, Saudi Arabia**

Dr. Alnujaidi is the Executive Deputy Director General of the Human Resources Development (HRDF) in Saudi Arabia. His role focuses on developing national strategies to match supply with demand for national human resources and managing the implementation of HRD programmes. Dr. Alnujaidi has 26 years of work experience in both public and private sectors. He previously worked for the Saudi development & Training Co (SDT), an Economic Offset Company, as the training academy principal. Previous to that, he was an assistant professor of English and Chairman of the English Training Centre at Riyadh College of Technology (TVTC). He received his Ph.D. in English from Oklahoma State University in 2003 and his Executive MBA from King Fahad University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in 2011. Dr. Alnujaidi is currently leading several HRDF employment, training, and customer services initiatives.

**Abdulsalam Wail Y. Alsulaiman, Director, Child and Youth Programme, Arab Urban Development Institute**

Dr. Alsulaiman is a Professor of Social Studies at King Saud University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He joined the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) in 2012 as Director of the Child and Youth Programme, one of the five major programmes of AUDI, funded by the World Bank and international, regional organizations and hosted by AUDI in Diplomatic Quarter, KSA. The Arab Urban Development Institute, founded in 1980 with permanent headquarters in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It is the technical wing of the Arab Town's Organization (ATO), based in Kuwait and has an active membership of over 470 Arab cities and municipalities representing 22 Arab states.

**Mahdi Barouni, PhD student, Institute for Research in the Sociology and Economics of Education, University of Burgundy**

Mahdi Barouni is a statistician and economist at the Centre for Research and Social Studies (CRES) in Tunisia. His work focuses on setting up a data warehouse to support policy makers in the field of social studies in Tunisia. At the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, he was a member of the Management Committee of the AMAL programme aimed at boosting employment. He supported the establishment of a management and monitoring system for recruitment in the public sector. He contributed

to several statistical studies on the employment and employability of graduates in Tunisia. He also works on the return to higher education in Africa and particularly in Tunisia as part of his doctoral thesis in economics of education at the Institute for Research in the Sociology and Economics of Education (IREDU), University of Burgundy.

**Azita Berar Awad, Director of the Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization**

Azita Berar Awad is the Director of the Employment Policy Department which leads ILO's action for promoting full and productive employment by developing integrated employment, development and skills policies. Ms. Berar Awad has been leading the advisory work, research and technical cooperation in the relevant fields of pro-employment macro-economic policies, poverty reduction strategies, innovative employment creation schemes, youth employment, employment-intensive approaches and transitions to formality. Before her current position, Ms. Berar Awad was the Director of the National Policy Group in the Policy Integration Department, promoting coherence of economic and social policies in pursuance of the organization's Decent Work goals in the national and international policy agendas. From 1999 to 2002, Ms. Berar Awad was the Director of the Arab States Multidisciplinary Advisory Team and the Deputy Director of the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States based in Beirut. She holds post graduate degrees in Development Economics and Political Science from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva.

**Bruno Crépon, Professor of Economics, ENSAE and École Polytechnique**

Bruno Crépon is Professor of Economics at ENSAE and École Polytechnique. He is a board member of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a research network devoted to randomized evaluations of social programmes, where he co-heads with Marianne Bertrand the Study in Employment Programme. Crépon is also an IZA and CEPR Research Associate. His research focuses on policy evaluation, especially on employment and youth employment issues in both developed and developing countries. Crépon completed his undergraduate studies at École Polytechnique in Paris in 1986 and ENSAE in 1988. He completed a PhD in Economics at Université de Paris I in 1994.

**John Crist, Director of Research, Georgetown University - Qatar**

In January, 2012, John T. Crist became Director of Research at Georgetown University - Qatar, responsible for supporting and promoting GU-Qatar's active research culture among faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Crist first joined GU-Qatar in July 2008 as Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, then served as Associate Director of Research at the Center for International and Regional Studies, GU-Qatar's premier research institute on Gulf and regional studies. Prior to his arrival in Doha, Crist was Associate Vice President for Fellows at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. He received his Ph.D. in interdisciplinary social science from the Programme on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts (PARC) in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University (1998). Currently, Dr. Crist is co-Lead Principal Investigator for a project funded by the Qatar National Research Fund's National Priorities Research Programme about "Higher Education Development, Scientific Productivity, and the Knowledge Economy."

**Raj M. Desai, Associate Professor of International Development, Georgetown University**

Raj M. Desai is Associate Professor of International Development at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, and a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He is a specialist on problems of economic reform, foreign aid, and international development. He has also served as occasional consultant to the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and other international organizations. From 1996 to 1999, he was as a private sector development specialist at the World Bank, where he worked on the privatization and restructuring of public enterprises in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and on the recovery of financial systems following economic crises in East Asia and Latin America. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from Harvard University where he was a National Science Foundation Fellow, and his B.A. from the University of California, Irvine.

**Paul Dyer, Senior Analyst, Silatech**

Paul Dyer is a senior analyst at Silatech, where he also serves as Programme Manager for the Knowledge Programme under the Research and Policy Department. Paul's research focuses on demographics, labour markets, and public service provision in the Middle East and North Africa region. He has a particular interest in impact evaluation and its use in building evidence in support of effective programme development for youth. Paul holds a Masters of Arts in Arab Studies with a concentration in Economics and Development from Georgetown University, where he was the Sheikh Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qassemi Scholar. Prior to joining Silatech, Paul was a fellow at the Dubai School of Government and worked with the World Bank as a consultant in the Office of the Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region.

**Nathan Fiala, Researcher, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)**

Dr Nathan Fiala is a researcher at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin. He has designed and implemented over a dozen impact evaluations, with a special focus on youth employment and entrepreneurship. He has spent literally thousands of hours working with young people and small business owners. His work has appeared in top economics journals, as well as popular science journals and newspapers around the world.

**Drew Gardiner, Technical Officer, International Labour Organization**

Drew Gardiner joined the International Labour Organization in 2008 as a Technical Officer. He is in charge of the Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment which provides technical and financial support for impact evaluation studies. He also currently manages the Taqem Community of Practice and acts as an investigator and researcher in several randomized control trial studies. Drew has lead or participated in over 30 technical missions in the Middle East and Africa providing advice to government and social partners on the design of youth employment projects and policies. He is also an accomplished trainer, facilitator and coach on results based management practices. Before joining the ILO, Drew led youth development projects in Zambia and Senegal. He holds a MBA from HEC, University of Geneva.

**Oussama Ghneim, Head of TVET Department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon**

Oussama Ghneim occupies many posts in the public and the private sector. He is the head of TVET department, General coordinator for technology education as well as the head of the Educational TV and Radio unit at CERD (Center for Educational Research and Development) - Ministry of Education and Higher Education - Lebanon. Besides, he is a lecturer at the Lebanese university and other private ones. Mr. Ghneim holds several graduate degrees in mechanics, education, and educational management and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in this field. He works as a consultant and an expert for a number of national and international organizations, and NGOs, such as the ILO, UNESCO, LES CITÉS, INTERRIVES in Vocational and Technical Education, Technology and Entrepreneurship. At CERD he is responsible for coordinating several projects such as "From Entrepreneurship Education to an Entrepreneurial community."

**Nader S. Kabbani, Director of Research and Policy, Silatech**

Nader Kabbani is the Director of Research and Policy at Silatech. Kabbani also currently serves as a Senior Public Policy Fellow with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut and a member of the Technical Advisory Board of the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. Prior to joining Silatech, Dr. Kabbani was the founding Director of the Syrian Development Research Centre at the Syria Trust for Development. During his career, Kabbani worked as a consultant for a number of international organizations, including the World Bank, the European Training Foundation, and various United Nations agencies. Kabbani obtained a B.A. in Economics from Claremont McKenna College in 1992. He was selected as a California State Senate Fellow and worked with the California State Senate Office of Research between 1992 and 1994. Kabbani went on to complete a Ph.D. in Economics at the Johns Hopkins University in 2001.

**Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, and Founder, Innovations for Poverty Action**

Dean Karlan is Professor of Economics at Yale University and President and Founder of IPA. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago's Harris Graduate School of Public Policy and Graduate School of Business and received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), and the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, Dean is also a research fellow at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab and the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development. His research focuses on microeconomic issues of public policies and poverty. Much of his work uses behavioural economics insights and approaches to examine economic and policy issues relevant to developing countries as well as to domestic charitable fundraising and political participation.

**Jochen Kluge, Professor of Empirical Labour Economics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and RWI**

Jochen Kluge is Professor of Empirical Labour Economics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Since 2007 he has also been Head of the Berlin Office of RWI, an economics think tank. Previously, he was head of the labour markets unit at RWI. From 2001 until 2003 he worked as lecturer and post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Economics, UC Berkeley. Jochen Kluge studied economics in Heidelberg, Amsterdam and Dublin, and holds a PhD from Universität Heidelberg. He has worked extensively on the evaluation of Active Labour Market Programmes, with a focus on youths, as well as other topics in labour policy and methodological issues in impact evaluation. Jochen Kluge has worked on projects and as a consultant for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German International Cooperation (GIZ), the European Commission, the Governments of Mexico and Catalunya, and the German Federal Government. His work has been published e.g. in the Economic Journal, Labour Economics, the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A), the Journal of Applied Econometrics, and the Journal of Development Effectiveness.

**Adriana Kugler, Vice-Provost for Faculty and Professor of Public Policy, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University**

Dr. Adriana Kugler is Vice-Provost for Faculty and Full Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy. She was founder and Co-director of the International Summer Institute on Policy Evaluation between 2010-2013. She served as Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Labour in 2011 and 2012. Prior to coming to Georgetown, she was Full and Associate Professor at the economics departments at the University of Houston and at University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Her research interests include labour markets and policy evaluation in developed and developing countries. She is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and Research Fellow of the Center for Economic Policy Research, Institute for the Study of Labor, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration and the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University. Dr. Kugler earned her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1997 and her Joint BA in Economics and Political Science with First Class Honors from McGill University in Canada in 1991.

**Megan Lloyd-Laney, Director, CommsConsult**

Megan Lloyd-Laney is Director and co-founder of CommsConsult Ltd., a company that specialises in strategic communication for the development sector. CommsConsult has offices in the UK and Zimbabwe, and works with researchers, their organisations, and research funders to maximise the uptake of research by being smarter about the ways they communicate. The company launched and maintains [www.researchtoaction.org](http://www.researchtoaction.org), a platform that helps researchers to make their work more interesting, accessible and relevant to policymakers and practitioners in a bid to make decisions and actions more evidence-informed. Megan is a science journalist, facilitator and trainer. She has worked for DFID's Research and Evidence Division as a Communications Advisor, and has led teams that help policymakers such as the World Bank to understand and meet demand for information. She has trained hundreds of African scholars to be more strategic about the ways that they engage with policymakers to maximise the reach and potential uptake of their research.

**Bastien Michel, PhD Fellow, Aarhus University and TrygFonden's Centre**

Bastien Michel is starting a PhD at Aarhus University and TrygFonden's Centre for Child Research. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Paris School of Economics (EHESS) and worked for J-PAL/IPA for more than four years on numerous randomized controlled trials in France, Kenya and India. He is currently working on two RCTs which respectively aim to evaluate the effects of entrepreneurship edutainment programmes in Egypt and those of different programmes trying to increase women's control over their fertility in Burkina Faso. He is interested in Education, Health, Gender and Labour Economics.

**Shawn Powers, Policy Manager, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)**

Shawn Powers manages J-PAL's Education and Labour Markets programmes, which include two research initiatives on post-primary education and youth. He is the author or co-author of a number of J-PAL publications, including review papers on primary and post-primary education. Shawn speaks regularly to representatives of international organizations, foundations, governments, and NGOs to help them understand and apply rigorous evidence on education and labour market policies. He also facilitates partnerships between researchers and implementing organizations in these sectors. Prior to coming to J-PAL, Shawn worked in a variety of positions related to anti-poverty policy both in the U.S. and in developing countries, including Tanzania and the Philippines. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Williams College, an M.Phil. in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge, and an M.P.A. in Economics and Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

**Susana Puerto, Senior Youth Employment Specialist, International Labour Organization**

Susana Puerto is a Senior Youth Employment Specialist at the International Labour Organization. She recently held the position of manager of the Youth Employment Network, a partnership uniting the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the World Bank in the pursuit of new and durable solutions to the youth employment challenge. Susana is a labour economist by training with extensive expertise on youth employment and the design and evaluation of active labour market programmes, particularly in developing and transition economies. She has worked on social protection and labour issues for different multilateral organizations and carried out a wide range of research studies in Colombia. Susana holds an M.A. in Economics from Georgetown University.

**Neil Rankin, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Stellenbosch**

Neil Rankin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, University of Stellenbosch. Most of his work is in four, often related, areas: microeconomic aspects of international trade; firms and firm dynamics; prices and pricing at a disaggregated level; and policy evaluation, and has focused mainly on sub-Saharan Africa. Between 2009 and 2013 he was the Principal Investigator of a large-scale impact evaluation project which investigated the impact of a wage subsidy on youth employment in South Africa.

**Imran Rasul, Professor of Economics at University College London, and at the Institute for Fiscal Studies**

Imran Rasul obtained his PhD in Economics from the LSE in 2003. He is now a Professor at University College London, co-director of the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and research co-director of the Human Capital Research Group of the International Growth Centre. His research interests include labour, development and public economics and his work has been published in leading journals such as the Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica and the Review of Economic Studies. He is a co-managing editor of the Review of Economic Studies journal. He was awarded the 2007 IZA Young Economist Prize, the 2008 CESifo Distinguished Affiliate Award, and an ERC-starter grant in 2012.

**Lucia Sanchez, Director, SME Initiative, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)**

Lucia Sanchez is the Director of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Initiative at IPA. She provides strategic direction to the initiative and leads the initiative's efforts on project development, fundraising and external outreach to stakeholders in the sector. Prior to joining IPA, she worked in the design and

implementation of SME development policies in Vietnam (at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization), and Argentina (both at the National Ministry of Industry and at the National Bank of Argentina). Lucia holds a Masters degree in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she was a Fulbright and Harvard Presidential Fellow. She also holds a graduate degree in Development Economics from FLACSO, and an BA in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires.

#### **Nour Shammout, Consultant, World Bank**

Nour joined The World Bank's Development Research Group, Finance and Private Sector Development Unit in January 2013. She has since been working on issues related to youth unemployment in Jordan, and has been coordinating the Yalla Watheefa study on Jordan's labour market. Prior to joining The World Bank she worked at the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in the National Competitiveness Team where she worked on a number of regulatory reform initiatives targeting the improvement of education outcomes and labour market participation rates. Her research interests also focus on the spatial factors behind the high unemployment rates in Amman. Nour is a candidate for a Master of Urban Planning and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan in May 2014. She has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Boston University.

#### **Kalanidhi Subbarao, Consultant**

Kalanidhi Subbarao was until recently a senior consultant for the Human Development (Social Protection) Hub of the World Bank. He was formerly a lead economist (social protection) in the Africa Region of the World Bank, and in the Poverty Reduction Network of the World Bank. Prior to joining the Bank, he taught/conducted research at the Delhi School of Economics, the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and at the University of California at Berkeley. At the Bank, he played a major role in the analytical, operational and policy work mainly in the domain of safety nets. He has published extensively on the subject, and over the past 20 years, worked on operational and analytical issues on a range of social protection programmes in over 30 countries across the world. He recently co-authored a Study on Social Protection for Food Security, (sponsored by the Committee on World Food Security, FAO, 2012) and a book on Public Works as a Safety Net: Design, Evidence and Implementation (2012) for the World Bank Directions in Development series. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

#### **Bibiana Taboada, Senior Evaluation Associate, Inter-American Development Bank**

Bibiana Taboada is a Senior Evaluation Associate at the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), where she supports the design and implementation of social sector projects, especially in topics related to monitoring and impact evaluation. During her years at the IDB, Bibiana has been involved in projects and evaluations in the social protection and health, labour markets and citizen security sectors, in different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Bibiana is an Economist and Master in Economics from Los Andes University in Bogota, Colombia, and holds a Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPA-ID) from Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

#### **Mito Tsukamoto, Senior Specialist, Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP), International Labour Organization**

After working for a multinational for 3 years in Japan, Ms. Mito Tsukamoto joined the ILO in 1994, where her career now spans over a period of 19 years working in various capacities – including working in the Bureau of Programming and Management; in the Regional and Sub-regional Offices in Bangkok; in the Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation, as Manager for resource mobilization; and in the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP), where she has now worked for over 7 years. In the past she also worked with the World Bank on sector strategy research leading to advisory support to governments on corporate social responsibility in business, education and trade. In her most recent posting, she has contributed to the ILO's response to the global economic and financial crisis where she co-authored a policy paper on "Towards the right to work: Innovations in Public Employment Programmes (PEP)" and a

“Guidebook for designing innovative PEPs” and managed a team in the development of the training course and material on the same topic. Ms. Mito Tsukamoto holds an MBA and Honours Certificate in International Business Diplomacy from Georgetown University.

**Tiantian White, Policy Analyst, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)**

Tiantian White is a Policy Analyst at J-PAL Global, where she is involved in J-PAL’s policy analysis and outreach by preparing policy publications, conducting cost effective analysis, and sharing lessons from J-PAL evaluations with policymakers. She also works on J-PAL’s Health and Labour Markets Programmes by providing support to programme initiatives, organizing events related to the programme areas, and responding to external inquiries related to health and labour markets. In addition, she supports J-PAL’s Africa Office in policy outreach and scale-ups in the region. She holds a B.S. in Biology from MIT. Prior to joining J-PAL, she worked with NGOs in China on improving migrant workers’ health and interned with the Center for Global Development, assisting on several global health research projects.

**Tarik M. Yousef, Chief Executive Officer, Silatech**

Tarik M. Yousef was appointed in 2011 as Chief Executive Officer of Silatech, a regional initiative that promotes job creation, entrepreneurship, access to capital, and the participation of young people in economic and social development. After working as an economist at the International Monetary Fund, he joined the faculty of Georgetown University in 1999, where he held the positions of Associate Professor of Economics in the School of Foreign Service and Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah Chair of Arab Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Between 2006 and 2010, he served as the Founding Dean of the Dubai School of Government and nonresident Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He co-founded the Middle East Youth Initiative at the Brookings Institution in 2007. He received his PhD in economics from Harvard University. An expert on youth inclusion and policy reform in the Arab world, he has contributed over 50 articles and chapters, and co-edited several volumes and reports. His past policy experience includes working at the African and Middle East Departments of the International Monetary Fund, the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Millennium Project at the UN. At present, he is nonresident Senior Fellow at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy; Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum; and, Chair/Vice Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on the Arab World, 2011-2014.