

# Data as a Development Issue

Friday, January 31, 2020, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Lindner Family Commons, Room 602  
Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E Street, NW

The digital transformation of the global economy can help businesses and governments provide better services. But it also creates new risks for individuals whose personal data fuel these new digital products and services.

To succeed in the data-driven economy, policymakers must establish clear rules about how data can be collected, used, and shared in a manner that simultaneously protects citizens from abuse and enables innovation, development, and growth. Striking this balance may be particularly difficult in lower income countries, where the diffusion of technology is often slower and less complete than in wealthier ones.

We are in the early phase of debating how governments should prepare for and manage the growing role of data in their economies and there is a limited consensus on best approaches. The aim of this free conference is to improve our shared understanding of the role of data governance for economic growth and development.

Throughout the day, speakers will address how data can be used to stimulate development; how best to govern different types of data and data-driven services; and how global governance might support full and fair participation of lower income countries in the digital economy.

## Organizers



## Co-Sponsors



## Agenda

- 9:00am Welcome by Professor **James Foster**, Professor and Director, Institute for International Economic Policy, George Washington University
- 9:15am Presentation by **Vivien Foster**, Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice-Presidency, World Bank
- 9:50am Coffee Break
- 10:00am **Data and Development:** How will data and the data-driven economy affect development?
- Emmanuel F. LeTouze, Co-founder and Director, DataPop Alliance
  - Vivian Ranson, Lead, Development Informatics Team, US Agency for International Development
  - Stefaan Verhulst, Co-Founder and Chief of Research and Development, Governance, The Governance Lab
  - Chair: Susan Aaronson, Research Professor and Director, Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, George Washington University
- 11:30am Lunch & Keynote Presentation by **Claire Melamed**, CEO, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- 1:15pm **Governing Data for Development:** What does good data governance look like? How can development organizations best promote sound data practices?
- Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch
  - Agnieszka Rawa, Managing Director, Data Collaboratives for Local Impact, Millennium Challenge Corporation
  - Dhanaraj Thakur, Research Director, The Web Foundation
  - Priya Vora, CEO, Future State
  - Chair: Michael Pisa, Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development
- 2:45pm Coffee Break
- 3:00pm **A Global Framework for Inclusive Development:** How can low- and middle-income countries participate on equal terms in a data-driven economy?
- Burcu Kilic, Director, Digital Rights Program & Research Director, Public Citizen

- Sreekanth Mukku, Project Manager, Data Privacy in the Global South, Konnektiv Kollektiv
- Nanjala Nyabola, Writer, Humanitarian Advocate and Political Analyst
- Teresa Scassa, Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
- Chair: Sabine Muscat, Program Director, Technology and Digital Policy, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Washington, DC

4:30pm

Concluding remarks by **Shantayanan Devarajan**, Commissioner of the Pathways to Prosperity Commission on Technology and Inclusive Development and Professor at Georgetown University

5:00 pm

Conference Ends

## Biographies

**James E. Foster** is the Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics at the George Washington University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University and holds a Doctorate Honoris Causa from Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo (Mexico). Professor Foster's research focuses on welfare economics — using economic tools to evaluate and enhance the wellbeing of people. His joint 1984 *Econometrica* paper (with Joel Greer and Erik Thorbecke) is one of the most cited papers on poverty. It introduced the FGT Index, which has been used in thousands of studies and was employed in targeting the Progresá CCT program in México. Other research includes work on economic inequality with Amartya Sen; on the distribution of human development with Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva and Miguel Szekely; on multidimensional poverty with Sabina Alkire; and on literacy with Kaushik Basu. Foster regularly teaches introductory and doctoral courses on international development and each spring joins with Professor Basu in presenting an undergraduate course on Game Theory and Strategic Thinking, to which staff and Board members of the World Bank are also invited. Professor Foster is also Research Fellow at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Department of International Development, Oxford University, and a member of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity (HCEO) Working Group, Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics, University of Chicago. This year he is serving on the World Bank's Commission on Global Poverty.

**Dr. Emmanuel Letouzé** is the co-Founder and Director of Data-Pop Alliance, a not-for-profit global coalition on Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and human development created in 2013 with the MIT Media Lab and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. He is a Visiting Scholar at MIT Media Lab and a Connection Science Fellow at MIT and a Research Associate at HHI. He is also a co-Founder and Executive Director of the Open Algorithms project (OPAL), overseeing its pilots in Senegal and Colombia. He wrote UN Global Pulse's White Paper "Big Data for Development" in 2011, and has since then focused on new data's applications and implications for human development, including poverty, inequality, migration, crime, fragile states, social cohesion climate resilience, official statistics, privacy and ethics. He previously worked as an Economist for UNDP in New York (2006-09) on fiscal policy, post-conflict recovery and migration, and in Hanoi, Vietnam for the French Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs as a Technical Assistant in public finance and official statistics (2000-04). He holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in Applied Economics-Economic Demography from Sciences Po Paris, an MA in International Affairs-Economic Development from Columbia University, where he was a Fulbright Fellow, and a PhD in Demography from the UC Berkeley, where his dissertation focused on Big Data for demo-economic research. He is also a political cartoonist for various media.

**Dr. Burcu Kilic** is a scholar, lawyer and digital rights advocate. She directs the Digital Rights Program at Public Citizen. Burcu has researched and written extensively on technology, innovation, digital rights and trade, and provided technical advice and assistance in numerous countries in Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa. She is the U.S. Chair of the Digital Policy Committee, Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue. Since 2011, she has been a SARChI research associate at the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa. She completed her PhD at Queen Mary, University of London, holds

L.L.M. degrees in Intellectual Property Law from Queen Mary, University of London and Information Technology Law from Stockholm University. She obtained her law degree with distinction from Ankara University.

**Susan Ariel Aaronson** is a Research Professor of International Affairs, GWU Cross-Disciplinary Fellow, and Director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub at GWU. Aaronson conceived of and directs the Hub, which aims to educate policymakers, the press and the public about domestic and international data governance issues from digital trade to public data governance. Aaronson is also a Senior Fellow at the think tank Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Canada. Aaronson's current research focuses on mapping data governance; AI as a global public good; and data as a development issue.

**Claire Melamed** is the CEO of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, heading up a global team based in five countries. She was previously Managing Director of the Overseas Development Institute, and in 2014, she worked in the office of the UN Secretary-General, writing the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution, "A World That Counts." Claire is based in London, has worked for a number of international NGOs and taught at the University of London and the Open University. Dr. Melamed has a PhD from the University of London, and can be found on Twitter at @clairemelamed.

**Shaïda Badiee** is a co-founder and managing director of Open Data Watch, an NGO focused on monitoring and promoting open data in national statistical offices. She has been an active member of the UN Secretary General's advisory group on data revolution, co-chairs the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Data Network, and has played a key role with the startup of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. Shaïda brings several decades of experience in managing global development statistics as the long-time Director of the World Bank's Development Data Group. Prior to that, she played a key role in the creation and operation of PARIS21 as well as leading international efforts to coordinate technical and financial support for statistics through initiatives like the Marrakech Action Plan.

**Agnieszka Rawa** is Managing Director for the Millennium Challenge Corporation's partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. In this role, she leads MCC's strategic \$21.8 million partnership with the State Department's Office of Global Aids Coordinator (S/GAC) to conceptualize and implement investments that would strengthen country-led open data systems in up to three eligible countries in Africa. Ms. Rawa joined MCC in 2009. Before her current position, she was Managing Director for Africa in the Department of Compact Operations. Before joining MCC, Ms. Rawa had 16 years of predominantly private sector-led international development experience in a variety of roles including that of partner in a global consulting firm where she worked in socio-environmentally sensitive regions in South America, the Middle East and North Africa and the Southern Africa Region. Ms. Rawa is a graduate of Stanford University and a recipient of the Donella Meadows Sustainability Fellowship.

**Dhanaraj Thakur** is Research Director at the Web Foundation. He has been designing and leading research projects on ICT policy and regulation, gender and ICTs, and the socio-economic impacts of ICTs in developing countries for the last ten years. This includes assignments with the

World Bank, IMF, the IDB, and several governments and NGOs. He has also published several peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reports. Dhanaraj previously held faculty positions at Tennessee State University (Nashville, USA) and the University of the West Indies (Mona, Jamaica). Prior to that he worked in the area of community development with the government of Jamaica. A former Fulbright scholar, he holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA), and is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of West Indies (Mona, Jamaica).

**Priya Vora** is the Chief Executive Officer of Future State, a non-profit initiative within the United Nations Foundation that is advising governments and development agencies on digital policy and data empowerment. She is also the former Director of the Center for Digital Development at USAID, where she oversaw a multi-disciplinary team charged with developing new strategies and alliances to support the availability and adoption of internet, digital financial services, open source data platforms and analytics capabilities. Prior to USAID, Priya launched the Financial Services for the Poor program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from where she developed new programs that advanced digital finance including the start of the World Bank's dedicated team on the topic.

**Michael Pisa** is a policy fellow at the Center for Global Development, where his work focuses on how digitalization is shaping economic development. He is currently overseeing a project on how governments can use and regulate the use of data in a way that supports innovation, growth, and development while protecting individuals against abuse. Before joining CGD, Michael served as a senior advisor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, where he helped organize and inform the Obama Administration's efforts to support financial inclusion abroad. In earlier roles, he served as deputy director of Treasury's Office of International Banking, and acting U.S. financial attaché in Afghanistan. Michael received a PhD in political science from the University of California, San Diego.

**Sreekanth Mukku** is a project manager at Konnektiv, conducting research on data privacy in the Global South. Konnektiv Kollektiv GmbH is a consulting agency based in Berlin, Germany, which conducts studies and produces publications on the use of ICT in developing contexts, analyzing the social, cultural, and economic impact. Sreekanth holds a Master of Public Policy from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt, Germany, with a specialization in European Public Policy and Digitalization. His previous experience includes 14 years of advising some of the leading multinational corporations like IBM, Oracle and Deloitte Consulting on their emerging markets growth and expansion strategies. In his 6-year stint with IBM India, his work focused on analyzing India's policy environment and digital market opportunities, as well as on developing a road map to engage with stakeholders in India's start-up led digital ecosystem. Sreekanth is from Hyderabad, India. He has an MBA from ICFAI Business School Hyderabad and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from SV University India.

**Nanjala Nyabola** is a writer, independent researcher and political analyst currently based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her work focuses on digital humanities and technology in politics, as well as East African politics more generally, including humanitarian work and human rights protection. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including the Financial Times, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, Al Jazeera, World Politics Review, as well as academic articles and numerous

chapters in edited collections. She consults for international and policy organizations on her areas of expertise and holds several fellowships for both her writing and research. Nanjala is the author of "Digital Democracy, Analogue Politics: How the Internet Era is Transforming Kenya" (Zed Books, 2018) and the co-editor of "Where Women Are: Gender and the 2017 Kenyan Elections" (Twaweza Publications, 2018). She holds a BA in African Studies and Political Science from the University of Birmingham (UK), an MSc in Forced Migration and an MSc in African studies, both from the University of Oxford, which she attended as a Rhodes Scholar, and a JD from Harvard Law School.

**Teresa Scassa** is a CIGI senior fellow. She is also the Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy and a full professor at the University of Ottawa's Law Faculty, where her groundbreaking research explores issues of data ownership and control. Teresa is an award-winning scholar, and is the author and editor of five books, and over 65 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She has a track record of interdisciplinary collaboration to solve complex problems of law and data, and is currently part of the Geothink research partnership. Teresa is a founding member of the University of Ottawa's Centre for Law, Technology and Society, is cross-appointed to the School of Information Studies at the University of Ottawa and is a member of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University. At CIGI, Teresa's research focuses on the legal challenges associated with data ownership and the need for a national data strategy in a data-driven economy. Teresa's research also covers the governance of smart cities data and its implications for innovation, transparency, accountability, sovereignty and privacy. Teresa has worked as a consultant for government and the private sector, and has also worked with non-governmental organizations on issues within her areas of legal expertise. She is a past member of the External Advisory Committee of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, and of the Canadian Government Advisory Committee on Open Government. Teresa holds degrees in civil and common law from McGill University, as well as an LL.M. and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. She clerked for Mme Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé at the Supreme Court of Canada from 1988 to 1989.

**Sabine Muscat** runs the program on Technology and Digital Policy at the Heinrich Boell Foundation Washington, D.C. since March 2019. Her program promotes transatlantic and global dialogue about Internet governance, digital rights and sustainable digital development. A journalist by training, Sabine was a freelance editor and consultant for the Mercator Institute for China Studies. She reported from the United States, Germany and China for major US and German media outlets. She was the Financial Times Deutschland's last Washington correspondent from 2007 to 2012. During her time as Financial Times Deutschland's Asia desk editor, she reported from China and other parts of Asia. Sabine holds an MA Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, UK.



