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## **A Feminist Approach to Women's Economic Empowerment: Identifying Opportunities for Action – Collaboration Workshop Ottawa, Canada - June 21-22, 2018**

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Rebecca Tiessen, Professor and University Chair in Teaching, University of Ottawa**

Rebecca Tiessen is Full Professor in the School of International Development and Global Studies and University Chair in Teaching at the University of Ottawa. Her research includes feminist and gender analyses of economic empowerment, maternal health and peace & security. She is particularly focused on gender equality strategies in Canada's foreign aid commitments and scholar/practitioner collaboration. She is a member of the Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada and co-editor of the 2017 book: *Obligations and Omissions: Canada's Ambiguous Actions on Gender Equality*, McGill-Queen's University Press.

#### **Kate Grantham, Research Associate Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, Managing Editor of Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women Research Series**

Dr. Kate Grantham is a Research Associate at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, and Managing Editor of the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) Research Series. Her research is focused on gender and development, women's economic empowerment, microfinance, sex trade work, and the role of women's NGOs as intermediaries in development. Kate has also taught graduate and undergraduate-level courses on gender and feminist approaches to international development at Huron University College and University of Ottawa.

#### **Jeni Klugman, Managing Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Fellow, Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard Kennedy School**

Jeni Klugman joins us as External Gender Adviser for the Gates Foundation. She is the managing director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government's Women in Public Policy Program at Harvard University. She is an expert on gender and international development, having previously served as director of Gender and Development at the World Bank and as a co-author of the

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report of the U.N. Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. Jeni sits on several boards and panels, including for the World Economic Forum and the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Australian National University, and postgraduate degrees in both Law and Development Economics from the University of Oxford where she was a Rhodes Scholar.

### **Andrew Clark, acting Director General, Economic Development, Global Affairs Canada**

Andrew Clark is an economics graduate of the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics. Andrew began his career working as a Junior Professional Officer with the United Nations Development Programme in Dakar, Senegal. Subsequently he worked as a researcher with the North-South Institute with his main research area being Canadian development policy with a particular focus on Africa. He joined the Canadian International Development Agency in 1997 working in both Multilateral and Policy Branches over the years. From 2011 to 2015 Andrew served as an Advisor to Canada's Executive Director at the World Bank in Washington, DC. Since his return to Ottawa and to the new Global Affairs Canada Department, Andrew has been serving as the Director of Economic Growth and International Financial Institutions Division.

### **Aniket Bhushan, Lead Analyst and Principal Investigator, Canadian International Development Platform**

Aniket Bhushan is Adjunct Research Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (Carleton University, Ottawa). He was previously Senior Research in the Governance for Equitable Growth program at the North-South Institute, a leading Canadian international development think-tank. Aniket also leads the Canadian International Development Platform, an initiative that leverages open data and big data to analyze, visualize and discuss Canada's engagement with the developing world. His work sits at the intersection of data, technology and international development. This includes extensive knowledge and experience in areas including: open data standards, social media big data, data management, visualization, open source software development, and their application to international development data. His research interests include: fiscal mobilization and public expenditure in developing countries, international finance, impact of big data and open data on research in international affairs and development.

### **Crystal Simeoni, Head of Advocacy, FEMNET**

Crystal is a holder of an MA in African studies and rural economic development. Her career has centered around fighting inequalities at a village level all the way to regional and global spaces and platforms using a wide range of approaches and skills which she now brings to

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the women's movement. Gender, macroeconomic issues and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) keep her up at night. She has a passion for intersectional feminism and can be found discovering new hidden spots to do interesting things across Kenya in her spare time. Get in touch on email [advocacy@femnet.or.ke](mailto:advocacy@femnet.or.ke) and follow her on twitter @crystalsimeoni

### **Rukia Cornelius, Women's Economic Empowerment Lead, Oxfam South Africa**

Rukia Cornelius has a career in development spanning 20 years and a part of co-creating many incredible feminist alternatives and movement strengthening spaces. Her organising intersects Womxn's Economic Justice, Rights and Access to Health and Ending Violence against Womxn and Girls. As the first female National Manager of the Treatment Action Campaign at the height of the access to treatment campaign she coordinated the biggest HIV Stand Up for Our Lives march Africa has ever seen bringing together more than 20,000 activists. She set up and managed a womxn's micro enterprise making and selling leather soccer balls and bags in rural Wellington (Western Cape) where they successfully acquired an identity card, bank account and access to social grants for every woman in the factory. Before joining Oxfam Rukia was National Manager for Community, Education & Mobilisation at Sonke Gender Justice. She currently leads a program that aims to remove the structural barriers that keep working class womxn and gender non-binary people at the margins of society and the economy. The program has three strategic pillars namely: 1) Redefining work; 2) Labour Rights and a Living Wage 3) Equal Access & Ownership.

### **Renana Jhabvala, National Coordinator, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**

Renana Jhabvala is the National Coordinator of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India, Chair of SEWA Bharat and co-founder and board chair of WIEGO. She received a BSc in Mathematics from Hindu College, University of Delhi and a BA in Mathematics from Harvard University. She did post-graduate studies in economics at Yale University. She has a long and distinguished career in organizing working women in India into trade unions and cooperatives, engaging on policy issues, and writing about the informal economy. She recently served as a member of the UN Secretary General High Level Panel on women's economic empowerment 2016-17 as well as the Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute, a Deemed University in Tamil Nadu, India. Among other awards, in 1990 she was awarded a Padma Shri from the Government of India for her contributions in the field of social work.

### **Martha Melesse, Senior Program Specialist, Employment and Growth Program, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Martha Melesse is a Senior Program Specialist with the Employment and Growth Program at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) where her work currently focuses on youth employment and women's economic empowerment. She spearheaded research on care economy as part of a multi-funder program on Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW). Since joining IDRC in 1993, she has worked in various programs covering

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issues of inclusive growth, social policy, and health system strengthening. Martha holds a Ph.D. in public policy from Carleton University in Ottawa with specialization on gender equity in health financing reform. She also holds a graduate diploma in international development and co-operation from the University of Ottawa and an MBA from the United States International University.

### **Imogen Davies, Programme Adviser Youth Active Citizenship, Oxfam Great Britain**

Imogen provides strategic leadership to Oxfam GB's work with Youth as Active Citizens, coordinating implementation of the Youth strategy and managing program development and design processes. She supports the integration of youth participation and leadership into programming and campaigns on Gender Justice, Economic Justice, Inequality and Conflict & Fragility. Imogen also participates in Oxfam's Youth as Active Citizens network, leading the Gender Justice working group and initiatives on social norms relating to youth rights and gender equality. She has previously worked in program management for Oxfam GB program initiatives on Women's Economic Empowerment and Youth Active Citizenship. She specializes in youth and gender justice issues, participatory learning and youth-led program processes. Imogen has an MA in Gender and International Development and a particular interest in gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights.

### **Alejandra Vargas Garcia, Senior Program Office, Governance and Justice, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Alejandra Vargas currently serves as a Senior Program Officer with the Governance and Justice at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She has 10+ years of experience working in women's empowerment, human trafficking, immigration and international development. She has worked with the UN, USAID, and as a chief of Department for the Mexican's government program to fight violence against women (PAIMEF). She holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.

### **Alexandra Lamont, Deputy Director, Economic Growth and IFIs, Global Affairs Canada**

Alexandra (Ali) Lamont joined Global Affairs Canada in 2005, where she started in Trade Policy Branch working on agricultural trade policy issues, including the WTO agriculture negotiations and supply management. She then moved to work on the Minister of International Trade's priorities including the Global Commerce Strategy, before spending 2.5 years in Kabul, Afghanistan working on police reform and Afghan domestic politics. After a year working on corporate governance of Export Development Canada, in September 2014 she took up the position of Deputy Director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Unit of the International Trade Portfolio and Responsible Business Conduct Division, where she was responsible for implementing Canada's enhanced CSR Strategy for the Extractive Sector. In August 2016, she became Deputy Director of the Economic Growth Policy unit of the Global

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Issues and Development Bureau, where she has led the team responsible for developing the Growth that Works for Everyone Action Area Policy under Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.

### **Martha Chen, Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School and Senior Advisor, WIEGO Network**

Martha Chen is a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, an Affiliated Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Senior Advisor of the global research-policy-action network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). An experienced development practitioner and scholar, her areas of specialization are employment, gender, and poverty with a focus on the working poor in the informal economy. Before joining Harvard in 1987, she had two decades of resident experience in Bangladesh working with BRAC (now the world's largest non-governmental organization) and in India, where she served as field representative of Oxfam America for India and Bangladesh. Marty received a PhD in South Asia Regional Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Chen was awarded a high civilian award, the Padma Shri, by the Government of India in April 2011; and a Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War award by the Government of Bangladesh in December 2012.

### **Sarah Gammage, Director, Gender, Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)**

As Director of Gender, Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods, Sarah Gammage leads ICRW's work on women's economic empowerment with a particular focus on the care economy, time use and time burdens and intra-household processes. She has more than 25 years of experience as researcher and feminist economist, providing policy advice and supporting strategic advocacy on gender equality in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Sarah currently leads a research project at ICRW funded by the Hewlett Foundation to explore the policies, programs and interventions that promote reproductive and economic empowerment looking at those reproductive health services, labor market institutions and social protection policies that have successfully supported women's transition from informal to formal work. Sarah is an associate editor of *Feminist Economics* and a member of Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). Sarah has worked with and for a number of international and multilateral organizations including the International Institute for Environment and Development, Women's Edge, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Labour Organisation and UN Women. She and has written academic and policy research articles on gender and trade, poverty, labor markets, migration and environment.