

Speaker Biographies



Augustin, Theo
*Manager of Sustainable Rural Development,
Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and
Agriculture, Germany*

Theo Augustin is Manager of Sustainable Rural Development in the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture in Germany, a role he has assumed since June 2002. In this capacity, he has focused on village renewal, land consolidation, and the pilot and demonstration project REGIONEN AKTIV (active regions). Mr. Augustin has worked with the Ministry since 1988 as an agriculture engineer. His early work for the Ministry was in the field of environmental affairs of agriculture, and later he worked in the field of rural development. His work in rural development included responsibility for the LEADER programme.



Barca, Fabrizio
*General Director at the
Ministry of Economy,
Italy*

Fabrizio Barca is General Director at the Italian Ministry of Economy and President of the OECD Territorial Policies Committee. He has previously been at the Bank of Italy as Division Chief at the Research Department and Chief of the Department of Development Policies at the Italian Treasury. He graduated from Rome University and undertook an M.Phil. Degree and research activity at the Universities of Cambridge (1978-80), MIT (1989-90), and Stanford (1994). He has had appointments at the Universities of Bocconi, Siena, Modena, Rome and Parma, where he taught economic development, corporate finance and Italian economic history. His works include papers and books on the theory of the firm, evidence on SMEs, corporate governance, the history of Italian capitalism and regional policy.



Barkema, Alan
*Senior Vice President for
the Regional, Public, and
Community Affairs
Division of the Federal
Reserve Bank of Kansas
City, United States*

Alan D. Barkema is Senior Vice President of the Regional, Public, and Community Affairs Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. In this role, he is responsible for all aspects of the Bank's regional economic analysis. In addition, Alan leads the Bank's economic education, community development, and other public programs throughout the Bank's seven-state region. Since joining the Bank as a research economist in 1986, Alan has written and spoken widely on developments in the regional and agricultural economies, while also serving in a variety of management positions. He was appointed to his current position in October 2005. Alan has also served as Professor and Head of the Agricultural Economics Department at Oklahoma State University in the late 1990s before returning to the Bank in 1999. A native of Alexander, Iowa, Alan holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University and an M.S. degree from Cornell University. He resides in Lenexa, Kansas with his wife and two children.



Brittan, Diana
*Chair, Carnegie
Commission on Rural
Community Development,
United Kingdom*

Dame Diana Brittan is currently Chair of the Carnegie Commission on Rural Community Development. She chairs two charities and is President of the National Association of Connexions Partnerships. She is a JP in the City of London. She has held a number of public appointments and was Chair of the Community Fund, a lottery distributor, between 1999 and 2004.



Bryden, John
*Chairman, International
Rural Network Board,
United Kingdom*

John Bryden is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Aberdeen where he was formerly co-Director of the Arkleton Institute for Rural Development Research and Chair of Human Geography. He is currently Director of the UHI Policy Web, Director of The Arkleton Trust, and Chairman of the International Rural Network. Acknowledged for his original work on European rural development issues, his recent international comparative research projects include DORA (Dynamics of Rural Areas in Europe) and TOP-MARD (Towards a Policy Model of Multifunctional Agriculture and Rural Development). Bryden is a former Fellow of RUPRI (USA) and currently serves on the International Advisory Board of the Polson Institute for Global Studies at Cornell University.



Clark, Margaret
*Deputy Chief Executive,
Commission for Rural
Communities, United
Kingdom*

Margaret Clark is Deputy Chief Executive of the newly-established Commission for Rural Communities, a statutory body which acts as rural advocate, expert adviser and independent watchdog on behalf of rural communities and businesses in England. She leads the Commission's policy work across a wide range of social and economic issues affecting the future sustainability of rural communities, such as disadvantages, access to jobs and services and affordable housing, governance, social capital and economic opportunities. She is also concerned with monitoring the rural proofing of policies and programmes by government and others. She has represented the United Kingdom on the OECD's rural development group since the early 1990s and has been chair of its Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas since 2002. She is a member of the Executive Committee of Hastoe Housing Association, an honorary fellow of the Centre for Rural Economy at the University of Newcastle, a trustee of the Arkleton Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She was awarded the OBE in 1999 for services to rural development.



Dax, Thomas
*Deputy Director, Federal
Institute for Less Favoured
and Mountainous Areas,
Austria*

Thomas Dax graduated from studies in spatial and regional planning and joined the Bundesanstalt für Bergbauernfragen in Vienna, Austria in 1985. Since 1992 he has been head of the unit and deputy-director of Bundesanstalt für Bergbauernfragen. His research activities focus on regional and rural development, mountain farming, and pluriactivity of farm households. He has long been participating in national and international working groups, evaluation tasks of international research programmes on mountain areas and rural development. Currently, he is also an Austrian delegate to the OECD Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas.



De Ruiter, Kees
*Director of the National
Service for Archaeology,
Cultural Landscape and
Heritage, Netherlands*

Mr. Kees De Ruiter is the Director of National Service for Archaeology, Cultural Landscape and Built Heritage in The Netherlands. Previously, Mr. De Ruiter was the Director of the Department for Rural Development within the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Over the years, he has been involved in environmental and spatial planning in the rural areas.



Dorr, Thomas
*Under Secretary for Rural
Development, Department
of Agriculture, United
States*

Thomas Dorr joined USDA in 2001 and was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2002 to be the Under Secretary for Rural Development. As Under Secretary for Rural Development he serves as the Chairman of the USDA Energy Council which is responsible for advancing the President's Energy Initiative. Mr. Dorr has broad agricultural, financial and business experience. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the 7th District Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Iowa Board of Regents, and as a member and officer of the Iowa and National Corn Growers Associations. Mr. Dorr was the President of a family agribusiness company consisting of a corn and soybean farm, a state licensed commercial grain elevator and warehouse, and two limited liability companies. Mr. Dorr is from Marcus, Iowa, he graduated from Morningside College with a B.S. degree in business administration.



Drabenstott, Mark,
*Director, RUPRI Center
for Regional
Competitiveness, United
States*

Mark Drabenstott is a seasoned observer of regional development and policy issues whose insights have gained national and international recognition. Mark is a native of Markle, Indiana, where he grew up on his family's farm and learned agriculture and basketball firsthand. Mark earned his bachelor's degree from Earlham College and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University. Mark was named founding director of RUPRI's national Center for Regional Competitiveness in September 2006. He spent 25 years in the Federal Reserve System, and led the creation and development of the Center for the Study of Rural America. On 19 occasions, he has presented testimony to Congress. He has been a prolific author, writing more than 150 articles and editing 10 books. He has also been on the road a lot—giving more than 1,000 presentations to public policy, university, and private sector audiences throughout the nation and beyond. Mark is currently a member of the U.S. delegation to an OECD committee that tracks global trends in rural issues and identifies the best policies for helping regions reinvent their economies. In 2005 he was selected to chair a U.S. Department of Commerce federal advisory panel. That panel conducted the first major review in 40 years of U.S. policy for economic development. He is a past director of National Bureau of Economic Research and has also advised the World Bank.

Finnie, Ross
*Minister of Environment
and Rural Development,
Scottish Executive,
Scotland, UK*



Fluharty, Charles
*Director of the Rural
Policy Research Institute,
United States*

Charles W. Fluharty is founding Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), the only national policy institute in the U.S. solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. A seasoned policy analyst and practitioner, he has authored numerous policy studies and journal articles addressing the rural differential in public policy decision making, is a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, and has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings. He has also provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments and many state governments, associations of government, development organizations and foundations. A Research Professor and Associate Director in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he also holds an Adjunct Faculty appointment in the UMC Department of Rural Sociology. Chuck was born and raised on a fifth generation family farm in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Ohio, and is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. He and his wife Marsha are the parents of two sons and a daughter.

Gill, Maninder
*Sector Manager, Social
Development Team, World
Bank*



Hecklinger, Richard
*Deputy Director General,
OECD*

Mr. Hecklinger has been Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) since January 2002. He provides overall guidance for OECD work in the areas of investment, fiscal affairs, corporate governance, competition policy, public management, regulatory reform and a wide range of other policy areas. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Hecklinger was a member of the United States Foreign Service and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. Mr. Hecklinger devoted much of his Foreign Service career to international economic issues, serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the OECD. He was also Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs. Mr. Hecklinger received degrees from Harvard Law School, The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and St. Lawrence University.

Hinds, Lesley
*Lord Provost of the City of
Edinburgh, Scotland,
United Kingdom*



Kurki, Sami
*Unit Director of Ruralia
Institute, Seinajoki Unit,
Finland*

Professor Sami Petri Kurki is a Unit Director in the Ruralia Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland. His research and development interests are focused on rural entrepreneurship, specifically on the development of practical models to enhance innovation processes in rural SMEs. During the past seven years he has also been actively developing the EPANET – network, which is a practical model to intensify interaction between five universities, regional development organisations and rural SMEs in western Finland. His other fields of expertise are landscape ecology and environmental policy. He has published over sixty research articles, conference papers and other publications based on various international and national research and development projects.



Lucatelli, Sabrina
*Member of the Evaluation
Unit of the Ministry of
Economic Development,,
Italy*

Sabrina Lucatelli is Member of the Public Investment Evaluation Unit (UVAL) of the Department for Development and Cohesion Policy of the Italian Ministry for Economic Development, and has a specific responsibility for Rural Areas. She is an Italian Delegate at the TDCP/WPTP Rural Areas. She has previously been at the OECD as an economist for the Directorate for Food Agriculture and Fisheries and the Economics Department. She graduated from Rome University and undertook a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Economics at the Catholic University of Milan and a High Diploma in Rural Development at the University College Cork. She has been implementing important evaluation activities trying to assess how Rural Development Policy and Regional Policy are impacting rural areas in Italy. Her works include papers and articles on relationships between agriculture and broader region economics; local development issues and different aspects of rural development, including basic services provision.



McGranahan, David
*Senior Economist in the
Economic Research
Service, Department of
Agriculture, United States*

Dr. David McGranahan is a Senior Economist in the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. His research focuses on the roles of farm programs, natural amenities, and the "creative class" in rural growth. Earlier research emphases included technology adoption by rural manufacturers and the importance of education for rural development. He was part of the team that won the 2005 ERS Helios research award for a study of the socioeconomic implications of the Conservation Reserve Program for rural areas. David is current president of the Southern Regional Science Association. He has degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (PhD.) and Harvard (B.A.)



McNally, Carolyn
*Executive Director,
Department of
Transportation and
Regional Services,
Australia*

Carolyn is responsible for the Australian Government's Regional Policy and Programs and has been a senior executive in the Australian Government for over 7 years. Carolyn also has a strong track record in program development and management, overseeing a number of large health, telecommunication, and regional programs. She has 20 years public service experience working on key issues such as primary health care policy, regional telecommunications, employment policy, including regional employment and Indigenous issues. Carolyn recently coordinated the Government's Telecommunications Connect Australia Package, announced in August last year which included \$3Billion for regional telecommunications. Prior to becoming a senior public servant Carolyn took time out of the public service and worked in private enterprise for five years as the General Manager of the ACT Division of General Practice which involved representing General Practitioners at the local, State and National levels.



Ma, Xiaohe,
*Vice-President, Academy of
Macroeconomic Research,
National Development and
Reform Commission of
China.*

Dr. Xiaohe Ma is currently the Vice-president at the Academy of Macroeconomic Research of National Development and Reform Commission of China, an adjunct professor in Renmin University of China, and an expert committeeman in the soft-science committee at the Department of Agriculture. He is an active participator in policy making on rural economic development of China and the author of the influential book *Structural transformation and agricultural development*. He is a productive researcher and has contributed to a considerable amount of publications involving industrial structure and policies, agricultural and rural development policies, rural public goods investments and issues regarding the development of Western China.



MacRae, Donald
*Strategy and Finance
Director of Lloyds TSB
Scotland, Scotland, United
Kingdom*

Donald JR MacRae is the Strategy and Finance Director of Lloyds TSB Scotland plc. He is a member of the Scottish Executive Purchasers Information Advisory Group (PIAG) and the Economic Consultants Statistics Group. Donald was appointed to the board of Scottish Homes in 2002 and to the board of Scottish Enterprise in 2004. He is a trustee of the David Hume Institute, a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and holds the chair of visiting professor of business and economic development at the University of Abertay Dundee.



Mills, John
*Director of Rural Affairs,
Department of
Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs (DEFRA),
United Kingdom*

John Mills joined Defra in 2003 as Director of Rural Policy. He has had a lengthy public service career. In the UK Civil Service he spent a number of years in the Department of Trade and Industry, including a period leading policy on international telecommunications. He spent three years at 10 Downing Street, advising Prime Ministers Thatcher and Major mainly on local government and education issues, and from 1982-95 he was Director at the Office of Fair Trading, the UK's competition regulator. He spent four years with the Government of Hong Kong (when the territory was still a British Crown Colony), and has held Chief Executive posts in English local government and in Jersey (a British Crown Dependency). His responsibilities at Defra cover rural economic and social development, including the EU Rural Development Programme ('Pillar 2' of the Common Agricultural Policy).



Nakken, Kristin
*Deputy Director General,
Ministry of Local
Government and Regional
Development, Norway*

Kristin Nakken is Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in Norway, Department of Regional Development. Since 1990 she has worked on different subjects concerning regional development in Norway ("district policy assisted areas"). This includes working with programmes for peripheral areas and small communities, different programmes for innovation and business development in remote areas, Action Zone for Nord-Troms and Finnmark, and programmes for restructuring areas with weak industrial bases and small labour markets. Kristin Nakken has also worked as a consultant in the petroleum business and in the Hordaland County Council. She is a geographer from the University in Bergen from 1985.



Pezzini, Mario
Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

Mario Pezzini is Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division in the Directorate of Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD. He started his career as a senior economist at NomismaF, an Italian economic research organisation. Following, he took a position as economic counselor in regional planning and development for the Regional Government of Emilia-Romagna in Italy. Subsequently he worked as a professor of Industrial Economics in the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines of Paris. Then in 1995, he became Principal Administrator in the OECD Urban Affairs Division, later selected as Head of the OECD Rural and Regional Development Programme and finally appointed to his current post as Head of the Division. His main fields of expertise are Industrial Economics and Regional Economics.



Ríos Piter, Armando
Minister for Rural Development for the State of Guerrero, Mexico

Armando Ríos Piter is currently the Minister for Rural Development for the State of Guerrero, Mexico. Previously he held the positions of Deputy Minister for Sectoral Policy at the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Director of Political Analysis in the Office of the President, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs for the State of Guerrero, as well as Deputy Director for Macroeconomic Analysis at the Ministry of Finance, Mexico. He holds an economics and law degree from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University and is a M.A. Public Administration Candidate at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University.



Rodríguez-Pose, Andrés
Head of the Department of Geography and Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose is a Professor of Economic Geography and Head of the Dept of Geography and Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is also a Visiting Professor in European Economics at the College of Europe in Bruges and an editor of *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*. He is a holder of a Royal Society-Wolfson Research Merit Award and a recipient of the Philip Leverhulme Prize for his work on economic geography. His main research strands deal with the factors influencing regional development and growth across the world and with the design, implementation and impact of development strategies, topics on which he has published numerous scientific papers and several books, including the recently published “Local and Regional Development” (London, Routledge, 2006, with Andy Pike and John Tomaney).



Sallard, Odile
Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

Odile Sallard is the Director of the Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development. She has had an extensive career at the OECD and occupied senior positions in a number of OECD Directorates, including the Head of a Country Studies Division in ECO, Director of the Territorial Development Service, Head of the Private Office of the Secretary-General, Deputy Director, Directorate for Education, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs and Director of the Public Management Service. She holds degrees in economics, business administration and accounting from Paris University and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques.



Sauvé, Robert
*Associate Deputy Minister
for Rural and Regional
Development, Ministry of
Quebec, Canada*

Last March, Mr. Sauvé was appointed Associate Deputy Minister for Rural and Regional Development of the Ministry of Quebec by the Premier of Quebec. Mr. Sauvé has been a high level official for many years. Since 1992, he has worked in several ministries, in positions which include Deputy Secretary of the Executive Counsel of the Regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and North Quebec, Associate Deputy Minister for Regional Development, Associate Deputy Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Regions, and Associate Deputy Minister of Regional Affairs of the Ministry of Regional and Economic Development. Mr. Sauvé holds a degree from the University of Montreal as well as a Master's degree in Regional and Urban Planning from Oxford University, UK.



Shucksmith, Mark
*Professor of Planning at
Newcastle University,
United Kingdom*

Professor Mark Shucksmith is Professor of Planning at Newcastle University, UK, and was until recently Professor of Land Economy, and Co-Director of the Arkleton Centre for Rural Development Research, University of Aberdeen, and Co-Director of the Scottish Centre for Research on Social Justice. He is a Board Member of England's *Countryside Agency* from 1st April 2005 (*Commission for Rural Communities* from 1st October 2006) and was a member of the Government's *Affordable Rural Housing Commission*. Mark was elected First Vice-President of the International Rural Sociological Association for 2004-08, and was Programme Chair for the XI World Rural Sociology Congress in Norway in 2004. He is Adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on rural issues, and was Secretary to JRF's Rural Housing Policy Forum. He is also Visiting Professor at the Centre for Rural Research, University of Trondheim, Norway. He has recently coordinated four EU research projects, *The Territorial Impact of the CAP and Rural Development Policy* (ESPON); *Policies and Young People in Rural Development* (FP5); the *Rural Development Transfer Network* (Northern Periphery Programme); and *Restructuring in Marginal Rural Areas – The Role of Social Capital in Rural Development* (FP5). A new report on *Quality of Life: Urban-Rural Differences* across the enlarged EU will shortly be published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. He has been adviser to the Environment & Rural Development Committee of the Scottish Parliament, a member of the English National Selection Committee for LEADER+, and is a member of SEERAD's science advisory board.



Soto, Sergio
*Vice Minister of Social and
Human Development,
Mexico*

Mr. Soto has a major in Biochemical Engineering from the Monterrey Technological Institute. He also has postgraduate studies in Food Engineering and a Master in Business Administration from the same institution. He has been an associate professor in the University of the Americas, the Monterrey Technological Institute and the *Universidad Popular* in Puebla, Mexico. He has working experience in the food industry, in construction as well as in marketing and advertising. He has also been a partner in textile, graphic arts, and pneumatic engineering companies. From 1993 to November 2000 he served as a civil servant for the Mexican Confederation of Employers and the Mexican Chapter of the international Chamber of Commerce. Starting in December 2000 he joined the federal government of Mexico where he acted as Chief of Staff for the Vice Minister of Social and Human Development, Chief of Staff for the Minister of Social Development and Chief of the Micro Region Unit. In January 2006, President Vicente Fox appointed Mr. Soto as Vice Minister of Human and Social Development.



Tanoi, Masahiko
*Director, Rural Policy
Coordination Office,
Rural Development
Bureau, Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries, Japan*

Mr. Masahiko Tanoi is the Director of the Rural Policy Coordination Office in the Rural Development Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. He has occupied several positions in rural development including Director of the Rural Development Division at Okayama's Prefecture Government, Japan, and Agricultural Attaché at the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan. He has had a successful career as an engineer specializing in irrigation and drainage, and has worked on a number of national irrigation projects. Mr. Tanoi received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Kyoto, and is qualified as a licensed professional engineer in agriculture.



Villar, George
*Coordinator of EARO,
Centre for New Initiatives,
Regional Government of
Extremadura, Spain*

Mr. Villar is currently the coordinator of EARO (European Association of Regional Observatories). His responsibilities include the development and international diffusion of gnuLinEx and the Information Society Model of Extremadura with interventions in various international conferences and meetings. Mr. Villar joined the Centre for New Initiatives which is part of the General Directorate on the Information Society of the Regional Government of Extremadura in 2003 to develop and conduct projects in the framework of the European Union. The objectives of these projects focused on policies regarding Information Society, mainly in the areas of Free Open Source Software, Digital Literacy, E-Business, E-Learning and Regional Information Systems.



Wakeford, Richard
*Head of Environment and
Rural Affairs
Scottish Executive,
Scotland, United Kingdom*

Richard Wakeford joined the Scottish Executive at the start of 2005 from the Countryside Agency in England where he had been Chief Executive since its creation in 1999. Richard was also an appointed member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission and a non-executive member of the management board of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). He remains an honorary member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Before joining the Countryside Commission as Chief Executive in 1996, Richard worked in the Cabinet Office working on Cabinet minutes, economic and environmental affairs. His previous experience was mainly in the Department of the Environment working on land use, environment and water policy issues.