

The IMF Statistical Forum is an annual global platform for data users, data providers, and policymakers. The objectives of this Forum are threefold: (i) to promote a discussion of cutting-edge statistical issues and forge a deeper understanding of different statistical perspectives; (ii) to create an avenue for participants to exchange views on data availability, usability, and interpretation; and (iii) to build a broader constituency for statistical improvements. In short, the intention is to encourage a dialogue between suppliers and users of data on current and relevant economic and financial issues, and ensure that data compilers and providers are up-to-date with the latest policy and research thinking.

The theme for the Third IMF Statistical Forum is “Official Statistics to Support Evidence-based Economic Policymaking”. The topics to be covered include the relevance of micro data for evidence-based policymaking; big data and micro-data hubs; statistics on a from-whom-to-whom basis; the macroeconomic impacts of natural resources; and measuring material conditions of households.



AGENDA – NOVEMBER 19, 2015

09:00 AM Welcome Remarks

Jens Weidmann, President, Deutsche Bundesbank

09:15 AM Introduction

Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

09:30 AM Keynote Speech

Otmar Issing, former Chief Economist and Member of the Board, ECB

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM Session I

The Relevance of Micro Data for Evidence-Based Policies

This session examines how micro data can be used to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of policy instruments in different policy areas. Policies need to be evaluated *ex ante* and *ex post* to allow rational and responsible decision-making. Policy areas that focus on the stability of a system pose special problems, as the events of interest — systemic breakdowns — are rarely observed. Financial stability is about tail events and their systemic consequences. Microdata needs to be carefully aligned with policy issues such as (i) regulatory changes; (ii) the effects of long-term unemployment benefits or job-creating measures; and (iii) distribution effects of monetary policy.

Chair

Claudia Buch, Deputy President, Deutsche Bundesbank

Speaker

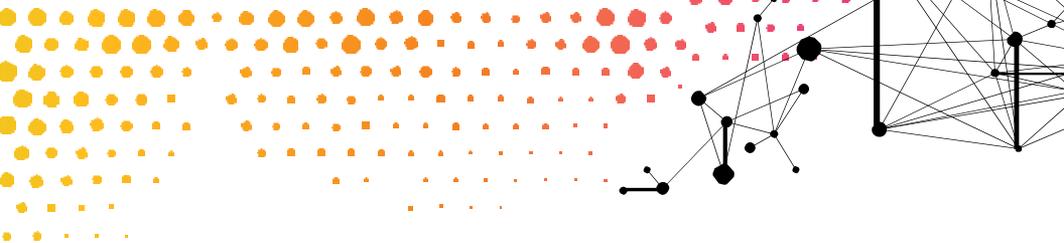
Charles Manski, Professor of Economics, Northwestern University, United States

Masaaki Shirakawa, Professor of International Politics, Economics and Communications, Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

Discussant

Yungtaek Jung, Chief Representative in London, Bank of Korea

Christoph Schmidt, President of the RWI Essen and Chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts, Germany



12:30 PM **Lunch**

1:30 PM **Lunchtime Presentation**

Data Science for Official Statistics

Granular data have been hailed as the “new oil” of the 21st century, with clear benefits to policy, society and public opinion research. This talk provides an overview of the way in which new data and new approaches have been used to measure a key area of the economy - R&D and innovation

Speaker

Julia Lane, Professor, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, United States

02:00 PM **Session II**

Big Data and Micro-Data Hubs

This session explores the potential of large and often unstructured granular information (“Big Data”) as well as highly detailed administrative or survey data for decision making and statistical analysis. Data access, data protection, data quality and data ownership are key issues to be considered by data providers and also much debated in public. For example, micro-data hubs are repositories of micro data made available to analysts, policy makers, and researchers, while protecting the confidentiality of the micro information.

Chair

Turalay Kenç, Deputy Governor, Türkiye Cumhuriyet Merkez Bankası

Speaker

Alberto Cavallo, Cecil and Ida Green Assistant Professor of Applied Economics, MIT Sloan School of Management, United States

Stefan Bender, Head of Research Data and Service Center, Deutsche Bundesbank



Discussant

Patrick McGuire, Head of the International Data Hub, Bank for International Settlements

Julia Lane, Professor at Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, United States

03:30 PM Coffee Break

04:00 PM Session III

Statistics on a From-Whom-to-Whom Basis

The 2008 global financial crisis highlighted the need to better identify the build-up of risks in the financial sector, and to understand financial interrelations among the sectors of an economy and between domestic sectors and their counterparties in the rest of the world. Statistics on

a from-whom- to-whom basis permit the analysis of relationships between systemically relevant institutional sectors and sub-sectors within an economy and also between these sectors and subsectors and non-residents. Trade and production statistics can also be set up on a “from-whom-to-whom” basis, illustrating the generation of value added as a result of international exchange of products.

Chair

Louis Marc Ducharme, Director, Statistics Department, IMF

Speaker

Marcus Brunnermeier, Edwards S. Sanford Professor at Princeton University, Director of Princeton University’s Bendheim Center for Finance, United States

Aurel Schubert, Director General, Directorate General Statistics, ECB

Discussant

Katherine Hennings, Senior Advisor, Banco Central do Brasil

João Amador, Head of the Fiscal Policies and Structural Studies Division, Economics and Research Department, Banco de Portugal

06:30 PM Cocktails/Light Dinner

08:30 AM Session IV

Natural Resources: Macroeconomic Impacts

This session considers the conceptual frameworks and data requirements for analyzing the macroeconomic impacts of natural resources on individual economies and the global economy. It discusses the statistical measures required to assess the role of government revenues from natural resources—with related issues of transparency—and the frameworks used by resource-rich countries to manage commodity price uncertainty. Particular challenges for official statistics are the measurement of natural resource components of GDP, government revenues, and subsidies.

Chair

Ahmed Abdulkarim Alkolfey, Deputy Governor, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency

Speaker

Vitor Gaspar, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF

Discussant

Hilde C. Bjørnland, Professor of Economics at BI Norwegian Business School and Director of the Centre for Applied Macro and Petroleum Economics (CAMP).

09:30 AM Session V

Measuring Material Conditions of Households – Growth, Jobs, and Wealth

This session addresses the need to go beyond measures of GDP to assess the wellbeing of households. In doing so, some key conceptual issues of what exactly should be measured remain. The session will examine the range of indicators that could be used to complement estimates of GDP to derive a more reliable measure of well-being. It will also examine how statisticians may go about compiling and disseminating distributional information for evidence-based policy and the role of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in promoting the development of coherent measures of wellbeing.

Chair

Paul Schreyer, Deputy Director, Statistics Directorate, OECD



Speaker

Krislert Samphantharak, Associate Professor of Economics School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego, United States

Luigi Guiso, Axa Professor of Household Finance and Insurance, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance, Italy

Discussant

Olympia Bover, Head of Unit of Microeconomic Information and Analysis, Research Division, Banco de España

Thomas Alexander, Senior Economist, Statistics Department, IMF

11:00 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM Round Table Discussion

The conclusions from the individual sessions will be discussed and a way forward proposed. Do these conclusions indicate that compilers of official statistics are keeping abreast of cutting edge issues? Are they addressing the needs of policymakers and other users? Is there a micro data illusion? How do statistical agencies manage and control the increasing amounts of micro data? How do they strike the right balance between micro and macro data?

Chair

Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

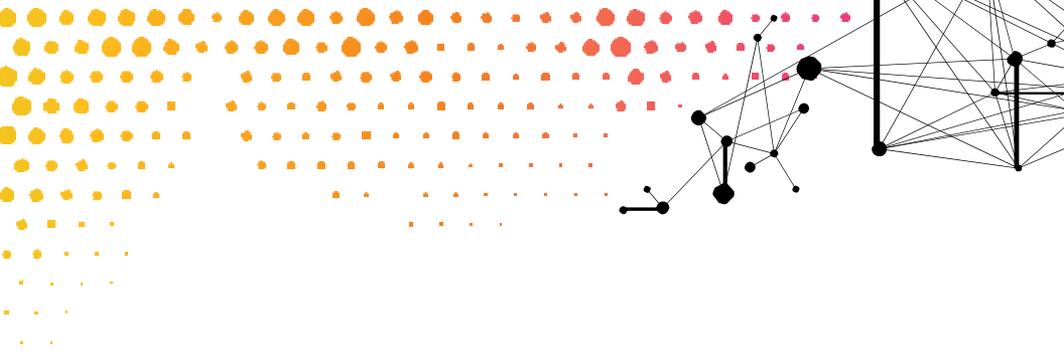
Participants

Claudia Buch (Bundesbank), **Katherine Hennings** (Banco Central do Brasil), **Ahmed Abdulkarim Alkolfey** (Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency), **Walter Radermacher** (Eurostat), **Krislert Samphantharak** (UC San Diego).

01:00 PM Closing Remarks

Louis Marc Ducharme

01:15 PM Light Lunch



BIOGRAPHIES



Jens Weidmann, born on April 20, 1968, in Solingen, is President of the Deutsche Bundesbank and Member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank. On November 1, 2015 he became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)..

He studied economics at the Université de Droit, d'Economie et des Sciences at Aix-Marseille III and at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn. In 1997 – after obtaining his Ph.D. at Bonn University – he joined the IMF in Washington D.C. In 1999 he became Secretary General of the German Council of Economic Experts. In 2003 he joined Deutsche Bundesbank as Head of the Monetary Policy and Analysis Division and Deputy Head of the Economics Department. Three years later he moved to Berlin to become Head of the Department for Economic and Fiscal Policy at the Federal Chancellor's Office. In this position he also acted as personal representative of the Federal Chancellor charged with preparations for the world economic summits of the G8 and G20 countries.



Min Zhu assumed the position of Deputy Managing Director on July 26, 2011. Previously, he served as Special Advisor to the IMF's Managing Director from May 3, 2010 to July 25, 2011. Mr. Zhu, a native of China, was a Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China. He was responsible for international affairs, policy research, and credit information. Prior to his service at China's central bank, he held various positions at the Bank of China where he served as Group Executive Vice President, responsible for finance and treasury, risk management, internal control, legal and compliance, and strategy and research. Zhu also worked at the World Bank and taught economics at both Johns Hopkins University and Fudan University. Zhu received a Ph.D and an M.A. in Economics from Johns Hopkins University, an M.P.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a B.A. in Economics from Fudan University.



Otmar Issing, born in 1936, was a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank from June 1998 to May 2006, responsible for the Directorates General Economics and Research. Until May 1998 he was a Member of the Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank with a seat in the Central Bank Council. Prior to that he held Chairs of Economics at the Universities of Würzburg and Erlangen-Nürnberg. From 1988 to 1990 he was a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. He is an active member of Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur (Academy of Sciences and Literature), Mainz, and of the Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea (European Academy of Sciences and Arts).



Claudia M Buch is the Deputy President of the Deutsche Bundesbank. She is responsible for the Financial Stability Department, the Statistics Department, and the Audit Department. Buch is the accompanying person of the President of the Bundesbank on the ECB Governing Council and a member of the German Financial Stability Committee (FSC). Prior to joining the Bundesbank in May 2014, she was the President of the Institute for Economic Research (IWH) in Halle (2013-2014), Professor of Economics at the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (2013-2014), and Professor of Economics for International Finance and Macroeconomics at the University of Tübingen (2004-2013). From 2012 to 2014 she was a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. She was Scientific Director at the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW) of Tübingen (2005-2013), and worked at the Institute for World Economics in Kiel (IfW) from 1992 until 2013.



Charles F. Manski has been Board of Trustees Professor in Economics at Northwestern University since 1997. He previously was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1983 - 1998), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1979 - 1983), and Carnegie Mellon University (1973-80). He received his B.S. and Ph.D. in economics from M.I.T in 1970 and 1973. His research spans econometrics, judgment and decision, and analysis of public policy. He has served as Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty (1988 - 1991) and as Chair of the Board of Overseers of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (1994-98). Manski is an elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences, an elected Fellow of the Econometric Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an elected Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.



Masaaki Shirakawa was previously Governor of the Bank of Japan. He was appointed as Governor in April 2008 and left the Bank in March 2013. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the BIS since January 2011. Currently, he is professor at Aoyama-Gakuin University and also a member of the Group of Thirty. Masaaki Shirakawa joined the Bank of Japan in 1972. At the Bank, he held key positions, including Executive Director in charge of monetary policy. Born in 1949, he studied economics at the University of Tokyo (B.A.) and at the University of Chicago (M.A.). He assumed Professorship at the Kyoto University School of Government from July 2006 to March 2008.



Yungtaek Jung is Chief of the London Representative Office at the Bank of Korea. Prior to this position, he was Director General of the Economic Statistics Department at the Bank of Korea. He was responsible for the main macroeconomic statistics, including national accounts, balance of payments, flow of funds, PPI and Export and Import Price Index, and monetary and financial statistics. He worked for a member of the Economic Statistics Subcommittee for National Statistics in Korea. Jung has also served as a member of the Advisory Expert Group for National Accounts and OECD Bureau member on Working Party on National Accounts. He holds a MA in Economics from UC Santa Barbara and an MBA from Korea University. In 2014, he was awarded the Korean Order of Industrial Service Merit for his contribution to the Korean System of National Accounts.



Christoph M. Schmidt, born in 1962, studied economics at the University of Mannheim, Germany, where he received his degree as Diplom-Volkswirt in 1987, at Princeton University, where he received his M.A. in 1989 and his Ph.D. in 1991, and at the University of Munich, where he received the degree of Dr. rer. pol. habil. in 1995. Since 2002 he has been president of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Essen and professor at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. Since 2009 he has been a member of the German Council of Economic Experts and chairman of the Council since March 2013. Since 2013 he has been chairperson of the board of trustees of the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance in Munich. From 1995 to 2002 he taught econometrics and labor economics as a Full Professor at the University of Heidelberg.



Turalay Kenç earned his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of York / U.K. and held academic positions at U.K. universities including the University of Cambridge, Birkbeck College at the University of London, the University of Durham, the University of Manchester, and Imperial College London. He was working as a professor of finance at the University of Bradford School of Management when he was appointed a Member of the Board of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey in April 2009. Professor Kenç was elected to the Monetary Policy Committee in May 2009 and has been serving as a Deputy Governor since April 2011. Since January 2015 he has been Chair of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics. Additionally, he is a member of the Markets Committee at the BIS. Professor Kenç has been Editor-in-Chief of the Central Bank Review Journal since April 2010.



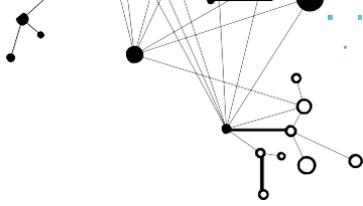
Alberto Cavallo is the Cecil and Ida Green Associate Professor of Applied Economics at MIT, Sloan School of Management, and a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research focuses on the micro-level behavior of prices and its implications for macroeconomic theory and policies. His empirical work is based on the use of daily data collected from hundreds of online retailers around the world. He co-founded the Billion Prices Project at MIT, an academic initiative that pioneered the use of online data to conduct economic research, and PriceStats, the leading provider of high-frequency inflation statistics. Alberto received a B.S. from Universidad de San Andres in Argentina in 2000, an MBA from MIT in 2005, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University in 2010.



Stefan Bender is Head of the Research Data and Service Center of the Deutsche Bundesbank. Before joining the Deutsche Bundesbank, Bender was Head of the Research Data Center of the Federal Employment Agency, Germany, at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), where he developed one of the leading research data centers worldwide (2005-2015). From 1992 to 2005, he was senior researcher at the IAB and from 1990 to 1992, at the University of Mannheim. Among other positions, Bender is vice-chair of the German Data Forum (www.ratswd.de), an independent council of empirical researchers and representatives from important data producers in Germany. He was also chair of the Management Committee “European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST-Network – Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data: Industry Dynamics, Firm Performance, and Worker Outcomes (CAED)” and Standing Committee member in the EU project “Data without Boundaries”.



Patrick McGuire is the Head of the BIS International Data Hub, which oversees the collection and analysis of bank data for supervisory authorities and central banks. Prior to this, he was in various research sections in the BIS, and focused on international financial linkages and financial stability, with an emphasis on international banking and emerging market financing. Prior to joining the BIS in 2002, he completed his Ph. D in economics at the University of Michigan with a dissertation on the Japanese financial system.



Julia Ingrid Lane is a Professor of Public Service at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, a Professor of Practice at the NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress, and a NYU Provostial Fellow for Innovation Analytics. Previous to this, Julia was a Senior Managing Economist and Institute Fellow at American Institutes for Research. In this role Julia established the Center for Science of Science and Innovation Policy Program, and co-founded the Institute for Research on Innovation and Science (IRIS) at the University of Michigan. Julia has held positions at the National Science Foundation, The Urban Institute, The World Bank, American University and NORC at the University at Chicago.



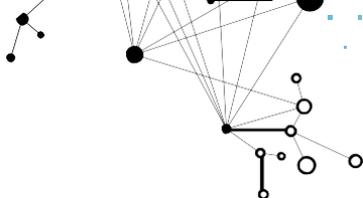
Louis Marc Ducharme was appointed Director of the IMF's Statistics Department on June 17, 2013. Before joining the IMF, he spent 30 years at Statistics Canada where he held various positions in the areas of economic statistics. His last tenure was Assistant Chief Statistician, responsible for all economic statistics. During his career, he provided extensive technical assistance to a number of countries in Latin America. He also taught macroeconomics at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. He has a Ph.D. in Economics and Science Policy from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, and both a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Montreal in Canada.



Markus K. Brunnermeier is the Edwards S. Sanford Professor at Princeton University. He is a faculty member of the Department of Economics and director of Princeton's Bendheim Center for Finance. He is the founding and former director of Princeton's Julius Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy and Finance and affiliated with the International Economics Section. He is also a research associate at NBER, CEPR, and CESifo. He is a member of several advisory groups, including to the IMF, the Federal Reserve of New York, the European Systemic Risk Board, the Bundesbank and the U.S. Congressional Budget Office. Brunnermeier was awarded his Ph.D. by the London School of Economics (LSE).



Aurel Schubert is the Director General Statistics of the European Central Bank and Chairman of the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks. He is also Chairman of the Contact Group on Data of the European Systemic Risk Board. Prior to that, he worked at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank for 25 years, 13 years of which was as Director of Statistics. He is (and was) member of several Austrian and European statistical bodies. He is Honorary Professor for Economics of the University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria, and lecturer at several academic institutions. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of South Carolina (USA) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Economics and Business in Vienna.



Katherine Hennings is Senior Advisor of the Department of Economics at the Central Bank of Brazil. She joined the Central Bank in 1993 at the International Affairs Area and moved after two years to the Department of Economics as Head of the Consultancy of Economic Studies and Analysis. Afterwards, she became Senior Advisor to the Board, working directly with the Deputy Governor for Economic Policy for more than ten years. Before joining the Central Bank of Brazil, she was Professor of Macroeconomic Theory and of International Economics at Federal University of Parana and at the Catholic School of Economics and Management. At that time she was also a researcher at the Economic and Social Development Institute of Parana State. She has a Ph. D. in Economics from the University of São Paulo. She is currently vice-chair of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics and member of other committees at Central Bank of Brazil.



João Amador is Head of the Fiscal Policies and Structural Studies Division at the Economics and Research Department of Banco de Portugal. He is also Assistant Professor at the Nova School of Business and Economics, where he teaches Macroeconomic Policies and European Economy. His research interests include international trade, product market competition, macroeconomics, European integration and the Portuguese economy. He was head of workstream in the ESCB Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet), dealing with Global Value Chains.



Ahmed A. Alkholifey is a Saudi Arabian economist born in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the current Deputy Governor for Research and International Affairs at Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA). He studied and graduated Master/Ph.D in Business Administration/Economics at Colorado State University, USA in 2000. In 1993, he completed his Master degree in Economics at Portland State University, USA and graduated a Bachelor in Law in 1987 at King Saud University, Riyadh. In 1987, he started his career as Legal Researcher in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and became an Economic Researcher in 1993. After he moved to SAMA in 1995, he started his work as Economic Specialist, then worked as an Advisor in 2000, became a Director in 2002 and been promoted as Director General of Economic Research and Statistics Department until 2010. In 2011, he was appointed as Executive Director for Saudi Arabia at the IMF until 2013. Lastly, he was sworn in as the Deputy Governor of Research and International Affairs at SAMA where he currently works.



Vitor Gaspar, a Portuguese national, is Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. Prior to joining the IMF, he held a variety of senior policy positions in Banco de Portugal, including most recently as Special Advisor. He served as Minister of State and Finance of Portugal during 2011-2013. He was head of the European Commission's Bureau of European Policy Advisers during 2007-2010 and Director-General of Research at the European Central Bank from 1998 to 2004. Mr. Gaspar holds a Ph.D. and a post-doctoral agregado in Economics from Universidade Nova de Lisboa; he also studied at Universidade Católica Portuguesa.



Hilde C. Bjørnland is Professor of Economics at BI Norwegian Business School and Director of the Centre for Applied Macro and Petroleum Economics (CAMP). Bjørnland is a Special Advisor to Norges Bank and a member of the Swedish Fiscal Policy Council. She obtained her Ph. D. degree in Economics from University of Oslo and a Master of Science degree in Econometrics and Mathematical economics from the London School of Economics. She was awarded His Majesty, The King of Norway's Gold medal for the Ph.D. thesis in social Sciences.



Paul Schreyer is Deputy Chief Statistician at the OECD. Paul Schreyer joined the OECD in 1988 and has held positions in the Directorates for Science, Technology and Industry, Environment and Statistics, most recently as head of the National Accounts Division. Before joining the OECD, he was a research fellow at the IFO Institute for Economic Research in Munich Germany. Paul Schreyer studied at the Universities of Innsbruck (Austria) and Birmingham (United Kingdom) and holds a Ph.D. in economics.



Krislert Samphantharak is an Associate Professor in the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He has conducted research on corporate finance, household finance, and economic development. His current research projects cover topics on household enterprises and household finance in rural Thailand (household occupation diversification; volatility and the smoothing of household income and consumption; risks and returns on household enterprises; and the roles of kinship and economic networks in transmitting shocks across households) as well as financing and behaviors of small and medium enterprises and large family business groups, especially those in Asia. Samphantharak received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.



Luigi Guiso is full professor at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance since January 2012. He has moved to EIEF to take the AXA chair in Household Finance and Insurance at the European University Institute. He has directed for five years the Finance Programme at CEPR of which he is a fellow. Luigi Guiso obtained a M.Sc. in Economics at the London School of Economics (1980) and M. Phil in Economics at University of Essex (1982). He has been visiting professor at the London School of Economics and Imperial College in London and has held teaching positions at the University of Rome, the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business, at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, and at the European University Institute.



Olympia Bover is an economist at the Research Division of the Banco de España where she heads the Unit of Microeconomic Information and Analysis, and is in charge of the Spanish Survey of Household Finances (EFF). Previously, she was a Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, and at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. She is a graduate of the University of Barcelona and holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Her research includes empirical interests in housing and labor markets, household finance, and consumer behavior. She also has methodological interests in microeconometrics and survey methods. She is an Associate Member of Nuffield College, Oxford, an International Research Associate at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, and a Research Fellow of CEPR and IZA. She is a member of the Council of the European Economic Association and she was President of the Spanish Economic Association in 2012.



Thomas Alexander is a Senior Economist in the IMF Statistics Department and an expert in national economic accounting. Since joining the IMF in 2001, he has worked on developing and providing guidelines on the measurement of a range of macroeconomic statistics. He also works on capacity development in low income and emerging market economies and fragile states. Prior to joining the IMF, he worked as consultant to a number of statistical agencies and helped develop frameworks to measure the activities of households. Thomas Alexander holds a Masters Degree in Economics and International Finance from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom.



Walter Radermacher studied business economics in Aachen and Münster. From 1975, he was member of the academic staff in economic mathematics and operations research at the University of Münster. He started his career at the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland) in 1978. During the nineties, he set up the environmental economic accounting (Umweltökonomische Gesamtrechnungen - UGR) which brought him wide international acknowledgement. In 2003, Walter Radermacher was named Vice-president of the Federal Statistical Office and in 2006, he became its President. During the German Presidency of the Council of the EU (first six months in 2007), Walter Radermacher was in charge of the Working Group for Statistics. He was the first chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCREEA) from 2005 to 2008. Since August 2008, Walter Radermacher is Director General of Eurostat and Chief Statistician of the European Union.