



World Social Work Day 2018

Social Work and Youth Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development

Speaker Biographies and Abstracts of Presentations

Tuesday 20 March 2018

Keynote

Aila-Leena Matthies

Bio

Aila-Leena Matthies, PhD in Social Sciences, is Professor of Social Work at the University of Jyväskylä. She has more than 30 years of experience teaching and researching in the field of social work in Finland and Germany. Currently she is head of the academic unit of social work offering social work studies at bachelor, master and doctoral levels. She is involved in several international collaborations, including the Executive Committee of the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW). Aila-Leena has been publishing on the eco-social perspective of social work in Finnish, German and English since the late 1980s. Most recently, she co-edited a book with Kati Närhi entitled *Eco-Social Transition of Society: The Contribution of Social Work and Social Policy* (Routledge 2017). Her other research focus is citizen participation and welfare service systems, in particular regarding unemployed young people. She recently edited a book with Lars Uggerhoej (2014) entitled *Participation, Marginalisation and Welfare Services: Concepts, Politics and Practices Across European Countries* (Ashgate, 2014).

Abstract

Inclusion into What? A Radical Sustainability Perspective on the Challenge of Youth Inclusion Faced by Social Work

In modern societies, social work is a profession that is expected to tackle social problems of individuals and communities at the local level. Social work is therefore a core profession, which can contribute significantly to the transition towards a sustainable society. However, inclusion of young people facing precariousness has become a challenging task for social work, as traditional methods of social work which focus on the individual face constraints in the context of a globalized economy and its multiple impacts on local labour markets and the environment. Realistic job offers for young people are getting rare. The presentation will discuss the potential of a radical perspective of sustainable development to be applied in social work, in particular in the area of youth inclusion. The research, policies and practices developed for promoting sustainable development are also highly relevant for a social work perspective which goes beyond present generations and includes future generations. Promising examples of this approach are eco-social innovations, alternatives to mainstream labour market policies, and participatory political processes at various levels of society. As argued by numerous researchers, a sustainable and inclusive society can only develop by taking the ecological ceiling of the Earth seriously, and by seeing the economy as a means and not as an end of human communities. These criteria for a sustainable future should also define a new direction for inclusive social work.

Panel: Promoting Youth Inclusion for Sustainable and Resilient Communities

François Gillet

Bio

François Gillet is a social educator with a master's degree in education sciences and associated professor in psycho-pedagogy. He developed his career as a social worker in different fields (at-risk children, socio-cultural work and secondary school education). In 1996, he became lecturer in social education training at the Haute École de Bruxelles and researcher in Cérésès. He took part in several inter-university research programmes concerning interculturality, social ethics, community mediation, articulation between different social professions, violence prevention, international social work, empowerment, and sustainable social work. In 2007, he was one of the founders and facilitators of the Educ-Europe net (www.educ-europe.eu) supporting students, professionals and researchers in their experiences of international social work professional practices.

Abstract

Social work and sustainability: How can young people make social work greener?

Consider some threats that are currently weighing on the planet and on humanity. Economic imbalance: a concern is growing that the current system is not sustainable. Should we look to the future in terms of degrowth, disruption or transition to an economic model that we can barely imagine? Financial imbalance: global finance has been in a state of permanent crisis since the end of the "glorious" years, with income and wealth unequally divided between the ultra-rich, middle classes, working classes and the others. Social imbalance: poverty is worsening in urban and rural areas; inflows of political, economic and climate refugees compound the challenges of social integration. Ecological imbalance: Environmental challenges such as pollution and ozone depletion cause climatic imbalance and threaten biodiversity, putting the planet and all of its inhabitants in danger. Socio-technological imbalance: is the human being still the master of technology—e.g. digital technologies, nuclear energy—or is it the opposite? These are troubling challenges for younger generations. "Science without conscience is only ruin of the soul" (F. Rabelais). However, somewhere beyond the mainstream, projects have been developed on alternative social work, which I will briefly present through two Erasmus and European projects run by young people: in 2013-2015, the GROWL project "Growing less and learning more". Studies of transformations in progress in a society where growth must be re-examined. In 2016-2018, the Learn BIØN project "Building impact 0 network" on the issue of self construction, development of housing, work- and domestic-spaces for and with people living in poverty.

Sandrine Haymoz

Bio

Sandrine Haymoz is Professor at The University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland in Fribourg since 2013. She holds a Master of Psychology from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne, a Master of Advanced Studies in Criminology, and a Ph.D. in Criminology from the Faculty of Law, Criminal Sciences and Public Administration of the University of Lausanne. She received the Faculty's Prize for her Ph.D. dissertation on youth gangs. While completing her dissertation, she worked as a researcher at the Universities of Lausanne and Zurich. After obtaining her Ph.D., she took part in the harmonization of Swiss police statistics at the federal level in the section Crime and Criminal Law at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. This activity was followed by postdoctoral research, financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation, at the University of California, Irvine (USA). Sandrine has published several books and articles, and her article published in *The International Criminal Justice Review* received the Richard J. Terrill Paper of the Year Award. Her research focuses on juvenile delinquency, youth gangs and extremism among youth.

Dirk Baier

Bio

Dirk Baier has been head of the Institute for Delinquency and Crime Prevention in Zurich, Switzerland, since 2015. From 2005 to 2015 he worked as a research associate and then as vice director at the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony, Germany. In 1996 he started his tertiary education at the University Chemnitz, Germany, where he studied sociology, psychology and political science, and worked as a research associate from 2003 to 2004. His research focuses on youth crime, immigration and crime, victimization, extremism and research methods. Dirk Baier headed several empirical projects in the last ten years, including

a nationally representative self-report study on delinquency of nearly 45,000 adolescents in Germany. In addition, Baier has managed projects on human trafficking, burglary and youth arrest.

Patrik Manzoni

Bio

Patrik Manzoni is lecturer and researcher at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). He has worked on several research projects in domains such as juvenile delinquency, policing and crime prevention. Currently, together with Dirk Baier und Sandrine Haymoz, he leads a large-scale study on juveniles' extremist attitudes and behaviors, covering right-wing, left-wing and Islamic extremism in Switzerland.

Abstract

Political extremism among youth: First results of a Swiss study

In many European countries, increased activity of right-wing, left-wing or Islamist extremism can be observed. Young people are especially attracted by extremist attitudes and behaviors. Although many studies on the different forms of extremism exist, this study is the first to focus on youth in Switzerland. This research consists in a large-scale survey of about 8'000 juveniles around 17 years of age coming from different language regions of Switzerland. We present the research design, the basic concept of extremism and the first results of the study.

Niall O'Higgins

Bio

Niall O'Higgins is Senior Research Specialist in the ILO's Youth Employment Programme and Professor of Economics at the University of Salerno. He holds degrees from Trinity College Dublin, York and Sheffield Universities and a Ph.D. from the European University Institute in Florence. Currently, his main research interests cover various aspects of labour economics (School-to-Work Transition, Human Capital Investment, Youth Labour Markets, Evaluation of Labour Market Policy, Labour Migration, Vulnerable Groups in the Labour Market, Labour Markets in Central and Eastern Europe) and experimental economics (Social Capital, Imitation and Reciprocity).

Abstract

Rising to the youth employment challenge: Trends and issues in global youth labour markets

Young people today face a tough time in seeking to enter the world of work. The global recession has left its mark and the modest economic recovery is not leading to any substantial fall in the global youth unemployment rate which is expected to decrease only slightly from 13.0 per cent in 2017 to 12.9 per cent in 2018. The global youth NEET rate (the proportion of youth "neither in employment nor in education or training") is even higher; 21.8 per cent for young men and women together, however, more than three-quarters of these are young women who consequently have a global NEET rate of 34.4 per cent. Moreover, technological and demographic changes are also rapidly transforming the nature of employment and the vast majority of young workers now find themselves in temporary or informal employment; many of these remain in poverty despite having a job. In this context, the presentation will discuss the nature of the challenges facing young people as they seek opportunities for decent work and how these have been changing in recent years, focusing on the main findings from two recent major ILO publications on the youth labour market situation, "Rising to the Youth Employment Challenge: New Evidence on Key Policy Issues" and "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017".

Dina Kiwan

Bio

Dina Kiwan is Reader in Comparative Education, University of Birmingham, UK, having joined the department in January 2017. In 2015-16, she was Centre for Lebanese Studies Fellow at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, and Associate Professor in Sociology, at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, since 2012. Previously she was a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Citizenship Studies, at Birkbeck College, University of London, UK (2006-2012). Her research programme focuses on citizenship and inclusion, and is interdisciplinary and comparative in scope. Her interests centre around sociological and politico-philosophical examinations of inclusive citizenship through the lens of education policy, naturalization policy and migration policy, in particular in the context of pluralist / multicultural societies, and also societies in conflict. Her work engages with the inter-relationships between theory, research, policy and practice. Her interests in critical policy analysis are complemented by an interest in how those deemed to be 'marginalized' and 'vulnerable'

constitute themselves as political actors. She has extensive and long-standing experience and networks in the UK and internationally, in the field of citizenship. Her policy and consulting experience includes co-authoring the UNESCO curriculum framework for global citizenship education (2015), appointment to the UK's Home Office 'Life in the UK' Advisory Group by Home Secretary, David Blunkett (2002); co-authoring the Diversity and Citizenship review for UK government's Department of Education (2007); experts' advisory board member for Carnegie Middle East Center 'Education for Citizenship in Arab Countries' research project; consulting the Lebanese government on teacher-training for religious diversity management (2013); and regional manager for the Middle East for a large-scale research project on Democracy (Varieties of Democracy – V-Dem; 2013-ongoing).

Abstract

Contesting conceptions of “youth” and “activism”: Experiences from Lebanon

This presentation contributes to understandings of youth activism through an examination of constructions of youth and activism in Lebanon. Lebanon provides an interesting case study given the role of youth in the uprisings in the region since 2011, as well as the demography of Lebanon and the region, where youth under the age of 18 make up over 40 percent of the population. Lebanon faces challenges as a post-conflict sectarian society, with a large Palestinian and Syrian refugee population. There is high youth unemployment and high levels of youth alienation, yet there is also a vibrant youth civil society. Civil society organizations, on the one hand, protest against government, but also often take over the role of welfare provision where the state falls short. The presentation argues for the importance of taking a context-dependent understanding of 'youth activism' through examples of gender justice work, trash-related protests and environmental activism. Implications for social workers supporting youth inclusion and participation are considered.

Mark Goodale

Bio

Mark Goodale is Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Lausanne and Series Editor of Stanford Studies in Human Rights. He is an anthropologist and socio-legal scholar who conducts research on the cultural dimensions of law and ethics, social change and human rights. He is the author or editor of thirteen volumes, including *Letters to the Contrary: A Curated History of the UNESCO Human Rights Survey* (ed., Stanford, 2018), *Anthropology and Law: A Critical Introduction* (NYU, 2017), *Human Rights at the Crossroads* (ed., Oxford, 2013), *Surrendering to Utopia: An Anthropology of Human Rights* (Stanford, 2009), *Dilemmas of Modernity: Bolivian Encounters with Law and Liberalism* (Stanford, 2008), and *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local* (co-ed. with Sally Engle Merry; Cambridge, 2007). He is currently writing a book about revolution, ideology, and law in Bolivia based on several years of ethnographic research funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Abstract

Indigenous youth as actors for more inclusive societies

This presentation will examine the question of youth and work through a consideration of debates over labour rights in contemporary Bolivia. Based on an anthropological perspective, the intervention will describe the current situation with youth, including indigenous youth, in Bolivia; analyze the competing perspectives on youth labour rights and cultural values; and conclude by drawing out the broader implications for the potential role of youth in sustainable development.

Wednesday 21st March 2018

Workshops

W1—Youth and Marginalized Minorities

Alberto Coddou

Bio

Alberto Raúl Coddou Mc Manus is professor of Public Law and researcher of the Human Rights Centre at Diego Portales University (Santiago, Chile). He recently submitted his PhD thesis, “A Transformative Approach to Anti-Discrimination Law in Latin America”, to the Faculty of Laws, University College London. He is co-author of the Chilean chapter of the International Encyclopedia of Constitutional Law (Kluwer 2011) and author of several publications in Spanish and English. He was also the editor-in-chief of the Annual Human Rights Report of Chile (UDP 2013). He has taught Public Law and Human Rights in different universities in Chile, and has been invited as a teaching fellow to University College London and University of Barcelona. His research interests include equality and anti-discrimination law, social rights, Latin American constitutionalism, and constitutional theory.

Jo Morten Kaaven

Bio

Jo Morten Kaaven is a clinical social worker and therapist in child and adolescent psychiatry from the Arctic University in Norway (UiT, Tromsø). She is Indigenous Sámi from Karasjok, Norway. She worked for 13 years at the District Psychiatric Center Mid Finnmark/SANKS - Sámi Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Mental Health and Substance Use, in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Policlinic in Karasjok. She also worked as an advisor for the Sámi parliament in Norway, at the Department for Health and Social Policy and for the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DOCIP) in Geneva.

Anne Lavanchy

Bio

Anne Lavanchy holds a PhD in Anthropology and is Professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Geneva, Switzerland. She has conducted research in South America (Chile) and Europe (Switzerland and UK). Her main topics are racialization processes, indigenouness, gender and intersectionality, with a strong focus on political and legal anthropology, racism and discriminations, and kinship.

W2—Youth and Extremism

Federico Biasca

Bio

Junior researcher at the Swiss Centre for Islam and Society of the University of Fribourg, Federico Biasca graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Lausanne in 2011, and obtained a Master's degree in European Studies at the University of Geneva in 2015. He currently leads a project sponsored by the Swiss government, whose objective is to prevent radical and violent propaganda on the internet by promoting the creation of counter and alternative narratives. This project, called PositivIslam, encourages young people to engage against extremism through blogging, which aims to raise awareness among peers about issues such as Islamic extremism and radicalization. Biasca is also engaged in an education programme called “Islamic Organizations as Social Actors” in the French and Italian speaking regions of Switzerland.

Géraldine Casutt

Bio

Géraldine Casutt is a doctoral student in sociology of religion at the University of Fribourg (CH) and the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris. She works on the issue of female jihad in the French-speaking European context. She is a junior researcher at the Swiss Center for Islam and Society (University of Fribourg), where she develops continuing education programmes on the theme of radicalization

and also coordinates a Certificate of Advanced Study programme entitled "Prevent extremism". Since 2016, she has been involved in monitoring and analyzing cases for the the Geneva-based platform for preventing violent radicalization, "Keep the link".

Miryam Eser Davolio

Bio

Miryam Eser Davolio, holds a doctorate. in Educational and Political Sciences. She works as a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Social Work, Zurich University of Applied Sciences. Her main topics are jihadist and right-wing extremism, xenophobia and racism, migration and integration, as well as violence and juvenile delinquency.

Sandrine Haymoz

Bio

Sandrine Haymoz is Professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland in Fribourg since 2013. She holds a Master of Psychology from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne, a Master of Advanced Studies in Criminology, and a Ph.D. in Criminology from the Faculty of Law, Criminal Sciences and Public Administration of the University of Lausanne. She received the Faculty's Prize for her Ph.D. dissertation on youth gangs. While completing her dissertation, she worked as a researcher at the Universities of Lausanne and Zurich. After obtaining her Ph.D., she took part in the harmonization of Swiss police statistics at the federal level in the section Crime and Criminal Law at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. This activity was followed by postdoctoral research, financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation, at the University of California, Irvine (USA). Sandrine has published several books and articles, and her article published in The International Criminal Justice Review received the Richard J. Terrill Paper of the Year Award. Her research focuses on juvenile delinquency, youth gangs and extremism among youth.

W3—Group Work as a Method for Labour Market Integration

Peter Stade

Bio

Peter Stade studied Community Development at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts – School of Social Work, where he is lecturer and project leader since 2012 and head of international affairs since 2017. Peter holds a master degree in social work from the University of Applied Sciences of Northwest Switzerland. His main topics are group work and community development. Before and during his studies he worked as a Youth Worker / Streetworker in the city of Basel, Switzerland. Since 2010 he has been co-leader of a development project in Albania and Kosovo, where young members of the Roma community are supported and trained in order to increase their chances and access to the labour market and vocational education. As a member of the Institute of Sociocultural Development of Lucerne University he is involved in different research and development projects such as an European project to promote Pluralism and a welcoming culture in alpine areas or a development project with vocational schools in Albania to improve vocational education and training.

Bernard Wandeler

Bio

Bernard Wandeler studied social work and sociology at Fribourg University in Switzerland and was the head of the cultural center of the university. After finishing his studies, he worked for several community initiatives and local radio stations. He lived several years in West Africa and was coordinator of diverse projects of a Swiss NGO. Since then he has continuously visited projects on the African continent. Back in Switzerland he graduated in development politics at the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zürich (ETH). As coordinator of the sociocultural project "Kulturmobil" by the Swiss arts council he worked in all parts of Switzerland in a large number of projects. Bernard Wandeler also has experience as a consultant and owner of a communication company. In the last 20 years he has been working as a professor for community development at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts – Social Work. Bernard Wandeler has been involved in many community development projects. A current project is carried out in Albania, where young Roma people are supported and trained in order to increase their chances and access to the labour market and vocational education. As a member of the Institute of sociocultural development of Lucerne University he is involved in many different research projects.

W4—Mobilizing Youth for Transformative Change

step into action

Step into action is committed to contributing to a more sustainable, just society. The organization promotes the potential of youth to solve current global challenges. At its main events, step into action brings together up to 1000 high school students, their teachers, as well as NGOs and young volunteers in order to enable exchange and build new synergies. Students explore ways of tackling global challenges at the local level and creating new solutions. Meanwhile, teachers learn how to include education for sustainable development (ESD) in their class and how to support and accompany their pupils' commitment and ideas. step into action has so far held eight major events in different cities all over Switzerland, reaching roughly 6200 students in total. Currently, local volunteer teams are organizing this year's editions in Geneva, Bern, St. Gallen and Cologne that will take place this fall. Learn more about step into action: www.step-into-action.org

UNRISD

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous research institute within the UN system that undertakes interdisciplinary research and policy analysis on the social dimensions of contemporary development issues. UNRISD is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and receives no funds from the general budget of the United Nations. Through our work we aim to ensure that social equity, inclusion and justice are central to development thinking, policy and practice.

Roundtable: Overcoming Challenges to Youth Participation

Nina Ferencic

Bio

Nina Ferencic is Senior Advisor and Head of the section covering HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Health, Development and Participation at the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. She is an expert on HIV/AIDS, adolescent health and development, communication for social change, child rights, and gender-sensitive approaches to human development, with 30 years of experience working on influencing policies and programmes designed to improve equity, resilience and health outcomes among marginalized, socially excluded populations. The geographic focus of her work has been on low-income and middle-income countries, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. During her career, Nina has held senior positions with the World Health Organization, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). She has a University degree in Sociology from the City University of New York; and a Masters and a PhD in Communication, Arts and Sciences from the Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

Rio Hada

Bio

Mr. Hada holds a master of international affairs degree from Columbia University in New York. Since joining the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2000, he has worked on a variety of mandates related to the right to development and economic and social rights including housing, food, education, poverty and foreign debt. For the past several years, he has led OHCHR's human rights mainstreaming agenda in the UN system and coordinated UN interagency efforts to integrate human rights in the policies and programmes of the UN development system and to support UN Resident Coordinators and country teams in promoting the human rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to joining OHCHR, he served in various UN departments, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, the UN Office at Vienna, UNDP and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, working on a wide range of issues including poverty and social development, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, international trade and South-South cooperation.

Serge Mimouni

Bio

Serge Mimouni is Deputy Director of the Department of Social Cohesion and Solidarity of the City of Geneva. He is in charge of public policies in the fields of schooling and education, youth, poverty reduction and social care. Serge Mimouni holds a bachelor's degree from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and a master's degree in political economy from the London School of Economics. He has also completed a professional programme in strategic management at the Institute of Management Development in Lausanne. He began his career as a consultant for Arthur Andersen specializing in Public Policy and Public Sector Reform, working with public entities to achieve their objectives effectively, efficiently and economically. He then joined Geneva's Hospice General (public social institution providing social integration programmes for disadvantaged people and refugees) and implemented various reforms to improve employability and increase access of unemployed people to the labour market. From 2014 to 2017, he was the Secretary General of Geneva's Cour des comptes, supporting public sector organizations to achieve accountability and integrity, improve services, and instil confidence among citizens and stakeholders. Serge Mimouni also teaches as an invited lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland.

Getou Musangu

Bio

Getou Christianne Musangu is an anti-racist and feminist activist. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland in Geneva. She is currently working as a social worker for refugees at Caritas Neuchâtel. Since January 2018, Getou has been coordinating a project of professional integration for migrants. From 2011 to 2016, she was a member of the association Reliance, which provides educational and social assistance to children from families experiencing social and financial difficulties. From 2015 to 2017, she was a member of the association of the Maison de Quartier sous l'Etoile in Lancy. Since September 2017 she has been a member of the Afro-Swiss collective.

Natia Partskhaladze

Bio

Natia Partskhaladze is Senior Technical Advisor at the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, where she provides technical leadership and guidance on effective approaches of strengthening the social service workforce, with a particular focus on low- and middle income countries. Prior to joining the Alliance, she had developed 15 years of experience in the field of social work, child protection and social service system strengthening, at the policy, programming and academic levels. Natia is a founder and board member of the Georgian Association of Social Workers. She worked for UNICEF Georgia, where as a Senior National Child Protection Specialist she contributed toward reforming the child protection system, resulting in development of preventive and alternative care services. She has also worked in the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Geneva, where her aim was to contribute to the development of national capacities of social workers. Natia has a proven track record of providing strategic support to government partners in several countries in developing effective child and social protection systems. She has earned degrees from leading schools in the United States, Europe and Georgia. Natia has worked toward a PhD in social work with research on the Quality of Life of Deinstitutionalized Children.

Yvette Stevens

Bio

Yvette Stevens has been Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sierra Leone in Geneva since 2012. In this capacity, she has covered all areas of work and notably, human rights, health, trade, migration and disarmament. Before being appointed Ambassador in Geneva, she served as Energy Policy Adviser at the Sierra Leone Ministry of Energy and Water Resources between 2009 and 2012. Ms. Stevens has had a broad and long experience in the United Nations. An engineer by training, she studied at the Moscow Power Engineering Institute and at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London. She taught engineering at the University of Sierra Leone before joining the United Nations in 1980, as Village Technology Expert in ILO. She has occupied various other positions in the UN, including Evaluation Officer as well as Chief of the Technical Support Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, both of which involved thorough analyses of refugee situations in about 30 countries, all over the world. She also served for UNHCR in Africa, first as Deputy Liaison Representative in Ethiopia (1995 to 1997) and as the UNHCR Representative to Kenya and Somalia (1997 to 1999). In the latter capacity, she acted as the

United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia on a number of occasions. She was the Director at the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in New York, having served as the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs from 1999 to 2003. In these two positions, her role involved general advocacy for African development. From 2004 to 2006, she served as United Nations Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva. Between 2006 and 2009, she worked as a freelance consultant on humanitarian issues as well as on disaster risk reduction in Africa for the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). She was a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). She was also a member of the Advisory Group for the Security Council Report. She is a Member of the British Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Fellow of the Sierra Leone Institution of Engineers.