



Thursday 29 June 2023

Income inequality, gender and the role of tax and transfers

ODI public hybrid conference

Agenda

09:45-09:55 – Welcome

Chair

Francesca Bastagli – Head of Research and Policy, Fondazione Agnelli and former Director of Equity and Social Policy, ODI

09:55-11:10 – Session 1: Income inequality and fiscal policy

Presenters

Dr Laura Abramovsky – Research Associate, ODI and IFS ([*Fiscal policy and income inequality: the role of taxes and social spending*](#))

Dr Kyle McNabb – Research Associate, ODI ([*Personal income tax reforms and income inequality in African countries*](#))

Chair

Francesca Bastagli – Head of Research and Policy, Fondazione Agnelli and former Director of Equity and Social Policy, ODI

Panel

Andara Kamara – Economist, African Development Bank; former Tax Policy Unit analyst, Ministry of Finance, Ghana

Dr Miguel Niño-Zarazúa – Senior Lecturer in Development Economics, SOAS, University of London

Professor Jukka Pirttilä – Professor of Public Economics, University of Helsinki and Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER

11:10-11:30 – Coffee/Tea Break

11:30-12:45 – Session 2: Gender income inequality and fiscal policy

Presenter

Dr Laura Abramovsky – Research Associate, ODI and IFS (*Gender income inequality and fiscal policy: the role of taxes and social spending*)

Chair

Francesca Bastagli – Head of Research and Policy, Fondazione Agnelli and former Director of Equity and Social Policy, ODI

Panel

Professor Susan Harkness – Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Centre for Poverty and Social Justice, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol

Alvin Mosioma – Division Director, Fiscal Justice, OSF Global Programs, Open Society Foundations and founding Executive Director of Tax Justice Network Africa

Flora Myamba – Social Protection and Gender Expert, Women and Social Protection Tanzania

Dr Sara Reis – Head of Research and Policy, UK Women's Budget Group

12:45-13:00 – Closing remarks

Chair

Francesca Bastagli – Head of Research and Policy, Fondazione Agnelli and former Director of Equity and Social Policy, ODI

13:00-14:00 – Lunch

Biographies

Francesca Bastagli

Francesca Bastagli is Head of Research and Policy at the Agnelli Foundation. She has over 20 years' experience in research and policy advisory work, specialising in social policy, social protection, labour markets and gender. She has extensive experience in the design, monitoring and evaluation of social protection policies and has researched income and wealth inequality and fiscal (tax-transfer) policy. Francesca has authored academic articles as well as reports and briefing papers on these topics. She is lead author of the report 'Cash transfers: What does the evidence say?' and co-author of the book 'Wealth in the UK: Distribution, accumulation and policy' (OUP). Prior to joining the Agnelli Foundation, she was Director of the Equity and Social Policy programme at ODI, and held staff positions at the London School of Economics and the World Bank. She holds a PhD and MSc from the London School of Economics and a Laurea in Economics from Bocconi University.

Dr Laura Abramovsky

Laura Abramovsky is Research Associate at ODI and IFS. She is an independent microeconomist with over 20 years of experience in research and advisory policy work. Her recent work has focused on the impact of tax and transfers on income inequality and poverty across countries, among other topics. Before becoming an independent consultant and researcher, Laura was a senior research economist at the IFS, where she worked for 15 years. She developed the concept of the Centre for Tax Analysis in Developing Countries (TaxDev) alongside IFS colleagues, led its establishment, and continues to work with the TaxDev team both at IFS and ODI. Before that, she was an economic policy analyst at the local government of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She holds a PhD in Economics from University College London, a MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics, and a BSc in Economics from the University of Buenos Aires.

Dr Kyle McNabb

Kyle McNabb is a Research Associate and Uganda country lead for the TaxDev programme at ODI. Based full-time in Kampala, he works with Uganda's Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Revenue Authority on research and analysis into tax policy design. Prior to joining ODI, he was a research fellow at UNU-WIDER in Helsinki.

Dr Miguel Niño-Zarazúa

Miguel Niño-Zarazúa is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Development Economics at SOAS, University of London and a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER.

He is a leading international expert in the area of social protection and welfare institutions in the Global South, with extensive research in the areas of political economy of taxation and redistribution, and the economic and social impacts of social protection. He has made contributions to the measurement and impact analysis of social exclusion, inequality and polarisation, as well as informality and labour market policies in low- and middle-income countries, and has conducted extensive research in the intersection between foreign aid and economic and social development, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia.

Among other journals, he has published extensively in World Development, Population and Development Review, Review of Income and Wealth, Journal of Economic Inequality, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of African Economies, Journal of International Development, Economic Letters. His most recent book, 'The Politics of Social Protection in Eastern and Southern Africa' (2019) is open access and is published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Jukka Pirttilä

Jukka Pirttilä is a professor of public economics at the University of Helsinki and also works as a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER. He has previously worked for the University of Tampere, the Labour Institute for Economic Research (Helsinki, Finland) and the Bank of Finland. He conducts research on topics related to taxation and social protection in developing countries.

Pirttilä has a doctorate in economics from the University of Helsinki and is a Fellow of the CESifo network. His research has been published in journals including the Journal of Public Economics, the Journal of Development Economics, the Economic Journal and the European Economic Review.

Professor Pirttilä is currently engaged in two UNU-WIDER projects. He serves as an external focal point for the project 'Building up efficient and fair tax systems – lessons based on administrative tax data'. He also supports the delivery of the Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development project's workstream on taxation.

Andara Kamara

Andara is an economist with an impressive track record of nine years in both the public sector and international development. She brings a wealth of expertise in revenue forecasting, fiscal policy formulation, costing, analysis, implementation and stakeholder engagement, and a strong command of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

Andara's significant contributions include her involvement in distributional analysis using the tax and benefits model GHATAX, which she played a pivotal role in developing alongside researchers from TaxDev at IFS UK. She also led the production of tax revenue forecasts for the Ministry of Finance's Tax Policy Unit (Ghana). Additionally, she contributed to a comprehensive research paper, 'A Survey of the Ghana Tax System', which provides an overview of Ghana's tax system.

She has excelled in implementing and managing international donor-funded domestic revenue mobilisation programmes and projects throughout her career. She has collaborated with organisations such as the FCDO and GIZ, leveraging her deep understanding of their requirements to deliver exceptional results.

Currently, Andara works at the African Development Bank where she manages the implementation of infrastructure projects.

Professor Susan Harkness

Susan Harkness is a Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bristol. Her research examines how gender and family structure relate to inequalities and poverty. She is labour market lead and co-investigator at the ESRC research centre MiSoc (University of Essex) and a visiting professor at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. She was previously Associate Director for Policy, Understanding Society and Professor of Public Policy at ISER, University of Essex. She holds a PhD in Economics from University College London, an MA from the University of Sussex, and a BA from Queens' College, the University of Cambridge.

Alvin Mosioma

Alvin Mosioma is the Division Director of Fiscal Justice in the Open Society Foundations Global Programs. He is an economist and tax policy expert with over 15 years of experience. Mosioma served as the founding Executive Director of Tax Justice Network Africa, a Pan-African advocacy and research organisation working on tax justice and the curbing of IFFs from Africa. He holds a master's degree in economics from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Mosioma has sat in an advisory capacity on boards of different national, regional and global networks and coalitions. This includes the Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC), the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Plateforme de Protection des Lanceurs d'Alerte en Afrique (PPLAAF) and the Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ). Over the past 15 years, he has published a number of articles and reports on fiscal policy in Africa and has co-authored two books on taxation and development in Africa.

Flora Myamba

Flora Myamba is a Senior Specialist for Social Protection and Gender, based in Tanzania. She is the founding Director of the Women and Social Protection Tanzania (WSP) NGO. She has led a number of research projects, programme evaluations, leadership/other modules, development and training, and programme/strategies development in social protection and gender equality/women's economic empowerment.

She has collaborated with and consulted for local and international organisations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, IDRC, OEECD, the Center for Global Development, AERC, the World Bank, and several UN organisations. She has been on the facilitation team to support the Government of Tanzania in developing multiple policies in Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland, and was the National Facilitator for the preparation of Tanzania's commitments for the Generation Equality Forum 2021-2026.

She was on the Technical Experts Teams for the preparation of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-63) at global, Africa, and Tanzania levels, and has developed multiple gender mainstreaming and training manuals. She is a Master Trainer for the TRANSFORM Leadership Training on Social Protection Floors, owned by the African Union for African government leaders and technical personnel. She serves on local and international advisory boards and has over 40 publications in local and reputable international journals including Oxford Development Studies, Cambridge University Press, Global Social Policy and African Development Review.

Dr Sara Reis

Sara Reis joined the Women's Budget Group in 2017 and has worked on various projects including research on a Feminist Green New Deal, female poverty, funding for the women's sector, housing, migrant women, the impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis. Sara is currently coordinating WBG's work on the Local Data Project and on macroeconomics. Sara holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Sheffield.
