

Participant Bios

Steve Brito joined the International Monetary Fund in 2015 as Research Analyst in the Regional Studies Division of the Western Hemisphere Department. Previously, he was consultant in the Institutions for Development Sector and the Labor Markets and Social Security Unit of the Inter-American Development Bank. He has carried out research on economic growth, productivity, the under-registration of births, education, health, remittances, crime and fiscal policy. Steve has a master's degree in Economics (with distinction) from Chile's Pontifical Catholic University and a degree in Economics and Finance (magna cum laude) from the Francisco Marroquín University. He was awarded merit-based scholarships by the Francisco Marroquín University and the Organization of American States (OAS).

James Bang is currently Associate Professor of Economics at St. Ambrose University. Bang's research focuses on institutional determinants of economic development. In this vein, he has recent articles on the determinants of civil war, the impact of civil war on economic growth, and the impact of civil war on cultural attitudes towards women. He has also investigated the role of institutions in determining migration, *remittances*, and gender norms. Some of Bang's current work in-progress has focused on predictive modeling using machine learning. He has begun to apply this approach for prediction with some success to the areas of civil war, economic growth; and health care outcomes. These models carry great potential for managers and policy makers to better assess risk of adverse outcomes and intervene positively. On the teaching front, he offers courses on international economics, institutional economics, and econometrics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Darrick Hamilton is the director of the doctoral program in public and urban policy, and jointly appointed as an associate professor of economics and urban policy at The Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy and the Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research at The New School in New York. He is a faculty research fellow at the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis at The New School, co-associate director of the Cook Center on Social Equity, and the immediate past-president of the National Economic Association (NEA).

Professor Hamilton is a stratification economist, whose work fuses scientific methods to examine the causes, consequences and remedies of racial and ethnic inequality in economic and health outcomes, which includes an examination of the intersection of identity, racism, colorism, and socioeconomic outcomes. His scholarly contributions are evidenced by numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters in edited volumes; opinion-editorial and popular press articles, funded research, public lectures, presentations and symposiums, service to professional organizations, and regular appearance in print and broadcast media.

Aniruddha Mitra is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at Bard College. His research interests lie in the economics of gender, conflict, and migration, including the consequences and determinants of remittances. In addition to these areas, his recent research has focused on how labor rights are reconstituted in the era of globalization, with a special emphasis on the role of transnational migration and financialization. Apart from his research area of migration and remittances, Mitra offers courses in Game Theory, Industrial Organization, and Microeconomic Theory.

Dilip Ratha is Head of KNOMAD and Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances Unit, Global Indicators Group, Development Economics, World Bank.

Mr. Ratha is credited to be the first to analyze and formalize the global significance of remittances. According to the New York Times, "No one has done more than Mr. Ratha to make migration and its

potential rewards a top-of-the-agenda concern in the world's development ministries." In 2012, he founded the *Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development* (KNOMAD), a multidisciplinary, global hub of knowledge on migration. He is the focal point for the World Bank's Migration Working Group and the Diaspora Bond Task Force, and a co-coordinator of the (G20) Global Remittances Working Group. He is the chair of the Board and first CEO and founder of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium. He is also the brain behind the African Institute for Remittances. He is a Senior Visiting Fellow at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University and a member of the World Economic Forum Council on migration.

Besides migration, he has done pioneering work on innovative financing including diaspora bonds, future-flow securitization, and shadow sovereign ratings. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked as a regional economist for Asia at Credit Agricole Indosuez, Singapore where he advised institutional investors in Asian equity, fixed income and foreign exchange markets. He has also worked as an assistant professor of economics at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and as an economist at the Policy Group, New Delhi. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi where he worked as a visiting lecturer and helped build a CGE model for the Planning Commission of India. He hosts the PeopleMove blog. [His TED Talk](#), "*The hidden force in global economics: sending money home*," has over a million views.

[Phanindra V. Wunnava](#) is currently David K. Smith '42 Chair in Applied Economics at Middlebury College. In addition, he is a research fellow at IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, Germany), and a researcher at Employment Policy Research Network (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). He was trained under noted labor economist Solomon W. Polachek at SUNY-Binghamton. His research focusing on life-cycle union non-union wage/benefit differentials, firm size effects, gender and racial wage differentials, efficiency wage models, charitable contributions towards higher education, disincentive effects of unemployment insurance, infant mortality, effect of net foreign investment on manufacturing productivity, time-series properties of the north American unemployment rates and Asian stock markets, the effect of political regimes on economic growth, fertility determinants, determinants of internet diffusion, the economics of optimal currency area, brain-drain, linking financial liberalization and remittances, and linking globalization with ethnic division appeared in a wider range of academic journals.

[Klaus F. Zimmermann](#) is Visiting Professor, Princeton University; President, Global Labor Organization (GLO); Co-Director, POP at UNU-MERIT; Full Professor of Economics at Bonn University; Honorary Professor, Maastricht University, Free University of Berlin and Renmin University of China, Beijing; Member, German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Regional Science Academy, and Academia Europaea, the European Academy of Sciences, and Chair of its Section for Economics, Business and Management Sciences. Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Population Economics. Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and Fellow of the European Economic Association (EEA). Founding Director, Institute for the Study of Labor; Past-President; German Institute for Economic Research. Previously John F. Kennedy Memorial Policy Fellow at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University.