

IDS Youth Employment and Politics Webinar Series

Youth employment in Africa: critical issues for job creation

Co-hosted with the INCLUDE platform

Accompanying resources

March 2021

The Youth Employment and Politics webinar series is linked to IDS' strategic research initiative: 'Ensuring decent work and political inclusion for young people', which is part of the 2020-25 IDS Strategy.

IDS research undertaken within this strategic initiative contributes to new thinking on youth engagement and the links between youth employment and citizenship, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The webinar series will focus the themes of youth mobility, employment, rural livelihoods, politics, peace and security, and youth in humanitarian settings. The speakers will address both the 'histories' and 'futures' of youth by speaking to dynamics before and during the pandemic and making observations on its implication.

Presentations will primarily focus on sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In line with our values on inclusiveness of voices and co-construction of knowledge, the webinar series will capture diverse perspectives. Speakers and discussants represent academia, civil society, governments and UN agencies. Researchers involved in the IDS Europe Engagement Initiative will also share insights. Together we aim to strengthen development thinking and practice for more effective interventions for 'the Covid generation' to tackle what is a universal development challenge.

We invite researchers, policy actors and civil society representatives that study, fund and implement youth policies and programmes to sign up for our webinars and join the debate.

Chair

Dr Marjoke Oosterom – Institute of Development Studies



Marjoke Oosterom is a research fellow in the Power and Popular research cluster at IDS. She holds a PhD from IDS and has a background in comparative politics and development studies. Her research concentrates on how experiences of violence and conflict affect forms of agency, citizenship, and everyday politics and governance. Her specific expertise is on youth politics and youth agency in response to insecurity and violence, and politics in the informal economy. She has been involved in consultancy work for policy makers and international NGOs that fund and implement governance and youth-focused interventions in fragile and conflict affected settings. Marjoke leads IDS' strategic research initiative on youth employment and politics, and is convening this webinar series.

Speakers

Dr. Philip Mader – Institute of Development Studies



Philip Mader is a research fellow in the **Business, Markets and the State research cluster** at IDS, and has over 11 years' research and consulting experience in the field of international development. His research areas include political economy, finance and development, youth employment, financialisation, financial inclusion and financial literacy, and private governance and standards. He has led impact evaluations of financial inclusion and Solidarity Groups for European and international funders.

Relevant publications

Sumberg, J., Fox, L., Flynn, J., Mader, P. and Oosterom, M., 2020. Africa's 'youth employment' crisis is actually a 'missing jobs' crisis. *Development Policy Review*.

Flynn, J.; Mader, P.; Oosterom, M. with Ripoll, S. (2016) Failing Young People? Addressing the Supply-side Bias and Individualisation in Youth Employment Programming, IDS Evidence Report 216, Brighton: IDS

Mader, P., Mertens, D. and Van der Zwan, N. eds., 2020. *The Routledge international handbook of financialization*. Routledge.

Mader, P. (2016) Questioning Three Fundamental Assumptions in Financial Inclusion, IDS Evidence Report 176, Brighton: IDS

Dr Louise Fox – Brookings Institute



Louise Fox is an experienced development economist who specializes in strategies for employment creation, opportunity expansion, economic empowerment, and poverty reduction. She has advised governments in the developed and developing world, international organizations, and philanthropic and non-profit organizations on problem diagnosis, strategies for results, and outcome measurement. She held full-time positions at USAID (as Chief Economist) and at the World Bank. She is currently affiliated with the African Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution and the Blum Center for Developing Economies, University of California, Berkeley. She was previously affiliated with the Overseas Development Institute, where she led a major research project on Gender and Agricultural Transformation. Louise has published in the areas of inclusive growth, structural transformation, youth employment, the political economy of poverty reduction, gender and women's economic empowerment, employment, labor markets, and labor regulation, pension reform, reform of child welfare systems, social protection, effective public expenditures in the social sectors, and female-headed households and child welfare. Her most recent book was *Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa*, published by the World Bank in 2014.

Relevant publications

Fox, L., Gandhi, D. (2021) Youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa: Progress and prospects. AGI Working Paper #28. URL: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/youth-employment-in-sub-saharan-africa-progress-and-prospects/>

Fox, Louise (2019). "Economic participation of rural youth: what matters?" IFAD Research Series Working Paper # 46. Rome: ISBN 978-92-9072-963-1.

Fox, Louise & Kaul, Upaasna, (2018). "The evidence is in : how should youth employment programs in lowincome countries be designed?", Policy Research Working Paper Series 8500, The World Bank.

Fox, Louise, Alun H. Thomas & Cleary Haines, (2017). "Structural Transformation in Employment and Productivity - What Can Africa Hope For?," IMF Departmental Papers / Policy Papers 17/02, International Monetary Fund.

Dr. Landry Signé – Brookings Institution



Landry Signé is a senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program and the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution. He was previously a David M. Rubenstein Fellow at Brookings. His career and research span the areas of global political economy, global governance and sustainable development, global business and emerging markets, strategic management and leadership, fragility, state capacity and policy implementation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Globalization 4.0, and the political economy of Africa and developing countries.

Relevant publications

Signé, L., 2020. *Unlocking Africa's Business Potential: Trends, Opportunities, Risks, and Strategies*. Brookings Institution Press.

Signé, L., 2018. *African development, African transformation: how institutions shape development strategy*. Cambridge University Press.

Dr Victoria Namuggala – Makerere University



Victoria Flavia Namuggala is a Lecturer at the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University. She received her doctoral degree in Women and Gender Studies, from Arizona State University (USA). She specializes in childhood, youth studies, and violence. She is an interdisciplinary scholar and researcher with thematic expertise in feminism and gender, childhood and youth hood, Indigenous studies, critical cultural studies, and peace, conflict and displacement. She works towards policy reform and transformation both locally and internationally, with an overarching goal for social justice. She prioritizes centering the voice of the marginalized in society irrespective of their gender, age, class, location and other socially important identifiers. She has researched on (un)employment in Africa centering youth agency, notions of youth employment as well (dis)empowering employment.

Relevant publications

Namuggala, V.F., (2015). Exploitation or empowerment? Adolescent female domestic workers in Uganda. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*. 6. 561-580. 10.18357/ijcyfs.64201514288.

Namuggala, V.F., 2016. Empowered yet Vulnerable: Employers of Housemaids in Kampala. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 31(2), pp.131-148.

Namuggala, V.F., 2017. Gambling, dancing, sex work: Notions of youth employment in Uganda. *IDS Bulletin*, 48(3), pp.67-78.

Discussants

Dr Azita Berar Awad - Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies



Azita Berar Awad, is an internationally renowned political economist and global policy advisor on inclusive social and economic policies with extensive experience in international development cooperation and in the United Nations system. She has held several senior leadership positions at International Labour Organization (ILO) including as Director of the Employment Policy Department from 2006 to 2017.

She has advised senior policy makers across all regions and supported institutions of governance at national and global levels on comprehensive policies promoting full and decent employment and gender- inclusive sustainable development.

In the wake of the 2008/09 global financial crisis, she led ILO's strategy and the 2012 international Call for Action on the youth employment crisis, She has also led the UN system's joint response to the emerging global youth employment crisis including with the foundation and launch in 2016 of **the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**, an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership of governments, social partners, private sector, foundations, civil society including youth organizations and academia, established under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In 2020, she founded the first **Global Interdisciplinary Policy Research Network of academia and policy actors on Youth Transitions**. The Global Network brings together policy researchers and think tanks from some 30 universities in the Global North and the Global South interacting with policy actors on policies on priority issues for youth transitions and policies .

Azita Berar has facilitated numerous international tripartite negotiations leading to the adoption of new international standards. She has directed research and policy reports in several fields of pro-employment macro-economic policies, poverty reduction strategies, gender equality, youth employment, informal economy; economic and social policies for peace-building and disaster resilience and is the author of numerous publications.

Currently Director of Policy at the Global Labour Organization (**GLO**), she is also a Senior Fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and teaches in various universities and executive education programmes.

Relevant publications

Berar, A. (2021). Appraising the youth uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. Ten years on, too early to say?! *GLO Policy Brief No. 5*.

Chacaltana, J. & Dasgupta, S. (2021). Is the future ready for youth? Youth employment policies for evolving labour markets. ILO

Ms Laila Baoullouch – Netherlands MFA



Laila Bouallouch works as a policy advisor youth employment and the future of work – with special attention paid towards meaningful youth participation - at the department for sustainable economic development at the Netherlands MFA. Her focus is on the MENA region, Horn of Africa, Sahel and West Africa. Laila holds an advanced master in international development with a focus on private sector development

Relevant publications

Bouallouch, L. (2020) Globalisation, Digitalisation and the Future of Work and Skills. URL: <https://www.government.nl/topics/business-for-development/weblogs/2019/globalisation-digitalisation-and-the-future-of-work--skills>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. (2019). Future of Work Co-creation workshop. URL: https://www.oneyoungworld.com/sites/default/files/2020-01/Future-of-Work-report_DEF.pdf

The West Wing Think Tank (2019). The Future of Work for Smallholder farmers in Ethiopia. URL: <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2019/07/08/west-wing>



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