



**World Health
Organization**



WEBINAR - UNPACKING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR HEALTH EQUITY

Speaker Biographies



Etienne Krug

Director, Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO

Dr. Krug is Director of the Department for Social Determinants of Health at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. He leads global efforts to prevent violence and injuries, to address the social and commercial determinants of health, to improve urban health and promote healthy ageing. He oversees the development of intergovernmental resolutions and global reports, the implementation of multi-country development projects, and advocacy campaigns. He chairs the International Organizing Committee for World Conferences on Injury Prevention, the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration. He is a member of the Editorial Board of several scientific journals. Before joining WHO, Dr Krug worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, USA, with Médecins sans Frontières and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Dr Krug holds a degree as a Medical Doctor from the University of Louvain in Brussels, Belgium and a Masters Degree in Public Health from Harvard University.



Lou Tessier

Health Protection Specialist, Universal Social Protection
Department, International Labour Organization

Lou Tessier is Health Protection Specialist at the Universal Social Protection Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Lou started her career supporting the development of community-based health insurance (CBHI) in West Africa before joining Deloitte advisory services to the national health insurance system in France. Lou joined the ILO in 2011 in support of the adoption of Recommendation No. 202 on Social Protection Floors and has subsequently occupied various positions on social protection and occupational safety and health in headquarters and in the field, particularly in Asia. Lou holds an Msc. in international law and economics from Sciences Po Lyon, an MBA from ESSEC Business School and an MPH (Global Health) from the University of Manchester.



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Nicole Valentine

Technical Officer, Equity and Health, Social Determinants of Health, WHO

Dr. Valentine has over 25 years of experience working in public health. She currently leads the multicountry WHO Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health for Advancing Health Equity, run from the Equity and Health Unit in the Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO Geneva. She is the WHO focal point for guidance on the Health in All Policies approach, and has worked extensively on training and evidence reviews. She has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications and produced more than 25 WHO publications covering health systems performance, intersectoral action, monitoring, equity, and social determinants of health. She served in the global WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008), where she co-led the country action work stream. She holds Bachelor's and Master's (Economics) degrees from the University of Cape Town, a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a PhD in Public Health from the Erasmus Medical Centre, The Netherlands.



Wanga Zembe

Senior Specialist Social Scientist, Health Systems Research Unit, Medical Research Council, South Africa

Wanga Zembe-Mkabile is a senior specialist social scientist in the Health Systems Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council, where she leads the Social Policy and Health thematic area. She has masters and PhD qualifications in social policy from the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford. Her interests are research and teaching in social policy, insofar as this relates to poverty and inequality, and the impact thereof on health and wellbeing. Her work specifically seeks to contribute to understanding the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes, to inform the improvement and development of best-practice methods, strategies and policies for addressing and reducing their impact on health and wellbeing. To this end, her research utilizes mixed-methods approaches that focus on social protection in the context of maternal and child health, adolescent health, communicable diseases and food security.



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Salla Atkins

Professor of Public Health, Tampere University, Finland

Salla Atkins is a professor of public health, especially global health at Tampere University in Finland and a research specialist at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. She is a co-director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health in All Policies and Social Determinants of Health. She has a masters in psychological research from University of Cape Town, South Africa, and a PhD in Medical Sciences from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. She has had a longstanding interest in diseases of poverty, especially tuberculosis, and how social protection can protect individuals from catastrophic costs caused by the disease. Her teaching and research focuses on social determinants of health including poverty, inequality, as well as methods such as qualitative and mixed methods, as well as systematic and scoping reviews. She currently leads projects in Mozambique on social protection and tuberculosis, Kenya and Tanzania on tuberculosis during the Covid-19 pandemic, India on maternal and child health, and Finland on long term health outcomes for parents of special needs children and how social policy could impact on these outcomes.



Katja Hujo

Head of Bonn Office, Senior Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Katja Hujo is head of the UNRISD Bonn office and leads the Transformative Social Policy Programme. Katja's academic work focuses on social policy, poverty and inequality, as well as socio-economic development and the sustainability transition. She studied economics and political science at Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and National University of Córdoba, Argentina, and holds a doctoral degree in economics from FUB. At UNRISD, she is lead author and coordinator of the 2022 flagship report *Crises of Inequality: Shifting Power for a New Eco-Social Contract* and of the 2016 UNRISD flagship report *Policy Innovations for Transformative Change – Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Her most recent publications are the edited volume *Between Fault Lines and Front Lines: Shifting Power in an Unequal World* (Bloomsbury June 2022) and *The Politics of Domestic Resource Mobilization for Social Development* (Palgrave Macmillan July 2020). In partnership with the Green Economy Coalition she represents UNRISD as co-convenor of the Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract (GRAN-ESC).



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Gökhan Depo

Coordinator, WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in All Policies
and the Social Determinants of Health, Tampere University, Finland

Dr. Gökhan Depo is the Coordinator at the Collaborating Center at Tampere University, Finland. He earned a PhD in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development from the University of Minnesota as a Fulbright scholar, where he worked at the Office for Public Engagement. His professional experience includes roles in communication, project management, and research. Dr. Depo holds a Master's in Education and Globalization from the University of Oulu and graduated with a BA in Communication Design from Bahçeşehir University.



Sudhvir Singh

Unit Head, Equity and Health, Social Determinants of Health,
WHO

Dr Sudhvir Singh is the Unit Head for Equity and Health at the WHO. Before working as a Technical Officer at WHO, he served the Co-Chairs of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Helen Clark and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as Special Advisor and Coordinator. Earlier, for five years he led the policy and programmatic work of the EAT Foundation focussed on working across sectors to improve the equity and sustainability of food systems. Prior to that, he co-led a youth climate and urban planning organisation Generation Zero, supported multilateral negotiations towards the SDG's including on a government delegation to Rio+20, and undertook research on the interactions between health equity and climate change. He has a clinical background as a medical registrar and has completed the postgraduate RACP examinations, necessary for advanced training as a medical specialist. He has since acquired Masters degrees in Health Economics and Public Policy from LSE and the University of Chicago.