

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Opening/Closing Remarks



Ravi Bhavnani is Professor and Head of the Political Science & International Relations **Department** at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID). Bhavnani's research explores the micro-foundations of violence using data-driven modelling. More specifically, his work examines the endogenous relationships among: (i) the characteristics, beliefs, and interests of relevant actors; (ii) social mechanisms and emergent social structures that shape attitudes, decision-making and behaviour; and (iii) patterns of violence. His articles have appeared in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Politics*, *Complexity*, *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Nature Humanities and Social Science Communications*, *Political Research Quarterly* and *Political Psychology*, among others. His recent research explores the drivers of acute child malnutrition in conflict settings, as well as use of AI-enhanced techniques to measure, report and predict undernutrition in these hard-to-access areas.

Setting the Stage



Anita Budziszewska (Ph.D) is a postdoctoral researcher at IHEID, International Relations/Political Science Department and Global Health Center. She works at the University of Warsaw, Department of Diplomacy and International Institutions. She is also a research fellow at the Centre for Philanthropic Studies, University of Basel. Before joining IHEID, she conducted research on "Philanthropy and International Relations" at the Geneva Center for Philanthropy at the University of Geneva, funded within the Swiss Government Excellence Programme. She was also a stipendist of the Swiss-based Anneliese und Mieczyslaw Kocwin

Stiftung. Her current project at IHEID: “Philanthropic Foundations and International Organizations” focuses on business models of cooperation between selected UN Specialized Agencies and the philanthropic sector, as well as on the political, normative, regulatory, axiological and financial processes taking place within the UN and its Agencies, particularly the WHO, with regard to the evolving presence of philanthropic foundations in the structures and programs of UN/WHO/UN Agencies.

Speakers



Dr Mahnaz Vahedi is a Scientist at TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, hosted by the World Health Organization. She leads TDR’s health research leadership initiatives, including the Clinical Research Leadership Programme—a philanthropic effort supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, product development partnerships (PDPs) and research institutions. Dr Vahedi also oversees TDR’s Postgraduate Training Scheme, a network of eight universities across the Global South focused on advancing health systems and implementing research in four priority areas: diseases of poverty, climate change and health, epidemics and outbreaks, and antimicrobial resistance. Since joining TDR in 2004, she has coordinated multi-country clinical trials on tuberculosis and HIV co-infection, and led operational research on antiretroviral therapy scale-up in several African countries. Her background as an Iranian woman, combined with her early career as a clinician and researcher in both urban and rural Australia, have given her a deep appreciation for diverse public health systems. Dr Vahedi holds a medical degree and a Master’s in International Health from the University of Sydney. Her work reflects a broader shift in global health philanthropy—from traditional aid models to strategic investments in locally led capacity-building and research equity. At the intersection of health diplomacy and philanthropic strategy, she champions inclusive partnerships, evidence-informed policymaking and leadership development as essential drivers of sustainable global health progress.



Catarina Mastellarro, Head of Strategic Engagement, WHO Foundation, she is a global public health and development professional with over 15 years of experience in strategy, partnerships, and grant management. She has worked across global organizations including the Global Fund, McKinsey, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations. In her current role as Head of Strategic Engagement at the WHO Foundation, Catarina works hand in hand with WHO and partners to identify synergies and advance collaboration, with a focus on increasing financing and scaling access to healthcare globally. She holds a Master’s

degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute and Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Sao Paulo.



Nadya Wells is a researcher and experienced finance and investment professional whose passion is building bridges to facilitate increased financing for global health. Her current research focuses on challenges in the antibiotic investment ecosystem which preclude research, development, production and access to appropriate antibiotics. Her work on failed commercialisation of novel antibiotics and antibiotic supply chain collapse has garnered considerable attention from policy makers. Most recently she worked on the FINPHARM project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, exploring the impact of Financialisation on Global Health through a series of pharmaceutical case studies where she led the work on anti-microbial resistance (AMR). Prior to joining the Global Health Centre, Nadya spent over 20 years as a long-term investor and corporate governance specialist. Since 2014, she has pursued a plural career combining non-executive board roles in the financial sector in multiple countries with her academic work in Global Health. She holds a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Geneva, an MBA from INSEAD, and an MA in Modern History and Modern Languages from the University of Oxford.



Raymond Saner (Ph.D) is Titular Professor at the University of Basel and Director of Diplomacy Dialogue based in Geneva. He has taught in the MPA programme of Sciences Po in Paris, is engaged in the 2030 Agenda, and contributes to UNDESA and UNOSD as a researcher, speaker and author on Sustainable Development. He is a former ICRC delegate and an evaluator of the Geneva Initiative. His current research focuses on the role of Philanthropic Organizations within the UN system and the complexity of Blended Finance options for infrastructure investments in Developing Countries.



Professor Lichia Saner-Yiu is President and co-founder of CSEND, a Geneva-based NGO with ECOSOC special consultative status. A former Post-Doctoral Fellow at Columbia

University, she holds an Ed.D. from Indiana University. She has authored over 80 publications, co-convened the SD Learning Module (2015 HLPF), curated the UNOSD Executive Training Course (2021–2024), co-authored *Public Goods, Sustainable Development and the Contributions of Business* (2021), and has written on other topics related to organizational behaviour and stakeholder engagement. She contributed to The WHO on Motivation of Health Workers (1985), Reorientation for Primary Health Care (1985), Intersectoral Action for Health (1986), and the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2016). She currently represents the Geneva Global Health Hub at the IGWG meeting on Pathogen Access and Benefits Sharing.

Moderator



Annabelle Littoz- Monnet is Professor of International Relations/Political Science at the Geneva Graduate Institute and former Director of the Global Governance Centre. Her research is at the intersection of global governance, privatisation dynamics and the politics of knowledge. Her articles have appeared in journals such as the *International Studies Quarterly*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Governance* and *Journal of Common Market Studies*. Her book *Governing through Expertise. The Politics of Bioethics* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2020. She is currently the principal investigator of a project on Deblackboxing Expertise in Global Governance, funded by the Swiss National Scientific Fund.