



Brief profile of panelists at the seminar Session “African Scientists & Entrepreneurs Towards the BioEconomy”

Apr. 13th from 4 to 5 pm within the Civil Society Policy Forum (WB&IMF Spring Meetings 2016), Washington DC

Paola Agostini – Lead Environmental Economist in the World Bank’s Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice - World Bank Group



Dr. Paola Agostini is a Lead Environmental Economist in the World Bank’s Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice. She is currently the Global Lead for Resilient Landscapes for the World Bank, looking at projects and programs that try to improve connectivity of Protected Areas, forests, agroforestry, Rangeland and agriculture land for the increase of productivity, communities resilience and production of ecosystem services.

She also coordinates TerrAfrica, a regional partnership program in over 26 Sub-Saharan countries that promotes Sustainable Land and Water Management to help reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, and encourage resilient landscapes development.

Paola Agostini also coordinates the multisectorial REDD+ Program in Africa (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Forest Investment Program and the BioCarbon Fund. REDD+ fosters conservation, sustainable management of forests, and community forestry by looking at the drivers of deforestation and working with public and private sector for a deforestation-free development.



She is the coordinator for the GEF Program in Latin America and Africa, overseeing a portfolio of over 100 projects dealing with Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Chemicals and International Waters.

Lilia Infelise – Founder of ARTES Institute



Industrial economist registered as expert by MIUR Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, in the following subject areas: Economics and Statistical Science; Political and Social Science; Applied Economics and Political Science.

In her 32 year-long career she has combined theoretical multidisciplinary research and fieldwork in a large multinational horizon. She has established and maintained strong links with European Universities, public and private research centres as well as public authorities and social partners. Lilia has been Teacher in the Economics of Community Tourism, Master in Eno-gastronomy, University of Bologna (2005 - 2006; 2007 - 2008) and Adjunct professor at the Political Science Faculty, University of Bologna, (1996 - 1997). She has conceived more than forty vast innovative projects (www.artes-research.com) and led international teams to put these projects into practice, obtaining funds (through open competition) from European, national and regional programmes. She also has founded national and international enterprises and organisations: ARTES international (UK in 1998); Mosaico_Multidisciplinary European Association for Learning (Italy, Germany, UK in 1995); Europaform Consortium, (Italy in 1998) Atena Consortium (Italy in 2001); Africa Renaissance Time (Italy – Burundi in 2006).

From 2005 she is actively involved in the regeneration of democracy and citizen participatory movements, in Italy and abroad; voting member of CIVICUS (<http://www.civicus.org/index.php/en/>). She founded the cultural and political organisation “Oltre il Mare per una democrazia partecipata” (Beyond the Sea for a participative democracy). In 2009,



she was candidate for the European Parliament as a representative of the six southern regions of Italy.

In 2015, as director of ARTES founded the ALLIANCE for an equal and peaceful governance of Energy, Water, Landscape protection and bio Materials “Africa & EU in the era of Bioeconomy” (<http://goo.gl/8X3lDn>), together with African and European research laboratories, civil society organisations and business representatives.

John Manirakiza – Consultant at Wasafari Consulting



He is a Burundian-American with interest and professional experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. His life and career span from Burundi, to the USA, through Swaziland, South Africa, Mozambique, with his current base in Washington D.C. He is passionate about African Diaspora mobilization for socio-economic development of their home countries, agriculture and food security, private sector development, ICT, Youth Employment, Innovation, leadership and governance issues, Human Rights and Democratic governance and Rule of Law.

He is member of the USDA funded NESARE program (North Eastern Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education) on African Ethnic Food Production.

He works as an Assistant project manager on the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) NESARE Program on Ethnic Crops. The project’s main objective is to increase production of food in local urban communities in order to solve the problem of food insecurity in underserved communities. A special emphasis is placed on immigrant communities, especially from Africa.

He is Member of the Great Lakes Partners and US Africa Diaspora Business Council, both groups engaged in trade facilitation and sustainable development between the USA and Africa. As a Diplomatic and Corporate Liaison for the USADBC, he works with other African and American



partners to increase the level of trade between the United States and Africa, especially through capacity building of community small and medium enterprises on the African continent.

He is also Co-Founder and Spokesperson for Engaging For Action in Burundi (EFAB-BIRATURABA), a US-Based Burundian Diaspora organization committed to a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Burundi.

He provides regular political analysis on Media such as Voice of America (Radio and TV in English, French, and Kirundi), Sahara Reporters, Washington Africa Now WPFW, Panelist on US Congress Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, testimony on Burundian Crisis.

Déo Gratias Nkinahamira – President of Africa Renaissance Time



Economist by formation, of Burundian and Belgian nationality. He is President and initiator of the ART (Africa Renaissance Time) association, a non-profit organisation dedicated to establish cooperation programmes with European universities and doctoral studies to the new generation of Burundians who need to achieve solid high level education in the various fields of political science, green technologies, economics, to become the wise leaders of the reconciliation, civil and economic renaissance of their country.

From 2002 till 2006 he was University Professor, expert of the International Financial System, Financial Planning, Economic Democracy and Good Governance in **UNIGLOBUS UNIVERSITY MASTER, Italy Assisi**. He was Visiting professor at PUSA, private University of Sciences and Arts, Damascus, Syria, and at I.A.S.I - Istituto Alti Studi Internazionali, Reggio Emilia, Italy; professor of General Accounting in **ENFAP** (Bologna), sections of International Cooperation. He held courses in the following topics: creation and business start-up, processing and presentation of projects and



business plans, financing and procedures of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and African Development Bank (ADB). In this position, he has organised seminars and conferences, thought functionaries about International Financial and Monetary Systems.

Furthermore, he has held several positions in companies and national and international organisations of the **UN as Consultant and Advisor** for International Economic Affairs and Cooperation. He was **Chief Financial Officer at the World Bank** (Urban projects division 19,851,990); **Chief Financial Officer to Amsar Burundi and Astaldi International** (Italian Belgian Companies Civil Engineering, Construction of roads, bridges, buildings, planning of potable water sites drainage and irrigation).

Presently is one of the initiators of “Africa & EU in the era of Bioeconomy”, the ALLIANCE for an equal and peaceful governance of Energy, Water, Landscape protection and bio Materials (<http://goo.gl/8X3lDn>).

Cara E. Jones – Assistant Professor at Mary Baldwin College



Cara E. Jones is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. In 2012-2013, she served as Term Instructor of Political Science at Grinnell College. She recently completed a PhD in the department of Political Science and the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida (Spring 2013). She specializes in Comparative Politics, International Relations,

Methodologies, and Sub-Saharan Africa, with substantive focuses on non-state actors, ethnic conflict, rebellion, mixed research methods and post-conflict state formation. She was a FLAS fellow in Kiswahili from 2006-2008, and conducted my dissertation research (funded by the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship) in the region in 2010-2011. Her current manuscript studies transformations of rebel groups from warriors in the forests to the keepers of



political power, and the processes, characteristics, and features of these transitions. New and ongoing projects look at comparative rebellion across the continent, politics and violence in urbanizing environments, international development aid, and comparative urban development across the 'developing world'.

She occasionally blogs about civil war, development, and governance in Sub-Saharan Africa at the blogs Texas in Africa and The Huffington Post. She also serves as a development professional for international organizations and NGOs, provide expert witness testimony for political asylum cases in the United States, and does media interviews about the Great Lakes.

Tomaso Trombetti – Associate Professor at the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering, University of Bologna



Associate professor at the University of Bologna since 2005, he is carrying our researches within the field of seismic engineering. His research interests focus mainly on the study of innovative systems for the reduction of seismic effects upon building structures. Currently his research is focused upon the following issues: optimization and design of seismic dissipative devices (both viscous and hysteric); seismic behaviour of historic and monumental buildings. He is involved in both national and international research project and has many collaboration with Italian and foreign Universities.

He has experience in designing and managing research centres and laboratories specialised in construction technologies and materials. In 2004, he was the responsible for the development of a laboratory (shaking table) for the seismic study of buildings at the University of California, San Diego (US).



Within the of Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering, he is the initiator of the cooperation project with the Burundian Ministry of Transports, Public Works and Equipment for the establishment of a Research Centre on Civil Engineering Technologies and Construction Materials.

Author of more than 200 papers, he is member of the editorial board of the journal "Earthquake and Structures" (Techno press), associate Editor of the journal "Frontiers of Built Environment" (EPFL).