

ADVISORY BOARD – CURRENT MEMBERS

Martim Smolka, Senior Fellow and Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Short bio: Martim O. Smolka is a senior fellow and director of the Program on Latin American and the Caribbean, at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Since 1995 he has led hundreds of research and educational programs for high-level public officials, scholars, NGO leaders and other professionals. He has authored many publications on the functioning of formal and informal urban land markets; on regularization policies; and land based instruments to finance and promote urban development. Martim holds a PhD in Philosophy and Regional Science degree from University of Pennsylvania.



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Mihaly Kopanyi, International Municipal Finance Consultant

Short bio: Mr. Kopanyi is a municipal finance consultant. Before retiring from The World Bank in 2011 he worked in 30 countries and he was a municipal finance adviser and co-chair of the Municipal Finance Thematic Group. His core competency areas include intergovernmental finance, financing urban infrastructure, and reforming financial intermediaries. He has edited or co-authored more than 30 books and numerous articles; his recent works include: the ‘Municipal Finance e-learning course’ of the World Bank Institute; ‘Financing Municipalities in Turkey’, ‘Reforming the Georgia Municipal Development Fund’, and ‘Financing Delivery of Urban Services in Rwanda’.



More: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mihaly-kopanyi-a0970818/>

Gundula Löffler, Overseas Development Institute

Short bio: Gundula is a research fellow at ODI specializing in institutional and governance reforms in the areas of decentralization, local and urban finance and taxation in developing countries. Prior to joining ODI, Ms. Löffler worked as a researcher on fiscal decentralization and local taxation in Rwanda and other African countries. She also worked as a development adviser for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Egypt, Syria and Germany on participatory development, decentralization, urban management and slum upgrading. Ms. Löffler holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Development from NYU Wagner.



More: <https://odi.org/en/profile/gundula-loffler/>

Somesh Sharma, Environment and Sustainable Development Planning Expert, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Short bio: Somesh is working as an academic staff with the “Managing and Financing Urban Infrastructure (MFUI)” group at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is involved in teaching, research, advisory and designing tailor made training programs. His educational qualifications include Bachelor in Civil Engineering, Masters’ in Urban Planning and Masters’ in Urban Management and Development. His main areas of focus are sustainable urban transport, environmental planning and policy, green and smart infrastructure, and climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. He specializes in designing decision support systems for urban management and governance. He has developed Sustainable Benefits Assessment Methodology (SBA), Travel Demand Forecasting Model, Transport Emission Estimation Model, Integrated Model for Low-cost Sustainable Transport Planning, and web-based decision support system for Climate Change and Variability Assessment.



More: <https://www.ihs.nl/en/about/ihs-staff/ihs-academic-staff/somesh-sharma>; [Linkedin](#)

Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic, International Municipal Finance Consultant and Specialist in Urban Development

Short bio: has more than 25 years of World Bank experience in many regions of the world and has worked in about 30 countries. As a Lead Urban Development Specialist, she has led the preparation and implementation of a large number of urban development and municipal management projects around the world and has been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence. She is the author or co-author of several sector studies as well as several books. She has a keen interest in translating lessons from experience and cutting-edge know-how into practical knowledge products and is currently leading the development and worldwide delivery of an e-learning curriculum on land management, urban planning, and municipal finances.



More: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/team/catherine-farvacque-vitkovic>

Serge Allou, United Cities and Local Governments

Short bio: Serge Allou is a special advisor to the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Secretariat, seconded by Expertise France on behalf of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Within the Secretariat, his primary responsibility is the implementation of a renewed UCLG Strategy on Local Finance, including the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment—a joint initiative of the UCLG, the OECD and the International Municipal Investment Fund—in partnership with UNCDF and FMDV. He has a degree in Economics (ESSEC Business School) with a postgraduate Certificate in Sociology and a PhD in Political Studies (University of Paris 9).



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Julian Baskin, United Cities and Local Governments

Julian is a town and regional planner, with over 30 years of experience in urban programming, with a focus on participatory planning, slum upgrading and affordable housing. Prior to joining Cities Alliance in 2009, Julian served as Director of the Alexandra Renewal Project, a major urban redevelopment initiative of a slum settlement of some 400,000 inhabitants in Gauteng Province, South Africa. He has also worked for CARE International, UN-Habitat, the Cities of Durban and Johannesburg, and has lived and worked on slum upgrading in Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Angola.



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Francois Bergere, Long-Term Infrastructure Investors Association

Short bio: François Bergere is the Program Manager of the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) of the World Bank Group. François has a diversified professional experience in the fields of public management, project and infrastructure finance. Previously he served as a “Conseiller maitre” (Senior auditor) at the Cour des comptes (France’s national audit office), he also worked as manager of multinational Investment funds in infrastructure in Asia and Europe from 1997 to 2002. In April 2005, he was selected by the French ministry of Finance to set-up the newly created Mission d’Appui aux PPP (PPP task force), which he managed until May 2014. He graduated from ENA (Ecole Nationale d’Administration) and HEC business school, and he holds a degree in economics from the University of Paris-Sorbonne.



More: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/people/f/francois-bergere>

Christian Roberts, President of the Institute of Asset Management

Involved with the IAM for more than 25 years, Christian helped establish the USA chapter, and notes that the IAM has a key role to play in the future resilience of infrastructure assets. His project experience includes management of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's strategic asset management program. He has led similar programs of work in the U.K. passenger rail and transit sectors including London Underground. More recently, Roberts served as the principal expert representing the U.K. at the International Committee responsible for the creation of an International Standards Organization (ISO) standard for asset management (ISO:55001), which is scheduled to be published later this year.



Roberts received Ph.D. and B. Eng. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Birmingham. His professional affiliations include the Transportation Research Board, Institute of Engineering and Technology, and the Institute of Asset Management.

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Isabelle Delalex, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Short bio: Isabelle Delalex is an adjunct professor at the Lubin School of Business and Dyson College of Arts and Sciences at Pace University where she teaches courses in finance and economics. In the private sector, she was vice president and director of industry research at the Securities Industry Association after working for five years as an analyst at Goldman Sachs. Her professional experience also includes consulting works for the United Nations and several not-for-profit organizations in the fields of microfinance, education and philanthropy. Isabelle Delalex holds a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University.



More: <https://www.sipa.columbia.edu/faculty-research/faculty-directory/isabelle-delalex>

Paul Smoke, NYU Wagner Graduate School

Short bio: Professor of Planning and Public Finance, and Director of International Programs at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. His research and public policy interests include: the political economy of reforms in the public sector, especially in the issues of decentralization, intergovernmental fiscal relations, and provision of public services, as well and planning in urban and regional development in developing countries. He is an academic affiliated with the Center on International Development of the Urban Institute (Washington, DC) and Senior Research Associate from the Overseas Development Institute (London). He previously taught International Development /Urban Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has worked in various countries, especially in Africa and Asia, and with a large number of non-governmental organizations and international development agencies.



More: <https://wagner.nyu.edu/community/faculty/paul-smoke>

Olga Kaganova, Independent Consultant

Short bio: Olga Kaganova, Ph.D. is an internationally recognized expert on governmental asset management, with global expertise and a distinctively multi-disciplinary approach. She has worked in 35 countries on five continents, advising central and local governments. Prior to becoming a consultant at the World Bank in 2015, Olga held senior research positions at the NORC at the University of Chicago and the Urban Institute, both in the Washington D.C. area. She had served as a strategic advisor for the Canadian National Executive Forum on Public Property. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the Institute of Biophysics, Academy of Science, Russia.



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