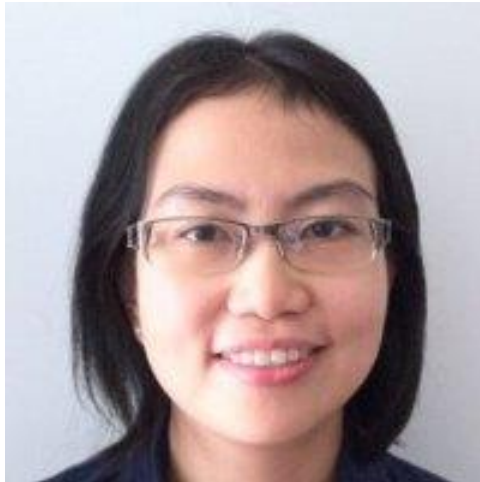


## **Speaker Biographies** **Expert Group Meeting**

*Integrated approaches to international migrations: the perspective of public institutions and public administration*

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017  
Conference Room 8, UNHQ, New York



**Yu Ping Chan** is a Special Policy Advisor at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Prior to her current position, she worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore and as the First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Singapore. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University and a B.A. from Harvard University.



**Scarlet Cronin** is the Senior Director of Partnerships and Philanthropy at the Tent Foundation, launched by Hamdi Ulukaya, the CEO of Chobani yogurt, to address the global refugee crisis. In this capacity, she oversees the Tent Partnership for Refugees. Prior to Tent, Scarlet worked at the Clinton Foundation for nearly eight years. She was the Associate Director of the Commitments Department and head of the Response & Resilience track at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). In this role, she advised corporate, philanthropic, government and non-profit leaders responding to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Before that, Scarlet worked at the Elie Wiesel Foundation, founded by Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin.



**Thomas Gass** was appointed by the Secretary-General as Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UN DESA and he took office on 3 September 2013. He brings with him wide-ranging experience in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. From 2009 to 2013, he served as Head of the Mission of Switzerland to Nepal (Ambassador and Country Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), where he established the Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal, and ensured the delivery of a development cooperation programme of up to 33 million dollars a year. He also chaired the Donors of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, the main instrument for international support to Nepal's peace process. Before his posting to

Nepal from 2004 to 2009, Mr. Gass was Head of the Economic and Development Section at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York. Mr. Gass also served as Policy and Programme Officer for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, as Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guyana, and as Regional Director for Europe with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute in Rome. He holds a PhD in natural sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and a MSc and engineering diploma in agricultural sciences from the same Institute.



**Kieran Gorman-Best** is the Senior Policy and Liaison Officer at the International Organization for Migration-New York. Previously, he was the Chief of Mission for IOM in Myanmar.



**Ioannis N. Grigoriadis** is Associate Professor and Jean Monnet Chair of European Studies at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. Recently, he was an IPC-Stiftung Mercator Senior Research Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (*Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik-SWP*) in Berlin, Germany, and a Stanley J. Seeger Research Fellow at Princeton University, United States. He has published several books including *Democratic Transition and the Rise of Populist Majoritarianism: Constitutional Reform in Greece and Turkey* (London & New York: Palgrave Springer, 2017), *Trials of Europeanization: Turkish Political Culture and the European Union*, (London & New York: Palgrave

Macmillan, 2009). He has co-authored “Securitizing Migration in the European Union: Greece and the Evros Fence”, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, (forthcoming in 2018). He holds a Ph.D. in politics from the University of London, United Kingdom, and a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, United States.



**Sabine Henning** is Senior Population Affairs Officer and Head of the Office of the Director, Population Division, DESA. Ms. Henning joined the Division in 2000. For seven years, she worked in the Population Estimates and Projections Section, part of a team tasked with estimating and projecting the total and urban/rural populations of the world; she was responsible for work on China, India and many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. For six years in the Migration Section, she contributed to migrant stock estimates, the International Migration Reports and reports of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. She was also part of teams supporting informal consultations on international migration and development in the

2<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the General Assembly and supporting the organization of the annual coordination meetings on international migration. She has co-led the logistical and substantive planning and organization of the annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. Her research interests center on migration, urbanization, population and development. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography, a doctoral-level Graduate Certificate in Demography from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Professional Graduate Certificate in Strategic Management from Harvard University.



**Kemal Kirişci** is a Senior Fellow and the Director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at the Brookings Institute. He is an expert in Turkish foreign policy and migration studies. Before joining the Brookings, he was a professor of international relations and served as the Jean Monnet Chair in European integration in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. His areas of research interest include European integration, immigration issues, ethnic conflicts, refugee movements, among other things. He published a series of reports on Syrian displacement at Brookings and co-authored *The Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect* published by the Brookings Institution Press. His most recent book *Turkey and the West: Fault Lines in a Troubled Alliance* will be published in November 2017. He holds a doctorate in International Relations from

the City University, London; a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, and a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Management from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.



**Sabine Kuhlmann** is a professor of political science at the University of Potsdam in Germany. She also is the Vice-Chair of the German National Regulatory Control Council at the German Federal Chancellery, a post she holds since 2017, and she serves as the Vice-President for Western Europe of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the Vice-President of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA). Her main research interests include comparative public administration, public sector reforms, local government, and evaluation. She has published in *Public Administration Review*, *Public Management Review*, and *Public Administration*, among other journals. She holds a PhD from the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.



**Georges T. Labaki** is the Chairman of the Board of the National School of Public Administration. (ENA). A Former Professor at Maryland University, Georgetown University and the School of Advanced and International Studies at John Hopkins University, he has taught in many universities in Lebanon. Professor Labaki is the author of five books and over 100 articles published in prominent national and international professional journals. He has worked as a consultant in France, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco and Niger. Upon the recommendations of the French President François Mitterrand, he received the Medallion of the “*Ordre National du Mérite*”. He was instrumental in introducing the teaching of Public Management in the National School of Administration &

Development in Lebanon in 1998. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration, Public Finance and Taxation from the Sorbonne, and a Ph.D. in French literature from the University of Paris XII.



**Michelle Leighton** is the Chief of the Labour Migration Branch at the International Labor Organisation (ILO). Previously, she was the Deputy Director of the American University of Central Asia’s Tian Shan Policy Center and Professor of law, after serving as the United States Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan. She also worked as the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability for the United Nations University-EHS Institute, Bonn, Germany from 2009-2012. Her expertise is in labour migration, democratic governance, human rights and human security. She has conducted research on the best practices and the linkages between human migration and development. She has served as an adviser and consultant to international institutions, government, and non-profit

organizations since 1992. She received her LL.M degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, London, England, her J.D. from Golden Gate University Law School, and a B.A. from the University of California at Davis.



**Sonia Plaza**, is a Senior Economist, World Bank. She is in the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice working on regional integration, cross-border labor mobility and migration. She is the co-chair of the "thematic working group on diaspora" of the KNOMAD initiative (Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development). She was a core member of the *Africa's Silk Road: China and India's New Economic Frontier* and wrote Chapter 5 on market information through ethnic networks and migration. She co-edited the book *Diaspora for Development in Africa* and authored *Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills, and Investments*. She advises many governments and universities on transfer of skills. She acts as a focal point at the working level for the Bank's activities and international partnerships on migration and development (Global Forum on Migration and Development, Global Migration Group, Global Remittances Working Group). Her expertise includes

trade, private sector development, diaspora, technology, migration and remittances policies. She attended the University of Lima and earned a degree in Economics, after which she joined Chase Manhattan Bank and the Peruvian Ministry of Trade. She negotiated Peruvian external debt and trade agreements. She also taught international economics at the Foreign Service School, University of Lima in Peru, and the American University, Washington D.C. She holds a dual degree from Yale and the University of Pennsylvania in international economics and development.



**Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta** has been the Deputy Director of the Institute for Public Management & Community Service at Florida International University since 1994. She is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the Institute's programs including projects, conferences, field missions, and the Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities. Prior to her current position, she was a researcher at the Organization of American States' Unit for the Promotion of Democracy and at the Inter-American Dialogue. Dr. Rodriguez-Acosta has published several articles on citizen participation, decentralization and local government reform, and has been a guest speaker at many international conferences. She received her Bachelor's Degree in

International Relations and Political Science from Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a Master's Degree in Latin American Affairs from Georgetown University in

Washington, DC, and a Ph.D. in Public Management from Florida International University in Miami.