



How Can Governments Strengthen Public Trust and Their Relationships with Society?

World Public Sector Report 2023 Webinar Series #2

16 November 2023, 8:30 – 10:00 am (EST, NY)

Speaker bios

Sarah McCoubrey, Access to Justice Strategist, CALIBRATE



Sarah McCoubrey is an architect of the access to justice movement in Canada and internationally. She brings a new perspective and system-wide thinking to entrenched problems and emerging opportunities. She combines her legal experience with education and community expertise to build understanding and find creative solutions. Sarah leads CALIBRATE's work in developing trainings and addressing complex issues relating to technology and civil

justice.

Prior to founding CALIBRATE, Sarah spent 15 years working in the public, non-profit and private sector to improve the Canadian justice system, including as Executive Director of the Ontario Justice Education Network.

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Valeria Betancourt, Communications and Information Policy Programme Manager, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)



Valeria Betancourt has led the internet policy and governance work of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), a network and organization that works for the internet to be developed and governed for the common good, since 2010. She is also part of the APC's management team. A digital rights activist and advocate, her work focuses on policy and governance with respect to the relationship between digital technologies, social, environmental and gender justice, in the context of the global South.

In 2013 and 2015, Valeria was awarded a LACNIC Outstanding Achievement Award and a FRIDA Programme Recognition for contributing to development and the internet in Latin America. She was part of the Internet Governance Forum's (IGF) multi-stakeholder advisory group (MAG). Her background is in sociology and political science. She holds a Master's degree in cultural studies and communication.

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Naledi Mashishi, former Researcher, Africa Check



Naledi Mashishi is a masters candidate working towards a MSc in Global Health Policy and a former fact-checking researcher at Africa Check, Africa's first independent fact-checking organization.

She is an author with a background in digital journalism. Her novel Invisible Strings was listed in the 2022 Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans List.

Naledi has experience in financial journalism and health reporting. She is passionate about producing and disseminating accessible, accurate, and up to date reports researching topics such as healthcare, education, service delivery, and legal matters.

Naledi obtained a bursary from Thomson Reuters for her honors studies in 2017 and subsequently worked for Reuters as an editorial intern in 2019. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Journalism and Media Studies from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies, and Politics and International Relations from Rhodes University.

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Mirza Shadan, Director, Global Health Strategies



Mirza Shadan has extensive experience working on public health and science communications, advocacy, health financing and public policy. Currently, Shadan is leading strategic communications, partnerships and capacity building for India's apex health research institution, the Indian Council of Medical Research. In his role at Global Health Strategies, Shadan has worked on a range of projects, including developing strategies for improving access to health technologies in developing countries, assessing the landscape for

introducing new childhood vaccines, facilitating international events on gender & science and identifying financing gaps for public health issues in India such as nutrition. He has a master's in business administration from Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi & bachelor's in arts degree in Economics from Ramjas College, University of Delhi.

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Müge Finkel, Co-Director, Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL); Director, Ford Institute for Human Security; Assistant Professor of International Development, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs - University of Pittsburgh



Müge Kökten Finkel is Assistant Professor of International Development and Program Director of the Master of International Development Program at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her academic appointment in GSPIA, she worked as a Social Development Specialist at the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa region, and consulted for the International Food Policy Research

Institute. She worked on youth and gender-focused projects in Yemen, Egypt, and Morocco. Müge is the faculty co-lead of the Ford Institute for Human Security working group on Gender Equality in Public

Administration (GEPA), a collaborative research effort with UNDP. Her current research focuses on politics of public sector employment and opportunities for women.

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Alexandra DeBlock, Research Officer, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)



Alexandra DeBlock is a Research Officer at ICNL. In this role, she works with ICNL's President on the promotion of democracy, civil society, and public participation around the world. Alexandra researches cutting-edge issues affecting civic space, including global authoritarianism, COVID-19 emergency measures, and disinformation. She also co-leads ICNL's work on Women and Civic Space.

From 2021 – 2022, Alexandra was a Penn Kemble Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Prior to joining ICNL, Alexandra worked as the International Programs Coordinator for the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs in New York, which serves to train humanitarian aid professionals from around the world. In 2012, she was awarded a Fulbright Grant to Thailand to design and implement an English teaching curriculum in Ban Phai, Khon Kaen.

Alexandra graduated from Fordham University with a B.A. in Political Science and Classical Civilization, as well as an M.A. in International Politics. She earned an M.Sc. in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she specialized in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

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James Sloam, Professor of Politics, Royal Holloway, University of London



James Sloam joined the Politics and International Relations Department at Royal Holloway in September 2005. He was previously a lecturer in European Studies at King's College, London and an honorary research fellow at the European Research Institute, University of Birmingham, where he co-ordinated projects on policy transfer in East Central Europe and Youth Participation in democracy. In 2019, he led a project (together with the NGO Bite the Ballot) for the Greater London Authority (GLA) investigating the key policy issues for young people and questions of civic and political engagement, and their relevance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In a second project, with Akil Awan and Sofia Collignon for HARI and with the NGO Webroots Democracy, he explored the impact of online intimidation and bullying on the political engagement of young people through social media. In 2020, James received an award of £19,200 from Research England to conduct follow up work with the GLA, to develop its youth engagement strategy. In 2021, he received an award of £9,000 from the British Academy (Mirian Calvo and Carina O'Reilly) to investigate the views of young Londoners from disadvantaged backgrounds on sustainability in the run-up to COP26.

In 2014, James set up (with Andy Chadwick and Tom Dyson) the department's Politics in Action programme to foster experiential learning and the development of transferable skills - around 25 Royal Holloway students now take a placement with a politician, government organisations, campaign group or charity each year, and write a research report on their work. In 2020-2021, he set up new scheme for

ethnic minority students (with Doreen Thompson-Addo, Careers) that will secure seven internships for Royal Holloway students in Parliament each year, to counter the under-representation of these groups in Westminster.

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Jeffrey Owens, Director, WU Global Tax Policy Center, Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law (Institut für Österreichisches und Internationales Steuerrecht, WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien), Vienna University of Economics and Business



Jeffrey Owens completed his doctoral work at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom in 1973. In addition to his economic degrees, he is a qualified accountant.

Jeffrey continued an academic career (Visiting Professor at the American University of Paris, Bocconi University, Italy and Queen Mary's College, London) with his career as an International Civil Servant. He has focused his attention on questions of tax policy and tax administration, with particular emphasis on international taxation and related domestic issues. He established a major taxation program at the OECD and extensively developed the OECD contacts with non-member countries. His earlier work dealt with the development of international currency markets and the implications for monetary policies.

He has made numerous contributions to professional journals, has published a number of books and has been the author of many OECD publications on taxation. Jeffrey's position at the OECD and his frequent participation in international conferences, have provided him with a unique international perspective on tax policy.