

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### KHALED BEN ABDESSLEM



**Khaled Ben Abdesslem** is External Consultant for the MedCities Technical Secretariat, and expert on local development in Tunisia. He has worked for City Hall in Sousse, Tunisia for the last 18 years focusing on urban development strategy, Euro-Mediterranean strategic platform, adapted waste management and waste disposal, as well as rehabilitation of the Medina walls in Sousse. In 2004, he was the Coordinator of the pilot project entitled "Youth on the World Heritage Trail" for the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC).

### MAX AJL



**Max Ajl** is a doctoral student in the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University, and will graduate in late Spring 2018. His work focuses on and contributes to the study of historical sociology, environmental justice, agrarian change, planning, and heterodox Arab/North African social thought. His research is focused on the MENA region, with a particular focus on Tunisia. Mr. Ajl's dissertation is a history of modern Tunisia, focused on the social and ecological origins of underdevelopment, and the trajectory of post-colonial planning. He is an editor at *Jadaliyya* and *Viewpoint*.

### FARAH AL-NAKIB



**Farah Al-Nakib** served as Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Center for Gulf Studies at the American University of Kuwait. She obtained her PhD (2011) and MA (2006) in History from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Her research primarily focuses on the urban history of Kuwait City before and after oil, on which she has written her first book. She also writes about memory and forgetting in relation to the built environment. She has researched and analyzed the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait from a social-historical perspective. She serves as co-editor of *Jadaliyya's* Cities Page.

**SHARIFA ALSHALFAN**



**Sharifa Alshalfan** is an Urban Researcher and Consultant who is currently leading the Spaces of Living project at LSE Kuwait as a Visiting Fellow, as well as consulting on land management with the World Bank. Her research interests include land-use policies and urban governance with a focus on housing in the GCC states. She has a particular interest in the housing welfare system in Kuwait, and its urban and social effects on the country. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Southern California and an MSc in City Design and Social Science from London School of Economics.

**JULIA BELLO-SCHÜNEMANN**



**Julia Bello-Schünemann** is a Senior Research Consultant for the African Futures and Innovation Programme at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and a Senior Associate Consultant for Good Governance Africa. She is based in Lagos, Nigeria, and her current research focuses on long-term trends in sub-Saharan Africa, including urbanization, demographics, development and violence. Before joining the ISS, Bello-Schünemann was a consultant working on state building, conflict prevention and early warning, providing policy advice to the European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), among others. Bello-Schünemann has a PhD in international relations from the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.

**JOSEP COLL**



**Josep Coll** is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master in Sustainable Business and Innovation at EADA Business School. He is a Senior Research Associate at CIDOB Barcelona Center for International Affairs, where he created and leads the "Wise Cities" program. He also serves as an international development consultant for the European Commission and the United Nations. He is a Visiting Professor at Yonsei University in South Korea and Universidad Anahuac in Mexico. He is the author of the books "Zen Business" and "Economics of Happiness" (Spanish editions). He regularly speaks at the Smart City Expo & World Congress about urban development as well as in other international congresses.

**JOEL CUELLO**



**Joel L. Cuello** is Professor of Biosystems Engineering and Director of the Global Initiative for Strategic Agriculture in Dry Lands (GISAD) at the University of Arizona in Tuscon, Arizona, USA. He is a globally recognized expert in the engineering of sustainable biological and agricultural systems, emphasizing on optimizing biological and agricultural productivities while fostering resource sustainability and environmental protection. Prof. Cuello conducted his postdoctoral research in the Controlled Ecological Life Support System Division at NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural & Biological Engineering, with a Minor in Chemical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1994. He also holds two M.S. Degrees in Agricultural & Biological Engineering.

**DANIELE FATTIBENE**



**Daniele Fattibene** is Research Fellow at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome. At IAI he has worked on different projects dealing with the strengthening of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Recently he has started to focus on the nexus between food, water, energy, climate change and migration. He has published research papers on the external dimension of the EU's Food Security Policy, as well as on EU's actions to tackle Food Losses and Waste.

**LLUÍS GÓMEZ**



**Lluís Gómez** is the Commissioner responsible for Economic Promotion, Enterprise and Innovation at Barcelona City Council, of which, among other duties, requires him to lead foreign and domestic policies aiming at strengthening Barcelona's international positioning among major cities in the world. Mr. Gómez's professional background includes missions in both private and public sectors. He was the founder of Sternalia Inc., a scientific events planning company. Before becoming Commissioner, he was the International Director at Smart City World Expo Congress (SCWEC). Prior to that, he was the Manager of "Fabra Observatory of Astronomy" in Barcelona.



**WALEED HAZBUN**



**Waleed Hazbun** is Associate Professor of International Politics at the American University of Beirut (AUB), where he previously served as Director of the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES). He holds a PhD in political science from MIT, and before joining AUB in 2010 he taught at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is author of *Beaches, Ruins, Resorts: The Politics of Tourism in the Arab World* (Minnesota, 2008) and co-editor of *New Conflict Dynamics: Between Regional Autonomy and Intervention in the Middle East and North Africa* (Copenhagen, 2017).

**KAREEM IBRAHIM**



**Kareem Ibrahim** is an Architect and Urban Planner with a degree from Cairo University. In 1997, he worked on the UNDP's Historic Cairo Rehabilitation Project. Mr Ibrahim worked for Aga Khan Cultural Services - Egypt between 1997-2010 as the Built Environment Coordinator of the Darb al-Ahmar Revitalization Project. In 2009, he co-founded Takween Integrated Community Development and has worked on a range of issues including sustainable architecture, participatory planning, affordable housing, public infrastructure, and urban revitalization throughout Egypt. He is also the Co-Leader of TADAMUN (The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative) encouraging citizens to claim their Right to the City and its democratic management.

**BORJA IGLESIAS**



**Borja Iglesias** is an Architect and Urban Planner, Associate Consultant with the UNESCO Chair in Intermediate Cities (since 2012), working on strategic planning, urban resilience and disruptive technologies. Founder and CEO at Network for Strengthening the Informal City (NSIC) and PhD researcher, Department of Urbanism and Regional Planning at UPC BarcelonaTech. He is a developer of geospatial infrastructure and toolkits aimed to localizing the SDGs for United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He is co-author of regional, strategic and town planning for multilevel governments in Catalonia, Spain, since 2005.

**MARIE KARNER**



**Marie Karner** is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Geography at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germany. She holds a diploma in Geography with a thesis on the transformation of the historic center of Byblos/Jbeil in Lebanon which received a recognition within the Otto-Borst-Prize 2015 by the Forum Stadt - Network of Historic Cities. Within her dissertation, she studied different Lebanese diasporic village communities and their practices of reproduction and community development. Since 2014, Marie conducted qualitative interviews and participant observation in five locations (Qadisha Valley - Lebanon, Sydney - Australia, Halifax - Canada, Easton - US, Dubai - UAE) as part of a multi-sited-research design.

**JEAN-CHARLES LARDIC**



**Jean-Charles Lardic** is an expert in sustainable development and local governance engineering. Since 2010, Mr. Lardic has served as Directeur de la Prospective (Director of Prospective) for the City of Marseille. He received a degree in 1980 from the French Ecole Polytechnique.

**PATRICK LE GALÈS**



**Patrick Le Galès**, FBA, is a CNRS Research Professor of politics and sociology, Sciences Po, Centre d'Etudes Européennes and Dean of Sciences Po's Urban School. He chairs the "Cities are back in town" research group. He was a visiting professor and researcher at King's College London, UCLA, EUI Florence, Nuffield College Oxford, the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Society in Cologne, the Universities of Milan Bicocca, Venice, Sao Paolo (Centre for Metropolitan Studies), Northwest University and the Colejio of Mexico.

Dean Le Galès is also a former editor of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research and former president of SASE (Society for the advancement of socio economics).

## ENRICO LETTA



**Enrico Letta** is Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Sciences Po, and President of the Jacques Delors Institute. Dean Letta served as Prime Minister of Italy from April 2013 to February 2014. Prior, he served as Minister of EU Affairs (1998-1999), as Minister of Industry, Commerce and Crafts (January-April 2000, during the second D'Alema Government), as Minister for Industry, Commerce and Crafts and Foreign Trade (2000-2001, during the second Amato Government) and as Undersecretary of State to the Prime Minister of the centre-left government led by Romano Prodi from 2006 to 2008.

Between 2001 and 2015, Dean Letta was Member of the Italian Parliament, with the exception of 2004-2006 when he served as Member of the European Parliament. He also served as deputy Secretary of the Democratic Party (PD) from 2009 to 2013. Dean Letta holds a degree in International Law from the University of Pisa, and a PhD in European Union Law from the School for Advanced Studies "Sant'Anna", Pisa.

## DOMINIQUE LORRAIN



**Dominique Lorrain** is Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS); his present works concern the reforms of infrastructure: liberalization policies and corporate strategies. Among his last publications, he recently directed three special issues: *Eau: le temps d'un bilan*, Flux n°52-53, Jul-Sept. 2003. *Gouverner les très grandes métropoles*, (with P. Le Galès), *Revue Française d'administration publique*, n° 107, Dec. 2003. *Les grands groupes et la ville*, *Entreprises et Histoire* n°50, Sept-Nov 2002. He is member of the editorial board of three Journals (*Sociologie du Travail*, *Flux*, *Annales de la Recherche Urbaine*) as well as several scientific committees (Institut de la Gestion Déléguée, the Technical Advisory Panel of the PPIAF, a program of industrial countries and the World Bank). He teaches the socio-economics of utilities at Sciences Po, Paris, SIMBA: Shanghai International MBA, the ENPC and Tongji University.

**ELENA MAESTRI**



**Elena Maestri** qualified as an Associate Professor (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) in 2012. She is currently a tenured Researcher and Adjunct Professor of History and Institutions of the Muslim World at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore* (UCSC) in Milano, as well as Faculty Member of the School of Doctorate in "Institutions and Policies" (UCSC). She has carried out extensive research on Gulf Arab States' history, politics, societies, traditional settlements and urban models, on gender issues and Islam, legal issues in Muslim countries, development and cooperation in the GCC, the old and the new media in the Arab-Muslim world.

**PASCAL MENORET**



**Pascal Menoret** is the author of *Joyriding in Riyadh: Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt* (Cambridge University Press 2014), of *Arabia, from the Incense Road to the Oil Era* (Gallimard 2010, in French) and of *The Saudi Enigma: A History* (Zed Books 2005). An ethnographer and historian, he conducted four years of fieldwork in Saudi Arabia and has lived in Yemen, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Paris 1 and was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University and Harvard University. He previously taught Middle East Studies at New York University Abu Dhabi and philosophy in three French high schools.

**FARIDA NACEUR**



**Farida Naceur** is a Professor at the Institute of Architecture and Urbanism, Batna University, Algeria. Her research interest includes informal settlements, urban security, housing patterns and urban design. She is currently working on a scientific research project investigating informal settlements in Mediterranean cities in collaboration with Fatiha Belmessous, a CNRS researcher at the Laboratoire "RIVES", UMR, EVS, ENTPE, LYON, France



**OLGU OKUMUS**



**Olgu Okumus** is Head of Sector - Energy at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat. Dr. Okumus is responsible for regional project promotion, including conducting energy and climate finance negotiation policy dialogue with governments, international finance institutions and both government-based and non-government-based donors. As part of her daily work at UfM's Secretariat, she oversees UfM's collaboration and project development with other international institutions, including the EBRD, IEA, EIB, EC and other UN agencies. She holds a PhD from Sciences Po, Paris.

**MIQUEL RODRIGUEZ PLANAS**



**Miquel Rodriguez Planas** is Manager of the Public-Private Sector Research Center at IESE Business School, University of Navarra. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He has extensive experience in public-private partnerships, holding positions in the public administration as well as the private sector and NGOs sector. He has worked in different fields, such as higher education, public works, and social policies. He is the former COO of the Manresa Campus of the Central University of Catalonia, and previously served as the Public Attention Co-Director of the Barcelona Culture Universal Forum, Director of the Department of Roads at the Island Council of Menorca, and Manager at the NGO - Friends of the Elderly.

**JAMES RUSSELL**



**James A. Russell** serves as Associate Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at NPS, where he teaches courses on Middle East security affairs, terrorism, and national security strategy. From 1988-2001, Mr. Russell held a variety of positions in the Office of the Assistant Secretary Defense for International Security Affairs, Near East South Asia, Department of Defense. During this period, he traveled extensively in the Persian Gulf and Middle East working on U.S. security policy. He holds a Master's in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in War Studies from the University of London.



**WOLFGANG SCHUSTER**



**Wolfgang Schuster** is Chairman of the Executive Board, Deutsche Telekom Stiftung, and has served in this role since the beginning of 2015. Prof. Dr. Schuster studied at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in Paris. Among the most important milestones in his professional career were his appointment to the office of Mayor, City of Schwäbisch Gmünd in 1986, a position which he held for seven years. He then subsequently moved to Stuttgart where he served as Deputy Mayor until 1997 and was responsible for arts, culture, education and sports. From 1997 to 2013, he was elected as the city's Mayor, managing the affairs of the Baden-Württemberg state capital for altogether 16 years.

**TONY SFEIR**



**Tony Sfeir** is Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for the City of Byblos, Lebanon. Mr. Sfeir is an elected member of the municipality corps since 2010. He was also appointed as the coordinator between the city and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction - Disaster Risk Recovery (UNISDR-DRR) program. Mr. Sfeir represents the Municipality of Byblos in the "Crisis Committee."

**AZZA SIRRY**



**Azza Sirry** is a Professor of Urban planning at the Housing and Building National Research Center HBRC, Cairo and Director of the Metropolis Training Institute for Africa and the Middle East. She has 34 years of extensive academic and practical experience in the fields of urban planning, urban management, informal settlement upgrading and infrastructure management. She has prepared strategic plans for several cities, villages and informal areas. She lectures at several universities and is a training adviser with extent experience in urban issues. Dr Sirry is the author of "Local practices in urban management in secondary cities in Egypt, the case of Belbeis", published in English and Arabic in 2003. Dr. Sirry holds a PhD. and MSc. in Urban planning, and a BSc. in Architecture engineering from Cairo University.

## ERIC VERDEIL



**Eric Verdeil** graduated with degrees in Geography and Urban Planning (Ecole normale supérieure, Paris, Institut français d'urbanisme, Université Paris 8), and a PhD in Geography (2002, Université Paris I-Sorbonne). He specializes in urban geography. Since September 2016, he has served as University Professor at Sciences Po, Paris. Previously, Prof. Verdeil was a CNRS Researcher, and a member of the research team LATTIS at University Paris Est since 2015. Before that, he worked in Lyon (2003-2015) and at the French Institute of the Near East (IFPO), Beirut. His interests include the sociology and history of urbanism and the current transformations of urban management policies, specifically urban infrastructure (energy, water, solid waste). He conducted most of his research in the Middle East and particularly in Lebanon after a dissertation dealing with planning cultures and urban policies through the case of Beirut's reconstruction. His fieldworks recently expanded towards the South and the East of the Mediterranean, most notably Jordan and Tunisia.

## ECKART WOERTZ



**Eckart Woertz** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair at Sciences Po. Formerly he was a visiting fellow at Princeton University, director of economic studies at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai. He is author of *Oil for Food. The Global Food Crisis and the Middle East* (Oxford University Press 2013) and editor of *GCC Financial Markets* (Berlin: Gerlach Press 2012). He has been a commentator to international media outlets like *BBC* and *Al Arabiya* and has contributed to various policy papers. He has served as a consultant for international and regional organizations such as the UNCTAD, the European Parliament, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning. His research interests include: political economy of the Middle East, food security, energy issues, economic diversification and sovereign wealth funds.

## KEY CONTACTS

### **Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair**

*Dr. Eckart Woertz*

Eckart.Woertz@sciencespo.fr

### **Kuwait Program Manager**

*Morgan Packer*

Morgan.Packer@sciencespo.fr