

Laurel Patterson is the Head of SDG Integration in UNDP's Global Policy Network. Laurel was previously Senior Global Policy Advisor, leading on integrated policy development for SDG implementation in fragile and conflict affected settings. She was also Deputy Director of the UN System Affairs Group leading on UN reform and Deputy Director of the Partnerships Group in UNDP's Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy.

Laurel held several field-based assignments, including as rule of law specialist and chief of planning in Somalia and advisor for a sub-regional peacebuilding initiative in the Great Lakes of Africa. Before UNDP, she was the Associate Director of International Affairs at Simon Fraser University in Canada, where she led the university's international development portfolio, focused on primary education in Africa and Southeast Asia. Laurel started her career with the UN in Zimbabwe and Angola, as part of UN Women's flagship women, peace and security portfolio.

Twitter:

@PattersonLaurel



Dr. Christina Behrendt

Head Social Policy Unit, Social Protection, ILO

Christina Behrendt is Head of the Social Policy Unit in the International Labour Office (ILO)'s Social Protection Department in Geneva (Switzerland). Her work experience includes assignments as regional social security specialist at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut (Lebanon), as consultant at the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and as lecturer and research fellow at the University of Konstanz. She has worked and published on various aspects of social security in both developed and developing country contexts. She has widely published on social protection in both developed and developing countries, including on social assistance and other cash transfers, the extension of social protection to those in the informal economy, income distribution and poverty alleviation, as well as the distributive effects of various social protection benefits on poverty and inequality. She has also contributed to the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2017-19, and several other ILO publications. Her current work focuses mainly on the extension of social protection in low and middle income countries



Paul Ladd

Director of the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD)

Paul Ladd has been Director of UNRISD since October 2015. Before taking up this position he had been at UNDP, where he had most recently been Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Development Agenda. From 2008-2009, he provided support to the Office of the UN Secretary-General on the financial and economic crisis, and engagement with the G20. Before moving to New York, Paul was a policy adviser on international development for the UK Treasury, including the period building up to and through the UK's Chair of the G8 and European Union in 2005. Earlier in his career, Paul was the Chief Economist and acting Head of Policy with UK charity Christian Aid, the UK Department for International Development's economic adviser for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, and a financial adviser in the Central Bank of Guyana.

Paul is also an [International Geneva Gender Champion](#). He has committed to ensuring that relevant gender concerns feature in every piece of published UNRISD research and to seek gender balance in the Institute's network of collaborating researchers. UNRISD supports the International Geneva Gender Champion initiative's [Panel Parity Pledge](#).



Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director of the Advancement Project

Judith Browne Dianis has served as a lawyer, professor and civil rights advocate in the movement for racial justice. Hailed as a voting rights expert and pioneer in the movement to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, Dianis leads Advancement Project National Office's

work in combating structural racism in education, voting, policing, criminal justice and immigration. Since joining Advancement Project at its inception in 1999, Dianis has worked with grassroots organizations to wage successful campaigns using litigation, advocacy and communications. Dianis authored groundbreaking education reports including: *Opportunities Suspended* and *Derailed: The Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track*, detailing the unnecessary criminalization of students by their schools. Advancement Project National Office's work with grassroots partners significantly helped decrease student suspensions and arrests in Denver, Baltimore and school districts throughout Florida.

Judith Browne Dianis was awarded the Prime Movers Fellowship for trailblazing social movement leaders and was named one of the "Thirty Women to Watch" by *Essence* magazine. She serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of the Earth and the Skadden Fellowship Foundation.