

# Presenter Profiles

## Designing and Implementing Social Protection Systems

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### **Dr Michael Samson**

#### **Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute**

Dr. Michael Samson is EPRI's Director of Research. He has over 30 years' experience working in social protection, and specialises in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social cash transfer programmes. He has recently completed policy design projects for social assistance programmes in Malawi, Lesotho, Senegal, Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya, and is currently working on social protection projects in Bangladesh, Thailand and Uganda. Michael also lectures at policy conferences and training work-shops in around the world. He is also a Visiting Associate Professor of Economics at the Williams College Centre for Development Economics in the United States.

### **Ms. Ingrid van Niekerk**

#### **Executive Co-Director and Senior Researcher / Chief Executive Officer, Economic Policy Research Institute**

Ms. Ingrid van Niekerk is an Executive Co-Director and Senior Researcher at EPRI, as well as the Chief Executive Officer. She has managed and carried out research projects for the Department of Social Development in South Africa as well as the inter-ministerial Committee of Enquiry for Comprehensive Social Security. She is responsible for EPRI's capacity building programme for government departments, and her teaching has included courses for the Department of Social Development. She has extensive in-country experience in South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Nepal and Bolivia, amongst other countries. She lectures in the Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme in Economic Policy as well as at the University of the Western Cape. She has recently worked on projects for the 2005 Cabinet Lekgotla, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Inter-Regional Inequality Facility, and civil society institutions. She is an Associate Member in the Department of Social Policy at Oxford University.

**Dr Stephen Devereux**  
**Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (Sussex)**

Dr Stephen Devereux is a development economist working predominantly on food security, famine, rural livelihoods, social protection and poverty reduction issues. His research experience has mainly been in eastern and southern Africa, especially Ethiopia, Malawi and Namibia. His books include 'Fieldwork in Developing Countries', 'Theories of Famine', 'Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa', 'The New Famines', 'Social Protection in Africa', and 'Social Protection for Africa's Children'.

**Prof. Dr Franziska Gassmann**  
**Professorial fellow, UNU-MERIT/MGSOG**

Franziska Gassmann (PhD in Economics) is Professor of Social Protection and Development at Maastricht University and Professor Poverty and Social Protection at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Science. At UNU-MERIT, she is leading the research theme on Social Protection, Inclusive Innovation and Development. Her own research studies social protection policies and the measurement of poverty and vulnerability using primarily empirical methods on the basis of large household surveys. Currently, the focus of her research is on understanding investments in social protection in low and middle-income countries, and the relation between social protection and labour market participation. Professor Gassmann has more than 20 years of experience as consultant and adviser to governments and international organisations on social policy issues in Central and Eastern Europe, countries of former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Asia. She has project experience in more than 15 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Professor Gassmann is experienced in the development of monitoring systems, indicators and data collection methods that allow the regular assessment of poverty and the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection policies, using microsimulation, policy impact assessments, benefit incidence and cost-benefit analysis. She is regularly teaching in graduate programmes (MSc, PhD) in the field of welfare economics, social protection and public policy analysis (certified university teacher BKO), executive training programmes.

## **Mr Nard Huijbregts**

### **Lead Social Policy Advisor, Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)**

Nard Huijbregts is the Lead Social Policy Advisor at the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). He has research and policy advisory work experience in Thailand, Bangladesh, China, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and other countries, consulting for UNICEF, UNDP, DFID, ILO, Save the Children and various government MDAs. Nard specialises in the design and implementation of social protection policies and programs, information systems and fiscal space analyses. Currently, Nard is leading the design and implementation of various cash transfer programs in Nigeria, Kenya and the Gambia in addition to leading impact assessments of cash transfers in a few countries. Nard has recently written Tanzania's Social Protection Framework, provided inputs to India's Social Protection Strategy development process and conducted numerous program reviews, including of programs in Cambodia, Bangladesh, South Africa and Uganda. Nard is also a visiting lecturer in Microsimulation Models for Policy Analysis at Maastricht University – UNU MERIT, the Netherlands, and Inclusive Economic Development to South African ministers, and members of parliament in the South African Parliamentary Capacity Building Program.