Meet the Speakers

Nina Papadopoulos is the team lead for Access in Crisis and Conflict at USAID. She is the co-author of the Education Cluster Coordinator Handbook and *Achievements and Challenges of the Education Cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, and Sri Lanka*, a background paper for the 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report. For the last three years, she has been an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University in the Program on Justice and Peace Studies and is a doctoral candidate at the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Julie Cram is the deputy assistant administrator in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment at USAID. Her portfolio includes the Offices of Education and Local Sustainability, and she oversees the development and implementation of USAID’s strategy and policies in the education sector, as well as the implementation of USAID grant programs aimed at promoting locally-owned and -led development efforts. Cram previously was a partner at HDMK Public Affairs and senior vice president at DDC Advocacy. From 2007-2009, she served President George W. Bush as deputy assistant and director of public liaison.

Stephanie Jones is a professor of education in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. Her research focuses on the effects of poverty and violence on children and youths’ social, emotional, and behavioral development. Jones is a recipient of the Grawemeyer Award in Education for her work with Zigler and Walter Gilliam on *A Vision for Universal Preschool Education* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) as well as the Joseph E. Zins Early-Career Distinguished Contribution Award for Action Research in Social and Emotional Learning.

Dean Brooks is the director of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, a global network of UN agencies, NGOs, donors, governments, universities, schools, and affected populations working together to ensure all persons the right to quality education in emergencies and post-crisis recovery. Beginning his career as an international educator, he has over two decades of international education experience working in complex emergencies, conflict, disaster and development contexts. He is currently based at the International Rescue Committee in New York.

Catherine Panter-Brick is a medical anthropologist and holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Anthropology and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and a secondary appointment at the School of Public Health at Yale University. Her research focuses on youth in global adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and social marginalization. Panter-Brick has directed over 40 interdisciplinary research and evaluation projects across 10 countries.
J. Lawrence Aber is the Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, at New York University. His research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, and academic development of children and youth. Aber has co-edited Neighborhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children, among other works. He earned his PhD from Yale University and an AB from Harvard University.

Jennifer Sklar has more than 15 years’ experience working in the field of international education as a practitioner as well as a technical advisor, focused on the provision of education in areas of conflict. She is currently the deputy director of the International Rescue Committee’s education unit, where she is responsible for the development of their global technical priorities in education as well as leading a team of technical advisors to improve the overall quality of their education programs. Sklar has a Master’s degree from Columbia University’s School of International Affairs and Public Administration.

Tia Kim is the Vice President of Education, Research, and Impact at Committee for Children, where she leads the development and evaluation of their programs. Kim received her PhD in developmental psychology at the University of California, Riverside, and completed three years of post-doctoral training at the Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, where her research focused on the etiology and prevention of youth violence and aggression.

Dana Charles McCoy is an assistant professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. Her work focuses on understanding the ways that poverty-related risk factors in children’s home, school, and neighborhood environments affect the development of their cognitive and socioemotional skills in early childhood. She has an AB from Dartmouth College and received her PhD in applied psychology with a concentration in quantitative analysis from New York University. She served as an NICHD National Research Service Award post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Center on the Developing Child.

Carina Omoeva is the director of research and evaluation at FHI 360 Global Education, Employment and Engagement Business Unit. She is leading a team that is developing a youth soft skills measurement tool under USAID YouthPower Action, to be released in 2019. She was a co-lead of the Education Equity Research Initiative, a collaborative partnership of organizations and individuals committed to building a stronger evidence base around equity in education. She holds a PhD in comparative education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Lauren Pisani is a learning research advisor at Save the Children where she created the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) and leads impact evaluations for early learning programs around the world. As Associate Director of Measuring Success, she worked to empower schools through data-driven decision making. At the American Institutes for Research, she analyzed and disseminated results of large-scale student assessments (PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS). She holds a MA in Education from Stanford University and is currently pursuing a PhD from the University College of London.

Evelyn Rodriguez-Perez is a veteran educator of 30 years and has served as director of USAID’s Office of Education, E3/Ed since 2015. Previous assignments include Acting Mission Director and Director of the Office of Education and Health for USAID/Peru; Director of the Office of Education for USAID/Egypt; and Deputy Director of the Office of Human Resources for USAID/Honduras. Before joining USAID, Ms. Rodriguez-Perez worked for the city of Chicago as a school administrator as well as taught at DePaul University as adjunct staff in the School of Education. She’s a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Ecuador) and education trainer at Peace Corps. She holds a M.Ed. from DePaul University.