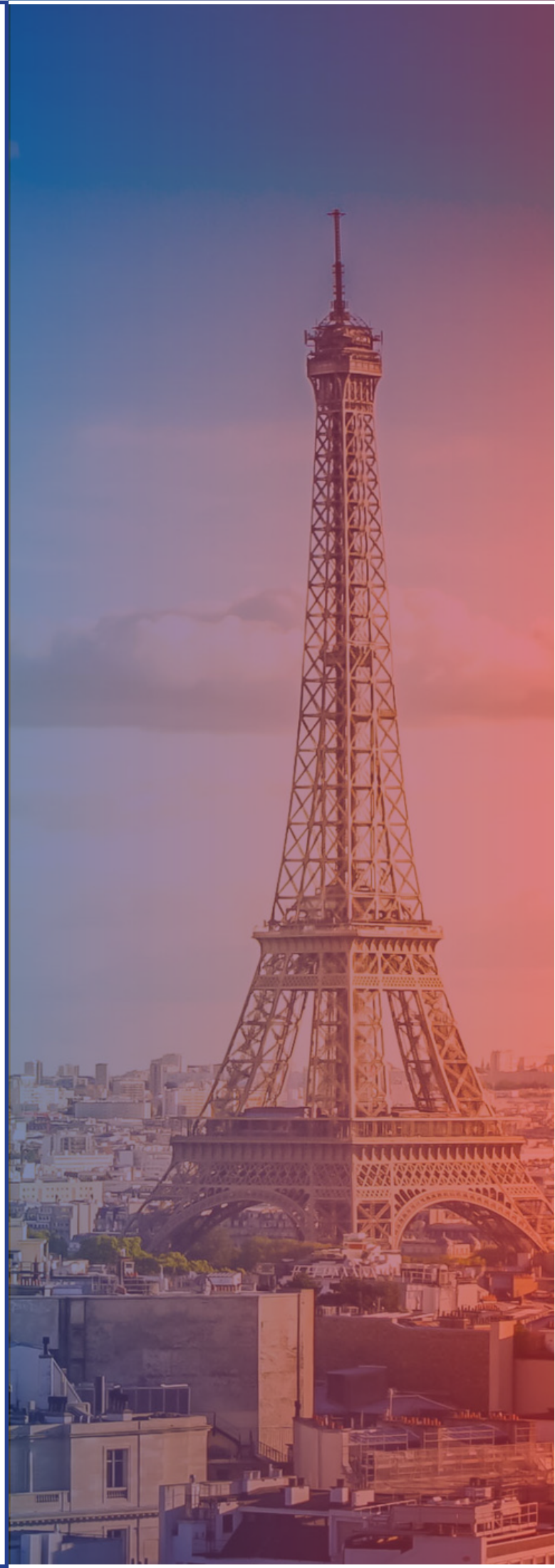




SPEAKERS

2024 annual
conference
of the OECD
Global Forum
on Productivity

Boosting growth and productivity:
the role of human capital



OECD Global Forum on Productivity 2024 annual conference

Boosting growth and productivity:
the role of human capital

TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024

High level opening of the conference

Marc FERRACCI

Minister Delegate for Industry

Marc Ferracci was appointed Minister Delegate for Industry in September 2024. Deputy for the 6th Constituency of French citizens living abroad (Switzerland and Liechtenstein) since June 2022, he was re-elected in 2024 during the early legislative elections.

An economist specializing in the labor market, he was responsible for the working group of the presidential majority that has focused on laws related to full employment and value sharing. In 2022, he was the rapporteur for the unemployment insurance reform bill.

He is the author and rapporteur of the proposed law aimed at generalizing anti-discrimination testing, which was passed in its first reading by the National Assembly in December 2023.

Marc Ferracci served as a special advisor to Minister of Labor Muriel Pénicaud and played a key role in implementing the labor ordinances, the apprenticeship reform, and the unemployment insurance reform (2019).

In 2020, he joined the office of Prime Minister Jean Castex to oversee economic support measures implemented during the Covid crisis and to lead the France Relance plan.

A graduate of HEC Paris, with a PhD in economics, and a professor at the University of Paris Panthéon-Assas, he was nominated for the best young economist award in France in 2016. Marc Ferracci is married and the father of two children.



Mathias CORMANN

OECD Secretary General

Mathias Cormann is the 6th Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). His five-year term commenced on 1 June 2021.

Working with OECD members, his priorities as Secretary-General are:

- Promoting policies to secure strong, sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic development and growth;
- Providing global leadership on climate action to help secure global net zero by 2050 by facilitating the diffusion of evidence based best policy practice and improved international cooperation;
- Seizing all the opportunities of the digital transformation and AI while mitigating and better managing all of the evolving associated risks and disruptions;
- Promoting well-functioning global markets and a global level playing field with a rules-based trading system in good working order;
- Advancing OECD standards through membership and partnerships and a sound approach to sustainable development.

Prior to his appointment to the OECD, he served as the Australian Minister for Finance, the Leader of the Government in the Australian Senate and as Federal Senator representing the State of Western Australia. In these roles, he has been a strong advocate for the positive power of open markets, free trade and the importance of a rules-based international trading system.

Mathias Cormann was born and raised in the German-speaking part of Belgium. He migrated to Australia in 1996, attracted by the great lifestyle and opportunities on offer in Western Australia. Before migrating to Perth, he had graduated in law at the Flemish Catholic University of Louvain (Leuven), following studies at the University of Namur and, as part of the European Erasmus Student Exchange Program, at the University of East Anglia. Between 1997 and 2003, he worked as Chief of Staff as well as Senior Adviser to various State and Federal Ministers in Australia and for the Premier of Western Australia. Between 2003 and 2007, he worked for major Western Australian health insurer HBF in a range of senior management roles.



Keynote speech: Post-Covid productivity overview: assessment, challenges and prospects

Jonathan HASKEL

Professor, Imperial College School, London

Jonathan Haskel is Professor of Economics at Imperial College Business School, Imperial College London, where he has been since 2008. He has previously taught at Queen Mary, University of London, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, USA and Stern School of Business, New York University, USA. His research interests are productivity and growth.

He has published in academic journals and written, with Stian Westlake, two non-technical books, *Capitalism Without Capital: the Rise of the Intangible Economy* (Princeton, 2017) and *Restarting the Future: How to Fix the Intangible Economy* (Princeton 2022).

In addition to his academic activities, he has been an External Member of the Reporting Panel of the Competition and Markets Authority (2001-2009); a non-Executive Director of the UK Statistics Authority (2016-2022) and an External Member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (2018-2024).



Session n° 1: Explaining the productivity slowdown: human capital and other factors. Facts conclusions, recommendations and action

Dorothee ROUZET

Chief Economist, French Treasury

A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure (Ulm) and the École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique (ENSAE), Dorothee Rouzet holds a doctorate in economics from Harvard University. She began her career as an economic analyst for the Danube-Balkans region at the French Treasury, assigned to the Sofia Economic Mission (2006-2007), before becoming a lecturer in macroeconomic theory and capital markets at Harvard University (2008-2011).

An economist in the Trade in Services Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from (2012-2017), she became senior economist in the office of Laurence Boone, then Chief Economist of the OECD (2017- 2020).

In March 2020, she was appointed macroeconomic adviser in the office of Bruno Le Maire, Minister for the Economy and Finance. Since June 2022, Dorothee Rouzet has been Chief Economist France at Citigroup. She was also a guest lecturer at ESCP Europe (2015-2017) and the University of Paris I (2017-2018).

She was appointed Chief Economist of the French Treasury on June 19, 2023.



Álvaro PEREIRA

Chief Economist, OECD

Álvaro Santos Pereira is the Chief Economist and G20 Finance Deputy of the OECD. Previously, he was the Director of the Policy Studies Branch. In 2014, he joined the Economics Department as Director of the Country Studies Branch where he oversaw the peer review process for the Economic Surveys. He provides leadership in the coordination and management of the activities of the Directorate and ensures that it is at the forefront of the international political economy agenda. He identifies challenges and develops ways in which the OECD can promote policies to improve member and partner countries long-term economic performance.



Prior to joining the OECD, between June 2011 and July 2013, Mr. Pereira was Minister for Economy and Employment in Portugal, responsible for the areas of Industry, Commerce and Services, Tourism, Energy and Public Works, Transportation, and Employment. As one of the largest ministries of the Portuguese government, Mr. Pereira was in charge of a major programme of economic and labour reforms. Prior to this, he was a professor of Economic Development and Economic Policy at Simon Fraser University in Canada, and a lecturer at the University of British Columbia in Canada and the University of York in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Pereira published a number of academic books and papers among which Portugal's Moment of Truth: New Economic Policy for Portugal (2011), The Fear of Failure: History and Economic Policy in Portugal (2009), and The Myths of the Portuguese Economy (2007), and was a columnist in various Portuguese Newspapers, such as the "Diário Económico".

Mr. Pereira is a citizen of Portugal and Canada, holds a BA in Economics from the University of Coimbra, an MSc Economics from the University of Exeter and a PhD in Economics from Simon Fraser University.

Catherine DE FONTENAY

Commissioner, Australian Productivity Commission, and associate professor at the University of Melbourne

Dr. Catherine de Fontenay is a Commissioner of the Productivity Commission. The Productivity Commission is an independent research body that is part of the Australian government, and much of its research is on microeconomic and trade topics that are closely linked to the OECD's research. Catherine led the Commission's research on higher education as part of its 2023 Productivity Inquiry, and has also led research into service-sector productivity, productivity in the health sector, and business access to credit.



Prior to joining the Commission, Catherine was an Associate Professor of Economics at Melbourne Business School. Her academic research has focused on industrial organisation and on the economics of innovation, among other topics. Catherine obtained her PhD from Stanford University in 1998.

Stefan PROFIT

Deputy Director General, Economic Policy Department, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Stefan Profit holds position of a Deputy Director General in the Economic Policy Department of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action. His directorate deals with macroeconomic developments, economic analyses and projections. Before assuming this position, he was in charge of a unit focusing on the empirical research in the field of inclusive growth, productivity and investment, as well as assessing growth and distributional effects of structural reforms. During previous assignments in the ministry, he worked in the field of labor market reform and energy policy, foreign economic affairs, policy planning, and served as a personal advisor to the Minister. Previous to his engagement within the federal government he worked for the Bertelsmann Foundation. He has an academic background in labor economics holding a doctoral degree in Economics from Humboldt University Berlin.



Moderator

Session n° 2: Investing in the «right» skills: the role of training and education policies in driving productivity

Luca MARCOLIN

Senior Economist, Global Forum on Productivity, OECD

Luca Marcolin is Senior Economist and Project Manager for the GFP, and research fellow at the KU Leuven. At the OECD since 2014, his main interests lie with the analysis of firm capabilities (technology adoption, trade linkages, human capital) and firm performance. Ahead of joining the OECD, he worked at the EBRD (Office of the Chief Economist), the European Commission (Bureau of European Policy Advisors), UNCTAD (Division of Investment & Enterprise) and the World Bank (Innovation and Entrepreneurship in LAC). He holds a PhD in Economics from the KU Leuven, two masters from the Paris School of Economics and the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris, and a bachelor degree from the University of Bologna.



Maria GUADALUPE

Professor, Institut européen d'administration des affaires (Insead) and Conseil d'analyse économique (CAE)

Maria Guadalupe is a Professor of Economics at INSEAD. She holds the Mark Pathy'89D Chair in Organizational Economics and Productivity. She is currently a member of the Economic Council of the French Prime Minister (CAE) and of the French Expert Group on minimum wages.

Her research explores different dimensions of organizational choices by firms and its impact on performance. Her work has shown how globalisation and the competitive environment faced by firms shape their internal organisational formal practices such as pay levels, incentives, executive compensation, and hierarchical structures.

She has studied the effect of corporate governance arrangements on firm performance, and how multinationals select their foreign targets and the productivity consequences of the changes in firm boundaries. Maria's current research focuses on how norms and corporate culture (including gender norms and psychological safety) affect individual choices and organizational outcomes.

Maria obtained a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics in 2003. She was an Associate Professor at the Columbia Business School and has been a visiting scholar at MIT and Princeton.



Jonathan BARR

Senior Director, Economic Research and Analysis, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED), Canada

Jonathan Barr is the Senior Director of Economic Research and Analysis as Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, serving at the Department's Chief Economist.

Previously, he was the Director of Policy Research, Analysis, and Geomatics within Employment and Social Development Canada. Jonathan was also previously a Deputy Head of Division within the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities for almost 10 years, where he led a team of economists looking at global issues related to employment and economic development, publishing more than 40 reports across 30 countries. Prior to the OECD, Jonathan worked for the Ontario government in Canada.

He also worked at the Canadian Mission to the European Union in Brussels supporting negotiations for a Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.



Alain DURRÉ

General Rapporteur of the French National Productivity Board, France Stratégie

Alain Durré joined France Stratégie, attached to the office of the French Prime Minister, since in March 2023 as project manager of the "Macroeconomics and Europe" pole. Through this role, he is also the Secretary General of the French National Productivity Board (NPB).

Prior to this, Alain was Executive Director and Chief Continental Europe economist of Goldman Sachs Europe in Paris. He joined Goldman Sachs in 2014 from the European Central Bank where he was Principal Economist in the Monetary Policy Strategy Division. At that time, he was also Associate Professor of Finance at IÉSEG-School of Management of Lille Catholic University (France). He was also a member of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France (LEM-CNRS). From 2007 to 2014 he acted as monetary policy advisor for the IMF and taught as visiting professor in various European universities (UCL, Cambridge university, Paris Dauphine university and Sciences Po Paris among others).

He earned a BA and MA from the Université catholique de Louvain and obtained his PhD in Economics under the supervision of Charles Goodhart (LSE) and Alfred Steinherr (UCL). He was educated at the University of Mannheim and at the London School of Economics during his PhD. He has published several articles in academic journals and edited books mostly related to the money market, central banks and the interaction between monetary and fiscal policies in both leading academic and professional journals.



Moderator

Session n° 3: The green transition: Opportunity or risk for productivity ?

Lone ANK

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Denmark

Lone Ank holds a Master's degree in Economics from University of Copenhagen and has extensive experience from numerous positions across several Danish ministries.

She currently serves as Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs where her portfolio includes, among other things, economic analyses and policymaking on topics including productivity, growth and competitiveness.



Géraldine MAHIEU

Director of Investment, growth and structural reforms, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Géraldine Mahieu is Director of Investment, growth and structural reforms in the DG ECFIN of the European Commission. Her directorate includes four units, including units working on macro-modelling and the economics of the green transition. She has been in charge of the design and negotiations of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, adopted in February 2021.

Before that, she was head of unit in DG REFORM, in charge of providing technical support in the areas of labour market, health care, education and other social issues to EU Member States. Before joining DG REFORM, she was the European Commission's deputy mission chief on the Cypriot adjustment program. She also previously held the position of Senior Economist in the International Monetary Fund and holds a PhD in Economics from the Catholic University of Louvain.



Rodrigo KRELL

Executive Secretary, National Productivity Commission, Chile

Rodrigo Krell is the executive director of Chile's National Evaluation and Productivity Commission. He is an economist specializing in Industrial Organization.

He has also served as Head of Regulation and Research at the Ministry of Economy and Chief Economist at InvestChile. Currently, he is also an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Chile.



Daniel MAWSON

Senior Economic Advisor, Department for Business and Trade, United Kingdom

Daniel Mawson is a senior economist in the UK Department for Business and Trade. He works on analysis of the UK and global economy, growth & productivity and their implications for UK industrial policy. Prior to that he has worked in a variety of roles across government, covering areas such as macroeconomics, country risk analysis, procurement, industrial policy and globalisation.

In addition to chairing the OECD Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), he sits on the governing council of the UK's productivity institute.



Moderator

Wrap up

Amélie DE MONTCHALIN

Permanent Representative of France to the OECD

Ambassador Amélie de Montchalin took up her duties as Permanent Representative of France to the OECD in Paris on 30 November 2022.

She holds degrees in economics from the University of Paris-Dauphine and HEC Paris, in history from the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne and in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

An economist by training, she worked on inflation, economic financing, and systemic risk management issues at the time of the Eurozone crisis at Exane BNP Paribas and then within the management of the AXA Group as Director of Foresight and Public Policy. She actively participated in 2015-2016 in the work on the financing of the ecological transition by private investors, notably within the Task Force on Climate Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and the European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance.

Elected in June 2017 as Députée for Essonne, member of the Finance Committee, she was responsible for the budget for the presidential majority in the National Assembly and special rapporteur for the Research and Innovation budget for 2018 and 2019.

She joined the French government in March 2019 as Deputy Minister for European Affairs, where she is leading, among other things, the negotiations on the Brexit and the preparatory negotiations for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. She is also the secretary general for Franco-German cooperation.

She became Minister for Public Service and Public Sector Reform in July 2020, where she led the reform of the senior civil service and the transformation of public services in the face of Covid and its consequences. She was appointed Minister for the Environment in May 2022.



Opening of the conference

Bertrand DUMONT

Director General of the Treasury, France

Bertrand Dumont is a graduate of the École Normale Supérieure and the École Nationale d'Administration, as well as having an agrégation in history.

He began his career at the French Treasury, where he was successively responsible for restructuring sovereign debt within the Paris Club secretariat and for managing the State's treasury position. He then spent two years as Alternate Executive Director for France at the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

In 2007, he joined the private office of Christine Lagarde, Minister for the Economy, as international adviser, where he was responsible in particular for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In 2010, he was appointed to the cabinet of Michel Barnier, European Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, and worked on implementing the financial regulation decisions taken in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. As part of this mission, he was also responsible for setting up the Banking Union. He became Michel Barnier's chief of staff in 2014.

After two years at HSBC Bank as director of prudential management, he was called to work for Bruno Le Maire as deputy chief of staff in May 2017.

He returned to the French Treasury in 2019 as deputy director general, working alongside Odile Renaud-Basso.

He headed Bruno Le Maire's cabinet from 2020 to early 2024.

Bertrand Dumont was appointed Director General of the French Treasury on January 12, 2024.



Alain DE SERRES

Acting Director, Economics Department, OECD

Alain de SERRES is Acting Director in the OECD Economics Department, overseeing the Department's work on the role and impact of institutional and policy settings in addressing economic challenges, such as weak productivity growth, income inequality, high debt levels and climate change mitigation. He was Acting-Director of the Environment Directorate, overseeing the implementation of the Directorate's programme of work over a broad range of environmental issues including green growth, climate change, biodiversity, quality of ecosystems, eco-innovation, circular economy and resource productivity.

Before that, he has worked on the policy determinants of investment in knowledge-based capital, as well as on economic and financial resilience. Part of his work has been published in journals such as Economic Policy, European Economic Review, Environmental and Resource Economics and the Journal of Economic Geography.

Alain is Canadian and before joining the OECD, has worked for many years at the Bank of Canada and the Ministry of Finance in Ottawa.



Introductory session: National Productivity Board's work

Natacha VALLA

Chair of the French National Productivity Board

Natacha Valla is an economist and Dean of the School of Management and Innovation at Sciences Po. Until 2020, she was Deputy Director General for Monetary Policy at the ECB. Between 2015 and 2018, Natacha Valla was Head of the Policy and Strategy Division at the EIB and a permanent member of the Conseil d'Analyse Économique (CAE).

She was Executive Director of Goldman Sachs Global Economic Research between 2008 and 2014. Natacha Valla worked as an economist at the ECB between 2001 and 2008, and was seconded to the Research Directorate of the Banque de France in 2005.

She has also worked as a consultant for the IMF and the OECD, and has taught at New York University and the universities of Florence, Paris-Dauphine, H.E.C. and Sciences-Po Paris.



Juan Francisco JIMENO SERRANO

Chair of the Spanish National Productivity Board, Adviser at the Bank of Spain

Juan Francisco Jimeno Serrano is an Advisor to the Directorate General Economics, Statistics and Research of the Bank of Spain, and an Associate Professor at the University of Alcalá.

He is also an Associate Researcher at the Center for Monetary and Financial Studies (CEMFI, in Spanish), the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). His research is focused on the fields of macroeconomics, labor economics and public economics.

He previously served as Head of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Modeling Unit and Head of the Research Unit at the Bank of Spain. He was Senior Research Fellow at the Foundation for Applied Economics Studies (FEDEA, in Spanish) and Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE). He has published articles on economic issues in several national and international academic journals.

He holds a PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a BA in Economics from the University of Alcalá.



Session n°4 and keynote: Will artificial intelligence rescue us from the productivity slowdown?

Prof. Kristina McELHERAN *University of Toronto and Rotman Business School*

Kristina McElheran is an Assistant Professor of Strategic Management at the University of Toronto. Trained in managerial economics and strategy, she examines the links between information technologies and organizational features that enable firms and workers to thrive in the digital age. Her research spans the rise of the commercial internet, big data and cloud computing, and A.I.-related technologies.

Previous experience includes six years on the Harvard Business School faculty and stints at two Silicon Valley startups.

Her research has been featured in Management Science, the American Economic Review, the Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, The Journal of Econometrics, Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review, and Communications of the ACM, as well as leading news outlets in the U.S. and Canada.

McElheran received her PhD from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Business and bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University.



Philippe AGHION *Professor at the College de France and at the London School of Economics*

Philippe Aghion is a Professor at the College de France and at INSEAD, and a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and a fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His research focuses on the economics of growth. With Peter Howitt, he pioneered the so-called Schumpeterian Growth paradigm which was subsequently used to analyze the design of growth policies and the role of the state in the growth process. Much of this work is summarized in their joint book Endogenous Growth Theory

(MIT Press, 1998) and The Economics of Growth (MIT Press, 2009), in his book with Rachel Griffith on Competition and Growth (MIT Press, 2006), and in his survey "What Do We Learn from Schumpeterian Growth Theory" (joint with U. Akcigit and P. Howitt).

In 2001, Philippe Aghion received the Yrjo Jahnsson Award of the best European economist under age 45, in 2009 he received the John Von Neumann Award, and in March 2020 he shared the BBVA "Frontier of Knowledge Award" with Peter Howitt for "developing an economic growth theory based on the innovation that emerges from the process of creative destruction". More recently Philippe Aghion produced a new book entitled The Power of Creative destruction (Odile Jacob, Harvard University Press) joint with C. Antonin et S. Bunel. While providing a reappraisal of the foundations of economic success and a blueprint for change, The Power of Creative Destruction also shows that a fair and prosperous future is ultimately ours to make.



Takayuki SAKO

Deputy Director of the Software and Information Service Industry Strategy Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan

Takayuki Sako is deputy director of Software and Information Service Industry Strategy Office and is responsible for both AI governance and AI development at Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

He is also engaged with Japan AI Safety Institute's activities. In his previous position, at Security Export Control Policy Division, he was dealing with coordination of export control and investment screening, including policy cooperation with the United States and other allies and partners.

Before that, as assistant director at International Affairs Division of Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, he was promoting bilateral climate and energy cooperation with the United States and was initiating negotiation at multilateral for a such as G7 and G20.

Prior to this position he began his career at METI as officer at Americas Division and coordinated Japan-US bilateral economic relations. Before joining METI, he was engaged with bilateral relations with Germany and Austria at MoFa.

He holds an a bachelor degree in law from the University of Tokyo.

Michele PETROCELLI

Director of Research Innovation and Cross-functional Projects, Treasury Department, Italy

Michele Petrocelli has a cum laude degree in Economics and a PhD in «Economics and Finance in Corporate Governance» from La Sapienza University of Rome.

He is currently serving as Director General in charge of Research and Coordination of cross-sector innovative projects, and as the Head of the digitalisation and innovation unit at the Italian Treasury Department.

Since 2004, he has been Professor of Political Economy, Monetary Economics, Business Economics and Organisation, and Innovation Strategies at the Guglielmo Marconi University of Rome.

He also directs a Master's programme in «Marketing Management» and an advanced course in «Soft Skills.» He has been involved in international economic research projects, with publications on the economics of the digital transition, the role of social cohesion in global competition dynamics, and organisational learning.



Jens LUNDGAARD

*Deputy Director, Science, Technology and Innovation
Directorate (STI), OECD*

As one of the two Deputy Directors of the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, Jens Lundsgaard helps oversee work on issues related to science, industry, productivity and the green transition.

From 2011 to 2017, he served as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Business and Growth in Denmark, leading the preparation of reforms to promote productivity and sustainable growth including in sectors such as energy, water, food, life science and urban economics. From 2018 to 2022, he served as a resident member of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, UK, chairing the Bank's first Ethics Committee and developing strategies to transform key sectors such as food and agriculture to climate neutrality and nature-positive solutions. While being a board member, he has also been a regular economic commentator in Danish and international media. From 2001 to 2011, Jens worked at the OECD – as Deputy Head of Division in the

Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, as Head of the Sweden and Denmark Unit as well as economist covering UK and Finland in the Economics Department, and as an economist on public finance and health.

A Danish national, Jens holds an Economics Degree from the University of Aarhus in Denmark.



Moderator

Session° 5: Human capital, productivity and inclusiveness: sharing the benefits of productivity growth

Richard SAMANS

*Director of Research Department,
International Labour Organization (ILO)*

Richard Samans is Director of the International Labour Organization's Research Department and has served as its Sherpa to the G20, G7 and BRICS processes.

He served previously as Founder and Chairman of the Climate Disclosure Standards Board, a Managing Director of the World Economic Forum, and Director-General of the Global Green Growth Institute.

He worked in the US government as Special Assistant to the President for International Economic Policy and National Security Council Senior Director for International Economic Affairs in the second Clinton-Gore Administration, and as economic policy advisor to US Senate Democratic Leader Thomas A. Daschle.

The author of numerous publications on international trade, financial, environmental, labour and development issues as well as corporate and global governance, he has been a member of the UN Secretary General's Task Force on Digital Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals, ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work and UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System. He is currently a member of the Transitional Advisory Group of the IFRS Foundation's International Sustainability Standards Board.



Melissa VEGA MONGE
Economist, Central Bank of Costa Rica

Melissa Vega-Monge is a research economist at the Research Department of the Central Bank of Costa Rica. Her current work includes research on firm productivity, cost of living, allocative efficiency, and policy evaluation in education.

Melissa received her Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Maryland in 2021. She also holds a Master's Degree in Economics and Finance from CEMFI and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Universidad de Costa Rica. Her research interests include applied microeconomics, economics of education, productivity dynamics, and econometric approaches to program evaluation.



Laura HOSPIDO
Advisor to the Secretary of State for Economy and Business Support, Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business, Spain

Laura Hospido is an advisor to the Secretary of State for Economy and Business Support, at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business. She is also a Senior Economist at the Microeconomic Analysis Unit, within the Structural Analysis and Microeconomic Studies Department, at the DG Economics, Statistics and Research of the Banco de España (BdE), and a BdE-CEMFI Research Associate. She obtained her Ph.D. in Economics in November 2007 at CEMFI and University of Santiago de Compostela. From September to December of 2006 she was a Graduate Affiliate Research Student at UCL. She joined IZA as a Research Affiliate from August 2006 to December 2012, and as a Research Fellow since January 2013.

Her research interests include earnings dynamics and wage inequality, labour supply and labour mobility, gender economics, and financial competences. Her research has been published in the Economic Journal, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quantitative Economics, and Review of Economics and Statistics, among others.



Serge ALLEGREZZA
Director General of the Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (STATEC)

Dr Serge Allegrezza studied economics and management at the universities of Liège and Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium. He holds a Master in Economics and a Phd in Applied Economics.

He is the Director General of the Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (STATEC) since April 2003 and the chairman of the board of STATEC Research asbl. He is the chairman of the National Council of Productivity (Ministry of Economy) and the head of the LU delegation at the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) of the EU since 2004 and a member since 1997. He was also the head of the Competitiveness Observatory (Ministry of Economy) from 2005 until March 2024.

Dr Serge Allegrezza is also Chairman of the board of LuxTrust and President of the board of POST Luxembourg. He was a member of the board of SES from 2010 until April 2022. He is a member of the board of Asbl (Elysis, Luxembourg Science Center, LIS Cross-national Data Center).

He was the president of the Social and Economic Council from 2009 until 2011.

At the beginning of his career, Dr Serge Allegrezza worked as a research fellow for a few years at CEPS/Institute (now LISER) in Luxembourg, followed by 12 years as a Conseiller de gouvernement 1ère classe at the Ministry of Economy responsible for internal market policy and later for general economic policy. He was a Member of the Board of the European Patent Office in Munich as well as a Member of the Board of the Community Trade Mark in Alicante. He was a lecturer at the IAE/ University of Nancy2 and a scientific advisor of the Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor.



Moderator