

6th Economic Development Days 2018



**Insights by Development Practitioners
(Chatham House rules apply)**

May 4 & 5

Friday, May 4, 2018

10:00 – 16:00 (TC.4.01. Campus WU)

10:00 Opening Remarks & Managing the World Bank's Financial Risks

Daniel Pajank – Economist, World Bank Group (WBG)

11:30 Labor Markets in Southeast Europe

Stefanie Brodmann – Sr. Economist, WBG

13:15 Financing Efficient and Sustainable Transport

Tara Shirvani – Principal Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

14:30 Industrialization in the 21st century

Thomas Bernhardt – Advisor, Austrian Ministry of Finance

Saturday, May 5, 2018

10:00 – 16:00 (TC.4.03, Campus WU)

10:00 Measuring Poverty in Afghanistan

Christina Wieser – Economist, WBG

11:30 Fighting Natural Disasters in South Asia

Christoph Pusch – Manager, WBG

13:15 Safeguarding People and Environment

Gernot Brodnig – Sr. Specialist, WBG

14:30 Accountability When Things Go Wrong

Birgit Kuba – Inspection Panel, WBG

15:45 Closing Remarks

Klaus Friesenbichler – Sr. Economist, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)

Registration: vw-zentrum@wu.ac.at

SPEAKERS



Daniel Pajank is an Economist in the World Bank's Country Credit Risk Department that is managing the credit risk inherent in IBRD and IDA's loan portfolio. In previous positions, he covered financial sector development in the Democratic Republic of Congo and conducted growth analysis for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, two of the largest states of India. Prior to joining the World Bank, Daniel served at the Board of the Asian Development Bank in Manila and worked in the International Financial Institutions Division of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance. He is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University SAIS and the University of Graz and teaches an annual course on Development Economics at the WU Wien.



Stefanie Brodmann is a Senior Economist in the World Bank's Social Protection and Labor Unit, based in Vienna. She focuses currently on the Western Balkans and Greece, and covers issues related to labor markets, safety nets, education-to-work transition, and labor migration. Stefanie holds a doctorate from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, was a visiting PhD student at Harvard University, and a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton University.



Tara Shirvani is a Principal Sector Specialist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), based in London. Prior to joining EBRD, she worked at the World Bank with a focus on transport and energy projects in various regions. Tara, an engineer by training, was also posted in Iran to work for the United Nations. She is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and holds a PhD in Fuel and Vehicle Technologies from the University of Oxford. Tara received awards by Forbes Magazine, the World Economic Forum, and was most recently named „Female Rising Talent.“



Thomas Bernhardt is an Advisor in the International Financial Institutions division of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance. In this capacity he manages part of Austria's donor portfolio with the World Bank Group and serves as the focal point for the Inter-American Development Bank. Thomas worked previously as an Economist at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and for the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Myanmar. He is a graduate of the WU Wien and holds a PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research, New York.



Christina Wieser is an Economist of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank. She covers issues related to poverty, inequality, and displacement in South Asia with a focus on Afghanistan. Prior to joining the World Bank, Christina worked as an Economist at the International Labour Organization conducting research on labor market issues and as a Management Consultant in the private sector. Her research interests revolve around poverty and inequality, real-time poverty data, and labor markets. Christina is a graduate of the WU Wien and the University of Memphis, Tennessee.



Christoph Pusch is a Manager in the World Bank's South Asia Region. During his career at the World Bank, which he joined in 1998, he designed and oversaw the implementation of a disaster risk management portfolio of about US\$3 billion. This included the preparation of multi-sector damage and needs assessments and emergency recovery loans in response to catastrophic events such as Marmara Earthquake in Turkey, Asian Tsunami in Sri Lanka and India, and Pakistan Earthquake, large scale risk mitigation programs in India, as well as advisory services to the Government of China immediately after the Wenchuan earthquake.



Gernot Brodnig is a Senior Social Development Specialist in the World Bank's Africa Region with some 25 years of international experience in natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and climate change. He is a former Director of the International Union for Conservation and Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), worked for UNESCO's World Heritage Center, and served as UNDP's Environment Advisor for Asia. Gernot holds a Doctorate in Law from the University of Vienna, as well as Master's degrees in Geography (Cambridge) and Anthropology (Oxford) and spent 5 years as a Research Fellow at Harvard University.



Birgit Kuba is an Operations Officer in the World Bank's Inspection Panel Secretariat. In prior capacities, she worked at Human Rights Watch, the Citizens' Service of the Austrian Constitutional Court, Dorda Brugger Jordis Attorneys and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Her interests are in indigenous legal studies, law and development, and human rights law. Birgit, a New-York-licensed lawyer, studied law and international development at the University of Vienna and holds an LL.M from Columbia University.



Klaus Friesenbichler is a Senior Economist in the area of Industrial Economics, Innovation and International Competition at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). His thematic interest comprises development economics, firm behavior and performance, industrial dynamics and policies, and the design of intervention instruments. He was member of numerous research teams, which he often led, and was involved in both national and international projects. He worked in and on Europe, North America and Asia. Klaus was also World Bank staff for two years based in Washington, DC. He holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Graz and teaches an annual course on Development Economics at the WU Wien.