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SUDAC Annual Conference 2022: Speaker Bio



Franco Gervasoni

After graduating as a civil engineer from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Franco Gervasoni began his professional career in 1992 at the engineering firm Ceresa Rezzonico, of which he became co-owner a few years later. Parallel to his profession, he first worked at the Higher Technical School (now University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland - SUPSI) as a lecturer in civil engineering and architecture. In 2001, he was appointed as Director of the Department of Environment, Construction and Design at SUPSI. In 2003, he received the title of Professor of SUPSI. Since January 1, 2008, he has been the Director General of SUPSI. Within swissuniversities, he has been a member of the Board of Directors, President of the Delegation for Higher Education Policy Strategy and Coordination, and since 2017, he has been president of the SUDAC network.



Michael Burkhardt

Professor of Environmental Engineering and Head of Institute of Environmental and Process Engineering (UMTEC) at Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil.

He is working in the area of water treatment, soil sciences, and construction materials for more than 20 years. Specific interests are on innovative and applied source-control and end-of-pipe measures to reduce environmental impact and improve water quality. Since 2018, Michael Burkhardt is the head of the CLOC NEWAL.



Swetha Rao Dhananka

Swetha Rao Dhananka is professor of social work (University of Applied Sciences and Arts, school of social work Fribourg). Her research and teaching focus on international social work, community approaches, urban studies and the articulation of social work with environmental justice. In particular, her research tackles the interaction of formal and informal institutional frameworks of governance and meso-level organising of communities. Her practice experience with social and environmental justice networks complements her academic trajectory. She is also the main representative of the International Federation of Social Workers to the United Nations in Geneva. Since 2018, she is the head of the CLOC Knowledge2Action.



Carolina Adler

Dr Carolina Adler is an Environmental Scientist and Geographer with an international career spanning over 25 years in both research and practice in the public and private sectors. As the current Executive Director of the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), she is tasked with overseeing the work of the MRI Coordination Office, as well as connecting, coordinating, and promoting global change research and supporting regional and thematic networked collaborations in mountains worldwide. She is also an IPCC Lead Author, contributing to the latest 6th assessment on mountains and climate change.



Fariba Moghaddam

Fariba Moghaddam graduated in electrical engineering from EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) in 1992 and obtained her PhD (Doctor of Science) in 1995. Since 1998, she is professor at the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, School of Engineering in Sion. Her areas of teaching and research are control engineering, industrial automation and robotics. She has been the head of the intercantonal program Master of Science in Engineering at the HES-SO (2011-2017) and member of the Swiss Science Council (2013-2019). Since 2019, she is the head of the CLOC DEAR MENA.



Isabelle Providoli

Dr. Isabelle Providoli is a geographer and environmental scientist working as a Senior Research Scientist at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland. She is specialised in natural resources management, governance, and sustainable development, and is coordinating several implementation and research projects in Asia and Africa. She has extensive working experience at the science-policy-society interface related to natural resource management and governance. She engages in transformative research, social learning, and co-production of knowledge, and facilitates knowledge management and knowledge exchanges between heterogeneous actors. She has experience in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) oriented teaching approaches, capacity building, knowledge sharing and networking.



Claudio Valsangiacomo

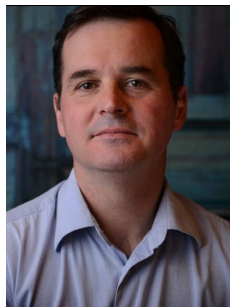
Claudio Valsangiacomo, born in 1962, is a biologist holding a PhD from ETHZ. He is Professor at SUPSI, leading since 2007 the Centre for Development and Cooperation and Faculty Member of the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+). He did research in life sciences and underwent further specialization in clinical and food/water microbiology in public health laboratories in Switzerland (1993-2007). He has been involved as public health and water expert in development and humanitarian projects since 2001, with international consultancies/assignments on behalf various international organizations (WHO, UNICEF, USDA) and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). He represents SDC in the Global Task Force for Cholera Control (lead WHO&UNICEF) and is responsible of the Swissuniversities COFER in Water, Sanitation& Hygiene. Beside

teaching public health aspects related to development and cooperation at SUPSI, he lectures on the same topic at NADEL-ETH, EPFL, UNI-NE, UNI-Pavia.



Alexandra Hofmänner

Alexandra Hofmänner received her PhD in natural sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich) and her habilitation in the field of Science & Technology Studies (STS) from the University of Basel. She has carried out research projects for a variety of public agencies in Switzerland and South Africa.



David O'Brien

David O'Brien is a Senior Program Specialist at the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

His responsibilities have included developing collaborative research programs across IDRC's thematic areas, often in concert with other funders in Canada and internationally. Based in the Education and Science program, he is also involved in capacity strengthening initiatives involving science and innovation agencies with a focus on promoting the generation and use of evidence to advance scholarship and national policy agendas for economic and social outcomes.

Before joining IDRC in 2006, he held management, advisory, and research positions at the University of Saskatchewan, New York University, and the University of Sussex. He is a social scientist, receiving his doctorate from Wageningen University.



Corinne Pernet

Corinne A. Pernet is Director of the Department of International Educational Development at Zurich University of Teacher Education, Switzerland. Originally a historian of Latin America, she has been examining the history of international organizations with a focus on the history of development, especially as it relates to food policy and education. She recently co-edited the Routledge Handbook on the History of Development (2022) and is currently developing a project on international cooperation in the field of education.



Stuart Lane

Stuart Lane is Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Lausanne and a member of Division 4 of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation and Vice President of its Careers Commission. His current work is concerned with the impacts of rapid climate warming on the glaciology, hydrology, geomorphology and ecology of Alpine environments and the implications of these impacts for sustainable hydropower production. He is also known for his work on sustainable, and notably slow, science, including ways of making scientific practices more democratic.



Kristina Lanz

Kristina Lanz works as a specialist for "Development Policy" at Alliance Sud. She is a member of the Advisory Commission on International Cooperation and the SOR4D Review Panel. She completed her Master's degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and her PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Bern. For her PhD, she researched a large-scale agricultural investment in Ghana. She also worked as a consultant on land rights, gender and mining in Tanzania and Mongolia, and as a research assistant at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Bern.



Nicolas Randin

Nicolas Randin joined the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the FDFA in 1999. He has held various positions in Lima (Peru), Maputo (Mozambique), in the East Asia Division (in Bern), then as Head of Cooperation in Niamey (Niger) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). In 2014, he joined the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, and then headed the Analysis and Policy Division of the SDC in Bern, where he coordinated the elaboration of the Swiss international cooperation strategy 2021-2024. Nicolas Randin also worked as a researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (1996-1999), as a water and sanitation engineer in Mozambique, Angola and East Timor for the ICRC (1993-1995), as well as in an environmental engineering consulting firm in Lausanne (1991-1992). He obtained a degree in Rural Engineering from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in 1991 and a diploma in Hydrogeology from the University of Neuchâtel in 1996. He studied at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa (USA) as an exchange student (1988-1989).



Laurent Goetschel

Laurent Goetschel is Professor of Political Science at the University of Basel and Director of the Swiss Peace Foundation (swisspeace). He studied political science and international relations at the University of Geneva and at the Institut de hautes études en relations internationales. He was a journalist with the Associated Press, a personal assistant to Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, and head of the National Research Program "Swiss Foreign Policy" (NFP42). His research interests include peace and conflict studies and foreign policy analysis. He is a member of the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) and deputy head of the swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC).
