

ST ANNE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD  
25 - 27 MARCH 2009

# FOCUS CHILDREN BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE



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Young Lives   
An International Study of Childhood Poverty

## ABOUT YOUNG LIVES

**“We focus on children in the belief that better understanding of childhood poverty is key to winning the global fight against poverty.”**

Young Lives is a long-term research programme investigating the consequences, causes and policy implications of childhood poverty.

Our aim is to provide credible evidence drawn from all the factors, including policies and programmes that contribute to breaking cycles of poverty and the inequality that underpins so much of it.

We do this by tracking the lives of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (in the state of Andhra Pradesh), Peru and Vietnam over a 15-year period starting in the 2000. This is the timeframe for the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals.

The four countries were chosen because they represent diverse socio-cultural, political and economic conditions and confront many of the challenges that other countries experience in the fight against poverty.

We work with two groups of children in each study country using both survey and in-depth research methods:

- 2000 children who were born in 2001-02 (the younger cohort)
- 1000 children who were born in 1994-95 (the older cohort).

Our work, which is funded by the UK’s Department for International Development, grew out of an awareness that globally far more children than adults live in poverty. They are often more susceptible to its effects, especially during infancy. Poverty in childhood can have lasting consequences throughout life, and the children of poor children are more likely to be poor themselves.

Young Lives embraces a holistic understanding of childhood poverty and its impacts on children’s lives, including on their social, emotional and psychological well-being, their life chances and those of their families.

The central research questions of Young Lives include:

- What are the factors that shape children’s lives to either increase or reduce poverty and its effects?  
How do children in different circumstances experience poverty?
- What impact does poverty have on children’s lives, both during childhood and into adulthood?
- What part do pro-poor policies (especially social protection and basic services) play in reducing childhood poverty?

# 25 – 27 MARCH 2009 **FOCUS** **CHILDREN** BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE

## WELCOME TO THE YOUNG LIVES CONFERENCE

This conference offers a unique opportunity to explore the ways in which poverty affects children’s lives and what governments and donors can do to address it. Participants include researchers from Young Lives and other longitudinal poverty studies, policymakers from the Young Lives study countries and international organisations, as well as practitioners from a range of child-focused development organisations.

The conference is designed to encourage lively debate and exchange of ideas. Our three days together are structured around a core of plenary presentations, mixed with group discussions of current challenges and policy questions, and a series of parallel groups presenting research papers by Young Lives staff and invited participants. These sessions will present some of the Young Lives findings to date, alongside the work of other sister studies, situating them within the wider academic discourse and current policy debates.

The main themes the conference will examine are:

- 1) Dimensions and dynamics of childhood poverty
- 2) Breaking the cycle of poverty
- 3) Innovations in methodology for research and policy influence.

# PROGRAMME

## Wednesday 25 March

<b>10.00-11.00</b>	Registration and coffee	Ruth Deech Building
<b>11.00-12.30</b>	Plenary 1: <b>Children and Development and the Development of Children</b> <b>Dr Jo Boyden</b> (Young Lives) and <b>Professor Martin Woodhead</b> (Young Lives/The Open University) Welcome and chair: <b>Professor Frances Stewart</b> (University of Oxford) Respondent: <b>John Githongo</b> (World Vision International)	
<b>12.30-14.00</b>	Lunch	Dining Hall
<b>14.00-15.15</b>	Policy discussion groups 1: <b>Why childhood poverty matters</b>	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
<b>15.15-15.45</b>	Tea	Ruth Deech Building
<b>15.45-17.30</b>	Parallel papers session 1: <b>Focusing on children</b> – Children’s psychosocial well-being (seminar room 7) – Children’s contribution and sense of belonging (seminar room 6) – Poverty and inequality (seminar room 8) – The political economy of childhood poverty (seminar room 3)	
<b>19.00</b>	Drinks and conference dinner After dinner speaker: <b>Yasmin Alibhai-Brown</b> ( <i>The Independent</i> )	Dining Hall

## Thursday 26 March

<b>09.00-10.15</b>	Plenary 2: <b>Why Longitudinal Research Matters</b> <b>Professor Stefan Dercon</b> (University of Oxford/Young Lives) <b>Dr Albert Park</b> (Gansu Survey of Children and Families) <b>Special guest speaker: Michael Foster MP</b> (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, DFID)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
<b>10.15-11.00</b>	Policy discussion groups 2: <b>What can research contribute to tackling childhood poverty?</b>	TBC
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	Coffee	Ruth Deech Building
<b>11.30-13.00</b>	Parallel papers session 2: <b>Causes and Consequences of Childhood Poverty</b> – Education (1) (seminar room 7) – Health and nutrition (1) (seminar room 6) – Work and learning (1) (seminar room 3) – Risk, resilience and well-being (seminar room 8)	
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	Lunch	Dining Hall

<b>14.00-15.00</b>	Plenary 3: <b>Poverty and Child Development</b> <b>Professor Patrice Engle</b> (California Polytechnic State University) Respondent: <b>Professor Robert Serpell</b> (University of Zambia)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>15.00-15.30</b>	Tea	Ruth Deech Building
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<b>15.30-17.15</b>	Parallel papers session 3: <b>Causes and Consequences of Childhood Poverty</b> (continued) – Education (2) (seminar room 8) – Education (3) (seminar room 7) – Health and nutrition (2) (seminar room 6) – Work and learning (2) (seminar room 3)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>Evening</b>	Informal dinner	Dining Hall
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## Friday 27 March

<b>09.00-10.15</b>	Plenary 4: <b>How Do We Make Effective Policy?</b> <b>Professor Lant Pritchett</b> (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University) <b>Frank Hagemann</b> (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, ILO)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>10.15-11.00</b>	Policy discussion groups 3: <b>Focusing on policy</b>	
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<b>11.00-11.30</b>	Coffee	Ruth Deech Building
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<b>11.30-13.00</b>	Parallel papers session 4: <b>Policy Research and Poverty Reduction</b> – Education (seminar room 6) – Social protection (seminar room 8) – Working with children (seminar room 7) – Innovations in methodology (seminar room 3)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>13.00-14.00</b>	Lunch	Dining Hall
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<b>14.00-14.30</b>	Final plenary: <b>Looking to the Future</b> <b>Jan Vandemoortele</b> (former Chief of Policy Analysis, UNICEF)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>14.30-15.30</b>	Panel discussion: <b>Keeping the Focus on Children</b> <b>Liana Gertsch</b> (Bernard van Leer Foundation), <b>Santosh Mehrotra</b> (Indian Planning Commission), <b>Leonardo Menchini</b> (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre), <b>David Mepham</b> (Save the Children UK), <b>Susana Villarán</b> (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) Chair: <b>Jo Boyden</b> (Director, Young Lives)	Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
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<b>15.30-16.00</b>	Next steps: <b>Jo Boyden</b> (Director, Young Lives)	
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<b>16.00</b>	Coffee and departure	
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# PARALLEL PAPERS

## Wednesday 25 March (pm)

Parallel paper session 1 (15.45 to 17.15):  
Focusing on children

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### CHILDREN'S PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Seminar room 7

**Stefan Dercon** and **Pramila Krishnan**

Poverty and the psychosocial competencies of children

**Ngoc P. Nguyen** What makes a child happy?

The link between family income, social networks and subjective well-being in Vietnam

**Oswaldo Molina**, **Ingo Outes**, **Alan Sanchez**

Psychosocial status and cognitive achievement in Peru

**Catherine Porter** and **Karin Heissler**

Know your place: qualitative and quantitative insights into child labour in Ethiopia

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### CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION AND SENSE OF BELONGING

Seminar room 6

**Jo Boyden** Issues and debates in researching children's responses to adversity: Young Lives findings from Ethiopia

**Gillian Mann** On being despised: growing up a Congolese refugee in Dar es Salaam

**Elizabeth Cooper** Children audit adults' love:

what parents' spending of time and money tell children about their belonging

**Kate Bird** and **Kate Higgins**

Conflict and the intergenerational transmission of poverty in northern Uganda

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### POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Seminar room 8

**Valpy FitzGerald** Financial globalisation and child well-being

**Paul Glewwe** "Pro-poor growth" and children in developing countries: the case of Vietnam

**Stefan Dercon** Multidimensional approaches to understanding childhood poverty

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### THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHILDHOOD POVERTY

Seminar room 3

**Jason Hart** Business as usual?

The global political economy of childhood poverty

**Philippa Bevan** Towards more effective policies for youth in poor countries: a political-cultural-economy analysis of transitions from childhood to adulthood in Ethiopia

**Caitlin Porter** Challenges associated with assessing programme impact in the context of longitudinal research: the importance of a political economy perspective

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## Thursday 26 March (am)

Parallel paper session 2 (11.30 to 13.00):  
Causes and consequences of childhood poverty

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### EDUCATION (1)

Seminar room 7

**Martin Woodhead** Is early childhood education fulfilling its promise?

**Uma Vennam** and **Anuradha Komanduri**

Negotiating transitions to school: the role of early education

**Patricia Ames et al** School transitions in early childhood: a longitudinal study from Peru

**Arnab Mukherji** Does the early bird catch the worm?

Starting school in developing countries

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### HEALTH AND NUTRITION (1)

Seminar room 6

**Inka Barnett** Dual forms of malnutrition in the same household: evidence from the four Young Lives countries

**Doug West**, **Steve Allender et al** Preliminary results from the construction of a composite measure of urbanisation as a risk factor for child obesity

**Silvana Vargas** and **Mary Penny** Assessing time allocation, health status and food consumption profiles: a comparison among working and non-working adolescents in Peru

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### WORK AND LEARNING (1)

Seminar room 3

**Andy Dawes**, **Susan Levine et al** Child agricultural work in South Africa: A study of contested developmental space

**Virginia Morrow** and **Uma Vennam**

Children's accounts of combining work and education in cottonseed production in Andhra Pradesh: implications for discourses of children's rights in India

**Kate Orkin** Child work, school enrolment and grade progression in rural Ethiopia

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### RISK, RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING

Seminar room 8

**Ingo Outes** and **Catherine Porter** Risk and early child development in rural Ethiopia

**Rozana Himaz** The impact of parental death on schooling and subjective well-being in Ethiopia

**Laura Camfield** Exploring resilience among older children in urban Ethiopia: a case-based approach

**Tassew Woldehanna** Economic shocks and child welfare: the effect of past economic shocks on child nutritional achievements, schooling and work in rural and urban Ethiopia

**Javier Escobal** and **Eva Flores** Maternal migration and child well-being in Peru

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## Thursday 26 March 2009 (pm)

Parallel paper session 3 (15.30 to 17.15):  
Causes and consequences of childhood poverty

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### EDUCATION (2)

Seminar room 8

**Kenneth King** Educating out of poverty: beyond primary education

**Santiago Cueto et al** Explaining and overcoming marginalisation in education: a focus on ethnic and language minorities in Peru

**Yisak Tafere** Educational trajectories of children living in poverty: a case study of five communities in Ethiopia

**David Bainton** and **Michele Smith** Innovation in context: achieving quality education for all

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### EDUCATION (3)

Seminar room 7

**Ivy Ko** and **Jing Xing** Extra classes and subjective well-being: empirical evidence from Vietnamese children

**Le Thuc Duc** Cognitive achievement of children in Vietnam: the effects of child poverty characteristics

**Christian Helmers** and **Manasa Patnam** The formation and evolution of childhood skill acquisition: evidence from India

**Florencia Lopez Boo** The production function of children's cognitive skills: health, parental investment and caste test score gaps

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### HEALTH/NUTRITION (2)

Seminar room 6

**Alan Sanchez** Early nutrition and cognitive achievement of pre-school children in Peru

**Rozana Himaz** Persistent stunting in middle childhood: the case of Andhra Pradesh using longitudinal data

**Kirk Dearden et al** Whither the father: how early paternal absence in Peru affects children's long-term well-being

**Lita Cameron** Does 'improved' sanitation make children healthier? Household pit latrines and child health in Ethiopia

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### WORK AND LEARNING (2)

Seminar room 3

**Sofya Krutikova**

Determinants of Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh

**S. Galab** and **Ingo Outes**

Schooling and Work in the Time of Drought

**Pieter Serneels** and **Stefan Dercon**

Aspirations, poverty and education

**Gina Crivello** Intergenerational change and continuity: the role of school, work and migration in "becoming somebody in life" in Peru

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## Friday 27 March 2009 (am)

Parallel paper session 4 (11.30-13.00):  
Policy Research and Poverty Reduction

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### EDUCATION

Seminar room 6

**Chi Truong** Situated agency: contextualising experiences and perceptions of ethnicity of children in the multi-ethnic highlands of Vietnam

**Hang Mai Thuy** Local perspectives on improving the quality of primary education in poor and ethnic minority areas of Vietnam

**Ajay K. Sinha** Monitoring budget allocation and expenditure for quality education in Andhra Pradesh (India)

**Caine Rolleston** Access and exclusion in basic education in Ghana

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### SOCIAL PROTECTION

Seminar room 8

**Francisco H.G. Ferreira** and **Norbert G. Schady**

Aggregate economic shocks, child schooling and health

**Jenn Yablonski** and **Michael Sampson** Developing an integrated child-focused social protection model in Rwanda

**Bekele Tefere** The Ethiopian Health Care Financing Strategy: household perceptions and experiences of coping with user fees

**Abhijeet Singh** Do school meals work: treatment

evaluation of the Midday Meal Scheme in India

**Natalia Streuli** Exploring children's and families experiences and views of Juntos: a conditional cash transfer programme in Peru

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### INNOVATIONS IN METHODOLOGY

Seminar room 7

**Javier Escobal** and **Alan Sanchez** Can the Young Lives samples be used to extrapolate at the national level?

**Anne Yates** Using hand-held computers for data collection in developing country contexts: a pilot study

**Mary Penny et al** Selection and training of supervisors for fieldwork: experiences from Young Lives in Peru

**Santiago Cueto et al** Psychometric characteristics of cognitive development and achievement instruments in Round 2 of Young Lives (tbc)

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### WORKING WITH CHILDREN (METHODOLOGY)

Seminar room 3

**Gina Crivello et al** Young Lives qualitative research: an overview of methodology, challenges and opportunities

**Anna Wansbrough-Jones** Children's participation in policy and communications work

**Virginia Morrow** The ethics of longitudinal research with children, families and communities in diverse cultural contexts: practical experiences with Young Lives

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## **Yasmin Alibhai-Brown** **The Independent**

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown is a journalist who writes as a regular columnist for *The Independent*. She is also a radio and television broadcaster and author of several books, including *No Place Like Home*, an autobiographical account of a twice-removed immigrant. Since 1996, she has been a research fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research, which published her most recent book, *True Colours*, on government and racial attitudes. She is a member of the Home Office Race Forum and advises various key institutions on race matters. Her articles on forced marriages and the maltreatment of young Asian girls by their families have led to government action on these issues.

## **Jo Boyden** **Director, Young Lives**

Jo Boyden has been a leading authority on child development and children's rights since the mid-1980s. Over that time, she has worked on various aspects of research and policy with children: child labour, education, children in conflict, as well as publishing on childhood resilience, poverty, and socio-cultural development. She has worked in a wide range of countries, including: Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Peru (where she did her doctoral research), Somaliland and Sri Lanka. Her recent research has maintained an impressive multidisciplinary range alongside a focus on issues of childhood poverty and she is widely recognised as an authority on children by both policymakers and practitioners.

## **Stefan Dercon,** **Professor of Development Economics,** **University of Oxford**

Stefan Dercon is a development economist with 15 years' experience in designing and analysing longitudinal surveys in Ethiopia, India and Tanzania. He is one of the most experienced panel researchers globally and a specialist on both Ethiopia and India. In recent years he has worked on themes related to the impact of risk and shocks on families and children, social protection interventions, and issues related to agriculture and migration. As Poverty Research Director for Young Lives since 2006, he has been in charge of the development of the quantitative survey and research work. He also acts as an adviser to international agencies including DFID, SIDA, UNDP, the World Bank, and the Government of Ethiopia on risk, growth, poverty, human development and social protection issues.

## **Patrice Engle** **Professor of Psychology and Child Development,** **California Polytechnic State University**

Patrice Engle is Professor of Psychology and Child Development at California Polytechnic State University. She previously held the position of Director of Women's Studies in 1999, and was Chair of the Department of Psychology and Child Development from 1992 to 1995. She has also served as Senior Advisor on Early Childhood Development at UNICEF from 2002 to 2006, and as Chief of the Child Development and Nutrition section at UNICEF India from 1999 to 2002. Her work for UNICEF included coordinating with health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and education to develop an integrated approach for young children, as well as planning and developing *The Lancet* Series in Child Development.

## **Michael Foster MP** **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for** **International Development, DFID**

Michael Foster serves on DFID's Ministerial team as Parliamentary Secretary of State for International Development. He is also serving his ministerial appointment in the Government Whips' Office where he had responsibilities for Northern Ireland and for Constitutional Affairs. Prior to this he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Peter Hain in his role as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Michael Foster was elected Member of Parliament for Worcester in 1997. In 2005, he became Joint Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Lifelong Learning. He was Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group of Further Education and a member of the Education Select Committee until June 2001.

## **Liana Gertsch** **Programme Manager,** **Bernard van Leer Foundation**

Liana Gertsch focuses on early childhood development and is programme manager for Successful Transitions at the Bernard Van Leer Foundation in The Hague. Prior to that she was the Director of Programme Development and Management, a post held since 2002. She also served as Programme Specialist at the Asia Desk for BvLF, with responsibilities that included developing the Foundation's programme in India, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Her academic background is in South Asia Studies, Politics and Development, and the ethics of aid.

## **John Githongo** **Vice-President for Policy,** **World Vision International**

John Githongo has worked as a journalist, consultant, anti-corruption leader, civil society organisation director at the national and international levels. He also served as a Permanent Secretary in the Government of Kenya in charge of Governance and Ethics in the Office of the President. His current work focuses mostly on African political economy and governance-related research. He works as a consultant for a number of multilateral agencies, international NGOs and private sector organisations mainly providing strategic research. He is a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College, Oxford, and a Visiting Fellow of the International Development Research Institute (IDRC), Canada.

## **Frank Hagemann** **International Programme on the Elimination of** **Child Labour, International Labour Organization**

Frank Hagemann is Coordinator of the ILO's Programme on Child Labour Statistics (SIMPOC) in Geneva, Switzerland. The programme collects data at the national and sub-national level and prepares regular global trend reports on child labour and specific forms of children's work. SIMPOC is part of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). It has carried more than 300 surveys in some 80 countries. Prior to managing SIMPOC, Frank Hagemann worked on small enterprise development and labour market policy in a wide range of developing countries. This included postings in India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Germany.

## **Santosh Mehrotra** **Planning Commission, Government of India**

Santosh Mehrotra was a Senior Economic Advisor for the Regional Centre for Asia of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) before he moved to become a Senior Consultant on Rural Development for the Planning Commission of the Government of India in 2007. His principle areas of expertise are on macro-economic policy, economic analyses of social sectors, gender and labour in the informal sector, and public finance and development finance. He previously worked as a Senior Policy Advisor for the UNDP Human Development Report Office and as Senior Economic Advisor for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. He is a member of the International Science Committee of the Council on Research on Poverty, and has served as a member of the Young Lives advisory panel since 2001.

## **Leonardo Menchini** **Programme Specialist, UNICEF Innocenti** **Research Centre**

Leonardo Menchini is a researcher in the Socio-economic Policy Analysis Unit of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. His areas of focus are childhood poverty and child well-being, and his current work involves the development of household surveys for assessing child well-being. Previously he worked for the UNICEF IRC's MONEE project, particularly looking at income poverty in transition countries.

## **David Mepham** **Director of Policy, Save the Children UK**

David Mepham is director of policy at Save the Children UK. He was previously an associate director and head of the international programme at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). In this role, he wrote extensively on development, foreign policy, and global justice. Previously, David was a special adviser in the Department for International Development (DFID), working on a range of development policy issues, but with a particular focus on Africa and G8 policy towards Africa. From 1994 to 1997, David was the international policy officer in the policy directorate of the Labour Party and secretary to the Labour Party's commission on foreign policy.

## **Albert Park** **Co-Director, Gansu Survey of** **Children and Families**

Albert Park is Reader in Economics at the University of Oxford. Currently he co-directs the Gansu Survey of Children and Families (GSCF), a longitudinal study of rural youth in western China, and the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS). He was previously Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of economics at the University of Michigan. He has consulted for the World Bank on China's poverty assessment, the impact of education reforms, rural-urban inequality, urban social service provision, and unemployment in China. In recent years, he has published papers on migration and poverty, re-employment of dislocated urban workers, rising returns to education, human capital investments (education and health), wage inequality, and the impact of poverty alleviation programmes.



## Lant Pritchett

### Professor of the Practice of Economic Development, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Lant Pritchett is Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. Prior to his return to Harvard, he was the Lead Socio-Economist with the World Bank, based in New Delhi, India. From 2000 to 2004 he was Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. From 1998-2000 he lived in Indonesia, working as a Principal Socio-Economist with the World Bank and before that spent a decade in the World Bank's research group in various positions. He has published over 50 journal articles and papers on a wide range of topics, including labour mobility, education, economic growth, poverty and vulnerability, social capital, health, safety net programmes, participatory project approaches, population issues, and international trade.

## Robert Serpell

### Professor of Psychology, University of Zambia

Robert Serpell is Professor of Psychology at the University of Zambia, where he was also Vice-Chancellor (from 2003 to 2006). Prior to this, he was Professor of Psychology, University of Maryland, and served as the Director of the Doctoral Studies Programme in Applied Developmental Psychology (1989 to 2001). He received his PhD from Sussex (1969) and his applied and theoretical research in Africa, Britain and the United States has centred around the socio-cultural context of children's cognitive development.

## Frances Stewart

### Professor of Development Economics, University of Oxford

Frances Stewart is Professor of Development Economics and Director of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), University of Oxford. In 2008, she was voted president elect of the Human Development and Capability Association, where she succeeded Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. As an eminent development economist, she has published a multitude of peer-reviewed journals and books covering the themes of horizontal inequalities, poverty and human development, group behaviour, causes and consequences of conflict. Of particular interest to the Young Lives audience is her central role in the seminal UNICEF book *Adjustment with a Human Face* (1987) with Giovanni Andrea Cornia and Richard Jolly.

## Jan Vandemoortele

### former Chief of Policy Analysis, UNICEF

Jan Vandemoortele is an economist who served in various capacities with the UN for 30 years. From 2005 to 2008 he was UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to Pakistan. Prior to that from 2001 to 2005, he was Director of the Poverty Group at UNDP in New York. Between 1995 and 2001 he was Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis for UNICEF. In the early 1990s he served with UNDP as Senior Economist for Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the 1980s, he worked for the International Labour Organization, mostly in Africa. His work has focused on equity and effectiveness of social and economic policy, public finance and labour markets.

## Susana Villarán

### UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Susana Villarán is a Peruvian educator, journalist and politician. Recently, she has been elected as member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and will serve in this role until 2013. Previously she was the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. She is currently one of the leaders of the Social Force Decentralist Party of Peru.

## Martin Woodhead

### Professor of Childhood Studies, The Open University

Martin Woodhead's role as Child Research Director to Young Lives represents the culmination of a 30-year career working in childhood research and policy, including extensive international work. His first book *Intervening in Disadvantage* (1976) already focused on early childhood as critical in shaping children's destinies, the potential of educational programmes and the power of evidence-based policy development. In subsequent decades he has worked on many facets of this theme – cross-cultural child development, programme evaluation, comparative studies of policies and public services, as well as media work – encompassing a wide range of country contexts. More recently, his research focus has extended in terms of age range, through a four-country study of child labour – as well as being deepened through serving as special adviser to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

## Acknowledgements

Young Lives is a collaborative partnership between research and government institutes in the 4 study countries with the University of Oxford, The Open University and Save the Children UK. Young Lives is core-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. Sub-studies are funded by IDRC (in Ethiopia), UNICEF (in India), the Bernard van Leer Foundation (in India and Peru) and Irish Aid (in Vietnam).

We would like to thank the many people who assist in our research, most especially the Young Lives children and their families for generously giving us their time and cooperation and allowing us a glimpse into their lives. Further, we thank their communities and the local officials, teachers and other respondents for their welcome cooperation during our research.

The children and their families who are participating in the Young Lives study willingly share with us a great deal of detailed personal information about their daily lives, and we have a responsibility to protect their confidentiality and ensure their identity remains protected. For this reason, we change their names whenever we talk about individual children in our work. The accompanying photos are of children living in similar situations to the children within our study sample.

We would also like to thank the photographers who provided such evocative images to support our work.

Ethiopia: Aida Ashenafi

India: Farhatullah Beig

Peru: Sebastian Castañeda; Lucero Del Castillo Ames; Raul Egúsqiza Turriate

Vietnam: Pham Viet Anh