

Biographies: Speakers and Discussants

Katherine Alaimo

Dr. Alaimo is a postdoctoral fellow with the Community Health Scholars Program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She completed her Ph.D. in Community Nutrition from Cornell University in 2000. Before beginning her graduate program at Cornell, she worked as a Nutritionist for the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers of Disease Control in the Division of Health Examination Statistics and with the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program.

Richard Bavier

Mr. Bavier is a policy analyst at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). His work includes analysis of income and poverty trends and the effectiveness of transfer and tax programs. At OMB, he has been involved in oversight and review discussions related to food security measurement.

Gary Bickel

Dr. Bickel, an economist at FNS, has studied the phenomenon of poverty in the United States from several different settings, including poverty-program fieldwork in southern Appalachia. From the start of the U.S. Government's Food Security Measurement Project in 1992, he has been involved in the development of the new measurement instrument as Project Officer for FNS's research contracts on the measure and as FNS's technical representative in the Federal Interagency Working Group on Food Security Measurement. Previously, Dr. Bickel was associate professor of economics at Cornell University and the University of Colorado; was staff member to Senator Gaylord Nelson on the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Poverty and Migratory Labor; and was an associate in the Bureau of Social Science Research, providing research support on poverty issues to the original Legal Services Program.

Stephen J. Blumberg

Dr. Blumberg is a survey statistician within the Division of Health Interview Statistics at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Dr. Blumberg received his Ph.D. in social psychology and quantitative methods from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, where he was also on the faculty as an instructor for research methods and statistics. While at UT, his experimental research focused on the failure of health education messages. Since arriving at NCHS in 1997, Dr. Blumberg has been working on telephone surveys of child health and welfare issues.

Ronette R. Briefel

Dr. Ronette Briefel is a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Formerly, she was the Nutrition Policy Advisor and Senior Research Epidemiologist at NCHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services. During her 16 years at NCHS, she was responsible for coordinating nutrition monitoring and related research activities, advising the NCHS Director on nutrition policy, and planning the nutrition component of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Her research includes food security, dietary assessment, cardiovascular nutrition, and national nutrition monitoring. She has published extensively on these topics.

Steven Carlson

As director of the Family Programs staff in Office of Analysis, Nutrition and Evaluation at the Food and Nutrition Service, Mr. Carlson has devoted his career to policy research and the analysis and evaluation of domestic food assistance programs, primarily the Food Stamp Program. He was named in 1992 as the USDA task-leader, along with Ronette Briefel of the National Center for Health Statistics, and was charged with developing a valid and reliable measure of food insufficiency and food insecurity for the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program. The Interagency Working Group on Food Security Measurement co-chaired by Carlson and Briefel has carried out

this assignment. At FNS, Mr. Carlson leads a multidisciplinary staff with research in welfare reform and coordination, electronic benefits transfer systems, program operations, and nutrition education and monitoring.

John Cook

Dr. Cook is an assistant professor in Boston University School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics at the Boston Medical Center, and an adjunct professor in the School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Dr. Cook was principal investigator for the USDA Food Security Measurement Study, which developed measures of household-level food security and hunger for the United States. His research includes the relationships among individual, household, and community food security, the determinants of overweight and obesity in low-income children, and the influence of social welfare policy on poverty, food security, nutrition, and health.

Beth Osborne Daponte

Dr. Osborne Daponte is a faculty member at the John Heinz School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. Since 1992, she has been working on food-related issues and served as survey-director of a large-scale survey in Pittsburgh for a study of community food security and emergency food providers. She received her Ph.D. in sociology with a specialization in demography from the University of Chicago.

Angus S. Deaton

Dr. Deaton is professor of economics and international affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His main areas of research are microeconomic analysis and applied econometrics, with particular reference to household behavior. He served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance that recommended the reconstruction of the official poverty line in the United States. As a consultant to the World Bank, Dr. Deaton worked with the Living Standards

Measurement Project and is the author of *The Analysis of Household Surveys: A Microeconomic Approach to Development Policy*, recently published for the World Bank by the Johns Hopkins University Press. His earlier books include *Economics and Consumer Behavior* (co-authored with John Muellbauer) and *Understanding Consumption (Clarendon Lectures in Economics)*.

Joda P. Derrickson

Joda Derrickson, Ph.D., registered dietician, is a nutrition consultant in Hawaii, focusing on enhancing fitness as well as food and nutrition security. During her doctoral studies at Colorado State University, she was employed by the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a nutrition specialist and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program State coordinator. Her research involved qualitative and quantitative assessment of food insecurity and hunger in Hawaii, where she tested the national food security module with particular attention to its validity among diverse Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic communities. Her subsequent work focuses on developing a face-valid food security-monitoring tool.

Johanna T. Dwyer

Dr. Dwyer is the director of the Frances Stern Nutrition Center at New England Medical Center, professor of medicine and community health at the Tufts University School of Medicine, and professor of nutrition at the Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She is also a senior scientist at the Jean Mayer and USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts. Dr. Dwyer is the author/co-author of more than 85 research articles and 185 review articles published in scientific journals, primarily focusing on life cycle-related concerns such as preventing diet-related diseases in children and adolescents and maximizing quality of life and health in the elderly. Dr. Dwyer served as past-president of the American Institute of Nutrition, past-secretary of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past-president and current fellow of the Society for Nutrition Education

and has received numerous awards for her work in the field of nutrition.

Edward A. Frongillo, Jr.

Dr. Frongillo is an associate professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences, co-director of the International Nutrition Program, and director of the Office of Statistical Consulting at Cornell University. His research concerns the nutritional well-being of populations in the United States and developing countries, focusing on the measurement, causes, and consequences of food insecurity, understanding patterns of child growth, evaluating nutritional programs, and developing and validating methods for nutritional assessment.

Thesia Garner

Dr. Garner is a research economist in the Division of Price and Index Number Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. She conducts research primarily on topics related to the economic well-being of individuals, families, and households. Her work includes assessing subjective economic well-being, using household survey data, and evaluating the meaning of subjective questions, using cognitive methods. She has presented at conferences and has published on these topics, with various co-authors. Dr. Garner is an expert on the U.S. Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Craig Gundersen

Dr. Gundersen is an economist with the Economic Research Service of the USDA. He is working in a number of areas related to food insecurity, including analyses of the influence of the Food Stamp Program on food insufficiency and the connection between food insecurity and other dimensions of well-being. Other areas of research include analyzing the relative effects of stigma and transactions costs on food stamp participation, determining the effects of the macro-economy on food stamp participation rates, and detailing the responses of States to changes in the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

He is also leading a project that compares Mexican and U.S. food assistance programs.

William L. (Chris) Hamilton

Dr. Hamilton is a senior manager at Abt Associates, Inc.; a vice-president since 1971; and an Abt Fellow. He has directed policy research projects for three decades in a variety of substantive areas. Dr. Hamilton served as project director for the Food Security Measurement Study that developed the first national prevalence estimates of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, based on data from the April 1995 Food Security Supplement to the Current Populations Survey.

Gail Harrison

Dr. Harrison is a professor and chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), School of Public Health. She also serves as associate director for Public Health and International Programs of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition. Dr. Harrison combined training in nutritional sciences at Cornell University and anthropology at the University of Arizona. From 1976 to 1992, she was on the faculty of the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona. She participated in the National Academy of Sciences panel that evaluated the nutritional risk criteria used in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and recommended consideration of food security indicators. Her research on food behaviors and nutrition has taken her to many countries, and she is advising doctoral candidates who use the new food security/hunger measure in their research.

Christopher S. Jencks

Dr. Jencks is a professor of social policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also taught at Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Santa Barbara and, in an earlier life, was a fellow of the Institute for

Policy Studies in Washington (1963-67) and editor of *The New Republic* (1961-63). He is a member of the editorial board of *The American Prospect*. His recent research dealt with changes in the material standard of living over the past generation, homelessness, effects on children of growing up in poor neighborhoods, welfare reform, and poverty measurement. He is writing a book with Susan Mayer tentatively titled, *Did We Really Lose the War on Poverty?* His earlier books include *The Academic Revolution* (with David Riesman), *Inequality, Who Gets Ahead?*, *The Urban Underclass* (with Paul Peterson), *Rethinking Social Policy*, and most recently, *The Homeless*.

Helen H. Jensen

Dr. Jensen is a professor of economics and head of the Food and Nutrition Policy Research section of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University. Her research focuses on food consumption, food and nutrition policy analysis, issues of food program design, and methods of dietary assessment based on survey data. She directs several studies related to food and nutrition policy and welfare reform.

Susan E. Mayer

Dr. Mayer is an associate professor in the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies. She is also the director of the Northwestern University, University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research and a research associate at the Population Research Center. Mayer's research focuses on poverty, inequality, and comparative social welfare policy. She wrote about how to measure poverty and inequality and how the social composition of schools and neighborhoods affects life chances of children. She recently completed *What Money Can't Buy: Family Income and Children's Life Chances* (Harvard University Press, 1997). She is editing a collection of papers on the causes and consequences of variations in cognitive skills (with Paul Peterson); finishing a book, *Did We Lose the*

War on Poverty?, with Christopher Jencks; and writing on the role of early schooling on children's life chances. Before joining the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1989, she was a research associate at Northwestern's Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research. Prior to that, she worked at the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights.

Karin Nelson

Karin Nelson is a general internist who is a primary care research fellow in the Division of General Medicine at UCLA. As a resident at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, she completed a study on food insecurity and hunger in an adult patient population, published in JAMA in 1998.

Mark Nord

Dr. Nord is a social science analyst at USDA's Economic Research Service. His research areas include rural poverty, with special attention to the spatial distribution and concentration of poverty, rural migration, rural welfare program use, and food security and hunger. Previous work includes research on natural resources and rural poverty at the Pennsylvania State University and management of relief and development programs of a non-government organization in Bangladesh. He received his master of science and Ph.D. in rural sociology from the Pennsylvania State University.

James C. Ohls

Dr. Ohls is a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. He has directed several major studies of food and nutrition policy, including evaluating the San Diego Food Stamp Cashout Demonstration and the National Food Stamp Program Survey. He is project director on a study analyzing data from the 1996 and 1997 Food Security Supplements to the Current Population Survey. Dr. Ohls is the co-author, with Dr. Harold Beebout, of *The Food Stamp Program: Design, Tradeoffs, Policy and Impacts*, published in 1993.

Christine Olson

Dr. Olson is the Hazel E. Reed Human Ecology extension professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University. She is researching the causes, measurement, and consequences of food insecurity for the last 12 years. Along with Donald Rose and Edward Frongillo, Jr., she recently organized a major symposium, "Advances in Measuring Food Insecurity and Hunger in the U.S." as part of Experimental Biology '98 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Her recent work focused on the health and functional consequences of food insecurity in nutritionally vulnerable groups in the United States.

Lynn Parker

Ms. Parker is the director of Child Nutrition and Nutrition Policy at the Food Research and Action Center. She is also the president of the Society for Nutrition Education. Ms. Parker played a leadership role in the development and implementation of the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project and served a 5-year term on the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

Prasanta Pattanaik

Dr. Pattanaik is a professor of economics in the University of California at Riverside. His main areas of research are welfare economics and the theory of social choice; decision theory, including the theory of choice under non-probabilistic uncertainty and the theory of fuzzy preferences; and the measurement of poverty and the standard of living. Besides writing papers in professional journals, he wrote two books and co-edited three books including a festschrift for Amartya Sen.

Kathy Radimer

Dr. Radimer received a Ph.D. in nutritional sciences from Cornell University in 1990. Her research there involved use of qualitative data to develop a conceptual framework and definition of hunger, serving as a basis for the development of survey items to assess food insecurity. She

also worked in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso and is with the National Center for Health Statistics.

Lori Reid

Dr. Reid is assistant professor of sociology at Florida State University. Her research broadly focuses on issues of inequality. Her dissertation examined racial inequality in the labor market. While a research fellow at the University of Michigan, she focused her research efforts on the relationship between food insecurity and child well-being. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Arizona in 1997.

Donald Rose

Dr. Rose is a free-lance consultant in Maputo, Mozambique, where he has been working with the Michigan State University Mozambique Food Security Project, a collaborative effort with that country's Ministry of Agriculture to build human capacity in policy analysis and research. Prior to that assignment, he worked at USDA's Economic Research Service as a team leader on the determinants of food insecurity in the United States, the nutritional effects of food assistance programs, and the evaluation of low-income nutrition education projects. Dr. Rose has graduate degrees in public health nutrition and agricultural economics.

Valerie Tarasuk

Dr. Tarasuk is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Her background training includes a Ph.D. in nutritional sciences from the University of Toronto and post-doctoral work in social epidemiology. Her primary research focus is the study of problems of domestic food insecurity, considering their origins and nutrition implications and examining current policy and program responses. Paralleling this focus is her ongoing work in methodological issues related to the interpretation of dietary intake data and the conduct of nutrition research with vulnerable groups.

Cheryl Wehler

Ms. Wehler served as project director for the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP). There she directed the development and initial validity testing of the CCHIP hunger measure. From 1987 to 1995, 21 CCHIP

surveys were completed under her direction. She is collaborating on a study of the psychosocial, developmental, and health outcomes of children from hungry families. Ms. Wehler completed her master of science in nutritional biochemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is continuing her studies at Harvard University.