

The Role of Data in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Virtual Panel Discussion · 1 July 2021

14:00 – 15:15 London · 15:00 – 16:15 Paris, Milan, Berlin

SPEAKERS' PROFILES

[in order of appearance]



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REBECCA WINKELS • Moderator

Director of Communications and Strategy, Wissenschaft im Dialog

Rebecca Winkels is a German science communicator and has degrees in biology and science journalism. She has held several positions in science communication: First as online editor and deputy press officer at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig, then as press officer at the headquarters of the Helmholtz Association in Berlin. At Wissenschaft im Dialog, she is the director of strategic communications and project leader of the online platform Wissenschaftskommunikation.de.



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SIMON CAUCHEMEZ, PhD

Head of the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases Unit, Institut Pasteur

Simon Cauchemez joined Institut Pasteur in 2013 to head Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases Unit. The main research objective of his unit is to develop state-of-the-art statistical and mathematical methods to address these challenges, with the aim to increase the understanding of how pathogens spread in human populations as well as the impact of interventions, to support policy making and optimize control strategies. His approach is highly multidisciplinary, looking at infectious diseases through multiple perspectives (statistics, modelling, epidemiology, surveillance, Public Health, policy making, microbiology), multiple scales and multiple data streams. Before joining Institut Pasteur, Simon Cauchemez was working for the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London.



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PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER DYE, PhD

Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Oxford, former WHO Director of Strategy, Fellow of the Royal Society

Chris Dye's research has focused on the large-scale dynamics of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, Ebola, Zika and other infectious diseases, linked to field studies in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Among other topics, he has investigated the epidemiology of tuberculosis linked to HIV/AIDS, the spread and containment of antimicrobial resistance, and the management of emerging pathogens.

From 2014 to 2018, he was Director of Strategy at the World Health Organization, where he served as science advisor to the Director General, oversaw the production and dissemination of health information by WHO press and libraries, and coordinated WHO's work on health and the Sustainable

Development Goals. Since leaving WHO, he has focused on the economics of prevention in public health and on the translation of science into health policy. In addition to being a Fellow of the Royal Society, Chris is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. Between 2006 and 2009, he presented public lectures as Gresham Professor of Physic at Gresham College in the city of London. He has recently published a book titled “The Great Health Dilemma: Is Prevention Better Than Cure?”



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PROFESSOR DR GERD GIGERENZER

Director of the Harding Center for Risk Literacy at the University of Potsdam, Director Emeritus of the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Member of the Leopoldina

Gerd Gigerenzer is Director of the Harding Center for Risk Literacy at the Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg (University of Potsdam) and partner of Simply Rational - The Institute for Decisions. He is former Director of the Center for Adaptive Behavior and Cognition (ABC) at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and at the Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research in Munich, Professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago and John M. Olin Distinguished Visiting Professor, School of Law at the University of Virginia. In addition, he is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He was awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Basel and the Open University of the Netherlands, and is Batten Fellow at the Darden Business School, University of Virginia.

Awards for his work include the AAAS Prize for the best article in the behavioral sciences, the Association of American Publishers Prize for the best book in the social and behavioral sciences, the German Psychology Award, and the Communicator Award of the German Research Foundation.

PROFESSOR ALESSIA MELEGARO, PhD

Associate Professor of Demography in the Department of Social and Political Sciences and Director of the Covid Crisis Lab, Bocconi University, Milan, Member of the Health Ministry's Technical and Scientific Committee on COVID-19

Alessia Melegaro is an Associate Professor of Demography in the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Bocconi University in Milan. She holds a PhD in ecology & epidemiology from Warwick University, UK and a degree in infectious disease and epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

Her research interests focus on the use of mathematical modeling and statistical analysis techniques to evaluate public health intervention programs. In particular, she has been working extensively on infectious disease dynamics and vaccination strategies both in high and low-income countries. Since February 2020, she is a member of the Italian Health Ministry's Technical and Scientific Committee on COVID-19.

[as of 28 June 2021]