

Franziska Gassmann has a PhD in Economics (Maastricht University, 2000) and more than 15 years of experience in development economics and related fields. She has demonstrated her skills and expertise as a consultant and researcher in the economics of poverty reduction, social policy reform, transition and development. Dr. Gassmann has advised Governments on social protection reform issues in numerous projects in Central and Eastern Europe, countries of former Yugoslavia and Central Asia. Since 2005, Dr. Gassmann has been working as a senior researcher and head of training and research projects at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. Her responsibilities include, among others, strategic planning, management, and development of executive training and research activities, acquisition of funding for/through projects and training activities.

Dr. Melissa Siegel currently works as an Assistant Professor and Migration Studies Program Manager at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance where she is the head of the Migration research group, manages several migration research projects and coordinates the Migration Studies Specialization. She is regularly involved in migration-related trainings for governments and organizations (i.e. UNICEF, UNRWA, EIPA, Dutch Government, Iranian Government) and teaching at the Bachelors and Masters level as well as guest lectures and teaching in Malaysia, Mozambique and Suriname. Currently she manages the IS Academy on Migration and Development for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IOM Afghanistan Migration Profile and New Data Collection, the EuropeAid (EC) Project on the Effects of Migration on Children and Elderly Left Behind in Moldova and Georgia as well as the Evaluation of the UNHCR shelter program in Afghanistan. She has a mixed quantitative and qualitative methodological approach.

Michaella Vanore has been a Ph.D. Fellow at UNU-MERIT/Maastricht Graduate School of Governance since October 2010. She graduated with a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Human Development from Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in 2009 with a specialization in Migration Studies. Since 2009 Michaella has worked at the Graduate School of Governance on various migration-related projects, including a study on the financial needs of African migrants in the EU funded by Oxfam Novib, a study on the bilateral remittance corridor between the Netherlands and Afghanistan commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an evaluation of the remittance-service comparison website 'Geld Naar Huis' for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a two-year project on the effects of migration on children and the elderly left behind in Moldova and Georgia funded by the European Commission.

Jennifer Waidler completed a Master's in Public Policy and Human Development from Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in 2012 with a specialization in Social Policy Design and Financing. Since September 2012, she has been working as a researcher at UNU-MERIT/MGSoG on a variety of projects in the field of migration and social protection. Jennifer holds a degree Business Administration at the university Carlos III de Madrid and has gained professional experience as research assistant at this university and as a business intelligence trainee at an insurance company. Her main research interests are in migration and social protection, poverty and inequality, and applied econometrics.