Building Anew or Retrofitting?  
Fresh Thinking for Fast-Growing Cities  

Speaker Biographies

Charles Cadwell is vice president for international development and governance at the Urban Institute. A lawyer with 30 years’ experience in economic reform, deregulation, research oversight, and nonprofit leadership in the United States and developing countries, Cadwell joined Urban in 2007. He coordinates the research and technical assistance efforts of Urban staff and partners on projects around the globe. His work targets governance reform, aid effectiveness, and integrating research and policy reform. Cadwell has previously worked in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, the Office of Advocacy at the US Small Business Administration, in private law practice, and—in the pre-internet era—in the export information business. From 1990 to 2006, Cadwell was director of the IRIS Center in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland. Cadwell is a graduate of Yale College and the National Law Center at the George Washington University. He is an adjunct professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University.

Indermit Singh Gill is professor of practice of public policy in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. Gill has held several leadership positions at the World Bank, including chief economist for Europe and Central Asia, staff director for the 2009 world development report on economic geography, and most recently, as director for development policy in the Office of the Chief Economist. He was also an economic adviser in the World Bank’s East Asia and Pacific regional office and lead economist for human development in Latin America and the Caribbean. His pioneering work includes introducing the concept of the “middle income trap” to describe how developing countries stagnate after reaching a certain level of income. Gill holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago and has taught at Georgetown University, the State University of New York at Buffalo, and the University of Chicago.

Yue Li is a senior economist at the World Bank, working in the Office of the Chief Economist for the South Asia region. She has led the preparation of studies on regional issues and contributed to country-level engagements. Before that, she coauthored World Development Report 2013: Jobs and worked in the Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and East Asia and Pacific regions of the World Bank. Her research covers international trade, firm dynamics, economic geography, and urban economics. She holds a doctorate in economics from Rutgers University and master’s degrees in economics and political science from Syracuse University. Her bachelor’s degree is from Peking University, China.
Ammar A. Malik is associate director of research at Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD), a research program at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for International Development, and a nonresident fellow at the Urban Institute. At EPoD, he leads research-policy engagements that derive actionable policy insights from rigorous research. He also oversees EPoD’s labor market and education research portfolios in the Middle East, identifying and supporting opportunities for data and economic analysis to inform local policies that empower underrepresented groups and support social and economic development. Before joining EPoD, he was a senior research associate at the Urban Institute and previously worked at the World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority, and Standard Chartered Bank. Malik holds a doctorate in public policy from George Mason University, a master of public affairs from Institut d’Etudes Politiques Paris, a master of public policy from the National University of Singapore, and bachelor of economics and mathematics from the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Martin Rama is the chief economist for the South Asia region at the World Bank, where he promotes debate on difficult policy issues in the region, leads the preparation of major reports on regional issues, and oversees the quality of the bank’s analytical work in the region. His former positions include the director of World Development Report 2013: Jobs and the lead economist for Vietnam. Before moving to operations, he spent 10 years with the research department of the World Bank and was a visiting professor at the University of Paris. Back in his home country, Uruguay, he was a director of CINVE, the country’s largest think tank. His research focuses on labor issues.