

Reflections on the 2020 Census: Accuracy, Fairness, and Implications for the Decade Ahead

Speaker Biographies

Cara Brumfield is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Economic Security & Opportunity Initiative at the Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality. Cara leads research and policy development projects on issues related to jobs, education, and democracy. She has led projects and co-authored publications on postsecondary education in prison, block grants, paid family and medical leave policies, and health and human service programs. She also conducts research and technical assistance to ensure a fair and accurate count of marginalized communities in the decennial census. Previously, Cara was the U.S. Policy and Research Manager at 1,000 Days where she managed national research and advocacy efforts. She co-authored a report on poor nutrition among women, infants, and young children in the United States and led qualitative research among low-income mothers to understand their attitudes, beliefs, and barriers to improved nutrition. Cara has also worked at the Housing Assistance Council, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Prosperity Now, and the Poverty and Race Research Action Council on affordable housing, rural development, workplace policies, health, employment, and gentrification. Cara has deep experience applying a racial equity lens to a broad array of economic security issues. Cara completed her Master of Public Policy degree at American University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Inequality and Identity from Lafayette College. She is also a former Congressional Hunger Center Emerson National Hunger Fellow, PPIA Fellow, a Posse Scholar, and a proud graduate of Head Start.

Diana Elliott is a principal research associate in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on families' financial security and economic mobility and the programs and policies that support them, including housing affordability, apprenticeships, and financial empowerment. Elliott was previously research manager of the Pew Charitable Trusts' work on financial security and economic mobility, where she was instrumental in fielding a major national survey on American family finances and published numerous reports and briefs about the state of financial well-being and economic mobility in the United States. Before joining Pew, Elliott was a family demographer in the fertility and family statistics branch in the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the US Census Bureau. Elliott holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Ditas Katague is a director at California Complete Count. Ms. Katague has led diversity, equity & inclusion efforts for the last 3 decades within State, Local and Federal government sectors. In addition, she has served as Chief of Staff to the first Latina California Public Utilities Commissioner where she improved public participation and access to the energy, water and telecommunications utility rate and regulation process. Most recently, Ms. Katague was the Director of the California Complete Count – Census 2020 Office, the \$187M outreach and communications campaign to ensure a complete count of the hardest-to-count Californians. She has designed and directed three groundbreaking statewide multi-lingual, multi-media outreach efforts resulting in response rates that outpaced the entire nation, coining the term “trusted messenger outreach” in 1999. Ms. Katague is an expert in civic engagement, multi-ethnic/culturally congruent outreach and communications. In 2019, she was recognized in the Capitol Weekly's Top 100 most powerful movers and shakers in California politics. While serving under four California Governors, she has led California's Census efforts since 2000. From 2012-2018, she served on the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Race, Ethnicities and Other Populations, including serving as Chair from 2015-2018.

Joseph J. Salvo is an Institute Fellow in the Social and Decision Analytics Division of the University of Virginia's Biocomplexity Institute and a Senior Advisor to the National Conference on Citizenship. Dr. Salvo was former Director of the Population Division at the New York City Department of City Planning, where he ushered the city through four decennial censuses. He has testified before Congress, been an advisor to the U.S. Census Bureau, served on multiple panels at the National Academy of Sciences, and worked as an expert in litigation related to the decennial census. He has co-authored articles on settlement patterns of race/ethnic groups, census history and methods, and survey evaluation. Dr. Salvo is presently working as part of a national team on a new vision for the 2030 Census and on a program to provide local governments with an expanded ability to challenge their census results for the purposes of population estimates. He has also participated in national efforts to evaluate the 2020 Census and safeguard the confidentiality of census data while ensuring its utility for small-area data users. He received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Fordham University, is a recipient of the Sloan Public Service Award from the Fund for the City of New York, a recipient of the Population Association of America's Public Service Award, and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

John Thompson is currently an independent consultant with expertise in social science and survey methodology. Thompson is also a Distinguished Institute Fellow with the Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia. Thompson served as the 24th Director of the U.S. Census Bureau from August 2013 through June 2017. As Director, Thompson oversaw preparations for the 2020 Census and presided over more than 100 other censuses and surveys, which measure America's people, places and economy and provide the basis for crucial economic indicators. A statistician and executive, Thompson had been President and CEO of NORC at the University of Chicago from 2008 through July 2013, when he left NORC for the Census Bureau. He served as the independent research organization's Executive Vice President from 2002 to 2008. Thompson had a distinguished career at the Census Bureau from 1975 to 2002 before joining NORC. Most notably, as an Associate Director, he was the senior career executive responsible for all aspects of the 2000 Census. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Virginia Tech.