

## 7th Annual Conference – April 6-May 18, 2021

### Speaker Biographies

#### Panel 1: Lenders and Borrowers in Distress

Tuesday, April 6, 9am EDT



**Deborah BRAUTIGAM** is the Director of the China Africa Research Initiative (SAIS-CARI) and the Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. A leading expert on China in Africa, Professor Brautigam is the author of *Will Africa Feed China?* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2010; Chinese version published by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Press) and *Chinese Aid and African Development: Exporting Green Revolution* (St. Martin's Press, 1998). She is also co-editor of *Taxation and State-Building: Capacity and Consent* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) as well as numerous articles published in academic journals and public affairs media. Professor Brautigam regularly advises international agencies and governments on China-Africa economic engagement.



**Yunnan CHEN** is a Senior Research Officer in the Development and Public Finance programme at ODI. Her research interests centre around development finance, particularly in infrastructure and energy sectors, and Chinese development finance overseas. She is a PhD Candidate at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and has conducted extensive field research on China Africa economic engagement. She holds an MA in political science from the University of British Columbia, and a BA in politics, philosophy and economics from the University of Oxford.



**Erica S. DOWNS** is a Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She previously worked as a senior research scientist in the China Studies Program at the Center for Naval Analyses. Prior to that, she worked as a senior research analyst in the Asia practice group at Eurasia Group, a fellow in the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution and as an energy analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency. She holds a PhD and an MA in politics from Princeton University and a BS in humanities in international affairs from the Edmund a Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

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**Vikram NEHRU** is a Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. His lectures and research focus on the economic, political, and strategic issues confronting Asia, particularly Southeast Asia. From 2011 to 2016, Nehru was the Chair in Southeast Asian Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. For three decades prior to that he served in the World Bank in a number of senior management positions, including as Director of the Debt Department which was responsible for designing, shaping, and implementing global policies toward highly indebted poor countries. Nehru's articles have appeared in numerous journals, he has contributed to several books, and has written many op-eds and opinion pieces for leading newspapers, journals, and think- tanks.

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**Lemma W. SENBET** is the William E. Mayer Chair Professor of Finance at the University of Maryland, College Park, and former Founding Director of Center for Financial Policy. Professor Senbet has served as Executive Director/CEO of African Economic Research Consortium, the largest and oldest economic research and training network in Africa. Prior to Maryland and AERC, he was a distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin and held the Charles Albright Endowed Chair. Prof Senbet has received numerous recognitions for his impact on the profession. He has been elected twice as Director of the American Finance Association and is a past President of the Western Finance Association (WFA). He has been appointed to over a dozen journal editorial boards, including premier finance journals (e.g., Journal of Finance). He has advised the World Bank, the IMF, the UN, AfDB, and various agencies in the USA, Canada, and Africa on such issues as financial sector reforms. He is a member of Brookings AGI Distinguished Advisory Group and serves on the Advisory Panel of G20 Compact with Africa (CwA).