

**Dr. Ali BAYAR, Washington DC and Brussels, Belgium**

Professor Ali Bayar is the founder and President of EcoMod.

Prof. Ali Bayar is specialized in policy modeling for impact assessment, scenario analysis, forecasting, and projections. He holds an MA in Econometrics, a PhD in Economics, and several business and government management executive certificates from the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, MIT Sloan School of Management, and Columbia Business School.

Prof. Bayar has provided advisory, consulting, and training services to a large number of major institutions on all continents including the European Central Bank, Federal Reserve, the European Commission, the UNCTAD, the UNDP, the World Bank, the IMF, the International Labor Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the OECD, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, several governments, business organizations, and several top Fortune 100 companies.

He initiated, led and co-coordinated a large number of policy-oriented projects using advanced econometric modeling techniques in the fields of public finance, budgeting, tax policy, energy and environmental issues, labor market, tax policy, innovation, research & development, social security, macroeconomic policy, forecasting, sectoral issues, regional policy, WTO related issues, trade analysis, regional integration, development economics, oil producing and transition economies, GCC, Middle East and North African economies, Latin American countries.

Dr. Bayar is a Research Professor, German Institute for Economic Research (Deutsche Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung), Berlin, Germany and a former Professor of Economics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium. He is a selected member of several high level international policy and research networks and a member of editorial boards of several international academic journals. In addition, he was a Principal Administrator at the Econometric Modelling Unit of the European Commission.

**Dr. Ramon KEY**

Dr. Ramon Key is the Director of the Energy and Environment Center and associated professor at IESA, a leading business and public administration school based in Caracas – Venezuela with four international accreditations (AMBA, AACSB, EQUIS-EFMD, NASPAA). In 2015 was a Senior Economist in IDEA International, an international consultancy firm based in Canada. He was the head of economic analysis in the State Owned Oil Company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDV) since 2005 to 2014 developing tools and methodologies for the assessment of the impact of investment projects and energy policy. In 2004 was Energy Attaché in Washington DC. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Colorado at Boulder. He regularly attends seminars, workshops, and international conferences in economic modeling, and the analysis of the energy markets. Research interest includes CGE modeling, impact assessment of energy policy, and the macroeconomics of oil-exporting-countries.

**Marcel Mérette, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa**

Marcel Mérette is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences since 2010. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Université de Montréal and was a post-doctorate fellow at Yale University. He started his career at the Department of Finance of Canada before joining the Department of Economics of the University of Ottawa in 1999. His main research consists of developing simulation models called “computable general equilibrium models” with overlapping generation structures. He has used this analytical

tool and published on topics ranging from international trade, to economic growth, environment and population aging. He has been visiting professors in a good number of institutions, including in Brazil and in China. He is instructor for EcoMod for many years. The International EcoMod Conference was held at the University of Ottawa in 2009. After having held a few administrative positions within the Department of Economics, Marcel Mérette became Vice-Dean of Research at the Faculty of Social Sciences from 2005 to 2010. He was also Acting Vice-Dean of Graduate Studies when he was nominated to become Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in February 2010.

### **Dr. Masudi OPESE, Brussels, Belgium**

Dr. Masudi Opese is a teaching assistant in political economy at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). Between 2005-2014, he taught development economics at ULB. Since 2000, he is a research fellow at EcoMod, Economic Modelling Network. He is one of the lecturers of Energy and Environmental CGE Modeling with GAMS and also teaches Practical General Equilibrium Modeling with GAMS.

The fields of research are: energy and environment, labor market, tax policy, social security, public finance, forecasting, sectoral issues, regional policy, trade analysis, development economics, oil producing and transition economies, Middle East economies, African economies, Latin American countries and European economies. His research is policy-oriented using CGE modeling techniques.

During his free time, he performs as a chorister at the Classical Mass Choir of New Jerusalem Church in Brussels. He is also an administrator of the Voice of Angels Gospel Choir (members aged from 3 to 30 years old).

### **Dr. Vanessa Smith, University of York, UK**

Dr. Smith is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of York since 2013. She specializes in econometrics including panel data (testing and estimation in the presence of cross sectional dependence) and global VAR modelling. Her recent work includes estimating large covariance matrices while she has also done work in the area of financial econometrics such as modelling the spread of financial crises. Between 2002-2013 she held the positions of Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. Dr. Smith is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Financial Economics (CAFE), University of Southern California since Sept 2012 and a Research Associate at the Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute, Dallas Fed, since July 2013. She had been an instructor at EcoMod since 2008.

### **Davoud Taghawi-Nejad**

Davoud Taghawi-Nejad holds a PhD in Economics of Complexity and Innovation. He published on business cycles, network effects of central bank policy, the use of artificial intelligence and computational methods in economics. At MIT and the University of Sao Paulo Davoud applied this research to create policy simulators. Amongst others, he created simulations of the Saudi Arabian Labor market and the Brazilian education system in order to improve policymaking in these fields. This research was conducted using a modeling platform he developed called Agent-Based Computational Economy Platform (ABCE/abcEconomics). His last agent-based Modeling project, was the creation of an agent-based simulation of the global petrochemical supply chain, for the market information company ICIS, part of Elsevier. Davoud Taghawi-Nejad is currently the CEO of 'Continuous Health' in São Paulo, Brazil.



## Instructors Prague 2019

### **Dr. Renger van Nieuwkoop, Thun, Switzerland**

Dr. van Nieuwkoop is the Director of Modelworks ([www.modelworks.ch](http://www.modelworks.ch)), a small consultancy firm specialized in computable general equilibrium modeling and statistics. He received his Ph.D. (advisor Prof T. Rutherford) from the Federal Technical University of Zurich (ETH). Between 1992 and 2012 he worked as a CGE specialist for Ecoplan, a consultancy firm in Switzerland. Since 2010, he is lecturing at the ETH and also works as a senior researcher at the

Center for Energy Policy and Economics (ETH). He has been working on CGE models since 1986 and developed CGE models in the field of energy, trade and social policy for the Swiss government, several international organizations, and universities. He has given international workshops on CGE models using GAMS and has been teaching Advanced Techniques in General Equilibrium Modeling with GAMS for Ecomod since 2002.

His complete bio and current CV can be obtained at <http://www.cepe.ethz.ch/people/person-detail.html?persid=169504>

### **Dr. Dirk Willenbockel, Brighton, UK**

Currently a research fellow at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex in the UK, Dirk is an economist with experience in the areas of trade policy and regional economic integration, climate change impact and adaptation analysis, economics of low-carbon growth, global *and* regional food system scenario analysis, and fiscal policy analysis. Particular technical expertise in the design and application of computable general equilibrium models for forward-looking development policy analysis. He is the instructor for the Advanced Techniques in CGE Modeling course at Ecomod.

Previous research and lecturing positions in London and Berlin. Research and consultancy for European Commission, ESRC, EPSRC, BIS, DFID, DEFRA, UK Government Office for Science, GIZ, BMZ, USDA, UNDP, WFP, World Bank, ILO, IFPRI, Oxfam, Save the Children, Practical Action.