

Conference Keynote Speakers and Panelists - 2016

Conference Keynote Speakers

Dr. Archana Hingorani, CEO and Executive Director of IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd.



Dr Hingorani, a leader in infrastructure investment, has been recognized as one of the “ten most influential women in private real estate investing” by PERE in 2010, and was named as one of the "Most Powerful Women" in 2011, 2012 and 2013 by Business Today. Recently, Dr Hingorani was identified as one of the top 25 most influential women in Asia Asset Management by Asian Investor.

Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Head of TeNet at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.



Dr. Jhunjhunwala is the pioneer and leader in introducing DC power in India. He has received the prestigious, national Padma Shri award, honorary doctorates from European and U.S. universities, and numerous international awards including the IBM Innovation and Leadership Forum Award, and the Bernard Low Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Steven Pullins, Vice President, Microgrid Solutions, Hitachi Social Innovation Business – Energy.



Mr. Pullins led the nation's Modern Grid Strategy for DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory. He has worked with more than 20 utilities on Smart Grid strategies, renewables strategies, power system optimization, and microgrids. He has designed more than 50 microgrids. He has advised several international utility and government organizations on Smart Grid technologies and operations, microgrid development, integrating intelligence, new power generation, and waste to energy issues.

Dr. John Wallace, Professor, School of Social Work, Katz Graduate School of Business, and Department of Sociology, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences



Dr. Wallace is the principal investigator on the University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems' Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh Project, which includes the Homewood Children's Village. His recent research examines comprehensive community revitalization initiatives, racial and ethnic disparities in social and economic well-being, the impact of crime on clergy and congregations, and adolescent problem behaviors including violence and substance abuse. In addition to being a professor, he pastors a church in Pittsburgh's Homewood-Brushton neighborhood.

In addition to the keynote addresses, there was also a panel discussion on the social implications and challenges of introducing developmental changes, particularly through DC power in disadvantaged/rural communities.

Conference Panelists

Dr. Michaël Aklin, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh



Michaël Aklin is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his Ph.D. from New York University and studied at the Graduate Institute for International Studies (Switzerland) and the University of Essex (UK). His research focuses on environmental and energy issues in the US, Europe, and India.

Dr. Stephanie Boddie, CAUSE Post-doctoral fellow, Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy, Carnegie Mellon University



Dr. Stephanie C. Boddie is a scholar, author, creative, and systems thinker with experience leading projects like Oasis Farm & Fishery as well as her own project, GO LIVE! She holds appointments at Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She serves on the steering committee of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council and Pittsburgh's Sustainable Business, Resilience and Climate Action Committee.

**Dr. Louis Luangkesorn, Research Assistant Professor, Swanson School of Engineering,
University of Pittsburgh**



K. Louis Luangkesorn, Ph.D., is a research assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses are data science and simulation, with particular focus on supply chain and health care issues. Prior to joining the University of Pittsburgh, he worked as an operations researcher with the RAND Corporation. He is an active Red Cross volunteer in disaster preparedness and response. He received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Northwestern University in 2004.

**Dr. Jennifer Murtazashvili, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International
Affairs, University of Pittsburgh**



Jennifer Murtazashvili is an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). She served in the U.S. Peace Corps and worked for the United States Agency for International Development as a democracy and governance specialist and has also consulted for a wide range of international organizations and U.S. government agencies.

Mr. Rustam Sengupta, Founder and CEO of BOOND Engineering & Development Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Rustam Sengupta is a social entrepreneur and base of the pyramid (BoP) expert. He is the founder and CEO of Boond, a social enterprise that promotes solar energy access in remote and rural parts of India. Boond has won a number of awards and has impacted the lives of over 50,000 people in remote villages over the past two years. He is an INSEAD MBA graduate and also holds an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine.