



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Managing Migration in the 21st Century: Policy Options for Canada and Europe

Sebastian Edathy has served as a member of the German Parliament since 1998, where he is currently a member of the Legal Affairs Committee as well as a Deputy Member for the Interior Committee, which he chaired between 2005 and 2009. Since 2010 he has also served as Vice-Chairman of the First Investigation Committee during the 17th parliamentary term. MP Edathy's political work focuses on domestic policies, such as immigration, integration, and also right-wing extremism. He served as Vice-Speaker on Migration Policy as well as Speaker of the Working Group on Right-wing Extremism and Violence of the SPD Parliamentary Group. He has been a member of the Parliamentary Group's Executive Board since 2000. MP Edathy has published numerous articles on domestic issues, such as social democracy, migration, and right-wing extremism. He holds degrees in Sociology and Linguistics from the University of Hanover.

Mark Davidson is the Director General of the International and Intergovernmental Relations Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. In this position since August 2011, he is responsible for leading the development and coordination of strategic policy on international, intergovernmental and domestic stakeholder issues. Davidson was previously (2011) the Director General of the Immigration Policy Branch responsible for the development of permanent and temporary resident policy and Director General of the Biometrics Project Office (2008-10). From 2001 to 2009 he had director-level responsibilities in policy development, including drafting and implementing the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and amendments to the Citizenship Act, and regulating immigration consultants. Davidson also previously served as a visa officer in the Canadian missions in Pakistan, Syria, Bangladesh, China and as the immigration program manager in South Africa responsible for Canadian immigration issues in Southern Africa from 1994-1998.

James Bissett is the former executive director of the Canadian Immigration Service (1985-1990), and now a member of the advisory board of the newly-formed Centre for Immigration

Policy Reform. He is also a former Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania, and a former Canadian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago. He was an Assistant under the Secretary for Social Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Ottawa. Bissett also served as a member of the Prime Minister's Intelligence Advisory Committee. During his 36 years of government service he had extensive experience in immigration and refugee issues. Upon leaving the Foreign Service he served from 1992 -1997 as the Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration in Moscow helping the government deal with the thousands of Russians returning from the countries of the former Soviet Union. It was during this period in 1994 that he spent time in Chechnya during the fighting there. Since returning to Canada in 1997, Bissett has contributed numerous articles to journals and newspapers about Balkan affairs and refugee issues. He has also acted as a policy consultant to the Canadian government. He was also a regular panellist on the now discontinued PBS television program "The Editors."

Victor Piché is a sociologist-demographer and is presently associate researcher for the Oppenheimer Chair on International Public Law, McGill University in Montreal. He was professor of demography at the Université de Montréal from 1972 to 2006. He also taught at several universities and research centres in Africa (Universities of Dakar and Ouagadougou) and in Europe (INED in Paris and the Max Plank Institute in Rostock, Germany). His research and training activities focus on migration and development, firstly on the causes of rural emigration and more recently on the economic integration of migrants in the urban labour markets of West Africa (Bamako, Ouagadougou and Dakar) and in Montreal. His recent interest involves developing a human rights approach to international migration. Piché has published several books and articles on population and development, West African migration, immigrant integration in Canada, migration policies and management, international migration and human rights.

Oliver Schmidtke is an Associate Professor and a European Studies Scholar in the Department of Political Science at the University of Victoria where he also holds the Jean Monnet Chair in European History and Politics. He is a lead researcher for the Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue. He received his PhD from the European University Institute in Florence and worked at the Humboldt University in Berlin in the late 1990s before coming to the University of Victoria in 1999. In 2007 he was a Fernand Braudel Senior Scholar at the EUI and in 2011 a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Hamburg. He currently acts as leader of the domain 'Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration' for Metropolis BC. His research interests are in the fields of citizenship, the political sociology of immigration and ethnic conflict, and the role of identities and the transformation of the nation-state. Over the last four years he has been the co-organizer of two international, trans-Atlantic research projects on the labour market inclusion of highly skilled migrants and forms of political advocacy and engagement of migrant organizations in urban contexts respectively.