

MODERATORS



Daniel Taccari Gilli

HEAD OF THE STATISTICAL INNOVATION AND DISSEMINATION
AND SDG UNIT OF THE STATISTICS DIVISION OF ECLAC.

Graduate in Statistics from the National University of Rosario and Master in Biometrics from the University of Buenos Aires. He has been an advisor in statistics and educational evaluation, as well as coordinator of different projects for the development of indicator systems, networks, and statistical information systems in Argentina, for the Educational MERCOSUR and in various countries in the region as Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

In 2009, he joined the team of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), coordinating the ECLAC data governance program and activities related to the development and implementation of platforms for the dissemination of statistics and indicators, CEPALSTAT, its geoportal, the geospatial data portal, CEPALGEO, the Statistical Yearbook, and the statistical platform for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Valrie Grant

VALRIE GRANT IS AN AWARD-WINNING ENTREPRENEUR, GEOSPATIAL AND STRATEGY CONSULTANT. SHE IS THE FOUNDER AND CHAIRWOMAN OF GEOTECHVISION, A KNOWLEDGE SERVICES COMPANY

Valrie is a lifelong learner, who is passionate about Technology and Entrepreneurship and relishes every opportunity to mentor women entrepreneurs and young people.

Valrie Grant is a strategic advisor on geospatial matters to the OECS Commission. One of her initiatives is EduTechAid which seeks to respond to the inequality of access to digital tools in education and empower youths. She has served on several national, regional and international Boards and Committees such as the World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC) and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM): Americas Private Sector Network for which she is the current Chair. She is also the vice-chair of UN-GGIM PSN at the global level. Valrie is a 2020 WE Empower UN Sustainability Development Goals Challenge Awardee. She has authored the books "Every Day is Day One: Maintaining the Startup Culture and Mindset" and "Hills and Valleys: Poems of Resilience."

She holds a BSc. in Geology from the University of West Indies and a MSc. in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Environment from the Manchester Metropolitan University, an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology and is currently a doctoral candidate with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where her research is focused on "Factors influencing the adoption of National Geospatial Information Management (NGIM) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the moderating effects of localization".

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Elizabeth Thorne

MS. THORNE IS A PROFESSIONAL WITH MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

She is part of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit which engaged in groundbreaking research and development that sought to assess the economic impact of climate change in the Caribbean during the years 2008 to 2014.

She possesses a deep understanding of the science and management of agricultural and environmental resources and remains committed to continued in-depth, field-based learning, while also assisting in developing the capacity of communities and governments aiming to create and disseminate solutions to developmental issues including environmental degradation and climate change. She demonstrates exceptional commitment to rigorous standards and ethics creating work products using strong interpersonal, communications and presentation skills. She exhibits the ability to work at every level of an organization, across varying priorities to achieve goals, with people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

In her current capacity she has conducted research and co-authored research papers in the areas including but not limited to solid waste management, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the economics of Climate Change, energy including sustainable energy and renewable energy, traffic congestion and the implications of a ban on single use plastics. She continues to forge forward in the research field assisting and providing policy guidance to ECLAC's member states.

She received First Class Honours in her BSc. in General Agriculture at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus and went on to complete an MSc. Natural Resources Management at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, she is currently working on completing an MPhil in Geoinformatics at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Having joined ECLAC in 2007 she had the opportunity to participate and successfully complete the Ocean Governance: Policy, Law, and Management programme, offered at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada.

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Cecille Blake

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, STATISTICS DIVISION, GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT UNIT.

Cecille joined the United Nations Statistics Division in August 2012 and supports the work programme of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). She is also responsible for delivering Secretariat services for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

Before joining the United Nations, she served as the National GIS Coordinator/Senior Director of the National Spatial Data Management Division, Government of Jamaica for 15 years. Ms Blake successfully directed and managed several initiatives aimed at transforming and influencing the capabilities and capacities of numerous government organizations, private sector entities and professional groups to invest, implement and use GIS and related technologies to support the development of Jamaica's spatial data management infrastructure.

She has a first degree from the University of the West Indies - Mona, in Geography and Social Sciences, post graduate work in GIS with specialisation in Land Information Systems from ITC in the Netherlands and a MSc in Management Information Systems from the University of the West Indies - Mona.