

# Hard Problems in Social Science Symposium

Northwest Science Building, Harvard University  
10 April 2010

## *Speaker Bios*

- **Peter S. Bearman**, Jonathan Cole Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, Director of Columbia's Lazarsfeld Center for the Social Sciences, and Co-Director of the Health & Society Scholars Program. He was the founding director (2000-2008) of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia, and a 2007 recipient of the National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award.
- **Nick Bostrom**, Professor in the Faculty of Philosophy and at the James Martin 21<sup>st</sup> Century School of the University of Oxford, and Director of Oxford's Future of Humanity Institute. In 2009 he was named one of the 'Top 100 Global Thinkers' by Foreign Policy Magazine.
- **Susan Carey**, Henry A. Morss, Jr. and Elisabeth W. Morss Professor of Psychology, and Department Chair of Psychology at Harvard University. In 2009 she received the American Psychological Association's 'Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award' and in 2008 received the David E. Rumelhard Prize; she is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- **Nicholas A. Christakis**, Professor of Medical Sociology in the Department of Health Care Policy and Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Attending Physician in the Department of Medicine at the Harvard-affiliated Mt. Auburn Hospital. In 2009 he was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- **James H. Fowler**, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego, and Associate Professor at the Center for Wireless and Population Health Systems at the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. He received the American Political Science Association's 'Emerging Scholar Award' (EPOVB section) in 2010.
- **Roland G. Fryer**, Professor of Economics at Harvard University, Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Director of the Educational Innovation Laboratory (the 'EdLabs') at Harvard. In 2009 he was named by *The Economist* as one of the eight top young economists in the world.
- **Claudia Goldin**, Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and Director of the Development of the American Economy Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is also a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Gilman Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and formerly Vice President of the American Economic Association and President of the Economic History Association.
- **Gary King**, Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, based in the Department of Government, at Harvard University (one of only 22 recipients of Harvard's most distinguished faculty position), and Director of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. He is also a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of

Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; he was formerly a Senior Science Advisor to the World Health Organization.

- **Emily F. Oster**, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago, and a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research.
- **Ann Swidler**, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, and member of the Sociological Research Association; she was a Pulitzer Prize nominee in 1986, a recipient of The League of Women Voters Award for Distinguished Scholarship, and a recipient of The Meyers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America.
- **Nassim N. Taleb**, Distinguished Professor of Risk Engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University and Distinguished Research Scholar at the BT Centre for Major Programme Management at the Said Business School of Oxford University. He is also the bestselling author of *The Black Swan* (described by *The Times* as one of the 12 most influential books of the past 60 years), and in 2008-09 was one of the top five most downloaded authors on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN).
- **Richard J. Zeckhauser**, Frank P. Ramsey Professor of Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is also a consultant to the World Bank on global warming, a member of the OECD High Level Advisory Board on Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes, a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Mitigation of Natural Disasters, an elected member of Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and a recipient of the Ronald H. Coase Prize of the University of Chicago Law School.