

Presenter Biographies

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**Yang Zhang, Ph.D., MBA, Director, Mānoa Institutional Research Office
University of Hawaii at Mānoa**

Yang Zhang has worked for three institutions for ten years with the responsibility to provide and use international and national ranking data. Currently serving as the Director of Institutional Research at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Yang is responsible to provide data to various ranking organizations, to help explain the change of her institution's ranking to university leadership, and to utilize ranking data for decision making support. She has also attended international ranking conferences regularly to stay abreast of the methodologies and trends in the area of international rankings for universities.



Diana Bitting, Team Lead Institutional Data Collection, Thomson Reuters

Diana Bitting has worked on the Thomson Reuters Global Institutional Profiles project for 5 years. Diana and the data collection team guide participating members through the data collection process and provide support for the Project outcomes such as the US News Best Global Ranking and the Thomson Reuters InCites™ Institutional Profiles service. Diana is also a member of the Thomson Reuters Research Service Group, which handles the content and production for research service products and services. Prior to her tenure at Thomson Reuters, Diana worked at Lyrasis, a regional library network. As director of the Lyrasis continuing education program, Diana guided the network's efforts to provide technology training for all facets of library automation.



Baerbel Eckelmann, Intelligence Unit's Research Manager, QS World University Rankings

Baerbel Eckelmann has a MA in General Pedagogy, Sociology and Psychology from the University of Passau, Germany and a MA in Applied Social and Market Research from the University of Westminster, UK. Soon after joining QS in 2007, Baerbel took on the responsibility for the data and knowledge management of the QS World University Rankings®, regional rankings models and rankings related projects. She has travelled extensively to various countries in Europe, Africa, Asia & Asia Pacific, the Middle East and South America to speak to Vice Chancellors, Department Heads and other university representatives to maximize data outputs in terms of quantity and quality. That also includes the establishment of a sound relationship with Ministries, Statistical Agencies and other third party databases.



Tom Andrews, Director of Information, TES Global Information

Tom Andrews joined TES in 2009. TES Global publishes the TES and Times Higher Education magazines and associated websites including World University Rankings. Mr. Andrews is responsible for reporting and analytics for the company. Since the autumn of 2014 Mr. Andrews has been given the responsibility for the development and implementation of data collection for the Times World University Rankings. Mr. Andrews has fifteen years' experience of working in media and analytics in Europe, North America and in India. Mr. Andrews has a degree in History from the University of London and a Master's of Science from City University in Informatics.



Ying Cheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Executive Director of Center for World-Class Universities at Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)

Ying Cheng entered SJTU in 1996. There he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Polymer Science and Engineering (2000) and his doctoral degree in S&T and Education Management (2007). From 2007 to 2008, he went to Paris as a postdoctoral fellow attached to Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) but conducted his studies at the Observatoire des Sciences et des Techniques (OST). His current research interests include the ranking, evaluation and classification of universities, and empirical studies of World-Class Universities. He is an active practitioner of university ranking exercise. He has been responsible for the annual update and new development of the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities since 2005. He conducted the first ranking of universities in Greater China in 2011 and first ranking of Macedonian universities in 2012.



Frans van Vught, Joint Project Leader, U-Multirank

Frans van Vught is one of the two leaders of the international U-Multirank ranking project, sponsored by the European Commission. Frans has been a higher education expert for most of his life and published widely in this field, including 30 books and more than 250 articles on higher education policy, higher education management and innovation strategies. In addition he has been a university president in Europe for 8 years, and has been and still is involved in many international organizations. Frans is honorary professorial fellow at the universities of Melbourne and Twente and holds several honorary doctorates. As co-leader of U-Multirank he is responsible for the epistemological, conceptual and methodological base of this new, global, user-driven, multi-dimensional ranking tool.