

Presenter Biographies

The Changing Higher Education Landscape from Rankings' Perspective

Association of Institutional Researchers (AIR) Annual Conference

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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' IR offices for over 13 years, with the responsibility to provide and use international and national rankings' data. Currently serving as the IR director at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Yang is responsible for providing data to various ranking organizations, helping to explain changes in her institution's rankings to university leadership, and for utilizing ranking data for decision making. She has attended international ranking conferences regularly to stay informed of the methodologies and trends in international rankings for universities. Yang organized the international ranking panel presentations at the 2015 and 2016 AIR, which brought all major international rankings to AIR for the first time. Yang is a frequent speaker at the national and international conferences regarding various ranking related topics.



Robert Morse

Chief Data Strategist, U.S. News & World Report

Robert Morse has worked at the company since 1976. He develops the methodologies and surveys for the Best Global Universities, Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools, Best Arab Region Universities and Best High Schools annual rankings produced by U.S. News, keeping an eye on higher-education trends to make sure the rankings offer prospective students the best analysis available. He is the author of Morse Code Inside the College Ranking blog which provides deeper insights into the methodologies and is a forum for commentary and analysis of college, grad and other rankings. He has been a speaker at numerous AIR forums. He has spoken about rankings at many higher education conferences around the world. Robert Morse is currently on the executive committee of the International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) and was one of IREG's founding members.



Selina Griffin

Ranking Manager, QS World University Ranking

Selina was appointed to the post of Rankings Manager at QS in May 2017 where she leads the Rankings team to deliver QS' growing suite of rankings.

Prior to QS, Selina worked for four years in fundraising at the University of Oxford. She has always worked in data, beginning her career working for the IT unit of a local authority where she dealt with, amongst other things, social care, education and asset databases. During her time at Oxford she acted up as Team Leader for the Central University's Regular Giving team, revolutionizing their approach to mail campaigns. She progressed to a new role at Oxford, leading a team of data analysts and officers focusing on data quality, reporting and insight.



Duncan Ross

Data and Analytics Director, Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Duncan is Data and Analytics Director for Times Higher Education, helping to create new and innovative rankings and data products across the HE sector. He was listed in the top 50 data leaders in the UK by Information Age, and as one of DataIQ's Big Data 100. Prior to joining Times Higher

Education, he was Director Data Science at Teradata, with a remit across all industries and the entire international region (EMEA and APAC). Duncan regularly speaks at business conferences and has several published papers on aspects of data-mining for business. He was part of the team that founded the Society of Data Miners, and is strongly involved with the data philanthropy movement, being one of the founder Directors of DataKind UK (www.datakind.org.uk).



Michael Bolen

Associate Director, University Performance & Survey Analytics University of South Florida, Office of Decision Support

Michael Bolen oversees the University Performance & Survey Analytics team in the USF Office of Decision Support where he provides research and analytical support to senior university leadership and the broader university community on a wide range of issues including strategic planning, policy analysis, peer benchmarking, university rankings, survey research, and data submissions to third-party organizations. Mr. Bolen works collaboratively with university colleagues as well as non-university stakeholders to address university and higher education data collection, analyses, and reporting needs.