



## **Banking Practices & Economic Inclusion: A Research Discussion with International Finance Corporation (IFC)**

*All biographies have been provided by the speakers.*

### **Speaker:**



**John Arzinos**  
**Economic Inclusion Officer, IFC**

John (Ioannis) Arzinos is the Economic Inclusion Officer in IFC's Gender and Economic Inclusion Group. John works on helping companies create economic opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI people and achieve better business and socio-economic outcomes.

John is part of IFC's Economic Inclusion Program, which delivers thought leadership, data, investment and advisory solutions, peer-learning opportunities, training, and partnerships to advance economic inclusion for persons with disabilities and LGBTI people.

The program just launched two reports on inclusive banking practices to advance the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities and LGBTI people, and is now developing an approach to disability-lens and LGBTI-lens investing for IFC and its partners.

He joined the Development Economics (DEC) Vice Presidency of the World Bank in 2017 and has since worked on a series of projects, including Women, Business and the Law (WBL), Business Enterprise Surveys, and Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance (GIRG). From 2018 to 2022 he was part of the World Bank's SOGI Core Team, where he worked on the global Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) engagement and SOGI-specific research. There he notably co-led the WB flagship data publication Equality of Opportunity for Sexual and Gender Minorities.

John has also worked on Social Protection in Africa and on Regulatory Advisory Services in Europe. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked with organizations such as the US Chamber of Commerce and Uber Technologies in the United States. He holds a master's degree in international relations and international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Piraeus in Greece.

### **Host:**



**Ruth Dueck-Mbeba**  
**Financial Inclusion Advisor, Toronto Centre**

Ruth Dueck-Mbeba brings more than 30 years' experience in public accounting, financial reporting and management, risk and governance, economic development, and financial inclusion. As a practitioner, trainer, consultant, and funder, she has taken responsibility for work in digital finance, youth financial services, education finance, strategic planning and change management.



She has lived, worked, and traveled extensively in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Ruth is passionate about building learning communities, sharing knowledge and developing human capital. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant (Canada), a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and holds a certificate in adult education.

She currently provides advisory services in a range of areas, including Toronto Centre's Program offerings.