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Author Biographical Notes

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Vicki Urbanik holds a BA in journalism and fine arts from Indiana University-Bloomington and a post-baccalaureate certificate in accounting from Indiana University Northwest in Gary. A lifelong Northwest Indiana resident, Urbanik worked for more than 25 years as a journalist, developing a specialty interest in local government finance. In her late 40s, Urbanik made a midlife career change to pursue her interests in accounting, auditing, and taxation. She obtained certification as a Level I and II assessor-appraiser through the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance and is currently completing her third year as vice president of the Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. She has also worked professionally and as a volunteer as an income tax preparer and in 2013 obtained designation as an Enrolled Agent through the IRS. She has tutored accounting and finance at Indiana University Northwest and interned with the Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics to help develop the Northwest Indiana Leading Economic Index. Urbanik is pursuing her CPA designation and is currently working for Porter County government as Budget and Finance specialist.

Mitra Jahandideh holds a BA in music performance (Flute) from the University of Tehran, Iran. Her research interests include Iranian studies, Persian musical instruments, and music interpretation. She is a member of the Iran Flute Society and was the executive director of the Tehran Flute Competition in 2011. Mitra Jahandideh and her coauthors won the best-paper award at the 11th WSEAS International Conference on Acoustics & Music: Theory & Applications for their paper entitled "Using the Golden Section to Design a Kamanche." She has published several papers and English-Persian translated books.

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Ken Imanak Sagynbekov is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Regina in Canada. Ken's research primarily focuses on applied microeconomics and public choice fields. He currently holds two research grants from the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and the University of Regina.

Dr. **Hisaya Kitaoka** is currently assistant professor of economics, Economics, Business and Accounting Department, Franklin College, Indiana. He was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. He has a unique background among the faculty at Franklin College. He has twenty years of experience in international business. After he earned his BA from Keio University in Tokyo, Japan, he started working for the Mitsubishi Corporation, the largest leading Japanese international business company. He was involved in the oil and gas business. He earned his MA and his PhD in economics in 2005 and 2008, both from the University of Kansas. His research interests include microeconomics, international trade, applied microeconomics, and economics education. He published two papers related to international trade and economics education recently.

Latrice Booker is Coordinator of Library Instruction at Indiana University Northwest. She previously worked as the Interim Head of Cataloging/Serial Cataloger at Murray State University. Booker earned a Master of Library Science from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis in 2006 and an MBA from Indiana University Northwest in 2012. Booker is very active in library associations such as the Indiana Library Federation and the Association of College and Research Libraries. Booker is also chair of Indiana University Northwest's Social Media Committee.

Subir Bandyopadhyay is a professor of marketing at the School of Business and Economics at Indiana University Northwest. He has also taught previously at McGill University, the University of Ottawa, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Iowa. He obtained his PhD in marketing from the University of Cincinnati in 1994. He also holds an MBA and a BS in mechanical engineering. He has won numerous teaching awards, including the Best Teacher Award at McGill, the Royal Bank Teaching Innovation Grant in Canada, the Trustee Teaching Award, the Harris Bank Best Researcher Award and Mercantile Bank Teaching Award both at IUN, the Bender-

FACET Fellowship, and the Mack Fellowship from Indiana University. He has research interests in e-marketing, retailing, brand management, nonprofit marketing, and global marketing. He has published extensively in many reputable marketing publications. His research has been funded by the Research and University Grant and CIBER grants of Indiana University; by many government agencies and NGOs such as SSHRC, CIDA, the Lilly Endowment, the Byron Root Foundation; and by private corporations such as Procter & Gamble, Kraft, and the Kroger Co.

Bruno Gontyjo do Couto is a master's student at the Department of Sociology of the University of Brasilia (Brazil). His research interests are the connections between knowledge and power, as well as culture and politics in the development of modern societies (sociology of culture, sociology of intellectuals, and nation-building). He is the author of a paper about cultural consumption and social stratification, two book reviews (paper and reviews published in Portuguese in Brazilian journals), and translations of articles written by Norbert Elias and Cas Wouters (from Spanish and English to Portuguese).

Timothy Olin is a PhD candidate in history at Purdue University. He holds an MA in German from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an MA in history from Purdue. He became interested in German colonists in the East while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Jalalabat, Kyrgyzstan. He is currently working on a project that focuses on the Germans in the Banat of Temeswar. He was recently awarded a Purdue Global Research Synergy Grant to conduct research in the Balkans.