

# **PRICE** PENSION RESEARCH INSTITUTE ICELAND

## PRICE Inaugural Meeting

24 May, 2024, 13-15

Oddi 101

University of Iceland



## Welcome Remarks

13.00-13.10

Gylfi Zoega and Þorsteinn S. Sveinsson

## Pensions economics research: The next 20 years

13.10-13.45

J Michael Orszag  
Global Research Director  
Willis Towers Watson

Coffee break

13.45-14.00

## Panel Discussion

Policy issues in pension economics

14-15.00

Ásta Ásgeirsdóttir      Torben M Andersen  
J Michael Orszag      Svend E Hougaard Jensen  
Gylfi Zoega

## Speaker:

**J Michael Orszag** is global research director at Willis Towers Watson, the global actuarial consulting firm. Orszag has research interests in pensions, personnel economics, risk management and insurance. Orszag is a founding editor of the *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance* (published by Cambridge University Press in cooperation with the OECD) and a co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Pensions and Retirement Income* (Oxford University Press, 2005). His current research is focused on long-term risks, computable contracts and geopolitical risks. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in economics and an AB from Princeton University.

## Other panel members:

**Ásta Ásgeirsdóttir** is an economist and mathematician by training. She worked for Danish pension funds after completing her studies analyzing fund member groups and developing new pension solutions. After moving to Iceland in 2018, Ásta worked at the Financial Stability Division of the Central Bank of Iceland analyzing the financial situation of households and from 2020 as an economist at the Icelandic Pension Funds Association .

**Svend E. Hougaard Jensen** is Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics at Copenhagen Business School (CBS). He is also Director of the Pension Research Centre (PeRCent) at CBS and Non-Resident Fellow at Bruegel. His research has focused on generational and macroeconomic effects of changing demographics, public and private pensions, fiscal policy in the EU, sustainability and management of public debt, financial stability, structural reforms, and macroeconomic policy in general. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank, the European Commission, and other government agencies.

**Torben M. Andersen** is a Professor of Economics at Aarhus University and a research fellow at CEPR, CESifo, IZA and PeRCent. His main research interests are the economics of the welfare state, labor economics, public economics and pension economics. In addition to research, Torben has been extensively involved in policy advice in Denmark, the Nordic countries, the OECD, for the EU Commission, The World Bank, and in various other contexts. He is member of various boards and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Danish Pension Fund ATP.

**Gylfi Zoega** is Professor of Economics at the University of Iceland and (part-time) at Birkbeck Business School, University of London. His research is focused on medium to long-run issues, such as the determinants of unemployment, saving, financial stability and growth. He has written extensively on the financial crisis in Iceland starting in 2008. He recently co-wrote *The Great Economic Slowdown* with Hian Teck Hoon and Edmund S. Phelps, which followed their book *Dynamism*, both published by Harvard University Press.

**Thorsteinn S. Sveinsson** is a Senior Economist in the Economics and Monetary Policy department at the Central Bank of Iceland. His research interests include pensions, demographics, and monetary economics. Thorsteinn has conducted research on the effects of changes in the Icelandic pension system on voluntary saving behavior, the role of education in determining consumption and saving behavior, the implications of increased longevity on pension systems, and the effects of an increase in the retirement age on labor supply. He earned his PhD from Copenhagen Business School in 2020 and has been with the Central Bank since 2015.