

How Indexing Powers Climate and ESG Strategies



Matt Brennan, CFA
Head of Passive Portfolios
AJ Bell

Matt is responsible for the day-to-day running of the AJ Bell Passive funds and Responsible Portfolios, working with the investment team to further grow the range of investment options. He has previously worked at a leading provider of wealth management services as a Senior Fund Manager and Head of Fixed Income Research, with specific responsibility for managing a discretionary fixed income fund. He also formed part of a four-person fund management team that ran the company's multi-asset funds. Matt graduated from the University of York with a first class Masters degree in Mathematics, and is a CFA charterholder, and holds the Certificate in ESG from CFA UK.



Mona Naqvi
Head of ESG Indices, North America
S&P Dow Jones Indices

Mona is Head of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Indices, North America at S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI). In this role, Mona leads the strategy for developing ESG indices for the North American market, from best-in-class approaches like the world-renowned Dow Jones Sustainability Index, to broad-market ESG alternatives and core solutions like the S&P 500® ESG Index. She also serves as the global spokesperson for S&P DJI's ESG Indices, educating the market on the values of ESG investing and our industry-leading ESG lineup.

Prior to joining S&P DJI, Mona was Director at Trucost (part of S&P Global) and advised some of North America's biggest institutional investors on low-carbon and fossil fuel free strategies, energy transition alignment, and meeting the recommendations of the TCFD for investors. Mona also led the North American presence of the 2° Investing Initiative, a prominent sustainable finance think tank focused on aligning the finance sector with climate goals. In addition, Mona served as an advisor to the Obama Administration on climate and energy policy and worked for several years as an economist at the UK's Bank of England. Mona also ran for public office in UK local government elections of 2010 and 2014 and devised the local Liberal Democrat party's communication strategy around education and the environment.

Mona graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree (with honors) in Government and Economics (double major) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is an experienced public speaker and regular market commentator on sustainable finance issues, with published works on topics as diverse as disruptive technologies to the problem of "short-termism" in mainstream finance. She is a recipient of the FiNext Excellence in Finance Leadership Award 2019 and was a shortlisted nominee for the Women in Asset Management Awards in the Index Category of 2019.



Laura Segafredo, PhD

**Global Head of Sustainable Research, iShares and Index Mutual Funds
BlackRock**

Laura Segafredo, PhD, is the Global Head of Sustainable Research for BlackRock's iShares and Index Mutual Funds. In this role, she is responsible for driving the research efforts supporting the development of sustainable and climate-oriented investment solutions. Prior to this role, Laura had spent 4 years focusing on helping clients implement ESG solutions across all fixed income asset classes.

Prior to joining BlackRock, Laura spent over a decade working both as an Economist and a Researcher at an array of institutions spanning a wide range of industries and geographies, including Electricite de France in Paris, the Milken Institute in Los Angeles, the ClimateWorks Foundation in San Francisco, The Earth Institute at Columbia University and the 2 Degrees Investing Initiative (both in NYC). In addition, Laura has published a number of research papers in conjunction with various other industry experts. She is a globally recognized expert the low-carbon transition, scenario analysis of climate-related risks and opportunities, sustainable development, climate change policies and technologies and green, social and sustainable bonds.

Laura has a PhD in Energy and Environmental Economics from the University of Padova, an M.Sc. in Economics from Toulouse School of Economics and a B.A. in Economics (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Padova. During her PhD She was a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley.