Global Edition

Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention

Oświęcim and Kraków, Poland November 12-19, 2017

Attendee List

Participants



Dr. Dickson Magotsi



Under Secretary and Head of Programs, National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management, Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit, Peacebuilding Directorate, Ministry of Interior and Coordination, Kenya; Member, Kenyan National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

Dr. Magotsi received his B.A in Political Science and M.A in International Conflict Management from the University of Nairobi. He has worked in public service for 18 years, primarily in administration and management, with 10 of these years devoted to engagement in program planning, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation in peacebuilding and conflict management. His areas of specialization include policy formulation and implementation, resource mobilization as well as capacity building and training.

He served as Team Leader of the UWIANO Platform for Peace, and mobilized stakeholders in contributing toward a Peaceful National Referendum Process in 2010. Additionally, Dr. Magotsi steered the development and implementation of Kenya's Strategic Leadership and Peace Agenda for 2012 and Beyond, of which the implementation contributed to peaceful 2013 elections. He has guided teams on researching Organized Groups and Armed Violence in Kenya an in conducting National and County Conflict Mapping and Analysis. To add to his many involvements, Dickson facilitated processes for the development of the National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management and contributed to the initiation of National Peace Awards for Kenya.



Mr. Dragan Krivokapic



First Secretary, General Directorate for Multilateral Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Montenegro

Mr. Krivokapic attended the University of Montenegro Law School and the University of Belgrade Law School, completing his studies with an LLM in 2013. He began his professional experience while still completing his degree having served as Third Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro within the Department of Consular Affairs and Diaspora. He held that post until 2011 when he became the Second Secretary for Consular Affairs in the Embassy of Montenegro to Austria. In this capacity he served as the Adviser to the Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations, OSCE, and other international organizations in Vienna. In 2015, Dragan obtained his most recent post at the General Directorate for Multilateral Affairs acting as the First Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro.















Ms. Immaculate Joseph Simba



Administrative Secretary, Tanzania National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

Ms. Immaculate Joseph Simba is the Administrative Secretary of the Tanzania National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities that works to promote Peace, Unity and People Centered Development in Africa. She has been a member of the National Committee since February of 2017 and has worked with the government to coordinate and develop preventive programs and policy. Immaculate graduated from Cardiff Metropolitan University and was awarded with a Masters of Business Administration as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies. She is an ambitious and focused individual with a positive attitude who is able to use her own initiative.



Ms. Putri Maha Lima



Director of Policy, Education and Publicity, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Ms. Lima was primarily trained in education, having obtained her Bachelor's in Education from the Indonesia University of Education in Bandung, Indonesia. However, her interests jointly lie in education, international relations and human rights. Formerly, she was a Program Coordinator for Regional Cooperation for a German political foundation based in Indonesia. She was nominated by the UNICEF EAPRO to participate in Leiden University's Short Course on Children's Rights and has represented AIPA at the 7th Cross-Regional Roundtable on Violence against Children in Manila. Putri joined the AIPA Secretariat as Director of Policy, Education and Publicity in early 2017 and has taken part in multiple workshops focused on strengthening scientific and research services of AIPA member parliaments.



Ms. Eunjung Kim



Deputy Director, Planning and Research Division, Center for North Korea Human Rights Records, Ministry of Unification, Republic of Korea

Ms. Kim completed her Bachelor's Degree in Economics, followed by her Master's in Law in 2008 from Seoul National University. She joined the Ministry of Unification in 2012 initially working at the Exchange and Cooperation Office. In 2016, Eunjung became the Deputy Director of the Planning and Research Division primarily focusing on the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records. Prior to her work at the Ministry, Eunjung held a position in the Judicial Research and Training Institute at the Supreme Court of Korea. There she served in the Ulsan District Court as well as the Uijeongbu Prosecutor's Office.















Mr. Rodrigo Cambón



Third Secretary, Office of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, General Directorate of Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay

Mr. Cambón holds a degree in International Studies from Uruguay ORT University, having completed his thesis on the International Recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He is an officer of Uruguay's Foreign Service, currently serving in the Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. He also holds a position as Adjunct Professor in the Regional Integration Professorship of the Degree in International Studies at Uruguay ORT University.



Edwine Okuta



Legal Adviser to the Kenyan Red Cross Society; Member, Kenyan National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

Edwine Okuta is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and holds a Bachelor of Laws degree as well as Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Sociology and Philosophy from the University of Nairobi. Currently, he is pursuing an LLM with a specialization in International Human Rights at the University of London.

Edwine is a member of the Kenyan National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination, the Kenyan International Humanitarian Law Committee as well as the Law Society of Kenya. For the past three years, he has served as Legal Advisor to the Kenyan Red Cross Society, a humanitarian organization focused on alleviating human suffering. Previously he was an advocate in a law firm dealing with various civil and criminal matters.



Ms. Blanca Izaguirre



General Director of Public Policies, Secretariat of Human Rights, Government, Justice, Governing and Decentralization, Honduras

Blanca Izaguirre is the current General Director on Public Policies on Human Rights and Justice at the Secretariat of Human Rights, Justice, Governance and Descentralization. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Law and has completed graduate courses in Public Policy Development on Human Rights (Seoul, South Korea) and Constitutional and Humans Rights. She is fluent in Spanish and English. She also teaches a human rights course at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras (UNAH).















Mr. Adrian Cioflâncă



Director, Center for the Study of Jewish History, Romania; Member, National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives

Mr. Cioflâncă is the Director of the Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania. He is a member of the Collegium of the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives and a researcher with the "A. D. Xenopol" Institute of History (belonging to the Romanian Academy) and the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania from 2003 to 2004. In 2006 he served as an expert in The Presidential Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania after which he co-authored the Final Reports of the two commissions.

Since 2005, he has been a member of the Romanian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (former Holocaust Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research). Through his work, he earned the Tziporah Wiesel Fellowship of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington in 2009. He became a director at The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile in 2010, where he coordinated a project for the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania which concluded with the discovery of a mass grave in Popricani (the Iasi county) of 36 Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Adrian edited, in collaboration, seven volumes with his most recent being Istoria recenta altfel. Perspective culturale (Recent History Otherwise. Cultural Perspectives). He has also authored studies concerning the history of the Holocaust, history of communism, political violence, cultural history, and theory of history.



Ms. Lillian Kobusingye



Program Officer, Uganda Association of Women Lawyers

Ms. Kobusingye, an alumna of the University of Wales in the United Kingdom, currently serves as Program Officer at the Uganda United Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), a national women's organization that advances the rights of women with the use of law as a social tool. Lillian began her work with FIDA in 2012 and in her role coordinates various projects focusing on transitional justice. By profession, she is a lawyer and devotes her time as an activist toward issues concerning the rights of women and children in Uganda.















Dr. Yuniyanti Chuzaifah



Vice Chairperson, National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), Indonesia

Dr. Chuzaifah served as the Chairperson of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) from 2010-2014 and from 2015 has served as the Vice Chair Person working on issues relating to women, peace, and conflict. From 2002 to 2004, she worked with Common Ground as a Consultant and Program Manager in the Women's Peace Network in conflict areas including Kalimantan-Madura, Papua, and the communal conflict in Jakarta.

During her time at Komnas Perempuan, Yuniyanti continued working on these issues specifically in regards to past human rights abuses and gross human right violations in the context of the 65 year tragedy and the May 1998 tragedy in Indonesia where she promoted several initiatives from the women and human rights perspective. She is equally focused on issues relating to migration, the death penalty, women and fundamentalism in Islam. Yuniyanti obtained her M.A. from Leiden University and PhD from University of Amsterdam.



Amb. Slavoljub Carić



Head, International Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Serbia

Ambassador Carić was born on 13 November, 1962 in Smederevo. He graduated from Belgrade Faculty of Law in 1986 and obtained his MA in 1993 and PhD in 2005 from the same institution in the field of International Law. Following his studies, Ambassador Carić was placed as a Trainee Lawyer in the Second Municipal Court in Belgrade in 1987 and after passing his BAR exam, he served as the Advisor in the Second Municipal Court and District Court in Belgrade. During that time he was elected as judge in the criminal law section of the Second Municipal Court and in 1998 was appointed Judge in the Criminal Appeals Department of the District Court.

In 1999, Ambassador Carić began his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Initially, he served as the First Secretary advancing and being appointed as Counselor for Judicial Disputes in the Embassy of the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. Later he served as the Agent of the Republic of Serbia before the European Court of Human Rights. For several years he was a member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) in the Council of Europe and from 2014-2016 he was the President of the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law. Ambassador Carić is currently Head of the International Legal Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has published numerous books and articles in the field of International and Human Rights Law.















Mr. Abdelghani Berdi



Head of Public Relations and Media Events, Communications Department, National Human Rights Council, Morocco

Mr. Berdi is Head of Public Relations and Media Events at the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH). Additionally, he works as a Senior Translator and Content and Web News Writer. Abdelghani is a graduate of the London School of Public Relations and holds Master's Degree from King Fahd (post-graduate) School of Translation (Arabic-English-French).

As a member of several field investigations and monitoring teams, he observed elections and trials, and conducted interviews with migrants, protesters, prisoners, and civil society stakeholders, etc. He has led communications teams for human rights campaigns at special events including the Casablanca International Book Fair and L'Boulevard music festival, and represented Morocco and CNDH in several high-level events in Europe, Africa, and the Americas as well as the United Nations.

Abdelghani was a member of the civil society team at Morocco's National Steering Committee of the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) in Marrakech in 2016, where he coordinated youth participation at the non-state actors' zone (The Green Zone). He has also represented Morocco and CNDH in several international forums and events for young leaders, including the African Union's Pan African Youth Forum in 2017 and the United Nations Economic and Social Council Annual Youth Forum in 2016.



Amb. Norman Lizano Ortiz



Focal Point for Costa Rica, Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention; Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica

Amb. Norman Lizano Ortiz is a career diplomat from Costa Rica with the rank of Ambassador. He joined Costa Rica's Foreign Service in 2001. So far, he has served as Counselor and Consul at the Costa Rica's Embassy in The Hague and as Minister Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica in Geneva. At the Ministry, he has been in charge of different portfolios including human rights, disarmament and International Humanitarian Law. He has extensive experience in multilateral negotiations, most recently as adviser to the Chair of the Diplomatic Conference that adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017. Amb. Lizano is a lawyer by profession and has a LLM in International Protection of Human Rights from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and a M.A. in International Political Economy and Development, from the Institute of Social Studies, also in the Netherlands. He speaks Spanish (native), English, Italian and French.















Mr. Hassan Banda



First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zambia

Mr. Banda attended the University of Zambia where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Education in 2001. He joined the Public Service in 2003 as an Occupational Assessment Officer in the Occupational Assessment Section of the Department of National Productivity, Ministry of Labor and Social Security. He constructed, validated and administered psychometric tests for training, placement and recruitment in both public and private sectors.

In 2009, Hassan was moved to the department of Productivity Measurement and subsequently promoted to Senior Productivity Measurement Officer, where he conducted assessments at the enterprise, industrial and national level to improve the standard of living for the people of Zambia. He began work in the Department of Planning and Research as Senior Planner, in 2013, where he oversaw planning, budgeting, policy formulation and the monitoring and evaluation of programs in the Ministry.

Most recently, Hassan was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as First Secretary, where he monitors, analyzes, and evaluates political developments in the Great Lakes Region to provide insight on the political and economic issues affecting the Great Lakes Region and their influence on Zambia. He regularly reviews Zambia's Foreign Policy and consults with both stakeholders and the community to ensure it's consistency with national interests and ensure their articulation and actualization within the communities.



Ms. Cecilia Villagra



Counselor, Directorate of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina

Ms. Villagra is currently working as a Counselor at the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina. She is a graduate from Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), received a degree in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires and a Master's in International Service from American University.

She entered the National Foreign Service Institute in 2001, and has since served in the Department of Human Rights, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. She negotiated several international and regional instruments in the field of human rights and public and human security. Cecilia has participated, as a member of the Argentine delegation, in many United Nations General Assemblies, Human Rights Council Sessions and OAS General Assemblies.















Mr. Muhammad Ilyas Saudek



Director of Committees, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Saudek obtained his Bachelor of Art's Degree in International Relations with a concentration on Strategy and Defense from President University, Indonesia in 2016. Having previously served as Education Officer, Muhammad currently acts as the Director of Committees at the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Secretariat. He has taken part in various courses and workshops including topics on human capacity development and Frontiers of Children's Rights in the ASEAN region. His accomplishments include becoming Champion in the International Humanitarian Law Debate organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2015, and having received the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2011 from the United States of America, to name a few.



Mr. Eliud Kabamanya



Program Officer, Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, Tanzania; Member, Tanzania National Comittee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

Mr. Kabamanya is the Program Officer in charge of International Organization, the UN System, and South-North Relations at the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF) and is a Member of the Tanzania National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination.

His vast knowledge and experience in politics, international organizations and South-North Relations support his work with the Tanzania National Committee in various capacities ranging from organizing seminars and conferences while also participating in trainings and seminars held in Tanzania.

He is a trained political scientist having served in both national and regional capacities. Eliud's work has included assisting the Regional Coordinator and working with the Office of the Chairperson for the Regional Civil Society Forum of the Great Lakes Region. During the 2015 Tanzania General Election, he served as a political dialogue analyst for the European Center for Electoral Support (ECES) in the Inclusive and Peaceful Election in Zanzibar Project. He is continually looking to advance his career in genocide prevention and the promotion of peace across the world.















Ms. Maria Westergren



Political Affairs Officer, UN Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect

Ms. Maria Westergren is a Political Affairs Officer with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. She supports the mandate of the Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect which, among other tasks, are mandated to advance national, regional and international efforts to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. She also contributes the office's thematic work on human rights and public international law in particular.

Ms. Westergren has a background in human rights and protection. She has worked as a Human Rights Officer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda, South Sudan, and Switzerland where she worked on advancing human rights treaties and mechanisms at the national level, as well as on human rights monitoring and fact-finding. Maria has also worked with Physicians for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where she coordinated a training and advocacy programme to help improve skills for forensic documentation, collection and preservation of evidence of sexual violence in conflict zones.

Ms. Westergren holds a BA in Social Science specializing in Human Rights from Malmö University and an MA in International Development from Uppsala University.



Dr. Danilo Vergani Machado



Coordinator, Program on Human Rights Education, Ministry of Human Rights, Brazil

Dr. Danilo Vergani Machado has been working for Brazil's Human Rights Ministry since 2013 as Social Policy Analyst. During this period he has helped to design, monitor, and evaluate Brazilian social policies related to vulnerable groups as well as worked on cases related to human trafficking, people with disabilities, the elderly, and the design of aciton plans for the promotion and protection of human rights. Currently, he works on human rights education that is focused at non-formal, online, and distance learning courses at both the national and international level.

Dr. Machado was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and moved to Brasília in 2010 in order to obtain a Ph.D., which he earned in 2014, from the University of Brasília with a thesis on Brazilian Renewable Energy Policy (2003-2010). He also holds an M.A. in International Relations from University of Brasília (2009).















H.E. Pheaktra Neth



Spokesperson and Press Officer, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Neth is a spokesman of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC) while also serving as Assistant in Charge of Media and Communication to the Ministry of the Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia. In addition to those roles, he teaches public relations at the Royal School of Administration (ERA). He holds Bachelor's Degrees in French Letters as well as Journalism from the Royal University of Phnom Penh's Foreign Language Institute. Currently, he is working toward obtaining his Master's Degree in Political Science at Asia-Europe University in Cambodia.

Prior to his appointment to the ECCC in 2011, he gained eleven years of journalistic experience having worked as Managing Editor of the Phnom Penh Post in Khmer from 2009-2011, and Editor in Chief of the dual language Mekong Times. He was also an RFI Khmer correspondent and co-author of "DIFID Strategy of Techo Hun Sen" a book in which he provides his expertise on the Win-Win policy in ending Cambodia's Civil War.



Ms. Juliana Burgos Sánchez



Adviser, Office of the Ombudsman, Colombia

Ms. Burgos earned her Bachelor's Degree in Law from the Universidad Javeriana and a Master's in Social Anthropology from Universidad de los Andes, in Bogota, Colombia having been awarded a full scholarship. In her career as a lawyer, she has devoted over six years to different projects that elaborate specialized texts on Human Rights, international crimes, victims, and Transitional Justice. On these topics, she had also monitored and verified the execution and fulfillment of court orders and made recommendations to improve the implementation of frameworks and public policies. Juliana has worked with various organizations, including government and non-government entities such as UNODC, Colombia Diversa, Centro Internacional de Toledo para la Paz -CITPAX-, Escuela Galán para la Democracia, where her publications provided support in analysis and comparison of the definition of international crimes and their impact on victims, and the effectiveness of existing public policies in terms of prosecution, punishment and redress.

Juliana has also spent time working as a teacher and tutor at the Andes and Catolica Universities where she taught and learned from students about Sociology's intellectuals including Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as in courses on Law Theory and the Sociology of Law.















Dr. Fredrik von Bothmer



Junior Professional Officer, United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

Dr. Bothmer recently joined the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect in New York. Prior to this position as Junior Professional Officer, Fred worked for the UN MONUSCO Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of armed groups in Eastern Congo.

His passion for international law and human rights protection has led him from Munich to The Hague, Stellenbosch, Geneva, St. Gallen, Berlin, New York City, and Cambridge and back to New York. While writing his doctoral thesis that has a strong interdisciplinary focus on the advent of a robotic revolution, he remained as a fellow at NYU's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Fred has also briefly worked for the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN Crisis Prevention Division of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, as well as for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York. As a passionate sailor, Fred has crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice on a yacht.



Ms. Wai Wai Nu



Founder, Women's Peace Network-Arakan and Justice For Women

After spending 7 years as a political prisoner, Ms. Wai Wai Nu earned her law degree and founded two NGOs: Women's Peace Network-Arakan and Justice For Women. She uses these organizations to empower Myanmar's youth through legal counsel and rights education and to promote peace-building efforts in her home state of Rakhine. In 2015, she launched an online project to counter hate speech called the #MyFriend campaign, urging social media users to snap and share selfies with their friends of diverse racial and religious backgrounds.















Karen Tapia Villa



Head of the Human Rights Program, Ministry of Justice, Chile

Ms. Tapia Villa is a lawyer, having obtained her degree from University Alberto Hurtado. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she was awarded the Academic Excellence Scholarship and was recognized as the top graduate of her class. She also received a Master's in Bioethics from Pontificia Universidad de Comillas (Madrid), where she graduated with maximum distinction.

She has worked as an editor of the Law Review "Diké" of Alberto Hurtado University's Faculty of Law. Throughout her career, she has worked in both the public and private sector in various institutions, serving as adviser to the Superintendent of Insolvency, and later Head of the Statistics and Studies Unit of the Superintendency. She has also served as a legal advisor in the Legal Department and the Supervision Department of the National Television Council, was a member of the Executive Secretariat of the Probity and Transparency Agenda of the Presidency of the Republic, and worked as legal counsel in the General Secretariat of Alberto Hurtado University.

In addition to leading the Human Rights Program at Chile's Ministry of Justice, Ms. Tapia Villa currently teaches Legal Research Methodology and a research seminar at Alberto Hurtado University and at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, where she is a Ph.D. candidate in Law.













Observers



Ms. Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum



Assistant Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Benjamin B. Ferencz Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic; Faculty Director, Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, USA

Ms. Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum is Assistant Clinical Professor of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where she directs the Benjamin B. Ferencz Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic and the Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights (CLIHHR). The Clinic and Institute focus on the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities; the protection of vulnerable populations, including asylumseekers and victims of torture and sexual violence; and accountability for those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Previously, Professor Getgen Kestenbaum worked as Program Director of the Virtue Foundation, a nonprofit implementing rights-based sustainable development projects in health, education, justice, and women's empowerment globally. Prior to her work at Virtue, she was the founding Women and Justice Fellow for the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School. Her commitment to international human rights has won her Cornell's Freeman Award for Civil and Human Rights. Professor Getgen Kestenbaum holds a JD from Cornell Law School and an MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Dr. Maxim Pensky



Professor of Philosophy; Co-Director, Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Binghamton University, USA

Dr. Pensky is Professor of Philosophy at Binghamton University, the State University of New York. His scholarly research concentrates on transitional justice and international law, and in particular the way these two areas relate to one another. He has published multiple articles and chapters on the legal, moral, and political problems of domestic amnesties for international crimes as parts of transitional justice programs. His current research explores the various practical and normative dimensions of the concept of impunity and investigates how, and why, the battle against impunity has emerged as such a prominent norm in international politics. He has held research fellowships at Goethe University in Frankfurt Germany, Oxford University, Cornell University, Cornell Law School, and the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. He is Co-Director of Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.















Dr. Brian Schiff



Professor and Chair, Department of Pschology; Director, George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, The American University of Paris

Dr. Schiff is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology and Director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention at the American University of Paris. Schiff completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago's Committee on Human Development in 1997 and joined the American University of Paris in 2007. Schiff is an active scholar and enthusiastic teacher with an interest in the meeting place between narrative, social relationships, and culture. Schiff's research uses life story interviews in order to study the social and cultural dynamics of identity formation. He has written about the life stories of Holocaust survivors, Palestinian citizens in Israel, mixed race youth in the US, Muslim-Jewish couples in France and older adults. Schiff is the author of (2017) A New Narrative for Psychology (Oxford University Press), editor of (2014) Rereading Personal Narrative and Life Course: New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development (Wiley) and (in press) Situating Qualitative Methods in Psychological Science (Routledge) and co-editor of (2017) Life and Narrative: The Risks and Responsibilities of Storying Experience (Oxford University Press). Schiff was a research fellow (2014-2016) at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the 2016 recipient of the Theodore Sarbin Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 24 (Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology).



Ms. Bonnie Schertz



Member, Board of Directors, AIPR

Bonnie Schertz, Esq., is a U.S. immigration and nationality lawyer working in the field since 1988. She is an immigrant advocate who has worked on visa issues and regulatory proposals, among other areas. She is no stranger to human rights crises through her work handling pro bono issues relating to asylum seekers, humanitarian parole and juvenile immigrants/refugees.













2017 Raphael Lemkin Seminar

Fellows-in-Residence



Ms. Debbie Stothard



Founder, Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma; Secretary-General, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Debbie Stothard is an active promoter of human rights in Burma and the ASEAN region. In 1996, she founded the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma). During her 32-year career, she has worked as a journalist, community education consultant, governmental advisor and trainer in Malaysia, Australia, and

Debbie Stothard has participated in every step of democracy building in Burma, having organized advocacy meetings and campaigns on human rights, both in Burma and in other ASEAN countries since 1987. In the context of Burma, she co-founded the Burma Support Group Sydney in 1989 (which became the precursor to Burma Campaign Australia), as well as Burma Solidarity Group Malaysia in 1996, prior to forming Altsean-Burma the same year. These activities led her to engage with UN and related mechanisms in Geneva and New York, ASEAN, and many national governments in Asia, the Pacific, North America and Europe.

Ms. Stothard became Deputy Secretary-General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in November of 2010. She has represented FIDH either on missions or at conferences in Belgium, Brazil, Burma, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States. She was elected Secretary-General of FIDH in May, 2013.















Mr. Vahidin Omanovic



Co-Founder and Co-Director, Center for Peacebuilding, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr. Omanovic is a professional trainer in nonviolent communication and conflict resolution. Before founding the Center for Peacebuilding in 2004, Mr. Omanovic received a Master's Degree at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont in International Relations with a concentration in Conflict Transformation. Additionally, Mr. Omanovic served as a teaching assistant in SIT's Conflict Transformation Across Cultures Program, where he taught classes on forgiveness and conflict transformation. He has attended peace workshops and trainings throughout the world, including Switzerland, the Philippines, and Nepal, where he helped to found a peacebuilding organization. In 2011, the Threshold Foundation honored Mr. Omanovic with the 5th International Peace Award, naming him the year's "Unknown Peace Worker".



Mr. Mevludin Rahmonovic



Co-Founder and Co-Director, Center for Peacebuilding, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mevludin was born in 1981. In 1992, when he was 11, Mevludin survived ethnic cleansing and the concentration camp Trnopolie in Prijedor. From Trnopolie, Serb forces brought him, his mother, and his sister to Travnik, which was under the control of the Bosnian Army. He then spent 3 years as a refugee in Zenica. After the Dayton Peace Accords, he returned to live in Sanski Most. In 2000, he returned to Prijedor, where he lived before the war.

He is the Co-Founder and the Program Director at the Center for Peacebuilding, where he works on reconciliation among different ethnic and religious groups in Bosnia. Mevludin is an inspiration for the youth in Bosnia, as he exemplifies how forgiveness and working as a peacebuilder is a choice. At the moment, he is managing a project called "Genocide Prevention in Bosnia" for school-teachers and students. It is a pilot project, which will be taken to higher education and hopefully become a part of the regular curriculum in the Bosnian educational system.















Ms. Lina Zedriga



Secretary, Uganda National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

Ms. Lina Zedriga Waru Abuku is the Secretary of Uganda's National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination. A former Magistrate, Ms. Zedriga is now a full-time activist working to end social exclusion and all forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups, especially women. Lina is also a practicing attorney, educator of trainers on alternative and transformative leadership, and mentor. And in addition to her role on Uganda's National Committee, she is the Director of Women in Peace Building and Reconciliation and actively involved with the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), The Association of Women Lawyers Uganda (FIDA-U), Trust for Africa's Orphans (TAO-U), and Kampala Quality Primary Schools (KQPS), among other organizations.



Ms. Irene Cabrera



Professor, Universidad Externado de Colombia

Ms. Cabrera is a Professor in the School of Finance, Government and International Relations at Universidad Externado in Bogota-Colombia. Professor Cabrera received a Fulbright scholarship in 2012 and holds a Master's Degree in Public and International Affairs and a Certification in Latin American Social and Public Policy at the University of Pittsburgh. He research projects are focused on the dynamics of war, violence and criminality in border areas, as well as on the challenges for political participation of ex combatants in post war contexts.

Irene has worked as a coordinator of an academic network on private security in order to support the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries from 2008 to 2012. As a visiting scholar in the Institute for the Study of the Americas at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she worked on a project focusing on the armed conflict in Colombia and the Andes region from 2013 to 2015. In 2016 she worked on a geographic and participatory model on security for border areas as a consultant for the National Planning Department of Colombia. Starting in 2016 to present day, Irene serves as a pro bono consultant of the UNHCR in Colombia and as a lecturer for the Foreign Service Academy of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs teaching courses on human rights and international humanitarian law. Her most recent publication is the book Ripe for Peace: Territorial and Strategic Evolution of the Colombian Armed Conflict. She also has publications with Oxford University Press, the European Union Institute at Firenze, the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), among others.













Evaluator



Dr. Caitlin Mahoney



Independent Evaluator

Dr. Mahoney received her B.A. in psychology from Siena College and her Ph.D. in Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology from Clark University, with a concentration in societal peace and conflict.

She is Associate Professor of Psychology at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN, where she teaches classes in group dynamics, positive psychology, & peace and conflict studies. Dr. Mahoney also serves on the Executive Board of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence (a division of the American Psychological Association), as Co-Director of Metropolitan State's Peace and Social Justice Work Group, and as Program Director of Metropolitan State's Master of Arts in Psychology.

Dr. Mahoney has researched and written on emotions, responses to suffering, human security, and peaceful norms. In particular, she is interested in how empathy and emotion shape, and are shaped by, our capacity to attend to suffering and to effectively work towards its relief.



Ms. Gabriela Ghindea



Evaluation Fellow

Dr. Gabriela Ghindea has earned her B.A. degrees in History and Political Science from the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj- Napoca (Romania). She received her M.A. degree in European Studies from Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (Germany) and her Ph.D. in International Relations from the Babes-Bolyai University with focus on the Cold War and the German Ostpolitik. She conducted several research projects in Romania, Austria and Germany. Her research interests focus on international relations, German-Romanian relations and memory cultures.

In parallel with her academic research, she worked between 2009 - 2015 for the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Since 2015 Dr. Ghindea has been working as a referent and a project manager for the Goethe-Institut Bukarest within the Teaching Liaison Department. During these years she developed expertise both in the fields of historical-political education and educational marketing.













Staff & Instructors



Dr. Tibi Galis





Executive Director, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Dr. Galis has been the Executive Director of AIPR since 2006. Born and raised in Romania, he earned his B.A. in Law and Political Science from Babes-Bolyai University, in Cluj-Napoca. He received his M.A. in International Politics and Political Development from the University of Manchester, and earned his Ph.D. from the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, with a focus on transitional justice. Previously, Galis worked as an Associate Researcher for the UK Parliament, helping develop the UK's position on the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, and as rapporteur for the Swedish government at the 2004 Stockholm International Forum on the Prevention of Genocide.



Dr. James Waller



Director of Academic Programs, AIPR; Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College, USA

Dr. Waller joined the Auschwitz Institute staff in July 2012 as Academic Programs Director. From 2008 to 2012, he held the position of AIPR Affiliated Scholar, as well as Curriculum Coordinator for the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention. He continues to serve as an instructor at the Lemkin Seminar series, as he has dating back to 2008. In March 2010, Dr. Waller was named Cohen Professor for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in New Hampshire. He has been awarded summer fellowships by, and been a teaching fellow with, the Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University (1996 and 2007-2012) and at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC (1999, 2003, 2005). His book on perpetrators of genocide, Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing (Oxford University Press, 2002), was released in a revised and updated second edition in 2007. Dr. Waller recently published Confronting Evil: Engaging Our Responsibility to Prevent Genocide in the summer of 2016.















Dr. Piotr Setkiewicz



Chief Historian, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Dr. Setkiewicz studied History at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and earned his doctorate at the Silesian University in 1999 for a dissertation on IG Farben-Werk Auschwitz, 1941-1945. He began working for the Research Department at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in 1988. Dr. Setkiewicz was the head of the archives from 2001-2007, and later became head of the research department in 2008. His interests include the employment of prisoners in German industry and the history of the Auschwitz sub-camps.



Dr. Alicja Bialecka



Plenipotentiary for the New Main Exhibition, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Dr. Alicja Bialecka is a museum curator and a researcher specializing in the memory of Auschwitz and its representations in literature, as well as in the educational dimension of memorial sites in the context of European identity. She has published several articles devoted to these issues, among them educational programs and papers on the symbolism of Auschwitz, methods of teaching at memorial sites, and their role in historical education. Dr. Bialecka is a co-author of the guidelines for youth trips to memorial sites published by the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Commemoration and Research, and since 2012, is the official representative of the Polish delegation to the Museum and Memorial Working group of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. In the years 2006-2012, she was the Head of Educational Programs Section at the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, and since 2013, has been appointed the Representative for the New Main Exhibition at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

She received her Master's Degree in English Philology and Linguistics at the Modern Language and Literature Department of the Silesian University and earned a Ph.D. in Literature at the Department of Anthropology of Literature and Cultural Studies, the Faculty of Polish Studies of Jagiellonian University.















Ms. Claudia Diaz



Human Rights Officer, UN Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect

Ms. Claudia Diaz is a Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG). Prior to this position, she spent 10 years working on United Nations field missions and offices in different conflict and post-conflict countries, including Timor-Leste, Nepal, Sudan (Darfur), Guatemala and Venezuela. She has also worked with national human rights institutions in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste. Claudia Diaz studied law and her work has been focused on issues related to international human rights law, humanitarian law and transitional justice.



Ms. Samantha Capicotto



Director of Policy and Planning; Program Director for the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, AIPR

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Ms. Capicotto has been with the Auschwitz Institute since 2010 as the Program Director of the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention. This is the flagship educational program of the organization, bringing 25 government officials together at the former Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau each year to undergo an intensive course on genocide prevention policy development and implementation. She has also taken on the role of the Director of Policy and Planning in 2014, assisting the Executive Director in the overall programmatic development of the organization. More recently, Ms. Capicotto has spearheaded the publication of AIPR's annual Booklet on National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes, which reports on and monitors the work of intergovernmental bodies dedicated to the prevention of such crimes around the world. Finally, Ms. Capicotto oversees the U.S. Programs portfolio for the organization, which includes its budding training program for state and local law enforcement officers around the country on the role they play in the protection of human and civil rights and the prevention of mass atrocities.

Ms. Capicotto graduated from St. John's University School of Law magna cum laude. She is admitted to practice law in New York State and is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She graduated valedictorian from her undergraduate studies at the University at Buffalo, with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Philosophy















Dr. Kerry Whigham



Academic Programs Officer, Online Education, AIPR

Dr. Kerry Whigham received a Ph.D. in Performance Studies at New York University. He is the recipient of the Corrigan Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, the Franco Coli Dissertation Award, and NYU's Global Research Initiative Fellowship in Berlin. He has published articles in the The Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Tourist Studies, Material Culture, Women and Performance, and Museum and Society, and has written a chapter for the edited volume Reconstructing Atrocity Prevention (Cambridge University Press 2015). He is the managing editor of e-misférica, a biannual, trilingual, peer-reviewed journal on performance and politics in the Americas, published by the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics.

Kerry's doctoral research focused on the social and affective force of genocidal violence. His dissertation-entitled Affective Echoes: Affect, Resonant Violence, and the Processing of Collective Trauma in Post-Genocidal Societies—examines an array of memory practices that have emerged in post-conflict societies that respond to and transform this violence, including practices of social activism and the construction of memorials and other sites of memory. He conducted field work for this research in Argentina, Germany, Poland, and the United States.



Dr. Ashley Greene



Academic Programs Officer, Africa, AIPR; Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College, USA

Dr. Ashley Greene joined AIPR in 2017 as Academic Programs Officer, Africa. She holds a joint Ph.D. in Peace Studies and History from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, where she specialized in 20th century East Africa. She earned her B.A. in Peace Studies and History from Whitworth University in Washington. Greene has received fellowships and awards for her research on education and transitional justice in Uganda from the National Security Education Program and the University of Tel Aviv Dan David Prize. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in New Hampshire.















Fr. Jan Nowak



Director, Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Oświecim, Poland

Father Jan Nowak was appointed as a Priest in the Arch Diocese of Kraków in 1983. While continuing his priesthood in the Arch Diocese, Father Jan also became the Director of the Center for Dialogue and Prayer in Oświećim, Poland in 2001. He also became the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Kraków Foundation Centre for Information, Meetings, Dialogue, Education and Prayer in 2008. In 2010, Father Jan was appointed as part of the Ministry Consultative Team for Holocaust Education by the Polish Minister of Education. And, in 2012, he was appointed to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Council by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

For the many positions he continues to hold to the present day, Father Jan was awarded the "Silver Cross of Merity" by Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski in December of 2005. In June 2010, Father Jan was honored by the Jewish National Fund with a tree planted in the hills of Jerusalem in honor of his work in Holocaust education.



Ms. Gosia Waligora



Officer for Polish Affairs, AIPR

Ms. Waligora assists the Auschwitz Institute in planning and executing the Lemkin Seminar in Poland. While Gosia officially joined AIPR in 2014, she had previously worked with AIPR since 2009 as a consultant. Ms. Waligora is also the Manager of the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oświęcim. She received a B.A. in Public Administration from the College of Administration in Bielsko-Biala, Poland, in 2002, as well as an M.A. in Public Administration from Krakow University in 2011.



Ms. Joanna Oko





Assistant to the Director of Policy and Planning, AIPR

Joanna Oko initially joined the Auschwitz Institute in September of 2015 as an intern assisting the Program Director of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention. She graduated from Keene State College with a B.A. in Humanitarian Studies focused on Genocide Studies, Sociology and Political Science. She now serves as the Assistant to the Director of Policy and Planning while completing her MS in Sociology at Southern Connecticut State University with a concentration in conflict transformation and mass atrocity prevention.















Mr. Rob Scharf



Director of Communications; New York Programs Coordinator, AIPR

Rob Scharf joined the Auschwitz Institute in June of 2015 as New York Programs Officer. In his current role of Director of Communications, he is responsible for overseeing the Auschwitz Institute's web presence, publications, and external relations. He is also involved in the organization of events in the New York area and supports the work of the Executive Office. Having previously worked in Washington, New York, and Geneva in the fields of diplomacy, international affairs, and digital freedoms, Rob graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in History from Northeastern University as well as with an M.A. in the History of Warfare from the War Studies Department at King's College London.



Ms. Brittany O'Neill



Director of Development and Board Relations, AIPR

Ms. Brittany O'Neill joined AIPR in 2017 to lead fundraising at both the organization and individual program levels. With a background in non-profit management and fundraising, she earned her M.F.A. in Theater Management from Columbia University in 2005. As Director of Development and Board Relations, she works closely with the Executive Director to grow the resources of AIPR through board engagement, donor cultivation, and integrated program opportunities.



Ms. Claire Williams



Africa Programs Liaison, New York Office, AIPR

Ms. Claire Williams joined the AIPR team in 2017 to provide logistical and research support to the Africa Program. Prior to joining AIPR, Claire worked as the Program Manager for the Compass Program at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights in New York and as a Project Officer in the Somaliland office for Forcier Consulting, Claire graduated cum laude with a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Colorado College and holds a M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where she focused on human rights and conflict resolution in Africa. She is proud native of Austin, TX.











