Everyday Peace: Processes, Perspectives, and Potential



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS

CLASS XVI

ANNUAL SEMINAR 13 APRIL 2019

PROGRAM

10:00 - 10:30 am

Arrival & Registration

Tea & coffee available upon arrival

10:30 - 11:00 am

Opening Remarks & Introduction

Welcome to Country - Steve Coghill

Director, Rotary peace centre UQ - Dr Melissa Curley Rotary Host Area Coordinator - Shaughn Forbes

Rotary Peace Fellow Class XVI Representatives - Raina Fox &

Miku Lagarde

11:00 - 11:45 am

Guest Speaker: Madenia Abdurahman, Together for Humanity Foundation & Chair of Muslim Aid Australia

Vote of Thanks Assoc/Prof Nicole George, Deputy Head of School

11:45 - 12:00pm

Peace Building Activity

12:00 - 1:00pm

Panel 1 Presentations: PROCESSES

Peacebuilding is a complex and non-linear process integrating a variety of tools and approaches. In this panel, Fellows will reflect on their experiences engaging in conflict prevention and early warning, conflict analysis, and post-conflict evaluation methodologies. Moderator: Dr. Melissa Curley

- "From Lemons to Pyjamas: How Research and Evaluation are Helping Build Everyday Peace in Colombia and Beyond," Michelle Helman
- "Early Warning, Early Response: Conflict Field Monitors in Africa's IGAD Region," by Mohamed Yussuf
- "Conflict Analysis: Mapping of Potential Conflicts in the Indo-Pacific Region," by Norihiro Fujimoto

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Lunch

Please join us on the verandah for a buffet lunch and beverages

2:00 - 2:15 pm

Peace Building Activity

2:15 - 3:45pm

Panel 2 Presentations: PERSPECTIVES

This panel explores the importance of redefining narratives, fighting injustice, and acting as an ally for populations whose perspectives have been sidelined by those in power. Fellows will discuss their experiences in peace education, research, and advocacy to advance reconciliation and human rights, with emphasis on the importance of partnerships and culturally sensitive approaches. Moderator: Dr. Morgan Brigg

- "Monitoring and Documenting Human Rights Abuses: Talibé Children in Senegal," by Lauren Seibert
- "Time for Radical Change: Peace and Security Must Include a Gender Perspective," by Isabella Sinisterra Beron
- "A Transnational Settler Perspective: Working with First Nations Peoples," by Morgan Marks
- "Shifting Perspectives: Healing and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Cambodia," by Miku Lagarde

3:45 - 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Panel 3 Presentations: POTENTIAL

Peace is more than the absence of conflict: it is an active process of building more inclusive, just, and adaptive societies. In this panel, Fellows will discuss their experiences working at the intersections of sustainable development, innovation, education, capacity building and beyond, finding new ways to expand the potential of peace and conflict work into the future. Moderator: Dr. Marianne Hanson

- "Innovation for Development: Experiments in Building and Sustaining Peace in the Arab States," by Raina Fox
- "Holistic Approach to Peace: Lessons Learned from Opium Farming Communities in Shan State, Myanmar," by Naw Grace H. Dun
- "Peace Literacy in Educational Settings: The Case for a Revolutionary Vision in Peacebuilding Practice," by Emily Nabakooza

5:00- 5:30 pm

Concluding Remarks

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Cocktail Function

Cocktail hour - first drink and finger food complimentary - cash bar available

Welcome from the Director

Dr Melissa Curley

Director, The University of Queensland Rotary Peace Centre

The University of Queensland Rotary Peace Centre



Welcome from Director, UQ Rotary Peace Centre - Dr Melissa Curley

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here today - to our 16th Annual UQ Rotary Peace Fellow's Seminar. The Seminar is a wonderful showcase for our Class XVI Fellows to document the journey they have been on during their time with us in the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs, in the School of Political Science and International Studies. The theme for today's seminar - Everyday Peace: Processes, Perspectives and Potential - has been developed by Class XVI to highlight intersections between some of the conceptual debates and theoretical approaches encountered within their academic programme in the Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies, and practical activities undertaken through their Applied Fieldwork Experience (AFE). Class XVI worked hard during 2018 to secure some amazing placements over the summer of 2018/2019, and I'm very proud to see the diversity of topics discussed on today's programme, facilitated by some of academic members of staff centrally involved with

the Centre. I'm delighted that Madenia Abdurahman, President of the Together for Humanity Foundation and Chair of Muslim Aid Australia, can join us as Guest Speaker. Madenia is a passionate advocate for mutual respect and countering prejudice, and was a keynotespeakeratthe2018RotaryPresidential Peacebuilding Conference in Sydney.

The School is delighted to be able to continue to partner with The Rotary Foundation in the Peace Centres Programme, and we look forward to collaborating with new partner Centres, as the programme expands to new geographical regions in the years to come. By the end of 2019, the UQ Rotary Peace Centre will have supported over 160 Peace Fellows to graduate with a Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies, and I'm pleased today to share some stories from our Alumni on what they are doing now. As we approach the 20th Anniversary of the UQ Rotary Centre in 2022, I'd like to thank all those Rotarians, counsellors, volunteers, community members and UQ staff that have continued to support our work over the years. UQ also thanks and acknowledges The Rotary Foundation for their ongoing commitment to funding postgraduate education opportunities for people working towards peace, conflict resolution and justice worldwide. To Class XVI, congratulations on your efforts today and best wishes for your future work in the field of peace, whatever form that may take!

Statement from the Rotary Host Coordinator

Shaughn Forbes

Host Area Coordinator, Peace Fellow Program,

Welcome to the Peace Seminar presented today by the Rotary Peace Fellows Class XVI at the University of Queensland. Each year this event is filled with celebration and sadness as this cohort of ten Rotary Peace Fellows completes their program. It marks the end of their time with us, and the start of a new career or enhanced career in contributing to Peace and Conflict Resolution in the world. This seminar event takes place annually at all five of the Universities where Rotary Peace Fellows complete a Masters Degree. We are fortunate indeed that we have this event to look forward to every year as I consider this program to be one of the jewels in the crown of Rotary. Those attending today will be privileged to hear from the presenters and see/hear that we have ten new warriors going out into the world to make it a better place for all.



The Theme for the Seminar today is "Everyday Peace: Processes, Perspective and Potential" and we will enjoy very different presentations and perspectives of the theme. Today we have four representatives from different parts of the USA and one from each of the following countries; Kenya, Philippines, Myanmar, Colombia, Japan and Uganda. The fellows have had experience in so many areas prior to the fellowship Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous Populations, Cross-Cultural Communication, Peace Building, Peace Corp Volunteer, Mediator and Mediation to name a few.

Their future goals include but are not limited to;

- •enhancing capabilities as an effective agent for child protection and advocate for children's rights,
- •socio-economic development of underdeveloped regions, which would change the mindset and character of the local population from perpetual conflict and strive to one of peace and development, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding,
- •the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and giving equal opportunities to the girl children,
- •ensuring that those most marginalized in societies- including women, LGBTQIA+, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and others are at the centre of policies, education, and civil society initiatives for peace building and social justice,
- •creating leadership training utilizing experiential education pedagogy to improve organizational development outcomes and impact,
- •to be the change you wish to see in this world,
- •a passion for emergency assistance in humanitarian contexts.

When these aspirations are considered we can look forward to the ten young people doing good in the worldand making a difference. I have been involved in the Peace Program at the University of Queensland since its inception in 2002. My own Rotary Club Ashgrove The Gap hosted one of the first cohort members Path Heang. I continued my involvement and support for the initiative, as Peace is my passion.

Annual Trip to Canberra

Each year the Rotary Peace Fellows are hosted in Canberra by Rotary clubs. This visit enables the Rotary Peace Fellows to visit our nations capital and learn some Australian history, make connections with Rotarians outside Brisbane and present their work to the Canberrian Rotarians. For the last few years Garth Britton has lead the organisation of this trip and togther with his team the Fellows enjoy a packed intinieray - here are the highlights:

- -Visit to Mt Ainslie
- -War Memorial guided tour
- -Ringing the Peace Bell
- -National museum wtih a focus on indigenous displays
- -Visit to the Aborigianl Tent Embassay
- -Meet Andrew Leigh, Shadow Assistant Treasurer at Parliment House for tour
- -ASPEN Medical and Australian Civil Military Centre for Career talks
- -UQ Women
- -Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)



Welcome from the Peace Fellows Class XVI

Raina Fox and Miku Lagarde

Rotary Peace Fellow Class XVI Representatives



The 16th class of Rotary Peace Fellows wishes to express our profound thanks to the Rotary Foundation for giving us the opportunity to pursue our Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland, to expand and deepen our experiences through our Applied Field Experiences (AFEs), and to connect with an incredible global network of Rotarians who have supported our journeys in and beyond Australia. The Peace Seminar is our way of sharing some of the valuable lessons we have learned along the way.

From November 2018 to February 2019, we embarked on our AFEs to put theory into practice. We spread across the globe: in Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South America, and the Middle East. We joined organisations ranging from the United Nations to independent consultancy groups, and from governments to NGOs. We worked on issues such as gender, peace, security, and memory politics. We offered our expertise, expanded our skill sets, and learned from peers and experts in the field. We returned to Brisbane wiser, more fulfilled, and more grounded in our learnings. For many of us, the AFE was an experience in expansion—broadening our capacity to see and imagine how peace happens, is understood, and can emerge.

The quest for peace does not begin or end in a peace agreement. It is an ideal that we must continuously and actively strive for, nurture, and grow. It is a never-ending process where individuals, communities, governments, and societies choose, every day, to build a healthier and more equitable world. For the 2019 Peace Seminar, our class has selected the theme, "Everyday Peace: Processes, Perspectives, and Potential," to reflect these insights.

The Peace Fellowship has been a life changing opportunity for us, as it has been for hundreds of others around the world. We hope that in today's seminar, we can explore, reflect, and grow together in our collective efforts to cultivate the processes, perspectives, and potential of peace. Thank you for being our partners in this journey.

Sincerely Miku Lagarde and Raina Fox on behalf of Class XVI



Guest Speaker

Madenia Abdurahman

President of Together for Humanity and Chair of Muslim Aid Australia



Madenia Abdurahman

Madenia Abduraham is the President of Together For Humanity. Originally from South Africa, Madenia is a passionate advocate for mutual respect and countering prejudice in whatever form it takes. She is a retired School Principal who has played an important role in education within the Islamic Schools sector. Madenia's school, Arkana College, was the first Muslim and the first private school to welcome Together For Humanity to her school in the early 2000's. In addition to her passion for education and interfaith, she is also Chair of Muslim Aid Australia.

About Together for Humanity

Together for Humanity supports schools across NSW to foster students' interfaith and intercultural understanding through educational resources, workshops and programs that bring diverse communities together.

Together For Humanity (TFH) works in Australian schools to foster tolerance through intercultural understanding. It is an organisation comprised predominantly of Christians, Muslims and Jews, but also includes others who believe in our mission and principles. TFH's teams deliver programs to students aged between 8 and 18. For some children, Together for Humanity school sessions may be the first time in their lives they have met a Jew or a Muslim. Such encounters can be powerful.

Established in 2002, we have worked with more than 100,000 Australian students and teachers in primary and secondary schools across the nation. We also have three online professional development courses and a wide range of resources for use by teachers, students and the general community.

TFH is a registered charity.

Class XVI Peace Fellows 2018 - 2019

Naw Grace Hserhti Dun USA





Naw Grace Hserhti Dun, an ethnic Karen, was born and raised in Yangon, Myanmar – a country that is caught in one of the longest running and complex ethnic conflicts. Grace has lived and studied in Thailand and U.S. since a young age. She received her B.A. in International Relations from Bucknell University

in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. She has worked in the field of refugee resettlement for more than seven years with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Albany, New York and Refugee Services of Texas in Austin, Texas. Her involvement with refugees and immigrants dated back to her junior year at college. Throughout the period, she worked with Refugees, Asylees, Survival of Tortures and other immigrants from Asia, Middle East, Africa, Cuba, and Ukraine. Her work included program management, advocacy, case management (social and health), cultivating relationships with businesses for refugees employment opportunities, and community integration.

For her AFE, Grace had an opportunity to work as Research Assistant at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Myanmar, where she supported Alternative Development program for poppy farmers in southern Shan State. Myanmar is the second largest poppy producer in the world after Afghanistan, and Shan State has the largest cultivation within Myanmar. Using her language skills to improve communication tools between different parties, she was able to contribute writing social policy for the farmers' cooperative.

This internship provided Grace with a good understanding of the intersectionality of security, development, health, social and environmental issues within peacebuilding in conflict affected areas. Grace is grateful for this opportunity in which she was able to apply peacebuilding theories and concepts she learned from the classroom in the field. She is sincerely grateful to the Rotary International, her host counsellor, and UQ Rotary Peace Center staff for making this experience possible and for being able to keep her passion alive. Grace is hoping to pursue career in humanitarian or development sector, prioritizing southeast Asia region, after graduating from the program.

Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Albany, New York, USA, District 7190

Host Club: Rotary Club of Loganholme, Queensland, Australia, District 9630

AFE Country: Myanmar/Burma

Raina Fox USA





Raina Fox has been doing social grassroots justice, peacebuilding, and sustainable development work for a decade in the United States. India, Hong Kong, Morocco. Jordan and beyond.

After working at museums and non-profits using arts and storytelling to

manage trauma and advance social justice with diverse communities in the Twin Cities, Washington DC, Chicago, Hong Kong, and Bhuj, India, she earned her Masters in Public Humanities from Brown University, where she focused on transitional justice, memory politics and civic engagement. Prior to becoming a Peace Fellow, she designed and led programs and partnerships at Millennium Campus Network, a non-profit based in Boston, USA, that partners with United Nations Academic Impact to unite, train, and recognize 6000+ undergraduate students in 50+ countries working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She additionally worked as a dialogue facilitator with Public Conversations Project (now called Essential Partners), based in Cambridge, USA, to facilitate dialogues within communities experiencing conflict.

She has focused her experience as a Peace Fellow on exploring the systems that govern, shape, prohibit, and/ or support the development and redevelopment of healthy societies. She is particularly passionate about ensuring

that those most marginalized in societies are at the center of policies, education, and civil society initiatives for peacebuilding, development and social justice.

Raina's AFE was at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Arab States Hub in Amman, Jordan. Her primary work was with the Innovation team, which aims to transform UNDP's development work by embracing risk, experimentation, human-centred design, and systems thinking. She supported projects across 18 countries, ranging from using Behavioural Insights to prevent violent extremism in Sudan, to training youth in Tunisia to use design thinking to respond to social challenges in their communities. She hopes to continue to work internationally at the intersection of development, peacebuilding, and social justice.

Sponsor Club: Stillwater Sunrise, Minnesota, USA, District 5960

Host Club: Bribie Island, Australia, District 9600 AFE Host Club: Amman Citadel, Jordan, District 50262 AFE Country: Jordan

Norihiro Fujimoto Japan





Norihiro Fujimoto was born and grew up in Tokyo, Japan. He graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo with Bachelor of Human Sciences, majoring in Sports Science. He started his career in the humanitarian sector to contribute towards global development when he was 27. He then served as a

humanitarian worker in the field and at the headquarters of Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR), an international organization, for six years. While deployed to the Philippines and Nepal, he coordinated distribution of necessities to victims of the 2012 typhoon and the 2015 earthquake. During his deployment in Turkey, he worked as a financial manager for humanitarian projects assisting Syrian refugees in 2017. At headquarters in Tokyo, Norihiro primarily coordinated water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in South Sudan. In total, he engaged in 12 humanitarian projects in nine different countries.

These experiences – particularly working on South Sudan, witnessing the country's return to war despite the support of the international community, and assisting country's refugees – have fueled Norihiro's passion for emergency assistance in humanitarian contexts. Through the Rotary Peace Fellowship and his Master's program at UQ, he hopes to build on his existing professional skills

and integrate his experiences into his coursework. He is confident this will yield greater outcomes when providing humanitarian assistance and working to achieve peace.

He carried out his AFE as a member of the policy and advocacy team at World Vision Australia (WVA) in Melbourne. He was mainly responsible for conflict analysis of 10 countries in the Indo-Pacific region to identify future risks and likelihoods of conflict. WVA utilises this conflict analysis as internal guidance to help development-focused WV national offices be better prepared to respond in the event of conflict-induced humanitarian crises.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Port Nagoya, Japan, District 2760

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Planetarium, Brisbane, AUS District 9600

Michelle Helman usa





Michelle has lived and worked between the USA and Latin America since 2005 after earning a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Illinois. Her professional background involves fieldwork at the intersection of public health, education, and equity initiatives where she has worked alongside community members with a gender and trauma-informed approach.

Michelle noticed a trend in peoples' capacity gaps in communication and problem solving skills and was inspired to work as a small-claims court Mediator and become a Rotary Peace Fellow.

In addition to studying, Michelle works part-time with UQ International Development and received a Research Scholarship to work with the UQ Business School. She was awarded a HASS Globetrotters Award and a UQ Employability Grant to attend the International Public Policy Association's 2018 Summer School at the Escola Nacional de Administração Pública in Brasilia, Brazil. Through these experiences, Michelle learned the importance of connecting theory and research to policy and practice.

For her Applied Field Experience, Michelle worked as a Research Assistant and Advisor with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies in Bogotá, Colombia where she monitored the implementation of the 2016 Colombian Peace Accord. She also collaborated with Kroc executive leadership to assess staffing and program needs. In response, Michelle designed and facilitated a Security and Resiliency Training for staff to strengthen capacities

in building trust, communication, and collaboration skills.

After graduating in June, Michelle aims to apply her Peace Fellowship experiences as a trainer using participatory research methods to strengthen organizational capacity at the nexus of peacebuilding, health, and development. She is grateful for Rotary International, Rotarians, UQ staff, Rotary Peace Fellows, UQ students, and colleagues she has met along her journey.

Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Portland, District 5100 Host Club: Ashgrove/The Gap, District 9600 AFE Country: Colombia

Mikaela Francine (Miku) D. Lagarde Philippines





Miku is a lawyer, educator, and peace advocate. She completed her undergraduate degree in International Studies major in International Politics in 2008 and Juris Doctor degree in 2012. She started her career at the International Justice Mission, where she worked with law enforcement to rescue underage

victims of human trafficking and bring the perpetrators to justice. She then worked at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). In her time at this government agency, OPAPP had just brokered a final peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) after 17 years of negotiations. Miku consulted for OPAPP's Policy Unit on legal matters, such as those involving human rights and international humanitarian law in conflict-affected areas in the Philippines. She also worked for the Supreme Court as a Court Attorney and at De La Salle University as a part-time lecturer on law.

For her AFE, Miku joined the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Siem Reap, Cambodia. There, she supported initiatives for holistic peacebuilding and reconciliation, particularly through peace education and logistical support to ongoing peace processes in Asia. She toured visitors in the Cambodia Peace Museum, where she highlighted the efforts that Cambodians have done towards peacebuilding and reconciliation, decades after the country experienced the dark days of the Khmer Rouge. Miku also helped organise the book launch of "Negotiating Peace: An Insider's Perspective to the

Bangsamoros' Struggle for Self-Determination" in Cotabato City, Mindanao. The book not only captures the historic events that shaped the peace process, but also the MILF's insights, wisdom, and principles in its engagement with the Philippine government to pursue the Bangsamoro aspirations. Miku likewise assisted in the preparations for the annual Peace Practitioners' Research Conference in Siem Reap, which had more than 100 peacebuilder-participants from 24 countries.

Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Balintawak, District 3780 Host Club: Rotary Club of Jindalee, District 9630 AFE Country: Cambodia

Morgan Marks USA





Morgan is originally from Furlong, Pennsylvania, USA. holds a Arts Master International Human Rights with a Certificate Humanitarian Assistance from University of Denver Denver, Colorado,

USA, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Government from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA. She applied three times to become a Peace Fellow and knows that the third time was truly the charm, as they say. Morgan is incredibly humbled for the opportunity to be studying at the University of Queensland.

Morgan previously lived in Montana where she worked for the Department of Labor and Industry in Helena, Montana, USA with the Montana Registered Apprenticeship Program towards the promotion of inclusion and equity for vulnerable populations of people, specifically, women and all seven reservations with First Peoples in Montana. She also worked for the Jobs for Montana's Graduates Program with the Department of Labor and Industry and worked with communities in the North Eastern region of Montana. She worked directly with school teachers and students to support them in soft skill and leadership development programming. In 2013-2015, Morgan lived and worked abroad with the United States Peace Corps in Zambia as a Rural Aquaculture Extension Volunteer otherwise known as a fish farming

volunteer. She served two ten-month terms with AmeriCorps national service programs: Morgan believes wholeheartedly in service work and that time is the greatest gift she has to give.

From November 2018 to February 2019, Morgan lived and worked in London, Ontario for her Applied Fieldwork Experience (AFE). Her decision to go to Canada for her AFE was both a strategic and personal decision, as her fiancé is in Saskatchewan, Canada. After working with First Peoples in the USA and taking as many classes as possible with a focus on First Peoples in Australia, she wanted to gain context and a sense of place in Canada. Through another Peace Fellow, Morgan was able to make a connection with a consultant whose work is locally driven by First Nations peoples and constantly emerging. Morgan's work focused on research towards project design, facilitation, and working directly with, training and managing First Nations youth for a large contract being an economic leakage study for seven First Nations through the Southern First Nations Secretariat located in Bothwell, Ontario.

Morgan is committed to bridging gaps, promoting equity and inclusion through working with historically marginalized and vulnerable populations of people and working to use her privilege to make and create space for sharing dialogue and seeking common ground towards the realization of peace. Her gratitude runs deep for having the opportunity to learn, study, and grow as Peace Fellow at the University of Queensland and she thanks Rotary International immensely for taking a chance on her.

Sponsor Club: Doylestown, Pennsylvania, District 7430 Hosting Rotary Club: Rotary Club of Brisbane 17787

Emily Nabakooza Uganda





Born and raised in Uganda, Emily is a passionate professional with a strong desire to do social good. Before her early career life experiences in humanitarian work with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Uganda, and at L'Arche Camphill Trust in Scotland (UK), Emily earned a bachelor's

degree in Political Science and History from Makerere University in Uganda in 2001, and years later, a master's degree in Public and Community Service from the University of East London, UK.

Soon after her new educational experiences overseas, Emily had the opportunity to coordinate development projects focusing on improving access to education especially for the girl child, safe and clean water in schools and health centres, as well as basic care and prevention of HIV/AIDS, with World Vision Uganda. While in this role, her awareness about youth violence and a desire to engage in social actions that provide non-violent pathways for young people to realize their aspirations repeatedly surfaced.

Following this inspiration, Emily moved into a more specific role of peace and conflict resolution with John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre in Uganda, where she worked for six years, heading the Centre's capacity initiatives that empowered young people to reduce violence and to participate actively to advancing social justice in their communities. Emily's commitment to this work contributed considerably to an atmosphere of dialogue rather than violent strikes, a frequent occurrence in many Ugandan schools.

Emily is very passionate about creating peace through education. For her AFE, she had the opportunity to combine her learning at UQ and broad experience building capacity for peace and conflict resolution in formal learning institutions to engage with a peace literacy project at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) as an intern in Santa Barbara, California, USA. Her major tasks in this role centred around supporting the Foundation's peace literacy team in developing strategies and frameworks that primarily focused on expanding the reach of peace literacy in educational settings.

Emily featured as a trainer and speaker at various training workshops and seminars for educators, students and community leaders in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada), and in Santa Barbara, California. Her future plans will focus on youth-related policy and programming and working as a capacity building specialist in areas of peace and conflict resolution.

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Kyengera, Uganda, District 9211 Host club: Rotary Club of Logan, Australia, District 9630

Lauren Seibert USA





Lauren grew up in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. area of the United States. She has a Bachelor's degree in Global Media from Arcadia University and a background in journalism, communications, human rights, public health, and development. In addition to two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, Lauren previously worked at

a non-profit organisation based in Kenya, as well as for World Vision and the U.S. State Department, based in D.C.

Most recently, Lauren spent several years working for the Africa division at Human Rights Watch (HRW). At HRW, she supported the West Africa team and travelled periodically to Mali, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire to research, document, and advocate on human rights abuses. In particular, her work focused on forced child begging, human trafficking and other abuses against "talibé" children in the region.

Lauren continued and expanded this work during her Applied Field Experience as a Research Fellow for HRW in Senegal, where she conducted new research and advocacy on abuses against talibé children and government progress in addressing the issue. Based on her findings, she wrote several published documents for HRW, including a report to be released in mid-2019. She also liaised with the judiciary and child protection services on abuse cases, resulting in the launch of at least one judicial investigation; organised joint work with

Senegalese partners; and led a training workshop with local activists on human rights monitoring and documentation.

By pursuing a Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies with the generous support of the Rotary Foundation, Lauren has gained a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the intersections between the fields of human rights and peacebuilding, with an emphasis on empowering vulnerable or marginalised populations, exposing injustices, and reducing structural inequalities that inhibit sustainable peace. Her goal is to become a more effective researcher and advocate for human rights and child protection.

Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Washington D.C., District 7620 Host Club: Carindale Rotary Club, District 9630 AFE Country: Senegal

Isabella Sinisterra Colombia





Isabella Sinisterra Beron grew up in Cali, Colombia. She later moved to Bogotá, the capital, to acquire skills and knowledge to support her hometown's struggle against violence and impunity. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and, later, a Master's degree in Public Policy at La Universidad de los Andes.

Isabella has seven years of experience in security policy implementation and analysis of the Colombian armed conflict. In 2016, when Isabella was selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow, her country had just signed a peace agreement with the FARC, the largest guerrilla group in the continent. To assist in this historic process, she joined the United Nations Mission in Colombia as a Liaison Officer in Villavicencio, one of the regions most affected by the conflict. Her role focused on verification of the bilateral ceasefire and the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR) process with the FARC.

Prior to the signing of the Peace Agreement, Isabella worked for the Colombian government in the President's Office for Security and Coexistence, in the UN Safety and Security Department, and in the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Citizen Security Programme. Over the years, she visited numerous rural areas across the country and witnessed the detrimental effects of the armed conflict on these communities.

Isabella completed her AFE at the Australian Civil-Military

Centre (ACMC) in Canberra. The ACMC plays a relevant role in the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda in Australia and in the Pacific region. During that time, Isabella conducted research related to the challenges of the Gender Advisor role within Australian agencies, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Defence Forces, and the Federal Police. Additionally, she went as an observer to the Australian Peace Operations Training Centre's "Operational Gender Advisor Course," and she participated in discussions of the second version of the Australian National Action Plan in WPS. For Isabella, this AFE was an extraordinary opportunity to apply the concepts she has learned through her studies of Peace and Conflict at UQ. This experience reinforced her conviction that integrating a gender perspective into the peace and security arena is a fundamental element for building lasting peace.

Sponsor Club: Multicentro Bogota, District 4281 Host Club: Rotary Club of Paddington, District 9600 AFE Country: Canberra, Australia

Mohamed Yussuf Kenya





Mohamed is trained а Occupational Therapist with experience rehabilitating war victims in the Dadaab camps complex in northeastern Kenya. desire to engage in peace and conflict resolution emanated from his experience tending to the victims of war,

particularly those who have been subjected to cruel treatments by the Somalia-based terrorist group Al-shabab.

Mohamed has worked as a Volunteer Program Officer with Garissa Mediation Council, a community-based organisation in Garissa County, Kenya. The organisation's work is to foster intercommunal dialogue and cohesion amongst Somali clans who live in the largely volatile areas that straddle the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. Garissa Mediation Council exists with a mandate of promoting peace, cohesion and integration among diverse communities living around the international borders, including through promoting dignity and respect for women.

Mohamed is passionate about the socio-economic development of this region, which would change the mindset and character of the local population from perpetual conflict and strife to one of peace and development, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding. Mohamed is focused on the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and giving equal opportunities to the girl child.

Mohamed did his Applied Field Experience with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s Peace and Security Division based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which focused on conflict resolution in East Africa. The Peace and Security Division is mandated to deal with issues related to Peace and Security and Humanitarian Affairs in the Greater Horn of Africa.

Mohamed intends to work for conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Greater Horn Africa and hopes to achieve this through communal dialogues, co-operation and gender parity policies.

Sponsor Club: Rotary District 9212 Host Club: Rotary Club of Wishart AFE Country: Ethiopia

Class XVII Peace Fellows 2019 – 2020

Alexis Ayamdor Ghana



Mr. Ayamdor is a Ghanaian national and social scientist by training and a professional Programme Management Specialist with over 14 years of work experience in the fields of Democracy & Governance, Education, Community Health & Nutrition, WASH, and Livelihood. He has special interest in Accountable Governance, Peace Building and Post-Conflict Humanitarian Development services for especially the vulnerable; such, women, children, People with Disability and PLWHIV among others. He is also a practicing Local Politician. 2013, he was appointed by His Excellency, of the President of the Republic Ghana as the

District Chief Executive (DCE)/Mayor for Bongo District Assembly in Upper East region, where he worked as a Public Servant for almost four years. Mr. Ayamdor holds an MBA in Corporate Strategy and Economic Policy from Maastricht school of Management (The Netherlands) and a BA Hons in Geography & Resource Development from the University of Ghana.

Maria Fernanda de la Luz Ludela Mexico



Maria is a writer, an economist, and a women's rights activist. At the age of 14 she started working with sex trafficking survivors in Puebla, Mexico, one of the worst cities for sex trafficking in the world. Since then, she has continued her work on preventing sex trafficking and women disappearances in Latin America, as well as in providing legal services that bring justice to the victims. In the last 10 years, she has also worked in national and international campaigns for the promotion of gender equality and youth participation, including the creation of a national law against revenge pornography and other online crimes in Mexico and the creation of the youth parliaments of

Mexico and Argentina. She has also collaborated in projects with international entities like the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and the Y20. She has a Bachelor in Economics, a Master in Economics, a Master in Law and a Certificate in International Law and Contemporary Issues.

Cora Lavin USA



Cora was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, and received her B.A in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications, as well as Spanish, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also a certified ESL teacher.

She spent six years working in Latin America, including Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. During her four years in Venezuela she worked at a Binational Center, with oversight and funding from the U.S. Embassy, assessing the needs of at-risk youth and developing projects and programs to create inclusive spaces, grow youth and community development and to give youth the tools and knowledge to promote equality and address concerns encompassing the economic, social, and emotional impacts of the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis. Her past work has focused primarily on using education as a foundation

to promote cultural sensitivity and to embrace diversity to alleviate the violence or conflict

She hopes the skills and knowledge obtained during this program will enable her to promote youth and community development through the lens of cultural diversity.

Estefania Lay Guerra Peru



Estefanía was born and grew up in Lima, Perú. She has a Bachelor degree in Social Management from "Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú" and also has complementary studies related to gender topics and social development. She had ioined initiatives focused rural health. on education she and risk management and was subjects related ethics and citizenship. lecturer in to However, her main experience is related to project management in community arts and social transformation, as well as in the articulation and collaborative work between the State and Civil Society.

She worked for almost 6 years in the Ministry of Culture of Perú, as a social specialist and then coordinator of the project "Puntos de Cultura", an initiative focused on the strengthening of grassroots cultural organizations, whose work contributes to citizen empowerment, social equity and peacebuilding.

She believes that studying in the Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies program at UQ will be an opportunity to strengthen her knowledge and skills for promoting equitable citizenship and community development in the context of cultural diversity.

Peter Lindsay USA



Peter became a Peace Fellow after 25 years working first as an officer in the United States Air Force and later as an instructional designer, facilitator, and executive in a global leadership development company centered in Denver, Colorado. He has published professionally on leadership and authored a biography about Karak Denyok, a survivor of war in Sudan and founder of an indigenous non-profit, social and humanitarian organization dedicated to serving vulnerable Sudanese women in displaced camps and in war-torn zones. His rational approach to conflict resolution follows a clear-headed statement by renowned mediator, Christopher Moore. Moore said, conflicts may be "avoided, talked out, negotiated, arbitrated, adjudicated, resolved by legislation, by political action, or by violent force." Peter is

particularly interested in changing mindsets that may contribute to violent conflict, in conflict prevention, and in preserving the humanity and lives of those who are most vulnerable.

Phyusin Ngwethaw Myanmar



Phyusin has been working as a program manager in the field of humanitarian aid for almost 20 years in different situations of conflicts in Myanmar with different international organizations and UN agencies starting from year 2000. Since 2015, she focused and started working on the conflict sensitivity aspects of intervention, getting formal trainings on Conflict Transformation from Mindanao Peace Building Institute.

She has been working as a facilitator in Mindanao peace building institute, facilitating "Designing conflict sensitive intervention".

In addition, she has also been working as a conflict sensitivity advisor to UNFPA Myanmar. In 1999, She graduated from National University of Singapore in Master in Public Policy.

Nery Ronatay Philippines



For 18 years, Nery has worked as a capacity builder, facilitator and program specialist in Philippines, Malawi, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar with grassroot communities, CSOs, and the United Nations thematically focusing on conflict transformation, HIV and AIDS, gender, and rights. Recently, he was the Peace and Development Officer of the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN Habitat) in Marawi City, Philippines as part of a team that helps rebuild the city after a devastating five-month siege of a radicalized ISIS-aligned group. He led the peacebuilding component of the project through conflict transformation, dialogue and peace education interventions.

He was also the focal point of the 4th Asian Peace Conference and colead in 6th Peace Practitioners Research Conference in 2017 in Cambodia. Prior to his peacebuilding work, Nery served as the HIV and AIDS Officer of UN Development Programme in Bangkok. In 2005, he was a Rotary Group Exchange Scholar in Germany. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Bicol University.

As a Rotary Peace Fellow, he intends to further study in peace processes and resolving violent conflicts by working from the vantage of governance and international institutions.

Mr Nico Schneider Germany



Nico is an activist, a trainer and a peace & conflict worker. He earned his first MA in Political Science from Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany. He is deeply interested in understanding how social power relations are formed, performed and transformed. This interest led him to his former position in Jerusalem, where he collaborated with social & political movements, trade unions and grassroots initiatives for a non-violent resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Before his engagement in the Middle East, he dedicated himself to educational initiatives to combat individual and structural discrimination. In more than seven years of work in education and conflict resolution, he experienced that the complexity of peace work must be based on more than a good will in order to sustainably change the realities of conflict-affected communities. He applied for the Rotary Peace Fellowship due to his conviction

that professional conflict resolution needs to be supported by a variety of resources and a global network of trained professionals who approach the complexity of conflicts from multiple angles. His goal is to create more synergies between academia and practice.

Chiaki Takenouchi Japan



Chiaki is a young professional who is passionate about children's rights and a bottom-up approach to human rights protection. Originally from Japan, she spent half of her life in the Netherlands. As a global citizen, she has studied and worked across the world, starting from the Netherlands, Kosovo and Thailand to East Africa. She completed a B.A. in International Relations and Anthropology and Advanced LL.M. in International Child Rights. After working with international NGOs and an intergovernmental organisation, she started working for a local NGO based in Lebanon, working with conflict and displacement affected populations in Lebanon, Turkey and Syria. During the Peace Fellowship, she hopes to gain deeper academic knowledge and insights to the theories and practice of Peace and Conflict Studies, with a particular focus on the nexus between restorative justice, bottom up peace-making and policy making, and child rights. The fellowship will offer a unique opportunity to explore various

approaches, expand her horizon and find innovative ways to prevent and respond to intractable conflicts.

Erica Yague Philippines



Erika is a young woman leader from the Philippines who is passionate about human rights and peace. Before becoming a Rotary Peace Fellow she worked as an International Consultant for Adolescent and Youth Programmes at the United Nations Population Fund Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO) in Bangkok, Thailand. During her time with UNFPA, Erika has worked supporting the regional adolescent and youth programmes across the Asia and the Pacific region with particular focus on Youth Peace & Security, CSE (Comprehensive Sexuality Education), HIV/AIDS and young key population, youth leadership and participation, partnerships with other UN agencies, youth networks and organisations, and technical support to country office youth programmes. Before working with

the UN, she responded to humanitarian crises in disaster and conflict areas in the Philippines through local NGOs. She graduated Cum Laude at the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Development. Currently, she is the focal point for Making Cities Resilient Campaign of the United Nations Major Group of Children and Youth.

Staff and Support

Diana McCluskey



I started with the Graduate Centre in its introduction year of 2016, and have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the student cohorts across the various postgraduate programs we run.

Prior to working at UQ, I coordinated mentor programs for QUT (matching final year students with industry mentors to assist with launching their careers) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (the John Flynn Placement program – a national mentor program matching medical students with GP mentors in regional, rural and remote Australia).

My career before working in the tertiary education space was in program management of disability employment programs. My husband's previous membership of the Bardon Rotary Club gives me insight into the wonderful work Rotarians do – and I view working with the Rotary Peace Fellows a privilege here at the UQ Rotary Peace Centre.

Dr Melissa Curley



Dr Curley is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Director, UQ Rotary Peace Centre. Her research and teaching interests include Southeast Asian politics and international relations, Cambodian politics and postconflict reconstruction, and non-traditional security in East Asia (including trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, pandemic disease and child protection issues).

She has published in internationally peer reviewed journals and her most recent book is Migration and Security in Asia (Routledge 2007). Before joining the School in January 2006, Dr Curley was a researcher in the China-ASEAN project at the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong. She holds a Ph.D in International Relations from Nottingham Trent University in the UK, and BA(Hons) in Government from UQ.

In 2015, Dr Curley joined the Executive Advisory Board of Bravehearts, an Australian not-for-profit organisation that aims to educate, empower and protect Australian children from sexual assault, and in 2016 was made a Paul Harris Fellow.

Additional Thanks

We deeply appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the success of this seminar and the whole of the Rotary Peace Fellowship.

To all of those who helped make this seminar shine, and to the countless others who have helped us on our many paths to success - we thank you.

Associate Professor Nicole George

Associate Professor Morgan Brigg

Associate Professor Marianne

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Bronwyn Crook

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Leslie Smith

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