



UN Alliance of Civilizations FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

European & North American Fellows 2011



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Blair Glencorse, (USA) is an Associate at the Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) and Associate Director of the Market-Building Initiative at the Aspen Institute. In these roles he provides practical policy advice to national leaders and the international community on institutional reform, economic development, coordination and program implementation. He provides strategic and analytic support to ISE Chairman and former Finance Minister of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, and supports the development of tools, processes and incentives to improve state functionality in contexts such as Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Southern Sudan. He is also leading research work on cases of successful institutional transformation over the past sixty years in countries such as Chile, Rwanda, Spain, Turkey, and Singapore. Previously, Blair worked for the Fragile States Team at the World Bank on post-conflict reconstruction issues, with a focus on strategy development, donor coordination, and results measurement. Blair has a MA with honors from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in international relations and economics, where he now co-teaches a course on post-conflict reconstruction. He is also fellow at the British-American Project and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA); a member of the British Council's TN2020 Leadership Network; and a young leader at the Carnegie Council and BMW Foundation.



Ben Hammersley (UK) was born in Leicester, England in 1976. He lives in London. Ben is a writer, technologist, and advisor to governments and corporations. He is also Editor at Large of *WIRED* magazine. Ben's career has followed parallel paths. As a journalist and writer, he has covered first technology, and then foreign affairs, for the majority of British broadsheet newspapers. He has reported from Afghanistan, Iran, Burma, Lebanon, the Philippines, and other conflict zones, made documentaries for radio and TV for the BBC, and helped pioneer multimedia journalism for The Guardian and the BBC. Meanwhile, as a technologist, Ben has written four books, with a fifth on the way in 2012. He speaks internationally on the effects of the internet on modern society, and especially on the topics of post-digital geopolitics, and the demographic bubble.



Paloma Haschke (France) has been enrolled in the PhD Program of the Political Science Institute of Paris (known as Sciences Po) and is currently spending a year at the New York University Near Eastern Study department as a visiting researcher. Her PhD project, under the supervision of Pr. Gilles Kepel, is entitled "Redefinition of the Pan-Arab Media Landscape". Arab broadcasting news channels renewing their marketing and diplomatic strategies in the post-*Al Jazeera* era". In 2008, she graduated from a dual Research degree on Comparative Politics in the Muslim World program at Sciences Po. Two years later, in 2010, she graduated from the Journalism School of Sciences-Po with a major in international broadcast journalism. Middle East is the region in which she has been specialized for almost seven years. Since 2004 she has been spending most of her time between Paris and Cairo where she's studied Arabic (both MSA and Egyptian dialect) and worked in different fields such as local policy – mainly on interreligious tensions between Copts and Muslims – and media. She's been reporting on local issues for the AFP (Agence France Presse) bureau in Cairo and has also worked at channels such as Al Jazeera English in New York, Rotana in Cairo or France Television in Paris.



Molly Helleman (USA) currently serves as an executive consultant to NGOs, foundations and other social sector organizations. Her professional focus is on start-ups, turn-around, strategic planning and curriculum development. As a former collegiate athlete and professional soccer player, her personal focus is on the use of sport to empower young women and girls, develop cross-cultural understanding and ultimately build the next generation of leaders. Her dedication to the social sector has gained her recognition as a White House Fellows Finalist, a Kentucky Colonel and a Harvard Business School Service Leadership Fellow. She currently serves as member of the British Council's Transatlantic Network 2020, a network for action that brings together young influencers from both sides of the Atlantic to address and revitalize issues affecting transatlantic relations and global challenges. An American national living in San Francisco, CA, she holds a Masters in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Spanish from Wellesley College.



Nadeem Irani (Denmark) is a Policy Advisor to the Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs. In addition, he is an advisor to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Task Force for Relations to the Muslim World. Prior to joining the Ministry in 2008, he worked as a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies and has published several articles on Islam, Islamic Law, Radicalization and prevention of Extremism. As Policy Advisor, Nadeem is responsible for the government outreach and community engagement initiatives. Nadeem was born and raised in Odense, Denmark and is of Pakistani decent. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science and has completed his studies at Aalborg, New York State and Harvard University.



Matthias Jäger (Germany) was born in Kiel, Germany. He studied at Freiburg University, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and holds an M.A. in Law and Latin American Studies as well as Diplomas in European Studies and Spanish Law from Bielefeld University. Mr. Jäger gained his first professional experience at the Goethe Institute, the German Embassy and the Delegation of the European Commission (all Mexico City) and the German Local Government Office in Brussels. In 2005, he joined the Bertelsmann Stiftung, one of Europe's largest private foundations, where he has been engaged in the areas of "International Cultural Dialogue" and "The Role of Religion in Modern Society". Since January 2010, his focus has been on a project titled "Shaping Change – Strategies of Development and Transformation". Mr. Jäger has been awarded research grants and scholarships by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft, and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Mr. Jäger is fluent in German, Spanish, and English. Since 2000, he has published widely on cultural and international affairs in *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*, among other German and Spanish language newspapers.



Victoria Martín de la Torre (Spain) is a Spanish journalist currently working as a press officer for the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament. Before arriving in Brussels, she worked as a reporter at the weekly magazine *Tiempo* for over a decade, covering EU-Arab World relations. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1998 and she got a MS degree at Columbia University School of Journalism (New York) in 1999. In 2003, she specialized in EU Foreign Policy at the College of Europe (Bruges). She is the author of the book "Viaje a la ciudad de Belén. Cuna del amor, semilla de intifada" (A trip to Bethlehem, cradle of love, seed of intifada) published in November 2008. In 2009, she founded the Abraham Forum for Inter-Religious and Intercultural Dialogue in Madrid. She is also a member of the British Council Transatlantic Network TN2020 for Young Leaders.



Angela Massey (USA) With over twelve years experience in nonprofit management and financial services industry, Angela Massey heads Nonprofit Empowerment Group, a global consulting firm that assists nonprofits, corporations and governments in the areas of social strategy, program development, and financial and human resource management. In her professional capacity, she works with a number of world's foremost public, private and philanthropic leaders. In her previous role as a banker with JP Morgan Chase and Northwestern Mutual, she built her expertise in financial growth optimizing by aligning information systems with business strategies. As a staunch supporter of economic and social justice, she actively supports causes that bring people of diverse cultures and faiths together to advance peace and prosperity. Angela is a Northern Illinois University graduate with Bachelors degree, in Management and Marketing, and Masters in Management and Information Systems.



Hafiz Moledina (Canada) was born in Vancouver. His parents immigrated to Canada from Tanzania and Uganda in the early 1970s. He currently works as a consultant with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the North Africa and Middle East division of its Geographic Programs Branch. Since joining as an intern, he has spent time with the agency's International Financial Institutions division as well as its International Strategy and Donor Relations division where his team had the opportunity to lead Canada's participation at the 2010 United Nations High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. Hafiz has also been an active youth voice in the Ismaili Muslim Community holding numerous positions of leadership over the past decade in both Vancouver and Ottawa; he currently serves as the Vice-Chairperson for the Youth and Sports Board for Ottawa. More recently, he was appointed to a two-year term with the Youth Advisory Group of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, a group of over 130 young Canadians aged 16 to 32, representing a broad range of experience. Hafiz holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University, concentrating his studies on issues related to International Development. He speaks English and French.



Mehmet Kalyoncu (Turkey) is an adviser to Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. Previously, Mehmet worked as a political analyst and reporter for *Zaman US Daily*. He has published scholarly articles in academic journals and op-ed pieces in newspapers and online publications. His writings have appeared among others in the *Foreign Policy Magazine*, *Balkananalysis*, *Caspian Business News*, *Zaman US Daily*, *Today's Zaman*, *Zinda Magazine*, *PINR*, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, *Journal of Central Asia and the Caucasus*, and *Centro Argentino de Estudios Internacionales*. Some of his articles have been republished by the *Al Arabiya*, *India Times*, *Chila Daily*, and *Global Times*; and cited in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Jerusalem Post*, and the *Global Media Journal*. His research interests include: Turkish foreign policy, ethno-religious politics, civil society, and social development in countries rich in natural resources. Mehmet authored *A Civilian Response to Ethno-Religious Conflict: Gulen Movement in Southeast Turkey* (New Jersey: The Light 2008), and is currently working on another titled "Reflections on Turkey, Turkish-American-Israeli Relations and the Middle East". He holds a MS in Management & Administrative Sciences from University of Texas at Dallas with specialization in Organization and Strategic Management and MA in Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.



Vania Nedeltcheva (Bulgaria/Greece) is a Bulgarian-born first generation immigrant living in Greece. Being exposed first-hand to the process of multicultural cooperation and integration, she is currently working as a Sociologist and Migrant counselor with the Supporting Office for Immigrants and Refugees, EKA, Athens, Greece. Prior to joining EKA, she completed her Master's Degrees in Sociology at University of Sofia and Psychology at University of Athens. Vania is often invited as a guest speaker and mediator in various workshops, conferences, trainings and network groups in the areas of human trafficking, labor rights, migration and discrimination. In 2006, she was accepted in the training program of European Social Fund: European Initiative EQUAL, Round II, and to participate in the Project: "Observatory and Structures Network for the Strengthening of Economic Immigrants and Refugees in the Job Market". Thereafter, the Trade Unions decided to hire her and allowed to become the only immigrant working in the Greek Trade Unions at the time. As part of her social commitment, she is a volunteer translator for NGOs, the Greek Police and the Ombudsman in cases of human trafficking, discrimination and mental health issues. She was the elected President of the Greek - Bulgarian Friendship Association in 2007. She speaks fluently Bulgarian, English, Greek and Russian, and has a working knowledge of Polish.



Maria Carolina Sheinfeld (USA) has been working as a human rights analyst for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)'s Torture Survivors Project, since 2003. With a team of attorneys, she provides legal assistance and case management to asylum seekers, asylees, refugees, lawful permanent residents and naturalized US citizens, facilitating the survivors in their integration process. She coordinates inter-agency relations and program development for LAFLA's Torture Survivors Project and has developed a network called the Los Angeles Asylum Collaborative. She is the Chair of the California State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services -coordinated by the California Department of Social Services. Carolina has volunteered with the Spanish Commission for Refugees and Immigrants (CEAR), the International Rescue Committee and the Program for Torture Victims. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Public Diplomacy at USC's Annenberg School for Communications and Journalism, with an interest in Non Governmental Organizations, forced migration, integration of new immigrants and diaspora diplomacy. Carolina is from the Canary Islands, and has lived in Spain and Venezuela before moving to the United States.