



UN Alliance of Civilizations FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME Fall 2012 Edition

European & North American Fellows



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Ian B. Anderson (Canada) currently works as a **national security policy analyst** with the **Government of Canada**. In particular, his work focuses on **cyber security**, and he takes a personal interest in **youth radicalization** and **online extremism**. He is also responsible for Peace Geeks' (peacegeeks.org) Remote Internship Program. Ian is an emerging leader in the fields of conflict resolution, policy-making, and the intersection of the Internet and international affairs. He completed a B.A. (Hons.) at **Queen's University** in Political Studies, where he was a **Chancellor's Scholar**. He received his master's degree in **Public and International Affairs** from the **University of Ottawa** in 2009. While at the University of Ottawa, he served as an assistant to Dr. Peter Jones on a number of Track Two diplomatic dialogues relating to the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**, **U.S.-Iran bilateral issues**, and **India-Pakistan regional security**. Ian was an International Development Management Fellow with the **Aga Khan Foundation** Canada in Kulob, Tajikistan, from 2009-2010. In this capacity, he managed local governance initiatives in the rural, mountainous areas of southern Tajikistan. From 2010-2011 he served as the **Canadian International Development Agency's** Local Governance Officer in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where was posted to the **Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team**.



Sentell Barnes (USA), a native of Mount Vernon, Alabama, has been active in U.S. politics since 1998, serving a **Governor of Alabama**, **U.S. Senator** and currently an **advisor to U.S. Representative Sean P. Duffy** from the Seventh Congressional District of Wisconsin. In this role, he advises Representative Duffy on issues such as implementation of the **2010 Dodd Frank Financial Reform Act**, housing and mortgage finance, education, taxes and campaign finance/voter rights. Before joining Representative Duffy's office he worked for nearly seven years in the banking and housing finance industry. Additionally, he is a leader with **Global Impact**, a ministry of **McLean Bible Church** that sends short-term teams into developing countries to partner with local organizations or communities to assist with various projects. He currently serves as a board member for **Debt of Love**, a non-profit organization supporting **local charities** that promote justice, defend the helpless, and serve the most vulnerable, and as Past President of the DC Auburn (Alumni) Club. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from **Auburn University** in Auburn, Alabama and **Master of Public Administration** from **Auburn University Montgomery**.



Alex Cottin (USA/France) joined **Media Impact** in 2012 as **Communications Manager**, overseeing the organization's communications team. In this regard, he manages relationships with the Media and partners to support the mission and vision of Media Impact – to empower communities worldwide to inspire positive social and environmental change through **storytelling** and **creative communications**. Prior to joining the Media Impact team, Alex served as Regional Director for **Merlin USA**, an **international medical relief organization**. In this capacity, he oversaw the development, management and implementation of the West Coast growth strategy as well as the overall communication structure nationwide. Driven by a combination of professional, academic and personal experiences, Alex has always had a profound interest in international development. Having worked in the public, private and humanitarian sectors for the past 7 years, Alex has led and coordinated projects in a number of high impact environments both domestically and internationally, with a strong focus in the areas of **communications**, **development** and **strategic planning**. Alex is a dual citizen of France and the United States. He has lived, studied and worked in the States, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean. He holds a BA from the **University of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill (in International Studies and Economics) and an **MA in International Development** from **Sciences-Po**, Paris.



Latonda Henderson (USA) has been a **management consultant** for global firms such as **Deloitte** and **Accenture** for the past 14 years. She collaborates with leading edge global companies to develop business strategies, achieve operational excellence and develop competitive advantage through technology enablement. She is a thought leader in **corporate social responsibility**, who has led pro bono projects, conducted capacity building training and strategic planning for non profits. Latonda is passionate about **global women's empowerment** and **cross cultural collaboration**. She serves as the Founding Chairwoman for the **Women's Solidarity Society (WSS)** for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. WSS is a cross cultural, intergenerational group of women leaders who have raised over \$600,000 to support the Center's exhibitions on women and girls. Latonda also serves as Atlanta Advisory Council Member for **World Pulse**, the leading action media network powered by women in 190 countries. She is currently coordinating the World Pulse Live speaking tour in Atlanta featuring citizen journalists from DR Congo, India and Syria. Latonda is pursuing an **Executive MBA** at **Goizueta Business School** and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from **Spelman College**.



Alexandre Heully (France) is the Executive Director and publisher of **cafebabel.com**. Cafebabel.com is the first European current affairs magazine designed for readers across borders and published in 6 languages: French, English, German, Italian Spanish and Polish. He graduated from the **Institut d'Etudes Politiques** in Strasbourg in 2001, and holds a **Master Degree in International Relations in Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne**. Passionate about online media, he co-founded cafebabel.com with the vision that **online citizen participation** would revolutionize journalism and politics. As a convinced European, Alexandre has been working for over 11 years at cafebabel.com to expand, raise funds and launch original journalistic project for one of the most innovative media organization in Europe. Relying on the principle of **participatory journalism**, cafebabel.com is made by a unique **network of 1,500 volunteers** - authors, photographers, translators and bloggers - in 20 cities in Europe, whose contributions are edited by a team of full time professional journalists based in Paris. Every year cafebabel.com sends 'on the ground' multicultural teams of young citizen journalists in European cities to report on European society and culture. Cafebabel.com was created in 2001 on the belief that media have the power to break down boundaries and to allow a new generation to make its voice heard.

<http://www.cafebabel.com>



Flora Hevesi (Hungary) is a **freelance journalist** and a leading social movement and NGO activist from Hungary; she contributes regularly to **CNN** and **The Economist** from Budapest. After graduating from the **University of Drama, Film and Television** in Budapest, she worked as a television reporter and editor for many years. She edited and presented a magazine on consumer consciousness on a small cable channel before joining **MTV**, the Hungarian public broadcast channel in 2006. Currently freelancing, Flora writes for a number of publications, CNN, Economist and a sex column for the most progressive Hungarian women's monthly, **Eva Magazine**. She also gives **strategic media advice** and holds on-camera training for civil organizations such as **Greenpeace**. Over the last 10 years, she participated in and coordinated numerous projects aiming at **building democracy** through **journalism** and **civic activism**. Her voluntary activities included serving as the **chair of Amnesty International Hungary** for six years as well as teaching English to Roma children in Hungary's most devastated area. In 2008, she was active in founding **Hungary's first green party**, Lehet Mas a Politika, which achieved almost 7.5% in the 2010 elections gaining 16 seats in the Parliament. Flora holds a **masters degree in media and globalization** from **Goldsmiths College, University of London**.



Annika Kiessler (Germany) is public affairs manager and deputy spokesperson at 50Hertz, a major European electricity grid operator involved in the German transition from nuclear to renewable energy. Annika advises senior management on political developments and legislation at regional, national and EU levels. She represents her company in the political realm and in stakeholder dialogue with NGOs. To address gender inequality in energy politics, Annika founded the “Women in Energy Roundtable”, which has become a renowned and growing network in Berlin. Before entering the private sector, Annika worked as an advisor to a German Member of Parliament who was the spokesperson on energy politics of the Social Democrats. She was actively involved in several political campaigns. Annika is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and Freie Universität Berlin. She also spent an exchange year at the Elliott School of International Affairs (George Washington University). Alongside her studies, Annika worked at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C., for the cabinet of a French minister, at Agence France Presse in Berlin, and interned at both the EU Parliament and the EU Commission in Brussels. As a teenager, she spent a year in Ecuador. Besides her native German, Annika is fluent in French, English and Spanish.



Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi (Italy) was born in Milan, from a Swedish father and an Italian mother. He studied International Relations at the University of Bologna, Sciences Po Paris, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale in Milan, LUISS University in Rome and London School of Economics. Lorenzo is currently involved in a Double Doctorate, which takes place at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and at the LUISS University in Rome. Lorenzo’s thesis, entitled “Scope and challenges of the youth protest conveyed by art and culture”, benefits from his experience as founder and chairman of Il Tamarindo, an Italian NGO whose main goal consists in fostering intercultural dialogue, with a focus on youth. Lorenzo has been the head of many activities promoted by Il Tamarindo, such as the NGO’s multilingual cultural magazine (www.thetamarind.eu), international meetings and seminars, concerts and exhibitions, artistic competitions, etc. Lorenzo gained his first professional experience at the European Commission in Brussels, UNESCO Culture Sector in Paris, the Italian Embassy in Tehran and Istituto Affari Internazionali, a foreign policy think-tank based in Rome. Lorenzo is fluent in Italian, English and French. He is also a member of the EXPO 2015 Youth Table in Milan.



Radhika Prabhu (USA) serves as a Special Assistant for Gender and Youth Programs in Iraq within the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues at the U.S. Department of State. In this capacity she manages foreign assistance efforts to assist in the political, economic and social development of Iraqi women for Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, Melanne Verveer. Radhika has worked at the United Nations Development Program’s UN Millennium Campaign, Development Alternatives Incorporated and the World Bank Group, focusing on how donor programming can best support social entrepreneurship and individual agency among vulnerable populations. She is also co-founder of a think tank, the India Research Group, founded to identify policy solutions that support inclusive and broad-based development in India. As a faculty member for one of the largest volunteer-driven grassroots organizations, the Art of Living Foundation, she has taught programs to advance civic engagement and social entrepreneurship to approximately 2,100 youth in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Argentina, and India. Radhika holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Boston College and a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She is a member of the International Women’s Conference and a faculty member for the Art of Living Foundation and International Association for Human Values.



Osama Saeed (UK) is **Head of International and Media Relations** at **Al Jazeera**, where he manages the media network's global communications and public affairs. He was responsible for promoting the network's coverage of the **Arab uprisings** which won global plaudits, and culminated in awards including **Royal Television Society News Channel of the Year**, a **Peabody**, a **DuPont**, the **Columbia Journalism Award**, and a **George Polk**. Osama also has to deal with reputational issues affecting the network and has led on communications involving captured journalists in Syria, Iran, Libya and Israel. He helped launch the new Al Jazeera Balkans channel and organized campaigns for new distribution deals in India and the US. In his native Scotland, Osama was a **former advisor to current First Minister Alex Salmond**. He has been listed as one of the **Top 100 thinkers and opinion formers** by the **Scotsman newspaper**, and one of the countries "**Brightest and Best**" by the **Sunday Herald**. Osama played a central role in the movement against the Iraq war, and spoke at the historic demonstration of February 15th 2003. After the Glasgow Airport terrorist attack in 2007, he united Scottish society by organizing what is considered the **first ever Muslim-organized demonstration against Al-Qaeda terrorism** anywhere in the world.



Bryan Schaaf (USA) oversees the **refugee health** portfolio of the **State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration**. In this capacity, he is responsible for developing and coordinating the Bureau's humanitarian health policies and programs with other governmental, non-governmental, and international partners. He works closely with the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and the **Department of Defense (DOD)** to improve **humanitarian assistance programs**. In addition to refugee health, he also works on issues relating to **emergency response, monitoring and evaluation**, and **strategic planning**. Prior to his current position, he worked at the **Office of Global Health Affairs** at the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. He was a **Peace Corps Volunteer** in Haiti from 2000-2002. He belongs to the Dupont Circle Rotary Club in Washington DC and is involved in a number of domestic and international volunteer initiatives.



Stephanie Siklossy (Austria) has been working at **NATO** since 2010, first within the **Public Diplomacy Division**, then in the **Political Affairs Division**, as **Officer in the Middle East and North Africa Section**. In this function, she is responsible for the development of **political dialogue** and **practical cooperation** between NATO and countries in the MENA region, in particular Egypt, Algeria and Qatar. She conducts analyses on political developments in those countries, formulates policy advice, and prepares materials for high-level NATO officials. She has also organized several public diplomacy events involving opinion leaders, academics and journalists from the region. Previously, she worked for the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** as Protection Delegate, Protection Coordinator and Head of Office. During her missions in Israel, Tunisia and Algeria, she was responsible for conducting visits to detention places to assess conditions, treatment and judicial guarantees of detainees. As Head of Office in Sri Lanka, she managed ICRC humanitarian programmes, monitored protection and assistance needs of the civilian population. Stephanie holds an **MSc with Merit in Violence, Conflict and Development** from the **School of Oriental and African Studies** in London and a Bachelor Degree in Arabic and Social Anthropology from **Edinburgh University**. She is **proficient in Arabic**.