

UNAOC Fellowship programme 2014

EUNA Fellows Bios

Overall objective of the Fellowship Programme: Facilitate positive cooperation and understanding between the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe and North America (EUNA) by supporting emerging leaders from these regions to develop a nuanced understanding of each other.

Specific objectives:

- Present positive and innovative models of intercultural cooperation and networking.
- Engage participants in a dialogue over regional perceptions related to each other's society, the background to those perceptions and entry points to tapping into positive aspects and addressing negative social fault lines.
- Expose participants to new ideas, perspectives and unfamiliar social, political, cultural and economic models in order to trigger self-reflection and creative initiatives.

The biographies below are from emerging leaders carefully selected through a competitive process that will participate in an exposure visit to the Middle East and North Africa in the first half of December 2014.

This year we are grateful for the very close support and partnership of the Qatar Committee for the UNAOC, the Foreign Ministry of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Morocco.



This Fellowship is a Programme of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and is made possible by grants from the Federal Foreign office of Germany.



Alexia Knappmann (Germany) currently serves as advocacy coordinator at Amnesty International in Berlin, where she is in charge of developing Amnesty Germany's policy strategy and advises the Secretary General. She arranges and attends high level lobby meetings on national and international level and continuously liaises with Members of the German Parliament as well as representatives of the German government to discuss pressing developments based on the research of the organization. She is also committed as a freelance editor-in-charge of the website www.menschenrechte-durchsetzen.de of the German United Nations Association, reporting on the human rights work at the UN level, global human rights challenges and country situations. As devoted human rights advocate her professional experience ranges from working as MENA desk officer at Amnesty to consulting with Human Rights Watch, and conducting research as human rights observer with the International Peace Observers Network (IPON) in the Philippines. In this capacity she was in charge of the IPON-team in Mindanao, accompanying threatened local human rights defenders, documenting human rights violations, implementing various visits in conflict areas and conducting interviews with victims of human rights violation, security forces and state agents. She studied Political Science, Ethnology and Sociology at the Universities of Trier, Germany and Tampere, Finland and holds a master degree of the University of Trier.



Jeremy Blaney (United States of America) is an Institute for Business in the Global Context Scholar at the Fletcher School at Tufts University where he is pursuing a masters degree in international business. As a self-described global citizen with extensive international experience, Jeremy is deeply passionate about bringing people of different cultures together. His research at the Fletcher School derives from this overarching passion and focuses on global human capital and place branding. Previously, Jeremy served in the U.S. Air Force as a Captain, completing three deployments in support of Operations ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM. He also completed a remote tour at the NATO Allied Air Command Headquarters in Izmir, Turkey. In his spare time, Jeremy consults pro-bono on human capital projects, leads philanthropic initiatives, coaches veterans in transition, serves on various collegiate alumni boards, and recreationally explores the life of President John Adams. Jeremy graduated Phi Beta Kappa from James Madison College at Michigan State University with a Bachelors degree in international relations. He also holds a Masters degree in diplomacy from Norwich University. He currently resides in Boston with his wife, Danielle, and their goldendoodle, Quincy.



Anya Margaret Ogorkiewicz (Poland) is the Founder and Managing Director of The Keryx Group, an advisory that works with local government and municipalities in the Western Balkans and in Central and Eastern Europe. Anchored in the realities of the countries bordering a wealthy magnet region, she is a strong proponent of addressing their challenges (urban shrinkage, demographic decline, brain drain and subsequent investment priority adjustments) with smart policy entrepreneurship focused on developing border regions. She is currently the permanent representative of the Polish Standardization Committee to the Smart City coordination talks at the EU-level. Ms. Ogorkiewicz was recognized by the BMW Herbert Quandt Foundation as a Global Responsible Leader and participated in the 2013 World Responsible Leaders Forum in Beijing. She was previously recognized by The Aspen Institute in its Young Leader Program. In December 2013, Ms. Ogorkiewicz graduated from INSEAD's Social Entrepreneurship Program in Singapore. After attending the Institut Le Rosey in Switzerland and the Lycée Français in Los Angeles, Anya Ogorkiewicz received her M.Sc. in Economic Policy Analysis from the scientific Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France. Her second Masters degree is from The College of Europe in Bruges which published her thesis on "trust" as a barrier to international trade. In 2011, she lectured at Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute for International Regions on business diplomacy and Smart Cities. She is currently the co-Chair of the Marketing and Communication Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, and the Vice-President of the Supervisory Board of the College of Europe alumni association. She is a Founding Member of the American Friends of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, and she volunteers in her free time at the "Bednarska" jazz high-school.



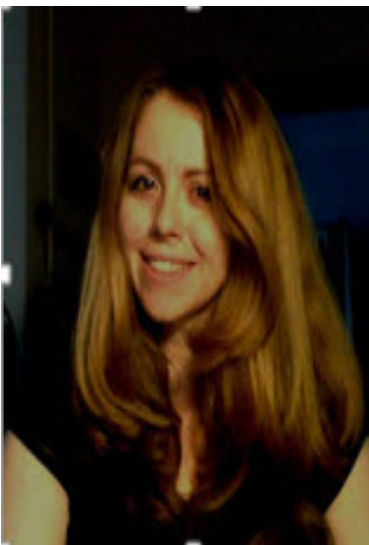
Aliaksandr Filipau (Belarus) serves as the Dean of Extended Education Faculty at The Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts in Minsk, Belarus. Previously, he worked as the Head of the Youth Affairs Department at the same university (2013-2014). In 2009-2013, he was the Senior Analyst at The Information-Analytical Center under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus. Since 2011, he has cooperated with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies based in Vilnius, Lithuania. He has experience in lecturing, being the Senior Lecturer at The Border Guard Institute of the Republic of Belarus and when working at The Academy of Public Administration under the Aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus (2006-2009). Since 2009, he has held the post of the Member of the Board at the Political Studies Institute "Political Sphere". He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science and graduated from the School of Young Managers in Public Administration (Sweden)



Emily Glen, (United Kingdom). My Msc is in International Political Science from Trinity College and I currently work as the policy & communications manager with the British Irish Chamber of Commerce. An interest in social policy motivated my choice of degrees and my first job with the British Irish Chamber. I'm really interested in the interplay between society and governments, mainly patterns in civil society and social policy. I'm also a huge elections junkie. I write about social issues and sport for some blogs; I particularly write about women in sport. I've worked with some NGOs who use sport as a tool for social inclusion in inner city Dublin and also in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I'm developing an idea for a social enterprise which would launch in Dublin in 2015 and am looking forward to learning about social enterprise in cultures so far removed from my own. I've recently completed my second marathon. I'm a massive sports fan, mainly athletics, surfing, ultra distance running, MMA; but I'm a general sports enthusiast – I'll try pretty much anything and will support most things. I'm a coffee fiend and massive fan of brunch.



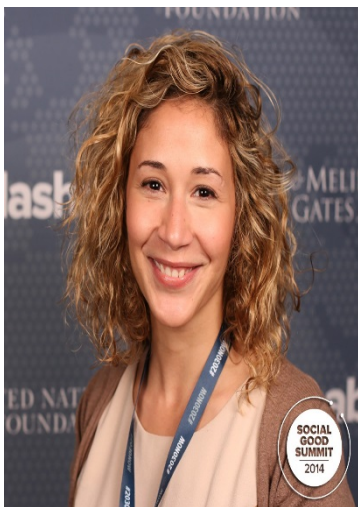
Johannes Thimm (Germany) is the head of the research division “The Americas” at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (www.swp-berlin.org), a foreign policy think tank. He has been a full time researcher at the institute for 5 years. He works on issues related to U.S. foreign policy, transatlantic relations, and international institutions. Johannes Thimm holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Freie Universität Berlin. He has also spent time studying at the University of Washington in Seattle and Yale University. Johannes is fluent in German, English, and Spanish. Prior to his current job, he has worked at the OSCE for a brief period. Johannes loves to travel. He has been abroad for extended periods many times (US, Bolivia, Austria, Belgium, Estonia), but so far has not managed to leave his native Berlin for more than a year at a time.



Maja Nenadović (Croatia) is an experienced public speaker who uses her debate coaching expertise to challenge and transform societal stereotypes. She is one of the founders of the Croatian Education and Development Network for the Evolution of Communication (HERMES), an NGO that promotes applied debate, “radical” empathy and dialogue as means of resolving miscommunication and conflicts – particularly amongst vulnerable and marginalized groups in society. As a global debate coach with 16 years experience, she has taught young people to use debate to avoid conflict and combat hatred in 20+ countries worldwide. Her current work throughout the Central Eastern European region focuses on dealing with the rise of populism and extremism. She has also done extensive work studying democratization and state-building processes in the former Yugoslavia, as well as workshops focusing on conflict-resolution. Maja Nenadović is also the Western Balkans programs coordinator for the Anne Frank House. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam



Saida Ibrahimava (Belarus) I have more than ten years of successful work experience in non-profit and governmental sectors. I have a number of years working on commercial and governmental projects, research and market analyses. While working as a Project manager for the Russian Olympic Committee, I implemented more than twenty projects in youth development, sport and volunteer movement. Previously, I worked as a Project manager with governmental and non-profit organizations based in Moscow to create a barrier-free environment for disabled and psychically handicapped. I hold a Master's of Art in International Relations from Belarussian State University and Master's of Art in International Economy and Politics from Charles University in Prague. I enjoy focusing on the topics of youth leadership, social entrepreneurship, and have a strong passion for sustainability education. I have also graduated from an art school and for several years at the beginning of my professional path worked as a book illustrator and a photographer. I'm still practicing drawings and paintings as well as photography. Creativity always helps me to manage even non artistic projects. But my biggest passion is travelling. I have already travelled over twenty percent of the world.



Kamilia Lahrichi (France) is a foreign correspondent based in Argentina. She covers international affairs in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. She is regularly translated into Chinese. Kamilia Lahrichi is the recipient of the 2014 United Nations Foundation's Global Issues Journalism Fellowship.

Prior to that, Kamilia Lahrichi was the editor of a monthly magazine on China at Thomson Reuters in Hong Kong and she appeared on Radio Television Hong Kong to analyze Middle Eastern affairs. She has published articles for CNN International, The Huffington Post, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), International Finance Magazine (UK), Global Post (US), Buenos Aires Herald, the Argentina Independent (Argentina), L'Orient---Le Jour, The Daily Star (Lebanon), Palestine---Israel Journal (Jerusalem), among others.



Radha Friedman (United States of America) is the Director of Programs at the World Justice Project, an organization working to advance the rule of law. In this role, she brings together leaders from diverse professions and sectors for dialogue and practical solutions (the best of which become pilot programs supported by seed grants). Ms. Friedman brings to the position 17 years of experience in international development on initiatives ranging from women's economic empowerment in South Asia, to civic engagement for youth in new Eurasian democracies, to land rights for women in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is passionate about helping women get the rights and resources they need to thrive, as a means to build peace, alleviate poverty, and foster strong economies. Prior to this, Ms. Friedman worked with Landesa, an NGO working to secure land rights for the world's poorest families. There, she helped launch the world's first Center for Women's Land Rights. Previously, Ms. Friedman worked with the Constitutional Rights Foundation on civic engagement for youth in Eurasia and North America. She also served as the Associate Director of the SKS Foundation, the largest micro-credit organization in India, providing micro-loans to rural women to increase their economic development. Ms. Friedman holds an M.A. in International Development Studies / M.Sci. in Public Service Administration from DePaul University, a B.A. in South Asian Studies from Antioch College, and a post-grad certificate in Cross-Sector Partnerships from the University of Cambridge in the U.K. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Rangzen (a Tibetan rights organization founded by the Dalai Lama's family) and Lotus Circle (an NGO focused on women's rights in SE Asia).



Christina Sciabarra (United States of America) is a Political Science PhD student in the School of Government and Public Policy. Her research interests include post-conflict reconstruction, conflict resolution and management, peace-building and identity conflict. She has a B.S. in History from the United States Naval Academy, B.A. in Russian from the University of Arizona, and an M.A. in Diplomacy from Norwich University. Christina served in the Naval Reserves and completed a tour of duty in Iraq in 2010. Her dissertation "What Kind of Peace? Negotiated Settlements, Peacebuilding Strategies, and the Post Civil Conflict Environment" examines the types of peace created by various post-conflict strategies and theorizes about the causes of different peace outcomes. She works with Civil Vision International, an organization dedicated to connecting citizens across cultures on the basis of shared visions and ideas. CVI creates partnerships between individuals and organizations and facilitates dialogues and collaborative projects with the purpose of creating mutual understanding between citizens. She is committed to building peace and countering the destruction created by violence and war through dialogue and shared cultural learning.



Paolo Petrocelli (Italy) is driven by the conviction that music can be a positive force for change in our world. As a music diplomacy ambassador, he serves in institutional roles to forge bonds through music in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the US. In order to serve as an active citizen and support non-profit activity, he has become a leading member of some of the most prestigious international and cultural organizations, such as UNESCO, World Economic Forum, Junior Chamber International, European Cultural Parliament, International Music Council, ONE Campaign and Playing for Change. He has nurtured relationships across the entire Gulf Region, developing particularly deep institutional connections with the United Arab Emirates and even joining the Executive Committee of the Italy-UAE Association. Petrocelli founded [EMMA for Peace](#) (Euro-Mediterranean Music Academy for Peace) to drive positive change in the Mediterranean region. EMMA brings together major institutions and world renowned artists under the shared passion for music and the promotion of peace. His most high-profile appointment thus far is as one of the youngest members ever elected to the Board of Directors of Fondazione Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (Rome Opera House). He was a Yale University fellow and is a graduate of both the La Sapienza University of Rome and Middlesex University of London. Petrocelli also holds an MA in Violin Performance from the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia, where he specialized in the study of European music in the Twentieth Century. To help shape the next generation, Petrocelli lectures at leading universities about management and international cultural relations. His history as a classical violinist colors his perspective and allows him to forge special relationships with both successful and fledgling artists.



Maria Louvari (Cyprus) is currently working on the semi-final stage of her new project, PEOPLEFOLIO - a media/social entrepreneurship project, which aims to convey messages, inspire and educate in a non-traditional way. Through interviews and personal stories of people from all around the globe, she aims to present cultures and civilizations, tackle human rights issues, promote global solidarity and social justice, fight discrimination, inspire personal development, courage, and self-esteem. The project will kick-start solely on an online platform at www.peoplefoliomag.com in 2015. Within the context of this project, she will be launching outdoor social campaigns and collaborative initiatives, locally in Cyprus, as well as internationally, in the future. She was born and raised in Cyprus, studied Political Science and Public Administration in Athens and has worked as a journalist in print media since 2004. Prior to her current entrepreneurship endeavour, she held the position of Co-Editor/Editorial Consultant at LEGACY Intelligence & Development magazine and undertook freelance consulting as an editorial management consultant in B2B publications. Prior to that, she was the Managing Editor of IN Business International Edition. She has worked as a Senior Journalist at IN Business magazine (Greek edition) for half a decade, and begun her career with an internship in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed by a two year full-time position as a research officer at Terra Cypria NGO.



Robert Catton (United Kingdom) currently works in sustainability and technology-development for a large-scale, global, telecommunications company. Having initially studied business management, Robbie has since enjoyed acting as both an internal and external business consultant, and more recently as an advisor, founder, director and trustee of a range of social enterprises and charities. In particular, he is currently a Trustee/Director for the Keystone Development Trust, (which raises money from a portfolio of socially and environmentally-sustainable businesses, and uses this money for the good of local communities and the environment), and a Incubator for fledgling social-enterprises set-up jointly by the UK Government's Cabinet Office, Judge Business School in Cambridge, and the Keystone Development Trust. Over the last three years, Robbie has since studied entrepreneurship and sustainability on a part-time basis, and is currently engaged in post-graduate research into the ways in which technology can assist in achieving social sustainability, (including the areas of health, care of the elderly and education). Outside of work, Robbie enjoys running, rowing, surfing, reading, playing the organ and piano, and a number of adventure-sports including skiing, snow-boarding, kite-surfing, mountaineering and climbing.