



UN Alliance of Civilizations FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME Spring 2012 Edition

European & North American Fellows



This Fellowship is a Programme of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is made possible by a grant of grant of the Federal Foreign office of Germany and the Hermes Foundation in partnership with the British Council, the League of Arab States, The Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of civilizations and the Institute of International Education (IIE)



Cédric Baecher (France) is co-founder and Director of Nomadéis, a Paris-based consulting agency focusing on sustainability and international cooperation issues. After his graduation from the ESSEC-MBA, he accomplished in 2001 a one-year world tour on water and poverty issues (the “*Water’ you thinking of?*” project), covering 6 countries and 10 cities with the support of UNESCO. He then acquired with Nomadéis a 10-year professional experience traveling to 40+ countries and working on 150+ assignments involving a great diversity of stakeholders (private corporations, national and local governments, NGOs...). In 2011, one year ahead of Rio+20, he co-founded the ScenaRio 2012 project, the first global research on youth and sustainable development supported by 6 UN agencies and 4 corporate sponsors. Through a wide participatory process, ScenaRio 2012 will enable 30,000 young citizens aged 16-29 from 30 countries and a panel of 100 personalities to share their perspectives on the multitude of issues linking the environment, development and governance. Cédric is involved with various non-profit institutions. He is a member of the board of the Solucom Foundation, providing support to underprivileged children in France and internationally. He lives in Paris and has both French and Swiss citizenships.



Gabriela Keseberg Dávalos (Germany) holds the position of Senior Communications Officer at the International Crisis Group headquarters in Brussels. Gabriela is in charge of the development and implementation of the organization’s media strategy and presents Crisis Group positions to policymakers and the media. She conceptualizes, creates and supervises the podcast production at ICG in five languages. Her articles and podcasts on international conflicts and human rights issues have been published in outlets like: *Die Zeit*, *Foreign Policy in Spanish* and the *Washington Post*, among others. She is co-founder and board member of the *International Young Women Partnership*, this is a volunteer network to further women’s careers, to showcase highly accomplished female professionals and promote career information sharing among women. Before joining Crisis Group, Gabriela worked as a journalist for ZDF German public television in the departments of foreign policy and new media. In 2008 she was awarded a Journalistic Scholarship by the Foundation “UNIR Bolivia” for the production of a documentary about the children of Bolivian emigrants and the human cost of migration. Ms Keseberg Dávalos holds an MA in Political Sciences from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich-Germany and the University of Copenhagen-Denmark. She also holds a Diploma in Broadcast Journalism. Gabriela is a native speaker of Spanish and German, is fluent in English and Portuguese, with intermediate French.



Amanda Figueras (Spain) works in the Foreign Desk section of Spanish daily *El Mundo*. During the two years that she has been in this position, she mainly contributes to enhance the synergies between print and online edition. The idea is to enlarge the material from the print edition with special contents for the website using all the possibilities of Internet. And also of course, she produces information for both platforms. She has a large experience working for elmundo.es website, where was part of Finance and Breaking News teams during about ten years. She was the founder of the European Affairs section after winning twice a public grant from European Parliament. In that period of time, Amanda had the opportunity of travel to almost all European countries and some of the EU's candidates to produce video reports. She holds a degree in Journalism and did one year of her studies in a Portuguese university with an Erasmus Grant. Also, she has informal studies of Islamic culture and since 2004 she also writes about the Muslim community. Ms. Figueras has special interest in minorities and, for example, she has done reports about Roma population in Romania and Slovakia, or about Afghan refugees in Greece. In the past year she has started to study about Muslim feminism. Amanda is a Spanish native speaker and fluent in English and Portuguese. She has studies of Arabic and French.

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Rabah Ghezali (Belgium) is a contributing writer to the Huffington Post, CNN, E!Sharp and other media. He is also Associate Professor of economics at Sciences-Po Paris and Fellow of the Center for Analysis and Proposals for Middle East and North-Africa (CapMENA). He has studied law economics and international relations at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the University of Oxford and at the University of Cambridge where he held both the Entente Cordiale and the Knox scholarship. He also holds the Agrégation de l'Université in economics. Rabah currently works in the financial sector where he specializes in government affairs and public advocacy. Prior to that, Rabah was civil servant before working as an attorney specialized in international dispute settlement as well as financial and banking laws. He has worked as Lecturer in French at the Ohio State University. Rabah is a founding member of the Transatlantic Network 2020 that aims to bring fresh and innovative perspectives on the transatlantic relation by connecting rising North American and European leaders of tomorrow. He has been named Young Atlanticist by the Atlantic Council.

Rabah is a regular speaker at a range of international conferences. Rabah is French born of Algerian parents and he is currently living in Brussels. Twitter: @RabahGhezali Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/rabah.ghezali>



Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din (USA) is Fulbright Scholar alum, artist/writer, activist, and academic. He is currently completing his masters at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. His family emigrated from the embattled region of Kashmir in the mid 1970s. For over 8 years Mohsin has worked in the international human rights and international affairs arenas, conducting independent research and work in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East/North Africa region. His work involves writing, research, and field-projects on issues related to Muslim-West relations, international security policy, and cultural exchange. He maintains his own column on international affairs for the Huffington Post. In 2009 Mohsin received the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship Award from the U.S State Department for his arts-diplomacy project designed for over 100 orphans and street children in the developing world. As a Fulbright Scholar,

Mohsin led the music and film initiative for street children and drug addicts in Morocco, called Lollipops Crown Music and Arts Diplomacy Initiative. He taught them how to produce music and how to write, direct, and act in their own short films. His project seeks to empower youth, promote pluralism, and catalyze better understanding across social classes, as well as, internationally between the West and East. Mohsin's work has been featured by the U.S. Institute for Peace, the World Islamic Economic Forum in Malaysia, the Asia Society, and Al Jazeera. In 2011, he successfully carried out his arts diplomacy initiative for over 20 orphans in Kashmir at the CHINAR home. Mohsin is the drummer for the internationally acclaimed rock band 'zerobridge', led by his brother Mubashir Mohi Ud Din, lead singer and songwriter.

Project website: <http://dangerville.wordpress.com>

Huffington Post column: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mohsin-mohiud-din>



Toni Panetta (USA) holds a master's degree in international relations from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver and a bachelor's degree in English language & literature from Whittier College in California. She recently served as one of 5 U.S. delegates to El Salvador and Guatemala through the American Council of Young Political Leaders. Currently, Ms. Panetta serves as political director for NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, a non-governmental organization that uses the political process to change laws to ensure all Colorado women have access to the information and reproductive health care services they need throughout their lifetimes. As political director, Ms. Panetta lobbies the Colorado Legislature and manages the organization's political campaigns to support candidates and defeat ballot initiatives.

Prior to joining NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, Ms. Panetta served as managing editor for the California Association of Realtors, where she was responsible for editing two real estate magazines with combined budgets of \$2 million. Ms. Panetta serves on the young professional's board of directors for Project C.U.R.E., a non-governmental organization that delivers medical supplies to developing countries. She also serves as chair of the marketing, events and outreach committee for the Denver Women's Commission.

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Elizabeth Ryan (USA) works in Washington D.C. as an attorney at Patton Boggs LLP, a leading international law firm. In this role, she advises clients on a range of international business, policy, and legal matters in the U.S. and overseas, and develops strategic initiatives to advance public-private partnerships and to address complex legal and regulatory issues at the federal level in Washington. Since joining Patton Boggs, Elizabeth has served as counsel for a \$100 million international charitable fund established by a sovereign state in the Middle East, where she oversaw and managed investments in housing, health care, and education projects. Active in the region, she was selected to co-convene a working group at the 2012 U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar. Before entering private practice, Elizabeth worked in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for several Congressional Committees. In addition to her work in the U.S. Government, Elizabeth draws on her previous experience with the CNN News Group at Turner Broadcasting Inc., where she developed a strong background in media and public affairs that augments her legal practice. Elizabeth holds a Juris Doctor from George Mason University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.



Daniel Schatz (Sweden) is a Doctoral Candidate in Political Science at the Humboldt University in Berlin. He recently completed tenure as Visiting Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, researching European and Middle Eastern Politics. Schatz graduated with a Masters Degree in Political Science, Middle Eastern Studies and Human Rights Studies from the University of Lund and completed studies in International Relations and Middle Eastern Politics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and New York University. He will be a Visiting Scholar at New York University's Center for European and Mediterranean Studies this fall. A specialist in government relations, international affairs and political communication, Schatz's professional appointments include positions as Political and Public Affairs Advisor at the European Parliament, the Canadian Embassy in Sweden and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. He was a trainee at the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Headquarters. Schatz serves on the Board of Directors of several organizations, has held numerous positions in the governing Swedish Liberal Party and was nominated as a Candidate for Sweden's Parliament in 2006 and 2010. He is an editorial page contributor in Svenska Dagbladet, one of Sweden's largest and most influential dailies. His articles and opinion pieces on contemporary international affairs appear regularly in leading European and international newspapers. Schatz has been involved in a number of international inter-religious/cultural initiatives promoting dialogue between religious, political and civil society representatives from the three Abrahamic religions in Europe, the Middle East and North America. He speaks Swedish, English, Polish, German, Hebrew, and Russian and learns Arabic.



Jean-Frédéric Légaré-Tremblay (Canada) located his career at the confluence of journalism and research in international affairs. Born and raised in Quebec City, he now lives in Montréal, where he works for the newspaper *Le Devoir* and for the bimonthly *L'actualité*. Previously, Jean-Frédéric worked for the newspaper *Le Soleil* and for Radio-Canada Television in Quebec City. He was also the director and author of an interview-based book series "Entretiens", published by Nota Bene for which he interviewed experts on major international issues ranging from the role of Canada in the world to Islam, to the situation in Afghanistan, Mexico, Russia, the United States and demographics. Formerly involved in the public service, he worked as a political adviser to the Minister of Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and Democratic Institutions Reform in the Government of Québec, and was a Jean-Charles Bonenfant Foundation intern at the Québec National Assembly. Jean-Frédéric also teaches international relations at Université Sherbrooke and is an associate member of the Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and was a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. He received a B.A. in political science from Laval University and an M.A. in International Relations from UQAM. He also studied European institutions at the Université libre de Bruxelles.

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Gita Vašíčková (Czech Republic) studied International Relations in Prague, Berlin and Dresden. She graduated with the thesis “German-American Security Relations after 9/11”. She was editor of the world news at *Hospodarske noviny* (Handelsblatt-Group). For more than four years, she’s been working as desk officer at the Office of the Government of Czech Republic in the Section for European Affairs. Her agenda are External relations of the European Union (Mashrek/ Maghreb, Persian Gulf, Southeast Asia and Americas). She served under three Prime Ministers and was in the preparatory team of the Czech Republic Presidency in the Council of European Union in 2009. She had experienced the multinational style of work during the European Voluntary Service at a Berlin based NGO – Citizens of Europe. For almost ten years she has been involved in projects of the Association for International Affairs in Prague (www.amo.cz), a leading think-tank in this field in Central Europe. She is interested in cross-cultural developments and her ambition is to help merging societal, cultural and political “worlds” together.



Mark V. Vlasic (USA) is an adjunct professor of law and senior fellow at Georgetown University, and a principal at Madison Law & Strategy Group PLLC, where he heads the firm’s international practice. A former head of operations of the World Bank’s StAR Secretariat, Mark served as a White House Fellow, special assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and advisor to the President’s Special Envoy to Sudan, and was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service by Secretary Robert Gates. Mark practiced law at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and served on the *Slobodan Milosevic* and Srebrenica genocide prosecution trial teams at the UN war crimes tribunal. He taught the Iraqi judges that tried Saddam, served on the U.S. Delegation to the Pan Am 103 “Lockerbie” trial and provided commentary to BBC, CNN, FOX News, CBS, NPR and Al Jazeera. A U.S. Army officer, he has been attached to Capitol Hill and the Defense Attaché Office in The Hague. Mark received his B.S.B.A. and J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown, his Certificate in International Law from The Hague Academy, and conducted post-doctorate research at Universiteit Leiden as a NAF-Fulbright Scholar. He serves on the U.S. Trade Representative and Secretary of Commerce’s Industry Advisory Committee on Services & Finance Industries.



Allan Siao Ming Witherick (U.K) lives in the UK where he holds locally elected office and has represented his party, the national youth council, country and other bodies at numerous international events. His portfolios have covered everything from Community Safety through to Adult Care Services and he currently serves as the parties lead on Overview & Scrutiny and was previously the national lead on Safer Communities on behalf of his party in local government. He has lead British Council delegations to China and taken part in EU-Africa, EU-China and ASEAN related events as well as chairing and facilitating events such as International Youth Forums and speaking in the European Parliament. With a wide variety of skills he has done everything from editing international magazines through to running events and training people in a number of fields. Outside of this he has also been involved up to national level in the Trade Union movement in the UK and been the returning officer for ELDR, the European Liberal Democrats and a member of their Council. A graduate of University College London, he studied a wide range of subjects and was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the student union and went on to work in local government in the UK.

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