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## PUBLIC EVENT REGISTRATION

We welcome the general public to our events at no charge. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Register by phone at 212-992-8380 or online at sps.nyu.edu/cga.events. More information also is available on our website. You will receive registration confirmation after your online registration is complete. Unless otherwise indicated, all public events are held at:

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Center for Global Affairs  
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15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor (between Broadway and Church Street)  
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## INFORMATION AND ADVISEMENT

For additional information on our graduate programs, please call 212-998-7100; for information on our Professional Pathways programs, call 212-998-7200. Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga for a complete overview of all programs we offer.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISIONAL DEAN

Dear Friends,

My messages here usually focus on the work that CGA students and faculty are doing at home and abroad, and while this continues to be an important part of our story, I want to address some broader trends that have had a significant impact on global affairs and inevitably affect all of us. Inclusion and diversity are important topics of discussion today at academic institutions and for the world at large. They stand in stark contrast to expulsion and uniformity, which have driven significant global political and social trends.

So what are we to make of these currents, which in themselves are divisive? I cannot provide an authoritative answer other than to share my beliefs and personal experience, which in large part, are reflected by our academic community.

In December, we celebrated the accomplishments of our students who had completed their MS degree in the fall semester. I had the privilege of calling to the podium men and women who were now graduates of our program, and what struck me was their diversity. These newly minted alumni, joining a community of over 1,300 others, had come to CGA to study from Kenya, Japan, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Peru, the UAE, and Russia, among others. They were there with beaming parents, spouses, and friends. When it was my turn to go to the podium and call each of the candidates up individually, there was an unexpected outburst of cheering and applause for the CGA experience. During the reception following the ceremony, I met with family members who commented on the bonds that CGA had cemented among this diverse community of global citizens.

We can be proud of our accomplishments, and know that we have helped shape men and women who will have a positive impact on our world regardless of their political or social opinions. They may differ in their ideas on measures to be adopted on issues such as migration and refugees, but they understand the complexity of the challenges entailed. But we cannot be complacent. Strident nationalism, exclusionary laws, and calls for border walls, coupled with incendiary remarks about “others,” are threatening to undermine decades of international cooperation. So we must be vigilant and ensure that our students and alumni understand that the “other” in different places and times may very well be them.

Some 60 years ago, a young girl came to the US with remnants of family who had survived WWII. She did not speak English and had no education during the war. She was overwhelmed by having to translate exercises before even attempting to memorize them. She went to public schools and wanted to be like all the other American girls in what she wore and how she behaved. As she got older, she realized that she could assimilate aspects of her previous cultural heritage while also being American. That girl was me, and that opportunity to meld was very much a product of our American way. Let us hope that this spirit will be preserved not only here but also the world over, where memories of past atrocities seem to have receded and the cry of “never again” is no longer heard.

I and the fantastic CGA team wish you all the best for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at our events.

Vera Jelinek, Divisional Dean
“Terrorism is a global challenge that can only be tackled effectively at the global level,” explained David Scharia, director and chief of branch of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate within the UN Security Council. “It takes a network to beat a network.”

The UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established following the September 11 attacks to support the work of UN member states. The Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) implements the policy of the CTC, conducts research and assessments, and facilitates counterterrorism assistance to member states. Over the past seven semesters, the mission of the CTED has been supported in part by research produced by a small team of CGA graduate students through independent research and capstone projects, under the guidance of Clinical Professor Michael Oppenheimer.

“For students, this is an opportunity to have an impact on the UN counterterrorism agenda,” said Oppenheimer, who leads CGA’s graduate concentration in International Relations/Global Futures. “The output of the project feeds into CTED and the Counter-Terrorism Committee.” He added, “This project epitomizes what CGA is all about: placing our students in a position to leverage their knowledge and skills to positive effect in the real world.”

Each semester, the student team is given a specific issue to research, the findings of which the team members distill into presentations to the CTED staff and are incorporated into ongoing work with the UN Security Council. These projects have included the use of information and communication technologies by terrorism groups, the facilitation of better information sharing among states and sectors, and the response to other emergent trends in terrorism.

Students also work with CTED to convene meetings with stakeholders, most recently in fall 2017 when CTED assembled its Global Research Network. The Network was developed by CTED in 2015, bringing together more than 100 think tanks and other research and academic institutions from around the world to strengthen CTED’s analytic capacity and to augment its identification of emerging issues in terrorism and counterterrorism. On November 15, in advance of an open CTC meeting at the UN the following day, more than 20 Network members, representing diverse perspectives and research areas from around the world, met at CGA and examined trends in terrorism and counterterrorism, including the risks posed by increasing “lone wolf” attacks and the challenges of reintegrating returned foreign terrorist fighters.

MSGA student Thomas Quinn was one of four graduate students working with CTED, and after conducting mostly self-directed research, the project represented an opportunity to try a new type of work. “Working with a large number of people and attempting to coordinate among them—especially when they all have schedules and priorities of their own—was by far the most challenging part of the project for me,” Quinn explained. He added, “Flexibility is key when working to coordinate an event like this, as well as an understanding that nothing is going to go entirely as expected—and that there’s nothing wrong or unusual about that.”

Enrique Zapata, who plans to become a counterterrorism analyst after graduation, agreed that a flexible approach was crucial. “This was my first time operating in an environment where I needed to adjust myself to topics too ‘political’ for some interests involved,” he said. “But the key takeaways were also getting to see how the terrorism career field looks, and understanding the challenges that exist between academia and state policy. It was great meeting people in the field, learning about their work, and seeing their commitment to addressing the threats.”
At the open meeting at the UN the next day, the students attended a discussion on topics addressed in the workshop they had supported. This meeting, the second of the Global Research Network, focused on three areas: the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2178 particularly relating to the return and relocation of foreign fighters; strategies for Member States to use to combat violent extremism; and the protection of civilian targets.

For CGA student Isabella Suarez, these issues were new: “My concentration is Environment and Energy Policy, so I had to do a lot of research before delving into the CTED project. It was a personal challenge to do more background fact-finding on top of the research and analysis we had to do for CTED.” The reward, however, came from examining issues that affect her region, Suarez said. “I come from the Philippines where we’ve been dealing with long-standing communist and separatist conflict, as well as threats of violent extremism. I was very much interested in the changes in terrorism and the implications it would have … particularly in Asia and Africa where the threats are not necessarily new.” She identified the destabilizing impact of resource scarcity and climate change on national security and hopes to weave this into her future work.

And while MSGA student Yaela Collins was already focused on transnational security and “a real admirer of the organization,” working with CTED gave her tangible experiences to build her skill set. Furthermore, she was able to expand her network. “I was able to connect with highly accomplished researchers and counterterrorism professionals from all over the world. As silly as it sounds, having some of those people in my LinkedIn network is so cool,” she said.

Alumnus Ossama Ayesh, who participated in a CTED project in spring 2017, agreed on the professional benefits for students. “The CTED project was directly in line with both what I was studying at CGA and what I intended to pursue professionally,” he said. “The experience I gained made me a competitive candidate for similar roles with counterterrorism functions.” He added, “Working on the CTED project enabled me to utilize the knowledge I gained and apply it as an anti-money laundering analyst. Part of what I do entails tracking terrorist financing, so the knowledge I gained will be applicable for years to come.”

While Ayesh applied his CTED experience in the private sector, another project participant returned to CTED. Melissa Salyk-Virk previously had held an internship at UNDP, but as she explained, “this [CTED] project gave me a look at the counterterrorism focus compared to a peacebuilding and governance focus.” Following graduation, she secured a consultancy with CTED and plans to expand her networks and understanding of issues related to prevention of violent extremism, counterterrorism, and overall transnational security. She said, “I believe that this opportunity set me apart from other individuals in my field in a competitive way after graduation, and I am really grateful that I had the opportunity to work with CTED and NYU.”

Aside from the benefits to participating students, Scharia stresses that the development of the Global Research Network, with CGA as an important member, is essential to CTED’s work. “Engaging with a global and geographically diverse network of research institutions helps CTED to take a ‘helicopter view’ of counterterrorism challenges, combining our engagement with Member States with evidence-based research,” he said. “This mechanism helps CTED to expand its awareness of terrorism trends and developments and how to tackle them more effectively.” With CTED’s mandate extended by the UN Security Council for an additional four years through the end of 2021, the hope is that opportunities for collaborations of this type will continue as well.
Richard Wolffe is a bestselling author, journalist, and digital media executive, with extensive experience covering politics and foreign policy across multiple platforms. He writes a twice-weekly column for The Guardian and most recently was chief marketing officer and chief digital officer at Global Citizen, a nonprofit social action platform whose mission is to solve the world’s biggest challenges and to end extreme poverty in our lifetime. He joined the CGA Advisory Board in 2017. Here, he speaks to Preview about his ongoing post-hurricane recovery work in Puerto Rico.

PREVIEW: What first brought you to Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Irma and Maria? When did you first go, and how were the conditions on the ground—what needs did you see?

WOLFFE: A brief phone call from my good friend [Spanish chef] José Andrés was all it took. I was following the news closely about Puerto Rico and was honestly surprised by the rapid scale of his food relief operation out there. But until he called me, I didn’t really think I had much to contribute. He was returning to the island after a brief weekend at home to recover from exhaustion and dehydration. He said he thought we needed to write a book about what was going on. I had to agree.

One of my favorite books is La Peste by Camus, and he makes it clear that even if you’re powerless in the face of suffering, you can bear witness to the stories of that suffering; to find the good in the worst situations. I didn’t know what I would find on the ground, but I hoped to find those stories.

Conditions on the ground were both better and worse than I expected. It was two weeks after Maria made landfall, and the power and water situations were catastrophic. The economy had all but collapsed, and there was no sign of it coming back soon. At the same time, I saw law enforcement armed for a civil war but instead found Puerto Ricans were coping with disaster with generosity, compassion, ingenuity, and patience. Moreover, the cooks and volunteers behind José’s food relief operation were nothing short of heroic.

What were the greatest needs? Water, food, medicine, shelter, power, cash. In that order. As fundamental a set of needs as you can imagine.

PREVIEW: How is the infrastructure there particularly prepared—or not prepared—to respond to food and water crises following these storms? Is this reflective of other Caribbean (or even global) communities?

WOLFFE: The infrastructure was already weak before the hurricanes. The island was financially broken: its public debts were overwhelming the economy’s ability to repay them, and the electricity utility was literally bankrupt. Irma had already weakened the electric grid before Maria finished it off. Losing power also crippled the water system, which relied on pumps to move the water into the rural communities in the hills.

But there’s a longer story of neglect here. The islands of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola were the first to be colonized by Europeans who plundered them, introduced slavery, and continued to meddle with their politics and finance into the contemporary era. This isn’t ancient history. Puerto Rico remains a colony in all but name. And like all colonies, it has been neglected and abused by the mainland. For instance: Congress restricted the amount of food stamps that can be distributed on the island in a unique rebuke to American citizens. When the economy collapsed after Maria, that congressional limit meant that American citizens went hungry after a natural disaster: an unthinkable outrage on the mainland.
PREVIEW: How can local and international aid efforts respond more effectively in providing food relief, both in Puerto Rico and elsewhere?

WOLFFE: The local and international aid organizations, including the public sector, were wholly unprepared to provide relief in Puerto Rico. They either had no capabilities to do so, or simply couldn’t organize their own assets and resources. It was a colossal failure of government and NGOs to meet basic human needs of water and food. In some cases, the challenges were as simple as communication and internal politics: there was plenty of fresh clean water on the island, but the population was scared of polluted and infected water. In truth, nobody was responsible for water and food, so nobody was held accountable for it.

That should be a major learning from Puerto Rico’s suffering. There needs to be a clear line of responsibility and expertise around food and water in post-disaster situations. It’s not good enough to leave it to small volunteer groups or large NGOs. There isn’t a government agency or department whose job it is to feed and water the citizens. So somebody needs to be tasked with this, or else there’s no point in managing a recovery at all.

PREVIEW: It’s almost three months after Irma and Maria hit the region. What is Puerto Rico like now? How do you see the recovery timeline progressing, and what are the long-term forecasts for the island?

WOLFFE: Puerto Rico has stabilized but not recovered. The official statistics do not tell the full story. Power generation may have recovered substantially (although not fully), but the transmission lines are down. If your house or workplace has no power, or relies on generators that were never intended to run for three months without break, then the lack of power today is the same as it was in September. The blow to the economy, already struggling in a long recession, is severe. Several hundred thousand Puerto Ricans have left the island; a few have returned. Those who remain are struggling to find work, and the cycle of decline is hard to break until power and water are fully and reliably restored.

Most people think it will take a full year for the economy to recover. The tourist economy has already lost its biggest season of the year. That timeline seems right to me, but I have to say that the fully operational economy will undoubtedly be smaller in a year than it was in August. Some people and businesses have surely left forever.

PREVIEW: You joined the CGA Advisory Board last fall. What drew you to getting involved with the Center, and how do you hope to engage with our students, faculty, and wider community?

WOLFFE: I’m impressed with the mission of CGA to nurture a new generation of global citizens working in the public, private, and NGO sectors. The world needs the talents and intelligence of new leaders who are committed to international values of trade and culture, of learning and understanding, of solving our biggest social challenges. Now more than ever, at a time of rising xenophobia and disinformation, we need to reexamine where we stand and what we stand for. I hope to be part of that debate at CGA.

“Now more than ever, at a time of rising xenophobia and disinformation, we need to reexamine where we stand and what we stand for.”
PUBLIC EVENTS

PUBLIC EVENTS AT CGA

Events provide an opportunity for you to engage in the topics you care about and expand your network. The following events are free and open to the public. Sign up for our email updates to receive the latest information on our public offerings by emailing sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu.

Because our events are offered free of charge, seats are made available until we reach capacity; after that point, we can no longer accommodate preregistered guests. Doors open 30 minutes before the start of the event.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs, 15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor (between Broadway and Church Street).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS SERIES

Intrigued by an international career? Ready for life with at least one foot across sovereign borders? Are you a new job seeker or transitioning to a new career? This popular series provides an opportunity to meet international insiders who offer practical advice and who share their real-life experiences.

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for panelist information and to register. Panels are offered in collaboration with Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WITH NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
Monday, February 12, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Brad Heckman, Chief Executive Officer, New York Peace Institute

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS
Wednesday, February 21, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Christopher Ankersen, Clinical Associate Professor, Center for Global Affairs; former Security Adviser, United Nations

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR
Thursday, March 1, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Steve Godeke, Principal, Godeke Consulting

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT
Tuesday, March 6, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderated by Judith Siegel, former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Information Programs, US Department of State

ADDITIONAL EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED
SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES!

Throughout the year, CGA offers additional events to those listed. Request our email updates by writing to sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu and receive the latest news about our events and special programs as they are added to our calendar.
GETTING THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE EQUATION RIGHT: PERSPECTIVES FROM QUÉBEC AND NEW YORK CITY
COSPONSORED BY THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

In the transition toward a low-carbon economy, businesses, cities, and subnational governments are taking the lead in developing innovative policies and incentives to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles. Join public and private sector representatives for a discussion on the challenges and opportunities for Québec and New York City as they work toward dramatically increasing the deployment of EV infrastructure and vehicles over the next decade.

Panel to include:
Sarah Houde, Director General, Québec’s Electric & Intelligent Vehicles Industrial Cluster (GIVEI)
Ari Kahn, Project Specialist, Electric Vehicle Demonstration, Con Edison
Salim Morsy, Advanced Transport Specialist, Bloomberg New Energy Finance
Jen Roberton, Transportation Policy Adviser, New York City Mayor’s Office of Sustainability

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION: A ONE-YEAR ASSESSMENT

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

US President Donald J. Trump’s ascendency to the most powerful office in the world was polarizing for domestic and foreign policy practitioners. Elected for his economic nationalist promise to “Make America Great Again,” the policies Mr. Trump championed as a candidate were predicted to disrupt traditional domestic and international politics: ending NAFTA, a tougher stance toward China, a withdrawal from the TPP and the Paris Agreement, a hard-line immigration and asylum policy, a rollback of women’s and LGBTQ rights, and a reduction in regulatory oversight to boost domestic fossil fuel production. Deep cutbacks in the State Department’s budget, recalibrated development assistance, a confrontational stance toward North Korea and Iran, reengagement in the Middle East, and the discarding of the promotion of democracy as a foreign policy objective were meant to shake up long-standing alliances and reinfuse international relations with American strength.

Join CGA Clinical Associate Professor Sylvia Maier and a panel of CGA faculty in a critical assessment of the Trump administration’s first year in office in five key areas: foreign and security policy, energy, environment, women’s rights, and international economy and trade.

AID AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: MAINTAINING COMMITMENTS AFTER THE STORM

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

When a humanitarian crisis arises due to a natural disaster, an outbreak of civil conflict, or other factors, an initial rush of aid comes in but slows to a trickle once media and public attention turns elsewhere—often leaving aid efforts underfunded and stalled just as long-term reconstruction is most needed. How are aid organizations working now to keep donors engaged in international relief work after the earthquake, hurricane, or famine is no longer in the news?

Join Boaz Paldi, manager of fundraising and engagement at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a panel of fundraisers and engagement experts in a discussion of the challenges they face in maintaining donor focus and delivering aid.
IS THE UN WORKING FOR WOMEN?
Wednesday, March 21, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

At the UN's founding in 1945, women were scarce among delegates, yet they insisted on the creation of a Commission on the Status of Women in 1946 and asserted rights to equality in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, we are approaching parity in girls’ and boys’ enrollment in primary school, and women’s achievements in employment and political representation would have astonished early pioneers of women’s rights. There is still a long way to go. The World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Index 2017 registered, for the first time since its creation in 2006, stagnation and even a retreat in progress on gender equality. The UN pursues the objective of advancing gender equality by setting up agencies to advance women’s rights, and by aiming for gender parity in its own staffing. How effectively is the UN meeting its own targets?

CGA Clinical Professor and former Chief Adviser for Peace and Security at UN Women Anne Marie Goetz will moderate a panel scrutinizing the UN’s record on advancing gender equality and women’s rights. Speakers will include representatives from the Office of the Secretary-General and UN Women and civil society activists who study the UN’s effectiveness in this area.

CHINA & TAIWAN:
CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE ERA OF ANTI-GLOBALIZATION
Wednesday, March 28, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Rapidly changing financial, economic, cultural, and political factors could disrupt trade and business in East Asia. Yet opportunities exist amid the global uncertainties. In 2016, the total amount of trade between China and Taiwan was $117.9 billion. From an investment perspective, both inbound and outbound Taiwanese M&A activity has remained strong so far in 2017. As the US pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement, Taiwan and other governments are expanding their investments in renewable energy and related technology.

Given the dynamic environment in East Asia, how should multinational firms operating in mainland China and Taiwan view geopolitical risk? How are slower economic growth, a rising middle class, and other demographic trends affecting global supply chains in the region? How will economic relations between the mainland and Taiwan be defined in the future, and what role will US foreign policy play in this? Join CGA Adjunct Instructor Earl Carr, managing director at Momentum Advisors, for a conversation on these critical questions.

[8] sps.nyu.edu/cga
SPECIAL EVENT—THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP: EUROPE AND THE US IN A NEW ERA

COSPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TAMÁS MESZERICS, THE NYU REMARQUE INSTITUTE, AND NYU CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, April 5

Are Europe and the United States destined to grow apart after over 70 years of partnership? Join academics, policymakers, and other members of the international community in an examination of the transatlantic ties that have generally united Europe and the US; the current status of that relationship, including the issues that divide us; and areas in which a strengthened partnership would be most effective, such as transnational security, trade, and the current refugee crisis.

THE LEGACY AND IMPACT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Since it officially began operations in 2007, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has been trying high-level Khmer Rouge leaders on charges, including genocide, related to the approximately 1.9 million fatalities in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge. The ECCC has been at the center of much attention, drawing both praise and criticism from local and international observers.

Join CGA faculty members Jennifer Trahan and Christopher Ankersen in dialogue with panelists who have been involved in the Courts to discuss its legacy and implications for international justice and war crimes prosecutions globally.

Panelists to include:
Robert Petit, First Prosecutor of the ECCC
Andrew Cayley, Second Prosecutor of the ECCC
David Scheffer, former UN Secretary-General Special Expert on UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials

THE UNCONDEMNED: SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Thursday, April 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

In 1997, the young men and women of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found themselves inexplicably in charge of the first court case of genocide in history. Underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed, they faced incredible hurdles as they pursued their first case against Jean-Paul Akayesu, a small-town mayor. The mayor had every reason to believe he was immune to prosecution. Crimes against humanity had not been prosecuted since 1946, and surviving witnesses feared for their lives. Based upon a last-minute revelation, the prosecuting team amended the charge to include rape as a crime of war. His fate was sealed when three courageous women overcame their fears and came forward to testify.

The Uncondemned covers the first successful prosecution of rape as an international war crime and the first-ever convictions for the crime of genocide. This moving film tells the story of the lawyers, activists, and courageous victims who testified at the Rwanda Tribunal. Join CGA for a screening followed by a discussion with filmmaker Michele Mitchell about how this story of women’s empowerment set standards for international justice today.
THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH NYU’S GLUCKSMAN IRELAND HOUSE

NOTE SPECIAL LOCATION: Rosenthal Pavilion, 60 Washington Square South
Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

April 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of Belfast’s Good Friday Agreement, the multilateral agreement that established Northern Ireland’s current relationship to the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, recently made more complex by Brexit. Senator George Mitchell, who played a pivotal role in this peace settlement, will reflect on how this historic milestone came to pass in conversation with CGA Clinical Associate Professor Thomas Hill.

AFGHANISTAN AND ITS FUTURES—FEATURING AMBASSADOR HAMDULLAH MOHIB

Thursday, April 26, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

With district elections scheduled for July 2018, and the recent decision by the United States to increase its military presence and tempo of operations there, it is worth asking what lies ahead for Afghanistan. Covering a range of perspectives—political, economic, development, security, and gender—this conversation, featuring H.E. Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States, will provide a glimpse at those possible futures.

Panel to include:
H.E. Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States
Angiza Nasiri, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of Afghanistan to the United States
Shakib Noori, Partner, SKS Global, Washington, DC

CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES, ACTORS, AND APPROACHES

Tuesdays, 12:30–1:30 p.m., January 30–February 27
Event location: NYU Wagner at the Puck Building—295 Lafayette Street

This brown-bag lunch series examines new research, creative policy approaches, and recent innovations in addressing security and development challenges in conflict and postconflict contexts.

CGA offers this series in collaboration with:
- Office of International Programs at NYU Wagner
- Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the NYU Law School
- The Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights
- The Program in International Relations at NYU’s GSAS

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for additional information.
PROFESSOR GOETZ HONORED ON THE GENDER JUSTICE LEGACY WALL, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Clinical Professor Anne Marie Goetz is one of 151 people named as having contributed over the past 125 years to the pursuit of justice for victims of gender-based international crimes. The Hague-based Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice launched a Gender Justice Legacy Wall that lists these individuals—a list expected to be engraved permanently on a wall in the new headquarters of the International Criminal Court (ICC) by July 2018, as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute, adopted in 1998, contains the broadest listing of sexual and gender-based crimes in International Criminal Law.

Goetz spearheaded efforts at the UN between 2005 and 2014 to engage the Security Council in addressing sexual violence in conflict as a tactic of war—in other words, as a means of fighting that is prohibited and can be prevented using both military and diplomatic means. Her work focused on bringing the UN’s disparate entities addressing various aspects of sexual violence together into a coordinated effort—the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. She was instrumental in advocating for the first of what became a series of UN Security Council resolutions on the subject: UN Security Council Resolution 1820 passed in June 2008. She also supported policy advances to center women’s empowerment in postconflict recovery, including UN Security Council Resolution 1889.

The Gender Justice Legacy Wall honors a wide range of people who have contributed to building the normative framework and the practice of seeking justice for gender-based crimes. These include Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; international criminal prosecutors and judges Fatou Bensouda, Navi Pillay, Brenda Hollis, and Louise Arbour; whistle-blower Anders Kompass; medical professional Denis Mukwege; lawyers and activists Julienne Lusenge and Jessica Neuwirth; and politicians William Hague and Mary Robinson, as well as unnamed individuals who have testified in international criminal cases but whose identity must be kept secret.

PROFESSOR TRAHAN IN INTERNATIONAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Clinical Associate Professor Jennifer Trahan attended meetings at the UN of the International Criminal Court’s Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in December 2017, when negotiations were concluded activating the International Criminal Court’s fourth crime, the crime of aggression. Trahan has attended negotiations on this crime since 2001, including at the 2010 Kampala, Uganda Review Conference, and she has written extensively on the topic. Prosecuting the crime of aggression hearkens back to prosecutions before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, which prosecuted “crimes against peace” (essentially waging aggressive war and conspiracy to do so). Activation of the crime (effective July 17, 2018) has significant potential to create additional deterrence as to states’ unlawful uses of force (including waging aggressive war), although the ICC’s jurisdictional regime is somewhat limited if cases are not initiated by UN Security Council referral. During the ASP, Trahan joined a side-event panel entitled “The Importance of Deterrence and the ICC’s Role in Current Violations,” sponsored by Lawyers for Justice in Libya. Professor Trahan spoke to the problematic exercise of “complementarity” (national prosecutions) in what had been the ICC’s Libya cases. Her article, published on that topic, was titled “The International Criminal Court’s Libya Case(s)—The Need for Consistency with International Human Rights as to Due Process and the Death Penalty,” 17 International Criminal Law Review 803 (2017).
IRAQ: EVOLVING PEACEBUILDING

“In the news, you can read seemingly endless stories about the brutality of war and the suffering inflicted on civilian populations, but you don’t read about the families that opened their homes and shared spare rooms with strangers, about the massive movements to share food and clothing with displaced people who left their homes with nothing and walked through mountains to escape genocide, and the steadfast generosity that people in Iraq have exhibited through decades of recent conflict.” - Audrey Watne

MSGA alumna Audrey Watne knew Iraq through the lens of the US invasion and subsequent reconstruction of the country. She was aware of the Iraqi Kurdish movement for independence. But her first trip to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), a two-month placement in Sulaimani in 2015 as a monitoring and evaluation specialist with the Mennonite Central Committee, introduced her to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Islamic State (IS) or Da’esh, the group’s actual name in Arabic, which had occupied Mosul and other parts of Iraq—and to the grace of the people facing an existential threat to their prosperity, diversity, and autonomy. Today, Watne is based in Duhok, Iraq, and working to support CGA’s grant-funded collaboration with the University of Duhok. This partnership, now starting its ninth year, bears witness to both tumult and resilience in the region.

In 2010, a cohort of nine professors from Iraq—one each from Baghdad, Kirkuk, and Sulaimani, and six from Duhok—came to New York City for a program funded by the British Council. Besides exploring New York (and learning to navigate the subway), they worked with the program’s head—CGA Clinical Associate Professor Thomas Hill—and other faculty to develop peacebuilding curricula for their respective universities.

At that time, Iraq’s Kurds were enjoying a period of relative peace following decades of persecution under former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Region’s strengths included prosperity from its significant natural resources and a diverse population of Kurds, Assyrians, and other minority ethnic groups with similarly rich religious and cultural expressions. Hill explained,
“In 2010–11, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq really was at its zenith. The region’s relationship with the Iraqi central government in Baghdad was strained, but there was hope that an arrangement could be worked out about equitable sharing of revenues and oil.” The professors, both Arab and Kurdish, from KRI, Baghdad, and Kirkuk, collaborated well, which seemed a positive sign for overall relations between Iraqi Arabs and Kurds.

That initial visit was followed by others, along with the codevelopment of peace education curricula with the University of Duhok’s Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies. CGA also expanded its work there, developing a variety of projects related to initiating research and curricula in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. One of these efforts, the Joint Research Seminar in Peacebuilding, linked NYUSPS graduate students to partners based at the University of Duhok; these students then traveled to Duhok to conduct research developed in advance with the collaboration of their Iraqi partners. It was the first time in decades that a group of students had received visas for such a trip, and it was a promising sign that further cultural and education exchange opportunities could emerge.

For Hill, this type of work had been long to come: “I had been asked by scholars in Iraq at that point for almost a decade to bring American students to Iraq. When the funding materialized from the US Department of State ... my faculty counterpart at the University of Duhok and I just sort of looked at each other and said ‘Let’s see what happens.’ What happened was that students on both sides learned a lot—about themselves and each other.” He noted that for CGA students who had imagined themselves more experienced than their Duhoki counterparts, it was a “humbling experience ... once our students got to the field in Duhok, they realized they were almost totally reliant on their research partners from Duhok, who knew how to navigate social norms, professional protocols, and language barriers.”

Seminar participant Alex Munoz had far more experience with the country than most graduate students: he was a former US Army infantryman who had served in Iraq. In 2013, he returned as a graduate student and conducted a conflict assessment of the recently opened Domiz Camp for Syrian refugees close to Duhok, a study that became the topic of his graduate thesis. As Hill noted, Munoz’s topic was prescient: “[T]hat piece of research opened my eyes—and I think the eyes of some of my colleagues at the University of Duhok—about the tensions that were growing in Duhok as a consequence of the influx of Syrians.” In 2014, student research in the region ended when IS took Mosul and the security situation was deemed too unstable. Instead, CGA and the University of Duhok identified new areas of collaboration, targeted to address the new challenges faced by the region as IS/Da’esh swept in.

By the time IS/Da’esh took Mosul and other parts of the region, there were already over 100,000 Syrian refugees living in Domiz; now they were joined by 500,000 Iraqis who were now internally displaced persons (IDPs). How was the area to cope with the strain on resources...
and increased social tensions among Kurds (both Syrian and Iraqi), Arabs, Yazidi, Christian, and other ethnic and religious groups? Dr. Jotyar Sedeeq, director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Duhok, and Hill’s longtime friend and colleague in this work, saw a sea change in the priorities for their programs: “Before the occupation by Da’esh, our programs addressed local issues: economic, social, gender. ... After the occupations began, everything changed, and for the past three years or more, we have focused on issues of refugees and IDPs, mostly IDPs.” Hill agreed: “It was evident to all of us at that point that we needed to reorient our peacebuilding work away from the old Iraq-KRI paradigm and toward addressing the emerging dynamic of a huge displaced community living shoulder-by-shoulder with the host community in Duhok.”

Munoz, who had examined some of these issues in his master’s thesis, was hired to work in Duhok through spring 2017 as a field project director on the expanded programs being developed in response to the crisis. These included two new grant-funded programs. The first was called “Supporting the University of Duhok in Becoming the Center of Excellence for Peacebuilding in Iraq,” which, among other activities, developed peacebuilding training for young people; from 2014 to 2017, more than 4,000 participants—including Syrian refugees, internally displaced Iraqis, and residents of the host community—attended approximately 220 workshops conducted in Duhok and nearby communities in neighboring Nineveh Province. The project aimed to help participants develop the skills to become agents of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in their own communities.

The other program, “Improving Local Capacity to Build Peace and Improve Social Cohesion Among Host and Displaced Communities in Duhok and Nineveh Governorates,” funded by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), aimed at helping displaced Iraqis to develop knowledge and tools to deal constructively with difference. Through outreach to tribal, religious, and political leaders, the training helps to break cycles of discrimination and violence the region might face in the wake of the Islamic State’s occupation.

In both cases, these programs aimed to push back against what Hill calls “the easy slide toward racism and sectarianism” and to construct new narratives of what the region could become. Sedeeq noted that younger people, who are more open to new ways of thinking and more adept in social media use compared to their elders, are particularly receptive to this outreach. He recalled holding workshops with displaced youth from Sinjar. “Usually they have no interaction with people from different backgrounds, so at first they had difficulties ... but now we can see how they are changing, even though these subjects take a very long time to accept.” The outcomes have been hopeful: “One day, I went to a workshop at one of the high schools, and the third day, which was the last day of the workshop, we were asking [participants] some questions about the benefits of the workshop. One of the girls said that before, she was saying on Facebook that Arab children were her enemy, and now she doesn’t think that way.”

What will the future hold for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the communities who live there? For one thing, collaborations continue between CGA and the University of Duhok. Watne has now been in Duhok for two years, working as an institutional learning specialist and research scientist for CGA’s Initiative for Peacebuilding through Education (IPE) that has partnered with the University of Duhok. She said, “I read a lot about the situation before and had studied peacebuilding at CGA, but it is always different to see the human cost of war with one’s own eyes.” She was impressed by the work of the people on the ground who, regardless of their own
ethnic or religious identity, worked “tirelessly in their support of displaced people.” This year, she looks forward to a series of intensive academic trainings in conflict assessment, reconciliation, and mediation for faculty from the Universities of Mosul and Duhok. These trainings, also funded by UNDP, look ahead to a post-IS future in KRI and Nineveh, and aim to build social cohesion among the various communities trying to rebuild their lives.

Watne and Hill also both hope to work with their colleagues in Duhok to support the University of Mosul. The University of Mosul is now returning to the city after several years spent in exile from IS; although many classes are taking place on the university campus, its administrative offices remain in a rented motel in Duhok. As the university rebuilds its campus and its community of students and scholars, university leaders hope to create a Higher Diploma in Peacebuilding.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq has seen its landscape irrevocably altered in the past decade. The majority of those who survived genocide, violence, and displacement are unlikely to return soon (if at all). Still reeling from the disruptions of the Islamic State’s occupation, the Region has seen renewed tensions with the central government in Baghdad over the September 2017 Kurdish referendum for independence, resulting in the closing of international airspace in the Region and in restrictions on oil and other resource trade. The entrenched political positions of Iraqi Kurds and the Baghdad government highlight a pattern that Hill hopes that peacebuilding work can break. “There is a lesson to be learned from Iraq, where levels of listening have been very low for a long time. If the central government had simply listened to the residents of Mosul in 2012 and 2013, when they complained loudly about lack of public services, many inhabitants of that city may not have been willing to accept the emergence—and eventual takeover—of Da’esh.” He hopes that lessons learned from Iraq can be applied to other regions, even those facing far different conflicts and needs, such as Colombia where CGA soon hopes to engage in joint research and training.

“Before the occupation by Da’esh, our programs addressed local issues: economic, social, gender. … After the occupations began, everything changed, and for the past three years or more, we have focused on issues of refugees and IDPs, mostly IDPs.”
Watne, who has just returned to Duhok after spending the winter holidays in the US, is keenly aware of the sometimes precarious nature of the regional dynamics. “As an outsider, it seems sometimes that the Middle East changes constantly while not changing at all,” she said. “In the last few years, ISIS rose and fell, Kurdistan’s bid for independence rose and fell, while the same underlying challenges of development, rehabilitation from conflict, corruption, underemployment, and access to education and other basic services continue. Displacement cycles continue, military movement and political power plays go on, and the people of the region continue to recover and rebuild again and again.”

Hill sees this as a point at which continuing this work is especially crucial, noting that “Iraqis are still having a very difficult time listening to each other.” Challenges aside, he believes that CGA can be effective at helping all the stakeholders in the region to “find approaches to the situation that respect difference and also acknowledge that working together is likely to produce far better outcomes than working separately or at cross-purposes.” And like Sedeeq, who noted the tremendous impact of NYU’s engagement with building a meaningful peacebuilding program, Hill sees reason to be optimistic. “My experience in Iraq tells me that the youth are the key. If young people from both of these communities can work together consistently with the goal of developing more peaceful practices and processes, then more peaceful communities will be the result. Supporting this work however we can—and documenting it so others can learn about it—is where we have the most to offer.”

Contributed by Alice Eckstein

For more information on CGA’s Initiative on Peacebuilding through Education, please visit [sps.nyu.edu/cga/peacebuilding](sps.nyu.edu/cga/peacebuilding).
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Fishing in Myanmar, July 2016, as photographed by then-MSGA student Barbara Chami ’17, who was in the area conducting needs assessments as part of CGA’s Workshop in Applied Peacebuilding.

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Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m. (p. 7)
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International Careers with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

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Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

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The Trump Administration: A One-Year Assessment

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Aid and Humanitarian Crisis: Maintaining Commitments After the Storm

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Is the UN Working for Women?

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APRIL
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The Good Friday Agreement: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

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Aid and Humanitarian Crisis: Maintaining Commitments After the Storm

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