Symposium
Biography Guide
Josef Abramowitz – President and CEO, Gigawatt Global (@EnergiyaGlobal; @kaptainsunshine)

Yosef Abramowitz, named by CNN as one of the top six Green Pioneers in the world, serves as CEO of Gigawatt Global, a frontier green energy developer and impact investment platform that produced the first Power Africa interconnection in sub-Sahara Africa, providing 6% of Rwanda’s power. Yosef and his team currently work in 10 African countries, including Liberia, South Sudan and other fragile states, with a pipeline of 1,000 megawatts. He can be followed @KaptainSunsine

Jenny Anderson – Senior Program Officer, Center for International Private Enterprise (@CIPEglobal; @JennyLAnderson_)

Jennifer Anderson is the Senior Program Officer for South Asia at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) based in Washington, DC. Jennifer's programmatic experience includes democratic governance, enterprise ecosystems, advocacy, women’s economic empowerment, with expertise in conflict and post-conflict environments. She manages CIPE’s democracy programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka and travels frequently to the region. Jennifer was based in South Asia for ten years, working in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan on a range of programs strengthening democratic governance. Before joining CIPE, she was most recently with USAID in Afghanistan, where she spent two years. First, as the civilian lead for rule of law with a Provincial Reconstruction Team and later as a Senior Development Advisor embedded with a U.S. Army Brigade. Jennifer holds a Bachelor's in Photography from Colombia College, Chicago, and a Masters of Science, with a major in Cultural Geography, from Portland State University, Oregon. Jennifer also speaks Nepali.

Levi Benkert – Co-founder, Verdant Frontiers (@VerdantFrontier)

Levi is currently the co-founder of Verdant Frontiers, a venture firm that fights poverty by creating large-scale, for-profit companies in Ethiopia. Since 2013, he has led the development of five ventures in Ethiopia across multiple industries including healthcare, construction services, hospitality, agribusiness and real estate. Their largest venture, Verde Beef Processing is a beef feedlot and processing company which is the largest in Ethiopia with 7,000 animals currently on site, an expert management team in place, a recent infusion of private equity funds at a $24m post-money valuation and plans to grow to $100m in annual revenues in five years. Currently, Levi is also a part of a project to build 112 apartment residences for rental to the US, UK and UN foreign diplomatic missions in Ethiopia.

Levi founded Bring Love In, a not-for-profit orphan care organization based in Ethiopia, with the goal to train up future leaders for their country, Bring Love In partners with local governments and takes children from orphanages and places them with local widows within the community. Currently Bring Love In cares for more than 400 children in Addis Ababa and is growing rapidly. This innovative model for in country orphan care developed by Levi Benkert and his wife Jessie has garnered international attention as UNICEF and other international aid groups have begun to model other projects internationally after Bring Love In because of its efficiency in targeting societal problems at large by creating solutions within the community.
Sarah Cechvala – Senior Program Manager, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects (@cdalearning)

Sarah Cechvala is a Senior Program Manager at CDA Collaborative Learning Projects. Her learning and advisory service focus is on conflict-sensitivity, responsible business practice, and aid effectiveness and feedback loops. Sarah has facilitated collaborative learning processes and field research in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. She has technical expertise in corporate social responsibility, stakeholder engagement, social impact and conflict risk assessments, and sustainable development in contexts of weak governance and state fragility. She has conducted field site assessments for companies in Myanmar, Argentina, and the Philippines. Currently, Sarah manages CDA's collaborative learning project focused on the role of business in peacebuilding, and has developed case studies, desk-based research, and guidance documents and frameworks for the project. Prior to joining CDA, she conducted field research and trainings focused on humanitarian response, displacement, and gender-based violence in conflict zones. Sarah holds an MA in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and a BA in International Relations from Boston University.

Cameron M. Chisholm – Vice President, Creative Learning, International Peace & Security Institute (@IPSInstitute)

Cameron M. Chisholm is Vice President of Creative Learning and founder of the International Peace & Security Institute (IPSI), a DC-based education and training nonprofit with a mission to empower the next generation of global peacemakers. IPSI’s programs are designed to be rigorous, substantive learning experiences that give future/current world leaders the tools they need to make peace reality. From the Institute’s onset, the focus has always been on providing the most practically useful training, taught by the world’s most accomplished practitioners who have actually worked through conflict resolution processes firsthand. Before founding IPSI, Cameron worked with the World Bank, CEWARN, the U.S. Department of State, and The Carter Center. He has a B.A. from Emory University and a M.A. from the University of Bradford. He is an adjunct professor at the George Washington University Elliott School and Georgetown University Department of Government. He is a Rotary World Peace Fellow Alumnus and a Truman National Security Fellow.

Stone Conroy – Senior Advisor, Venture Peacebuilding, International Peace & Security Institute (@VenturePeace; @Stone_Conroy)

Stone Conroy is the Senior Advisor for Venture Peacebuilding at the International Peace & Security Institute, where he manages the Venture Peacebuilding program. This program brings together leaders in impact investing, social entrepreneurship, and peacebuilding to explore one of the most pressing challenges of our time—how to transform conflict-affected communities into peaceful and prosperous ones. Prior to this he was the Senior Manager for Strategic Partnerships at the Alliance for Peacebuilding, where he worked on building new partnerships inside and outside of the peacebuilding field and mobilizing and amplifying the work of Alliance members. Before that he spent several years on the Outreach and Engagement team at the U.S. Department of State’s Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). In this position, he promoted security cooperation and information sharing between the State Department and private sector organizations operating around the world. Prior to this, Stone was a Boren Fellow in Nigeria where he served as a Conflict Management and Economic Development Fellow at Mercy Corps, and worked on peacebuilding and economic empowerment programs in the Middle Belt region. Stone holds a Master’s Degree in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and attended Middlebury College for undergraduate studies.
Hanne Dalmut – Director of Partnership Development, Concordia (@ConcordiaSummit; @HDalmut)

Hanne Dalmut is the Director of Partnership Development, leveraging Concordia’s year-round programming, partnership-oriented research, and global network to develop cross sector collaboration that combats global challenges and achieves positive social impact. As Director, Hanne leads the organizational identification of partnering opportunities based on programming and Concordia Community priorities, and serves to broker, advise, and construct new partnerships. She also manages the P3 Impact Award, an annual award created by Concordia, the University of Virginia Darden School Institute for Business in Society, and the U.S. Department of State Secretary’s Office of Global Partnerships to recognize and honor best practices of public-private partnerships (P3s) that are improving communities and the world in the most impactful ways. Hanne joined Concordia in 2016 as the Director of Social Impact, where she helped to implement the organization’s Campaign Against Labor Trafficking and the Campaign for a Sustainable Global Food Supply. This followed experience with the U.S. Institute of Peace and the PeaceTech Lab, an offshoot of the Institute dedicated to conflict prevention through the innovative application of data, technology, and media. At the Institute, and later the Lab, Hanne worked on strategic initiatives and partnership building within the peacebuilding space, to include supporting the 2014 U.S. National Defense Panel and several of the Institute’s senior working groups. Additional professional experience includes internships at the State Department, the European Parliament, and the Council on Foreign Relations. Hanne earned her Masters from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, where she focused on the nexus of diplomacy and defense in the transatlantic relationship. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Truman State University (Kirksville, MO), and has language skills in German, French, and Turkish.

Frank Fredericks – Executive Director, World Faith & CEO, Mean Communications (@WorldFaithNGO; @WeMeanComms; @frankiefreds)

Frank Fredericks is the founder of World Faith, a global movement to end religious violence, and Mean Communications, a digital agency for social good. After working in the music industry, managing artists such as Lady Gaga, Frank founded World Faith in 2008. He has been recognized as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, and is a Fellow Alumnus of Leading for Impact at Oxford Skoll Centre, AMENDS at Stanford, IFYC, Soliya, Ariane de Rothschild, and YouthActionNet. He did his BM at NYU and his MBA at Oxford Said as a Global Shaper Scholar from the World Economic Forum.
**Bulbul Gupta** – Founder and CEO, Mighty Girl Ventures (@bulbulnyc)

Bulbul Gupta is a Social Innovation Advisor with 16 years of experience in multi-stakeholder partnerships, corporate sustainability, entrepreneurship, innovative finance, and public policy. She is passionate about advancing technology & innovation in under-served markets. She is the former Head of Market-Based Approaches for the Clinton Global Initiative, where she worked with Fortune 500, Global 3000 corporations, BCorps, investors, non-profits, and governments on responsible investing, sustainable sourcing, shared value/inclusive growth, financial inclusion, workforce development and employee engagement. Previously, Bulbul has led partnerships at The Asia Foundation, help launch them at USAID’s GDA, and worked at The Packard Foundation, USTR, on and off Capitol Hill in D.C. Her consulting roles include Multi-nationals, the White House/OSTP; Mission Measurement, Greyston Bakery (a B Corporation), USAID; InterAction; FHI360; Instiglio Social Finance, and more.

Bulbul is an Adjunct Professor in NYU’s Social Innovation curriculum on Impact Investing and Financial Management of Social Enterprises, and a Diversity & Inclusion trainer for the BCorp community. She serves as Board Chair of Upaya Social Ventures, and on the Advisory Councils of the Global Sourcing Council, Cornerstone Capital, the Unreasonable Institute NY, Village Capital's FinTech & Future of Work, the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2016. She was an outside policy advisor to a presidential campaign in 2016. Bulbul has a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan, with coursework at Ross School of Business, where she studied under CK Prahalad, when he was writing “Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid.” She is the daughter of immigrant tech entrepreneurs from India, married to the PayPal/eBay/500 Startups mafia, and has lived in DC, New York, and now Palo Alto again, with her husband, and 2 Jedis-in-training daughters.

**Bee Heal** – Program Manager, C5 Accelerate (@C5Accelerate)

Bee Heal is Program Manager for the PeaceTech Accelerator, based in Washington, D.C. The PeaceTech Accelerator is the first major international peacetech program powered by cloud innovation and dedicated to scaling startups from around the world.

Previously, Bee led the Cloud Leadership Centre, the non-profit company within the C5 group that supports charitable and philanthropic organisations working in education, conflict resolution, conservation and veteran welfare. Prior to joining the C5 group, Bee worked for an NGO in the Democratic Republic of Congo on cross-border conflict transformation. Bee graduated with an MA (Hons) in Spanish and History from the University of Edinburgh.
Biographies

Paul Heidebrecht – Director, Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement (@GrebelCPA)

Paul Heidebrecht is the inaugural director of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement, and teaches courses in Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel University College on the campus of the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Waterloo has been ranked Canada’s best comprehensive research university for the past 10 years, and Canada’s most innovative university for 26 years running; Conrad Grebel is home to Canada’s first peace studies program. Prior to his current role, Heidebrecht spent five years in Ottawa leading the efforts of Mennonite Central Committee, an international NGO, to shape Canadian government policies on behalf of program partners in relief, development, and peacebuilding. He has also served overseas with the same organization as a peacebuilder in Nigeria and an Appropriate Technology Engineer in Bangladesh, and has seven years of experience as a licensed Professional Engineer in Ontario. His current research interests reflect a range of academic fields and professional experiences, including the intersection of social innovation and peacebuilding, political advocacy and social ethics, and technology and moral formation. He holds a Ph.D. from Marquette University, an M.A. from the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and a B.A.Sc. from the University of Waterloo.

Jennifer Holt – CEO, Building Markets (@BuildingMrkets)

Jennifer Holt is the CEO of Building Markets, an organization that reduces poverty and creates stability in crisis-affected countries by connecting local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to new opportunities. Building Markets has supported more than 23,000 SMEs, assisted them in winning over $1b in contracts, and helped create 69,000 jobs. Most recently, the organization conducted a ground-breaking market assessment of 230 Syrian refugee-led businesses. Prior to this, Jennifer worked with the Afghanistan Ministry of Finance and the United Nations. From 2000-2005, she was Program Associate in the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Refugee and Demography Program. Jennifer holds a Master’s degree from Columbia University.

Shamil Idriss – CEO, Search for Common Ground (@SFCG_; @sfcg_pres)

Shamil Idriss is President & CEO of Search for Common Ground, a global peacebuilding organization which supports communities to prevent and recover from violent conflict. With more than 600 staff and thousands more partners and volunteers working through offices in more than 30 countries and implementing programming in more than 40, Search is the largest dedicated peacebuilding organization in the world.

In 2004 Idriss helped establish and served on the Steering Committee of the World Economic Forum’s Council of 100 Leaders. He was appointed in 2005 by UN Secretary-General Annan as Deputy Director of the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Idriss has pioneered the use of interactive technology for dialogue and conflict prevention. As CEO of Soliya he led a public-private sector coalition to create a market for virtual exchanges, leading to the establishment of the Ambassador Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative announced by President Obama in 2015 and subsequent launch by the European Union of a virtual exchange fund in 2017.
Amirah Jiwa – Social Impact Strategist, Away and Peace Direct (@Away; @Amiraah)

Amirah Jiwa established and manages the nonprofit partnership between nonprofit Peace Direct and Away, a global travel brand designing thoughtful objects for modern travel. Prior, Jiwa developed philanthropic initiatives for a range of consumer and retail brands including Sephora, Coca-Cola, and Clarks. Jiwa studied Peace, War, and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was a Morehead-Cain Scholar. She is from the UK but now lives and works in New York.

Steve Killelea – Founder and Executive Chairman, Institute for Economics & Peace (@GlobPeaceIndex)

Steve Killelea is an accomplished entrepreneur in high technology business development and at the forefront of philanthropic activities focused on sustainable development and peace. After successfully building two international software companies, Steve dedicated most of his time and fortune to sustainable development and peace.

Steve founded Integrated Research Ltd (IR), an Australian publicly-listed company with a 25-year heritage of providing performance management and payments software for business-critical computing and Unified Communications environments. Through Steve’s direction as CEO and now as Chairman, IR has built an impressive, world-class customer base to make it one of Australia’s leading software companies. Steve was recognized as AllA Australian Exporter of the Year in 1998 and 2003, amongst numerous other business awards.

In 2007 Steve founded the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an international think tank dedicated to building a greater understanding of the interconnection between business, peace and economics with particular emphasis on the economic benefits of peace. IEP’s ground-breaking research includes the Global Peace Index, the world’s leading measure of peacefulness. Steve’s founding of IEP was recognized as one of the 50 most impactful philanthropic gifts in Australia’s history.

Steve currently serves on a number of influential Company Boards, Advisory Boards and President Councils. In 2010 he was honoured as Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the global peace movement and the provision of humanitarian aid to the developing world. In 2013 Steve was nominated one of the “Top 100 Most Influential People in Armed Violence Reduction” by the UK group Action on Armed Violence.
Fred Krawchuk – Senior Advisor, One Earth Future

A former U.S. Army Special Forces Officer and intercollegiate athlete, Fred has led high-performing teams in over thirty different countries. After his military career, Fred consulted with RAND Corporation, and also began teaching leadership, negotiations, and strategy at IESE Business School in Spain. Additionally, Fred is an executive coach, writer, and the CEO of the Pathfinder Consulting Group.

Fred is an accomplished leader known for strategic planning and leading high-risk operations around the globe, to include peacekeeping in the Balkans, jungle operations in Latin America and Southeast Asia, and counterinsurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan. Blending his military, diplomatic, and peak performance expertise, he writes about and guides senior executives on how to build consensus between stakeholders from all walks of life, align action, and generate pragmatic solutions to complex challenges.

Eric Letsinger – CEO, Quantified Ventures (@QuantifiedVTS)

Eric Letsinger is the Founder and CEO of Quantified Ventures, a for-profit impact investing firm that helps clients finance specific and measurable environmental, health, and educational outcomes. He is a “tri-sector” executive, bringing 25+ years of leadership experience in government, nonprofit, and private sector organizations operating in healthcare, environment, education, and housing. He has led transformative, public-private initiatives to drive social impact in complex, cross-sector business environments including: IBM, Baltimore Public Schools, Baltimore Housing Department, Cyveillance Software, PWC, and Samaritan Inns Homeless Services. Eric has an MBA from Yale University and a BA in Urban Studies from Northwestern University. He started out as a standup comic and then hit the road for two years as the drummer in a band before trying to save the world full time. Eric speaks regularly at dozens of conferences, events, and universities, including the Aspen Institute, Urban Institute, Yale, Duke, and the University of Virginia. He married way over his head and has two daughters who keep him humble.

Quantified Ventures helps governments, social entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, and healthcare systems tap into the financial resources needed to sufficiently scale operations and deliver meaningful impact, primarily through the Pay For Success model. Quantified Ventures is currently designing, brokering, and implementing a series of environmental, health, and education transactions across the country.

Deborah Mancini – Director, International Peace & Security Institute (@IPSInstitute)

Deborah has experience in policy design and training on a range of topics related to peace and conflict. She co-authored and contributed to guidelines and handbooks on civil-military-police relations, civilian protection, humanitarian negotiation and corporate social responsibility. She also designed and facilitated training programs for senior political, military, private sector, UN and NGO representatives in various countries. Before joining IPSI, Deborah has worked and consulted for UNICEF Vietnam, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, The Sustainability Forum Zurich, Oxfam America, and the United States Institute for Peace. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Stanford University.
Michelle McMahon – Legal Counsel, Innovest Advisory

Michelle is counsel for Innovest Advisory, an impact consultancy that applies development know-how to unlock private capital to tackle global challenges. Innovest Advisory’s work includes a significant focus on initiatives designed to create durable livelihoods for vulnerable populations, and stimulate economic development in refugee host communities and fragile and conflict affected countries, through a range of solutions, including Micro and SME financing, ethical recruitment and job creation and placement initiatives, and social enterprises enabling at risk populations to become resourceful economic actors. Prior to Innovest, Michelle was a Senior Partner and Director of a US law firm where she specialized in corporate finance transactions, including initial public offerings, structured finance and M&A transactions. After relocating to the UK, she established the Jersey subsidiary of a global legal and financial services firm serving international capital markets clients. Upon leaving commercial practice, Michelle drew on her legal, corporate finance and board experience to act as an independent consultant on philanthropic and social finance initiatives, including a social enterprise developing integrated social services for at risk families utilising a pay for performance model, and a financial intermediary facilitating the market for impact investments. Michelle has served as a director, trustee, advisor or ambassador of numerous non-profit organisations, including Room to Read, Every Child Our Future, Arizona Children’s Foundation, Jersey 2 Africa Foundation and several school and arts foundations and associations.

Carola Mendelbaum – CEO, Creative Learning (@CLearningInc)

Carola Mandelbaum is the Chief Executive Officer for Creative Learning (CL), and as such she oversees the overall management of the organization including programs, financial systems, and operations. Carola leads the business development process, strategies and systems with demonstrable success in winning high impact international development projects. She acts as a liaison with the CL Board of Directors and interacts with all CL donors.

Carola is the co-founder of Creative Learning’s School-2-School program and is the Program Director for CL’s Human Rights and Advocacy programming, including projects in Guatemala, Peru, Libya and Egypt. She is an experienced project manager and technical advisor with primary focus on livelihoods, gender and human rights. Prior to joining Creative Learning, Carola was Management Associate at Creative Associates International Inc.

With over 20 years of experience, she has managed large and small development programs from a variety of donors, has extensive experience developing the capacity of local NGOs, and working in complex environments. Carola is Argentine and holds a Joint MA in Latin American Studies and Journalism from New York University and a BA in Political Science with a focus international relations from Universidad de San Andres in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is a Board Member of the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)
Biographies

Johanna Mendelson-Forman – Founder, Conflict Cuisine; Scholar in Residence at American University’s School of International Service (@conflictcuisine; @JohannaWonk)

Johanna Mendelson Forman is a Scholar in Residence at American University’s School of International Service where she teaches Conflict Cuisine: An Introduction to War and Peace around the Dinner Table. Connecting war and food is something that came from her recognition that in Washington you could tell where there were wars by the number of new ethnic restaurants that opened here. This inspired her recent work on conflict cuisines as tool for teaching how food is a form of Smart Power as well as a driver of conflict. It also linked two subjects, food and conflict, in a new interdisciplinary way that makes it easier to understand why in zones of conflict food becomes central to both survival and resilience. An expert on the post-conflict transition and democratization issues, she has regional expertise in the Americas, with a special focus on the Caribbean, Central America and Brazil.

Her writings have appeared in a wide-range of publications including the Miami Herald, the Washington Post, Americas Quarterly, The Globalist, World Politics Review, VOXXI, Estadao, and El Universal. She frequently appears on national media including National Public Radio, Univision, and CNN. Mendelson Forman is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a J.D. from Washington College of Law at American University, a Ph.D. in Latin American history from Washington University, St. Louis, and a Master’s of International Affairs, with a certificate of Latin America studies from Columbia University in New York.

Bridget Moix – U.S. Senior Representative, Peace Direct (@peacedirect; @BridgetMoix)

Bridget has worked for 20 years on international peace and conflict issues, with a focus on US foreign policy. Prior to joining Peace Direct as Senior US Representative and Head of Advocacy, she was part of its founding US board for four years. From 2013-2015, Bridget served as Atrocity Prevention Fellow with USAID’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. She spent nine years lobbying on US foreign policy and peace issues with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, where she developed and led the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program. She has also worked with the Quaker United Nations Office, Oxfam America, American Friends Service Committee, and the World Policy Institute. Bridget directed the Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, a Quaker center of hospitality and international understanding, from 2006-2008. She also worked in Capetown, South Africa, with the Quaker Peace Centre during her graduate studies internship.

Bridget holds a PhD with George Mason University’s School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, where she focused her dissertation on understanding the motivations of local peacebuilders and how the international community can better support them. She has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and Quaker studies at a variety of institutions, including Haverford College, Columbia University, George Washington University, and Eastern Mennonite University. Bridget lives in Washington, DC, and has two sons who challenge her peacebuilding skills every day.
Adam Motiwala – Director of Federal Practice, Fifth Tribe (@FifthTribe)

Adam Motiwala serves as the Director of the Federal practice at Fifth Tribe. His past experiences involved working with the United Nations World Food Programme and the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent, where he served as a disaster management officer working in conflict areas like Pakistan. Currently, Adam works with leaders from nonprofits, government and private sector companies to unlock and implement a digital strategy for communication, operations and marketing for their organization. His interest is in unlocking the ability digital communication provides to quickly create online audiences towards a specific goal and tell their stories. He has told the stories for brands such as the Peace Corps, Oxfam, the Hult Prize, Kaiser Permanente, and Mississippi Public University. He is the creative founder and leader of the Digital Hope workshop at Street Sense which trains Street Sense vendors in becoming online marketing contractors.

Jennifer Oetzel – Professor, American University’s Kogod Business School (@AmericanU; @KogodBiz)

Jennifer Oetzel, Ph.D. is the Kogod International Business Professor at American University’s Kogod School of Business. Her research focuses on understanding how firms manage risk. More specifically, Professor Oetzel examines how businesses can best manage violent conflict, natural disasters, and other discontinuous risks and how promoting economic and social development, and, in some cases peace building, can minimize business risk and positively contribute to the local/regional community and the overall business environment. Her overall body of research includes more than 20 articles, book chapters, and working papers. Recent work has appeared in the Strategic Management Journal, Organization Science, and the Journal of International Business, among other outlets. In 2015 she won a Best Paper Award at the 2015 Academy of Management Meeting, was a finalist for Haynes Prize for the Most Promising Scholar at the Award Academy of International Business (2009), and has been nominated twice at the Strategic Management Society (SMS) for best paper awards. She has also received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for two ongoing research projects. Professor Oetzel serves on the Editorial Boards for the Strategic Management Journal, the Journal of International Business Studies, the Journal of World Business, and the Business, Peace, and Sustainable Development Journal. In 2013 and 2015 she co-organized two international conferences on the role of business in peace building in Washington, D.C. The most recent conference in April of 2015 attracted over 100 presenters and attendees from Canada, Australia, France, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, Peru, Turkey and Pakistan (almost all financing 100% of their own travel). One of the outcomes of this event was a special issue she co-edited for Business, Peace and Sustainable Development entitled, “The Business and Economics of Peace: Moving the Agenda Forward.”
Biographies

**Daniel Owen** – Program Manager, Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program, World Bank (@WorldBank)

Dan Owen is a Sr. Social Development Specialist working in the Africa Social Development team at the World Bank. He is the Program Leader for the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program, supporting post-conflict stabilization, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts in the Africa region. He is also leading teams preparing sustainable livelihoods projects for refugees in Mauritania and reintegration and community support in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is the focal point for Labor issues in the Global Practice for Social, Rural, Urban and Resilience, preparing guidance for the new raft of social safeguards on labor and working conditions. Previously, he worked for six years in the Europe and Central Asia Social Development team, leading Community-Driven Development CDD program design and investment operations in the fields of social inclusion and mining in Azerbaijan, Poland, Romania, Croatia and Serbia. He co-managed the ECA Region Poverty and Social Impact Analysis Trust Fund and worked extensively with the European Commission on developing protocols and guidance for the Community-Led Local Development approach for European structural investment funds. He also led work in ECA on social dimensions of labor restructuring – providing technical support and advisory services for retrenchment in the region in transport, energy and public utilities. In the World Bank, he has also served as coordinator of the Bank’s anchor unit for Community-Driven Development, as a Social Development Specialist at the International Finance Corporation and, during a decade of work in the Africa region, as a participation and poverty specialist based in the Mozambique country office. His academic background is in Anthropology and he has attended the universities of Cambridge, Harvard and the London School of Economics.

**Jonathan Papoulidis** – Executive Advisor on Fragile States at World Visions (@WorldVision; @JPapoulidis)

Jonathan Papoulidis is Executive Advisor on Fragile States at World Vision in Washington D.C. where he provides broad leadership on the Agency’s policy, programming and public/private partnerships for fragile states. He is also Visiting Scholar at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Papoulidis previously served with the United Nations, including in Indonesia as part of the post-tsunami and post-conflict response, first as Chief of Policy and Programs in the Office of the UN Recovery Coordinator and then as Special Advisor and Coordinator for Aceh and Nias and Security Coordinator for Sumatra. From 2004-2006, he served in the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia as advisor to the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Governance and Recovery. Before that, he was the senior UN OCHA representative in Turkey preparing for the 2003 Iraq humanitarian response. Prior to these postings, Papoulidis was at UN headquarters in New York focusing on protection of civilians, conflict prevention, post-crisis transitional planning, and private sector partnerships. He has a Master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge.

Twitter handle: @jpapoulidis
Recent writing: https://www.brookings.edu/author/jonathan-papoulidis/
Rebeen Pasha – Founder and CEO, StartUp Middle East (@MyeDreamLab)

Rebeen Pasha is a social entrepreneur, expert and practitioner on youth engagement and peacebuilding through entrepreneurship in conflict setting in the Middle East. He is founder and chair of StartUP Middle East, a network of ecosystem enablers in MENA’s conflict and fragile states focused on rebuilding the region through entrepreneurship and youth inclusion, and prior to that, he founded My(Entrepreneurial) Dream (MyeDream) in Erbil (Iraq/Kurdistan Region), as the first entrepreneurship ecosystem development social enterprise organization and startup business incubator.

Originally a refugee from Iraqi Kurdistan to the US in 1996, Pasha went back in 2015 after ISIS invasion of Mosul to establish MyeDream to enable youth to rebuild their communities through entrepreneurship and new narrative of self-initiative and building the ecosystem through MyeDream’s 3D model of Dream + Dialogue + Development. Prior to MyeDream, Pasha was Senior Advisor to the Middle East Bureau of USAID, and worked prior to it at the US Government on Paris Declaration/Sustainability Planning for President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and was Chief of Operations of Office of Global Health at the US Peace Corps in Washington DC. Pasha served with the UN in Iraq, working on Community-Based Initiatives (WHO) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Inclusive Economic Growth section (UNDP) 2009-2010. Prior to it, Pasha worked extensively on public private partnerships throughout Africa and Asia for youth vocational training and empowerment programs with several international NGOs. Pasha has served as senior consultant for multiple organizations, including recently for Hedayah, the Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, amongst others. He has organized events in Erbil, DC, and Dubai (most recently the official Road to Global Entrepreneurship Summit for MENA). He has his Master’s in Policy (Health; UNC-Chapel Hill in collaboration with Duke Sanford School of Public Policy), and bachelor’s from University of Virginia.

Rabbi Joshua Ratner – Director of Advocacy at the Jlens Impact Investor Network (@RabbiRatner)

Rabbi Ratner oversees JLens advocacy in the corporate and investment arena on social, environmental, and Israel-related concerns. He previously served as the director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in New Haven, Connecticut, the Associate Rabbi at Yale University’s Hillel, and the Rabbi at Congregation Kol Ami.

Rabbi Ratner is a board member of the Jewish sustainability organization Hazon, a Global Justice Fellow with American Jewish World Service, and a Rabbinic Fellow of CLAL’s Rabbis Without Borders program. His writings about the interplay between Judaism and contemporary topics have been featured on Huffington Post, myjewishlearning.com, and other periodicals. Rabbi Ratner was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is a graduate of Columbia University and Columbia Law School. He was a corporate attorney before entering rabbinical school. Email: rabbiratner@jlensnetwork.org
**Tim Receveur** – Director of PeaceTech Exchanges, PeaceTech Lab (@PeaceTechLab; @timreceveur)

Tim Receveur is the director of the PeaceTech Exchanges at the PeaceTech Lab in Washington, DC. The Lab is located inside the U.S. Institute of Peace and looks at ways technology, media and data can help reduce violent conflict around the world. PeaceTech Exchanges (PTX) are intensive workshops that bring together technology experts, civil society, governments and other international organizations to find innovative ways to prevent violence and conflict. From 2000-2013 Tim worked as a foreign affairs officer at the U.S. Department of State with a focus on applied technology and he also served in the U.S. Air Force for 9 years as a meteorologist.

**Julia Roig** – President, PartnersGlobal (@PartnersGlobal; @jroig_Partners)

Julia Roig, President, PartnersGlobal represents the next generation of leadership in the international development field as the CEO of one of the most preeminent global organizations dedicated to innovative governance solutions for development. Ms. Roig provides technical and strategic leadership within the global network of affiliate Centers, and represents the organization within the foreign assistance community with a personal commitment to multi-lateralism and global cooperation. During her tenure, she conceived of and oversaw a three-year global evaluation of the Partners’ investment model in local Centers. The final report released in 2014 has made a substantial contribution to learning in the international development field, including: authentic international and local partnerships, sustainable investment in local capacity, and long-term impact on democratic governance. Ms. Roig is an attorney licensed in the state of Maryland with many years of diverse international management experience and practical field work. She is a substantive expert in Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Conflict Resolution, and has provided systems design, strategic planning, cooperative advocacy, program management, community outreach and training throughout the world. Prior to joining Partners, Julia served for two years as the Country Director for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Belgrade Serbia. She is also a recognized expert on community justice and dispute resolution in Colombia having spent five years living and working from Bogota, promoting a national expansion of the Equity Conciliation and Justice Houses programs. Julia is a specialist in the evaluation of international assistance programs and impact assessments, and has served as team leader for complex, multi-country evaluations in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Senegal.
Russ Rosenzweig – Founder and CEO, World Ventures Group (@russ_rosenzweig)

Russ W. Rosenzweig is an entrepreneur/social entrepreneur best known for founding Round Table Group, the world’s largest expert witness search and referral firm, since acquired by Thomson Reuters. Round Table Group was elected an unprecedented 6 times in the Inc. Magazine 500/5000 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US and was profiled in numerous press stories including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Fortune Magazine, and in 5 Stanford University case studies. Presently, Mr. Rosenzweig continues his work as a provider of expert witness services to attorneys as the CEO of 86 Pillars LLC, as an expert on customer acquisition and marketing techniques, as a speaker, as a professor of entrepreneurship and innovation, and as the director of the Silicon Valley Institute for Business Innovation among other endeavors. Mr. Rosenzweig latest reinvention is a focused determination to reduce global conflicts. He is the founder and executive director of World Ventures Group. He holds a BA from Northwestern University and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Johannes Schreuder – Policy Manager, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (@UNPeacebuilding)

Johannes Schreuder leads the innovative finance and private sector engagement work of PBSO. In addition he is managing the Peacebuilding Fund investments in Liberia, South Sudan and the Philippines. He has special interest in employment interventions in conflict-affected countries and conflict-sensitive management of the extractive industry and is working closely with the World Bank on these topics. Prior to joining PBSO, Johannes worked as Investment Officer at Oikocredit, an Impact Investment Fund, focusing on their equity investments in East Africa. He started his career with the Boston Consulting Group, a management consulting firm, working mainly for their financial and public sector clients. Johannes is an Economist by training, studying at the University of Amsterdam and Sciences Po in Paris.

Leimer Tejeda – Manager of Peace and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Global Compact (@globalcompact; @WheresLeimer)

Leimer is Manager of Peace & Humanitarian Affairs at the UN Global Compact (UNGC), the world’s largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative. In her current capacity, Leimer specializes in the role of the private sector in high-risk and conflict affected areas, humanitarian response, and anti-corruption. Previously, Leimer was an Analyst at Goldman Sachs. She holds two Bachelor’s in International Business and Spanish Literature, a Master’s in Global Affairs, and specialized certificates in International Conflict Management and Forced Migration. She is an avid traveler having studied, lived, worked or traveled in more than 90 countries.
Sif Thorgeirsson – PeaceStartup Ambassador for the U.S. (@SifThorgeirsson)

Sif Thorgeirsson is PeaceStartup ambassador for the United States. She is an experienced business and human rights professional as well as a US-trained lawyer. Since September 2016, Sif has been working as an independent consultant to a number of NGOs on business and human rights. Prior to that, from 2006 to 2016, Sif was at Business & Human Rights Resource Centre where she managed the Centre’s Corporate Legal Accountability Project. Before joining the Resource Centre, she was a Researcher at Yale Law School on international human rights issues (including business & human rights). She was an associate at Troutman Sanders law firm in Washington, DC for five years, where her practice focused on project development and finance in the energy sector, international law and corporate law.

Sif received her law degree from George Washington University Law School. While studying law, Sif worked as a research assistant to international law Professor Ralph Steinhardt, working on subjects including human rights and corporate responsibility. Sif attended the Oxford University Summer Programme in International Human Rights Law. She received her BA in History and Political Science from McGill University in Canada. Sif is fluent in English & Icelandic, with good Spanish & French.

Katy Vickland – Director of Workforce Development, Creative Associates (@KatyVickland)

Katy Vickland is the Practice Area Director for Creative Associates’ Workforce Development and Youth Practice Area, in our Economic Growth Division. In addition, she is the Director of the YouthPower Implementation IDIQ held by Creative, a leading USAID contracting vehicle for youth services including workforce development, civic participation, and crime and violence prevention. She has extensive experience designing and implementing demand-driven workforce development programs, which incorporate soft skills, experiential learning, and job placement services, in manufacturing, agriculture and services, to serve vulnerable populations including at-risk youth.

Katy has more than three decades of experience in inclusive economic development, providing results for a range of clients including USAID, the Interamerican Development Bank, the World Bank, global foundations, and US cities and states. She has lived abroad in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Prague, and Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia. Prior to joining Creative she led the Latin America and the Caribbean group at CARANA Corporation (now Palladium). At Stanford Research Institute for 20 years, she contributed significantly, at various times, to Federal Business Development, US Domestic Economic Development, and International Development groups. She holds a Master’s in Public Policy with a concentration in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a B.A. in Economics from Carleton College. Her work has taken her to more than 40 countries worldwide.
Karen Volker – Director Strategic & International Partnerships, Cure Violence (@CureViolence)

Karen Volker is the Director Strategic & International Partnerships and is based in Cure Violence’s Washington, DC office. She has been working with Cure Violence since January 2012. Prior to joining Cure Violence, Ms. Volker spent over 25 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. Immediately prior to retiring from the State Department, Ms. Volker was the Chief of Staff for the (then) new Special Coordinator for Middle East Transitions.

Prior to that, she was the Director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a $500 million program that supports civil society organizations in the Middle East and North Africa. Earlier Foreign Service assignments included the Secretary’s Policy Planning Staff, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy, U.S. Stability Pact Coordinator, and Special Assistant in the Coordinator’s office for transitions in both the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe. Overseas assignments included Budapest, Brussels, and London.

Karen Volker has devoted her professional life to promoting pluralism and democracy, defending human rights and preventing violence. As Director of the Cure Violence office in Washington, DC, Ms. Volker interacts with policy-makers and legislators on behalf of Cure Violence. Given her Foreign Service background, she has also devoted a large portion of her time to helping expand Cure Violence’s international work.

Chris Walker – Director of the Social Venture Fund, Mercy Corps (@mercycorps)

In his role at Mercy Corps, Chris manages the Innovation Investment Alliance, a partnership between the Skoll Foundation and USAID that finances the scale-up of social enterprises. He also advises Mercy Corps’ Social Venture Fund (www.mercycorps.org/innovations/social-venture-fund), which invests in and accelerates impact-oriented, for-profit businesses. Previously, Chris was the head of the Innovative Finance Program at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), where he designed and built initiatives that attracted investment capital to address malnutrition. These included partnerships with impact investors to provide equity and debt financing to businesses having a positive impact on nutrition, and incubation support for African food and agribusiness companies. He also led the creation of the Access to Nutrition Index (www.accesstonutrition.org), a ranking of the world’s largest food and beverage companies on their nutrition practices which serves as an assessment tool for the sustainable investment community. Prior to GAIN, Chris was a Fellow with Acumen, a non-profit social venture capital fund, and worked for one of Acumen’s investments, Ziqitza Health Care (a.k.a. Dial 1298 for Ambulance Service), in Mumbai, India. He has also worked on international economic and development policy issues at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the U.S. State Department. Chris has a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Arts from Williams College.
Dr. Quintan Wiktorowicz is the co-founder and managing partner of Affinis Labs, an award-winning social innovation firm that tackles global challenges through entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology. Affinis has partnered with Facebook, Google, 500 Startups, the United Nations, governments, and others to develop new solutions to social impact priorities, whether it is epidemics of conflict and instability, refugee crises, or skyrocketing youth unemployment. It was named one of the 50 most innovative Global Muslim Startups, and Thomson Reuters called the company “a key driving force behind developing the Digital Islamic Economy.” Affinis received the Global Islamic Economy Award for Small and Medium Enterprises, and its work has been featured by Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Fast Company, NBC News, National Public Radio, British Broadcasting Corporation, New Yorker Magazine, Newsweek, The Guardian, and others.

Quintan previously served in two senior positions at the White House, where he was responsible for national security engagement policies that leverage entrepreneurship and development assistance, public-private partnerships, diplomacy, communications, and community outreach. He established the first director positions for national security innovation at the White House and championed the use of open innovation, human-centered design, and principles of entrepreneurship to catalyze new approaches to national security.

Prior to joining the White House, Quintan developed ground breaking counter-radicalization initiatives for the U.S. Government. Before his government service, he was one of America’s leading academics on the Muslim World, publishing three peer-reviewed books, an award-winning audio book, and 33 articles and book chapters. Quintan received his Ph.D. in political science from American University, studied Islam in Cairo with an al-Azhar shaykh, and conducted fieldwork on violent extremism in Jordan and the UK, where he witnessed radicalization first hand. He was a Fulbright Scholar; and a professor at Rhodes College, Dartmouth College, and Shippensburg University.
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Live tweet throughout the Symposium!