



Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability



Cover: AHDA fellows on the Columbia University campus and around New York City.

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Forward

During the past year we have endured the ascendancy of the politics of “post truth” and “alternative facts.” This turn to politics motivated by emotions and the rejection of empirical evidence is at the base of growing xenophobia in many countries. The rejection of evidence is perhaps more extreme, but it is not unprecedented; we can point to many cases where sectarian politics have attempted to mold the facts to suit the narrative of one side or another in a conflict. Experience with historical memory suggests that such lies have limited shelf life and their main impact is to have contentious consequences, or in Lincoln’s reputed aphorism “you can’t fool all of the people all of the time.” We look forward to the return to an empirically based world.

Disputes over historical memory have often contributed to the persistence and reawakening of violence. Such disputes over narratives are too often ignored. Many interstate and intrastate conflicts are grounded in historical animosity, in disputes over truth, facts, and alternative facts. Even if we distance ourselves from the US, we need only to think of tensions in North East Asia, in relation to Japanese wartime atrocities and its colonial legacy, as well as domestic demands for accountability in both China and much more in South Korea. Ukraine, the Balkans, Turkey, and the Middle East are just a few other areas where narratives of historical animosity shape contemporary politics. Alas, conflict resolution professionals tend to overlook issues of historical justice and group memory in their efforts to address protracted conflicts, primarily because it is viewed as too complicated. Resolving conflicting narratives in a post truth society is becoming increasingly challenging.

Yet there is hope. Civil society pays growing attention to the memory of violence and emphasizes the importance of truth in the long run. This advocacy is manifested in various ways from commemoration to performance, from politics to education. The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability program (AHDA) has continued its research project of mapping these efforts, which we hope will serve as a resource for research and activism, as well as contribute to and publicize this scope of multifaceted activism. More on the mapping project below.

In addition to civil society, if more infrequently, governments also recognize the need to attend to the historical memory that drives conflicts and their impact on public opinion and politics. One of the few bright spots in international human

rights over the last few years has been the peace process in Colombia. As part of the negotiation, a formal Historical Commission was initiated, and it issued a report that contributed to confidence building among the parties. These developments exemplify where historical dialogue can contribute to conflict transformation even during violent conflict.

The memory of past atrocities receives greater attention in human rights advocacy and scholarship. This recognition is motivated by the belief that continuous historical injustices have to be acknowledged and at least attempted to be redressed in order to endeavor to resolve the conflict and challenge structural discrimination. In a variety of ways, AHDA seeks to further these developments, and to recognize and include historical memory as significant factors in conflict resolution.

It is thus a great pleasure to be able to report on AHDA’s sixth year. This relatively new field expands chronologically and methodologically on the work of conflict resolution and prevention on the one hand and transitional justice on the other. It aims beyond legal questions and individual encounters to address the identity of the group and the nation.

AHDA’s goal is to provide a virtual and physical space for advocates and scholars to compare and expand their experience and knowledge. ISHR is very pleased to report on AHDA’s activities, which included a semester long International Fellowship program, the sixth annual international conference, and our growing web presence, which serves as a clearing house to learn about a range of activities related to historical dialogue around the world.

We could not have done it without our partners and funders: Robert Bosch Stiftung; the Auschwitz Institute; WITNESS and the Lauder Foundation; at Columbia University: the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research; Columbia University Seminars: History, Redress and Reconciliation; Columbia University Seminar on Cultural Memory; Guantanamo Public Memory Project; The Heyman Center for Humanities; Whitney M. Young.

We invite you to connect with us, individually and institutionally, and together we can further the cause of historical dialogue as a tool of redress and conflict resolution.

Elazar Barkan,
Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Professor of International and Public Affairs

Introduction



(Left) AHDA and HRAP fellows with Elazar Barkan, at the winter reception. (Right) AHDA fellows, along with Tim Wyman-McCarthy and Ariella Lang.

The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) Program is an innovative initiative that seeks to examine the historical legacy of conflict, and in particular the impact that the memory of past violence wields on contemporary politics, societies and cultures. The depth of interest in the program reflects the increasing recognition on the part of stakeholders that addressing a violent past and conflicting narratives about the past are integral tools in the work of reconciliation and democracy promotion. In today's world, when xenophobia and populism are on the rise, these topics are of particular relevance and resonance, and the need to consider the impact of historical narrative within the realms of scholarship and advocacy is ever more pressing.

As described below, the AHDA program consists of different initiatives as well as workshops, speaker series, and film screenings; its virtual network serves as a resource for scholars, students and practitioners; the annual conference elaborates on this goal by enabling individuals to meet and share their research and practices with others in the field. Our digital initiative, the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP), not only serves as a tool to measure work being done in the field, but is a resource for best practices and will, I believe, contribute to a better understanding of the impact of historical dialogue initiatives in the field of conflict transformation. The Regional Network for Historical

Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP) held its second summer workshop this year, and points to the need for the development of additional regional networks that can focus on geographically specific questions and challenges. Last but certainly not least, our robust fellowship program continues to welcome an international group of practitioners to Columbia each fall for a semester of coursework, capacity building, project development and networking opportunities. As always, working with our fellows is an honor and an inspiration, and the projects and collaborations initiated here at Columbia will continue long after the program ends.

As the diversity of our initiatives and participants suggests, the work that the AHDA program supports reflects the fact that historical dialogue takes place in a variety of fields ranging from journalism and education to history and new media. These disciplines all contribute to AHDA's goals of enhancing public discussion about the past; understanding the uses and misuses of history; and creating a framework in which communities can reflect, share and debate their past in the quest for a more democratic future. With gratitude I thank our AHDA fellows, our AHDA alumni, and the participants, contributors and supporters of AHDA programs.

Ariella Lang
Associate Director,
Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Lecturer, Department of History

Digital Presence

The **Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network** (www.historicaldialogues.com) encourages interdisciplinary research and advocacy on issues relating to the memorialization and historicization of conflicts, historical and transitional justice, the promotion of sustainable peace, participatory democracy and conflict transformation. The goal of the network is to connect practitioners, scholars and others interested in the field of historical dialogue, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between disciplines, between national and local contexts, and between theory and practice. The Dialogues is a joint initiative of the Historical Justice and Memory Research Network (HJMRN), formerly housed at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, in Melbourne, and currently under the auspices of the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) at Columbia University. Aside from a biweekly newsletter, the Network's website contains resources including book reviews and an emerging scholars' paper series. The site is home to various projects (described below) and resources and contains information about the Network's annual conference, about its members, and about events and opportunities related to the field of historical dialogue.

The **Mapping Historical Dialogue Project** (www.historicaldialogues.org/mhdp) is a digital visualization project that seeks to better understand how the engagement of the memory of conflict can be used as an opportunity to develop conflict transformation mechanisms. Based on a crowdsourcing model, the map seeks to gather data about projects that engage in historical dialogue work. The information collected also enables users to more fully understand the impact that the memory of sectarian and national violence has on contemporary politics and to establish the norms of the field of historical dialogue. In so doing, the project aims to more fully understand how this knowledge facilitates work towards conflict transformation. This year, thanks to a generous grant



(Top) Alex Gil, Digital Scholarship Coordinator, Humanities and History Division, Columbia Libraries (Right) Carla De Ycaza, editor of the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network





The Mapping Historical Dialogue Project

from the Bosch Foundation, the MHDP has grown significantly, and now contains information on over 500 projects from 90 countries. In addition, we have over 20 research affiliates who are working on components of the map in their specific areas of expertise. A group of these researchers attended the December conference, and contributed to a roundtable discussion about the work of the MHDP and its relevance to their research.

The **Political Apologies Archive** (www.humanrightscolumbia.org/ahda/political-apologies) examines the ways in which apologies have become part of the political and historical landscape. This ongoing initiative was launched by political scientist Graham Dodds, and includes an archive of political apologies in modern historical contexts. In 2016, additional entries to the archive were made, and, with the migration and update of our homepage, all entries were updated and made more user friendly.

POLITICAL APOLOGIES ARCHIVE

How does the act of apologizing enable societies to come to terms with their past?

Political apologies can be a powerful tool in the re-examination of a nation's history, and the significance this history has on democratic processes. The project includes a working list of political apologies throughout history that political scientist Graham Dodds has researched and compiled.

This is a working list of major political apologies and related events. The selection criteria for compiling the list are somewhat loose, but the intent is to include any and all apologies that involve states, nations, or major political groups and actors, generally for significant public wrongs. Thus, apologies by individual politicians for more narrow matters (e.g., alleged personal or criminal failings) are generally excluded.

Should you wish to add to the list, please e-mail ahda@columbia.edu.

Start Year: End Year: Keyword search:

Date of Apology	Title	Summary	Source
1077	Church-State Conflicts	Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV apologizes to Pope Gregory VII for church-state conflicts by standing barefoot in the snow for three days.	"Once More, With Feeling." Time, September 21, 1998.
1403	1403 Proclamation Apologizing to the Peasantry	Queen Margaret I of Denmark issues a proclamation apologizing to the peasantry for the "great burden and much toll" caused by the "wantonness, greed and willfulness" of her clerks, balliffs, and herself.	Moberg, Vilhelm A. A History of the Swedish People. University of Minnesota, 2005. Vol. 1, p208. I am indebted to Steven Pinker for this reference.
1697	Salem witch trials of 1692	One judge and twelve jurors apologize for the Salem witch trials of 1692, as the colony declares a	Norton, Mary Beth. "The Called It Witchcraft." New York Times, October 31, 2002. A27.

Political Apologies Archive

Events, Initiatives and Collaborations

Annual Conference

Each December, the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network, in collaboration with the AHDA program, holds its three-day **annual conference** that brings affiliates – scholars and practitioners who work in the field of historical dialogue – together. These individuals have the opportunity to present projects, ongoing work, scholarly papers, and case studies. The conference provides a space for networking, opportunities to share knowledge and experiences, and establishes the Network's identity as a forum for historical dialogue. As an annual event, the conference is also used to explore different topics and challenges within the field, and to reach out to a cross-section of practitioners and scholars working in the field.

"Confronting Violent Pasts and Historical (In)Justice," took place December 1-3, 2016 at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at the University of Amsterdam. The conference sought to explore how mechanisms such as official apologies, international criminal tribunals, truth commissions, and history curricula (to name but a few), seek to contribute to accountability, reconciliation and victims' rights, and the impact that these institutionalized means of confronting the violent past have had. The Keynote address was given by Professor William Schabas, and a small group of participants, including members of the Network Steering Committee, had the honor of presenting their work to the Mayor of Amsterdam, Eberhard Edzard van der Laan.

The **Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP)** was established in 2012, and was born out of a collaboration between the AHDA program, the Istanbul based NGO *Hafiza Merkezi* (Truth, Justice, and Memory Center), and Columbia Global Centers/Turkey. RNHDP is a regional network open to civil so-

ciety professionals, scholars and students working in the MENA and Caucasus regions. The Network focuses on issues relating to dealing with the past, such as historical dialogue, memory studies, truth and accountability. In June 2016, it held its second annual summer training program in Istanbul. The one-week program provided approximately 20 participants with the opportunity to hone practical and conceptual skills related to dealing with the past, and to foster relationships with their peers and with international and non-profit organizations.

One of a wide range of events that AHDA organized throughout the year, the **International Workshop on Historical Dialogue and Mass Atrocity Prevention** took place in October 2016, and allowed an international group of participants to present case studies on a wide range of topics from different regional perspectives. The aim of the workshop was to explore the relationship between history and conflict resolution processes and how history can engage with the work of mass atrocity and genocide prevention. Participants in the workshop included Dr. Karen Murphy, of Facing History and Ourselves, who spoke on textbooks and curricular reform; Professor Francisco Gutiérrez of the National University of Colombia, who spoke about historical commissions; and Ms. Bonita Bennett, director of the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa, who spoke on exhibits and historical trauma.

The **Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research (CHRDR)** is the official repository for the archives of major human rights organizations such as Amnesty International USA, Human Rights First, and Human Rights Watch. Center director and archivist, Pamela Graham serves as a resource and advisor for fellows and others interested in working on archival projects in their home countries, and regarding documentation projects for digital and physical materials that are at risk of disappearing or being destroyed.



(1) AHDA fellows examine archival materials at the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research (CHRDR). (2) Professors Peter Romjin and Nanci Adler, NIOD conference hosts. (3) The annual 2016 conference, “Confronting Violent Pasts & Historical (In)Justice,” was held at NIOD, the Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, University of Amsterdam. (4) RNHDP, co-sponsored by AHDA, Hafiza Merkezi, and Columbia Global Centers-Istanbul, held its annual summer training in Istanbul, Turkey. (5) Conference organizers and NIOD faculty gathered at the Mayor’s residence in Amsterdam. (6) Professor Jim Waller speaks at an AHDA event on genocide prevention and historical dialogue.

The Fellowship Program

Our fellowship program seeks to contribute to the field of historical dialogue by building a network of advocates working in the field; by fostering a dynamic academic environment for Fellows to initiate and develop new projects in the field of historical dialogue; and by facilitating discussion about the past in their respective societies. The success of the AHDA fellowship program is due in no small part to the Institute's lengthy history of working with educators and scholars, advocates and practitioners, to strengthen the skills and knowledge of those working in the field of human rights. As 2016 fellow Bonita Bennett writes, "Amongst the many other aspects of the program that I found to be valuable, I most appreciated the opportunity to view my practice and that of

my organization, through a more theoretical, scholarly and comparative lens. The dialogue generated in this way was very enriching and I found myself needing to take several moments to rethink strategy and to think more comprehensively about coherence and impact of existing programs. I am less certain as to whether the impact between scholarship and practice was mutually experienced but do hope that it was so. The weekly AHDA seminars, classes audited and addressed, and talks given by various Columbia professionals, formed part of this value chain."

The AHDA curriculum is organized around four component parts: seminars with scholars and experts in historical dialogue that explore the major theoretical and methodological

(1) Fellows pose for a selfie at the end of the semester. (2) AHDA fellow Bonita Bennett discusses the work of her museum at a workshop on genocide prevention and historical dialogue mechanisms. (3) Fellows visit the White House. (4) Fellows visit the MOMA.





(1) Fellows present their project proposals at a one day conference in December, with students and faculty in attendance. (2) AHDA fellow Marijana Toma speaks about her work at an event co-sponsored by AHDA, the Human Rights MA Program, and the Harriman Institute. (3) Fellows participate in a workshop.

issues relating to historical dialogue as a field, and on-the-ground case studies; capacity building workshops that focus on practical skills important to the work of historical dialogue; site visits and networking opportunities with organizations and individuals whose work is relevant to historical dialogue. Finally, fellows have the opportunity to audit Columbia University courses that are relevant to their particular context or approach to historical dialogue. As members of the Columbia community, fellows give talks about their work over the course of the semester. In addition, each fellow develops a project proposal during the course of the fellowship, with the expectation that the project will be implemented upon their return to their home community. As an emerging field, we see these different components of the program as essential to expanding the impact, efficacy and implementation of work in historical dialogue.

The twelve fellows who formed the class of 2016 were selected from a pool of approximately 150 applicants. They came from a variety of professional backgrounds and from

a wide range of places: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Italy, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Tanzania and the United States, but all work on issues related to historical violence, transitional justice, dealing with the past and conflict transformation. The professional and geographical diversity of the group is one of the great strengths of the program, with fellows learning from and sharing with their peers as well as the broader Columbia human rights community. In the following section, we asked Fellows to share with us what historical dialogue means to them, and how their work connects history and human rights advocacy. Each entry is followed by details regarding the fellows' activities during their time in New York City. A special thanks to members of the Columbia community who helped us welcome our fellows to the university, who agreed to meet with them, and who served as advisors, mentors, and experts in a wide range of fields. These individuals, part of our Networking@Columbia program, are acknowledged by name in the following section.



MARIAM ABOUGHAZI

Researcher and Coordinator

Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression

EGYPT

Bosch Foundation Fellow

Living through the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and witnessing the role of media and the authorities in manipulating my lived experience made me realize that the most important battle ahead is a battle over narrative, memory, and the writing of history. In a place where the “regime,” the “opposition,” and everything in-between are trying to retell their specific stories, the process of history production and memory collection is crucial. This experience led me to the Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE), based in Cairo, Egypt, where I work as a researcher and program coordinator of the Memory and Conscience file. In this role, I strategized and explored different ways of documenting the major events that happened in Egypt during the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. This work builds on a number of previous projects related to memory and history, including ‘Revisiting Memory: Public Space’ with the Cinematheque Alternative Film Center, a project dedicated to building a participatory archive questioning the moving image’s role in capturing moments of social upheaval and periods of transition, and the formation of public opinion.

As an AHDA fellow I developed a project for a mobile application that offers downloadable walking tours of downtown Cairo that narrate the different events (accompanied by testimonies, personal anecdotes and soundscapes from these events) of the Egyptian Revolution and the story of political transformation. The project aims to turn the city’s downtown into ‘a walking museum.’ The essence of my project is based on the attempt to produce an alternative history that is easily circulated, preserved, and well documented. After the storm of the revolution passes, there will come a time of transition that will shape the future for years to come. At that moment, if we do not have well documented memories and stories, the history of that past will be written without them.





Networking@Columbia:

Brian Boyd, Department of Anthropology

Joselyn Jurich, Journalism School

Jeremiah Trinidad-Christensen, Columbia Libraries

Classes:

Human Rights and Urban Public Space, Noah Chasin

Nationalism in the Middle East, Joseph Massad

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Cultural Tourism

Ford Foundation

Human Rights First

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National Security Archives

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Memory and Mapping: Space and Identity in Cairo during the Revolution,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“Oral History and Questions of Identity and Conflict,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



JAVEED UL AZIZ

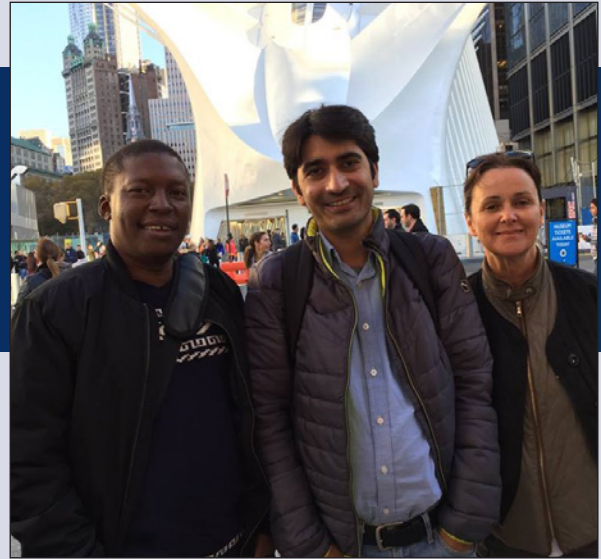
Assistant Professor of History
University of Kashmir
INDIA

Whitney M. Young Fellow

I joined the Department of History at the University of Kashmir as an Assistant Professor in January 2013. My research focuses on the economic history of modern Kashmir, the historical roots of marginalization, and the role of memory in shaping identity. Living in Kashmir and witnessing oppression from different agents has fueled my interest in human rights violations and how narrative devices are used to frame our understanding of the past. Besides teaching courses on Modern Indian History and the History of Modern Kashmir, I also supervise graduate projects as part of the “Gathering History from Below” initiative, which facilitates projects based on non-conventional sources that aim to bring to the fore people and communities who were hitherto hidden from history. Because the past sets an agenda for the present and also shapes the future, it is important that history identify the role that certain events and ideologies had in shaping current mentalities. Since 2015, I have also been involved in creating an *Oral History Repository*, working to identify persons who have witnessed oppression or have personal stories of oppression, and motivating them to come forward and record their narratives. Through my understanding of the evolutionary process of the human psyche and of institutions, I have explored how dialogue and a comprehensive approach to historical collection influences our understanding of modern politics and oppression.

This work is the foundation for the project that I developed as an AHDA fellow, which is an oral history project in which I intend to interview and record the experiences of individuals from the region, particularly survivors of violence or family members of victims of violence. I am interested both in issues of memory and narration, but also in the ways in which oral history as a methodology can attempt to identify the roots of oppression and the ways that power manifests itself differently for different communities in the region.





Networking@Columbia:

Angana Chatterji, Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Anupama Rao, Department of History, Barnard College

Amy Starecheski, Center for Oral History

Classes:

Oral History: Fieldwork, Production and Archiving, Amy Starecheski

Oral History Workshop, Amy Starecheski

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum
New York Historical Society

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Engaging Memories Bottom up: Oral History of Kashmir 1947-2016,” presentation to human rights students, Columbia University

“Kashmir, 1947-2016: Legacies of Violence,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“Oral History and Questions of Identity and Conflict,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



BONITA BENNETT

Director

District Six Museum

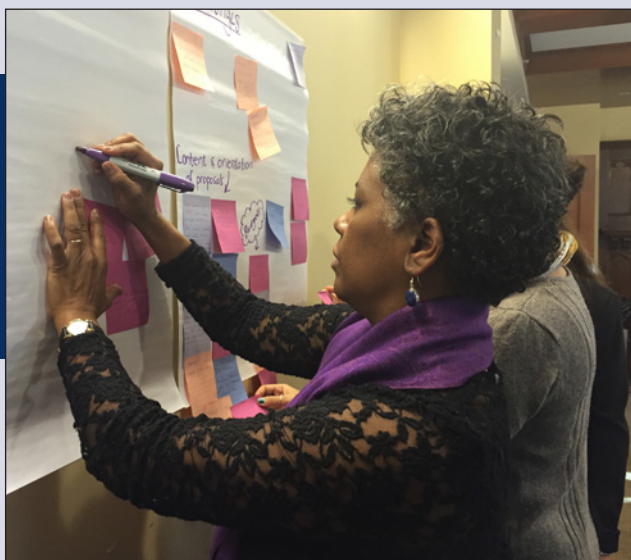
SOUTH AFRICA

Bosch Foundation Fellow

My activist identity extends back to 1976 when the Soweto uprisings brought to the fore many of the underlying tensions in apartheid South Africa. It was in high school that I realized how history was taught as a disconnected concept, inapplicable to current life; schooling was a colonial and alienating undertaking that was at best incompatible with the present and at worst incomprehensible. During these formative years I became a community activist: in the young women's movement agitating for women's rights; in the youth movement to raise awareness about the evils of apartheid; in the civic movement working for housing and municipal services. I was part of the 'history from below' movement and have carried that activism and inspiration into all of my professional endeavors.

My experience as an activist ultimately gave rise to new questions about the future and human rights. How do we embed good values, ethical behavior, and a movement from human wrongs to human rights in a permanent way into our national DNA? As Director of the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa, history and the framework in which we present it are important considerations. My work in the non-profit and public sector has brought together my pedagogical training and political activism, and the skills gleaned during the days of the anti-apartheid struggle, as tools that inform my approach as Director. These experiences have also informed the project that I have developed as an AHDA fellow, titled "Voices on the Landscape." The proposal is to create a campaign that advocates for the declaration of the District Six area of Cape Town as a National Heritage Site, a long-term goal of the Museum. The campaign will include an oral history component, engaging of the broader community through carefully crafted consultative processes, and challenging the idea of cultural heritage tourism as a strategic frame for the declaration.





Networking@Columbia:

John Hirsch, SIPA/International Peace Institute

Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project

Graeme Simpson, Interpeace / Columbia Law School

Classes:

Human Rights and Urban Public Space, Noah Chasin

Social Science and Other Approaches to Studying Life History & Narrative Information, William McAllister

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

American Alliance of Museums

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Security Archives

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Vital Voices Global Partnership

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Is there a role for museums in mass atrocity prevention?” Historical Dialogue and Mass Atrocity Prevention Workshop, Columbia University

“History, Human Rights, and the District Six Museum,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

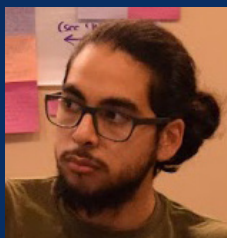
“From South to South: Two Museums Committed to Human Rights,” co-presentation with Maria Jose Kahn Silva, Columbia University

“Human Rights and the Role of the District Six Museum,” International Peace Institute

“Legacies of Apartheid South Africa, and the District Six Museum,” presentation to human rights students, Columbia University

“History, Human Rights, and the District Six Museum,” lecture to museum anthropology students, Columbia University

“History and the Future: Local and Regional Historical Dialogue Initiatives,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



BENJI DE LA PIEDRA

Independent Oral Historian
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ISHR Fellow

As an American citizen and student of American literature and history, I came of age in the simultaneous eras of Barack Obama and Black Lives Matter. Life and school have pushed me to contemplate both my country's cosmopolitan promise, and the unending struggle to achieve that promise. Reflecting on my own peculiar position and experiences in the country's landscape of identity categories (especially race)—I am, among other things, a considerably privileged, first-generation, Spanish-speaking, brown American man—I've learned that the American experiment's success depends on the public's ability to recognize and handle the fundamental variety, complexity, and fluidity of American histories, both personal and collective. As an oral historian, I see life history work as the way to advance such a reckoning: life history complicates all stereotypes and the reductive narratives about identity and culture that they perpetuate. My practice as an interviewer and writer is therefore informed by a dialogical conception of identity. I seek concrete narration and discerning interpretation of the education—the memories, relationships, rituals, and environments—that contribute to the ongoing formation of an individual's senses of self, community, possibility, and meaning in life. Through this work, I aim to equip not only Americans, but people of all backgrounds, with the narrative inspiration to appreciate the basic unity-in-diversity of human experience, and to navigate the terrain of democratic interactions in more creative, responsible, and compassionate ways.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed two oral history projects. One project gathers and interprets oral histories from graduate students of all backgrounds at Columbia, about their life histories and experiences of the university. The project was inspired by the renewed debates over race, gender, identity, and belonging that have emerged on college campuses in recent years. The expectations for the project are threefold: to synthesize major themes and evocative testimony into a report addressed to the leadership of Columbia Arts & Sciences; to develop a series of pedagogical materials that can initiate a restorative dialogue about student needs, the ideal of diversity, and feelings of institutional disavowal at Columbia; and to develop a blueprint for replication of similarly aimed life history projects on other campuses across the United States. My second project focuses on the biography of Herbert Denton Jr (1943–1989), a pioneering African American journalist, whose life and work provide a distinctive window onto issues of race, sexuality, and political culture in the second half of twentieth century history. The AHDA experience afforded me an opportunity to think about the wider dynamics of racism and community resilience that shaped Denton's early life in Little Rock, Arkansas. My work on Herbert Denton now includes a series of historical dialogue projects that I plan to initiate in Arkansas on intersecting narratives of race, religion, labor, and public education.





Networking@Columbia:

Liz Ševčenko, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Amy Starecheski, Center for Oral History

John Tofanelli, University Libraries

David Olson, Center for Oral History Archives

Matt Sandler, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

Isabel Geathers, Office of Academic Diversity

Andrea Solomon, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Ixchel Rosal, Office of University Life

Lamar Lovelace, Office of University Life

Mary Marshall Clark, Center for Oral History

Roosevelt Montás, Center for the Core Curriculum

Shamus Khan, Department of Sociology

Ross Posnock, Department of English

Classes:

The Art and Craft of Non-Fiction Research, Brenda Wineapple

The African-American Prophetic Political Tradition, Obery Hendricks

Networking/Site Visits:

American Alliance of Museums

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Local Projects

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University

Tow Center for Digital Journalism

The Tenement Museum

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Speaking Engagements:

“Ralph Ellison and the Beginnings of American Oral History,” Jeffrey H. Brodsky Oral History Thesis Prize Lecture, Columbia University

“Introducing the GSAS Life Histories Project: Alumni Remarks on Making Yourself at Home” (w/ Mario Alvarez), GSAS New Student Orientation, Columbia University

“Introduction to Life History Interviewing,” University Writing Program, Columbia University

“Bringing the Promise and Failure of American Reconstruction to Bare on Arkansas’s History of Racial Violence,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“Oral History and Questions of Identity and Conflict,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



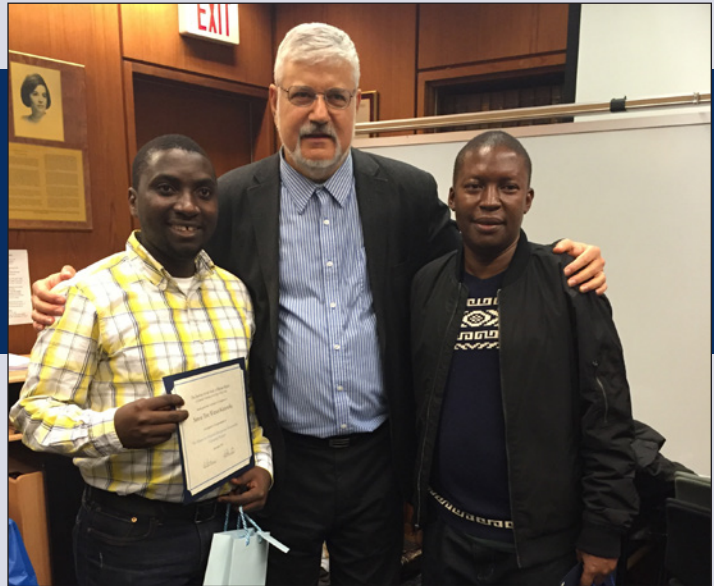
SIMON KANENKA

Director of Communications and Engagement
 IMPACT
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
WITNESS Fellow

As a survivor of two wars that ravaged the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I have witnessed the destruction of my community from lootings, killings, and mass arrests. This experience led me to the field of human rights. After studying Communication Sciences at the Université Lumière de Bujunbura in Burundi, I began working as Director of Communication and Engagement at the NGO called IMPACT in 2011. At IMPACT, I manage a team of 8 to design and develop initiatives that use documentation to promote dialogue and reconciliation between survivors of sexual violence and former combatants in war-affected communities like my own. By documenting the stories of victims, it is our hope that communities in need of healing and reconciliation can rebuild themselves, for it is through historical documentation and the promotion of dialogue that communities like mine can move forward.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed a project that seeks to use the thousands of stories from perpetrators and victims to initiate reconciliation through the traditional method of “BARAZA”. Literally, “baraza” refers to a public meeting place, which is precisely the inspiration for this project, which seeks to hold forums in which victims and perpetrators can speak about their past experiences. Apart from creating opportunities for truth-telling, the acknowledgement of victims and the taking responsibility for atrocities committed, the BARAZA project seeks to record and archive testimonies so that they may be broadcast on local and national radio. Thus there are two target audiences: the immediate communities affected by violence as well as the national community, and in particular the political leadership of the country. Importantly, I do not expect the BARAZA project to lead to deep friendships among communities of victims and perpetrators; indeed, forgiveness itself may not be possible. However, the BARAZA project seeks to create an opportunity for divided societies to develop some degree of cooperation; it promotes co-existence by coming to terms with the legacy of violence and trauma of the past, and by acknowledging that living alongside one another successfully requires holding difficult conversations about the past.





Networking@Columbia:

Severine Autesserre, Department of Political Science, Barnard College

Chris Blattman, SIPA & Political Science

John Hirsch, SIPA/International Peace Institute

Classes:

Conflict Resolution, Richard Gowan

Politics and History of Reconciliation, Elazar Barkan

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Negotiating Human Rights in Conflict Zones: the Work of IMPACT in the DRC,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“Historical Dialogue in the DRC: the Work of IMPACT,” International Peace Institute

“From Testimony to Film: Documenting Legacies of Violence,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



MIRAJI MAGAI JUMA MAIRA

Deputy Executive Director
Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation
TANZANIA

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Fellow

Challenges to peace, security, and development facing the Great Lakes Region, including Tanzania, are at the root of my interest in dealing with the past. My work, first as Programme Officer and then as Deputy Executive Director at the the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation speaks to these interests, as the foundation is an institution involved in the reconciliation of both the Burundi and Rwandan civil wars, and the challenges these conflicts present to the region more widely. My work at the Foundation, coupled with my role as Secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities of the United Republic of Tanzania, has led to my interest in how historical dialogue can create a platform for affected individuals and communities. Prior to this, I served as Regional Coordinator of the Regional Civil Society Forum Provisional Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in its establishment phase. My work at the Foundation and the National Committee seeks to contribute to conflict resolution and reconciliation, peace building, and promoting human development.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed a project proposing the establishment of a Regional Secretariat for the Regional Civil Society Forum (RCSF) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in order to strengthen the capacity of the Forum's existing initiatives. In this way, the project would help the RCSF respond to the growing needs of the region through more coordinated and organized activity, and in particular through increased and more effective participation by civil society organizations in peace, governance and development processes.





Networking@Columbia:

Chris Blattman, SIPA & Political Science

John Hirsch, SIPA/International Peace Institute

Rhiannon Stephens, Department of History

Classes:

Program Evaluation and Design, Julie Poncelet

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

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National Museum of African American History and Culture

National Security Archives

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Amplifying Dialogues with the Establishment of the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum Secretariat,” Columbia University

“The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and the Tanzania National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities,” International Peace Institute

“Historical Dialogue and the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“History and the Future: Local and Regional Historical Dialogue Initiatives,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



ELENA MONICELLI

Coordinator

Fondazione Scuola Di Pace Di Monte Sole

ITALY

ISHR Fellow

Understanding history not as a sequence of dates and wars, but as a matter of human choices influenced by social dynamics, sheds light on the role that power plays in defining how we view the past. The position afforded to power, as a concept of control and hierarchy, poses a danger to social and human dynamics. This realization led me to activism, through which I seek to challenge power structures as they exist in the world today. This desire to challenge hierarchy led me to the Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole, in Bologna, Italy, where I have worked since 2004. As a Senior Officer and then a Coordinator, I learned very early on about power's relationship with history, having developed educational workshops and conducting historical research on the link between memory and citizenship education, post-conflict reconciliation, and public political discourses. My professional experience with the Peace School gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to build, to strengthen, to work in, and to maintain a network. Coordinating the School's finances, fundraising, research projects, and other activities and working as a founding member of the "International Coalition of Sites of Conscience – Europe" have given me the opportunity to challenge power at both an institutional and social level.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed a project proposal for a new pedagogical initiative entitled, "The Role of Witness and the Role of Testimony in Education". This teaching tool contains theoretical research on the roles and identities of 'categories' such as witnesses, victims, perpetrators, bystanders etc. It includes designing and implementing a training course for teachers and professionals that provides tools for teaching about violent pasts, using the history and site of Monte Sole as an example.





Networking@Columbia:

Yasmine Ergas, School of International and Public Affairs

Liz Ševčenko, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Felisa Tibbits, Teacher's College

Classes:

The Other Idea of Europe: The 20th Century's History of Mass Annihilation, Abram de Swaan

Understanding Conflict and Cooperation, Peter Coleman

War and Memory, Henry Rousso

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of the American Indian

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

"Allied Deception Efforts and the Struggle for the Gothic Line, Italy, September 1944", New York Military Affairs Symposium

"Writing Human Rights: A Perspective from the Field," University Writing Program, Columbia University

"Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: Teaching a New Paradigm at the Scuola di Pace," Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

"The German Party," commentator, Shapiro Theater, Columbia University

"International Perspectives on Peace and Human Rights Education," presentation and workshop, Teachers College, Columbia University

"Human Rights and the Scuola di Pace," presentation to human rights students, Columbia University

"Educational Initiatives and the Challenges of Dealing with the Past," panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



NATALIA PETROVA

Public Relations Director
Memorial International Society
RUSSIA
Bosch Foundation Fellow

My family—like many families in Russia—experienced repression after the 1917 revolution, including my grandfather, who disappeared in Stalin’s camps. Growing up during the time of the Soviet union and listening to my grandmother’s and mother’s stories about our country’s troubled past, it felt like there were two different histories of my country: the one I knew from my family and the one taught at school. After the collapse of the USSR, this polarized historical understanding began to converge, partly because of the role played by Memorial International Society in shaping the narrative. Though the inclusion of more personal history was a step forward, there needed to be a balance between the official state history and personal histories in order to promote dialogue.

Russia’s Soviet-era attitudes, its aggressive conservatism, its distrust of the West, and its glorification of Stalin, demonstrates the importance of historical dialogue. By learning more about the living generations’ memory of history, Russia can confront the ghosts of its past. Without discussing or agreeing about the past the country will not be able to agree about the country’s future. As Director of Public Relations at Memorial International Society in Moscow, Russia, I develop public relations strategy, design campaigns, and organize art projects designed to present historical memory. My interests include the problem of preserving the memory of the past, personal memory, and art projects related to the preservation of memory.

As an AHDA fellow, I worked on a project called “Legacies of the ‘90s: Missed Opportunities,” which is a proposal for a series of joint scholarly and public collaborations between Russian scholars and activists and American and European counterparts. The research and discussions are aimed at understanding the missed moment of the 1990s when ideas of human rights, personal freedom and civil society were prominent in Russia, before anti-Western propaganda from state media challenged this movement. The series of events would take place across regions in Russia, and potentially internationally, and would result in a series of deliverables (podcasts, handbooks, publications) that could be presented in online platforms and professional gatherings.





Networking@Columbia:

Alexander A. Cooley, Department of Political Science, Barnard College and Harriman Institute

Shlomo Ben-Ami, Visiting McGovern Professor of International and Public Affairs

Susan McGregor, Assistant Director, The Tow Center for Digital Journalism

Elise Guilliano, Lecturer in the Discipline of Political Science, Department of Political Science

Classes:

Ethical Issues in Museums, Sally Yerkovich

Conflict Resolution, Shlomo Ben-Ami

Legacies of Empire & the Soviet Union, Alexander Cooley

Networking/Site Visits:

Anacostia Community Museum

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

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New York Historical Society

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Russian History and the Work of *Memorial*,” presentation to political science students, Columbia University

“*Memorial* and the Legacy of Communism in Russia,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“*Memorial* and Human Rights Challenges of a Russian Museum,” presentation to museum anthropology students, Columbia University

“From Testimony to Film: Documenting Legacies of Violence,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



VELMA ŠARIĆ

Founder and President
Post-Conflict Research Center
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Bosch Foundation Fellow

When I look back at my life at 16, I am consumed by memories of the 1992–1995 Bosnian War. I remember the faces of refugees escaping from eastern Bosnia, horrific stories about the rape of girls and women, bloody massacres of civilians, the sound of mortar shots and gunfire, and the lack of food, water, and electricity. This experience is what motivates me to help those who suffered in the war so that together we can recover, heal, reconcile, and build a better future. Over the course of my academic studies and professional career, my work with dealing with the past showed me the role history has in the creation of constructive national identities; the translation of emotions and ineffable experiences into a language understandable to others; the establishment of a factual record to protect against a culture of denial and impunity; and personally, in deepening my understanding of Bosnia, myself, others, and the world.

My experience in the fields of sociology, genocide studies, international law, journalism and war crimes, led me to become the Founder and President of the Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC) in Sarajevo. As a graduate of the BBC reporting school, I have dedicated my 14-year career to investigative reporting in the Western Balkans. I have also worked as a journalist for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and as a researcher on numerous publications and films about the 1992–1995 Bosnian war, including “Uspomene 677,” “In the Land of Blood and Honey” by Angelina Jolie, and “I Came to Testify” and “War Redefined” from PBS’ Women, War & Peace series. I am also a founder of Balkan Diskurs, a non-profit, multimedia platform dedicated to challenging stereotypes and providing viewpoints on society, culture, and politics in the Western Balkans. In 2014, the Post-Conflict Research Center was awarded the Intercultural Innovation Award by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). As an AHDA fellow, I worked on a multimedia education project proposal called “Ordinary Heroes”, which utilizes stories of rescue and moral courage—through workshops, a photography exhibit, and a documentary series—to promote tolerance, reconciliation and interethnic cooperation in Western Balkans.





Networking@Columbia:

Tanya Domi, School of International and Public Affairs and Harriman Institute

Anna Di Lellio, The New School

Joscelyn Jurich, Journalism School

Classes:

Human Rights in the Western Balkans, Tanya Domi

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

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Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Dealing with the Past in Balkans,” The Human Rights and International Law League (THRILL), Center for Global Affairs, New York University

“Memorialization and the Role of Reparative Justice in Balkans,” Harriman Institute, Columbia University

“*Seeking Truth in the Balkans*” discussant, “International Law Weekend,” American Branch of the International Law Association & the International Law Students Association, Fordham University School of Law

“Legacies of Violence, Lessons in Courage: Documenting the Violent Past in Bosnia,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“From Testimony to Film: Documenting Legacies of Violence,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



MARÍA JOSÉ KAHN SILVA

Responsible for Educational, Artistic, and Museographical Development; International Cooperation
 ESMA Museum Memory Site
 ARGENTINA
Bosch Foundation Fellow

As a museum educator, a role I have held for over 10 years, I have had to learn to listen to the public. Discovering how to implement programs for children, teenagers and adults with learning and developmental disabilities, visitors who were deaf or had hearing loss, and modifying our program for visitors who are blind or partially sighted, made clear to me just how instrumental museums are in educating the public. It was through my role as a museum educator that I realized the potential museums hold in empowering visitors as legitimate voices, fully capable of sharing their own experiences as valid knowledge. The unique role of museums in empowering audiences is what has transformed these institutions from being static places where knowledge is merely transmitted, to places of community engagement and social transformation.

Since September 2015, I have been responsible for Educational, Artistic and Museographical Development at ESMA Memory Site, where I am developing International Cooperation by building networks between the Site and the international community to promote human rights, memory, and museums. The ESMA Memory Site is housed at the Higher School of Mechanics of the Navy, which was used as a clandestine detention center during Argentina's military dictatorship (1976–1983). The process of creating memory spaces and exhibits has been an emotionally fraught and sensitive topic for many reasons. The museum opened a little over a year ago, and we are still expanding our educational initiatives. As an AHDA fellow, I developed a proposal for an education program that invites security and military students to visit the ESMA Memory Site, as a way to learn about and understand the human rights violations committed during the last military dictatorship in Argentina. Such visits are extremely sensitive, and even controversial, given the role of the military in the dictatorship period, and the question of pedagogy, site of memory, and historical trauma are enormously challenging topics that this project seeks to address.





Networking@Columbia:

Pamela Graham, Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research

Joaquin Barriendos, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures

Classes:

Queer Theory, Jack Halberstam

International Perspectives on Peace and Human Rights Education, Felisa Tibbitts

The International Human Rights Movement, Louis Bickford

Networking/Site Visits:

Anacostia Community Museum

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

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Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“From South to South: Two Museums Committed to Human Rights,” co-presentation with Bonita Bennett, Columbia University

“International Perspectives on Peace and Human Rights Education,” presentation and workshop, Teachers College, Columbia University

“ESMA Memory Sites Museum and the Challenges of Remembering the Past,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“ESMA Memory Site Museum,” presentation to human rights students, Columbia University

“Educational Initiatives and the Challenges of Dealing with the Past,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



LOUISA SLAVKOVA

Founder and Director

Sofia Platform

BULGARIA

Lauder Foundation Fellow

I am a founding member and director of Sofia Platform, an organization that focuses on dealing with the past and promoting democracy in Bulgaria, as well as in the European Union's Eastern and Southern neighborhoods. The community of Sofia Platform believes that societies in transition have gathered unique knowledge and experience, while at the same time share many traits in common which are worth considering for the benefit of all. As such, countries with more experience in transition can reassess their past from the distance of time and those currently under transition can benefit from the lessons learned and the mistakes made by others. My experience as a Programme Manager at the European Council on Foreign Relations, supporting the organization in managing activities and its cross-program work, and as an advisor to the Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs Nickolay Mladenov and to the caretaker minister of environment Julian Popov, has given me an international scope through which to evaluate history.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed a project proposal entitled, "Lost in Transition? What Failures in Dealing with the Communist Past Can Teach Us about the Future of Democracy Promotion." The seeds for this project emerged during in 2011, during the Arab Spring, when communities in Eastern Europe felt that there were parallels between the current uprising and the fall of the Berlin wall, and they wanted to share their experiences regarding transition to democracies. The challenge that emerged from this well-placed intention, however, was the pervasive sense of nostalgia that many eastern Europeans felt with regard to their communist past. My AHDA proposal contains a theoretical component, an exploration of how and why this sense of nostalgia has emerged, and how it has helped define the current political culture in Bulgaria. This research will be accompanied by a practitioner handbook for people in countries in transition that explores some of the challenges societies must address for transition to be successful.





Networking@Columbia:

Tarik Cyril Amar, Department of History

François Carrel-Billiard, European Institute

Alexander A. Cooley, Department of Political Science, Barnard College and Harriman Institute

Robert H. Davis, Jr., Columbia Libraries

Felisa Tibbits, Teacher's College

Classes:

Legacies of Empire & the Soviet Union, Alexander Cooley

Patterns of Soviet/Russian interventions in Eastern Europe, 1939–2015, Csaba Békés

Themes in American Political Development, Ira Katznelson

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

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Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Human Rights Challenges Past and Present: Communism and Refugees in Eastern Europe,” University Writing Program, Columbia University

“The Legacy of Communism in Contemporary Bulgaria,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“History and the Future: Local and Regional Historical Dialogue Initiatives,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



MARIJANA TOMA

Deputy Executive Director
Humanitarian Law Center
SERBIA
Bosch Foundation Fellow

While studying history at the Belgrade University in the 1990s, a majority of professors in the department promoted the Serbian nationalistic ideology that served to fuel violence and atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. The prevalence of public denial of crimes committed by Serbian forces during the wars, alongside increasing access to records from the trials held before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia—emerging through independent media—made me question the version of the wars that I was presented with as a student. This realization, along with the revelation of the mass graves in Belgrade’s suburb Batajnica, containing bodies of Kosovo Albanians who were killed during conflict in Kosovo which was made public in 2001, made me aware of just how limited was my knowledge of what happened during the wars. At the same time, a lack of empathy for the victims within my community and lack of reaction to the fact that around 800 bodies of women, children, and men were buried in secret locations all across Serbia, made me aware that my country was living in a ‘state of denial’.

These experiences would later inform my professional approach as Deputy Executive Director at the Humanitarian Law Center, where I undertook the role of transforming the Center from a typical human rights organization to one that documents war crimes, oral history, forced disappearances, and transitional justice. During the past 13 years, I have been involved in numerous transitional justice projects in the region and internationally. As a Serb, and citizen of Serbia, becoming part of the team that conducted oral history interviews with victims, especially from other ethnic groups, was more than a mere professional duty—it was my personal, small contribution to the process of acknowledging accountability. One area that has presented a particular challenge in post-conflict Serbia, and in the Balkans more widely, is the matter of history education. The history curricula in the Balkans remains a highly contested, highly politicized topic, and one where issues of identity and nationalism continue to be articulated. As an AHDA fellow, I have chosen to focus on this difficult issue. I have developed a project that seeks to bring educators and youth in schools into the debate on the responsible and factual representation of the former Yugoslavia’s past, with the loftier aim of reforming the formal history education curriculum in the region.





Networking@Columbia:

Alexander A. Cooley, Department of Political Science, Barnard College and Harriman Institute

Tanya Domi, School of International and Public Affairs and Harriman Institute

Graeme Simpson, Interpeace / Columbia Law School

Classes:

Complex Emergencies: Root Causes to Rebuilding, Dirk Salomons

War and Memory, Henry Rousso

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

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Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution,

George Mason University

The Tenement Museum

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Dealing with the past in the Western Balkans,” panel discussion, New York University

“Memorialization and the Role of Reparative Justice in Balkans,” Harriman Institute, Columbia University

“Conflict Transformation Processes in the Balkans,” presentation to human rights students, Columbia University

“*Seeking Truth in the Balkans*,” “International Law Weekend,” American Branch of the International Law Association & the International Law Students Association, Fordham University School of Law

Dealing with the Past in Serbia: Civil Society Organizations and Transitional Justice Processes,” Columbia University

“History Education in Divided Societies,” Brown Bag Presentation to AHDA Fellows, Columbia University

“Dealing with the Past in Serbia,” Rockefeller Brothers Fund

“Dealing with the Past in Balkans,” The Human Rights and International Law League (THRILL), Center for Global Affairs, New York University

“Educational Initiatives and the Challenges of Dealing with the Past,” panelist, AHDA Fellows Conference 2016, Columbia University



(Left) Karen Murphy leads a workshop on history education. (Center) Fellows participate in a workshop. (Right) Fellows meet with Alex Gil for a workshop on technology and media.

Workshops and Seminars

What are the potential advantages and impact of different mechanisms and media on different types of audiences? What are the tropes, possibilities, limitations of: print publications; school curricula and museum education programs; exhibits; web sites; social media; documentary film; live events (public dialogues, processions, pilgrimages), site preservation and memorialization? The AHDA curriculum addresses these questions through a series of workshops and seminars that help the fellows explore the concepts and applications of historical dialogue. The program is deeply appreciative of the workshop and seminar instructors, who gave generously of their time, often making themselves available outside of scheduled sessions to ensure that fellows had the support and resources necessary to develop successful projects and to further their work in and understanding of the field of historical dialogue.

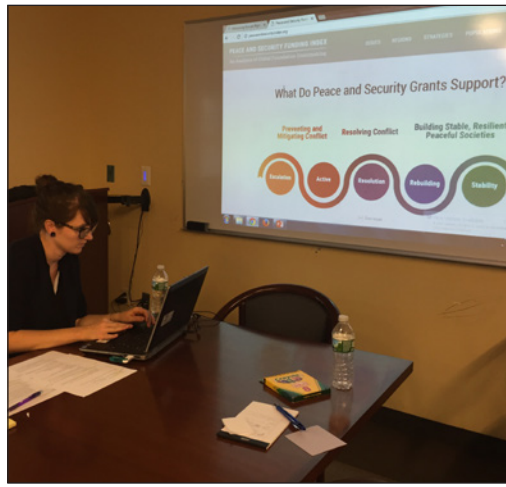
Archives and Documentation Pamela Graham, Columbia University and Angana Chatterji, UC Berkeley

Dr. Graham is director of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University. In her workshop with the fellows, she explores the Center's work archiving the materials of human rights organizations around the world, and the practical applications of such work. She also discusses how archiving can become an effective tool for advocacy and coalition-building. Dr. Chatterji is an anthropologist and historian whose work focuses on human

rights and cultural survival. Dr. Chatterji is Co-chair of the Research Project on Armed Conflict and People's Rights at the Center for Nonprofit and Public Leadership, University of California at Berkeley. This work includes an Archive of the Legacy of Conflict in South Asia, which has been developed with the support of ISHR and the AHDA program. Dr. Chatterji met with fellows to speak about her work, and the ways in which archival collections and documentation can contribute to historical dialogue and coming to terms with the past.

"This whole experience has been incredible and empowering! I have learned from the workshops, seminars and classes but most of all I have appreciated having the opportunity of sharing this knowledge and experience with my dear colleagues. Being able to learn about their contexts and the work they do, sharing our seminars and networking meetings, all allowed me to learn so much, and to understand better the challenges we all face from different perspectives and viewpoints."

– MARIA JOSE KAHN SILVA



(Left) Fellows discuss museums and exhibits at a workshop with Paul Williams. (Center) Christen Dobson leads a workshop on fundraising. (Right) Louisa, Velma and Mariam at the Facing History workshop.

“I really appreciate the way that this program is organized, in particular the workshops, seminars and networking opportunities. For me, the workshops and networking meetings were particularly welcomed because they gave me the opportunity to expand my organization’s knowledge and reach and learn new skills in my work field.” – SIMON KANENKA

Designing Museums, Memorials, and Exhibits Workshop

Paul Williams, Ralph Appelbaum Associates

Dr. Williams is a Senior Content Developer at the museum design firm, Ralph Appelbaum Associates. Dr. Williams’ work for Ralph Appelbaum Associates involves the planning, research, and conceptualization of content for globally significant new museum projects with a human rights focus. In his seminar at Columbia, Dr. Williams explored the problematics of “exhibiting” trauma, and different strategies and challenges of confronting violent pasts through visual media and museum modes.

Digital Media and Storytelling Workshop

Marcia Stepanek, BrandStories

Marcia Stepanek is the president and founder of BrandStories, a new media strategy consultancy that advises social good organizations, nonprofits and companies. At Columbia, Ms. Stepanek teaches courses on new media and social media strategies. In particular, she teaches ways in which digital media and visual storytelling can help practitioners rethink development strategies and their engagement with the public. Her workshop with the fellows focuses on digi-

tal storytelling, interviewing and recording, and how digital devices can be used to increase the impact of practitioners’ work.

Fundraising for Historical Dialogue Projects Workshop

Christen Dobson, Independent Consultant

Prior to working independently, Ms. Dobson worked at the International Human Rights Funders Group, overseeing its Research and Policy program. Her work included contributions to the Advancing Human Rights: Knowledge Tools for Funders initiative, a collaborative effort to track and visualize the evolving state of global human rights grantmaking. She has also served as a consultant with The International Network of Women’s Funds and the Social Science Research Council. She has also worked with Safe Horizon’s Anti-Trafficking Program, the UN Women’s East and Southeast Asia office, and Global Youth Connect. In her workshop on fundraising, Ms. Dobson explored strategies and best practices. Her workshops with the fellows explored concepts, strategies and best practices regarding fundraising, and were followed by individual meetings tailored to each fellow’s geographical and professional focus.



(1) Fellows in both the AHDA and HRAP programs take a walking tour of Harlem. (2) Fellows prior to a meeting with Human Rights Watch. (3) Fellows meet with staff members and leadership at the International Center for Transitional Justice. (4) Fellows gather at the New York Historical Society.

Historical Dialogue as Conflict Transformation Seminar Elazar Barkan, Columbia University

Dr. Elazar Barkan is Professor of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, as well as Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR). A historian by training, Dr. Barkan has a particular interest in historical memory. Meeting with the fellows throughout the semester, his seminar examines the goals, objectives and questions raised within the field of historical dialogue.

Historical Dialogue Methodologies and Practices Workshops Liz Ševčenko, The New School for Social Research and Ariella Lang, Columbia University

Ms. Ševčenko is Director of the Guantanamo Public Memory Project at Columbia University, and co-director of the Humanities Action Lab at the New School. In a workshop with the AHDA fellows, Ms. Ševčenko focused on designing history-based dialogue and understanding further the meaning and application of historical dialogue. Dr. Lang is Associate Director of ISHR and a lecturer in the Department of History at Columbia. She oversees the AHDA fellowship program, and her workshop with the fellows focuses on the development of historical dialogue projects and proposals.

“This semester I was exposed to an entire world and discourse of human rights activism, which has totally broadened and deepened my perspective on the American context in which I work. The most crucial factor in this respect was the constant contact and conversation I was able to have with all of the other AHDA fellows.” – BENJI de la PIEDRA

“The whole program was incredible: the combination of auditing classes, skills trainings, stakeholder meetings and the seminar with Prof. Barkan. I suppose that the two most intellectually enriching components were the classes themselves as well as the fact that we were in an incredibly diverse group. The fact that Elazar’s sessions were open-ended also contributed to having very challenging conversations, and still feeling comfortable enough to speak of our own experience.”

– LOUISA SLAVKOVA

Oral History and Human Rights: Methodologies and Practice

Mary Marshall Clark, Columbia University and Gerald Albarelli, Columbia University

Ms. Mary Marshall Clark is Director of the Columbia Center for Oral History and co-founder and director of Columbia’s Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program, prior to which she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times. Her workshop provided fellows with an introduction to oral history theories and practices, interview techniques in oral history, and the application of oral history in historical dialogue projects. Mr. Albarelli, a faculty member in Columbia’s Oral History program, has worked on numerous oral history projects, including the “Telling Lives Oral History Project,” and, more recently, the Rule of Law Oral History Project, documenting the state of human and civil rights in the post-9/11 worlds. His oral history workshops with the fellows focused on methodologies, interviewing and storytelling from the perspective of the oral historian.

Paige Arthur, Public Action Research

An author, editor, researcher, and consultant, Dr. Arthur has expertise in the fields of human rights, peacebuilding, and democratic governance, with a special interest in identity politics, ethnic conflict, and decolonization. Her most recent work has dealt with how to improve the impact of nonprofit work in all of these fields. Her workshop focused on project development and implementation.

Teaching History and History Education Workshop

Karen Murphy, Facing History and Ourselves

Dr. Murphy is the Director of International Programs for Facing History and Ourselves. Her work focuses on history education, particularly in communities where contested narratives about the past lead to pressing challenges regarding how to teach history. Her workshop explored some of the educational approaches and techniques Facing History employs in its work in post-conflict societies.

Proposal Development Workshop

Video Advocacy

(Left) Fellows participate in a workshop. (Center) Fellows meet with Louis Bickford at the Ford Foundation. (Right) Fellows meet with Alex Gil for a workshop on technology and media.





(Left) fellows stop at Rockefeller Center on the way to a meeting. (Right) Networking meeting at the offices of Sites of Conscience.

“I deeply appreciated AHDA program as a platform to present my work firstly on an academic level at Columbia University, and secondly to present my work to other like-minded organizations, potential donors, and supporters. Aside from this, I found very valuable the knowledge and expertise given to us by different lecturers and through the many seminars and workshops.” – VELMA ŠARIĆ

Priscilla Neri, WITNESS

Ms. Neri, is a Senior Program Manager at WITNESS, and currently oversees the organization’s work in Latin America. Ms. Neri’s workshop provided an overview of video advocacy with different examples from around the world, and insight regarding the challenges and benefits that the media landscape provides. The workshop included some practical hands-on exercises on digital advocacy and how it might fit into the fellows’ work.

Web Design, Digital Media, and Historical Dialogue Workshop Alex Gil, Columbia University

Dr. Gil is a member of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, and is the Digital Scholarship Coordinator in the Office of the Digital Humanities. In his workshop on digital and web projects, Dr. Gil spoke to fellows about the potentials and problematics of using web and websites as a vehicle for historical dialogue projects. He also spoke about the digital resources available at Columbia for fellows interested in developing media/websites on specific topics.

“The fellowship provided me an opportunity to audit Oral History courses at Columbia University thereby helping me to improve my skills of doing oral history. It also connected me with different organizations and opened doors of possible collaboration with them. The seminars and workshops really worked well for me as they emphasized conceptual issues related to the field of historical dialogue.” – JAVEED UL AZIZ

Washington, DC Trip

In November 2016, AHDA fellows took a three-day trip to Washington, D.C., both to allow the group to spend time together, outside the formal structure of the program in New York, and also to take advantage of the historical and networking opportunities DC has to offer. Fellows were able to discuss and gain valuable insight into issues regarding historical dialogue, human rights and peace building for their specific regions and areas of focus as well as general exposure to a wide array of institutions.

(1) Fellows outside of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (2) Fellows meet with Coming to the Table prior to touring the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture. (3) GSVP intern Wu Chen travels to Uganda. (4) AHDA 2013 alumna Natasha Goverdica (Bosnia) meets her 2016 counterparts and discusses her work in historical dialogue.



AHDA Alumni Network

AHDA's ongoing collaboration with alumni of the fellowship program has grown this year: aside from working on joint projects, such as the aforementioned RNHDP, and organizing and hosting discussions at Columbia for alumni who return to New York, this year we supported two Columbia students who interned with alumni organizations over the summer. GSAS student Claudia Sbuttoni spent 8 weeks with the European Observatory on Memories, housed at the University of Barcelona, and the professional home of AHDA alumnus Oriol Lopez-Badel; OHMA student Wu Chen spent 8 weeks at the Refugee Law Project in Kamapala, Uganda, with AHDA alumnus Komakech Deo. We are also pleased to support collaborations between AHDA alumni, and are delighted to note the numerous meetings and initiatives that occurred following the program, including a panel discussion in early November 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on "Critical Approaches to Historical Dialogue". The discussion included contributions from Nora Ahmetaj (Kosovo), Friederike Bubenzer (South Africa), Nayla Hamadeh (Lebanon) and Nidzara Ahmetasevic (Bosnia), with Hasini Haputhanthri (Sri Lanka) serving as chair.

Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was established in 1978 at Columbia University as the Center for the Study of Human Rights. In spring 2010, Columbia University elevated CSHR to the level of an institute. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations and universities around the world.

ISHR (then CSHR) was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. This remains one of our most distinctive features. We recognize that human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to practitioners so as to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

ISHR staff contributed their time and expertise to developing the AHDA curriculum and to shaping the program. Ariella Lang, AHDA director, developed the AHDA curriculum, and led a series of workshops for AHDA fellows. Timothy Wyman-McCarthy provided critical program support that ensured that fellowship activities ran smoothly. Professor Elazar Barkan, Director of ISHR, and founder of the AHDA program, led a seminar for AHDA fellows that met over the course of the semester; other ISHR staff and board members, including Andrew Nathan, David Phillips, Liz Sevcenko, and John Washburne generously met with the fellows and shared their expertise on a wide range of topics.

ISHR Staff

Irene Atamian, Business Manager
Elazar Barkan, Executive Director
Kristina Eberbach, Director, Education
Stephanie V. Grepo, Director, Capacity Building
Lindiwe Knutson, Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights
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John Washburn, Adjunct Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program
Timothy Wyman-McCarthy, Program Coordinator

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WITNESS

At Columbia University

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Columbia University Seminar on Cultural Memory

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Human Rights Studies Program

Oral History MA program

Whitney M. Young Memorial Fund

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