Washington D.C.

ALTERNATIVE FACTS FORUM

NOV 2-3, 2017
Introduction

The forum brought together 58 participants from 21 countries to discuss and strategize for the new realities of alternative facts through the conversations from the 2017 Alternative Facts Summit on national and international solutions. The purpose of the forum was not only to identify alternative facts, but also to creatively design ways for think tanks to adapt to the changing platform of information-sharing.

The 2017 Alternative Facts Forum convened to explore in 4 different areas: national and global alternative facts, ways to differentiate alternative facts, strategic response to alternative facts, and impact of technology on policy making. The conference was conducted under the Chatham House rule for the participants, panelists, and chairs to speak freely and actively engage in productive and thoughtful debate.

Discussions by the participants were characterized by think tanks and individuals’ personal experience with alternative facts. The topics of interest were not bounded to the US, but freely engaged with every part of the world, including Asia, Middle East, and Africa. From North Korea’s cyber terrorism to President Trump’s speeches, the discussions at the Alternative Facts Forum touched every major issue. The discussions were framed by the political, economic, social, and technological landscapes throughout the world, often interdisciplinary by the nature of how alternative facts are spread.

The participants of Alternative Facts also shared the strategies they or their think tanks implemented to identify and challenge the alternative facts, giving rise to recommendations adaptable to more than one think tank at the forum. This was especially discussed in length in relevance to the changing platform of information sharing. Information is being shared at an unprecedented rate on social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and the participants especially focused on ways to adapt to this recent trend. One participant feared that the inability to adapt to the technology is almost as bad as not having the information at all.

Throughout the two days of lengthy and thoughtful discussions, the participants of the Alternative Facts Forum contributed to sharing perspectives and experiences to build up to a loose set of recommendations for think tanks all around the world. The future lies upon the think tanks to differentiate the alternative facts and truly adapt to the advancements.
Policy and Institutional Changes

Understanding the Rise of Alternative Facts, Fake News and Disinformation Campaigns Around the World and Their Effects on Policy, the Public and Think Tanks

Participants at the forum noted that fake facts and lies have been part of the human enterprise virtually forever. There have always been some politicians that lie in order to receive votes and support. But what is different in recent years is the manner and techniques in which alternative facts, fake news and disinformation are being spread and the language that is being deployed when these spread. Disruptive technologies, such as social media, have allowed individuals to bypass the traditional institutions in areas such as government and the media in order to spread lies and fake stories to large amounts of people in their countries and around the world. All around the world, institutions are becoming increasingly incompatible with the new increased velocity of information and policy. In terms of innovation and responsiveness, some forum participants noted that what is most troubling is that the forces behind the spread of alternative facts, fake news and disinformation campaigns are already ahead of these institutions. The danger is in individuals, not institutions. Failures to understand these disruptive technologies have transformed politics as we knew them. Politics in today’s world, and especially in the U.S. some participants stated, is largely driven by social media, where individuals have a growing power and presence through disruptive technologies. With social media and disruptive technologies allowing the spread of lies and fake information to spread faster and to wider audiences, it is becoming even harder for readers to distinguish truth from fiction. Furthermore, people are inherently attracted to alternative facts, fake news and disinformation even when they know it is fake. Often, these lies are emotionally charged and people gravitate towards them because of this. Disruptive technologies have allowed for lies to be weaponized. Often, the underlying purpose of alternative facts, fake news and disinformation is so that citizenry will distrust authority and present the idea that the elite within traditional institutions are the enemy of the common person. Participants noted the increased effects and power of alternative facts, fake news and disinformation campaigns in societies and environments that are already fragile. Lies and fake news are especially attractive when there is already a presence of distrust of politics and a country’s political system. There was agreement among the participants that alternative facts, fake news and disinformation campaigns not conducive to maintaining and building democracy in general.

When considering the role and position of think tanks, participants noted that the mistrust of elites and institutions that is created and played upon also can translate into sentiment that expert knowledge should be mistrusted as well. The rise of alternative facts, fake news and disinformation campaigns also threatens the sustainability of think tanks. As policymakers make less informed decisions based on research- and fact-based evidence, think tanks and their funders will see slower outcomes based upon what the think tanks produce, therefore making it less likely for think tanks and their funders to see the impact of research and findings on policymakers’ decisions. It is difficult for think tanks when they want to communicate with policymakers and governments with research, facts, and as one participant stated, “sobering language,” but the policymakers and governments can be the ones who are creating and or helping facilitate the spread of alternative facts, fake news and disinformation themselves. Here, there is a shrinking space for dialogue between think tanks and those they have traditionally targeted for the reception of their information and findings.
Strategic Response to Fake News (Policies, Programs and Research to Combat Alternative Facts, Fake News and Private and State Sponsored Disinformation Campaigns)

Participants agreed that there needs to be increased, more efficient and quicker communication among think tanks and journalists, politicians and media outlets in order to keep up with the increased velocity of flows of information. Think tanks need to consider how they can deliver their information as fast as possible and to wider audiences in order to promote a greater trust of facts and spread of research- and fact-based information. Participants agreed that think tanks can combat alternative facts, fake news and disinformation by promoting to the greater public improved media literacy, public education and the consumption of the material and findings that think tanks produce. One participant suggested that think tanks send out quotes from experts before major events so that the public is informed about the facts and research behind a major event before it occurs in order for the public to be less swayed by untrue stories that arise out of these major events. It was suggested that think tanks need to focus on communicating to the public in ways that reduce academic language and utilize products such as infographics that are more conducive to the same disruptive technologies that help the spread of lies and fake information and do so in a rapid way. There needs to be more interactive graphics and ways for people to engage with the facts and information that think tanks produce. One participant noted that this needs to be done in a way that informs people without demeaning them. There was an emphasis on the fact that think tanks should do the aforementioned strategies in better sending out information to the public and with better product information without giving up the traditional ways and academic means in which they publish and report their findings. In general, think tanks need to show their traditional audiences and new, wider audiences in the greater public why facts matter and make the case as to why they are vital for a safe, informed and democratic society.

Some participants called for political efforts that combat alternative facts, fake news and disinformation to be nonpartisan in order to be effective and sustainable. There was discussion on how to establish a nonpartisan authority that helps regulate the spread of fake information and lies. There was also discussion regarding the responsibility of social media outlets and the need for them to have greater accountability in combating these issues and in better tracing where information and stories come from.
Impact of Technology

Beyond the idea of using technology, the panelists discussed in great length how the successful or failed use of technology contributes to policy making. As an introduction, one panelist mentioned that the lackadaisical understanding of the impact of technology is the main contributing factor of Hillary Clinton campaigns’ failure. This led the discussion to tie the general atmosphere and characteristics of politics to how that changed with the advancements of technology. Another panelist added by saying that "lying" is not new in politics, but how the lies are being portrayed, shared, and used has changed greatly in the past decade. One participant exemplified this idea with phony videos that young individuals make, and how think tanks must react flexibly to such phenomenon. This points to an important idea that the medium of portrayal is as important as the content, especially for policy making. Policy Making, as one panelist noted, is made by the surrounding "facts" accepted by the general public, whether it be facts or lies. Therefore, it is crucial that the information is not only accurate but also shared prevalently and with weight.

The participants also added specific focus to influencing the policy makers, as they are the key members of the final decision. One participant remarked that the definition of “policy makers” have changed in the recent decade to include the young people. Technology has made information widely spreadable and an individual on internet more powerful than a group of people. In today’s technologically advanced world, policy makers are not only the politicians who write out the clauses and sign them, but the people who make up the general public and share information on the internet, because their opinions ultimately get translated into laws and policies. This is why another participant said that it is crucial for the general population to be well-informed and trained to differentiate facts from lies, and for politicians to be able to respond to opinions based on false information. Think tanks, therefore, in this sense have a greater duty to influence both the input and output of policies. They can share information on the internet for the general public, but also provide and create demanded research for politicians. This led to discussion on how think tanks can support the general public and politicians with reliable facts, and how they must use technology to do learn to spread truthful information just like lies spread like wildfire.

• Technology is creating a lack of journalistic standards that did not exist pre-internet
• People can now make phony VIDEO
• Technology has created a disruption of media and innovation is needed to correct this challenge
• “Even when a scientist from MIT is quoted, listeners are now distrustful, and want more authority”
A Global Agenda for Research and Action

Each panelist and participant contributed to a long list of recommendations that were shared during the forum. One participant explained that although think tanks have a lot of information available in their own database, much of it is not available or easily accessible by the public. Today’s world is characterized by events that change the dynamic of the world politics, company, and individuals every hour and every minute. Majority of the population does not have the time nor the incentive to read a 10-page research paper. In fact, one participant mentioned that the way Trump updates himself with a bullet-point list of key events and information accurately reflects how rest of the population wants to consume their information. Participants mainly agreed on the idea that it is important for think tanks to distribute information in a readily accessible and absorbable manner. Another important idea on this discussion was that it is not only the ordinary citizens who want to consume information this way, but also politicians - they also absorb information through social media platforms and bullet-point lists. And for think tanks to continue building the reputation as the forerunner of information, they must adapt to the demands of the readers.

More on the specific ways to create action, one panelist recommended a framework used by her think tank. The three truths of framework are research, political education, and global outreach. These values are upheld by incorporating research into direct investment in education of the public, but also outreach by having offices around the world. The think tanks holds thousands of yearly seminars to assimilate Syrians and immigrants to Germany, and have 120 offices around the world to really meet the 3 truths that they stand by. Another recommendation was to be transparent and specific about the objective and mission of the think tank. One panelist mentioned that it was really difficult for a journalist and an ordinary citizen to discern one think tank from another unless it had succinct and clear summaries about the organization. By being more transparent, think tanks can communicate better with the readers and collaborators, but also have a clearer internal mission statement.

Panelists agreed that the challenges were similar across the world. Information technology is changing everything in every corner of the world, whether the country is developing or developed, and the power of information is growing exponentially. One panelist added that one mission that must not change is that think tanks can and are bringing people together to show people what is happening, an important characteristic of think tanks.
Conclusions

After an eventful year of 2016 when President Trump was elected, North Korea and Russian scandals of cyber terrorism were revealed, and technology continued to grow exponentially, alternative facts clearly distinguished itself as an imminent threat to the world, especially the think tank community. For organizations with the fundamental objective to not only create and analyze information, but also to share it with the people to ultimately make world a better place, the rising influence of alternative facts is an effectively troubling phenomenon. Alternative facts are now prevalent on the internet in the forms of writing, photos, and even videos. The think tank community’s biggest challenge, then, is to adapt to this unfortunate situation. The first step is to recognize that this is a problem and becoming flexible to find the best practices to effectively outreach to a diverse audience with the correct information. More than that, the think tank community must find a way to differentiate its information from that of unreliable sources.

Think tanks are different from any organization that they are not, in principle, held down to rigid rules, framework, or criticism. The biggest measure of success for any think tank is providing unique analysis and being able to share it. To do so, they must be able to combat alternative facts, adapt to the technology, and do so nationally and internationally. The think tank community should strive for an evolved or even a completely different platform of information sharing where people can read and learn from credible sources without being overwhelmed by the alternative facts.
Recommendations

II. Rather than starting with the problems of politics and the echo chambers that most people find themselves in, why don’t we find the existential opportunities for think tanks in all of this

III. Think tanks don’t have to be “boring,” we can offer things in ways that can reach audiences which aren’t part of traditional community that think tanks normally reach out to. Someone like Trump bypassed most of the traditional institutions that politicians go through and have to be approved by/appease when running for Presidential office, and went right to the public, to the average person, and that is the sort of approach that think tanks have to take now themselves, in spreading their information to the general public, so that these people may be informed and then also try to help inform their local politicians/representatives

IV. Try not to be too reliant on governments for money so can better ensure independence from government regimes, political parties, etc. (self-reliance) and have to look at sustainability

V. Need to pressure policymakers to think differently and respond to particular pressures that are not influenced by misinformed or incorrect facts. Try to engage more proactively with policymakers through more informal means (use these technologies to spread ideas/research/findings) and try to give policymakers the facts in terms of policy development and certain decisions which affect long-term development

VI. Think tanks need more aggressive strategies

VII. Product innovation is the key, and this innovation should not be partisan

VIII. Need to also look at problematic think tanks w/ all of this

IX. Need more transdisciplinary research

X. Need to re-establish local sources of media (credible sources)

XI. One participant warned of simple solutions that are put forward for such complex issues

XII. The marketplace of ideas needs to be as modern as what we are experiencing w/ technologies that have helped the spread of alternative facts, fake news, and disinformation
PROGRAM AGENDA
Thursday, November 2nd

12:00 – 15:00
International Guests Arrive in D.C.
*Courtyard by Marriott Washington Embassy Row*
1600 Rhode Island Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036

16:30 – 17:45
President’s Plenary Panel
*Brookings Institution*
1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW
*Saul/Zilkha Auditorium*

**Think Tanks, Policy Research and Alternative Facts: National and Global Perspectives**

Six Think Tank Presidents from around the world assess the impact of alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns on think tanks, policy research and public discourse. What are the implications for evidence based public policy research? How has it impacted the respective think tanks on the Panel? How are staff and management responding to these new developments? What are costs and consequences for think tanks, politics and public policy?

**Chair**
*James G. McGann*, Senior Lecturer, International Studies and Senior Fellow, Fels Center for Government

**Panelists**
*Strobe Talbott, President*, Brookings Institution (United States)
*Anas El Gomati*, General Director, Sadeq Institute (Libya)
*Jane Harman*, Director, President, and CEO, Wilson Center (United States)
*Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal*, President, Fundação Getúlio Vargas
*Donald Mmari*, Executive Director of REPOA (Tanzania)

17:45 – 20:00
Dinner hosted by FGV & TTCSP
Stein Room, Brookings Institution
Friday, November 3rd

**Brookings Institution**

1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Saul/Zilkha Auditorium

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 16:00 Panel Presentations & Roundtable Discussions

09:00 – 10:00 Panel I

*Who and What Are We to Believe? Understanding the Rise of Alternative Facts, Fake News and Disinformation Around the Globe*

Several leading journalists and academics who have written on the subject of alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns will examine the contours and impacts of this new and troubling phenomenon. How and why are alternative facts, fake news and disinformation campaigns and the assault on the news media and experts a problem? How and why are these tactics used? What are the methods and means that help them spread? Why do people believe them even when they know they are false?

**Chair**

*Darrell West*, Director, Governance Program, Brookings

**Panelists**

*Adam Berinsky*, Mitsui Professor of Political Science Director, MIT Political Experiments Research Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Angie Drobnic Holan*, PolitiFact editor

*Paul Glader*: Executive Director of the McCandlish Phillips Journalism Institute and Laventhol/Newsday Visiting professor at Columbia Journalism School

*Linda Roth*, Vice President for External Relations, Wilson Center

10:00 – 11:00 Roundtable Discussion

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 – 12:15 Panel II
A Strategic Response: Policies, Programs and Research to Combat Alternative Facts, Fake News and Private and State Sponsored Disinformation Campaigns

A group of think tank executives and scholars will provide several examples of the research, programs and policies that think tanks have developed to respond to alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns. What are the most effective interventions? What additional policies and programs can think tanks and other policy actors develop to create a constructive response to these new developments? What can we learn from the experiences of other countries and the public and private sectors?

Chair
Winnie Stachelberg, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Center for American Progress

Panelists
Graham Brookie, Deputy Director and Managing Editor of the Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council
Amy Elsbree, Director of External Affairs, Urban Institute
Anastasia Nevskaya, Director Public Relations, IMEMO
Marco Aurelio Ruediger, Director of Public Policy Analysis, President, Fundação Getúlio Vargas
Andrew Schwartz, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, Center for Strategic Studies
Steven R. Weisman, Vice President for Publications and Communications, Peterson Institute for International Economics

12:15 – 13:15 Panel III

The Impact of Disruptive Technologies and Politics on Policy Making

A Panel of current and former senior policymakers and government officials will explore the impact of alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns on foreign and domestic policy. How do these new developments alter public debate on key policies? How do they disrupt and distract policymakers and the public from the critical policy problems countries face. Are there political and professional risks to policymakers in the new policy environment? How and why are these developments different than the rough and tumble that has always characterized national and global politics? Is all of this merely a political realignment or derailment?

Chair
Jose Luis Chicoma, Executive Director, Ethos Public Policy Lab
Panelists
Win Boerckel, Vice President, External Affairs, RAND Corporation
Jen Psaki, Vice President for Communications and Strategy, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Natalia Salazar, Deputy Director, Fedesarrollo
Yuriy Yakymenko, Deputy Director, Razumkov Center for Political and Economic Studies

13:15 – 14:30 Luncheon Hosted by Brookings’ Governance Program
Keynote Luncheon Speaker
Elise Labott, CNN Global Affairs Correspondent (TBC)

14:30 – 15:30 Panel IV

A Global Agenda for Research and Action
An international panel of senior policymakers, government officials and think tank executives and scholars will explore the global impact of alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns and their long-term impact on politics, public policy and governance. How have these developments manifested themselves in countries around the world and how have those countries responded? What are the areas of research and avenues of intervention that should be launched by the international think tank community? How should think tanks respond to the fallout from alternative facts, fake news and private and state sponsored disinformation campaigns? How can think tanks collaborate with the public and private sectors around these issues?

Co-Chairs
Goret Paulo, Director of the Research Network, Fundação Getulio Vargas
James G. McGann, Senior Lecturer, International Studies and Senior Fellow, Fels Center for Government, University of Pennsylvania

Panelists
Matthew Rojansky, Director of the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center
Leigh Morris Sloane Managing Director, IISS-Americas
Michael Meier, Representative to the U.S. and Canada, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute

15:30 – 16:00 Closing Plenary Session: Strategies, Tactics and Conclusions
PARTICIPATING THINK TANKS

1. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes ACCORD (South Africa)
2. Asian Development Bank Institute ADBI (Japan)
3. Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales ASIES (Guatemala)
4. Atlantic Council (United States)
5. Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University (United States)
6. Brookings Institution (United States)
7. Bruegel (Belgium)
8. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
9. Center for American Progress (United States)
10. Center for China and Globalization (China)
11. Center for Research and Action for Peace CERAP (Côte D’Ivoire)
12. Centre for International Governance Innovation CIGI (Canada)
13. Center for Strategic and International Studies CSIS (United States)
14. CNN (United States) TBC
15. Decision Support Center at the Royal Court (Saudi Arabia)
16. Ethos Public Policy Lab (Mexico)
17. FEDESARROLLO (Colombia)
18. Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Germany)
19. Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Brazil)
20. Hudson Institute (United States)
21. IDEAS, London School of Economics and Politics (United Kingdom)
22. IMANI Center for Policy and Education (Ghana)
23. Institut Français des Relations Internationales IFRI (France)
24. Institute for National Security Studies in Israel (Israel)
25. Institute of Economic Affairs (Kenya)
26. International Institute for Strategic Studies (United Kingdom)
27. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (United States)
28. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Germany)
29. Korea Development Institute (Korea)
30. Korean Institute for International Economic Policy (Korea)
31. Marketplace Washington Bureau, NPR (United States) TBC
32. McCandlish Phillips Journalism Institute, King’s College (United States)
33. Peterson Institute for International Economics (United States)
34. Political Experiments Research Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)
35. Politifact (United States)
36. Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations IMEMO (Russia)
37. RAND Corporation (United States)
38. Razumkov Center (Ukraine)
39. REPOA (Tanzania)
40. Sadeq Institute (Libya)
41. Stimson Center (United States)
42. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (United States)
43. Urban Institute (United States)
44. Wilson Center (United States)
45. World Bank (Global)
PARTICIPANTS

Khalid Aldakkan
Head of Research and Studies
Decision Support Center at the Royal Court
Saudi Arabia

Nearly 22 years of experience in government, private sector, research & development and academia. Expert in transforming new technologies to market. Leading teams to build government initiatives and strategies for cutting-edge technologies (space technology, nanotechnology, robotics, automation, security & defense and product development). Leading multiple government research projects and initiatives with local and international entities. Serving as an advisor to the Minister of Economy and Planning in sectorial development. Participating in the National Transformation Program and Vision 2030. Assigned as one of the seniors to establish the Decision Support Center at the Royal Court and have the honor to lead the research and analysis sector.

Saleh Alshumrani
Supervisor of Data & Information Center
Decision Support Center at the Royal Court
Saudi Arabia

A consultant Senior with over 25 years of experience in the field of measurement, data analysis, and education evaluation. I led huge national projects in different organizations. I am an assistant professor of measurement, evaluation and statistics at King Saud University. I am a member in several committees on the national level to steer developmental projects. I published several articles, co-authored 3 books, and translated a book from E to A assessment. Currently, I am directing the data and information center at the DSC, RC, KSA.

Robert Barron
Policy Assistant to the Director
Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University
United States

Robert Barron is Policy Assistant to the Director of Rice University's Baker Institute, and manages the institute's Center for the Middle East. He was previously a journalist based in Cairo, Egypt.
Steven J. Bennett
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Brookings Institute
United States

Steven J. Bennett is vice president and chief operating officer of Brookings. In this role, Mr. Bennett supervises the interaction between and among the Institution’s research programs, and between the research and non-research sides of Brookings, promoting collaboration and interdisciplinary work. He also oversees human resources, information technology, building operations and security, conference services and the Brookings library. He received his bachelor’s degree from Colgate University and a Master’s in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Kofi Bentil
Vice President and Strategy Manager
IMANI Center for Policy & Education

Mr. Kofi Bentil is a Lawyer, a Business Strategy Lecturer and Consultant. He has lectured in Ashesi University, and the University of Ghana Business School, he holds many corporate training sessions each year in Business Strategy, Services Marketing and Management. Kofi is Vice President and Policy Analyst with Imani Ghana, voted among the top think tanks in Africa and one of the leading Think Tanks in Ghana. Kofi currently runs Lex Praxis Inc. A law firm he founded. He continues to be a consultant with Bentil Consulting Limited. In 2005 he was honored by the World Bank with the Global Development Marketplace Award, In 2009 he was inducted into the Africa Leadership Network, part of the Aspen Institute's Global Leadership Network. Previously Kofi Managed Marketing and Business Strategy for I.T. Companies and was Business Development Manager for Enterprise Insurance, one of Ghana’s Largest Insurers. His professional interests range across Leadership, Policy and Governance, Law, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business Strategy, I.C.T. Project Management. He holds a B.A. in Geography and Resources Development, an MBA in Marketing and a second MBA in Think Tank Management, a Post Graduate LLB, and the QCL from the Ghana Law School.

Adam J. Berinsky
Mitsui Professor of Political Science
MIT Political Experiments Research Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
United States

Adam J. Berinsky is a Professor of Political Science at MIT. Berinsky received his PhD. from the University of Michigan. He is a specialist in the fields of political behavior and public opinion with over 20 years of experience in survey design and analysis. He is the author of In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq (University of Chicago Press, 2009) and Silent Voices: Public Opinion and Political Participation in America (Princeton University Press, 2004) and has published articles in many academic journals. He has won several scholarly awards, is the recipient of multiple grants from the National Science Foundation, and was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He is also the founding director of the MIT Political Experiments Research Lab.
Moussa Blimpo,
Economist
*Office of the Chief Economist for Africa, The World Bank*
*United States*

Moussa Blimpo is an Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region at the World Bank. Prior to this position, he was an Assistant Professor of economics and international studies at the University of Oklahoma (2012-2015). He completed my Ph.D. in economics from New York University in 2010 and spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University’s Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Moussa’s research interest focuses on a wide range of policy relevant questions on African economies. He is the founding director of the Center for Research and Opinion Polls (CROP), a think tank in Togo that he led between 2011 and 2015. Moussa was born and raised in Togo.

Winfield A. Boerckel
Vice President for External Affairs
*RAND Corporation*
*United States*

Winfield A. Boerckel is vice president for external affairs at the RAND Corporation where he works to raise RAND’s profile and extend RAND’s public policy impact by overseeing and leveraging the talented teams in congressional relations, media relations, web and social media, writers, editors, and publishing services, brand identity, fundraising, and community relations. Boerckel, a winner of the President's Choice Award (RAND's highest honor) who previously served as RAND's director of congressional relations, came to RAND after nearly two decades of policy work on Capitol Hill as a staffer in both the House and the Senate, including Chief of Staff. In 2003, Boerckel was awarded a fellowship by the Stennis Center for Public Service for senior congressional staff members who have an interest in bipartisan and bicameral cooperation. He was named a Thomas B. Watson Fellow for research in South Africa in 1990-91. He is a graduate of Kenyon College, cum laude, with a B.A. in English.

Graham Brookie
Deputy Director and Managing Editor
*Atlantic Council*
*United States*

Graham Brookie is the Deputy Director and Managing Editor of the Digital Forensic Research Lab (@DFRLab), a start-up within the Atlantic Council focused on building digital resilience. The @DFRLab is at the forefront of open source research with a focus on governance, technology, security, social media, and where each intersect. By publishing what it can prove, or disprove, in real-time, the @DFRLab is creating a new model of research and education adapted for impact.

Prior to joining the @DFRLab, Brookie served in various positions at the White House and National Security Council. His most recent role was as an advisor for strategic communications with a focus on digital strategy, audience engagement, and coordinating a cohesive record of President Obama's national security and foreign policy. Previously he served as the advisor to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (APHSCT), the president’s top aide for cybersecurity, counterterrorism, intelligence, and homeland security issues. He also worked in the East Asia and Middle East and North Africa directorates at the National Security Council. Brookie graduated cum laude with degrees from American University in Washington, D.C. He also completed the London School of Economics’ General Course.
Céline-Agathe Caro
Senior Policy Analyst
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Germany

Since January 2016 Dr. Céline-Agathe Caro is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Washington office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), a German political foundation affiliated with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). In its role as a think-tank and advisory body, the KAS is responsible for drafting timely academic analysis and making policy recommendations for German political leaders.

Dr. Caro is in charge of monitoring U.S. think tanks and universities with a special emphasis on U.S. foreign and transatlantic policy, U.S. positions on key international issues and the American perceptions of current developments in the EU.

Between 2010 and 2015 Dr. Caro was the Coordinator for European Policy in the headquarters of the KAS in Berlin. In this context, Dr. Caro coordinated publications and organized conferences on current issues regarding the future of the European integration and Germany’s EU policy. In addition, in the Spring and Fall of 2013 she was a visiting lecturer at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) in Lyon, a French grande école.

Dr. Caro’s analyses and policy papers appear frequently in KAS periodicals and in different German and French journals. Since 2010 she is a frequent participant in seminars and panel discussions at think tanks, governmental institutions and universities.

Celso Castro
Professor and Dean
School of Social Sciences of Fundação Getulio Vargas
Brazil

Celso Castro was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1963. He is Professor and current Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV CPDOC, Brazil). Dr. Castro has a PhD in Social Anthropology and is the author of several books on the military, including Qualitative Methods in Military Studies (Routledge, 2013, edited with H. Carreiras). He teaches in graduate and undergraduate courses at FGV and is the director of a series of books of Social Sciences for Zahar editors. During his academic career, he was member of the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA, 2004-2008) and Visiting Scholar at the Universities of Oxford (2000), Grenoble (2009) e El Colegio de México (2010).
Jose Luis Chicoma
Executive Director
Ethos Public Policy Lab
Mexico

Executive Director of Ethos Public Policy Lab and over the last 5 years, he has spearheaded a wide range of projects - from research and public policy proposals, to hackathons and storytelling through comics - which promote innovation, new instruments for public-private collaboration, government transparency, and anticorruption efforts.

He was named by the prestigious Semana Economica magazine as one of the 25 people under 45 that will change the Peruvian economy. Previously, he held various high level positions in the Peruvian public sector, including Vice Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Industries, Director of Export Promotion for PROMPERU, and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism. José Luis has lectured on innovation, competitiveness and public management in various universities and contributes regularly to Latin American magazines and newspapers such as Letras Libres, PODER, América Economía and Animal Político. He has served as President of the National Pisco Commission and Innovate Peru, and member of several boards from the public sector and civil society. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University and a BA in Economics from Universidad del Pacífico. In 2017 he was elected as one of the 16 emerging global leaders that form the select group of the Maurice R. Greenberg World Fellows Program at Yale University.

Alice Ekman
Head of China Research
Center for Asian Studies of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)
France

Dr. Alice Ekman is Head of China Research at the Center for Asian Studies of the French Institute of International Relations and also teaches at Sciences Po in Paris. She specializes in China’s domestic and foreign policy, Taiwan and the Korean peninsula. Her research interests also include global governance restructuring as well as the evolution of think tanks. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, she regularly undertakes research fieldwork in China and East Asia and exchanges with public and private institutions working in the region. Dr. Ekman was formerly Visiting Scholar at Tsinghua University (Beijing), at National Taiwan Normal University (Taipei), and more recently at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies (Seoul). She is currently a member of the EU committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). She holds a PhD from Sciences Po in International Relations, an MA from the London School of Economics, and is the author of the La Chine dans le Monde [China in the World], to be published by CNRS Editions in January 2018.
**Amy Elsbree**  
**Director of Extern Affairs**  
**Urban Institute**  
**United States**

Amy Elsbree is director of external affairs at the Urban Institute. In this position, she oversees relationships with Urban’s key external audiences—Capitol Hill, the federal executive branch, state and local governments, the business community, the academic community, and other organizations with which Urban shares policy interests—ensuring that their perspective informs Urban’s research agenda and that its research informs state, local, and federal policy discussions. In addition, Elsbree has oversight of Urban’s public events and convenings.

Before joining Urban, Elsbree was director, public affairs and member relations at the National League of Cities where she managed strategic communications, corporate relations, and member relations. Previously, she served as director of the Academy for State and Local Government and in various government affairs and communications positions for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). She also spent time early in her career working for the Office of Federal Relations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and on Capitol Hill. Elsbree has a bachelor’s from Williams College and a master’s in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

**Brian Finlay**  
**President and CEO**  
**Stimson Center**  
**United States**

Brian Finlay is the President and CEO at Stimson, as well as an Adjunct Instructor in the School of International service at American University in Washington. Prior to joining Stimson, Finlay served as Executive Director of a Washington-based lobbying initiative focused on counterterrorism issues, a researcher at the Brookings Institution, and a program officer at the Century Foundation. He was a project manager for the Laboratory Center for Disease Control/Health Canada, and worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He Chairs the Board of Directors of iMMAP, serves on the Advisory Board of Black Market Watch, and sits on the Editorial Board of Global Security. Finlay holds an M.A. from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, a graduate diploma from the School of Advanced International Studies, the Johns Hopkins University and an honors B.A. from the University of Western Orlando.

**Nancy Marshall-Genzer (TBC)**  
**Senior Reporter**  
**Marketplace Washington Bureau, NPR**  
**United States**

Nancy Marshall-Genzer is a senior reporter for Marketplace, working from the Washington, D.C. Bureau. Nancy started with Marketplace in spring 2007, after filing freelance pieces for the program for years prior. Covering the daily news from the nation’s capital, Nancy has reported many special features. Nancy has a long history in radio. Before joining the Marketplace portfolio, she worked at NPR, where her duties included producing, editing and reporting. Her previous experience also includes stints at WAMU 88.5 public radio in Washington, D.C., Monitor Radio and NBC radio and television, where she served as bureau chief for NBC TV in Tuzla, Bosnia. In 1999, Nancy won an American Medical Writers Association Award for her freelance contribution to the Marketplace series “Wanted for Questioning: America’s Most Profitable Drug Companies.” Nancy holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Ohio University. A native of Averill Park, N.Y., she currently lives in Silver Spring, Md., with her family. Describing herself as a nosy person, Nancy appreciates that her job fulfills that desire to ask questions and learn something new every day.
Paul Glader  
Executive Director, Associate Professor  
McCandlish Phillips Journalism Institute, King’s College  
United States

Paul Glader is a professor of journalism, media and entrepreneurship at The King's College in New York City, where he also directs the McCandlish Phillips Journalism Institute. He directs the business reporting program for the Dow Jones News Fund at NYU. He is executive director of The Media Project, a non-profit news platform and training program for international journalists. He will be the Laventhol / Newsday Visiting Professor at Columbia University's Journalism School in Spring 2018.


Glader received a Master's from Columbia as a Knight-Bagehot Fellow. He is a media scholar and EMBA participant at The Berlin School of Creative Leadership at Steinbeis University in Germany. He lived in Germany from 2011-2013, as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow and as a European Journalism Fellow at Freie Universität in Berlin.

Anas El Gomati  
Director General  
Sadeq Institute  
Libya

Anas El Gomati is the founder and current Director General of the Tripoli-based Sadeq Institute, the first public policy think tank in Libya's history established in August 2011. Anas is also the research director for the security & governance programme at the institute. He is formerly a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Centre.

Geysha Gonzalez  
Associate Director  
Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council  
United States

Geysha Gonzalez is the associate director for the Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council where she oversees programming and strategy. Prior to joining the Council, Geysha spent two years at Freedom House, a human rights and democracy watchdog, working in various roles including executive assistant to the president and program assistant for the Freedom of Expression team, where she worked on issues related to digital and physical security for human rights defenders. She also contributed to Freedom House’s flagship report, Freedom in the World, and wrote several pieces on the rise of modern dictatorships and international sporting events. Her previous experiences include work as a parliamentary assistant for the British Parliament and on Capitol Hill. She holds a master’s degree in history of international relations from the London School of Economics, where she focused on transatlantic relations during the Cold War in the 1960s and 1980s. She earned her bachelor’s in international affairs with a focus on European politics from Marquette University and spent a year at King’s College London.
Eugene Didier Goussikindey
Managing Director
Center for Research and Action for Peace (CERAP)
Côte d’Ivoire

Since August 2014, I am the managing director of CERAP located in Abidjan-Côte d’Ivoire which is both a University College and a Social transformation center. I earned a MA in Philosophy from the University of Montreal (Canada) and a PhD in Theology form St Michael's College in Toronto (Canada). I served as Rector of Hekima College a Constituent College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa where I Initiated the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relation. Before coming to CERAP, I was the Provincial of the Jesuit Province of West Africa comprising Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Côte d’Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Cameroun, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and Gabon. I taught Philosophy (Kinshasa-DRC) and Theology (Nairobi-Kenya/Abidjan-Côte d’Ivoire). Issues related to dialogue, peace and security have been of great interest for me.

Jane Harman
Director, President, and CEO
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
United States

Jane Harman is the Director, President, and CEO of Woodrow Wilson Center. During her nine terms in Congress, she served on all the major security committees: six years on Armed Services, eight years on Intelligence, and eight on Homeland Security. She received the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service in 1998, the CIA Seal Medal in 2007, and the CIA director's Award and the Director of National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2011. She is a member of the Defense Policy Board, State Department Foreign Policy Board, the Director of National Intelligence's Senior Advisory Group, and the Homeland Security Advisory Committee. Ms. Harman is a magna cum laude graduate of Smith College and Harvard Law School. Prior to serving in Congress, she was a top aide in the United States Senate, Deputy Cabinet Secretary to President Jimmy Carter, Special Counsel to the Department of Defense, and in private law practice.

Ari Heistein
Special Assistant
Institute for National Security Studies
Israel

Ari Heistein is the Special Assistant to the Director of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Israel. Prior to joining the INSS, he was a research associate in the Middle East Program at the Council on Foreign Relations. He earned his B.A. summa cum laude from Princeton University’s Department of Near Eastern Studies, and his M.A. from Tel Aviv University’s Department of Middle Eastern and African History.
Angie Drobnic Holan is the editor of PolitiFact. She previously was deputy editor, and before that a reporter for PolitiFact, helping launch the site in 2007. She was a member of the PolitiFact team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 2008 election. She has been with the Tampa Bay Times since 2005 and previously worked at newspapers in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and New Mexico.

She holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and a master's of library science from the University of South Florida. Her undergraduate degree is from the Plan II liberal arts program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a native of Louisiana and attended the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Elise Labott is CNN's global affairs correspondent, covering US foreign policy and international affairs for the network. Based in Washington, D.C., she has reported from more than 75 countries and has interviewed and traveled the world with five Secretaries of State. Prior to joining CNN, Labott covered the United Nations for ABC News and also reported on diplomatic and foreign policy issues for Agence France-Presse and other publications. She is currently vice president of the State Department Correspondents Association and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Labott received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a master's degree from the New School for Social Research.

Nico Lange was born in 1975. After his service as a military soldier at the Bundeswehr with assignments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, he studied political science, communications science and computer science. Lange worked as a speaker of the CDU / CSU faction in the German Bundestag and then changed from 2003 to 2006 for the Robert Bosch Foundation to St. Petersburg, Russia. From 2006 to 2012, Lange headed the foreign office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine. He had lectures in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Greifswald, the Faculty for International Relations of the State University of St. Petersburg and the National Academy of the Kiev National Academy.

From 2012-2016, Nico Lange was deputy head of department of the Department of Policy and Counseling, and also headed the team's policy from 2013-2016. His main focus was on political planning and strategy, analysis and advice for political parties, as well as addressing populism. In 2013, Nico Lange was responsible for the "Youth Perspectives" working group. From 2014-2016 Lange led the working group "Future of the People's Party". Since January 2017, Nico Lange is the head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's foreign office in the USA.
Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal
President
Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)
Brazil

Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal is President of the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) since 2000. In 1980, he graduated in Civil Engineering at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), but opted for an academic life and had a Masters in Mathematical Economics from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA, Brazil), in 1982. He also holds a PhD from the School of Economics at FGV (1980-1982) and the title of Doctor in Economics from Princeton University (USA, 1986). He began his activities as a professor FGV in 1986, teaching Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Public Finance and Finance. He was awarded the Brazilian National Order of Scientific Merit for his contributions to Science and Technology and with the Palmes Académiques by the Republic of France in 2008.

Hojun Lee
Fellow
Korea Development Institution
Korea

Dr. Hojun Lee is Fellow of Korea Development Institute (KDI), and from 2014 to 2016 he served as Director of PPP (Public Private Partnership) division of Public and Private Infrastructure Investment Management Center (PIMAC) at KDI. He is currently working as a secondee at the Development Economics Group of the World Bank in Washington D.C.

His academic research topics include mechanism design in public sectors, law and economics of property rights, and public finance of regional development. He also has conducted policy researches to help the Korean government formulate budget plans and build social and economic policies. He has published numerous academic articles in Korean academic journals as well as policy advisory documents to the Korean government in various forms. Also he is the co-editor of a new book, Eminent Domain: A Comparative Analysis published by the Cambridge University Press in 2017. He holds B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Seoul National University and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin Madison.

Marlos Lima
Executive Director for Latin America
Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) CLPP
Brazil

Marlos Lima is Executive Director for Latin American at FGV CLPP. He is also a professor on postgraduate courses in Strategic Planning, Public Policies, Prospective Scenarios, Future Studies, and Decision Making under Uncertainty. Marlos has been involved in many projects in private and public initiatives abroad and in Brazil. He is an economist at Brazilian School of Economics, holds a Master Degree on Public Administration and PhD candidate at FGV by FGV. Prof. Marlos Lima is also visiting professor at many universities in Latin America, and founding member of Latin American Group for Public Administration (GLAP/IIAS), and American Academy of Management.
Prakash Loungani
Senior Visiting Fellow
OCP Policy Center
Morocco

Prakash Loungani is Advisor in the IMF’s Research Department and Co-Chair of the IMF’s group on Jobs and Growth. He is also an adjunct Professor of Management at Vanderbilt University's Owen School of Business, where he has taught in the Executive MBA program for the past 15 years. During 2013-14, he was on the World Economic Forum’s council on employment issues. His academic work has been published in top-tier journals and the citations to this work place him among the top 5% of economists worldwide.

He was the co-author of the IMF’s background paper for the ILO-IMF conference in Oslo on tackling unemployment. More recently, he is the co-author (with Olivier Blanchard and Florence Jaumotte) of a paper on ‘Labor Market Policies and IMF Advice in Advanced Economies during the Great Recession’ and has ongoing work on labor migration.

James McGann
Senior Lecturer, International Studies
Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)
University of Pennsylvania
United States

James G. McGann is a senior lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program and senior fellow, Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to assuming his current post, James was Assistant Director of the International Relations Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council of Foreign Diplomats, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, and the Public Policy Program Officer for the The Pew Charitable Trusts. Dr. McGann earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a National Fellow at Stanford University while writing his doctoral thesis, which examined the nature and evolution of public-policy research organizations in the United States such as Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, Urban Institute, and others.

James compared and contrasted the mission, structure, and operating principles of these leading think tanks to determine how those factors influenced the institutions’ role in policymaking. His research and consulting have enabled him to work with governments and civil society organizations in over 100 countries. He has authored over 15 books on think tanks and is the creator and editor of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index. His latest book is entitled Think Tanks, Public Policy, and Governance, which focuses on the role think tanks play in presidential campaign and the domestic and foreign policy process in the US.
Michael Meier
Director
Friedrich Ebert Foundation
United States

Michael Meier is FES Representative to the U.S. and Canada. Prior to his current assignment, he was FES representative to Turkey for five years. Michael Meier also served as head of the Department for Western Europe and North America at FES headquarters in Berlin. From 1991 to 2003, he was resident representative of FES in Senegal, Ethiopia, and Botswana. Michael Meier is an expert on foreign and security policy in the MENA region, where he focused on Turkey’s role in the region, Turkey’s relations with the European Union and Israel in particular. He also acted as advisor to the coordination group on Turkey in the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), and he is the author of numerous articles on current policy trends in Turkey and the USA. Michael Meier holds a diploma in African sciences and economy from Leipzig University (Germany), and he attended a postgraduate training program at the German Development Institute (DIE) in Bonn.

Donald Mmari
Executive Director
Policy Research for Development (REPOA)
Tanzania

Donald Mmari is an economist with vast experience in policy analysis, socio-economic research, and institutional development. He holds a PhD from the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, an MBA from University of Oregon, USA and an MA (Economics) from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He has been actively involved in the coordination of national poverty monitoring, including the preparation of Tanzania poverty and human development reports from 2001 to 2011; and engaged in the preparation of various national development policies, including National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty in 2004 and 2010, the Natural Gas Policy of Tanzania in 2012 and the Second Five Year Development Plan in 2015/16. He has published articles, working papers, policy briefs, and research reports on the extractives sector, manufacturing, governance, social protection, and on export competitiveness of agricultural commodities. He has immense management experience accumulated over the years of his various positions within REPOA and outside, including membership to the Governing Boards of public entities. He is currently the Executive Director of REPOA.
Anastasia Nevskaya
PR Director
*Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO)*
*Russia*

Anastasia Nevskaya is Head of PR and a Research Associate at Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) in Moscow. She holds a Ph.D. in World Economy from IMEMO. She also holds a BA and MA degrees from Moscow State University of International Relations (regional studies, world politics and transnational business). Anastasia has work experience in diplomacy and with non-commercial organizations. She worked for the non-commercial partnership «EU-Russia Industrialists Roundtable», she also served as a diplomat in Tallinn, Estonia. She joined IMEMO research team in 2014. Her professional interests include Russia-EU relations, foreign direct investment, global value chains, regional integration and sustainable economic development. She has published studies in peer-reviewed journals on Russian-Netherlands, Russian-Ukrainian, Russia-Estonian and Russian-Visegrad countries investment relations. She has also conducted research in the field of global value chains, sustainable development and creative industries in Russia, the EU and Asian countries.

Spencer Overton
President
*Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies*
*United States*

Spencer Overton is the President of Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The Joint Center – founded in 1970 to provide policy support to black elected officials – faced a fiscal crisis when Spencer became the leader in early 2014. He spent 18 months resolving these challenges. The Joint Center is now debt-free and growing, and under Spencer's leadership has restarted programming that provides research and policy options to elected officials of color. Spencer is also a tenured Professor of Law at George Washington University, author of the book *Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression*, and the former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Office of Legal Policy (the “think tank” of U.S. Department of Justice). Spencer is an honors graduate of both Hampton University and Harvard Law School, he clerked for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Damon J. Keith, and he practiced law at Debevoise & Plimpton.

Kwame Owino
Chief Executive Officer
*Institute of Economic Affairs*
*Kenya*

Kwame Owino is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute of Economic Affairs, a think tank on public policy that is based in Kenya. Prior to appointment to the office, he worked as a programme officer, leading research and policy dialogue in the policy area of economic regulation and competition policy and has diverse interests on economic regulation, employment economics and public sector reform. He undertakes and oversees research in IEA-Kenya’s key policy areas on public expenditure and revenue analysis, international trade, economic regulation, devolution and the use of futures methodologies to inform public affairs in Kenya.
Goret Pereira Paulo  
Director  
*Applied Research and Knowledge Network, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)*  
*Brazil*

Goret Pereira Paulo has a PhD in Public Administration from the São Paulo School of Business Administration of FGV and a Master's in Economics from the Graduate School of Economics of FGV. Her professional experience includes positions as chief economist, head of strategic planning and manager of gas and electricity generation with Shell Brasil Ltda. and director of energy generation project development of InterGen Ltda. She is currently director of the Applied Research and Knowledge Network (FGV), researcher in the energy area for FGV Energia, coordinates consulting projects in the infrastructure area for FGV and is a member of the Electric Power Transmission and Generation Committees of Brazilian Association of Infrastructure and Basic Industries (ABDIB). Additionally, she is a Professor in the area of economic regulation with FGV. She is the co-author of the book Viabilidade Econômico-financeira de Projetos [*Economic-Financial Feasibility of Projects*]

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Effie Pedaliu  
Senior Research Fellow  
*IDEAS, London School of Economics and Politics*

Effie G.H. Pedaliu is a Fellow at LSE IDEAS having previously held posts at LSE, KCL and UWE. She is the author of Britain, Italy and the Origins of the Cold War, (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003; pbk. edition 2017), the co-editor (with J.W. Young and M.D. Kandiah) of Britain in Global Affairs, Volume II, From Churchill to Blair, (Palgrave, 2013) and (with J. Fisher and R. Smith) The Foreign Office, Commerce and British Foreign Policy in the 20th Century (Palgrave, 2017). Pedaliu co-edits the Palgrave/Macmillan book series, Security Conflict and Cooperation in the Contemporary World. She has written numerous articles for academic journals, book chapters, policy reports, op-eds and contributes regularly to the Greek broadsheet Kathimerini on Sunday. The main themes of her work include: the international history of the Cold War, American and British foreign policy, European integration, transatlantic relations, Southern Europe, Human Rights and Mediterranean security. She is a member of the peer review college of the Arts and Humanities Research Council and a co-convenor of the International History Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research (University of London). She obtained both her MA and PhD in International History from the LSE.
Jen Psaki
Vice President for Communications and Strategy
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
*United States*

Jen Psaki is vice president for communications and strategy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She previously served as White House communications director in Barack Obama’s administration from 2015 to 2017 and as the spokesperson at the State Department under then secretary of state John Kerry from 2013 to 2015. Prior to joining the State Department in 2013, Psaki served as deputy White House communications director, working hand in hand with the economic team during the financial crisis, and as a senior adviser and traveling press secretary for the Obama campaigns during the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. Her prior roles also include senior vice president at Global Strategy Group, a New York City–based strategic consulting and polling firm; communications director for Congressman Joseph Crowley; regional spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; and deputy press secretary for John Kerry’s presidential campaign in 2004. Described by the New York Times as “the unflappable and genial point-person” to the media during the various crises of Obama’s campaigns and presidency, she was also named as one of fifty politicos to watch by POLITICO in 2012. She is a CNN contributor and has recently written pieces for Ozy, the Hill, and Refinery29. Psaki has a bachelor of arts degree in English from the College of William and Mary.

Giuseppe Porcaro
Head of Communications
*Bruegel*
*Brussels*

Giuseppe Porcaro is a political geographer, a writer, and an expert in communications, public affairs and Politics of the European Union. Having served for two mandates as Secretary General of the European Youth Forum, he currently serves as Head of Communications of Bruegel, the European economic think tank. Giuseppe oversees the strategic direction of the communications at Bruegel and he is part of the management team of Bruegel, participating to the overall organisational development of the think tank. He has recently published a series of articles about how the internet of things and algorithms will change policymaking, and he just finished to write his first political science fiction novel called Disco Sour.

Matthew Rojansky
Director
*Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*
*United States*

Matthew Rojansky is Director of the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. An expert on U.S. relations with the states of the former Soviet Union, especially Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, he has advised governments, intergovernmental organizations, and major private actors on conflict resolution and efforts to enhance shared security throughout the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region.

Previously, Rojansky was Deputy Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. There, he founded Carnegie’s Ukraine Program, led a multi-year project to support U.S.-Russia health cooperation, and created a track-two task force to promote resolution of the Moldova-Transnistria conflict. He also served as an Embassy Policy Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, and as a Visiting Scholar in the Research Division at the NATO Defense College.
Linda Roth
Vice President of External Relations
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
United States

Linda Roth is Vice President of External Relations at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her responsibilities include management of branding, digital content creation, event planning and production, partnerships, media relations, social media, print publications, and audiovisual services. The recipient of multiple Emmy and Peabody Awards, Roth served for more than a decade as Wolf Blitzer's producer at CNN, managing nearly every aspect of his editorial projects, trips, and high-profile interviews. As a top producer on “The Situation Room” and as executive producer of the Sunday political talk show “Late Edition,” she covered nearly every major domestic and international news story of the last two decades. A passionate advocate for press freedom and media development, she has conducted workshops and taught best practices to journalists, communicators, and students around the world.

Marco Aurelio Ruediger
Director of Public Policy Analysis
Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)
Brazil

Marco Aurelio Ruediger holds a Doctoral Degree in sociology and a Master Degree in Management and Policy Analysis. He is currently the Director of Public Policy Analysis at FGV, where he conducts research on innovation of the State structures, data transparency, social networks, technological innovation and democracy, public security and immigration. At DAPP he conducts a team of economists, sociologists, political scientists, designers and policy analyzer on research on modernization of the State structures, e-Democracy, Network Society and other key topics of the political agenda such as Social Protests, Public Security and Immigration. He also works extensively with applied projects for the Public Sector. Previously, Professor Ruediger held a number of public positions in Brazil including that of Undersecretary for Public Administration in State of Rio de Janeiro and Director of Managerial Information of Rio de Janeiro City Hall. He would like to present a piece of his current work at DAPP: Robots, Social Networks and Politics: A study on Illegitimate Inferences over Public Debate on the Web, Risks to Democracy and the 2018 Electoral Process in Brazil.

Natalia Salazar
Deputy Director General
Fedesarrollo
Colombia

Colombian economist, MA in Economics (U. Andes – Bogotá) and M.A. Journalism (Georgetown University). Currently, Deputy Director of Fedesarrollo (Colombian independent think tank). Previously, I worked as Technical Vice Minister and General Director of Macroeconomic Policy at the Colombian Ministry of Finance. I have published several papers in national and international economic journals in the macroeconomics and financial sector development.
Andrew Schwartz  
Chief Communications Officer  
*Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*  
*United States*

As Senior Vice President for External Relations at CSIS, Andrew H. Schwartz is responsible for directing the Center’s media relations, congressional relations, large scale events, publications, Web site, marketing, and other external relations matters. Prior to joining CSIS, Mr. Schwartz was a spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), America’s pro-Israel lobby. Before that, he was a producer for the Fox News Channel’s Special Report with Brit Hume and subsequently served as a white House producer for the network. As a print journalist, Mr. Shwartz has written for the Washington Post, Washington Times, and various national newspapers and magazines. Mr. Schwartz holds a bachelor’s in political science from Tulane University and a masters in broadcast journalism and public policy from The American University. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Press Foundation, Dean's Advisory Board at Tulane University's School of Liberal Arts, Board of Visitors at the Press Foundation, Dean's Advisory Board at Tulane University’s School of Liberal Arts, Board of Visitors at the Texas Christian University Bob Schieffer College of Communication, and on the editorial board of The Washington Quarterly.

Aaron Shull  
Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel  
*Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)*  
*Canada*

Aaron Shull is CIGI’s chief operating officer and general counsel. As General Counsel, he responds to legal inquiries from Senior Management that relate to corporate, contractual, employment, occupational health and safety, intellectual property, dispute resolution, and compliance related matters. As Chief of Staff, he operates as an effective liaison and conduit across all departments, providing guidance and advice on all matters of strategic and operational importance. Prior to joining CIGI, Aaron practiced law for a number of organizations, focusing on international, regulatory and environmental law.

Leigh Morris Sloane  
Managing Director  
*International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)-Americas*  
*United States*

Leigh Morris Sloane is Managing Director of IISS-Americas. In this role, she manages operations for the Washington, DC office of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and works closely with her IISS colleagues around the world to ensure that constituents based in the Americas connect with the Institute’s world-leading research and convening power. Leigh has over 20 years of experience working in the international affairs arena at the nexus of research, higher education and policy making. Prior to joining IISS, she served as Chief of Staff at the Brookings Institution where she managed the executive secretariat and activities of the president, Strobe Talbott. Additionally, she has lived and worked in Bulgaria, Hungary and the UK. Leigh holds a Master's degree from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service.
Richard Solash
Managing Editor
*The Wilson Quarterly, Wilson Center*
*United States*

Richard Solash is Writer/Editor in the External Relations department at the Wilson Center and Managing Editor of *The Wilson Quarterly*. He was previously Director of Communications at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He holds degrees in English and journalism from Harvard and Columbia, respectively. He speaks Russian and Spanish.

Winnie Stachelberg
Executive Vice President for External Affairs
*Center for American Progress*
*United States*

Winnie Stachelberg is the Executive Vice President for External Affairs at American Progress. Ms. Stachelberg is a member of the American Progress Executive Committee, helping to develop and drive the strategic direction of American Progress’ multi-issue progressive agenda and sophisticated communications and outreach platform. She has helped launch CAP’s immigration program and continues to oversee the LGBT Research and Communications Project, gun-violence prevention work, the Half in Ten anti-poverty campaign, and Generation Progress. Prior to joining CAP, Ms. Stachelberg spent 11 years with the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT civil rights organization, where she served as the first vice president of HRC’s foundation and as HRC’s political director. Before joining HRC, Ms. Stachelberg worked at the Office of Management and Budget formulating health policies. Ms. Stachelberg received a master’s from The George Washington University and a bachelor’s from Georgetown.

Eduardo Stein
Vice President of ASIES
*Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES)*
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Former Vice President (2004-2008) and Foreign Minister (1996-2000) of the Republic of Guatemala. Participated actively in the Esquipulas Peace Process in Central America in late eighties and early nineties, as well as in the San José Dialogue between Central America and the European Union. As Foreign Minister he participated actively in the last phase of the peace negotiations and the implementation of Guatemala’s Peace Accords. As Vice President, he negotiated the agreement between the Guatemalan government and the UN General Secretariat for the creation and implementation of the International Commission Against Impunity to strengthen Guatemala’s criminal investigation and prosecution capacities and fight against corruption ingrained in public institutions. He has worked with various international organizations in development programs. Has been a consultant for the international Organization of Migrations, IOM, in Central America, and was IOM’s Chief of Mission in Panama 1994-96. Was one of 12 members of the Canadian Government sponsored International Commission on Sovereignty and Intervention that reported to the UN Secretary General and coined the concept of “Responsibility to Protect”. He presided over the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Honduras on the political crisis of 2009 and the ousting of President Zelaya, and its aftermath. Currently he is an independent consultant, coordinates a Central American network of think tanks, and is member of the Boards of the Inter-American Dialogue (Washington), of the Global Leadership Foundation (London), of the Global Center for Pluralism (Ottawa) and the Heifer Foundation (Little Rock). He is the Latin American member of the recently created World Refugee Council.
Klaus Stier
International Project Manager
*Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) CLPP*
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Klaus has a bachelor’s degree in International Relations and a master’s degree in Public Administration by FGV. He leads the planning sector of the Latin American Center for Public Policy at FGV (CLPP FGV), being responsible for coordinating FGV’s international actions in Latin American countries, which includes the promotion of FGV’s training programs, project advices and innovative social science applied researches. Klaus is a specialist in Latin American integration, policy and economic themes, border development and defense studies. Prior to his arrival at FGV, he worked at the World Health Organization building a network to support human resources for health in Portuguese speaking countries.

Jin Kyo Suh
Director
*Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)*
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Dr. SUH is an adjunct professor of the U.S.-Korea Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University and a senior research fellow of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), a leading national think tank and source of advice to the government on major international economic policy issues.

He was a vice president of the KIEP in 2014-2016 and served a special trade policy advisor to the trade minister during the same period. He was a Fulbright visiting scholar at Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2013-2014 and has provided commentary and analysis to the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) since 2005.

Dr. SUH has published a wide range of books, reports, and opinion pieces in Korean on international trade and agricultural development and has deeply engaged in making of national strategies on multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations. He holds a M.S. and a Ph. D in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Strobe Talbott
President
*The Brookings Institution*
*United States*

Strobe Talbott assumed the presidency of the Brookings Institution in July 2002 after a career in journalism, government and academe. His immediate previous post was founding director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. Before that, he served in the State Department from 1993 to 2001, first as ambassador-at-large and special adviser to the secretary of state for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, then as deputy secretary of state for seven years. Mr. Talbott entered government service after 21 years with Time magazine. As a reporter, he covered Eastern Europe, the State Department and the White House, then was Washington bureau chief, editor-at-large and foreign affairs columnist. He was twice awarded the Edward Weintal Prize for distinguished diplomatic reporting.
David Tell
Senior Fellow and Director of Public Affairs & Special Projects
Hudson Institute
United States

Senior Fellow David Tell serves as Hudson Institute’s Director of Public Affairs and Special Projects. He previously had an extensive career as a speechwriter, presidential campaign strategist, White House aide, and opinion journalist.

Steven R. Weisman
Vice President for Publications and Communications
Peterson Institute for International Economics
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Steven R. Weisman, vice president for publications and communications, joined the Peterson Institute in 2008. He had previously been the chief international economics correspondent of the New York Times since 2006. He served as a member of the editorial board of the Times, specializing in politics and economics (1995–2002). His work has appeared in the Times Book Review, Times Magazine, and the paper's news, features, and culture sections since 1968. Before serving as chief international economics correspondent, he was chief diplomatic correspondent and won the Edward Weintal Prize in 2004 for his reporting on diplomacy and international affairs, awarded by the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Earlier he served as deputy foreign editor for the Times. Mr. Weisman wrote about the emergence of Japan and India as global economic powers while serving as bureau chief for the Times in Tokyo and New Delhi. He also covered the war in Afghanistan in the 1980s. During the first term of President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Weisman was senior White House correspondent, specializing in foreign policy, budget, tax, and other economic issues. His coverage of the New York City fiscal crisis earned a Silurian Society Award in 1975. He is the author of The Great Tax Wars: Lincoln to Wilson—The Fierce Battles over Money and Power That Transformed the Nation (Simon and Schuster, 2002), which received the Sidney Hillman Award in 2003 for the book that most advances the cause of social justice. He is also the editor of the book Daniel Patrick Moynihan: A Portrait in Letters of an American Visionary (PublicAffairs, 2010) (book release audio). His most recent book, The Great Tradeoff: Confronting Moral Conflicts in the Era of Globalization, was published by PIIE in 2016.

Darrell M. West
Vice President and Director of Government Studies
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Darrell M. West is vice president and director of Governance Studies and holds the Douglas Dillon Chair. He is founding director of the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings and Editor-in-Chief of TechTank. His current research focuses on educational technology, health information technology, and mobile technology. Prior to coming to Brookings, West was the John Hazen White Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and Director of the Taubman Center for Public Policy at Brown University.
Kathleen Wu  
Senior Advisor  
*Center for China & Globalization*  
*United States*

Ms. Kathleen Wu is a senior advisor to the Center for China & Globalization (CCG). As a U.S. federal government official, she directs programs that provide a wide range of economic growth assistance to countries around the world. Ms. Wu develops technical guidelines for designing, implementing, and evaluating U.S. foreign assistance activities. In 2016, Ms. Wu served in Albania, where she led U.S. efforts in supporting Democracy & Governance and Economic Growth activities. Previously, she was the Director of the Regional Office of Trade and Development at USAID\West Africa, Director of the Office of Economic Growth at USAID\Morocco, Deputy Director for the Office of South and Central Asia Affairs at USAID\Washington. In 2009-2010, Ms. Wu served in USAID/Pakistan, heading the Economic Growth Office in developing new economic growth strategies that were adapted to Pakistan's dynamic, complex environment, guiding the $300 million economic growth portfolio through an incredibly turbulent period.

Ms. Wu was the Chief Risk Officer of USAID's Development Credit Authority (a statutory authority) during 1999-2009. She started up the key functions of the Agency's credit operations involving worldwide networks and served as USAID's principal advisor on credit risk management with a portfolio of $3 billion. Prior to USAID, Ms. Wu was a regulator, consultant, and academic. Her consultations have addressed multiple areas: advancing policy change, public-private partnerships, improving business enabling environment, and recommending multi-agency solutions to increase economic growth and private-sector development in developing and transitional countries. She has worked in over 70 countries.

Yuriy V. Yakymenko  
Deputy Director General  
*Razumkov Center*  
*Ukraine*

Deputy Director General, Director of Political and Legal Programs of Razumkov Centre. Ukrainian political researcher, author of monographs, analytical reports, research papers, numerous publications and comments for media on issues of Ukrainian politics. In 1995-2002 worked at the Administration of the President of Ukraine as political analyst, head of division for relations with political parties, deputy head of the Main Department for political analysis. Since 2002 works in Razumkov Centre. Took part in drafting legislation for reformation of political system of Ukraine, in national electoral campaigns of leading political forces and candidates for presidency. Spheres of expertise: political system, parties, elections, national identity issues. Graduated from Kyiv Taras Shevchenko University (1991), the University of Manchester’s (1994) (MA.Econ). Ph. D. in Political Science.
Naoyuki Yoshino
Dean
Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
Japan

Naoyuki Yoshino is Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute; Professor Emeritus of Keio University, in Tokyo, Japan; and Chief Adviser at the Japan Financial Services Agency’s Financial Research Center. He obtained his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 1979. He was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been a visiting professor at various universities including the University of New South Wales (Australia), and Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France). He was an Assistant Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo and an Economics Professor at Keio University from 1991 to 2014. He was appointed chair of the Financial Planning Standards Board in 2007, and also served as chairperson of the Japanese Ministry of Finance’s Council on Foreign Exchange and its Fiscal System Council. He was also a board member of the Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan, chairperson of the Meeting of Japanese Government Bond Investors (Ministry of Finance), and was President of the Financial System Council of the Government of Japan. He was conferred honorary doctorates by the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) in 2004, by Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) in 2013 and the Fukuzawa Award for his contribution to academic research in 2013.

Agostinho Zacarias
Director of Research
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Professor Agostinho Zacarias is Research Professor and Director of Research at the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes and Visiting Professor of International Relations at the Instituto Superior de Relacoes Internacionais (ISRI) He was a visiting Professor of African Politics and International Relations at the Woodrow Wilson School of University of Princeton, University of Johannesburg. He taught International Relations at the London School of Economics, University of the Witwatersrand and Instituto Superior de Relacoes Internacionais, where we also vice Chancellor from 1990-1993 and founder of the Centre for International and Strategic Studies. Zacarias also has a UN distinguished career. He served as the Deputy Special representative of the Secretary General in Burundi, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Zimbabwe, South Africa Burundi and Comores. He was also a Chief of Staff in the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Angola, His publications include the following books: United Nations and the International Peacekeeping (1996), State and Security in Southern Africa (1999) and Rethinking Strategies for Mozambique and Southern Africa (1990).
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All requests, questions, and comments should be directed to

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About TTCSP

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe.

Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policy-making process. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.
The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies
The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

University of Pennsylvania
The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. Its peer institutions are Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago in the US and Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York. Benjamin Franklin founded the University of Pennsylvania in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full-demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

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