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# EU-US YOUNG LEADERS SEMINAR

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The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

This seminar is jointly funded by the EU Delegation to the US and the U.S. Department

# EU-U.S. Young Leaders Seminar 2022

## The Future of Democracy

April 27-29, 2022

Brussels, Belgium

### Wednesday, 27 April

*Thon Hotel, Room France*

**18:00 – 18:30**                      **Welcome Remarks at Thon Hotel, Room France**

**Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Program Brussels

**Alexandre Polack**, First Counsellor, Political, Security & Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

**Colin Scicluna**, Head of Cabinet, Vice President for Democracy & Demography, European Commission

**18:30 – 20:00**                      **Networking Dinner at Thon Hotel**

### Thursday, 28 April

*The Square Brussels, Ravenstein Entrance, Rue Ravenstein 2  
Hall 300, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

**9:00**                                      **Introduction**

Introduction of FPI Education Programme by **Stefan Schleuning**, Head of Unit FPI.4, Industrialised Countries & Foreign Policy Support

Introduction of speakers by **Alexandre Polack**, First Counsellor, Political, Security and Development section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

**9:00 – 9:15**                              **Opening Remarks**

**Themis Christophidou**, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

**9:15 – 9:45**                              **Power Conversation on the Current State of Transatlantic Democracy**

*The surge of authoritarian threats, political polarization, disinformation and widening social inequalities continue to fuel democratic backsliding and undermine the democratic values on which our systems and institutions rest. Across the Atlantic and beyond there is an inherent appeal to political systems with radically simple beliefs, while authoritarian and nationalist parties offer new paths to wealth or power. Residents that are wary of government gravitate to extreme views or drop out of the process entirely. While there are transatlantic differences, these trends are dysfunctional and incompatible with democratic survival. The urgency to confront these global crises requires societies*

*and the transatlantic alliance to strengthen their resilience, cultivate public engagement and reimagine the future of democracy.*

**Patrick Costello**, Head of Unit for Democracy and Electoral Observation, European External Action Service

**Zsuzsanna Szelenyi**, Director, CEU Democracy Institute

Moderator: **Alexandre Polack**, First Counsellor, Political, Security and Development section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

#### **9:45 – 10:30                      Upholding the Rule of Law**

*Across the Atlantic, upholding and compliance with the rule of law has been challenged. Some trends include weakened democratic checks and balances, increased number of journalists subject to threats, unequal access to legal representation, and crimes against minority groups. Judicial independence, which constitutes a key component for the effective protection of the rule of law, is especially under threat. EU member states such as Hungary, Poland and Malta fail to comply with EU fundamental rights obligations and ignore judgments of the EU Court of Justice. At the same time, in the United States, most state court judges are not insulated from outside pressures and public perception that judges are fair and impartial is put into question. What are the main threats to the rule of law? How can we ensure that it is upheld?*

**Monika Ladmanova**, Advisor to the Vice-President Vera Jourova

**Sacha Garben**, Professor, European Legal Studies Department, College of Europe

Moderator: **Alexandre Polack**, First Counsellor, Political, Security and Development section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

#### **10:30 – 11:00                      Breakout Sessions**

*Participants are split in 3 groups. Each group will have a facilitator from among the participants.*

#### **11:0 – 11:15                      Debrief**

Facilitator: **Annika Vollmer**, Program Coordinator, German Marshall Fund of the United States

#### **11:15 – 11:45                      Coffee Break**

#### **11:45 – 12:30                      Technology and Democracy, Friends or Foes?**

*Advancing artificial intelligence and data solutions have the potential to create a thriving, equitable and sustainable future for all. With a commitment to justice and equity, technological innovation can have a deeply positive social impact and counter disinformation. Yet, authoritarian regimes and other malign actors also use social media, other online information platforms in an attempt to shape global and domestic narratives, undermine democratic processes and erode democratic institutions, posing a foundational threat to democracies around the world. In this 30-minute snap debate, two speakers argue the YES and NO sides of the central notion: Technology and democracy, friends or foes?*

**Nad'a Kovalčíková**, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies

**Lutz Güllner**, Head of Strategic Communications (Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference), European External Action Service

Moderator: **Alexandre Polack**, Counsellor, Political, Security and Development, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S

**12:30 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 – 14:30**

**Power Conversation About the Marshall Plan**

*On June 5, 1947, US Secretary of State George C. Marshall spoke at Harvard of the distance between Americans and “the troubled areas of the earth,” saying that “our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos”. It laid the foundation for both a strong transatlantic relationship and unifying Europe – something that has come to be taken for granted over the ensuing decades. As we approach the 75th anniversary of this historic speech, threats to transatlantic security, political frustrations and economic challenges require a transformation of the transatlantic relationship, a Marshall Plan 2.0. Why was the Marshall Plan so successful? What are some of the lessons learned? Could its success be replicated?*

**Ian Lesser**, Vice President and Executive Director, Brussels Office, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Moderator: **Julia Gallardo Gomez**, Capacity Building Officer, Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (EU-U.S. Young Leaders Seminar '21 Alumna)

**14:30 – 15:15**

**Shark Tank ‘Marshall Plan 2.0’ - Part One**

*Participants are divided in three groups and start drafting their Marshall Plan 2.0. Each group will have a mentor.*

**15:15 – 15:45**

**Coffee Break**

**15:45 – 16:45**

**Rebuilding Trust in Public Institutions**

*As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe, citizens all over the world looked to their governments to contain the virus’ spread, provide economic relief and provide a steady flow of information. Governments that had the most success addressing the pandemic saw this reflected in high trust ratings. However, this was not visible everywhere. As the pandemic reached its fifth wave, inconsistent policies and measures fuelled protest and dissent. Yet, trust in public institutions is imperative for governments to deliver on their various promises, regulating markets, enforcing rules and compliance and protecting citizens. It depends as much on the perceptions of citizens as the capabilities of government. What challenges do governments face? What strategies can be used to build and sustain citizen trust? What services, products and experiences can increase the perception of trustworthiness?*

**Gwendolyn Rutten**, Member, Flemish Parliament; Mayor of Aarshot

**Caroline de Gruyter**, columnist, EU Observer, NRC Handelsblatt

Moderator: **Dr. Corinna Hörst**, Guido Goldman Director of Leadership Programs and Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Friday, April 29**

*The Square Brussels, Ravenstein Entrance, Rue Ravenstein 2  
Hall 300, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

**9:00**

**Welcome and Introduction** of speakers by **Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

**9:00 – 9:30**

**Power Conversation on Strengthening Democracy**

*Growing disregard for the conditions that form the foundation of democracy, such as commitment to the rule of law, respect for minority and migrant rights and space for critical dissent, threaten to destabilize the democratic order. Functioning democracies require mutual toleration, respecting the legitimacy of politically different opinions, and unfailing forbearance. By protecting our core values, fulfilling human rights obligations at home, investing in civic education, guarding against manipulation by authoritarian actors, funding countries at critical junctures or investing in multilateral institutions; democracies can become more resilient. What makes a strong democracy? How can democracies become more resilient? In what ways can the transatlantic alliance cooperation facilitate this process?*

**Desa Srsen**, Deputy Head of Cabinet, Vice President for Democracy & Demography, European Commission

Moderator: **Alexandre Polack**, First Counsellor, Political, Security and Development section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

### **9:30 – 10:15                      A Demographically Diverse, Digitally Native Civil Service System**

*From cybersecurity to climate and racial injustice, governments play a critical role in solving our hardest challenges. Yet, around the world, we are facing a political leadership crisis. Politics is attracting highly partisan leaders, that are less willing to listen to opposing views and collaborate across the aisle. At the same time, fewer young people see politics as a way to make the world better or get their voices heard. A demographically diverse, digitally native civil service system is one way to improve local and regional policies and programs, maintain an environment of intellectual inquiry and dialogue that are rich in perspectives.*

**Luis Loureiro de Amorim**, Head of Unit, European Personnel Selection Office

**Gilberto Morishaw**, Head of Impact, Equity and Inclusion, Kolektivo

Moderator: **Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

### **10:15 – 11:00                      Breakout Sessions and Debrief**

*Participants are divided in three groups. Each group has a facilitator from among the participants.*

**Debrief** led by **Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

### **11:00 – 11:30                      Coffee Break**

### **11:30 – 12:30                      Outlook for 2022: The transatlantic comeback?**

*As the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, other challenges such as recession, populism, and climate change briefly recaptured the discourse. While the transatlantic partnership improved in 2021, the lack of diplomacy, communication and trust has led to mistakes that undermined the solidarity of ties and left Europeans wondering whether the US has really returned to the multilateral fora. The invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has, however, prompted a reinvigoration of the transatlantic partnership. Responses to the crisis such as severe sanctions against Russia and calls for dialogue have been coordinated at the highest of levels. The EU and NATO Alliance have also been ever-present in displaying a united front. Can this new-found cooperation extend to tackling climate change, the anticipated economic recession and fortifying transatlantic democracies?*

**Oana Popescu Zamfir**, Director, GlobalFocus Center/ Fellow, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen

**Jacob Kierkegaard**, Senior Fellow, GMF

Moderator: **Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

**12:30 – 13:30                      Lunch**

**13:30 – 14:30                      Shark Tank 'Marshall Plan 2.0' - Part Two**

*The 3 groups of participants prepare their presentations.*

**14:30 – 15:00                      Shark tank 'Marshall Plan 2.0' - Part Three**

*Groups present their plans in front of the "sharks." In the third part, each group has 5 minutes to present the plan and 5 minutes to answer questions from the "sharks". The "sharks" are:*

**Alexandre Polack**, Counsellor, Political, Security and Development section, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S

**Erica Lutes**, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

**Jamie Martin**, Cultural Affairs Officer, US Mission/ Embassy

**Dr. Corinna Hörst**, Guido Goldman Director of Leadership Programs and Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

**15:00 – 15:15                      Deliberation**

*Coffee break will be served while the "sharks" deliberate*

**15:15 – 16:00                      Awards Ceremony, Closing Remarks, and Photo Session**

**Elia Tello**, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Mission to the EU

**Brian Glynn**, Managing Director, Americas, European External Action Service

## SPEAKERS



### **Patrick Costello**

Patrick Costello is currently Head of the Democracy and Electoral Observation Division of the European External Action Service (EEAS). He has been an EU official for 22 years working in the European Parliament, European Commission and EEAS and has served in a number of Cabinets including those of Chris Patten, Vice-President Margot Wallström (as deputy Head of Cabinet), EP President Josep Borrell (as diplomatic adviser) and Karmenu Vella (as Head of Cabinet). Other jobs have included EEAS head of division for the Middle East and deputy to the Chair of the Political and Security Committee. Prior to joining the European Institutions, he worked for the UN in Haiti (MICIVIH) and as an electoral observer in South Africa (UNOMSA) and he started his career as a human rights campaigner on Central America.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Patrick Costello | LinkedIn](#)



### **Themis Christophidou**

Themis Christophidou is a European public servant who became Director-General for education, youth, sport and culture of the European Commission, in March 2018. She is a civil engineer with 32 years of experience in private and public sector management. She joined the European Commission in 2001. Having held various positions in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban policy, she worked as Deputy Head of Cabinet of Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for education, culture, multilingualism, youth and sport in 2010-2011.

From 2011 to 2014, Themis Christophidou worked as Head of Cabinet of Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for maritime affairs and fisheries, and from 2014 to 2018, she was Head of Cabinet of Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management. Themis Christophidou is an alumna of the civil engineering school of the Athens Polytechnic Metsovio, specialised in transport

infrastructure and urban transport. Born in Famagusta, Cyprus, she is trilingual Greek, French, English.

*Twitter Profile:* [Themis Christophidou \(@ChristophidouEU\) / Twitter](#)



### **Caroline de Gruyter**

Caroline de Gruyter is a journalist and lecturer based in Brussels. She is a European Affairs correspondent and columnist for the leading Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad and a regular contributor to Foreign Policy, EUobserver and De Standaard. She spent more than twenty years covering Europe, from different corners of the continent.

Caroline is an alumna of German Marshall Fund's Marshall Memorial Fellowship.

*Twitter Profile:* [Caroline de Gruyter \(@CarolineGruyter\) / Twitter](#)



### **Sacha Garben**

Professor Dr Sacha Garben is Permanent Professor of EU law at the Legal Studies Department of the College of Europe. She is furthermore an official in the European Commission (legal officer, DG EMPL), currently on special leave to be at the College of Europe full time. In 2020, Professor Garben has been appointed as replacement Judge ("raadsheer-plaatsvervanger") at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal ("Gerechtshof").

At the College, Professor Garben teaches the course The Constitution(alisation) of EU Law, as well as the Legal Methodology Course.

Professor Garben obtained her Phd at the European University Institute in 2010, winning the Jacqueline Suter Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis in European Law 2009 – 2011. In 2008, she spent a semester at Harvard Law School as a visiting scholar. She has since then worked at the Court of Justice of the European Union and at the London School of Economics. She is an alumna of the Beethoven promotion at the College of Europe (2005-2006).



Professor Garben is the General Editor (together with L. Gormley and K. Purnhagen) of the OUP Online Encyclopedia of EU Law (forthcoming in 2021) and regularly contributes to EU law handbooks, such as the Commentary on the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019, edited by M. Kellerbauer, M. Klamert, and J. Tomkin), and The Law of the European Union (Kluwer Law International, 2018, edited by F. Ambtenbrink et al, access sample chapter S. Garben 'Supporting Policies').

She is currently under contract with Oxford University Press for a monograph on Competence in the EU Legal Order (expected 2022) and with Edward Elgar for a monograph on EU Constitutional Law (expected 2024).

She gives guest lectures and academic presentations at many other universities, which have included inter alia the University of Oxford, Harvard University, the University of Cambridge, the London School of Economics (LSE), Humboldt Berlin and HEC Paris.



### **Brian Glynn**

Brian Glynn took up the position of Managing Director for the Americas in the European External Action Service on 16 November 2020.

Previously, Brian had a four-year posting as Ambassador of Ireland to the Federative Republic of Brazil (2014-18) and had served as Director for the US & Canada and Director for the Americas in the Department of Foreign Affairs. During the period 2018-2020, Brian also served as Special Envoy of the Government of Ireland for its successful campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Secretary (Director General) in January 2021.

During his career, he was also posted to the Embassy of Ireland in Madrid and to Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU, including a period working on EU-Latin America relations. Brian worked as Director of the Department's Conflict Resolution Unit, sharing lessons from the Irish peace process, and as Director for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe during Ireland's chairmanship of that

body in 2013. He also served as Director for International Security Policy in 2013/14.



### **Lutz Güllner**

Lutz Güllner is Head of Division for Strategic Communications and Information Analysis in the European External Action Service. He leads a team of about 40 persons dealing with issues related to disinformation and foreign manipulative interference. In his work, he focuses on addressing disinformation threats for the EU and for the EU's neighbourhood region.

Prior to his current position he served as Head of the EEAS's foreign and security policy communication team (2017-2019) and as Head of the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade's communication team (2013-17). He was also Deputy Head of the Trade Strategy Unit and responsible for the coordination of EU-US trade and economic relations.

In 2009 and 2010, Lutz Güllner was spokesperson for the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. He was also the Commission's spokesperson for trade policy. In previous positions, he was in charge of economic relations between the EU and Russia.

Prior to joining the European Commission, Lutz Güllner worked as public affairs consultant in Brussels.

He studied political science and international relations at the Free University of Berlin and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris. He is teaching trade policy and EU foreign affairs at the post-graduate studies programme for European studies in Berlin.

Lutz Güllner was born in Munich/Germany in 1971. He is married and has three children.

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### **Corinna Hörst**

Corinna Hörst is a senior fellow and Guido Goldman director of GMF's Leadership Programs. In this capacity, Dr. Hörst leads GMF's diverse portfolio of leadership development initiatives. She is also a member of the DE&I Advisory Group at GMF which is guiding the organization's diversity and inclusion performance. She regularly speaks or writes on European affairs and transatlantic relations as well as leadership, diversity, gender, and women.

She is a member of the steering committee of the Brussels chapter of Women in International Security (WIIS) and co-founder of The Brussels Binder, an online database of female policy experts. In 2017, she co-authored the book "Women Leading The Way in Brussels," with Claudia de Castro Caldeirinha (John Harper Publishing) which looks at women leadership in Europe and Brussels, including vignettes of women who exercise leadership across different sectors in Brussels.

Before coming to GMF in 1999, she was a teaching associate at Miami University, teaching American and world history and worked as an assistant project manager at a publishing company in Germany. Hörst has a Ph.D. and master's degree in history and studied at Miami University in Ohio, the United States, the University of Heidelberg in Germany, and St. Andrews University in Scotland.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Corinna Hoerst | LinkedIn](#)



### **Jacob Kierkegaard**

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, senior fellow, joined GMF part-time in September 2020, while also remaining a senior fellow with the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington, DC-based macroeconomic thinktank he has been employed by since 2002.

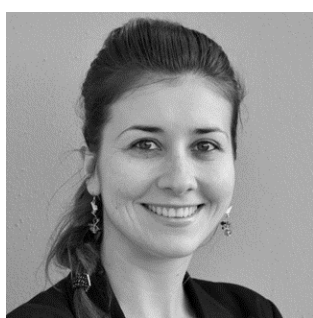
Before 2002, Jacob worked with the Danish Ministry of Defense, the United Nations in Iraq, and in the private financial sector.

He is a graduate of the Danish Army's Special School of Intelligence and Linguistics with the rank of first lieutenant;

the University of Aarhus in Aarhus, Denmark; the Columbia University in New York; and received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC.

Jacob's current research focuses on European economies and structural and institutional reform, the macroeconomic impact of climate change and climate mitigation, U.S.-EU-China economic competition, immigration, foreign direct investment trends and estimations, fiscal and monetary policy, pension systems, and demographic trends.

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### **Nad'a Kovalčíková**

Nad'a Kovalčíková is the Senior Analyst in charge of the Transnational Security portfolio at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS). In particular, she focuses on hybrid threats, foreign interference, disinformation, resilience and democracy, election security, and transatlantic cooperation.

She is a member of the GLOBSEC's Steering Committee on the 2021 Vulnerability Index; a member of the German Marshall Fund of the United States European Interest Expert group; a mentor within the innovative network of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development; an expert collaborator for Minsait's Ideas for Democracy; and a 2019 awardee of Women In International Security.

Nad'a was formerly a Program manager and Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy in the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She also worked at NATO, the European Parliament, the French and Canadian embassies, and several NGO and think tank projects.

Nad'a obtained her Ph.D. in international economic relations with a focus on globalization and security threats from the University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA), and master's degrees in Politics and Government from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in European Affairs from L'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (SciencesPo), and in International Relations from EUBA.

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### **Monika Ladmanová**

Monika Ladmanová is an Advisor and Member of the Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality on the issues of gender equality, antidiscrimination and minorities and corporate responsibility. Monika studied Law at the Charles University in Prague and at the Columbia University in New York. She has extensive experience in non-profit sector and private sector, having worked for the Soros Foundation in Prague for 11 years and for IBM for more than 6 years. In addition, Monika founded several non-governmental, nonpartisan initiatives on human rights and gender equality.

Monika is an alumna of German Marshall Fund's Marshall Memorial Fellowship.



### **Ian Lesser**

Dr. Ian Lesser is vice president at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and a member of GMF's executive team, managing programs across the organization. He serves as executive director of the Brussels office of GMF, and leads GMF's work on the Mediterranean, Turkey, and the wider Atlantic. He also served as interim president of GMF from September-December 2021.

Prior to joining GMF, Dr. Lesser was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and vice president and director of studies at the Pacific Council on International Policy. He came to the Pacific Council from the RAND Corporation, where he spent over a decade as a senior analyst and research manager specializing in strategic studies. From 1994-95, he was a member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State, responsible for Turkey, Southern Europe, North Africa, and the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process.

A frequent commentator for international media, he has written extensively on foreign and security policy issues. Dr. Lesser was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, the London School of Economics, and the Fletcher School of Law

and Diplomacy, and received his doctorate from Oxford University. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the Pacific Council on International Policy. He serves on the advisory boards of the Delphi Economic Forum, Atlantic Dialogues, the NATO Defense College Foundation, and Turkish Policy Quarterly, and has been a senior fellow of the Onassis Foundation in Athens and the Luso-American Foundation in Lisbon.

*Twitter Profile:* [Ian Lesser \(@ian\\_lesser\) / Twitter](#)



### **Luís Loureiro de Amorim**

Luís Loureiro de Amorim has been an EU official since 2002. He joined the European Commission in February of 2022, as Head of Unit for Outreach & External Relations of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), an EU interinstitutional office. Before that, he worked for 19 years for the Council of the EU. In the Council, Luís had a varied career, working with media affairs, intelligence reporting, crisis management, EU-Africa relations, IT, security, defense policy, and translation. Before joining the EU, he worked for several European NGOs in the fields of education, youth policy, youth volunteering, and philanthropy. Outside work, he enjoys reading and dancing. Luís was born in Angola and grew up in Portugal. He is married to a Swede and the father of a teenage girl born in Chicago.

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### **Erica Lutes**

Erica Lutes is the Executive Director of the Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States, Belgium, and Luxembourg, which administers the Fulbright Belgium, Fulbright Luxembourg, and Fulbright Schuman programs. She is a specialist in European and U.S. higher education. Erica graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2002 with a degree in international relations and attended Yale University from 1999-2000. She holds three master's degrees from KU Leuven



in political economy, conflict and peace studies, and international business.

Prior to joining the Fulbright Commission, Erica worked on the European Sales desk for Goldman Sachs and served as the staff aide to the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium.

When not at the Fulbright Commission, Erica is a lecturer at Odisee University College and gives indoor cycling and yoga classes in her adopted hometown of Leuven.

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### **Jamie Martin**

Jamie Martin previously served at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau, The Bahamas, as the Director of the Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs from 2016-2019 and as the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission from May 2018-June 2019. She served as the Deputy Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in London from 2012-2015. She has also served in Islamabad, Pakistan; Cape Town, South Africa; and Mexico City, Mexico. Ms. Martin is from Rhode Island. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in Political Science and Spanish and received an MSc in Government from the London School of Economics. She is married with two daughters.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Jamie Martin | LinkedIn](#)



### **Gilberto Morishaw**

Gilberto works at the intersection of multiple fields. Hailing from Curaçao and based in the Netherlands, Gilberto is a policy advocate, activist, musician, entrepreneur and poet. He is Head of Impact, Equity and Inclusion at Kolektivo, a regenerative organization creating impactful local economies through crypto-innovation bridging the digital and physical reality in an equitable, a consultant on the topics of future of work, climate justice, new ways of governance, social impact and democratic innovation. He is the Secretary of the Supervisory Board of Stichting OCAN, Senior Fellow for

Humanity in Action, a WEF Global Shaper, TILN Fellow for the German Marshall Fund, and a Youth Sounding Board Member for the EU Commission's DG INTPA.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Gilberto Morishaw](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



### **Alexandre Polack**

Alexandre Polack is a European Union Official of French nationality with over 18 years of professional experience in Policy, Communications and Program management in the field of International Relations.

Alexandre is currently First Counsellor at the Political, Security and Development Section of the EU Delegation to the U.S. in Washington. He worked previously between August 2019 and August 2020 as Transatlantic Diplomatic Fellow (TDF) at the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Department of State. Before his posting in Washington, Alexandre was Political Assistant of European External Action Service (EEAS)'s Deputy Secretary General (DSG) for Economic and Global issues, Mr Christian Leffler.

After graduating in Public Administration from the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences-Po) in Aix-en-Provence (France), the Manchester Metropolitan University School of Law (United Kingdom) and the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium), Alexandre worked between 2003 and 2005 as Policy Officer at the European Parliament. Alexandre then joined the international development NGO ActionAid where he worked for 4 years as their Policy and Communications Manager working with ActionAid's country programs in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Alexandre joined the European Commission in 2009 working first as Political and Press officer at the EU delegation to Haiti. Alexandre then worked as European Commission Spokesperson for International cooperation and Humanitarian aid between 2012 and 2016 carrying out regular official missions to Africa, Latin America and Asia. From August 2016 until August 2017, Alexandre worked as Program Manager for the EU Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) at the EU Delegation to Brazil.



Alexandre is currently pursuing a mid-career Master of Arts in Global Policy (MAGP) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington D.C. Alexandre uses French, English, Spanish and Portuguese as his main working languages. He is married and a father of two daughters.

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### **Oana Popescu Zamfir**

Oana Popescu-Zamfir is the director and founder of GlobalFocus Center, an independent foreign policy and security think-tank. She is a Europe's Futures fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna (IWM), as well as an associate researcher with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and a fellow of the Agora Strategy Institute. She was state secretary for EU Affairs in the Romanian government and foreign policy adviser to the president of the Romanian Senate (current NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana).

She focuses on geopolitics in the EU/NATO neighbourhood, transatlantic relations, global political risk and strategic analysis, shifting models of governance, democratisation and democratic resilience, and hybrid threats (especially influence operations).

Oana was a Fulbright scholar at Yale University and completed executive studies at Harvard University and the University of St Andrews.

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### **Gwendolyn Rutten**

Gwendolyn Rutten is the mayor of Aarschot, a Flemish member of parliament and former chairman of Open Vld. Freedom and responsibility are the foundations of her vision for the society and the economy. She engages in politics with strong opinions and often has a fresh perspective, across party lines. Politics must not only sound good, but above all be right.

Her firm belief is that you should like people to do politics. Engaged citizens inspire her every day.

Gwendolyn advocates a progressive, empathetic, emancipatory and popular liberalism. In recent years, she has worked successively for the party, the European institutions and as head of the private office of various ministers in the Flemish government. Between 2012 and 2020 she was the president of Open Vld. Before that, between 2010 and 2014, she sat in the Chamber of Representatives, between 2014 and 2017 in the Flemish Parliament and again from 2019. In 2012 she became alderman. In 2018, she convincingly won the local elections and became mayor of her city, Aarschot.

Gwendolyn is an alumna of German Marshall Fund's Marshall Memorial Fellowship.

*Twitter Profile:* [Gwendolyn Rutten \(@RuttenGwendolyn\)](https://twitter.com/RuttenGwendolyn) / [Twitter](#)



### **Stefan Schleuning**

Mr. Schleuning started his assignment as Head of Unit at the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) in November 2020. His Unit FPI.4 is in charge of Industrialised Countries and Foreign Policy Support. Prior to that he was Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation in Kyiv, Ukraine. Mr. Schleuning joined the EU in 1999 and has worked on postings in Brussels, Eastern Europe, East Africa and South-East Asia. He holds a master degree in History and Slavonic Studies from Heidelberg University and is a fluent English, French and Russian speaker.



### **Colin Scicluna**

Dr. Colin Scicluna joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta in 1994 and has been posted to Brussels, Dublin, Helsinki and the United Nations in New York. He has also served in the EU Negotiations Secretariat in the Office of the Prime Minister (2000-03), the Policy Unit of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana (2006-10) and the European External Action Service (2011-12). He was appointed Ambassador of Malta to

Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Kosovo, as well as Permanent Representative to the OSCE and the multilateral bodies in Vienna, from 1 February 2012.

On 1 September 2013, he was appointed Middle East and North Africa Adviser in the Cabinet of the EU High Representative for CFSP and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton. From 1 November 2014 until 31 December 2016, he served as Adviser on the Southern Neighbourhood of the EU in the Cabinet of the Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn.

On 1 January 2017, High Representative Federica Mogherini appointed him Director and Deputy Managing Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf region in the European External Action Service.

On 1 December 2019, he was appointed Head of Cabinet to the Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica.

Ambassador Scicluna is a graduate in Law (University of Malta) and International Politics (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Dr. Scicluna speaks Maltese, English, Italian, French and Dutch.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Colin Scicluna | LinkedIn](#)



### **James Sheehan**

James Quinn Sheehan (he/him) is the Team Leader for the EU funded, Creating the Next Generation of Transatlanticists: Education Outreach in the USA & Canada project. As a dual U.S./Irish national, the transatlantic relationship has always been close to his heart. He has worked for over a decade in experiential education programs, with an emphasis on public policy and civics education in the transatlantic context. Previously he has worked with the EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in the USA project (EUPOP USA), the Washington Speakers Bureau (WSB), the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), and the Close Up Foundation. He holds a BA in History from Marist College and an MA from the Department of War Studies at Kings College, London. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, 2-

year-old son, and dog (MeMo). In his spare time, he brews passable beer, makes decent pizza, and runs a weekly Dungeons and Dragons game.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [James Sheehan | LinkedIn](#)

*Twitter Profile:* [James Sheehan \(@JSheehanDC\) / Twitter](#)



### **Deša Srsen**

Deša Srsen is the Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Vice President of the European Commission for Democracy and Demography. Before joining the Cabinet, she worked as a Head of Unit in the Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban policy where she was in charge of European strategic and investment funds and from 2017 to 2019 she was part of the Article 50 Task Force on Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiations.

Before 2013, when she joined the European Commission, Deša worked for the Croatian diplomatic service as part of the team negotiating Croatia's accession to the EU.

Deša studied Political science and Philosophy at ULB in Brussels and has a Master's degree from the College of Europe in Bruges. She is also an alumna of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in France and of executive leadership programmes at Bocconi SDA in Milan and at ESMT in Berlin.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Deša Srsen | LinkedIn](#)

*Twitter Profile:* [Deša Srsen \(@DesaSrsen\) / Twitter](#)



### **Zsuzsanna Szelenyi**

Zsuzsana Szelényi is a former MP in Hungary and foreign policy specialist. Currently she conducts research on polarization and populism as threat on democracy in the context of the future of the European Union at the CEU Democracy Institute, earlier as Richard von Weizsäcker fellow of the Robert Bosch Academy.

Between 2014-2018 Ms Szelényi has been a liberal Member of Parliament in Hungary, covering foreign policy, migration and constitutional affairs, representing 'Together party'. Between 2010-2013 she worked as human development consultant in various Central European and North African

countries. In 1996-2010 she served at the Council of Europe. Ms. Szelényi started her political career as member of Fidesz, a youth party at the régime change in Hungary in 1988 and served as Member of Parliament until 1994.

Ms Szelényi holds GMAP degree of International Politics from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, MA of Psychology of the University of Eotvos Lorand, and MA of International Relations of the Corvinus University in Budapest.

*Twitter Profile:* <https://twitter.com/zszelenyi?s=11&t=AoilkN-Df7-DdZbS8dwZPA>



### **Elia E. Tello**

Elia E. Tello began her tenure at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in September 2020. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Ms. Tello previously served as Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Hermosillo, Mexico 2017-2020. Ms. Tello also served as the Deputy Commissioner General for the USA Pavilion at the 2015 International Exposition in Milan (aka the World's Fair). Ms. Tello began her career as Vice-Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Her overseas assignments included serving as Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Deputy Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, and Deputy Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy Rome, Italy. In Washington, Ms. Tello worked in the State Department Operations Center, and the Panama and Honduras Desk in the Office of Central American Affairs. She also served as Program Officer at the Foreign Press Center in New York City, NY. Prior to joining the Foreign Service Ms. Tello worked in the area of community relations and community relations marketing for the Dayton Hudson Foundation and Target Stores. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and received a Master's of Science from the National Defense University, Eisenhower School in Washington, DC. Ms. Tello hails from Bismarck, North Dakota.

*Twitter:* [U.S. Mission to the EU \(@US2EU\) / Twitter](#)



## **Annika Vollmer**

Annika Vollmer is Program Coordinator at The German Marshall Fund of the United States. In this capacity, Annika is working for leadership programs to cultivate the next generation of leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. She also heads up the Brussels Chapter of the GMF Young Transatlantic Network of future leaders. She has work experience in leadership development initiatives, project and event management and has a keen interest in the interplay between European security and climate change.

Before joining GMF, she graduated cum laude from the University of Leiden with a master's degree in International Relations. During which she focused on the emergence and prevention of global conflicts as well as the impact of hybrid threats, foreign interference and resilience and democracy.

*LinkedIn Profile:* [Annika Vollmer | LinkedIn](#)

*Twitter Profile:* [Annika Vollmer \(@Annika\\_Vollmer\) / Twitter](#)



## PARTICIPANTS



**Lea Becher**

I completed my BA in International Relations at the University of Groningen (NL) with a minor in American Studies. The topic of my BA thesis was a comparison between populist and extremist radicalisation in the US. During my MA studies in Euroculture (European Studies), I had the opportunity to study in the Netherlands, Germany, and the US, which deepened my knowledge about the transatlantic relation between the EU and the US. I continued to research populism from different angles, and I am currently working on my MA thesis about trade union strategies to counteract the rise of right-wing populism among their members.



**Magdalena Breyer**

Magdalena Breyer is a German-American dual citizen completing the International Master in Security, Intelligence and Security Studies (IMSISS) offered jointly by the University of Glasgow, University of Trento, and Charles University. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick, receiving a BA in Liberal Arts with a major in Sustainability. She is currently a Board Member of the Security Distillery, a student-led think tank based in Glasgow, and is working as an ESG research intern at auctusESG. Her current research interests lie in the intersections between intellectual history, moral psychology, and Christian nationalism in the United States.



**Camilla Carlesi**

Camilla is a 23-year-old Italian student of the Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies offered by the University of Glasgow (Scotland), the University of Trento (Italy) and Charles University of Prague (Czech Republic). She holds a BA in International Relations from John Cabot University in Rome, with a minor in Communications. She is currently working as a

Digital Fellow in the Council for European Studies (Columbia University) and collaborating with the Security Distillery, the think tank managed by her Master's cohort. Previously, she also worked in the US Embassy to Italy, the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights and the Italian Ministry of Youth and Civil Service. Her academic interests range from environmental security to peacekeeping, conflict and terrorism studies.



### **Diana Čechová**

Diana works as a project coordinator at the European Values Center for Security Policy where she focuses on Eastern European projects. She completed her BA degree in International Area Studies at Charles University in Prague. During her studies, she spent one year studying in Romanian Cluj-Napoca. She is currently finishing her double degree in the Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Studies at the Leipzig and Gent Universities. Her thesis focused on legitimization strategies of Central Asian presidents. Additionally, she has also completed an internship in the European Parliament. She is fluent in English and Czech and has some knowledge of French, Romanian and Russian.



### **Gwladys Chanard**

My name is Gwladys Chanard, 23, a French Erasmus Mundus master student in global studies currently in my fourth and last semester at Leipzig University. I spent my first year at Roskilde University, Denmark, then I undertook an exchange semester in a non-European university, at Dalhousie, Canada before finally arriving in Leipzig. In my bachelor, I studied social sciences, economics and politics at the Catholic University of Paris and in my fifth semester, I undertook an exchange at Sophia University, Japan. The chance to study at several places opened my eyes to the interconnectivity and globality of the world. Migration flows and global governance particularly caught my attention throughout my studies which led me to reflect on national political systems notably democracies and their global impact. I am thrilled to be able to actively participate on such



important issues as the ones addressed in this 2022 seminar. I am looking forward to further discussion.



### **Abigail Chernila**

Abigail Chernila is a 2021-2022 U.S. Fulbright Student Researcher in Greece, studying sustainable policies for the regeneration of abandoned industrial sites in Piraeus. Abigail is a recent graduate of Bryn Mawr College, where she studied economics with a focus on international macroeconomics and the European Union. She has worked in research at Goldman Sachs and at Greek think tank IOBE, analyzing EU trade policy and international competitiveness. Post-Fulbright Abigail has been accepted to the Moelis Advance Access Program at Wharton for an MBA beginning in 2024; and she is interested in working at the intersection of international competitiveness, sustainability, and trade.



### **S.J. DeMattio**

S.J. DeMattio (pronouns: they/them/theirs) is an Arts & Culture worker with a passion for poetry, drama, Queer history, and performance theory. They are a proud alum of Sarah Lawrence College, where they completed undergraduate studies in Literature and Theology. They spent two years as the Associate Director of the award-winning Mint Theater Company in New York City, home of the internationally lauded “Teresa Deevy Project.” SJ is currently spending their Fulbright year as a postgraduate researcher in the School of English at Trinity College Dublin, working under the advisement of Professor Chris Morash. Their thesis focuses on the life and work of Teresa Deevy, one of Ireland’s most prolific and routinely overlooked 20th century writers. They have been selected to present original research on Deevy at conferences for the The International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures and The Irish Society for Theatre Research.



### **Lucas Dijker**

Lucas Dijker is a PhD student at University College Dublin, working under the supervision of Prof Maria Baghramian. He graduated cum laude from a joint MA degree in European Studies at the University of Groningen (the Netherlands) and the University of Udine (Italy). His research focuses on how the appeal to expertise structures contemporary Western politics and our experience of democracy. In particular, the conceptual and real-world interaction of technocracy and populism will be examined. His research is associated with the Horizon 2020 project Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action (PERITIA).



### **Emilio Dogliani**

I attended University in the Netherlands (Groningen), Germany (Goettingen) and France (Strasbourg). I graduated from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme "Euroculture" in 2020 and I have since worked in Brussels as a Policy Adviser for Culture, Education and Youth at COMECE. I am currently a Blue Book Trainee in the European Personnel Selection Office in the European Commission.



### **Giulia dos Prazeres Costa**

Portuguese and Brazilian young professional, engaged in politics, global governance and Human Rights. I'm an international lawyer and master's student in the Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice (EMHRPP) at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), the University of Deusto (Spain), the University of Roehampton (United Kingdom) and the Arctic University (Norway), that I'm currently Representing at the Erasmus Mundus Association. Since 2014, I have been working in the defense and guarantee of Human Rights. My last position was as Coordinator of International Justice and Memory and Truth in the State Government of Rio de Janeiro. I took part in an academic exchange with a full scholarship at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain), in the EU-South American School on Global Governance at the FGV Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

(Brazil), and in the Summer School in Global Studies and Critical Theory of the University of Bologna (Italy), the Duke University (U.S.) and the University of Virginia (U.S.). I speak Portuguese, English and Spanish, and I am pursuing an intermediate level of French.



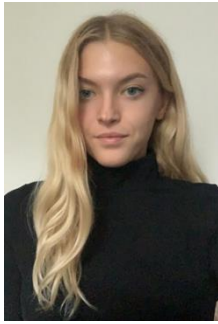
### **Mateusz-Benedykt Dziecielski**

Currently, I work in Warsaw as an expert at the Ministry of State Assets of the Republic of Poland as well as an analyst at the Solidarity Transport Hub Poland. My main areas of professional interest are infrastructure investment strategies, climate and energy transformation as well as geoeconomics and geopolitical processes in the world. In 2021, I graduated from the European Politics and Society Vaclav Havel Joint Master Program - Erasmus Mundus (EPS). It was joint degree conducted by Leiden University (the Netherlands), Charles University in Prague (Czechia), Jagiellonian University in Cracow (Poland) and Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona (Spain). After the first academic year at EPS, I gained the merit scholarship for outstanding academic achievement. In 2019, I graduated from International Management at Jagiellonian University in Cracow with a three semesters study exchange at ESB Business School, Reutlingen University in Germany.



### **Rosanna Fanni**

Rosanna Fanni is Associate Researcher and Digital Forum Coordinator at CEPS. Her research interests focus on analysis of digital policy on international relations. She currently works on the European Union's digital portfolio, including AI, platforms, data and digital rights. At CEPS she co-founded the CEPS Young Thinkers Initiative to strengthen the youth voices and expertise in EU policy. She was Fulbright-Schuman Visiting Researcher at The Brookings Institution working on transatlantic relations and AI governance for the Forum for International Cooperation on AI (FCAI). She is currently also Fellow in the EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue and board member of the Club Alpbach Belgium/Brussels.



### **Ingrid Garosi**

Ingrid is a recent joint master graduate in European Studies at the University of Uppsala and University of Strasbourg. She is a project manager and research advisor in European funding and European projects at the University of Bologna.



### **Kasey Golding**

As the recipient of a Fulbright research scholarship to Hungary, Kasey Golding is spending the 2021-2022 academic year conducting research on transatlantic security policy at Nemzeti Közszerológati Egyetem. She has an extensive academic background in U.S.-EU relations and EU foreign policy. Her current research focuses on the field of energy security, and she is particularly interested in understanding the impact of Central European regional cooperation on EU energy policy. Kasey is a 2018 Political Science graduate of the University of Louisville (BA) and a 2019 graduate of KU Leuven (MA). Outside of her Fulbright experience, Kasey has worked with a number of non-profits and political advocacy groups back in the United States, and in her free time she thoroughly enjoys exploring new places, lifting weights, and watching Marvel movies.



### **Irene Gonzalez Zamorano**

My name is Irene González Zamorano, and I am an Erasmus Mundus scholar doing the second year of the Master's Degree in Global Studies at Ghent University (Belgium). Having studied abroad for over five years, I have a strong interest in Security Studies, Gender Studies and Peacebuilding, especially concerning the EU. Being driven by curiosity and striving to keep learning about the world's interconnectedness, I have always enjoyed participating in international conferences to reflect on and debate about the future of our institutions and the impact we can have as young leaders on the improvement of our society at a global level.



### **Rasmus Gothberg**

I study an Erasmus mundus master's program in global studies at the universities of Leipzig and Ghent.



### **Miriam Hadjeres Montero**

Miriam is Spanish and is currently an IMSISS Master's student on the "Intelligence, Peacebuilding and Terrorism" pathway. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Philosophy from the University of Leeds. Her main area of interest includes defense, security, especially hybrid warfare, new emerging threats, disinformation, narrative strategies and migration crises. Miriam is particularly interested in exploring Spain/Morocco Relations and Euro Mediterranean Relations regarding the migration phenomenon from the African continent.



### **Erin Hallenbeck**

Originally from Madison, Connecticut, USA, Erin Hallenbeck received her B.A. in English Literature and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Afterwards, she taught history and social justice at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate outside of Boston and then completed her MSt. in Women's Studies at the University of Oxford in the UK. She is currently a Fulbright ETA in the Netherlands and teaches at Breda University of Applied Sciences. More broadly, her research interests include social justice education, queer theory, and cultural and media studies. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, running, and the arts.





### **Lena Hess**

My name is Lena Hess and I am a fresh graduate with a background in International Business in combination with an Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Studies - A European Perspective. During my recent engagement as a Blue Book Trainee with the European Commission, my main activities focused on health-related issues, in particular, to support the work of the Taskforce for industrial scale-up of COVID19 vaccines and therapeutics, which constitutes a major element in the Commission's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am currently supporting the German Member of the European Parliament Martin Häusling as a trainee. I am an enthusiastic, ambitious person feeling comfortable in a multicultural and international environment.



### **Louis Higuera**

Louis Higuera is serving as an English Teaching Assistant in Lithuania for the 2021-22 school year through the US Fulbright program. Originally from Western Massachusetts, Louis received his bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy at Marist College in the Hudson Valley of New York. Currently, he is completing courses for a master's degree in integrated marketing communications. He is passionate about travel, cultural diversity, politics, writing, and NBA basketball. Louis is an experienced world traveller having previously lived in Italy for one year and taking multiple trips to Asia. Upon return to the US, Louis hopes to find a job in political communications, public/government relations, or in education.



### **Valeriya Kipnis**

Valeriya Kipnis is an immigrant writer, reporter, and documentary producer. Currently, she is on her 2022 Fulbright to Ukraine in Warsaw, Poland. She is working on an oral history project about linguistics and memory. Usually, she works for VICE News, an Emmy-award winning nightly news show, where she reports on climate change, reproductive rights, and

the former Soviet Union. Occasionally, she hosts live shows about space or talks to pigs in Vegas. Formerly, she worked at or contributed to: Coda Story, The Moscow Times, and NBC. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia and raised in south Brooklyn, she attended New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Studies, where she studied the intersection of Post-Soviet History, Comparative Literature, and Political Philosophy. After graduating, she received the Dean's Award and travelled to Russia to interview dissidents. In 2021, she received her MFA in Non-Fiction Writing from The New School. She likes to write essays and narrative non-fiction about immigrants, Russia, Brooklyn, and language.



### **Ryan Kopaitich**

I have a PhD from the University of Bern, Switzerland focusing on the intersection of meaning and collectivity. After a short break working in a heavy equipment warehouse, my project received a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship and I am currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Erasmus University Rotterdam. The project, *Articulations of Desire*, seeks to elaborate a concept of political desire through an analysis of populism, shedding light on the structures and limits of institutional democracy.



### **Alexis Larios**

Alexis Larios is a current Fulbright ETA at the University of Gdańsk in Poland, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the Institute of English and American Studies. She is originally from Phoenix, Arizona and graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in Government and English. She earned her Master's in Education and Taught in Texas for two years as an Alliance for Catholic Education Teaching Fellow through the University of Notre Dame. She then taught for an additional year back in Phoenix before beginning her Fulbright grant this past fall. She is excited to be part of this year's seminar and looks forward to learning from and collaborating with other young leaders.



### **Julia Mead**

I am a PhD candidate in history at the University of Chicago. I study masculinity, coal mining, and the energy regime of state socialism. Before graduate school, I worked as a reporter and fact-checker for The Nation and New York Magazine in New York City. I am originally from Kentucky and completed my bachelor's degree in gender studies at Bowdoin College in Maine. During the 2021-2022 academic year, I have been a Fulbright IIE student in the Czech Republic affiliated with Charles University in Prague.



### **Jennifer Mendez**

Jennifer (Jenni) Mendez is a first-generation Guatemalan-American and college graduate from Los Angeles, California. She completed her Bachelor's at the University of California, Davis, and her Master's from Loyola Marymount University. As a higher education professional, she is interested in how students of color navigate their culture, race, and ethnicity in predominantly white institutions (PWIs) and on study-abroad programs, as well as their representation in these spaces. Currently, she is completing a Fulbright grant in Romania (2021-2022). She teaches three university-level courses under the American Studies Department at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași. Her Fulbright research aims to address the inequity of Roma in Romanian higher education with hopes of strengthening interdepartmental collaboration to better support these students' academic success as well as personal growth, professional development, and sense of community.



### **Konstantinos-Iason Mokas**

Born and raised in Athens, Greece. I grew up in a multicultural district of Central Athens, thus coming into contact with many different nations, ethnicities, religions and ideas. I developed a passion for History since an early age, realizing eventually that it was this science that I wanted to study. I entered the University of Athens in 2016, graduating in 2021 8th among 110 graduates of that year's cohort. I decided to pursue a Master's



Degree in Global Studies, aiming to acquire all the necessary knowledge and critical thinking to be able to study and analyze the global challenges of today's world. I have been a member of the Scouts of Greece for many years, the biggest volunteering organization for youth in Greece. I am currently part-time employed as a logistics worker at Katoen Natie in Ghent.



### **Thomas Mongardini**

My name is Thomas Mongardini, I am a 22 year old Italian citizen attending the Erasmus Mundus master's program called IMSISS. I am passionate about Intelligence and security, especially in the European and MENA regions. In May, I will start my internship with Horizon Intelligence where I hope to further improve my skills as a threat intelligence analyst. Outside of the master, I am passionate about all kinds of sports, such as tennis, snowboarding and surfing. I do enjoy reading a lot and I am particularly passionate about Star Wars.



### **Sarah Myers**

Sarah is currently a Fulbright scholar at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich studying EU-China relations. She graduated from Stanford University in 2021 with a major in International Relations and minors in Physics and German Studies. Within International Relations, she specialized in International Security and South & East Asia. During her senior year at Stanford, she completed a thesis, titled "The Future of the International Criminal Court: Connections Between International Rule of Law and Domestic Democracy," in the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law Fisher Family Honors Program. Next year she will join Yale Law School as a first-year J.D. candidate.



### **Jason Nagourney**

Jason Nagourney is an English ETA representing Fulbright Lithuania. Jason received a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation in order to research the assimilation and political mobilization of Eastern European Jews in America culminating in their electoral success in New York City. His capstone in Political Science strove for municipal and statewide democratic reform in his home of New York. During his Fulbright grant in Lithuania, Jason continued to work with the Jewish community in Lithuania and travelled the country giving talks on various aspects of the Ashkenazi culture, history, and community. Outside of academia, he is a volunteer EMT, a quidditch enthusiast, and filled with terrible "dad" jokes. After his Fulbright grant, Jason will attend medical school at the University of Rochester.



### **Rhys Nugent**

Rhys is a proud European with Welsh and Irish roots. Having graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Italian and Spanish and an Erasmus Mundus Joint-Master's degree in European politics, culture and society, he is currently studying at the College of Europe in Natolin for a Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies, specializing in European Affairs and Public Policy. Fluent in five languages, Rhys has lived and worked around Europe while spending much of his free time volunteering in European youth civil society. As the former Vice-President of BETA France and a former trainee of the Youth Department in the Council of Europe, Rhys is a strong advocate for youth mainstreaming in decision-making and has contributed to the organization of more than 10 Model European Union conferences since 2018, including leading the 2022 edition of Model European Union Strasbourg as Director General. His current research centers around the EU's digital and ecological twin transition, focusing on the European approach to Artificial Intelligence and the implications of remote biometric identification systems for citizens' fundamental rights. Beyond his studies and volunteering, Rhys advocates for greater epilepsy and mental health awareness,

adores live-music and cinema, and is a keen hiker enamored with the Camino de Santiago.



### **Natasha Ortolan Ervilha**

Natasha is a young professional, researcher, and practitioner with five years of experience in the public and private sectors involving international bilateral relations and sustainable agricultural practices. She worked for the American Chamber of Commerce and for the world's largest pulp and paper company, Suzano, and their sustainability initiative Ecofuturo in multiple nationwide projects in Brazil. Natasha holds a master's degree in Public Management with a specialization in global public policy and climate change from the University of Potsdam, is a scholar in Global Studies at Leipzig University and Ghent University and has recently studied and worked as a Teaching Assistant in Negotiations and Sustainability at Dalhousie University - Canada. Born in São Paulo and decedent of Portuguese, Natasha is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and speaks conversational German. She is interested in the intersection of gender, climate change, and rural development. When not reading and working, Natasha enjoys going for hikes, watching documentaries, and exploring her creative side with art and learning about agroforestry designs.



### **Kimberly Osbern**

Kimberly Osbern is a 2021-2022 Fulbright Student Researcher to the Republic of Moldova. They are conducting research on how language affects Moldovans' sentiments towards potential unification between Moldova and Romania. Kimberly graduated from Case Western Reserve University in May 2021, with majors in International Studies and French, and minors in Russian and Spanish. They hope to pursue a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.



### **Rose Paulson**

Rose Paulson is an ETA in Riga, Latvia. As a dual citizen and a granddaughter of a Latvian immigrant, she has loved reconnecting with her Latvian heritage this past year. A graduate of Kenyon College, she has previously worked for the Kenyon Review and W. W. Norton & Company and hails from Columbus, Ohio. After completing her Fulbright year, she plans to earn a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing.



### **Sarah Philo**

Sarah Philo is a PhD Candidate at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle, WA and a 2021-22 Fulbright Portugal Student Grantee in Lisbon. Her dissertation research focuses on environmental microbiology, concentrating in the previous year on comparing and optimizing methods to detect SARS-CoV-2 in Seattle-area wastewater. Her project in Lisbon, Portugal is using this knowledge to study antimicrobial resistance in wastewater in and around Portugal. She is based at Instituto Superior Técnico in the Laboratório de Análises. Sarah will conduct a similar project in Seattle upon returning to the US to complete her PhD, and she hopes to continue researching and working in Public Health after finishing her PhD.



### **Kristen Popham**

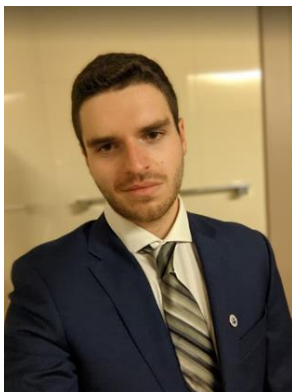
Kristen Popham is a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant based in Paris, France. She is currently teaching and coaching debate at a high school in Argenteuil, the Parisian suburbs. She is also a volunteer teaching French and English to refugees. In Paris, she partners with a local NGO to research issues surrounding Maghreb identity and policing in France. She is also serving as an extern for the National Clearinghouse on Disability Exchange where she is aiming to expand opportunities for disabled individuals in Fulbright. Before coming to France, she was a consultant for the Department of Commerce and a student of Government and French at the College of William &

Mary. Next year, she plans to attend law school in the United States.



### **Morgan Rowe**

Morgan Rowe is a research-driven Fulbright recipient with a passion for languages and international politics. She grew up in Yardley, Pennsylvania, and she received her Bachelor's degree in English and Political Science from Temple University in 2020. Her undergraduate research focused on the connection between democracy and international institutions and how the two currently coexist. Right now, she is a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, and will be staying for a second school year. She is also the Tournament Policy Coordinator for the BEST Foundation, a Bulgarian non-profit that plans and hosts English Speech and Debate Tournaments for Bulgarian high school students. After Fulbright, Morgan plans to get her Master's degree in International Politics in Europe. She is looking at schools in Belgium and wants her research to concentrate on democracy in the modern world.



### **Jay Rumas**

Jay Rumas is from North Smithfield, Rhode Island, on the border with Massachusetts. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2021 with a double major in political science and history and with a minor in business. Much of his research focuses on democracy and engagement, populism, post-communist politics in the former Warsaw Pact, and the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Outside of the classroom, Jay was kept busy by his commitment with the ACLU improving student access to voting and fighting discriminatory housing policies, his work in the US Senate researching the effects of PFAS contamination, rising pharmaceutical prices, and social unrest, as well as developing educational policy on the Rhode Island Board of Education. In Slovakia, Jay is working with the Rusyn Institute of Language and Culture at the University of Prešov researching the appeal and effect of populist politics and



the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the country's Rusyn population.



**Nicolas Schuierer**

Work experience in German and European public institutions. Educational background in law and politics.



**Kevin Snow**

I am a Fulbright Research Grantee in Tallinn, Estonia. My research is on the salience of national identity among LGBT+ activists in Estonia. Before my Fulbright grant, I studied political science at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.



**Diana Sosa**

Diana Sosa is originally from Centreville, Virginia, and is a proud graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. During undergrad, Diana participated in the United States Foreign Service Internship Program, conducted research on domestic workers, and interned for Senator Mark Warner. She is a 2021-22 Fulbright Austria community-based grantee and is teaching English, volunteering at the non-profit, Verein Maiz, and completing coursework at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Upper Austria. Diana has also recently been named a Thomas R. Pickering Fellow and will join the U.S. Foreign Service after completion of a master's degree in 2024.



### **Abigail Stein**

Abby Stein is a Fulbright research scholar based in Barcelona, Spain, where she studies telecommunication network cryptography at the Institute of Photonic Science. Originally from Evanston, IL, Stein graduated from MIT in 2021 with a BS in physics and electrical engineering. Following her Fulbright year, Stein will begin graduate school at Stanford University where she will pursue a PhD in Applied Physics. Stein's research interests include quantum optics, telecommunication networks and information systems, and secure communications.



### **Ilse ter Haar**

My name is Ilse ter Haar, and I am 24 years old. As most of my previous work, study or volunteering activities demonstrate, ranging from being a finalist in the Sustainable Development Goals Challenge, an internship at the Dutch National Youth Council, to a travel guide and ski instructor, I have a rather wide range of interests. As an undergrad, I pursued a Political Science degree, with a specialization in International Relations and Organisations at the University of Leiden, located in the Netherlands. Additionally, I enhanced my studies with an exchange semester where I, as a Dutch student studying American and British Studies in Germany, came to the realisation that intercultural experiences do create valuable new insights. This experience has led me to pursue my current professional occupation, namely the Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Studies at Leipzig University in Germany.



### **Trent Tetterton**

Trent is an Erasmus Mundus scholar currently completing the international master's in security, Intelligence, and Strategic Studies (IMSISS) offered jointly by the University of Glasgow, Dublin City University, and Charles University. In May 2020, he graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy with a BSc in Aerospace Engineering and was commissioned as a nuclear submarine officer in the United

States Navy. He is the Senior Editor for the University of Glasgow based think tank The Security Distillery, and his current research interests include religious nationalism, ontological security, and racism in the United States.



### **Esther Theisen**

Esther is currently pursuing an International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (IMSISS) at the University of Glasgow. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in International Relations & Organisations from Leiden University. Her primary fields of interest are radicalization, extremism, political violence, as well as the interplay between technology and society. In prior work engagements, she has emphasized diversity and inclusion through policies and team training.



### **Margot Tjolle**

I am Margot, a 22-year-old Belgian student situated in Copenhagen. Last year I finished my bachelor's degree in Political Science with a subject major in European, International politics and Conflict & Development, at Ghent University, Belgium. Since September, I commenced the Erasmus Mundus Master Global Studies at Roskilde University, Denmark. Sustainability and the issue of climate change has always been my main focus of interest during my studies as well as engagements in civil society. This includes being a Young Greens volunteer/leader, working as an intern at the Federal Parliament and coordinating a project about Ghent for the Socio-Ecological Think Thank Oikos.



### **Martina Villalobos**

Martina Villalobos is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan currently on a Fulbright Research Grant in Germany. She was born in Chile and this connection led her to study political developments in general, focusing strongly on threats to democracy. Her research examines the evolution of fascism by focusing on its current manifestations in extreme right-wing parties in Europe. Martina works strongly with continental



philosophical tradition and contemporary literary movements. Her research interests include migration studies, climate activism, and cosmopolitan theories of democracy. After her Fulbright, Martina plans to continue her studies in German Studies at Cornell University.



### **David Vizgan**

I am a Fulbright Scholar in Denmark studying the most distant galaxies in the universe at the Cosmic Dawn Center in Copenhagen. Born and raised in New York City, I am a quadruplet and a child of immigrants. I graduated from Wesleyan University last year with degrees in both Astronomy and Physics, with High Honors in Astronomy. In August, I will start a PhD in Astronomy at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In my free time, I enjoy playing piano and guitar, playing chess and basketball, and hosting guests on my podcast.



### **Anna Walker**

Originally from a small town outside Atlanta, Georgia, Anna graduated from Princeton University in 2017 with a degree in History and a focus on Eastern Europe. After undergraduate, she worked for four years in Washington, DC in the economic development nonprofit space. Focusing on access to capital for rural and urban communities left out of the mainstream financial system, she led programming and impact management for a trade association of community development banks across the US. Now a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at the University of Zadar on the Croatian coast, Anna is thrilled to explore the international development world and live in her family's homeland. Outside of work, she loves playing volleyball and watching most sports, baking anything involving chocolate, and reading romance novels to escape the relatively dark realities of our current world.



### **Jacob Wentz**

Jacob Wentz is an American journalist living in Brussels. He currently teaches in the International Communication and Media program at Thomas More University College as a 2021-2022 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant to Belgium. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in International Studies from New College of Florida, Jacob worked as a public radio reporter covering COVID-19 and how it affected his community. His stories have aired on radio stations across Florida. He's interested in how journalism functions as a democratic institution in polarized contexts, as well as the power relationships between politics, media, and economics.



### **Sydnee Wilke**

Sydnee Wilke is currently an English Teaching Assistant in Sardinia, Italy after being reassigned from Russia. She is completing a master's degree in Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies at Georgetown University with a focus on international development. Her professional interests include corruption prevention and democratic institution building in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. After completing internships with EducationUSA, USAID, and the U.S. Department of State, she became passionate about public service and diplomacy. She hopes to one day serve as a Foreign Service Officer for the State Department or USAID working on public diplomacy abroad.