



Human Rights & Humanitarian Crisis Management Challenges Worldwide

March 8, 2019

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions:

Warren Master, *Chairperson, ASPA's Section for Public Management Practice*

John Maykoski, *President & CEO, Graduate School USA*

8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Session #1: Driving Organizational Change in the International Environment through Training

Moderated by: Natalya H. Bah, *Instructor, Graduate School USA and Principal, Natalya H. Bah Consulting*

Presenter: C.D. Glin, *President & CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation*

Topic: Training in Times of and in Preparation for Organizational Change; A Discussion of Past and Future Training Initiatives at USADF

Presenter: Sharon Freeman, *President, Gems of Wisdom Consulting, Inc.*

Topic: Training Around Grant Compliance and Challenges

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Session #2: Legal Support and Advocacy for Marginalized Groups and Populations

Moderated by: Howard Balanoff, *Ph.D., Professor & Director, The William P. Hobby Center for Public Service, Texas State University; Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration, Affiliated Faculty, Rutgers University School of Public Affairs & Administration, The State University of New Jersey*

Presenter: Brittany Benowitz, *Chief Counsel, American Bar Association, ABA Center for Human Rights*

Topic: Human Rights Advocacy in the 21st Century

Presenter: Wallace Swan, *Walden University and Hamline University, Book Author of The Routledge Handbook of LGBTQIA Administration and Policy*

Interviewer: Geno Sexton, *Program Manager, Curriculum Products and Services, Graduate School USA*

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Session #3: Democratic Governance Reform & Curbing Public Sector Corruption in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Moderated by: Robert A. Shick, *Ph.D., Affiliated Faculty, Rutgers University School of Public Affairs & Administration, The State University of New Jersey*

Presenter: Varuzhan Nersisyan, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States of America*

Topic: Recent Governance Reforms and Continuing Challenges in the Republic of Armenia

Presenter: Sinisa Pepic, *Executive Consultant, International Business and Economic Diplomacy Strategies, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Eastern Europe*

Topic: Breaking Down the Intertwined Public-Private Networks of Corruption in the Balkans

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Session #4: Social Equity Around the Globe

Moderated by: Nina Bankova, *Director, International Programs Graduate School USA*

Presenter: Léonce Byimana, *Executive Director, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC)*

Topic: Human Rights Abuse - Trends, Consequences and the Role of the International Community

Presenter: Taryn Williams, *Director of Youth Policy for the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor*

Topic: Successful Policies that Helped Advance the Rights of People with Disabilities in the U.S. and Abroad

Presenter: Patricia McIlreavy, *Vice President, Humanitarian Policy and Practice, InterAction*

Topic: Advocating for International Humanitarian Action on Refugee Protection and Assistance: Galvanizing the Humanitarian Community to Address the Needs of Vulnerable Populations

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

Co-sponsors: The Section for Public Management Practice, ASPA's International Chapter, and Graduate School USA

Human Rights & Humanitarian Crisis Management Challenges Worldwide

Our Presenters

Natalya H. Bah is CEO of Natalya H. Bah Consulting, a boutique consultancy providing advising and coaching, team building and training services. Her clients include professionals and organizations in the project management, legal, financial services, non-profit, real estate, and government contracting fields. She has helped organizations reframe their strategic direction for success, coached clients as they redirected their professional goals, provided team building sessions and trained thousands of people about project management and leadership subjects. She holds a Master of Science degree in Project Management from George Washington University's School of Business and is also a certified Birkman Method consultant.

C.D. Glin is the President and CEO of the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) since September 2016. From 2011-2016 Glin was based in Nairobi, Kenya as the Associate Director for Africa for the Rockefeller Foundation, and previously served as a White House appointee at the U.S. Peace Corps as the first Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Global Partnerships.

Glin was Vice President for Business Development at PYXERA Global where he managed international business advisory and corporate responsibility programs. He served as a volunteer in the first Peace Corps South Africa group during the Presidency of Nelson Mandela.

He holds a BA in Political Science from Howard University; a Master's Certificate in Business Management from Tulane University; and a Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation from Oxford University's Saïd Business School.

Dr. Sharon T. Freeman has an academic background in Cognition and Operations Research, GWCI Founder, she is at the helm in ensuring that the problem and constraints are clearly understood and that the optimal solution is recommended.

She has one of the broadest and deepest bases of expertise of in the marketplace today. She is a compliance professional, having started her career as an Auditor with the U.S. General Accounting Office, as well as an expert in the field of economic development, exporting, and trade.

As an economic development and trade expert, she has worked in over 100 countries and performed assignments for many of the leading development institutions around to promote Private Sector and Export Development and small business growth.

Dr. Howard R. Balanoff is a Professor in the Political Science department at Texas State University and is the Chair of the University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service. He is also the Director of the Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program. He is the author of numerous articles in the area of public administration and planning and is the editor of the textbook, *Public Policy and Administration*. He is currently Chair of ASPA's Section for Certified Public Management (SCPM).

He teaches courses and conducts research in the area of international and comparative public administration. He served on active duty or seven years as a communications-electronics officer and missile combat crew commander in the US Air Force and served for 13 years in the Air Force Reserves. He holds the rank of Major USAF-Retired. Dr. Balanoff received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Hunter College of the City University of New York. He received his Master's and PhD in urban and regional planning from Texas A&M University.

Brittany Benowitz has served as the director of the ABA's Justice Defenders program since 2011. Previously, she served for four years as a defense advisor to a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In that capacity, she conducted oversight of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and monitored U.S. counterterrorism, foreign assistance, arms control and security sector reform policies. She has worked on litigation in civil and criminal courts both in the United States and abroad and conducted human rights investigations in Latin America, Eastern Europe and South Asia. She received her JD from the Washington College of Law at American University.

Wallace K. Swan has a distinguished background covering 35 years of experience in the fields of public sector management; non-profit governance, consulting, training, and teaching.

He is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Masters of Public Administration program at the School of Business (MPA Program), Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Swan is a Contributing Faculty Member at Walden University in Minneapolis, teaching "Organization Management & Leadership" to masters in public administration students. Contributing Faculty Member at Walden University, USA and Adjunct Instructor at Hamline University, USA.

Human Rights & Humanitarian Crisis Management Challenges Worldwide

Our Presenters

Geno Sexton joined Graduate School USA in 2018 as the Human Resources Curriculum Program Manager and an instructor. He retired from the federal government in 2012, after 34 years of service, including eight years in the Senior Executive Service (SES).

Geno served as the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer/HR Director for the US Department of Labor, where he managed a staff of 120 HR professionals providing a range of HR programs, policies, and services. He was selected as the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) of the year in 2011.

Sexton also served in the US Department of Homeland Security, where he established the first of its kind Diversity and Inclusion Program. He subsequently served on a task force to draft President Obama's Executive Order on Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Government.

He has a BA in Journalism/Mass Communications and an MA in Government from New Mexico State University. He is also a proud Vietnam Era US Army veteran.

Dr. Robert Shick, PhD has extensive experience in the public sector as a senior administrator in New York City government, working in contracting-out of government services, financial and budget management, policy analysis, information technology, and intergovernmental and community relations. Dr. Shick's research interests and publications are in the areas of privatization and the contracting-out of government services, nonprofit management, and organizational development. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal for Health and Human Services Administration* and the *Journal of Administrative Sciences*.

Varuzhan Nersesyan is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States. In 2018, he served as Assistant to the Prime-Minister of the Republic of Armenia. He has also served as Assistant to the President of the Republic of Armenia. He holds an MA in International Relations, Diplomacy and International Law from Yerevan State University; an MPA from the Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia; and attended the Global Master of Arts Program at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Sinisa Pepic is an Executive Consultant, International Business and Economic Diplomacy Strategies, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Eastern Europe. He is a seasoned leader of operations for leading retail banks in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2014 he has provided custom-tailored consulting services in the field of International Business Development, Competitive Intelligence and Business Modeling.

Sinisa created the first online lending platform in the Western Balkans for Digital Finance International, a fintech company and member of Finstar Financial Group.

He received his MA from the University of Business Engineering and Management in Banja Luka. He is also Visiting Professor (Banking Management) at the University of Business Engineering and Management in Banja Luka.

Sinisa co-authored development strategies for the Ministry of Trade and Tourism and the Government of Republika Srpska, one of two constitutional entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was a member of several committees of the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the United Nations Development Programm (UNDP) with voting rights and focused on economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nina Bankova, joined Graduate School USA in 2016 and since has been providing direction and leadership to the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and other international exchanges. Having spent her career in the professional exchanges field, today, Nina manages all grant administration aspects of the IVLP and strengthens relationships with program partners and stakeholders.

She has been part of the IVLP network since 2006, when she took over the Professional Exchanges Department of the World Trade Center Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Her experience entailed attracting and managing local and international professional exchange initiatives, academic enhancement programs for local and international universities, and business networking receptions.

Nina holds an MA in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University and a BA in Economics from Towson University. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Human Rights & Humanitarian Crisis Management Challenges Worldwide

Our Presenters

Léonce Byimana is the Executive Director of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support coalition (TASSC). TASSC is a coalition of torture survivors and is concerned not only with the prevention of torture but also addresses its aftermath for the individual survivor, family, community, and society. He also served as Program Director at the Western New York Center for Survivors of Torture at the Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County. He is a Health Professional and a Human Rights activist with degrees in Clinical Psychology, Public Health and Conflict Resolution. He has worked with local NGOs in Rwanda and International NGOs like Handicap International, Partners in Health, the Clinton Health Access Initiative and Delagua Health/UK. His work was mainly with Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), HIV/AIDS patients, PTSD clients and torture survivors.

Taryn Williams is Director of Youth Policy for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) at the U.S. Department of Labor. The team works with workforce development and education systems partners to ensure that all youth, including youth with disabilities, have access to comprehensive transition services needed to prepare them for entering post-secondary education and the workplace.

In addition to serving as ODEP's Chief of Staff, Taryn has worked as a Senior Policy Advisor, Youth Policy Team, delivering expertise on disability policy issues. She also served on detail assignments as the Associate Director for Public Engagement at the White House in 2014-15 and as a Policy Advisor on the United States Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee. Prior to joining ODEP, Williams worked as the Research Coordinator for Leadership Programs at the Institute for Educational Leadership and as the Director of Programs at the National Association of Urban Debate Leagues.

Williams holds a bachelor's degree in Public Policy, with a concentration in Education, from Brown University and a master's degree in Education, with a concentration in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy, from Harvard University.

Patricia McIlreavy is the vice president of the Humanitarian Policy and Practice team at InterAction, an alliance of US based relief and development organizations. She leads InterAction's efforts to assist the humanitarian community, including InterAction members, UN agencies, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, to address the needs of vulnerable populations. Through her current role, she represents InterAction membership, expanding the position, partnerships and influence of NGOs in multilateral and bilateral fora and events.

Currently, she serves on the Department of State's Stabilization Advisory Council and the CSIS Task Force on Humanitarian Access. Her experience in the humanitarian field began in 1993, when she joined USAID's Office of Disaster Assistance Response Team to Rwanda in 1994, McIlreavy took on a position with the International Rescue Committee's Rwanda program. Her subsequent career with the IRC in Africa spanned 14 years, during which she held Country Director posts in Sudan, Tanzania, Burundi, and Regional Director for the Horn and East Africa.

Directly before joining InterAction, McIlreavy was based out of Amman, Jordan, where she worked with a diverse group of organizations, including humanitarian NGOs, the Red Cross movement, United Nations agencies and NATO as an international management and training consultant.

McIlreavy holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from the American University School of International Service and was a 2014-2015 fellow of MIT's Seminar XXI program.



Human Rights & Humanitarian Crisis Management Challenges Worldwide