

Peace Pieces

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Uppsala Rotary Peace Center

Educating and strengthening leaders to have a positive impact on peace and conflict resolution in the world



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Class XVI Peace Fellows (left to right, back) Jasper Peet-Martel, Juan Diego Duque, Henrique Garbino, Ognjen Gogic, (front) Christiana Lang, Yin Yin Thatun, Kaitlin McGarvey, Masumi Honda, and Pedro Henrique Souza.

On 7 June, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center congratulated the sixth class of Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows on concluding their Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies. Over the course of two years, we have been proud to witness and support each of their commitment to collaborative peace work and research. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them all the best as they continue their meaningful careers.

Sixth Annual Seminar

“Gender in Peace and Conflict”

On 4 May, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center welcomed guests to the Uppsala University Main Building for the sixth Annual Seminar. The Annual Seminar is organized by the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research to highlight the work of the graduating Rotary Peace Fellows.



Above: The Seminar brought together a diverse audience from Sweden and around the world: practitioners, faculty and students, and Rotarians interested in peace work and research.

The 2019 Seminar was on the theme of “Gender in Peace and Conflict” and featured Rotary Peace Fellows from Class XVI, who presented their research and shared experiences of peace work from around the world. Soon to graduate, the Fellows reflected on how their experiences as Peace Fellows enabled them to broaden their research and explore new opportunities through academic work, applied field experiences, and internships. The Fellows highlighted a wide variety of topics in the field of peace and conflict, including their own research and practical work on gender mainstreaming, women’s role in mediation and peace processes, and dynamics related to other topics such as hydropower, global jihadism, truth commissions, refugee experiences, and conflict resolution.

In addition to the Peace Fellows, a number of other speakers also contributed to the program. Professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer delivered the keynote address, sharing her experience as chief negotiator for the Government of the Philippines during the Mindanao Peace Talks and signing the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2014. In her role of chief negotiator, she is noted as the first woman in the world to sign a final peace deal with a rebel group. Professor Coronel-Ferrer discussed the challenges women face in public work,

the importance of achieving gender equality, and the need for women’s participation in peace processes.

Professors Peter Wallensteen, Angela Muvumba Sellström, and Magnus Öberg of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research also shared their own research and experience, and reflected on the importance of the Rotary Peace Fellowship program.

The Seminar was followed by a dinner organized by the Uppsala Host Area Committee for the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center, and welcomed local Rotarians, Peace Fellows, and other guests.



Above: panel discussions and the keynote address.



Speakers, organizers, and Peace Fellows gathered at the 2019 Uppsala Rotary Peace Center Annual Seminar: (left to right, back row) Prof Angela Muvumba Sellström, Prof Erika Forsberg, Prof Peter Wallensteen, Ognjen Gogic, Henrique Garbino, and Jasper Peet-Martel; (second row) Prof Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Kaitlin McGarvey, Pedro Henrique Souza, Juan Diego Duque, Christiana Lang, and Christie Nicoson; (front row) Yin Yin Thatun and Masumi Honda.

This story was first published on the Department of Peace and Conflict News website on 8 May 2019. Find this and other news stories at: <http://pcr.uu.se/about-us/news/>.

Applied Field Experience 2019

After completing their first year of studies in Uppsala, Peace Fellows spend the summer months from June - August completing an Applied Field Experience (AFE). This experience is a core component of the Rotary Peace Fellowship and supplements the classroom Master's studies. Class XVII Uppsala Peace Fellows are now conducting their 2019 AFE. Below is a snapshot of where and how each Fellow will spend their summer.

Roli Mahajan

Nuclear Nonproliferation Education and Research conference - South Korea: program participant; environmental research in Ecuador and Peru



Rebecca Dawson

The Fund for Peace - USA: Participating in research and policy practice from the non-governmental organization-level, focusing on human security and economic development



Tania Estrada

Frontline Defenders - Ireland: Data collection, monitoring, and research focusing on the deaths of Latin American human rights defenders



Ayako Tsujisaka

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - Sweden, Japan, and South Korea: Assisting with research on women, peace, and security-related foreign policies and practices



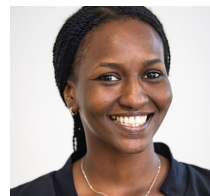
Victoria Carmona

The International Institute of Caribbean Studies - Colombia: Assisting with research on armed conflict, displacement, and human rights in the Colombian Caribbean



Bijay Shrestha

Tevel - Zambia: Facilitating sustainable community development, with research focused on water, sanitation, and health as well as gender and youth inclusiveness



Afaf Doleeb

Never Again Rwanda - Rwanda: Supporting peacebuilding initiatives and developing tools for violence prevention related to women, peace, and security



Karim Issifu

Search for Common Ground - Rwanda: Providing program management and logistical support for a collaborative embassy project and youth initiatives

Alumna Highlight

Reflections from a Class XI Fellow

Paulina Cruz Velásquez completed her Rotary Peace Fellowship in 2014, as part of the first class of Fellows to study through the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center. We heard from Paulina about how the Peace Fellowship has impacted her and where her career has taken her.

By Paulina Cruz Velásquez, Uppsala Peace Fellow alumna

“Time flies” is a phrase that we constantly say, listen to, and agree with. Not being the exception to this rule, I agree. I moved to Sweden in August 2012 to be part of the first cohort of Peace Fellows to study a Master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies. Seven years later, several things have changed in my life. However, the constants are that I’m still living in Sweden and that I have continued gratitude towards Rotary International for allowing me to be a Peace Fellow - now alumna.

So what has changed? After graduating, I had the opportunity to work at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research as a research assistant and as the Rotary Peace Center Coordinator. Being the Rotary Peace Center Coordinator had too many perks to write them all. Nevertheless, I can say that I met so many committed and brilliant Peace Fellows; people I know will make a difference in their communities. Sometimes things can get even better, and in my case I had a supervisor who was also an awesome researcher, Erika Forsberg. I also had really great colleagues!

As I tend to say, life is about changes and daring to do new things. I currently work in a Swedish non-governmental organization, MyRight. MyRight is an umbrella organization for international development work that aims to empower disabled people’s organizations in different countries around the globe. We do this by promoting knowledge and expertise exchange between Swedish organizations and partner organizations in other countries, and building capacity. I had previously worked with women and youth empowerment. I have found that working with disabled people’s organizations is definitely a higher level of complexity. Until today,

this has been the most challenging job I have ever had. I’m happy about it because I’m learning and becoming more aware about the needs of different groups of people and sectors of society. A great deal of my job is to think about how we can support our partner organizations so they can become agents of change and advocates of people with disabilities within their countries. I also support the writing of proposals - in this work I owe a BIG thanks to the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, where I learned how to write and use indicators, and how to avoid “fluffiness” in the writing. I know that many Fellows have a hard time with the methods course but I can say it is worth it!

I look forward to continuing to be a part of the Uppsala Peace Fellow family and reading about the experience of other fellows.



A Note of Gratitude

By Tania Estrada, Class XVII

Now that us Peace Fellows in Class XVII are on our AFEs and others in Class XVI have recently graduated and are preparing to return to work, we decided to dedicate a few lines in this newsletter to all the Rotarians who have made this experience possible.

We came from far away without knowing exactly what to expect. We left behind jobs, families, and friends to venture into the unknown in hopes to get our Master's degree. And Rotary not only gave us that great opportunity, but also has accompanied us every step of the way.

Our host families welcomed us at the airport and opened their homes to us from the beginning. They taught us about Swedish culture and are always there to support us.

The Rotary Peace Center has organized various courses, workshops, and high-level events that complement the Uppsala University classroom program and help us gain even more practical abilities. They helped us choose our AFEs and inspire us to push the frontiers of knowledge.

The members of the different Rotary clubs that have invited us to present have heard us tell our stories and have been interested in our countries. We have had very stimulating conversations about the most pressing challenges in the world.

The generosity of Rotary can only be compared to the hospitality and overall support we have received from the local Rotarians since we arrived in Uppsala. Thank you for making Sweden our home and Rotary our extended family.



Class XVII Peace Fellows enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner together with Rotary hosts.

Resiliency Workshop

On 22 March, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center hosted a Resiliency Workshop as part of Rotary’s pilot Peacebuilder Education Series. The Center welcomed Jennifer Lynne of the Contact Project to facilitate the program. Fellows participated in an online course as part of the resiliency program and a one-day in-person workshop. The workshop provided opportunities for Fellows to share their experiences to enhance their understanding of resiliency. Many Fellows come from or will work in demanding environments; this program was designed to strengthen skills to support them in this work, for example with strategies for managing stress, practicing self-care, staying safe in insecure environments, and understanding psycho-social trauma in the field of peacebuilding. The workshop also aimed to foster a shared experience between classes of Fellows and their global community.



Training on Monitoring and Evaluation

With the support of Rotary International, the Rotary Peace Centers at the universities of Uppsala, Bradford, and Duke/North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) have set up a faculty exchange designed to share knowledge between Centers and to complement coursework at each university. Last month, Magnus Öberg from Uppsala University’s Department of Peace and Conflict Research visited the University of Bradford to introduce the Uppsala Conflict Data Program and Conflict Encyclopedia, and to present ongoing research on exposure to war violence and trauma on social preferences.

In May, Uppsala hosted an exchange faculty member. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center was pleased to offer a course in collaboration with Duke/UNC to provide Peace Fellows and other students in the Master’s of Peace and Conflict program with the three-day training “Monitoring and Evaluation for Peacebuilding Interventions”. The purpose of this training is to introduce the basic concepts of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), common processes, skills, and practical application of concepts and methods in the peacebuilding field.

The course was led by Zumrat Salmorbekova, an instructor at Duke/UNC and an experienced M&E practitioner in post-conflict settings. Zumrat has over seventeen years of experience with development and research projects, evaluations, assessments, and surveys. She is also a Peace Fellow alumna, having completed her Rotary Peace Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Russian and Eastern European Studies.



Left to right: Sara Lindberg Bromley (Director, Uppsala Rotary Peace Center) Zumrat Salmorbekova (course instructor), Christie Nicoson (Center Coordinator).

Participants in the training included Rotary Peace Fellows from Classes XVI and XVII as well as other Master’s students studying at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. Some of the participants are pictured above with Zumrat (center).

Uppsala Peace Fellows Meet in Hamburg

This year's Rotary International Convention took place in Hamburg, Germany, 1-5 June. Leading up to the Convention, an "Unconference" was held on 30 May as an exclusive space for the Peace Fellows. On 31 May - 1 June, a Peace Symposium focused on the theme "Sustaining Peace Through Partnership."

Several alumni and one current Peace Fellow from Uppsala participated in the Unconference and Peace Symposium. Current Fellow Rebecca Dawson reflected that the events provided an opportunity to network with other Fellows, Rotarians, and integral actors from across the peace-building world. She commented, "As I continue with my academic journey and consider my professional future after the Fellowship, the gathering

of minds at events such as at the Peace Symposium offer moments for learning and reflection that I am eager to take full advantage of." We hope that some of our readers had the opportunity to meet each other and the Peace Fellows in Hamburg!



Left to right: Ahmad Mohibbi (Class XIII), Rebecca Dawson (Class XVII), Erika Forsberg (former Center Director), Daniel Cano (Class XII), Pierre Thompson (Class XV), Richard Bell (Class XV), Alden Jacobs (Class XIV), and Christie Nicoson (Class XIV).

Peace Fellows in Action

University Life

Peace Fellows are not only busy learning in Uppsala, but also play an active role in shaping the educational experience. On 9 May, Ognjen Gogic (Class XVI) contributed by leading a panel discussion entitled "The Nuclear Question" in collaboration with the student organization Pax et Bellum and Folkuniversitetet. Afaf Doleeb (Class XVII) participated in a roundtable discussion on 13 May entitled "Sudan after al-Bashir – Time for Democracy and Revolutionary Change?" hosted by the Forum for Africa Studies.

Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

Tania Estrada (Class XVII), Ayako Tsujisaka (Class XVII), and Pedro Henrique Souza (Class XVI) (pictured below, left to right) participated in the 2019 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development on the theme "From crisis response to peacebuilding: Achieving synergies".



They were selected to participate in Forum as part of an initiative coordinated between Uppsala University and the host of the Forum, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Peace Fellows Travel to Oslo

At the end of January, in a joint effort between Rotarians from Sweden, Norway, and the UK, Fellows from Rotary Peace Centers in Uppsala and Bradford gathered together in Oslo for a professional development trip. Fellows met with local organizations to learn more about peace-related research, policy, government, and civil society action. Pedro Henrique Souza (Class XVI) reflected on the trip, saying, "It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and expand this amazing network of Peace Fellows, peacebuilders, and members of the community dedicated to preventing and resolving conflicts across the globe." Read more from Pedro about the trip on the the Peace Fellow blog: <https://uppsalarotaryfellows.wordpress.com/>.



Rotary Club Visits

On 26 February, Yin Yin Thatun (Class XVI) spoke at Stockholm Ladugårdslandet Club about “Peace Cultivators in the Making”. On 15 March, she visited Rotary Knivsta District 2350, where she shared her AFE experience on “Myanmar in Transition.”

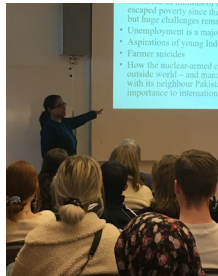
Tania Estrada (Class XVII) presented at Rotary Club Carolina on 14 March. She talked about what inspired her to become a Peace Fellow, why she chose the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center and her previous research experience (pictured below, left).

On 10 April, Rebecca Dawson and Roli Mahajan (Class XVII) presented about their backgrounds, home countries, and work during a seminar at a local high school organized by an Uppsala Rotarian (pictured below, second from left).

On 8-9 May, Amra Lee and Roli Mahajan (Class XVII) traveled to Leksand to share their Peace Fellow experiences with multiple Rotary Clubs and a group of high school students (pictured below, third from left).

On 10 May, Juan Diego Duque (Class XVI), Bijay Shrestha, and Rebecca Dawson (both Class XVII) participated in various meetings jointly organized by Stockholm Söder Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Bristol. Bijay discussed the impact of the Maoist insurgency and Juan Diego and Rebecca presented about their journey as Peace Fellows.

Karim Issifu, Bijay Shrestha, and Tania Estrada (all Class XVII) (pictured below, left to right) attended a meeting organized for a visiting group of Rotarians from Nykvarn Sweden and clubs in the UK and France on 18 May. They talked about the Fellowship, their personal backgrounds and plans for their AFEs.



About the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center



Since 2011, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University has hosted one of the six Rotary International Peace Centers. Students from around the world can apply for Rotary scholarships to the Master Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center selects and educates Rotary Peace Fellows to have a significant, positive impact on peace and conflict resolution in their future careers. Stay updated on the Fellows, hear about special events, and learn more about the Rotary Peace Fellowship online or contact us at:

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center website: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/education/uppsala-rotary-peace-center/>
Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows blog: <https://uppsalarotaryfellows.wordpress.com/>



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