

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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Meet Class XVII

Class XVII is the seventh cohort of Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows. The Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through community activities. We invite you to learn more about each of them below. (Photos: Magnus Aronsson)



Victoria Carmona (Venezuela)

Victoria is interested in understanding social conflicts and building skills for dialogue and mediation. She hopes to explore questions raised through her professional work – for example, how to create room for genuine political dialogue where there are feelings of hatred and resentment, or how to intervene in social conflicts to prevent

violent outbursts. Victoria brings experience in leading advocacy efforts on behalf of minority communities in the United States and as a policy analyst for local government in Venezuela. She has worked to help solve pressing development problems and has organized nonviolent civil resistance activities to achieve positive social change. Additionally, she has been a mediator between student protesters, the state's armed forces, and the Mayor's Office of Maracaibo. Victoria holds degrees in Political Science and Psychology from New York University. She is sponsored by Rotary District 2350.

Rebecca Dawson (Australia)

Rebecca is interested in issues of genocide, post-conflict recovery, and collective memory. She hopes to do further study and specialized research on sexual violence as a weapon of conflict, and on the social and political conditions that lead states to engage in genocide and ethnic cleansing. She brings seven



years of experience with non-governmental organizations in India, Nepal, and Cambodia, and a lifetime of experience with Girl Guides in Australia and internationally. Most recently, she worked as a Youth and Gender Officer with the UN in Lesotho, and prior to that spent two years at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh as a Language and Composition instructor, academic writing tutor, and volunteer program coordinator. Rebecca received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English from the Australian National University. She is sponsored by Rotary District 9570.



Afaf Doleeb (Sudan)

Afaf is interested in working in the field of peace building by developing comprehensive sustainable programs that address the root causes of conflict such as marginalization. She aims to be a decision maker and play a key role on bringing long lasting peace in her country, Sudan. Afaf is passionate about making peace in Sudan through developing the marginalized areas. She brings ten years of experience with international organizations in the field of democracy and peace making. She has worked with the UN Office for Project Services and most recently with providing integrated services to women victims of gender-based violence and Human Rights Defenders. She received her Bachelor degree in Actuarial Science from Elneelien University. Afaf is sponsored by Rotary District 2452.



Tania Estrada (Guatemala)

Tania is interested in learning more about quantitative research methods and how to apply them in both intrastate and interstate conflicts. She wants to gain more experience in research and explore other aspects of peacebuilding like policymaking. Tania wrote her Bachelor thesis on the strategies of social movements and government in environmental conflicts in Guatemala. She has worked as a social researcher in conflict analysis using primarily qualitative research methods in various regions of the country, focusing on topics like ethnic conflicts and natural resources. She has taken part as organizer or lecturer in various events involving Peacebuilding initiatives in the Latin-American region, for example, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico. Tania holds a Bachelor degree in Political Science from Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala. She is sponsored by Rotary District is 4250.

Abdul Karim Issifu (Ghana)

Karim is interested in how western and indigenous peacebuilding approaches can be strategically hybridized and applied to ensure that conflicts do not relapse. Karim has eight years of experience in the



nonprofit sector as a community development practitioner and peace ambassador. He founded and was president of the West Africa Peace Ambassadors Network (WAPAN), a youth-centered peace network that establishes peace clubs in basic and senior high schools in Ghana to train the students to become ‘peace rebels’ in their communities. Karim received an award from the U.S. Embassy in Ghana as a Social Media Peace Ambassador. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Development and Master of Philosophy in Peace and Development Studies from the University for Development Studies (Wa-Campus) and the University of Cape Coast respectively. He is sponsored by Rotary District 9102.

Amra Lee (Australia)

Amra is interested in topics of inequality, social exclusion and conflict prevention, and strengthening evidence-based decision making related to protection issues in conflict and other situations of violence. Amra holds over 12 years of experience as a humanitarian practitioner and researcher with extended field experience in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. Her expertise includes strategic analysis, advocacy and response related to protection, principled access, refugees, children and youth, conflict sensitivity, and sexual and gender-based violence. She has a Bachelor of Arts/ Law, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and Masters in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development from the Australian National University, and a Diploma in International Humanitarian Law from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Amra is sponsored by Rotary District 9800.



Roli Mahajan (India)

Roli is interested in the role that environmental resources can play in conflicts, how terrorists use the Internet to plan physical and psychological attacks, and Internet freedom. She brings experience as a communications expert with understanding of media and public diplomacy. She was chosen as a Women Aloud: Videoblogging



for Empowerment fellow, for a MacArthur Foundation project, and as a youth blogger during the International Year of the Youth. She has written on sexual health, educational topics for children, and development issues. Roli holds a Master in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Lucknow, a postgraduate diploma in International Conflict Management. She also holds certificates in disarmament studies from UNODA and public diplomacy from DIPLO Foundation, a post-graduate certificate from International Peace and Security Institute, and a diploma in photojournalism. Roli is sponsored by Rotary District 3011.



Bijay Shrestha (Nepal)

Bijay’s experience witnessing different political change and the effects of the civil war and the people’s revolution in Nepal shaped his desire to work in the field of peace and conflict resolution. He is interested in inclusion, food security, gender equity, strengthening the roles of young people in peace building, and on providing access to quality education and skills development. Bijay has over 12 years of experience

in multi-disciplinary development, training and consultation. He brings diverse experiences related to humanitarian support, food security, poverty alleviation, gender equity and social inclusion, youth movements, and LGBTI rights with work in Indonesia, Burundi, and Bangladesh. He holds a Master degree in human rights and democratization. Bijay is sponsored by Rotary District 3292 of Nepal-Bhutan.

Ayako Tsujisaka (Japan)

Ayako is interested in research and policy analysis related to peacebuilding in fragile states in Africa, particularly international interventions and local legitimacy. She hopes to generate innovative knowledge to share with younger generations in Japan. She has over 10 years of experience in the humanitarian and development aid sector. Ayako worked with Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Africa, Asia, and Central America and has been involved in management of humanitarian programs including related to epidemics, armed conflicts and displacement, natural disasters, and urban poverty. Previously, she worked as a communication officer for MSF Japan and served as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in the Republic of Benin. Ayako holds an Master of Science in Humanitarian Programme Management from Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. She is sponsored by Rotary District 2760.



Welcome New Center Director

The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center is pleased to announce that Sara Lindberg Bromley will start as Center Director in 2019, as Erika Forsberg steps down. We thank Erika for her dedication to the Peace Center over the years and extend a warm welcome to Sara.

Sara Lindberg Bromley (PhD 2017) is a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University. Her principal research interests include civil war interventions including peacekeeping operations, civilian protection and civil war dynamics. These research interests have been pursued through a mix of methodological approaches, including to collect and analyze cross-country event-data and to

conduct interviews in several contemporary peacekeeping contexts (Mali, the DRC and Liberia). Dr. Lindberg Bromley’s professional experience extends beyond academia to include e.g. international work based in Nepal within the UN system and in the policy-research sector. She currently teaches courses at the Undergraduate and Master’s level at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research.



Back to School

Reflections from Class XVII

What happens when nine people from different walks of life, professions, and nationalities decide to take a short sabbatical from their 'normal' working lives and walk the hallowed academic hallways again? The Rotary Peace Fellows of Class XVII share their experiences.

Amra Lee - Uppsala is a beautiful city and I feel privileged to be among such a diverse fellowship group. Having worked overseas in crises for most of the past decade, I have been lucky enough to work alongside and make many good friends from Scandinavia. This includes several who attended Uppsala University. In some ways it has been an easy cultural adaptation, indulging in my Ikea, glögg and fika propensities without judgement. In other ways, it has been more challenging than most of the conflict-affected countries I've worked i.e. navigating Swedish bureaucracy – what do you mean I need another form/ID card/appointment(!) And then there is sun...which admittedly is mourned collectively in late Autumn. Though I will consider this a fair trade off when I get to see the northern lights.

Bijay Shrestha - In the beginning, I had both feelings of excitement and of fear with regard to going back to school. It is definitely not an easy decision to make when you have an intensive amount of work experience; and specially when work has become a significant part of your daily routine. Thus, I missed my work in the beginning, I missed it a lot; and I still do, but not as much as I did before.

Actually, this studentship is giving me an opportunity to review my past work, my achievements and my failures. So, I am glad that I am out of the circle for now; and am able to analyze my work from afar.

I was not able to connect a lot with my other classmates in the beginning; but now I enjoy my interactions. I am learning from other students who are enthusiastic about education. I am so happy to meet my amazing co-fellows from around the globe who bring a lot of experiences from the field of peace and conflict; and most importantly, they are super friendly, fun-loving and respect differences.

Afaf Doleeb - We started school about three and a half months ago, yet it feels as though I have been in Uppsala for ages now. When I started 'school' again, I was nervous about not fitting in, as I knew that I would be way older than other students. But I also realized that it would be a good opportunity for both the parties involved to share different perspectives and for us to learn from each other. For me, I have the field and professional experience that have made me who I am, while most of my classmates have academic and theocratic knowledge, which makes them analytical. Therefore, it has been a very interesting and exciting journey, so far.

Going back to school after many years wasn't easy at all, and the hardest part of it was moving from my comfort zone of numbers to the world of academic readings and new terminology. However, while I have spent time trying to get a better grip on causal mechanisms, my Rotary host family has spent the same on showering me with love, food and fikas, making this academic transition easy. So a special "CHEERS" for them!

Rebecca Dawson - Personally speaking, it has been wonderful to return to university and for me it was the perfect time to become a student again, plus I am thoroughly enamoured with Uppsala. Even the darkness and cold aren't so bad when there are beautiful Christmas lights and Winter traditions to enjoy (it is Lucia today as I write this). So far I have found the courses in the program interesting, and the new methodology challenging, and I am grateful for the opportunity to combine my professional and personal experiences with academia and research. Especially as I believe that the most effective way to action change in our field is to combine theory and practice, and not silo them from one another.

I am very much looking forward to what the rest of my Fellowship will bring!

Ayako Tsujisaka - I have been greatly enjoying the Master's programme in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University, though I find it very demanding in terms of study objectives. My challenges are mostly related to the fact that I came to Uppsala with my

family. Although my husband has been fully supporting me so that I have enough time to study, I still have some responsibilities to fulfill, and it has been challenging to strike a good balance. Once I was reading a picture book to my son and felt sleepy; then suddenly, I realized that I was telling him something about my course paper... However, I think that it is a privilege to be able to study peace and conflict at this stage of my life, and I keep trying to make the most of this precious opportunity.

Tania Estrada - Since I received the news about the Fellowship, my life has been a rollercoaster. Quitting my job was the hardest part, I think. And leaving friends and family behind was also difficult. However, having a life-long dream come true was definitely worth it. Becoming a full-time master student at Uppsala University has been an amazing experience. I am now able to fully dedicate myself to the courses, attending academic events and I also became a Board Member of a Student Association. Rotary has given me the opportunity of a lifetime and all the challenges I have encountered have helped me grow professionally, academically, and personally. So, in a sense I guess the rollercoaster ride is not near its end, but I am loving it.

Abdul Karim Issifu - Managing two local NGOs, one that provides shoes for poor kids who attend school barefooted and one that supports peace advocacy, I decided to apply to become a Rotary Peace Fellow. My aim was to gain comprehensive knowledge and establish networks that would enable me to manage these NGOs at the acceptable level of professionalism. Acceptance into the fellowship came with a mixed feeling. First, the joy was that I would be schooling at Uppsala University, a world-renowned university in Sweden. Second, the difficulty was leaving behind my wife and our seven-weeks old son. My wife and I finally agreed that the offer would give me the skills to compete in the job market, and also set the education standard for my children, of which I am 100 percent certain, hence the acceptance. Finally, the way my Rotary Host Family treats me makes me feel more homelike.

Victoria Carmona - Being a Rotary Peace Fellow has truly been a life changing experience. After having worked in the field for the local government in Venezuela for nearly five years, I was eager to go back to school and continue amassing knowledge and experiences to achieve my personal and professional aspirations. Moving to Sweden was both challenging

and exciting; I have learned immensely from the professors and academic life in Uppsala, as well as from my colleagues and newly encountered friendships. Students in our Master's program come from high-level multidisciplinary backgrounds that have enriched my own knowledge within the broad and complicated field of peace and conflict. Time and again, I have found that self-discipline, openness of mind, and a passion for knowledge are my main tools for achieving continued growth and progress. I am deeply thankful for this opportunity.

Roli Mahajan - It has been three months since I came to Sweden. I have never visited Scandinavia before and I definitely haven't lived abroad for more than a month at a time. But life has a way of surprising you and here I am. Uppsala might be a quiet town but it keeps us students busier than the hustle and bustle of the Indian cities that I am used to. Since my arrival here, I have experienced fall, -10 degrees Celsius, cold wind, feather like snow, clean air and halogen bulbs instead of tube lights. If you are from South Asia (or India to be more specific), you will know why these are unique experiences for me but despite the fact that I am so far away from home, it feels as though I am not away at all except for the times when I remember that I need to cook for myself and that I am not working.

For me, remembering that I need to cook and adjusting to academics have been the biggest and most drastic changes that I could have experienced after living in hostels where food was served in messes and working for three different bosses wherein nine to eleven hour days were a norm. Academics is about self-improvement and it isn't easy...if you have been a peace fellow you know what I mean and if you are an aspiring fellow then you will learn soon enough. When someone is working for a company, there is far too little at stake in comparison to working on one's own self.

This place is like a library town and I love the feel of the books. I often dream of getting lost in some of the library rooms, such that I can feast on a variety of themes, which are otherwise hard to find. The only glitch in that dream is time. The first semester has kept me on my toes and it is because I am still learning the jive on a slippery performance ground. Every time I fall, I remember: we all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.

Applied Field Experiences

Updates from Class XVI

Fellows engage in an Applied Field Experience (AFE) during the summer break, between June-August. They conduct research or join in practical work related to their area of specialty. We share AFE highlights from Class XVI Fellows and invite you to read the full stories at: <https://uppsalarotaryfellows.wordpress.com/>.

Juan Diego Duque did research in Manila, Philippines. He conducted interviews and collected data to investigate how the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro has impacted women's empowerment in Muslim Mindanao. Juan Diego was eager to improve his skills as an international young researcher. He reflects on the experience, saying, "I interviewed people who were directly at the table negotiating the Agreement, which allowed me to get a first-hand look at some of the challenges they went through to include gender-specific provisions. This experience has made me much more sensitive to the fight for a more gender equal society in post-conflict countries."



Henrique Garbino worked with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action in Tajikistan and Ukraine, with a short stop at headquarters in Geneva. Henrique worked with weapons and ammunition disposal, mine clearance, non-technical and technical surveys, and mine risk education. "This experience brought me into both the frontline and backstage of the political, social, technical and managerial challenges of mine action," says Henrique. He also carried out independent research on mine contamination along the Tajik-Uzbek border and the consequences of lacking specific legislation for the mine action programme in Ukraine (Photo courtesy of the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action).



Ognjen Gogic spent the summer in Tbilisi, Georgia, working with Civil Forum, a civil society organization that works to build confidence between Georgian and Ossetian people and foster a grassroots culture of peace. Ognjen conducted interviews with stakeholders and carried out policy-oriented field research on the living conditions of internally displaced persons. He observed that the displacement of a large number of Georgians from Abkhazia and South Ossetia has become a contentious issue between the conflict parties, often leading to "walkouts" at the Geneva International Discussions. Ognjen reflects, "I saw the AFE as an opportunity to build on the work I had previously done with regards the conflict resolution efforts in South Caucasus. The AFE opened new avenues for me."



Christiana Lang spent the summer focusing on women mediators and human rights. First, Christiana worked with Mediators Beyond Borders International. She co-authored a research brief to serve as a baseline for the workshop Advancing Women in High Level Mediation. Christiana then joined experts, researchers, and practitioners at the workshop. She says, "Not only did I get to work on a compelling and interesting research project, but I was able to do so alongside brilliant women, allies, and mentors." Second, Christiana worked at the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) in Geneva, Switzerland. Christiana contributed to research and report writing, and saw the dynamics of global shifts represented in Human Rights Council meetings. She says, "My newly-found, first-hand understanding of United Nations human rights mechanisms enabled me to weave together my background work in grassroots, nongovernmental organizations and state levels, to international government decision-making."



Masumi Honda worked with Hand in Hand for Syria (HiH), based in Turkey. HiH is a Syrian NGO that delivers life-saving humanitarian aid into Syria. Masumi supported monitoring and evaluation activities through data analysis, report writing, and presenting and sharing assessment results. She also shared data collection and analysis skills she gained during the first year of the Master's program in Uppsala. Masumi says, "I was able to translate and apply my academic learnings to humanitarian work in the field." Further, she says, "I was able to feel the humanity of Syrian people and Turkish people—their passion, sorrow, humor, anger, and love, which humanized the 'refugee and host community population' who are often dehumanized in the media



and as subjects of research in academic papers. All of these experiences and reflections shall enrich the second half of my academic experience at Uppsala University."



Pedro Henrique Souza went to Tel Aviv, Israel where he worked with the joint Israeli-Palestinian organization Windows – Channels for Communication. The organization is dedicated

to building a future based on equality, democracy, and universal human rights. Pedro witnessed life in the West Bank and heard personal stories from the local population about their impressions, beliefs, hopes and disappointments. He says, "I've had the opportunity to learn and most importantly experience so much of the conflict in the region, much more than I could ever learn by reading articles and books. Working with a community-based organization provided me with a new share of experience not on technical skills, but interpersonal relations and personal stories, a much harder learning to acquire."

Jasper Peet Martel traveled to Ghana to work at the headquarters of the USAID project Partnerships for Peace (P4P) implemented by Creative Associates International. The project supports national and regional institutional efforts to build sustainable peace in the Sahel through a focus on increasing West African capacity to counter violent extremism. Jasper

contributed to activity conceptualization and planning, supported development of a Collaborating, Learning and Adapting framework and project communications. Jasper reflects on the new perspective he gained, saying, "Going forward I carry a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm that broader change can be made in how the world, regions, nations, and villages manage conflict. I am grateful for this inspiring opportunity."



Kaitlin McGarvey spent her AFE in Laos and Cambodia, researching the environmental and social impacts of large dams on the Mekong River. She used social and environmental



indicators to assess the potential for peace or conflict at both local and regional levels. Kaitlin interviewed hydropower experts from the nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations working in the Mekong Basin, and visited one of the controversial large dam sites (Don Sahong) in Laos, which sits just 2 kilometers north of Cambodia. She says, "This allowed me to personally observe the magnitude of large hydropower projects, and assess the way in which they impact local communities."

Yin Yin Thatun worked with the Secretariat of the Rakhine Advisory Board, based in Bangkok Thailand. Yin Yin's work centered around the Myanmar peace process and involved communicating with the local stakeholders, as well as those involved from abroad, mainly based in Bangkok. "I learned first-hand of the multi-layered challenges that exist in the communal conflict in Rakhine, and the many difficulties that all parties involved in this conflict faced," says Yin Yin. "As a Myanmar, I felt the difficulties, the sensitivities, and the challenges very keenly but also felt empowered and driven to be part of the Myanmar peace process more."



Peace Fellows in Action

Uppsala Youth Impact Forum



Yin Yin Thatun and Christiana Lang (both of Class XVI, pictured right and left respectively) have played an important role in highlighting the role of young people in promoting peace. Yin Yin's key role as Research Officer helped to organize the Uppsala Youth Impact Forum along with her team. The Forum focused on opportunities and challenges for younger generations in implementing the UN's Sustainability Goals and the Security Council's Resolution 2250, which urges youth representation in decision-making at all levels. Overall, aim was to support young people with the tools and expertise needed to affect business entrepreneurship, societal and global progress, and development as leaders. Christiana joined as one of the speakers and panelists for the Forum's lectures and workshops. She spoke about the awareness of one's individual impact, using her personal story, and the example of recognized young people doing bold things in the world.



Geneva Peace Week

Ognjen Gogic (Class XVI) has stayed connected with his colleagues and with issues he explored during his AFE by helping plan a component of Geneva Peace Week, held in November. Ognjen helped to organize and was a speaker at the workshop "From Inner to Outer Peace: A Contribution to Sustainable Peace in the Balkan Region," co-hosted by Rotary Geneva Peace Group, NGO SanChild and Uppsala Rotary Peace Center. The workshop explored the role of local voices in building sustainable peace, and invited participants to conceive how similar workshops could be organized in the Balkan region and how international actors can support local initiatives. Ognjen shed a theoretical light on such initiatives as a peace scholar from the Balkan region.

Civil Military Relations Course

Juan Diego Duque (Class XVI) participated in the Civil Military Relations course at SWEDINT, the Swedish Armed Forces International Centre. He took part in two weeks of lectures, workshops, and presentations with military, police, and civilian personnel from countries of all around the world. The course aims to give participants an understanding of the need for civilian, military, and police officers to cooperate and coordinate in Peace Support Operations led by the UN, the EU, or NATO.



Rotary Club Visits

Ukraine and Belarus - While on his AFE in Ukraine, Henrique Garbino (Class XVI) worked with Rotarians in Ukraine and Belarus to plan the Rotary Peacebuilding Initiative for Ukraine, occurring at the beginning of 2019. The Initiative aims to take action for peace in Ukraine by encouraging mediation and dialogue, and supporting humanitarian action and development efforts in the Donbass region, including mine action. Together with Jean Bagh, President of the Rotary Club Donetsk Advance, Henrique supported development of a concept note for the initiative. The event will have support from such partners as Mediators Beyond Borders and International Rotary Clubs from Ireland, Bosnia and Israel/Palestine. Henrique sees this event as a stepping stone for durable peace in Ukraine.



Colombia - Juan Diego Duque (Class XVI) attended Rotary Club meetings in Bogota while doing an internship there this autumn. He shared about his experiences and lessons learned during studies in Uppsala, AFE in Philippines, and internship in Norway and Colombia on implementation of peace agreement and gender provisions.

Switzerland - While on her AFE, Christiana Lang (Class XVI) visited the Genevé International Rotary Club in August. She presented the talk "How Rotary Reinvents in a Conflicted World: Cross-training in Peace". Her

presentation yielded a discussion on how Rotary Peace Fellows can continue their work and engagement after the Fellowship through proposed joint projects as a class, cohort, or group.

Sweden - This fall, Fellows had the opportunity to visit several Rotary Clubs around Sweden. Many Fellows from both Class XVI and XVII attended District 2350 Conference, held in September in Uppsala.

Since August, Rebecca Dawson (Class XVII) has attended two meetings of the Rotary Club of Uppsala Södra, and gave a presentation in November. She talked about her work experience before coming to Uppsala, in particular in Bangladesh and Lesotho, and what drove her to apply for the Peace Fellowship.



In October, Ayako Tsujisaka (Class XVII) joined Uppsala Glunten Rotary Club to share about her previous work and reasons for studying in Uppsala. Victoria Carmona (Class XVII, pictured above left) presented at Uppsala Rotary Club. Abdul Karim Issifu (Class XVII, pictured below left) presented



at the Uppsala-Linné Rotary Club. His presentation 'Humanitarian Work and Peace Advocacy' highlighted activities of his two local NGOs.

Also in October, Yin Yin Thatun (Class XVI) gave a talk in Nynäshamn for District 2370 Conference. She shared about her journey as a Peace Fellow, her aim to learn the techniques and theory behind protecting civilians in conflict regions and ways to be involved with the peace process in Myanmar, and her AFE experience.

Ognjen Gogic (Class XVI) spoke at the District 2320 Conference in October in Skellefteå. He presented his peace work prior to becoming a Rotary Fellow, his first year of studies in Uppsala, and his AFE in Georgia.



Christiana Lang (Class XVI) visited the Rotary International Club of Stockholm in December to talk about the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center, Class XVI AFE experiences, and the concept of cross-training as it relates to international peace and conflict.



Class XVII Fellows Attend Oslo Dialogue

By Rebecca Dawson

From 16-18 November, Class XVII Peace Fellows attended the inaugural Oslo Dialogue, a professional network seminar for master students in peace and conflict studies. Fellows included (pictured left to right) Abdul Karim Issifu, Bijay Shrestha, Roli Mahajan, Afaf Doleeb, Rebecca Dawson, and Tania Estrada.



The seminar was facilitated and hosted by The Swedish Embassy in Oslo and Voksenåsen, Norway's gift to Sweden and center for Swedish-Norwegian collaboration. The Fellows joined 19 Uppsala classmates and 15 students from the University of Oslo for the three-day program about the Colombia Peace Process.

On the first day of the Dialogue participants visited the Swedish Embassy in Oslo, the Nobel Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second day was filled with informative talks from experts from the Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF), the Norwegian Solidarity Committee for Latin America (LAG), the University of Oslo, and the Norwegian Peoples Aid: Democratization Program. Day three wrapped up with reflections on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and an active round of "The Trade Game", to better understand the complexities of international cooperation and the challenges facing us as actors in the global community.

It was not all hard work however! The Fellows also visited Oslo by night and the harbour district before the bus left again for Uppsala. We whole-heartedly encourage future Fellows to take up this wonderful opportunity when it comes up again next year!

Save the Date: 2019 Annual Seminar

Each year, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center hosts a seminar for Peace Fellows share their experiences, research, and reflections from their fellowship and studies. This year, the theme will be “Gender in Peace and Conflict Studies.” We will feature Class XVI fellows and are pleased to welcome keynote speaker Professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, a Filipino peace negotiator who was chairperson of the peace panel and signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro on behalf of the Government of the Philippines. She is

the first female chief negotiator to have signed a final peace accord with a rebel group. We invite you to mark your calendars and join us. More information and registration is forthcoming.

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center
Annual Seminar
“Gender in Peace and Conflict Studies”
4 May 2019
Uppsala, Sweden

Fellows’ Fika

The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center has started a monthly “Fellows’ fika” as a way for current Fellows to connect with alumni and Center staff. All Peace Fellow alumni are welcome to join the monthly fika. At a recent fika in October, fellows from five cohorts gathered.

Pictured from left: Paulina Cruz (Class XI), Christie Nicoson (XIV), José Alvarado (XIV), Abdul Karim Issifu (XVII), Ognjen Gogic (XVI), Bijay Shrestha (XVII), Afaf Doleeb (XVII), Rebecca Dawson (XVII), William Underwood (XV), Michelle Maxon (XV), and Maria Osula (XV).



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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