



## Year in Review

SAIS Conflict Management has had a great year. Highlights included two field trips--to Senegal to study the Casamance conflict and to Sri Lanka to study its post-war reconstruction and transition. The Global Security and Conflict Management Club has sponsored a truly impressive series of more or less monthly talks, many by alumni, as well as a major conference on Russia's current behavior in the Middle East and Europe. New to the program this year was a practicum in which the students investigated issues defined by the Antiquities Coalition, a nongovernmental organization that seeks to counter the illicit trade in cultural artifacts.

We graduated 32 Conflict Management MA concentrators and 4 MIPP students last month. 3 MA students earned honors and 3 others joined Phi Beta Kappa. I am hearing daily news of their hiring by think tanks, international financial institutions, companies, consultancies and government agencies. What a pleasure it is to witness how much they have accomplished and the launch of their post-SAIS careers! I hope you will all welcome them as they begin to appear in the organizations in which you are working.

I will need the help of as many alumni as possible in an initiative we will launch in the fall: the **I. William Zartman Field Trip Fund**. As too many of you know, we have been unable to accommodate all of our Conflict Management concentrators on the annual field trip. We did a bit better this year because of funding from the Starr Foundation, which paid for a large part of the Sri Lanka trip and thus enabled Senegal as well. My goal is to continue with at least two trips, though they may have to travel in different seasons in order to save Isabelle from excessive burdens. We'll need about \$30,000 per year to make this happen. Please see the information on the second column of the page. If you have questions about the Zartman Field Trip Fund--or about anything else--please be in touch with me or Isabelle.

Wishing you an enjoyable and productive summer,

Daniel Serwer  
Director, Conflict Management Program

## I William Zartman Field Trip Fund

Conflict Management field study trips have been one of the most rewarding experiences at SAIS – a unique opportunity to learn from those who suffered direct experience in conflict areas. Over the past 12 years, nearly 200 students have studied conflicts in Haiti, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kosovo, Nagorno Karabakh, Tunisia, Mindanao, Colombia, Casamance and Sri Lanka. Bill Zartman, who pioneered the idea, has participated in all but two of the trips.

Students contribute a substantial sum to help defray the cost, but without external support the trips would be prohibitively expensive. With funding from the Starr Foundation, this past year we were able for the first time to take trips to two separate destinations - Sri Lanka and Senegal. Foundation grants are not always renewable, so we are seeking the support of our alumni. For the next academic year, we are thinking of taking groups on study missions to Ukraine and Iran, both of which present significant challenges. No decisions have been made yet, but our goal is to give an opportunity to each CM concentrator to participate in a trip during their stay at SAIS.

We are therefore launching the **I. William Zartman Field Trip Fund** to ensure that we can continue to offer two trips, which will require \$30,000 per year. To make a gift, please follow this link: <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/giving#welcome>

1. Select the Washington DC campus
2. Select "other" as the designation
3. Type "Zartman Field Trip Fund" in the box

You will both honor Bill Zartman and help SAIS to provide a world-class educational experience. Gratitude to all those who contribute!



## ***Sri Lanka Field Trip***

In January 2016, two professors, 15 CM concentrators and 1 Southeast Asian MIPP student disembarked in Colombo for a study tour devoted to Sri Lanka's post-war transition, a trip generously supported by the Starr Foundation. The resulting book is the product of that 10-day visit and the previous semester of reading and consultation with experts on Sri Lanka, as well as subsequent research and consultations. In Sri Lanka, the group met with government and international officials, opposition politicians, academics and think-tankers, business executives, religious leaders, media executives and journalists, displaced people, activists, national and international NGOs and civil society representatives as well as Sri Lankans in the streets in Colombo, Mannar, Jaffna and many places along the way. The SAIS group was initially organized in six teams: security, rule of law, governance, economics, society and international relations. Each of those teams divided their subject into specific chapters, which attempt to review relevant historical developments, analyze the current situation and recommend ways forward addressed to specific actors both inside Sri Lanka and in the international community.



The Sri Lanka report is available for sale: \$10. Please contact Isabelle in case you are interested.

## ***Senegal Field Trip***

A long lasting and little-noted conflict in West Africa has been festering like an old sore in Senegal since 1982, or 1960, or around 1500, depending on the remembered source of grief and grievance. Perhaps its basic cause is the wicked colonial inheritance of the formerly British enclave of Gambia that cuts Senegal into unequal halves and separates the conflict area, Casamance, from the rest of the country. From that bold fact all other causes flow. Yet efforts are underway to overcome the ensuing conflict, if not the geopolitical cause, and that is what attracted 15 graduate students from Conflict Management and African Studies and three senior scholars from SAIS to travel to Dakar, Ziguinchor and Bignona, on 16 to 23 January



2016. The group had a series of frank discussions with a wide range of Casamançais in high and low places and with analysts and observers in the capital and in the south, from the government negotiating committee headed by the director of the Senegalese CIA and FBI to a dissident village in the jungle, providing some very penetrating insights into the situation and a frank exchange of views. The challenge was to understand why and how the conflict has lasted so long, at such a low level.

Contact Isabelle if you are interested in receiving a copy of the report.

## ***Antiquities Coalition***

The use of cultural heritage as a weapon of war is not a new phenomenon. In just the last half century we have seen attacks on heritage sites in places like Cambodia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Mali. It seems that, finally, Western powers are starting to recognize the significant role that artifacts and antiquities play in war, particularly as a funding source for the groups responsible for many of these tragedies. Unfortunately, very little academic research has been devoted to this subject, making it difficult for lawmakers and policy experts to effectively combat the multifaceted and complex issue.

With this in mind, the Washington, D.C. based NGO, Antiquities Coalition, approached Johns Hopkins SAIS in the Fall of 2015 to suggest a new partnership, that granted SAIS students the novel opportunity to provide valuable insight into the study of cultural heritage in conflict zones. Over the course of the 2016 Spring semester, 7 students from various concentrations, including Conflict Management, Strategic Studies, and Global Theory and History, worked to address the Antiquities Coalition's questions. Their research covered numerous disciplines and points of view with the ultimate goal of providing new insights and pertinent information for the international community. Topics included: the role that cultural heritage plays within societies in conflict; tracking and analyzing smuggling networks through an in-depth study of ISIS documents and transit country customs data; comparative law studies aimed at developing legal methods for cutting off demand in western markets; the role of UN peacekeeping; and the roles that cultural heritage can serve in post-war peace and reconciliation.

## Winrich Kuehne

*Steven Muller Chair, SAIS Europe*

Professional activity:

“Modern Peace Operations - Ten Problems and Challenges on the Agenda of SRSs and the International Community” in: *Leaders and Leadership in UN Peace Missions. Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General and their Work* (Manual Froehlich, Dorothea Prell and Patrick Rosenow (eds.)) (forthcoming)

“Vom Terror zum Khalifat (From Terror to Khalifat) - Wie korrupte Eliten, Bevölkerungsexplosion und organisierte Kriminalität die dschihadistische Expansion fördern” in: *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, Berlin, September 18, 2014 (online)

“Nur noch kurz die Welt retten. Fluchtursachen bekämpfen - dass versuchen wir seit Jahrzehnten (Fighting the causes of global migration - is there any hope?)” in: *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, Berlin, December 12, 2015 (online)



## Simone Tholens

*Ph.D. Adjunct Professor SAIS Europe*

Professional Activity:

- Lectureship at Cardiff University from 2016 onwards
- European University Institute, research and advise on EU support to Border Management in Lebanon
- European International Studies Association (EISA) Pan-European Conference on IR in Giardini di Naxos, Sicily, Sep 2015
- ‘Hybrid Order’ research paper, presented at the Italian Middle East Association (Sesamo) Annual Conference in Catania, Sicily, Mar 2016
- Co-editor of the Special Issue of Journal of International Relations and development (JIRD) on ‘Norm Diffusion, Contestation and Localization in the Western Balkans’, Aug 2015



## Marco Cesa

*Ph.D. Professor SAIS Europe*

Professional activity:

“Causes of War”, class taught at Science Pô, Paris School of International Affairs (2015/2016)

*Machiavelli in International Relations*. Oxford University Press. 2014

*Debating Foreign Policy in the Renaissance. Speeches on War and Peace by Francesco Guicciardini*. Edinburgh University Press. (forthcoming)





This year, the GSCM club and its core leadership team worked hard to bring to conflict management students and others interested in the discipline a variety of opportunities for professional and academic development. We raised over \$4,000 for Syrian refugees, hosted a very successful conference on Russian foreign policy, and brought the strategic studies and conflict management programs together for a wide-ranging discussion on countering violent extremism.

The club also coordinated with think tanks and NGOs to send trainers to SAIS to conduct multi-day skills courses for students, and organized SAIS teams to participate in workshops around DC. We hosted many career oriented events, including a career trek to New York, an internship panel of second year students, and an MIPP panel in order for students to learn from each other, prepare for their summer internship experience, and begin to think about post-SAIS professional life. We had the distinct honor of bringing in two United Nations Secretary General candidates to speak at SAIS, worked with the Embassy of Cyprus and the European Union's delegation to the United States to organize a lecture on peace-building, and brought in senior US State Department officials to discuss the US role in conflict prevention.



The amount that the club accomplished this year was made possible by a deeply committed and professional leadership team of 10 students that met weekly and worked tirelessly in between to bring these opportunities to their fellow students. We are really proud of what the club has accomplished this year and we look forward to seeing what next year's club under the leadership of Aaron Zucker and Karina Panyan has in store.



## ***Russia's Foreign Policy: New Spheres of Influence?***

The conference organized in Feb 2016 was the major event of the year for the club, in partnership with the Conflict Management Program and the Transatlantic Academy. Two panels on Europe and the Middle East, eight distinguished experts in the field and over 150 participants gathered in the Kenney Auditorium to analyze the new contours of Russia's foreign policy. Some of the speakers included former US Ambassador John Herbst, BuzzFeed World editor Miriam Elder, German Marshall Fund Senior VP Ivan Vejvoda and Transatlantic Senior Fellow Marie Mendras. Discussions focused on the regions targeted by Russian resurgence, evolving political and military rules of engagement, the implications for current transatlantic democratic architecture, as well as the relationship between these developments and Russian national identity and great-power ambitions.

For the past 25 years, the US and the Western European allies have focused their efforts on supporting the democratization process in the fragile post-Soviet space. In the past, adopting a balanced and efficient policy towards Russia was challenging and in many areas problematic, but never before has this 'constructive engagement' in the region been so strained, limited and difficult.

The link to the entire event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVIlzvBZsjs>



### *Alumni Profile: Philipp Lustenberger (BC 2010, DC 2011)*

Before joining SAIS, Philipp worked in Guatemala, Sudan and Colombia. He decided to study at SAIS to reflect upon these experiences and further his career in the field of mediation and conflict management. After SAIS, he worked as Associate Political Affairs Officer at the UN Mediation Support Unit in New York, where he provided operational support to peace processes around the world and helped draft the UN Guidance for Effective Mediation. In January 2014, he joined the Embassy of Switzerland in Colombia as First Secretary and Human Security Advisor. In this position, Philipp is responsible for the support of Switzerland to the Colombian peace process. In 2015, he helped organize the SAIS CM Field Trip to Colombia.



#### ***What is your current position?***

"Currently, I work at the Embassy of Switzerland in Colombia, where I coordinate Switzerland's support to the peace process. My work here is very varied. I have the opportunity to engage with all sectors of Colombian society, which is a great privilege. My work includes the provision of technical assistance to the negotiations, support to the preparations for the implementation of a future peace agreement and close interaction with civil society and communities in conflict-affected areas."

#### ***How did SAIS CM help your professional trajectory?***

"I joined SAIS after having worked, mostly with non-governmental organizations, in Guatemala, Sudan and Colombia. Building on this experience, SAIS CM provided me with the analytical and conceptual tools to advance my professional trajectory. Thanks to SAIS CM I was able to acquire a solid knowledge of mediation and other conflict management approaches, and learn about different peace processes around the world. This comparative knowledge has been very useful in my after-SAIS careers."

#### ***How can the CM program better prepare students for the labor market/ what is important in their view in terms of skills and knowledge?***

"SAIS CM has certainly helped me to prepare well for the job market. I think most important is for students to get a solid academic background in conflict management, combined with the development of practical skills. An important skill in this field is process design: how to design a mediation or negotiation process, how to involve civil society in a peace process, how to think about implementation of a peace

agreement, etc. Such skills can be strengthened through close interaction with practitioners, comparative studies of different peace processes and practical exercises, such as role plays and practice-oriented papers. For me, certainly the conflict management field trip to the Philippines has been a great learning experience."

#### ***3 things you left SAIS with and are still very much valid for you today?***

"First and foremost, I want to mention the friendships that I was able to establish and that I still value very much today. SAIS also has allowed me to closely interact with professors and practitioners in the field of conflict management. I draw a lot from these discussions and learning in my daily work. SAIS also provided me with a comprehensive training and broad perspectives. This allows me to look at challenges and opportunities from different angles and help finding functioning solutions."

#### **Alumni Consulting Board members wanted!**

We plan to bring the alumni community closer to the CM Program and decided to create an advisory body that would help us in this regard. If you have a couple of hours available each month and willingness to dedicate them to SAIS CM, please respond to this call with an email to Isabelle: [itlong@jhu.edu](mailto:itlong@jhu.edu) by July 15th.

More details will follow over the summer! We look forward to working closer with our great alumni community!





### Eric Rahman

Eric Rahman graduated this May with an MA in International Relations, having concentrated in Conflict Management, Latin American Studies, and International Economics. Prior to SAIS he served as a Community Economic Development volunteer with the Peace Corps in Madagascar, and before that was the Development Coordinator for a non-profit in Minnesota trying to close the racial achievement gap in higher education. Once at SAIS Eric became very involved in campus life as President of the Global Security and Conflict Management club, Assistant Editor for the SAIS Review, and Executive Board member of the SAIS Diversity Council.

Last year, Eric joined the Conflict Management program's field trip to study the peace process in Colombia, writing the chapter on the economic impediments and incentives to a peace deal and post-conflict peacebuilding. This January he spent two weeks in El Salvador researching the 2012 gang truce for his capstone thesis on a theory of negotiation and mediation with criminal gangs. During his two years at SAIS he worked with the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, in the Office of Brazil and the Southern Cone, interned with Mercy Corps' Research and Learning team in DC, and spent a month in Nigeria as a Conflict and Peacebuilding consultant, leading an impact evaluation on a peacebuilding project in Nigeria's conflict ridden Middle Belt. Eric now works for the Department of Justice as an International Affairs Specialist, in the Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs, focusing on Mexico, Central America, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.



### Alexandra Martin

Alexandra Martin graduated this May, having concentrated in Conflict Management and International Economics. Prior to SAIS, she has served as Operations Officer with the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, and before that she worked with a range of national and international NGOs on human rights, social development and inclusion, intercultural dialogue, democratic participation and youth in Romania and abroad. Alexandra was the co-chair of the GSCM club in Bologna during her 1st year at SAIS Europe and Vice President of the club during her second year in DC. Among others, she coordinated the Russia's Foreign Policy major conference.

Last summer, Alexandra spent 3 months in Ukraine, studying Russian language and doing research on the international responses to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. She also joined the Conflict Management Trip to Sri Lanka in January, writing the chapter on Security Sector Reform of Police Forces. She attended the European Horizons Conference at Yale University in February this year, co-presenting a paper on the design of a future EU Treasury. She co-authored research on the European Union Foreign Policy after Ukraine crisis, presented at the Council for European Studies in April 2016. While at SAIS DC she worked as Research Assistant for the Transatlantic Academy on this year's theme: Russia and the West. She plans to continue her work in post-conflict reconstruction and transition and raise more awareness on the issue of child marriage around the world.

