

## List of Faculty, Resource Persons, Course Directorate & Management

Last Name	First Name	Institutional Affiliation	Position	Email-Address
BALIAN	HRAIR	Carter Center	Director, Conflict Resolution Program	<a href="mailto:hbalian@emory.edu">hbalian@emory.edu</a>
BARSA	Michelle	Institute for Inclusive Security	Deputy Director, Policy & Conflict Programs	<a href="mailto:michelle@inclusivesecurityaction.org">michelle@inclusivesecurityaction.org</a>
BENTELE	Ursina	swisspeace	Program Officer, Training	<a href="mailto:ursina.bentele@swisspeace.ch">ursina.bentele@swisspeace.ch</a>
BERNASCONI	Gregorio	Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Program Officer for Syria	<a href="mailto:gregorio.bernasconi@eda.admin.ch">gregorio.bernasconi@eda.admin.ch</a>
DIETZSCH	Christel	swisspeace	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:christel.dietzsch@swisspeace.ch">christel.dietzsch@swisspeace.ch</a>
GOETSCHEL	Laurent	swisspeace and University of Basel	Director of swisspeace and Professor of Political Science	<a href="mailto:laurent.goetschel@swisspeace.ch">laurent.goetschel@swisspeace.ch</a>
HELLMÜLLER	Sara	swisspeace	Program Officer and Researcher, Mediation Program	<a href="mailto:sara.hellmueller@swisspeace.ch">sara.hellmueller@swisspeace.ch</a>
HILAL	Leila	Conflict Dynamics International	Program Director Syria	<a href="mailto:leilahilal7@gmail.com">leilahilal7@gmail.com</a>
HOTTINGER	Arnold		Journalist on the Middle East	<a href="mailto:arnold.hottinger@journal21.ch">arnold.hottinger@journal21.ch</a>

JOLLER	Toni	swisspeace	Administrative and Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:toni.joller@swisspeace.ch">toni.joller@swisspeace.ch</a>
LAHAM	Antoine	Office of the Joint Special Representative for the UN and League of Arab States for Syria	Senior Political Officer	<a href="mailto:antoine.laham@eda.admin.ch">antoine.laham@eda.admin.ch</a>
PERLMUTTER	David	College of Media and Communication, Texas Tech University	Dean & Professor	<a href="mailto:david.perlmutter@ttu.edu">david.perlmutter@ttu.edu</a>
OLIVEIRA	Ingrid	swisspeace	Program Officer, Training & Dealing with the Past	<a href="mailto:ingrid.oliveira@swisspeace.ch">ingrid.oliveira@swisspeace.ch</a>
SIGRIST	Franziska	swisspeace	Head of Training	<a href="mailto:franziska.sigrist@swisspeace.ch">franziska.sigrist@swisspeace.ch</a>
TURKMANI	Rim	London School of Economics	Senior Research Fellow	<a href="mailto:rimgturkmani@gmail.com">rimgturkmani@gmail.com</a>

## On-site Faculty

### Michelle BARSÁ, Deputy Director, Policy & Conflict Programs, Institute for Inclusive Security

As Inclusive Security's Deputy Director for Policy and Conflict Programs, Michelle Barsa focuses on expanding the roles of women in peace and security processes globally. In addition to advising on broader US foreign policy related to women, peace, and security, she oversees Inclusive Security's programming in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Sudan, and South Sudan. Ms. Barsa travels frequently to Afghanistan and the Syrian border where she leads consultations with women in civil society, government, and the security forces to discuss the impact of ongoing peace and security processes on women and identify their proposals for how to advance women's inclusion in those processes. In Afghanistan, she focuses primarily on reform of the ongoing process for demobilization and reintegration of insurgents, and strategic integration of females in the Afghan National Security Forces.



Ms. Barsa regularly advises the US government, UN, and NATO on how to improve the effectiveness of security assistance provided to partner nations. This work includes designing and leading training for military forces and civilian professionals deployed to combat support missions abroad, as well as for national police and government officials working to improve the impact of counterterrorism and counter violent extremism measures in their countries.

Previously, Ms. Barsa worked in Afghanistan as an emergency program manager with Catholic Relief Services. Prior to that, she was employed in CRS' Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza office and by the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan. Ms. Barsa has a background in community organizing, having worked for several years with a coalition of Latina street vendors in New York. She holds a master's in gender and conflict from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and a bachelor's in finance and philosophy from Boston College.

[Institute for Inclusive Security](#), [CV](#)

### Laurent GOETSCHÉL, Director, swisspeace and Professor of Political Science, University of Basel

Laurent Goetschel received his PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Relations (IUHEI) at the University of Geneva (1993). He worked as a journalist with the Swiss service of the Associated Press (AP), conducted research with the IUHEI's Program for Strategic and International Security Studies (1990-1992) and with the Graduate Institute of Public Administration (IDHEAP) at the University of Lausanne (1992-1995), where he was also a lecturer (1994-1995). After having served as a visiting scholar with the Center for European Studies at Harvard University (1995-1996) he joined swisspeace as a research analyst. He has taught Swiss foreign policy at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Bern from 1997 to 2003 and directed a Swiss National Science Foundation's research program on Swiss foreign policy from 1997 to 2000. Since then he has been director of swisspeace and professor of political science at the Europe Institute of the University of Basel. From 2003 to 2004 he served as the political advisor to the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheline Calmy-Rey. He is currently also President of the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.



[swisspeace](#), [University of Basel](#), [CV](#)

Sara HELLMÜLLER, Program Officer and Researcher, Mediation Program, swisspeace

Sara Hellmüller has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Basel. Her doctoral research focused on how the interaction between local and international peacebuilding actors in DR Congo influences the effectiveness of their programs. In 2013, she was a visiting scholar at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University in New York and an affiliate doctoral student at the University of Bunia in Ituri (DR Congo). Before joining swisspeace, she worked with the United Nations Development Program in eastern DR Congo, the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria and with local NGOs in Mongolia and South Africa. She holds a first MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and a second MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in Boston. Sara has a certificate in mediation from Mediation Works Incorporated in Boston.



[swisspeace](#), [Mediation Program](#), [CV](#)

Leila HILAL, Program Director Syria, Conflict Dynamics International

Leila Hilal is Program Director – Syria with Conflict Dynamics International, where she works with a range of Syrian constituencies to develop options on political process design and governance arrangements. Previously she led numerous conflict assessment missions, including for Chatham House, the International Centre for Transitional Justice and the Euro-Med Human Rights Network. Ms. Hilal is a non-resident senior fellow at New America, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington D.C. She holds a JD from SUNY Buffalo Law School and an LLM from Harvard Law School. She is based between Washington, D.C. and Beirut, with frequent visits to Jordan and Turkey.



[Conflict Dynamics International](#), [CV](#)

Antoine LAHAM, Senior Political Officer, Office of the Joint Special Representative for the UN and League of Arab States for Syria

Until taking up his current position, Antoine Laham worked as Senior Adviser to the UNDP/Berghof Peace Support Office on Consensus Building, Constitutional Empowerment and Civil Peace providing relevant expertise in the field of security and defense policy development, and Lebanese national dialogue and peace processes. He brings with him a diverse professional background and a rich history of involvement in Lebanon's past negotiations and peace processes. As founder and first Secretary General of the Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace (LFPCP) in 1987, he organized national dialogue and reconciliation encounters in the 1980's and 1990's in Cyprus, Greece, Switzerland and Lebanon. In 2007 he contributed to the set-up and organization of the Inter-Lebanese Dialogue that took place in Switzerland.



Prior to moving to Switzerland in the early 1990's, Mr. Laham worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon and was Director of Emergency Services with the Lebanese Red Cross. In Switzerland, he was Assistant Director for Operations with the Welfare Association – Geneva, Head of Sub-Office with UNHCR Iraq, Deputy Director for Elections, Human Rights and Democratization with the OSCE Mission in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Deputy Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Regional Civil Administrator at the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and a Program Manager for Kosovo, Good Governance and then Palestine at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In 2008 and 2009 Mr. Laham opened and managed Beirut Office of the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) with overall responsibility of assisting in developing its Middle East & North Africa Program.

Mr. Laham observed elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, FYROM, Haiti, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen.

[Office of the Joint Special Representative for the UN and League of Arab States for Syria, CV](#)

Franziska SIGRIST, Head of Training, swisspeace

Franziska Sigrist holds a MA in Political Science and International Law from the University of Bern, Switzerland and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Bordeaux, France. She joined swisspeace in February 2012 to design swisspeace's first Postgraduate Course in Civilian Peacebuilding (CAS). swisspeace's training area has grown since and now includes a team of 4 people accompanying 10 postgraduate courses and the KOFF Training Series. From 2010 to 2012, Franziska Sigrist was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Federalism at the University of Fribourg. Previously she worked for the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg (2010), the Swiss Embassy in Damascus (2009), and UNICEF in Addis Ababa where she also conducted field research on the Ethiopian water policy for her Master thesis within the framework of the NCCR North South (2006). During her studies she worked for the World Trade Institute in Bern (2005), the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes EADI in Bonn (2004) and engaged as peace observer in Chiapas, Mexico (2005). Franziska Sigrist is particularly interested in the Middle East and has lived and travelled in the region in 2008/2009.



[swisspeace Academy, CV](#)

## Online Resource Persons

### Hrair BALIAN, Director Conflict Resolution Program, Carter Center

Hrair Balian joined The Carter Center in 2008 as director of the Conflict Resolution Program. Mr. Balian oversees the program's efforts to monitor conflicts around the world and coordinates the Center's cross-program efforts in the Middle East. He is also an adjunct professor at the Emory University Law School, teaching an advanced international negotiations seminar.



Since 1991, Mr. Balian has worked in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the independent states emerging from the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Africa, serving in intergovernmental organizations (the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and non-governmental organizations (International Crisis Group and others). He has worked on elections, human rights, and conflict resolution.

Mr. Balian received his Juris Doctor degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. In May 2009, the New England College awarded Mr. Balian the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, for his "lifetime commitment to the dignity, respect, and self-determination of all peoples" and for his "uncompromising effort to resolve international conflicts."

Mr. Balian is fluent in English, French, and Armenian, with a basic knowledge of Arabic. He was born and raised in Lebanon, moving to the United States for university studies.

[Carter Center](#), [Conflict Resolution Program](#), [CV](#)

### Gregorio BERNASCONI, Program Officer for Syria, Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Gregorio Bernasconi was born in Mendrisio (Switzerland) in 1981. He graduated in International Relations from the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva. He moved to France in 2004, where he completed a Masters degree in International Studies, Conflict and Security at Sciences Po Paris. After an extensive stay in Germany, and in Iran, he was hired in 2007 by a Swiss major financial company as Financial Advisor. In 2013, he joined the diplomatic service of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and his first assignment was with the Swiss Embassy in the Socialist Republic in Vietnam. As of June 2014, Gregorio Bernasconi is the Program Officer for Syria in the Human Security Division of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern. Married, he speaks Italian, French, English and German.



[Human Security Division](#), [Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs](#)

### Arnold HOTTINGER, Journalist on the Middle East

Arnold Hottinger, orientalist, has worked over 30 years as a correspondent for the NZZ from Beirut, Madrid and Nicosia. Various radio reports for DRS and books about politics and culture of the Islamic world. He travels periodically to the Middle East.

[JOURNAL21.ch](http://JOURNAL21.ch)



David PERLMUTTER, Dean & Professor, College of Media and Communication, Texas Tech University

David D. Perlmutter is Dean of the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech University. He is the former Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and a Professor at The University of Iowa. He received his BA (1985) and MA (1991) from the University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. (1996) from the University of Minnesota. He served as a Board member of the American Association of Political Consultants and now sits on the National Law Enforcement Museum Advisory Committee for its Media Exhibit. He has been principal or co-principal investigator in multidisciplinary grants and internal funding proposals totaling about \$800,000 and raised about \$2,000,000 in new, legacy and as much in reaffirmed donations for his school. He is a graduate of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication Leadership Workshop.



At Iowa, in addition to his research, teaching, and administrative duties, he served on the Provost's Strategic Global Initiatives Council, the Advisory Council for the Office of the Vice President for Strategic Communication, the campus Fulbright Committee, and is an International Programs Faculty Fellow as well as a Starch Faculty Fellow in the College of Liberal & Sciences. Locally he also is a member of the U.S. Army Iowa City Community Partnership Council, the Board of Directors for the Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism ([IowaWatch.org](http://IowaWatch.org)) and the Iowa Newspaper Federation Next Generation Task Force.

At the University of Kansas he served as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research and as a member of the University Press of Kansas Editorial Board Committee and graduated from the Senior Administrative Fellows Program.

At Louisiana State University he served as interim Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, led the political communication track, and won two faculty awards including the main campus-wide award for research, teaching, and service.

A documentary photographer, he is the author or editor of nine books on political communication and persuasion and has written several dozen research articles for academic journals as well as more than 250 essays for U.S. and international newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Perlmutter has been interviewed by most major news networks and newspapers, from the [New York Times](http://NewYorkTimes.com) to CNN, ABC, and [The Daily Show](http://TheDailyShow.com). He regularly speaks at industry, academic, and government meetings and runs workshops on personal and institutional branding via social media and on promotion and tenure in academia.

[College of Media and Communication, Texas Tech University, CV](http://CollegeofMediaandCommunication.TexasTechUniversity.CV)

Rim TURKMANI, Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics

Rim Turkmani is a senior research fellow at the London School of Economics and co-founder of the [The Syrian Civil Coalition](http://TheSyrianCivilCoalition.org) and the [Madani Organisation](http://MadaniOrganisation.org), a not-for-profit organization that supports the role of the Syrian civil society in building a modern state.

[Department of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science, CV](http://DepartmentofInternationalDevelopment.LondonSchoolofEconomicsandPoliticalScience.CV)



## Course Directorate and Management

### Ursina BENTELE, Program Officer, Training, swisspeace

Ursina Bentele holds an MA in History and English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Bern, Switzerland. In her Master thesis she analyzed the debate of gender equality in Swiss family law (right to a name) during the 20th Century. From 2009 to 2014 Ursina Bentele worked as an academic researcher at the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland ([dodis.ch](http://dodis.ch)), where she was responsible for the historical research on Switzerland's relations with North and South America, Southeast Asia and general questions of foreign affairs and the policy of neutrality. Ursina Bentele was responsible for the employment and training of student assistants and in planning and organizing conferences and research projects. Previously, she worked as an English teacher and in the Ethiopian Scout Project. Ursina Bentele is a program officer in swisspeace's training area and supports the coordination, design and implementation of the KOFF training series and swisspeace's postgraduate courses.



[swisspeace Academy](#), [CV](#)

### Christel DIETZSCH, Office Manager, swisspeace

Christel Dietzsch studied Technical Translation in English and French at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. Following her graduation in 1995 she relocated to London and worked for British and American companies in the fields of international trade show organization, market research and trade journalism. In 2001, she successfully completed the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Diploma in Marketing. Moving to Switzerland also brought about a new professional focus on the cultural sector resulting in a new position at the Musik-Akademie Basel in 2007. At the Electronic Studio she coordinated the BA/MA studies in Audiodesign and computer-aided composition and further organized several festivals as well as concert series of electronic music. This led to the participation in the CAS program on "Kulturmanagement Praxis" at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art from 2010-2011. Christel Dietzsch joined swisspeace in 2014 to work as office manager and program officer at the swisspeace Academy Basel to support the training team in all aspects of organization and coordination of the Academy's study programs and events.



[swisspeace Academy](#), [CV](#)

### Laurent GOETSCHEL, Director, swisspeace and Professor of Political Science, University of Basel

Laurent Goetschel received his PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Relations (IUHEI) at the University of Geneva (1993). He worked as a journalist with the Swiss service of the Associated Press (AP), conducted research with the IUHEI's Program for Strategic and International Security Studies (1990-1992) and with the Graduate Institute of Public Administration (IDHEAP) at the University of Lausanne (1992-1995), where he was also a lecturer (1994-1995). After having served as a visiting scholar with the Center for European Studies at Harvard University (1995-1996) he joined swisspeace as a research analyst. He has taught Swiss foreign policy at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Bern from 1997 to 2003 and directed a Swiss National Science Foundation's research program on Swiss foreign policy from 1997 to 2000. Since then he has been director of swisspeace and professor of political





science at the Europe Institute of the University of Basel. From 2003 to 2004 he served as the political advisor to the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheline Calmy-Rey. He is currently also President of the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

[swisspeace](#), [University of Basel](#), [CV](#)

Toni JOLLER, Finance and Administrative Officer, [swisspeace](#)

Toni Joller holds a commercial vocational diploma (2009). He has worked for several years in the real estate sector as a commercial clerk. Toni joined [swisspeace](#) in September 2014 and works as an Administrative and Finance Officer. As of July 2015, Toni supports the [swisspeace](#) Academy in all aspects of organization and coordination of its study programs and events.

[swisspeace](#), [CV](#)



Ingrid OLIVEIRA, Program Officer, Training & Dealing with the Past, [swisspeace](#)

Ingrid Oliveira is a graduate from the faculty of Law of Universidade Federal de Sergipe in Brazil, is admitted to the Bar in the state of Sergipe, Brazil since 2009 and holds a Master in Peace and Conflict Transformation from the University of Basel. Her working experiences include handling mostly civil and family law cases. In Brazil, she interned at the State's Public Defenders' Offices, providing legal assistance for low-income families and also worked with in-court family and civil mediation, under the supervision of a judge. In Switzerland, she's been a member of former World Peace Academy since February 2011, conducting courses on Mediation and International Law. A [swisspeace](#) member since 2013, Ingrid is a program officer at the training team. Since 2014, she has also been working as a researcher in the Dealing with the Past program.

[swisspeace Academy](#), [CV](#)



Franziska SIGRIST, Head of Training, [swisspeace](#)

Franziska Sigrist holds a MA in Political Science and International Law from the University of Bern, Switzerland and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Bordeaux, France. She joined [swisspeace](#) in February 2012 to design [swisspeace](#)'s first Postgraduate Course in Civilian Peacebuilding (CAS). [swisspeace](#)'s training area has grown since and now includes a team of 4 people accompanying 10 postgraduate courses and the KOFF Training Series. From 2010 to 2012, Franziska Sigrist was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Federalism at the University of Fribourg. Previously she worked for the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg (2010), the Swiss Embassy in Damascus (2009), and UNICEF in Addis Ababa where she also conducted field research on the Ethiopian water policy for her Master thesis within the framework of the NCCR North South (2006). During her studies she worked for the World Trade Institute in Bern (2005), the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes EADI in Bonn (2004) and engaged as peace observer in Chiapas, Mexico (2005). Franziska Sigrist is particularly interested in the Middle East and has lived and travelled in the region in 2008/2009.

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