

## List of On-site Faculty, Online Resource Persons, Course Directorate and Management

	Last Name	First Name	Institutional Affiliation	Position	Email-Address
1	ALLURI	Rina		Freelance Consultant	<a href="mailto:rinaalluri@gmail.com">rinaalluri@gmail.com</a>
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6	GOETSCHEL	Laurent	swisspeace / University of Basel	Director Professor of Political Science	<a href="mailto:laurent.goetschel@swisspeace.ch">laurent.goetschel@swisspeace.ch</a>
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9	JOLLER	Toni	swisspeace	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:toni.joller@swisspeace.ch">toni.joller@swisspeace.ch</a>
10	KNÜPLING	Felix	Forum of Federations	Head of Programs	<a href="mailto:knuepling@forumfed.org">knuepling@forumfed.org</a>
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14	ULLMANN	Angela	Center for Security Studies CSS, ETH Zürich	Program Officer	<a href="mailto:angela.ullmann@sipo.gess.ethz.ch">angela.ullmann@sipo.gess.ethz.ch</a>
15	ZAHKUNG	Nang Raw	Nyein (Shalom) Foundation	Assistant Director	<a href="mailto:nangraw.shalom@gmail.com">nangraw.shalom@gmail.com</a>

## 1. On-site Faculty

### Stefan BÄCHTOLD, Program Officer, Analysis & Impact, swisspeace

Stefan Bächtold holds a MA in Social Science from the Universities of Fribourg and Bern with a focus on social problems and social policy, as well as political science. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Basel. His doctoral research critically analyzes discourses on results and accountability in peacebuilding, and how they influence policy and practice in the specific case of Myanmar. Stefan worked previously as a reporting and communications officer for Terre des Hommes in West Darfur (Sudan) and in Switzerland. He was also a research project assistant at the Institute for Research on Management of Associations, Foundations and Cooperatives at the University of Fribourg. Stefan is a Program Officer in the Analysis and Impact Program, focusing on questions of design, monitoring, and evaluation and related fields. He is currently based in Myanmar.



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

### Rachel GASSER, Myanmar Coordinator and Senior Program Officer Mediation, swisspeace

Rachel Gasser holds a MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute in Geneva. She started her career by joining UNHCR, where she worked in a refugee camp at the border between Iraq and Jordan. In 2006, Rachel was an adviser on human rights and humanitarian affairs for the Swiss Mission to the UN in New York. She then designed and implemented training programs for diplomats – mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq and DPRK – for the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations in Geneva, where she also led research on various global issues. From 2008-2011, Rachel was with the UN Department of Political Affairs as part of the team supporting the UN Special Adviser on Myanmar, and later two Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Somalia. Rachel joined swisspeace in 2011 and is the Myanmar Coordinator and Senior Program Officer of the swisspeace Mediation Program.



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

Laurent Goetschel is director of swisspeace and professor of political science at the University of Basel. He studied international relations and political science at the Graduate Institute of International Studies and at the University of Geneva where he obtained his PhD in 1993. He conducted research and lectured at the Universities of Lausanne and Bern. He was a visiting scholar at the Centre for European Studies (Harvard University, Cambridge MA), at the Centre for international Conflict Resolution (Columbia University, New York), and a senior fellow at the European Institute of Peace in Brussels. He directed a Swiss National Science Foundation's research program on Swiss foreign policy from 1997 to 2000 and a research module on governance and conflict of the North-South National Centre of Competence in Research from 2001 to 2013. Outside of academia, he worked as a journalist with the Associated Press from 1989 to 1991 and served as the political advisor of Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheline Calmy-Rey from 2003 to 2004. He is currently president of the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.



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

Andrea IFF, Head of Statehood and Business & Peace Program, swisspeace

Andrea Iff heads the Statehood Program and the Business & Peace Unit at swisspeace. As specialist in comparative political science, her research focuses on the intersections of peacebuilding with institutional engineering (constitutional processes, decentralization) and with the political economy of development. She holds a PhD in political science and lectures at the University of Basel. Her PhD focused on the area of federalism and conflict transformation in India and Nigeria and, together with a Nepali partner, Andrea headed a comparative research project on the role of private actors in peacebuilding, focusing on South Sudan and El Salvador. In 2015 she was a post-doc fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on economic power sharing. Before joining swisspeace, she worked in the Political Science Department of both the University of Zurich and the University of Bern, as well as for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Berghof Foundation in Sri Lanka.



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

Damiano SGUAITAMATTI, Program Officer, Myanmar Desk,  
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Damiano Angelo Sguaitamatti has eight years of experience in the field of peacebuilding and mediation support. He works as Program Officer of the Myanmar Desk for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He developed mediation support strategies, drafted projects and funding proposals for mediation support activities, implemented roughly 20 workshops with negotiating parties, peacebuilding experts and/or mediators as Project Officer for the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology. Activities in the field included: Capacity-building workshop in the Central African Republic (Inclusive Political Dialogue 2008); Capacity-building workshop for one of the Darfur-Movements (2008); Project coordinator for training seminars on mediation and election-related violence in Guinea (2010 and 2011). Development of guidance in the field of mediation processes, the role of business actors in mediation, prevention of election-related violence, as well as the role of religion in conflict resolution. His geographic focus was on West and Central Africa, additional interest in South-East Asia. Before that, he worked at the Center for Security Studies at the ETH Zürich and at swisspeace.



[Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs](#), [CV](#)

Angela ULLMANN, Program Officer, Center for Security Studies CSS ETH Zürich

Angela Ullmann is a program officer in the Mediation Support Team. She is working on various projects within the Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM) program which aims to support mediation and conflict transformation processes that deal with the religious and cultural dimensions of conflicts. Angela holds a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Studies from the University of Lucerne and a Master's degree in Global Studies from the University of Berne, both with a major in Comparative Religious Studies, as well as a Diploma of Advanced Studies from the University of Basel in Conflict Analysis and Conflict Management. Prior to joining the team, she worked for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs as a program specialist on its human security program on Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco.



[Center for Security Studies CSS ETH Zürich](#), [CV](#)

## 2. Online Resource Persons

### Rina ALLURI, Freelance Consultant

Rina Alluri is currently working as a freelance consultant. She worked as a Program Officer in the Business & Peace Program at swisspeace where she focused on academic and practical examples of corporate engagement in peacebuilding and was working in and on contexts such as Sri Lanka, Rwanda and Myanmar. Prior to joining swisspeace, she worked with Fahamu: Networks for Social Justice in Oxford, UK and Durban, South Africa and with the Liu Institute for Global Issues in Vancouver, Canada. She holds a BA from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, an MA from the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, Netherlands and a PhD from the University of Basel. Her PhD focuses on the inter-linkages between politics, economy and conflict in Sri Lanka.



[CV](#)

### Jean D'CUNHA, Senior Gender Advisor / Manager, Focal Point for UN Women, Office of the Resident Coordinator in Myanmar, United Nations

Jean D'Cunha is Senior Gender Advisor (Focal Point) for UN Women, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Myanmar. She has been previously Global Migration Adviser for UN Women in New York, Regional Director for UN Women's East and Southeast Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, and Regional Advisor/Manager for the UN Women Asia-Pacific and Arab States Regional Program on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia. Dr D'Cunha has been an advisor to numerous Governments, UN Agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and international and NGOs. She is a Sociologist specializing in Gender Studies. She taught Sociology in several universities and her researches on gender concerns have been published in a variety of Indian and international publications. She is a past recipient of a national award for Outstanding Writing on Women's Issues in India.



[UN Women Myanmar](#), [CV](#)

### Kyaw Yin HLAING, Founding Director, Center for Diversity and National Harmony

Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing was a leading adviser to the outgoing government in the peace process and is the founding director of the Center for Diversity and National Harmony. As such, he has closely followed the hotspots of the transition: the quest for a lasting transformation of the relationship between ethnic nationalities and the central government and the improvement of inter-communal relationships, in particular in Rakhine State.

[Center for Diversity and National Harmony](#)



Felix Knüpling, Head of Program, Forum of Federations

Felix Knüpling joined the Forum in 2007. He was appointed to his present position in 2011 and is currently based in Berlin, Germany. He oversees and manages Forum projects in Asia, Europe and the Middle-East and also works on the Forum's thematic programs. Prior to joining the Forum, Felix worked for the German parliament – the Bundestag – and at the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO in Brussels. Felix holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from Free University Berlin and a BA in International Relations from University of Kent. Felix has co-edited five books on federalism, among them *Changing Federal Constitutions* (with Arthur Benz; Opladen/Toronto 2012) and *Benchmarking in Federal Systems* (with Alan Fenna; Melbourne 2012).



[Forum of Federations, CV](#)

Ja Nan LAHTAW, Director, Nyein (Shalom) Foundation

As Assistant Director of the Nyein (Shalom) Foundation, Ja Nan Lahtaw coordinates the peacebuilding work of women's NGOs across Myanmar to increase their participation in negotiations and peace agreement implementation. As a member of the ethnic Kachin minority, trained in both the law and at seminary, Ms. Lahtaw also initiated the Ethnic Civil Society Leaders' Forum to broaden participation in the democratic transformation of Myanmar. Ms. Lahtaw is a member of Action Asia's peacebuilder network and coleads a workshop on gender and negotiations with swisspeace. Previously, she taught for four years at Pannasastra University's Master of Applied Conflict Transformation Studies program in association with the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies in Cambodia. She earned her MA in conflict transformation from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia and served as a Chevening Fellow (2008) at the UK's Birmingham University.



[Nyein \(Shalom\) Foundation, CV](#)

Nang Raw ZAHKUNG, Assistant Director, Nyein (Shalom) Foundation

Zahkung's early work led to a Fulbright Scholarship in international development, conflict resolution, and public administration. She thus brings both practical and academic knowledge to her role as a member of the technical team involved in Myanmar's peace negotiations. She draws on a reserve of trust built during a decade of work with ethnic, religious, and community groups as she supervised local peace committee activities and helped manage statebuilding projects. She also relies on that combination in her work as Assistant Director for Strategy and Policy at the Nyein (Shalom) Foundation, a national nongovernmental organization. Moreover, she played a key role in introducing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 agenda on women, peace and security into Myanmar. Based on her experience with the country's peace process, she has authored a booklet and article for swisspeace and the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, respectively, with reflections on the role of women and civil society in building peace.



[Nyein \(Shalom\) Foundation, CV](#)

### 3. Course Directorate and Management

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

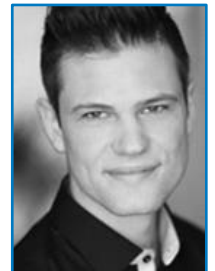
Ursina Bentele holds an MA in History and English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Bern, Switzerland. In her Master thesis she analyzed the debate of gender equality in Swiss family law (right to a name) during the 20th Century. From 2009 to 2014 Ursina Bentele worked as an academic researcher at the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland, 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 for swisspeace's training area and supports the coordination, design and implementation of swisspeace's courses.



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#### Toni JOLLER, Office Manager Basel, swisspeace

Toni Joller holds a commercial vocational diploma (2009) and has worked for several years in the real estate sector as a commercial clerk. Toni joined swisspeace in September 2014 and worked first as an Administrative and Finance Officer. Later he became Office Manager for the swisspeace branch in Basel where he is responsible for the course secretariat. Furthermore, Toni provides administrative support to the research coordinator.



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#### 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 3 people accompanying a wide range of trainings and postgraduate courses. 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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