



Guest Speakers

Conference "Securing archives at risk", 1 October 2015, Bern, Switzerland



Mohammad Al Abdallah, Executive Director, Syria Justice & Accountability Centre

Mohammad Al Abdallah is a Syrian human rights and democracy researcher and activist. He received a Bachelor's of Law from the Lebanese University in 2007, and a Master's of Public Policy from George Mason University in 2014. He previously worked as a research assistant for Human Rights Watch (HRW) in Beirut where he covered Syria. Al Abdallah is a former political prisoner who was imprisoned in Syria on two separate occasions for his work defending human rights and lobbying for political reform.



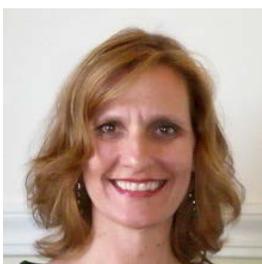
Ahmed Atef, Co-Founder of Wikithawra Project, Egypt

Ahmed is the Director of Monitoring, Authentication and Archive Unit at the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) since March 2015. In 2011, he graduated in the Faculty of Petroleum and Mining Engineering. He joined several human rights campaigns and initiatives like Front of Defence for Egyptian Protesters (FDEP), Freedom to the Brave, My Country My Rights and Journalists Against Torture as the coordinator of monitoring and documentation. In Feb 2013, he started his professional career in the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) with Wikithawra Project. Last July, he and his fellows have founded an independent project entitled "Daftar Ahwal". It is an online informative platform for supporting freedom of information and transparency, which includes "Wikithawra" as an internal project for documenting and archiving the 2011 revolution incidents and their victims.



Elisabeth Baumgartner, Head of the Dealing with the Past Program, swisspeace

Elisabeth Baumgartner is the head of the Dealing with the Past Program at swisspeace and coordinates the Archives and Dealing with the Past project. She is an attorney at law and holds a Master in International Humanitarian Law of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. Before joining swisspeace, she worked as a lawyer in Switzerland, was then on missions with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in different contexts and worked as a lawyer for the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in Freetown. She is currently teaching international criminal law at the University of Lucerne. From 2009 until 2015 she was a member of the Swiss National Commission for the Prevention of Torture.



Wendy Betts, Project Director, eyeWitness to Atrocities

Wendy Betts is the Project Director for eyeWitness to Atrocities. Ms. Betts has twenty years of experience in international development, rule of law reform, and transitional justice. She has managed projects throughout Eastern Europe as well as in Sierra Leone, Indonesia, and Haiti. She previously served as a Senior Program Manager in the International Programs Division of the National Center for State Courts and as the Director of the American Bar Association War Crimes Documentation Project. Ms. Betts has presented at international conferences on topics related to conflict prevention, war crimes, and accountability and co-authored a report entered as evidence in the trial of Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Ms. Betts has a M.A. in International Relations/International Economics from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.



Mò Bleeker, Special Envoy, Task Force Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Since 2013, Mò Bleeker acts as the Chair of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission- TJRC of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement in the Philippines (www.tjrc.ph), and chairs the International Advisory Board of the National Historical Commission of Colombia. Mò Bleeker has studied anthropology, religion sciences, journalism and social communication; she holds a post grade in development studies. She has been working since the eighties in societies engaged in process of transition from violent conflict, war or dictatorship to peace, in all continents. She is also prominently engaged in the creation and promotion of the "Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes" (GAAMAC) an international government-lead network for prevention of atrocities (www.gaamac.org).



Catherine Collins, Endangered Archives Programme, The British Library

Cathy Collins joined the British Library ten years ago to manage the funding programme, Endangered Archives <http://eap.bl.uk/>. With an extensive background in both grants and higher education administration, her experience enabled her to set up the procedures for the grant programme. She has previously spent several years travelling in Asia.



Pablo de Greiff, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

Pablo de Greiff took up his functions as Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence on 1 May 2012. Since 2001, he has been Director of Research at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) based in New York, United States. Before joining the ICTJ he was Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he taught ethics and political theory. He has published numerous articles and books on transitions to democracy, democratic theory, and the relationship between morality, politics, and law. He has provided technical advice to UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ICC, Truth Commissions and other bodies in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Morocco among other countries, and is presently advising the World Bank in the production of the 2011 World Development Report.



Shari Eppel, Executive Director, Peace Solidarity Peace Trust

Shari Eppel is a Zimbabwean, and Director of the Solidarity Peace Trust. In 1995-97 she researched and wrote "Breaking the Silence, Building True Peace: a report on the disturbances in Matabeleland and the Midlands, 1980-1988", documenting for the first time the post-independence massacres in Zimbabwe. She has authored or co-authored more than thirty human rights reports in the last twenty years, on torture, government demolitions, and humanitarian disasters, and has archived details of these events. In the 1990s, she spearheaded exhumations and reburials in rural Matabeleland, together with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, for purposes of "healing the dead". In May 2014, Eppel graduated with a Masters in Forensic Anthropology, with the aim of training an exhumation team in Zimbabwe.



Saad Eskander, Former Director, Iraq National Library

Dr. Saad Bashir Eskander acquired his MA and PHD in international history at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. From 2003 until 2015 he was the director general of the Iraq national library and archives. Since 2010, he has been Iraq's representative and vice chairman of the intergovernmental committee for promoting the return of cultural properties, which is a UNESCO run project. From 2004 he has been the chairman and member of several inter-ministerial committees on Iraqi cultural property and he continued to hold this position till he left the ministry of culture in June this year



Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Archivist and Chair, International Council of Archives' Human Rights Working Group

Born in Iowa, United States of America, Trudy Huskamp Peterson is an archival consultant and certified archivist. She holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Iowa. She spent twenty-four years with the U.S. National Archives, including more than two years as Acting Archivist of the United States. After retiring from the U.S. government, she was the founding Executive Director of the Open Society Archives in Budapest, Hungary, and then the director of Archives and Records Management for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She is a past president of the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (1993-1995) and the Society of American Archivists (1990-1991) and is currently the chair of the International Council on Archives' Human Rights Working Group and chaired the ICA working group on a standard for access to archives. She consulted with the truth commissions in South Africa and Honduras, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Nuclear Claims Tribunal of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and worked for over three years with the police archives in Guatemala, training the staff in archival processes. Among her many publications are Final Acts: A Guide to Preserving the Records of Truth Commissions, a study of the records of twenty truth commissions, Temporary Courts, Permanent Records, a study of the records of five temporary international criminal courts, and "Securing Police Archives," containing advice on managing records of police forces from former repressive regimes.



Gabriella Ivacs, Chief Archivist, Open Society Archives

Since 2002, Ivacs has been responsible for the archival and records management strategies of the Open Society Foundations Network, a non-profit organization active throughout the world. In her capacity she provides expert advice to Intra-governmental organizations, European Union, NGO archives, documentation centers, and memory institutions. Her current research explores the issue of archival transformations within the new technological landscape: the effects of digital and distributed archiving techniques on memory practices, research methods and access to primary sources, and the relationship between professional practices and policies under different socioeconomic circumstances. She co-directed and initiated the summer university course Access to Digital Archives, involved in developing the ADA curriculum into a long-term initiative. Ivacs holds MA degree in Records and Information Management, and is presently completing her PhD in Interdisciplinary Sociology.



Andreas Kellerhals, Director, Swiss Federal Archives

He was born in Berne on the 9.12.1954. He has been the director of the Swiss Federal Archives since November 2004. Before he joined the Swiss Federal Archives as an assistant of the directorate in 1991, Andreas Kellerhals studied modern history, history of architecture and constitutional law. In 1985, he graduated with a licentiate and worked for six years as scientific assistant at the University of Berne (Pedagogical Seminar and Historical Institute). As of 1995, he held the office of Deputy Director of the SFA, 5 years of which he spent job-sharing.



Anne-Marie La Rosa, Lawyer and Senior Diplomacy Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross

Holder of a PhD in International Law (Graduate Institute of International Studies, Switzerland), she has joined the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva in 2005 where she is the senior diplomacy adviser in charge of ICRC's relations with the Human Rights Council, its affiliated bodies and OHCHR. She is also an associate and invited professor at the universities of Montreal, Aix Marseille, Turin and Fribourg, where she teaches international humanitarian law, transitional justice and international criminal law. She has written extensively in these fields. Anne-Marie La Rosa is a lawyer by training and has worked as a legal practitioner in a private law firm for ten years prior to joining a UN specialized agency in 1994 as a Legal Adviser to work on the national implementation of internationally recognized fundamental human rights.



Maria Liouliou, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Memory of the World Programme

Maria Liouliou is working in UNESCO, for the Communication and Information Sector, and specifically for the Memory of the World Programme that is related to documentary heritage issues. She has studied Law, Political Sciences and Languages and holds a Master in Geopolitics and European History. Before joining the Communication and Information Sector, she worked as project coordinator in the Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO, implementing projects on science education.



Andreas Nef, Archivist, Docuteam

Andreas Nef holds a MA in History and Computer Science from the University of Zurich. Since 2004, he has been working as archivist and project manager at Docuteam GmbH and is currently technical lead for the development of digital archiving solutions. Member of the Editorial Board for the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS). Andreas Nef joined the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacekeeping in 2009 and is seconded to the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) to support the archiving activities, working on site in Freetown and in The Hague. A regular member of the International Council on Archives, he also served as archives expert for Swisspeace in Tunisia 2012 and is currently participating in the archives preservation project for the Nuclear Claims Tribunal of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Serge Rumin, Deputy Head of the Task Force for Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Serge Rumin, Deputy Head of the Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities Task Force within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA, is specialized in social changes in post-conflict environment. Amongst other assignments, Mr. Rumin served as Head of the EU Human Rights Observers mission in Rwanda, as Deputy Head of the UN-MIBH Human Rights Office in Bosnia-Herzegovina and more recently as Security Sector Development Programme Director in Burundi for the Dutch MFA. He has also worked extensively as consultant and researcher in various contexts including the Balkans, Middle East, North, East and Central Africa, Afghanistan, East-Timor and Haiti for the last 20 years with various bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs in the field of Justice and security reform. He earned a PhD in sociology, a Master in International Law and Political Science, and used to teach at the University of Law and Political Science in Aix-en-Provence on change management and post-conflict reconstruction.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Directorate of Political Affairs DP
Human Security Division:
Peace, Human Rights, Humanitarian Policy, Migration

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Archives SFA

swiss
peace

Schweizerische Friedensstiftung
Fondation suisse pour la paix
Fondazione svizzera per la pace
Swiss Peace Foundation



Elke Selter, Consultant, Emergency Preparedness and Response, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Elke Selter works with the newly established Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit of the Culture Sector of UNESCO where she is dealing with issues related to heritage protection and monitoring in conflict situations, as well as with the development of partnerships for the UNESCO DG's "Global Coalition – Unite for Heritage". For the past 11 years, she has worked with a range of international organizations in post-conflict and post-disaster settings such as Burundi, Mali, Haiti, Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Nepal, most recently as the manager of a USAID transition program in South Sudan. She has also been assisting UN-OPS and the government of South Sudan after the country's independence in 2011, on the establishment of a national archives and museum as part of its recovery and nation building agenda.