



UNIVERSITÄT  
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Global and European Studies Institute

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German Academic Exchange Service



November 19—25, 2020  
4th EMGS Alumni Conference

# Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges

**European Master  
in Global Studies  
EMGS**

[globalstudies-masters.eu](http://globalstudies-masters.eu)

## 4th EMGS Alumni Conference

November 19—25, 2020

# Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges



Our 4th EMGS Alumni Conference, which marks the 15th anniversary of the European Master in Global Studies program, focuses on global challenges and resilient responses to them. As suggested by the results of our recently conducted alumni survey, EMGS alumni are paying careful attention to developments around the world, taking note of their impact on both a local and a global scale. Through panel discussions and keynote lectures on a variety of pressing topics, we will explore how a Global Studies perspective can respond to these issues. Attendees will gain insights into the many ways that Global Studies scholars and alumni are actively working to explore and navigate these challenges, from climate change and health governance to populism and global inequalities.

In addition, this conference devotes considerable attention to a broad range of EMGS-related careers and life trajectories. We will hear from EMGS alumni currently involved in global governance organizations, academia, education, consulting, NGOs, activism, and more. Attendees will also enjoy the opportunity to meet and mingle with one another in “coffee break” sessions following panels, as well as through organized virtual networking opportunities.

**In this time of social distancing, we look forward to an inspiring conference filled with new and strengthened connections as well as enriching exchanges. Many thanks to our featured speakers, panelists, chairs, and attendees for joining us!**

Thursday, Nov. 19

10:30 am

## Conference Agenda

All time indications correspond to CET

### A Warm Welcome to our 4th Alumni Conference!

Matthias Middell, Therese Mager, and Milan Procyk

11:15 am–12:30 pm

### Roundtable International Organizations and Regional / Global Governance Careers

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Chair: Gilad Ben-Nun

Panelists: Daphne Heijdelberg, Camilla von Loeper, Wiebke Seemann, Denis Subbotnitskiy

*Following this panel, the virtual room will remain open for a Zoom “coffee break.”*

3:15 pm–4:30 pm

### Roundtable: Before, During, and After a PhD

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Chair: Tirthankar Roy

Panelists: Ashley Hurst, Jacob Lisakafu, Yasmine Najm, Katia Vladimirova

5:30 pm

### Keynote Lecture: “Understanding the Modern-Day Consequences of Addressing Pandemics with Ancient Methods”

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Robert Huish, Dalhousie University

**Friday, Nov. 20**

10:15 am–11:45 am

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## Conference Agenda

### **Panel: Peace and Security in an Interconnected World**

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Chair: Ulf Engel

Panelists: Mickaël Daudin, Mercy Fekadu Mulugeta, Fana Gebresenbet, Francisco Moreno Rivera

### **Lecture: “Expert Knowledge and Negotiated Choice—Stumbling Blocks to Transformative Knowledge in the Transformation to Sustainability”**

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Ariel Macaspac Hernández, German Development Institute / DIE

### **Roundtable: Climate Action and Sustainable Development**

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Chair: Ariel Macaspac Hernández

Panelists: Aretha Black, Helena Heuckmann, Lea Kress

3:00 pm

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4:15 pm–5:30 pm

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**Saturday, Nov. 21**

1:15 pm–2:30 pm

## Conference Agenda

### **Roundtable: EMGS Career Perspectives**

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Chair: Arushi Sen

Panelists: Ana Ribeiro, Tristan Schouten, Malwina Talik, Burak Ünveren

*Following this panel, the virtual room will remain open for a Zoom “coffee break.”*

### **Speed Networking Session (separate event registration required)**

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Hosts: Stephan Kaschner and Therese Mager

4:00 pm–4:45 pm

**Monday, Nov. 23**

10:30 am

## Conference Agenda

### Lecture:

**“After the Pandemic: ‘New Politics’ Challenges and Prospects in a Changing World”**

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Daniel Chavez, Transnational Institute

### Panel:

**New Research in Global Studies**

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Chair: Katarina Ristić

Panelists: Ross Cheung, Sebestyén Hompot, Maarten Koreman, Jana Mišić

### Panel:

**Populism as a Research Problem in Global Studies**

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Chair: Matthias Middell

Panelists: Constanze Blum, Megan Maruschke, Alexander Yendell

### Pub Quiz

**(separate event registration required)**

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Hosts: Therese Mager and Milan Procyk

12:15 pm–1:45 pm

3:15 pm–4:45 pm

6:00 pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 24**

10:15 am–11:30 am

## Conference Agenda

### **Roundtable: Communications and Consulting**

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Chair: Wojciech Kazanecki

Panelists: Gacheri Ndumba, Bianca Santos, Ya Lin Su, Yina Wu

*Following this panel, the virtual room will remain open for a Zoom “coffee break.”*

12:30 pm–1:15 pm

### **Speed Networking Session (separate event registration required)**

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Hosts: Wojciech Kazanecki and Milan Procyk

3:15 pm–4:30 pm

### **Roundtable: Perspectives on Migration – Careers and Challenges**

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Chair: Magdalena Ratajczak

Panelists: Maegan Hendow, Mišo Kapetanović, Xenia Pilipenko

**Wednesday, Nov. 25**

11:00 am

## Conference Agenda

### **Lecture:** **“Reflections on Decolonizing the University”**

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Gurminder Bhambra, University of Sussex

### **Panel:** **Perspectives on Global Education**

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Chair: Eric Vanhaute

Panelists: Jülide Asci, Claudia Baumann, Syuzanna Galstyan, Ian Tay

### **Presentation of Alumni Survey Results and Closing Remarks**

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Matthias Middell, Therese Mager, Milan Procyk

2:15 pm–3:45 pm

4:15 pm



## Lectures from Featured Speakers

# Event Descriptions

### **“Understanding the Modern-Day Consequences of Addressing Pandemics with Ancient Methods”**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every person on earth in some way. For many governments, the response has relied on ancient methods of quarantine and social distancing. Others have embraced new—albeit untested—technologies for contact tracing. In both cases, long-term consequences will emerge from the the global response to COVID-19. Amid this uncertainty are questions of the broader impacts the virus will have on globalization itself. In this presentation, Dr. Robert Huish discusses the immediate and long-term consequences that COVID-19 will have on globalization. Rather than assume that nations will revert to inward thinking, Dr. Huish suggests that a strong appetite exists to deepen global connectivity and compassion in the time of the pandemic. Moving away from the core tenets of trade and connectivity, a post-COVID-19 globalization will need to be based on the foundations of solidarity, cooperation, and a shared value of health for all.

### **“Expert Knowledge and Negotiated Choice – Stumbling Blocks to Transformative Knowledge in the Transformation to Sustainability”**

It is only a matter of time until the “Great Green Transformation” takes place. This transformation to sustainability consists of multiple transition processes across various levels (e.g. global, regional, national, local) and sectors (e.g. energy, water, industry, mobility). In the midst of these changes, scientific expertise has been elevated to a new status, often used as an instrument for gaining traction in policy development and implementation. However, in the “post-factual” era, the objectivity of expert knowledge is being called into question. With expert knowledge’s newly ascribed political status, demands for greater accountability and even the democratization of scientific systems are getting louder. At the same time, the transformative potential of scientific knowledge, which could enhance public trust, is hampered by several stumbling blocks. Dr. Ariel Hernández’s lecture aims to provide deeper insights into these stumbling blocks to transformative (expert) knowledge. Is science losing its way, simply because it is needed to achieve sustainability? Does society want policy-making to be based in ignorance rather than (expert) knowledge? In seeking the answers to these questions, it is worth taking a closer look at knowledge diplomacy and how consensual knowledge is achieved.

## Lectures from Featured Speakers

## Panels, Roundtables, and Presentations

# Event Descriptions

### **“After the Pandemic: ‘New Politics’ Challenges and Prospects in a Changing World”**

Around the globe, the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated political and social tensions that were already boiling long before the eruption of the pandemic, ranging from the rise of populism and authoritarianism to deepening inequality, the erosion of liberal democracy, the expansion of new forms of collective action, and declining social support for market-driven policies. Dr. Daniel Chavez’s presentation will discuss the challenges and prospects for emancipatory politics in the current global context, based on a critical analysis of recent and ongoing economic, social, and political processes in different regions of the world.

### **“Reflections on Decolonizing the University”**

In recent years, there has been a coalescence of movements and campaigns under the broad term, “decolonizing the university.” These movements have a new intensity in the light of the global resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement and debates around the toppling of statues. In this talk, Prof. Gurminder Bhambra will focus in particular on issues associated with decolonizing the social sciences curriculum, which, for her, is about transforming the “common sense” narratives we have about how the world we share was configured.

### **Roundtable: International Organizations and Regional/Global Governance Careers**

We’re kicking off our conference with insights into careers in intergovernmental organizations! This roundtable discussion will be moderated by Gilad Ben-Nun, a former UN Middle East Program Officer, with a panel of EMGS alumni working in four different policy areas. We’ll hear from Daphne Heijdelberg, who works for the EU on migration and labor rights policy, and Wiebke Seemann, who deals with public health policy within a regional intergovernmental organization. Camilla von Loeper, a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization, and Denis Subbotnitskiy, an officer at the International Atomic Energy Agency, will reflect on their experiences working within the UN system. We’ll learn about how EMGS can prepare graduates for a challenging but rewarding future in global or regional governance.

## Panels, Roundtables, and Presentations

# Event Descriptions

### **Roundtable: Before, During, and After a PhD**

Pursuing a PhD is a prevalent career choice among our alumni. Personal experiences and preferences before, during, and after a PhD vary greatly, however: how do I find a supervisor and funding? Should I remain in academia afterwards? How do I stay focused over the course of my PhD? Here to share their experiences with us and answer questions at the roundtable are Yasmine Najm, PhD candidate at Leipzig University; Jacob Lisakafu, lecturer at the Open University of Tanzania; Katia Vladimirova, Senior Research Associate at the University of Geneva; and Ashley Hurst, Head of Strategy at Bell Integrated Communications. Tirthankar Roy, Professor of Economic History at LSE, will facilitate the roundtable.

### **Panel: Peace and Security in an Interconnected World**

With a partner MA program specializing in peace and security studies and several alumni pursuing conflict resolution-oriented careers, EMGS is well-qualified to offer a fascinating panel on peace and security issues. In this session chaired by Ulf Engel of Leipzig University, we'll hear from EMGS alumni as well as scholars from the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University. Mickaël Daudin will present his work on responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict-affected areas in the Great Lakes region, while Mercy Mulugeta will discuss her research on disputed boundaries and the African Border Programme. Francisco Moreno Rivera will talk about the Colombian Campaign to Ban Land Mines and his experience returning to a country with conflict issues after completing his EMGS studies. Finally, Fana Gebresenbet will touch on his research on the intergovernmental negotiations over the highly contentious Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

### **Roundtable: Climate Action and Sustainable Development**

According to the results of our recent alumni survey, EMGS alumni are more concerned by the challenges presented by climate change than by any other issue (excepting the pandemic). Perhaps this is why so many EMGS-ers pursue careers in sustainable development and climate action. In this roundtable moderated by Ariel Hernández of the German Development Institute (DIE), we will hear perspectives from alumni

## Panels, Roundtables, and Presentations

# Event Descriptions

with different trajectories but similar goals. Aretha Black will comment on her work to support sustainable city-building and her extensive experience in the non-profit sector, while Helena Heuckmann will discuss her career in sustainable development cooperation. Lea Kress will complement these contributions with insights into her climate activism.

### **Roundtable: EMGS Career Perspectives**

Our alumni survey results have shown that EMGS graduates are working in an impressive variety of fields—consulting, media, education, finance, politics, trade, diplomacy, and more. While it's difficult to represent the incredible diversity of EMGS careers in a week-long conference, this all-alumni roundtable can still give us an idea! Communications expert Arushi Sen will lead this session, focusing the discussion on the panelists' career trajectories, advice for recent graduates, and the EMGS connection. Our panelists include writer and entrepreneur Ana Ribeiro, PhD; data analytics consultant Tristan Schouten; freelance analyst and researcher Malwina Talik; and Deutsche Welle journalist Burak Ünveren.

### **Panel: New Research in Global Studies**

In this panel, we will hear from recent Global Studies graduates who are now up-and-coming scholars. Jana Mišić will present her research on responsible innovation and ethical governance of artificial intelligence, while Maarten Koreman will discuss his research on the revival of rural areas in the Netherlands. Sebestyén Hompot will present the preliminary research from his discourse analysis of recent mainland Chinese historiography on Ming China, proposing a more global perspective of historiography. Finally, Ross Cheung will talk about his findings on Hong Kong's position vis-à-vis the rise of China. In addition to discussing their research, the panelists will offer tips for making the most out of EMGS, including expanding a master's thesis into a publication and hunting PhD opportunities. Katarina Ristić of Leipzig University will moderate the discussion.

## Panels, Roundtables, and Presentations

# Event Descriptions

### **Panel: Populism as a Research Problem in Global Studies**

This year, the German Federal Ministry-funded Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt (Research Institute for Social Cohesion, or FGZ) was launched, with teams in 11 research centers across Germany. At the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), a team of FGZ researchers has begun studying shifts in social cohesion on a transregional level, with a particular focus on populist movements. In response to our alumni survey respondents' interest in populism as a global challenge, we will hear about the early findings of several of these researchers. Alexander Yendell will comment on right-wing populism in Europe and Constanze Blum on populist trends in Southern Africa, while American history specialist and EMGS alum Megan Maruschke will comment on politics in the U.S. The panel will be moderated by Matthias Middell, spokesperson for the FGZ and an expert on French history.

### **Roundtable: Communications and Consulting**

In an interconnected world where communication seems to become ever faster and more complex, it takes considerable knowledge and skill to get your message across. The same goes for making the right decisions. Communications and consulting firms help to navigate the intricacies of our time, so it's no wonder they offer an exciting career path for EMGS-ers. Wojciech Kazanecki, Research Team Specialist at McKinsey & Company, will chair this careers-oriented discussion. The alumni panel will be made up of Yina Wu, Assistant Manager at Boston Consulting Group; Ya Lin Su, Managing Consultant at IBM Global Business Services; Gacheri Ndumba, Associate at Well Made Strategy; and Bianca Amorim Santos, Communications Consultant at Eo Ipso Communications.

### **Roundtable: Perspectives on Migration – Careers and Challenges**

Whether as a research topic or a career focus, migration is an attractive field for many EMGS students and alumni. Simultaneously a driver, side effect, and consequence of globalization, international migration is a key element of the interconnectedness at the heart of our field. Led by migration scholar Magdalena Ratajczak of the University of Wrocław, this alumni roundtable will explore migration from both a research

## Panels, Roundtables, and Presentations

# Event Descriptions

and careers-oriented perspective. Maegan Hendow and Xenia Pilipenko, both employed at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna, will reflect on their careers in migration policy support, while Mišo Kapetanović of the University of St. Gallen will discuss his evolution and methods as a diaspora researcher.

### **Panel: Perspectives on Global Education**

Our final panel will look to the future with a focus on global education and knowledge production. What are the opportunities and challenges in building a more equal and engaged society? Moderated by Eric Vanhaute of Ghent University, the panel will begin with Jülide Asci, who will talk about her research for the Regional Academy on the United Nations about global citizenship. What does it mean, and how can we teach it? Ian Tay will follow with his practitioner's perspective on global education, having taught in international secondary schools for a decade. Syuzanna Galstyan will discuss her work in youth political participation education in post-Soviet states, while Claudia Baumann, a higher education specialist, will present her current research on predatory journals in the Global South.

### **Presentation of Alumni Survey Results**

As suggested above, our Conference Team recently conducted a survey among graduates of the EMGS consortium. Out of 700 alumni contacted, an impressive 150 (about 20%) responded, offering us insights into their career trajectories, impressions of EMGS, and opinions on global challenges. We will therefore end the conference with a presentation of this data. Where are EMGS graduates now? How have their lives developed over the years? And how can our master's program continue to adapt to a rapidly changing world?

## Featured Speakers

# Conference Speakers

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

**Robert Huish** is Associate Professor of International Development Studies at Dalhousie University. His broader research interests in public health and development are evident in his current research projects, which include global health ethics, the effects of climate change on health in Pacific island nations, and the impacts of sanctions on public health and security. A frequent guest on CTV and other Canadian media outlets on topics related to global health, he has recently been awarded a grant from the Nova Scotia Health Research Coalition to study the effects of stigma during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also hosts “The Global Development Primer Podcast” (or “GDP” for short) and currently offers his students an innovative online course involving pandemic management simulations.

**Ariel Macaspac Hernández** is a researcher at the Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute, or DIE) working in the research programs “Inter- and Transnational Cooperation” and “Environmental Governance and Transformation to Sustainability.” He is also Lecturer of Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen with a focus on negotiations and development policies for rising powers in Asia. With a background in negotiation studies and conflict management, he has devoted his recent research to understanding environmental and climate negotiations as well as knowledge cooperation in issues such as sustainability standards and environmental governance. He has lectured in the Philippines, Mexico, Spain, Estonia, and Germany. His 2020 work, *Taming the Big Green Elephant: Setting in Motion the Transformation Towards Sustainability* (Springer VS), offers perspectives on facilitating sustainable transformations through constructive interactions between stakeholders.

**Daniel Chavez** is a Fellow and Senior Project Officer at the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam, where he coordinates the institute’s New Politics project. With a PhD in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam and a background in activism, he is deeply committed to public policy issues and participatory democracy. His areas of expertise include Latin American politics, energy policy, urban governance, and public services. He has authored and edited numerous research works, including his recently co-authored books *Repensar lo Público: Estado, Sociedad y Servicios Básicos en América Latina* (Icaria, 2018) and *Public Water and Covid-19: Dark Clouds and Silver Linings* (CLACSO-TNI-MSP, 2020).

## Featured Speakers

# Conference Speakers

**Gurminder K. Bhambra** is Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies within the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. She is also a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA), elected in 2020. With a background in global historical sociology, she has focused much of her research on challenging Eurocentric accounts of modern history, advocating instead for the recognition of “connected histories” and invisibilized non-European “others” in historical sociology. Recently, she has pursued several projects in postcolonial and decolonial studies, including her 2018 co-edited volume *Decolonising the University*. Her current research focuses on epistemological justice and reparations as well as on the political economy of race and colonialism.

## CHAIRS AND PANELISTS

**Gilad Ben-Nun** is a Senior Researcher at Leipzig University’s Research Centre Global Dynamics, where he teaches Global Studies and History of International Law. A former Marie Curie Individual Fellow at Verona University (2016–2018) and Ford Foundation Fellow at UNIDIR (2001–2002), Gilad has also worked for UNDP as a Middle East Program Officer. His first monograph (London 2017) on Israel’s reception of African refugees was nominated for the 2017 US National Jewish book award. His latest monograph on the drafting history of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention for Civilians has recently appeared in print (London 2020). He holds a Habilitation and a PhD from Leipzig University, with previous degrees from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

**Daphne Heijdelberg** (EMGS Alumna 2015) spent her EMGS years in Leipzig, Addis Ababa, and Vienna. During her studies in Addis, she developed an interest in migration and interned with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). After graduating, she worked for a year at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she focused on the link between youth unemployment and irregular migration in the MENA region. For the past 3.5 years, Daphne has been working at the European Commission in Brussels on policies concerning the EU’s labor and social rights agenda and the integration of migrants and refugees in Europe. She currently works for the Establishment Group of the European Labour Authority (ELA), a new EU agency which is meant to improve regular labor mobility in the EU.



## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Camilla von Loeper** (EMGS Alumna 2018) is a consultant for the Emergency and Resilience Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Her work touches on the people-centered aspects of humanitarian action, with an aim to provide a more bottom-up approach to humanitarian responses. While in EMGS, Camilla studied at Leipzig University and LSE. She obtained her bachelor's in political science and history at the University of Bonn.

**Wiebke Seemann** (EMGS Alumna 2014) studied EMGS in London and Roskilde and is now based in Stockholm. During her studies, she developed a strong interest in social determinants of health and international cooperation in that field. After starting her career at the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS), she worked at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). In 2019, she joined the NDPHS Secretariat once again and is now mainly engaged in the organization's work on active and healthy aging, as well as in coordination of the Policy Area "Health" of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

**Denis Subbotnitskiy** (EMGS Alumnus 2014) is the Programme Management Officer in the Division for Asia and the Pacific in the Department of Technical Cooperation at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He currently manages a portfolio of national and regional IAEA Technical Cooperation projects in the Middle East region. Previously, he worked as the Energy Analyst at the IAEA, focusing on the economics and financing of energy programs and projects as well as on topics related to climate change and sustainable development. Denis has worked in international development since 2011, including various consultancy assignments with UNIDO, FAO, and the IAEA. While in EMGS, Denis studied at the University of Vienna and LSE. His thesis was devoted to energy policy issues.

**Tirthankar Roy** is Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics. He teaches courses on South Asia and global history and is the author of *India in the World Economy: From Antiquity to the Present*. His research interests also include empires, environmental history, and music history. Prof. Roy received his PhD from the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala, India. Among his numerous recent research works are *Reserve Bank of India, 1997–2007* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming) and *The Economic History of Colonialism* (with Leigh Gardner, Bristol University Press, 2020).

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Ashley Hurst** (EMGS Alumnus 2008) was part of the second EMGS cohort. Prior to EMGS, he worked in advertising, design, and marketing communications. After graduating from EMGS, he returned to his old profession part-time as a brand, communications, and creative strategist while pursuing a multi-disciplinary PhD at the University of Vienna (Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte). Following completion of his dissertation in 2016, he became Head of Strategy at Bell Integrated Communications in London, primarily working with clients in secondary and higher education, central government, property, civil engineering and infrastructure, and the third sector. He also returned to music, with his band Fendahlene releasing their first album in 15 years in July 2020.

**Jacob Lisakafu** (EMGS Alumnus 2007) is Senior Lecturer of Politics and International Relations in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the Open University of Tanzania. He has also served as Associate Director of Postgraduate Studies since 2017. He holds a PhD from the Graduate Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences at Leipzig University. He was part of the very first “Global Studies – A European Perspective” cohort. His research interests revolve around the current dynamics of international relations and mechanisms for ensuring global security, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Yasmine Najm** (EMGS Alumna 2018) studied political science at Lumière University Lyon 2 and Global and Economic History at Leipzig University and LSE. She is now a PhD candidate and researcher at the SFB 1199 Collaborative Research Center of Leipzig University. Her research focuses on the history of the French empire and processes of spatialization in Indochina in the 19th century. Previously, she worked with digital humanities methods and analyzed intergenerational social mobility and demography under French colonial rule in 19th-century French India. Her research interests include the relationship between metropole and colonies, imperial history, and demographics.

**Katia Vladimirova** (EMGS Alumna 2010) studied EMGS at the University of Wrocław and the London School of Economics. In 2011–2014, she pursued a double PhD in political theory and political science at the universities of Luiss Guido Carli (Rome) and ULB (Brussels). During and after her PhD, Katia worked at the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development and the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York, as well as at Boston University, New York University, and MIT. Since 2018, Katia has been at the University of Geneva, working on the topics of sustainable fashion consumption and consumption ethics while teaching sustainable development courses.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Ulf Engel** is a professor at the Institute of African Studies of Leipzig University and the director of the Integrated Research Training Group of the DFG Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1199, “Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition.” He is also a visiting professor at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University and a fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies (STIAS, South Africa). His current research projects include a study of interregionalism and security in the Sahel as well as a study of political populism in Southern Africa.

**Mickaël Daudin** (EMGS Alumnus 2011) pursued his degree in Global Studies at the Universities of Leipzig and Wrocław. In 2015, he joined Pact, an international development organization that uses an integrated approach combining interventions in health, livelihoods, natural resource management, capacity development, governance, and markets. He is currently Program Manager of the International Tin Supply Chain Initiative (ITSCI) in the Great Lakes Region, covering the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda. He also leads Pact’s engagement with the Voluntary Principles Initiative on Security and Human Rights, of which Pact is a founding member. Prior to Pact, Mickaël worked for Médecins Sans Frontières in the Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines.

**Mercy Fekadu Mulugeta** is a researcher at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University. Her research interests include small arms and disarmament as well as borders and borderland communities in East Africa. She pursued her PhD at Leipzig University and Addis Ababa University, focusing her dissertation on small arms and security governance in southwestern Ethiopia.

**Fana Gebresenbet** is an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University. He received his PhD in Global and Area Studies from Leipzig University and Addis Ababa University, focusing his dissertation on “The Political Economy of Land Investments: Dispossession, Resistance and Territory-Making in Gambella, Western Ethiopia.” He has been researching the politics of development and state-building in the peripheral lowlands of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa for more than a decade.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Francisco Moreno Rivera** (EMGS Alumnus 2016) is a Colombian historian. While studying EMGS in Vienna, Shanghai, and Leipzig, he focused his research on how different societies have handled their histories of conflict in peace processes and transitional justice systems, motivated in large part by the peace process Colombia was negotiating at the moment. After returning to his home country, he began working in peacebuilding through mine action, and has experienced firsthand how peace has been at the center of Colombian society—for better or worse reasons—ever since. He has worked for the Organization of American States and the United Nations Mine Action Service, and now serves as Projects Director for the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

**Aretha Black** (EMGS Alumna 2010) creates and executes high-impact projects in the non-profit sector. She currently works to advance resilient city-building at Evergreen Canada and has previously worked in the areas of food security, sustainable agriculture, youth empowerment, and international development. Aretha studied EMGS in Vienna and Leipzig after completing her undergraduate degree in international development and psychology at Dalhousie University. She has worked, studied, and volunteered in India, Tanzania, Cuba, Uruguay, Guatemala, Australia, Germany, and Austria.

**Helena Heuckmann** (EMGS Alumna 2017) pursued her EMGS degree from 2015–2017, starting in Vienna and spending an exchange semester at Dalhousie University before completing her thesis in Leipzig. Following two internships with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in climate and governance projects, she began a position as Junior Consultant for the GIZ in Tunis in 2019. Her current project supports Tunisia in implementing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) within the framework of the Paris Agreement.

**Lea Kress** (EMGS Alumna 2019) was part of the EMGS program from 2017–2019 and studied in Ghent and Roskilde. In her academic, professional, and activist life, she focuses on sustainability, climate justice, global supply chains, women's rights, and fair working conditions in the global textile industry. She currently serves as Sustainability Coordinator for a clothing store in Copenhagen while also working for the German NGO FEMNET, organizing webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on textile workers worldwide. As an activist, she participates in actions of nonviolent civil disobedience for the global environmental movement Extinction Rebellion.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Arushi Sen** (EMGS Alumna 2013) is a storyteller, editor, visual thinker, photographer, and dancer. Armed with a bachelor's in journalism, she started her career in a publishing house and bookstore. She then spent two years in Europe for her master's, which introduced her to the development and public policy sectors. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) as the Media Coordinator and Comms Officer. Her subsequent move to CARE India helped her to discover her love for writing human-interest stories. In 2019, she joined a Spanish NGO called Educo. Working with children for their safety, education, and wellbeing has given her a new perspective on effective communication.

**Ana Beatriz Ribeiro** (EMGS Alumna 2012) was born in Brazil and moved at age 13 to the United States. She entered the EMGS program in 2010, studying in Roskilde and Wrocław. An EMGS classmate sent her an ad for a PhD position at Leipzig University, and she used her master's thesis, experience interning at the World Health Organization, and field work in Mozambique to write a convincing proposal in 2012. In 2020, she published her successfully defended dissertation (*Modernization Dreams, Lusotropical Promises*, AEGIS-Brill series). She still lives in Leipzig and is applying for post-doc positions while she runs her own webzine, The Leipzig Glocal (<https://leipglo.com>), which she founded in 2015 as a distraction from her dissertation and eventually turned into a small business.

**Tristan Schouten** (EMGS Alumnus 2017) works as a lead consultant in data and analytics in Amsterdam. He focuses on creating business cultures in which data is at the center of team collaboration and decision-making. He has worked with (local) governments as well as large multinational companies, designing and deploying solutions for translating data into business value. Within his discipline, Tristan was awarded second place for his data visualization on myths surrounding the Eurovision Song Contest in 2019. He holds a joint graduate degree in Global Studies from Leipzig University and the University of Wrocław. In his spare time, Tristan loves reading books and cooking dinner for friends and family.

**Malwina Talik** (EMGS Alumna 2013) studied in Leipzig, Shanghai, Addis Ababa, and Vienna during her EMGS studies. After graduation, she worked as a Project Manager / PR expert at the Polish Academy of Sciences (Scientific Center in Vienna) and the Polish Embassy in Austria. She is currently working as a Research Assistant and an Online Communication Manager at the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe in Vienna.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Burak Ünveren** (EMGS Alumnus 2016) is a political scientist and journalist. Within his role as Multimedia Editor for the Turkish Program at Deutsche Welle (Germany's international broadcaster), he works on various projects, including DW's Turkish-language news show. His fields of expertise are global and European affairs, Turkish foreign policy, German-Turkish relations, and political communications. An alumnus of the IPS program of the German Bundestag as well as the Training for International Diplomats program of the German Foreign Office, he pursued his EMGS M.A. degree in Leipzig and Vienna and earned his B.A. degree in political science and international relations in Istanbul and Bonn.

**Katarina Ristić** is a lecturer at the Global and European Studies Institute within Leipzig University. After graduating with a master's in philosophy studies from Belgrade University, she obtained her PhD from the Faculty of History, Arts and Oriental Studies at Leipzig University. She has been a research associate at Helmut-Schmidt-University and at Magdeburg University. Her research interests include transitional justice, memory, and media. She is currently focusing on transnational memory and the use of visuals in social media.

**Ross Cheung** (EMGS Alumnus 2018) is from Hong Kong and studied EMGS at the University of Vienna, Macquarie University, and Leipzig University. Currently he serves as Regional Manager for the Office of International Affairs at the Asian Institute of Technology. He volunteered at the Beijing Olympic Games, provided a tour at the Shanghai World Expo, and is going to pursue his PhD in 2021 in Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) on the topic of the Dubai World Expo in the field of Science Technology Studies.

**Sebestyén Hompot** (EMGS Alumnus 2019) is a native of Hungary. He obtained his B.A. in Sinology at the ELTE University of Budapest and his first M.A. degree in Chinese Philology at Xiamen University (China). While in the EMGS program, he studied in Ghent and Vienna, with a research focus on recent mainland Chinese global historiography. Upon graduating from the EMGS program, Sebestyén started his PhD studies in Sinology at the University of Vienna, where he is currently employed as a pre-doc university assistant and continues to focus his research on the discourse analysis of recent mainland Chinese world / global historiography.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Maarten Koreman** (EMGS Alumnus 2019) is a PhD candidate at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), where he takes part in an H2020 project on ruralization. In his research, he investigates the future of the Dutch countryside while considering global challenges, such as urbanization and the Covid-19 crisis, as well as local challenges, such as the Dutch nitrogen crisis. Maarten holds bachelor's degrees in public administration and human geography (both from Utrecht University) and a master's in EMGS (Leipzig and LSE). In his master's thesis, Maarten investigated the farmers union's opposition to the 1968 Mansholt Plan to reform the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Economic Community.

**Jana Mišić** (EMGS Alumna 2018) is a PhD candidate in Ethics and Technology and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow within the Innovative Training Network "PROTECT – Protecting Personal Data Amidst Big Data Innovation." Her research focuses on responsible innovation and ethical governance for artificial intelligence. She is based at the Rathenau Institute in The Hague and at the University of Twente. She holds a bachelor's in political science (University of Belgrade and Ghent) and a master's in Global Studies (University of Leipzig and Wrocław). In her master's thesis, Jana explored how public discourses, narratives, and sociotechnical imaginaries impact societal acceptance or rejection of technology transfer.

**Matthias Middell** is Professor of Global History, Director of the Global and European Studies Institute at Leipzig University, and Head of the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies Consortium. He is also the spokesperson for the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1199 and the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics. He has served as the editor of *Comparativ: Journal of Global History* since 1991 and has sat on the board of the International Committee of Historical Sciences since 2015. His research interests include global and transregional history, the history of intercultural transfers, and the French Revolution.

**Constanze Blum** is a researcher at the Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt (FGZ) in Leipzig, where she studies the research problem of political populism in Southern Africa alongside Ulf Engel. She is also a PhD candidate at the Graduate School for Global and Area Studies of Leipzig University, focusing her research on the history and functioning of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP). Her broader research interests include Border Studies, the African Union, intercultural communication in international cooperation, and transnational organized crime.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Megan Maruschke** (née Campbell, EMGS Alumna 2011) is a research fellow at the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe). A specialist in American history and reterritorialization, she currently researches the history of American boundaries in the 19th century as part of multiple projects of respatialization. She completed her PhD in Global Studies at Leipzig University in 2016. During her EMGS years, Megan studied in Wrocław and Leipzig.

**Alexander Yendell** is a sociologist who received his doctorate at the University of Münster (dissertation topic: “Social Inequalities in Continuing Vocational Training”). He has been involved in projects on various sociological research topics as both researcher and project manager for many years. His research interests include right-wing extremism and authoritarianism, political protest, religious plurality, and social inequality. He has taught and researched in England, Canada, Austria, and Switzerland.

**Wojciech Kazanecki** earned his PhD in political science in 2009 and entered the consulting sector in 2012. He currently works as Research Team Specialist at McKinsey & Company (Wrocław office) and has served as a member of the EMGS Employability Board since 2017. He is the co-author of *Communication in Crisis Situations* (2011).

**Gacheri Ndumba** (EMGS Alumna 2016) is an Associate at Well Made Strategy, a communications consultancy based in Nairobi. With experience as a brand equity and strategy researcher, she has contributed to developing public policy for the African Union and the Kenyan government. Gacheri earned her MA in Global Studies at the University of Vienna and Leipzig University.

**Bianca Amorim Santos** (EMGS Alumna 2018) is a journalist with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She pursued her master’s in Global Studies at the University of Vienna and the University of Wrocław. Hailing from Brazil, she has eight years of experience working in communications for the private sector, broadcast media, and international organizations.



## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Ya Lin Su** (EMGS Alumna 2013) is a Managing Consultant in a global technology company and has over 13 years of experience providing business analysis services and delivering system implementation projects in the financial services and energy sectors. She is also a certified experienced consultant, an alumna in her company's global corporate service corps, and a key contributor to her company's business analyst community in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). While in EMGS, Ya Lin attended the University of Wrocław and Leipzig University.

**Yina Wu** (EMGS Alumna 2016) is currently working as assistant manager at Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) Global Advantage Practice in Munich, focusing on business and strategy development. Her work involves driving the commercialization of BCG's product offerings related to emerging market insights, geopolitics, and trade, as well as handling intergovernmental investments and sector strategies. Before joining BCG, Yina worked as a management consultant at KPMG in Munich, with a focus on deal strategy and transaction support (part of mergers and acquisitions) as well as financial valuation. While in EMGS, she studied at the University of Vienna and the London School of Economics (with a focus on development economics and political economy).

**Magdalena Ratajczak** is Associate Professor at the Institute of International Studies of the University of Wrocław, as well as Vice Dean for International Relations in the university's Faculty of Social Sciences. Her research interests include diaspora diplomacy and media in Europe, human rights and refugees, Swiss multiculturalism, and intercultural communication. Her current research concerns cultural pluralism in European media, multicultural policy in Europe, and the role of refugees in the media.

**Maegan Hendor** (EMGS Alumna 2010) is a Researcher at the International Centre for Migration Policy Institute (ICMPD). Her work focuses primarily on migration and fundamental rights, with a particular emphasis on irregular migration and displacement. While in EMGS, Maegan studied in Leipzig and Vienna.

**Mišo Kapetanović** (EMGS Alumnus 2010) is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of St. Gallen, where he explores how labor migrants from former Yugoslavia use mobilities to maneuver space and belonging. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is an EMGS graduate of the 2008–2010 cohort. He writes about post-Yugoslav themes, including labor migration (*gastarbajteri*), contemporary working-class culture, and vernacular cultural practices.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Xenia Pilipenko** (EMGS Alumna 2010) is a Project Manager at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Vienna and is an EMGS graduate from the 2008–2010 cohort. Her work focuses primarily on migration and media, diaspora engagement, and migration studies in the Eastern Europe and Caucasus region. Xenia is a member of the EMGS Employability Board.

**Eric Vanhaute** is Professor of Economic History and World History at Ghent University and a member of the Ghent Center for Global Studies Steering Committee. He has been Visiting Research Fellow at Binghamton University, Utrecht University, and Humboldt University, and Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley. His previous research works include books and articles on agrarian and rural history, the history of labor markets and social inequality, and global history (such as *World History: An Introduction*, Routledge, 2013, and *Peasants in World History*, Routledge, forthcoming).

**Jülide Asci** (EMGS Alumna 2016) is a PhD candidate in International Relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, focusing her research on the relationship between Turkish foreign aid and power politics through a case study of Ethiopia. She trained as a foreign language educator in 2018 and has been teaching German since then, mostly abroad (including in Ethiopia). She is part of this year's Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) and takes part in a research project on Global Citizenship Education in Europe, in cooperation with the Ban-Ki Moon Centre for Global Citizens.

**Claudia Baumann** holds a PhD in Global Studies and served as coordinator for the „Global Studies: Peace and Security in Africa“ program. Together with Ulf Engel, she taught International Studies at Leipzig University for six years. She is currently working as an independent researcher in global higher education. Claudia is based in Berlin.

**Syuzanna Galstyan** (EMGS Alumna 2016) works in the field of political youth education, serving as Coordinator for a Deutsch-Russischer Austausch project on empowering youth participation in Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Armenia. Since 2018, she has also worked as a trainer in the field of global education for the non-profit organization Engagement Global. Previously, she worked for Transparency International, Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg (a joint program of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and MitOst e.V), and the Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre. While in EMGS, she attended Leipzig University and the University of Vienna, participating shortly thereafter in a program at the Regional Academy on the United Nations, where she conducted research on the topic of corruption.

## Chairs and Panelists

# Conference Speakers

**Ian Tay** (EMGS Alumnus 2010) studied EMGS in London and Vienna. Following graduation, he launched a career in international education, serving as Teacher of Economics and Business at CATS Cambridge before assuming his current position at the Institut auf dem Rosenberg (St. Gallen). In his role, he aims not only to prepare students for university education but also to educate them for their future as global citizens. In addition to teaching, he has helped to develop international high school curricula in economics and has organized various events and activities (such as Model UN simulations and International Days) for his college. He currently coordinates a multi-college qualification in Economics, Business, and Accounting, seen by various universities as equivalent to the A Levels.

## ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE TEAM

The core members of our EMGS Alumni Conference Team are **Therese Mager** (EMGS Alumna 2019), Conference Coordinator, and **Milan Procyk** (soon-to-be MA graduate in European Studies), Assistant Coordinator. **Paul Bomhard** serves as our Website and IT Assistant, while **Thomas Klemm** designed our conference program and other promotional materials. **Stephan Kaschner** and **Steffi Marung** adapted this project to its present digital format and hired our team, offering their expertise and constant support throughout the conference planning period. **Katarina Ristić** was instrumental in organizing associated media projects and could always be relied upon for assistance. A big thank you to everyone who accompanied our core team throughout the organization process.

We would also like to offer a special thanks to **Matthias Middell** for steering our EMGS ship over the last 15 years, and for making time to join us throughout this conference. Finally, **Konstanze Klemm**, while currently on parental leave, has been ever-present throughout this project thanks to her incredible powers of organization, and to the groundwork she laid in applying for the DAAD funding necessary to host this conference. On behalf of all EMGS alumni, we would like to thank her and wish her the best for this exciting new chapter in her life.



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