



BIOGRAPHIES TRAINERS PMC 2024



Katrina Abatis

Katrina Abatis is a program officer in the [Mediation Support Team](#). She works within the Mediation Support Project (MSP), which is a joint project between the CSS and swisspeace, supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and is secretariat of the [Mediation Support Network](#).

Katrina has prior work experience in cultural integration and has a particular interest in intercultural mediation. She obtained her Bachelor and Masters Degree at the University of Leicester (UK).



Julián Arévalo

Julián Arévalo is a Senior Fellow in swisspeace's Mediation team and teaches Political Science at the University of Basel's Department of Social Sciences. Prior to joining swisspeace, Julián worked as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the Universidad Externado de Colombia and as an Associate at the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT) in Spain. Before that, Julián worked at the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia, where he participated in the negotiations with the FARC and the ELN. He was also an advisor to the Minister of the Interior of Colombia. Julián is a graduate of Economics from Universidad Externado de Colombia and holds a PhD in Political Science from Boston University.



Ahmed Eleiba

Ahmed Eleiba is a senior program officer at the mediation team of swisspeace where he coordinates the different engagements on social media and peace mediation. Ahmed helped co-found the CyberMediation Initiative in 2018; an effort led by UN DPPA to bridge the gap between mediators and digital technologies. He conducted focus group interviews with UN mediators in different contexts on the use of social media on their work, wrote – for swisspeace – on the topic of social media and mediation jointly with the UN Mediation Support Unit, was part of the research team of the Mediating Machines project, as well as part of the Berghof Foundation's advisory board on Digitalisation and National Dialogues.



Joane Holliger

Joane Holliger works as Senior Program Officer in the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich. She works within the Mediation Support Project (MSP), which is a joint project between CSS and swisspeace, supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). She supports various on-going peace processes and peace efforts in the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and Colombia.

Prior to joining the CSS, Joane worked as Human Security Advisor in South Sudan (2018-2021) for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, where she supported South Sudan's peace process and its implementation. From 2012 to 2018, she worked as a protection delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Syria and Uganda.

Joane is an alumni of the MAS ETH MPP (Masters of Advanced Studies in Mediation in Peace Processes) and holds a Master's Degree in Communications of the University of Leicester (UK).



Pascal Holliger

Pascal Holliger is currently a Senior Mediation Adviser at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, based in Bern. In 2001 he co-founded an NGO called IMBEWU, through which he worked in the field of youth education and development through sport, mostly in Southern Africa. In 2011 he joined the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and has - inter alia - served as Senior Political Adviser at the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria (incl. ECOWAS) and in Zimbabwe. In both instances, he led Switzerland's political and peace policy engagements. His areas of focus have included peace mediation, political dialogue, elections, national healing and reconciliation, security sector governance and human rights. In Nigeria, he initiated and coordinated Switzerland's mandate to facilitate dialogue between the Federal Government and organized armed groups in the Lake Chad Basin region, and led the conceptualization of the National Peace Committee. Mr. Holliger is also a member of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA). He holds a Masters degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.



Dr. Stephan Husy

Stephan Husy, a trained lawyer, has worked for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs since 1987 and covers a wide range of development, humanitarian, peace-building and international law issues. In the 1990s he worked for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, managing programs to support countries of Central Europe and the former Soviet Union in their transition efforts. In 2000 he moved to the Political Directorate and was responsible for Swiss human rights policy before leading peacebuilding activities in different parts of the world. In 2007, he was

Commissioner and Secretary General of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in November 2007. From 2008 to 2013 he was Director of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). In 2014 he was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for International Counter-Terrorism, coordinating Swiss foreign policy on countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism. Since autumn 2022, he is senior adviser at the Peace and Human Rights Division.



Philipp Lustenberger

Philipp Lustenberger currently serves as the Swiss Envoy for the Peace Process in Colombia at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). He is on special leave of absence from his post as Co-Head of the swisspeace Mediation program. He focuses on negotiation and mediation process design, strategic dialogue, multitrack approaches to peace process and inclusivity/participation in peace negotiations. He holds a Master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and a License degree from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

Between 2014 and 2018, Philipp was Senior Advisor for the Colombian Peace Process at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bogota (Colombia), accompanying the peace talks and supporting peacebuilding activities. Previously, he worked at the Mediation Support Unit of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in New York, where he was involved in drafting the UN Guidance for Effective Mediation and providing technical support for mediation and negotiation processes in Africa and Latin America. He has supported peace processes in Cameroon, Colombia, Guyana-Venezuela, Mali, Nicaragua, Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. He also worked on humanitarian projects in Guatemala and India. Philipp is a trained mediator and has published on mediation, ripeness theory and inclusivity.



Simon Mason

Simon J. A. Mason is a senior researcher and head of the [Mediation Support Team](#) at the Center for Security Studies (CSS). He has been working in the Mediation Support Project (MSP, a joint project between the CSS and swisspeace, supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs [FDFA]) since 2005 and in the Culture and Religion in Mediation project CARIM, supported by the Swiss FDFA) since 2011.

He holds a doctorate in environmental science from ETH Zurich and is a trained mediator, accredited by the Swiss Mediation Association SDM. He has been involved as a trainer and facilitator in workshops on conflict analysis, dialogue, negotiation, and mediation with actors from conflict contexts around the world, including from Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Libya, North Korea, Palestine, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. He has also been involved in mediation training for various

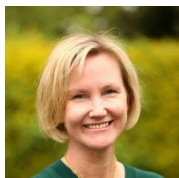
policy related and academic institutions (e.g. UN, OSCE, IGAD, and EU). He co-organizes the Peace Mediation Course of the FDFA, and is a trainer in the annual UN Ceasefire Mediation Course (organized with the UN, FDFA and the Norwegian MOD and MFA) and the Religion and Mediation Course (with the FDFA and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers). He is senior advisor in the [Master of Advanced Studies ETH Mediation in Peace Processes](http://www.mas-mediation.ethz.ch) (www.mas-mediation.ethz.ch). Furthermore, he is a member of the UN and OSCE mediation rosters.

His main research interests lie in the use of mediation in peace processes, the use of mediation in conflicts where religious and cultural issues play a role, the mediation of security arrangements, and the nexus between environment, natural resources and conflict.



Belinda Ncube

Belinda Ncube is a peace builder and mediator, who has extensive experience working in complex conflict areas. She works for the Zimbabwe Institute, an organisation that facilitates interparty dialogue among Zimbabwe's political actors towards nation building. She has provided mediation support in conflicts related to gender-based violence, elections, land disputes, and ethnic tensions, working from the community level to the highest political leadership. Belinda is a skilled trainer who has facilitated conflict resolution trainings in Zimbabwe and other African countries. Belinda shares a deep understanding of the impact of conflict on communities and is committed to working for peace.



Meredith Preston McGhie

Meredith Preston McGhie acts as Secretary General to the Global Centre for Pluralism.

Prior to that, she served as Africa Regional Director for HD, where she has facilitated several discreet engagements in the region, and managed a range of mediation processes. Her focus lay on several thematic areas including violent extremism, elections, inclusion of different actors and political transitions.

While with HD, Meredith has acted as an advisor to Kofi Annan as part of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation process, and to the UN during the Djibouti process for Somalia. Prior to joining HD, Meredith held several positions with the UN in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Kosovo and Iraq in post conflict reconstruction and DDR. As part of this work, she placed particular emphasis on addressing gender issues, the inclusion of women and the needs of disabled soldiers. At the start of her career, she worked with the Naga in northeast India and with ethnic minorities in Myanmar supporting dialogue around the conflicts in those areas. Meredith has a background in history from the University of British Columbia and a Master's degree in Conflict Studies.



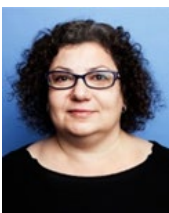
Matthias Siegfried

Matthias Siegfried is serving as a Senior Mediation Advisor with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) at the Peace and Human Rights Division. Before joining the Swiss FDFA in October 2015, he has worked for swisspeace for ten years (as the Head of the Mediation Program) and for UNDPPA in New York (at the Mediation Support Unit MSU). He has also been the Mediation Advisor to a Personal Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations for five years until 2015. Matthias has previously worked for the Swiss government and various humanitarian NGOs in conflict regions (mainly in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia). He is a sociologist by education and holds an Executive MBA in Non-Profit Management.



Georg Stein

Supporting negotiation and mediation processes in a number of contexts, he specializes in ceasefires and security arrangements in particular. Georg Stein worked between 2013 and 2021 as senior mediation advisor at the mediation unit of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), unit he rejoined in June 2023. From 2021 to 2023 he served as the Swiss FDFA's Senior Peace and Political Affairs Advisor in Juba, South Sudan. Until 2013 he was posted as Human Security Advisor to the Swiss Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Previously, he worked for the FDFA in the fields of humanitarian and peace policy. He is alumni of the MAS ETH MPP and holds a master's degree in international relations of the University Geneva (UNIGE) / Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEIGE).



Marie-Joëlle Zahar

Marie-Joëlle Zahar is Professor of Political Science, Director of the Research Network on Peace Operations and Fellow at the Centre for International Research and Studies at the Université de Montréal. She is a Senior Adviser on Power Sharing and Process Design on the Standby Team of Mediation Experts at the UNDPPA. She previously served in the same position from March 2013 until August 2015. In 2017, she was a senior expert in the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations for Syria.

A graduate of McGill University, Marie-Joëlle researches the dynamics of civil war and the politics of conflict-resolution with a particular interest in non-state armed actors and in the inclusion of women and civil society in peace processes. A non-resident Senior Fellow with the International Peace Institute (New York) and a Fellow of the Pierre-Elliott Trudeau Foundation, she has held a number of visiting appointments, including at the University of Tampere (Finland), the Université Lyon II (France), the Institut d'études politiques de Lyon (France), and Stanford's Center for International Security and cooperation (USA).



Teresa Whitfield

Teresa Whitfield is an independent consultant; Issue Editor, *Accord 30*, *Still time to talk: adaptation and innovation in peace mediation* (London: Conciliation Resources, 2024), and a Senior Adviser to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. From 2016 – 2022 she was Director of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs' (DPPA) Policy and Mediation Division. After an early career as a journalist, she spent five years at the UN in the 1990s, working on Central American peace processes and other issues. She has been a fellow of NYU's Center on International Cooperation; Director of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum; taught at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs; and Senior Adviser to the President of the International Crisis Group. She provided support to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the peace process between the government of Colombia and the FARC and has published widely on peace and conflict issues, including books on the 1989 assassination of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador and its implications for efforts towards peace; UN peacemaking and groups of Friends; and the slow process towards the end of the violent Basque separatist group ETA.



Emanuel Schäublin

Emanuel Schäublin is an anthropologist and senior program officer in the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies (ETH-Zurich). In the framework of the Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM) program, he advises the UN, the EU, and other mediation actors on how religion and worldviews shape political action in conflict and on designing and implementing dialogue processes involving parties with different worldviews. He convenes trainings, facilitates conversations, and manages research projects with a focus on non-state governance, research ethics, locally grounded knowledge production in conflict zones, and thinking across different social and political orders. Emanuel holds an MA in Arabic from the University of Geneva and a DPhil in Anthropology from the University of Oxford. He has conducted long-term fieldwork in Arabic and published award-winning research on ethics, surveillance, mutual aid, and ethnographic methods under political repression. His monograph *Divine Money: Islam, Zakat, and Giving in Palestine* was published in 2023 at Indiana University Press. He has also contributed to film productions as political/ethnographic advisor and writer.