



2019-2020 Annual Report



Who We Are

AC4 has worked for 11 years to foster sustainable peace through innovation and integration. We were born out of the idea that creating sustainable peace and fostering constructive conflict resolution requires the expertise of many disciplines and areas of practice and the merging of top-down policy approaches with the bottom-up knowledge generated through the lived experiences of communities and practitioners. We focus on supporting the peace and conflict community at Columbia University and leading interdisciplinary research on sustainable peace, constructive conflict engagement, and sustainable development. In service of these goals, we lead four signature projects and engage the Columbia community by leading a university-

wide consortium. Our signature projects are: Complexity, Peace & Sustainability; Environment, Peace & Sustainability; Youth, Peace & Security; and Women, Peace & Security. These projects create focal areas for research, educational, and practice-oriented collaborations across the Earth Institute, Columbia University, and with many academic, government, and civil society organizations around the world. Over this last year, we expanded research and fellowship partnerships within our signature projects, continued to support the innovative research of graduate students and professionals in the fields of conflict, peace, and sustainability, and continued to feature the important innovations in these fields through our communications platforms.

<p>AC4 LEADERSHIP</p>	<p>Rachel Kirk Program Manager, Communications & Fellowships</p>	<p>Meredith Forsyth Program Coordinator, Women, Peace & Security Program</p>	<p>Joan Lopez Program Manager, Youth, Peace & Security Program</p>	<p>Peace & Sustainability Program</p>
<p>Joshua Fisher AC4 Director</p>				<p>Poonam Arora Adjunct Research Scholar, Environment, Peace & Sustainability Program</p>
<p>Peter T. Coleman & Beth Fisher-Yoshida Executive Directors</p>	<p>Leymah Gbowee Executive Director, Women, Peace & Security Program</p>	<p>Allegra Chen-Carrell Program Manager, Sustaining Peace Project</p>	<p>Aldo Civico Adjunct Associate Research Scholar, Youth, Peace & Security Program</p>	
<p>AC4 TEAM</p>	<p>Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland Program Director, Women, Peace & Security Program</p>	<p>Larry Liebovitch Adjunct Research Scholar, Sustaining Peace Project</p>	<p>Sophia Rhee Research Staff Associate, Environment,</p>	<p>Miren Onaindia Visiting Scholar, Agirre Lehendekaria Visiting Scholars Program</p>
<p>Azin Aliabadi Associate Director</p>				

At A Glance



This year, AC4 continued to build upon its research, supported students and young professionals through fellowships and paid internships, nurtured former partnerships and developed new partnerships, and expanded its reach on its communication platforms. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the spring of 2020, AC4 shifted to a fully remote workspace. This entailed connecting more with research partners remotely and putting more emphasis on virtual engagement. While the COVID-19 pandemic presented particular challenges and caused us to postpone several events, including our annual Sustaining Peace Forum, AC4 was still able to use virtual spaces to connect with partners and students and to foster community in this difficult period. In the coming year, AC4 intends to expand upon this engagement through more virtual events and digital academic platforms, while also building new partnerships within the Columbia University community, the larger New York City community and abroad.

Remote workspace
due to COVID-19

21 conference presentations
and seminars given by staff

27 new and ongoing
partnerships

50 sponsored
students

12 blogs, interviews,
and podcasts with

9,507 unique
views

Supporting Students and Young Professionals

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

We provide support to select graduate students who are doing innovative, interdisciplinary research and practice to address current social or environmental challenges, and to gain professional association within the peace and conflict field. The fellows engage with some of our world's most pressing issues and often marginalized populations. The support received from the fellowship is often a stepping stone for further professional and research opportunities on their projects. Students are able to share their research and internship work through blogs, academic journals, conference presentations, and more.

The 2019 cohort of Fellows conducted research on topics from indigenous knowledge systems in the education system in Oaxaca, Mexico to Chilean feminist movements, to human rights fact-finding in Kashmir and Pakistan. Fellows also conducted internships on youth unemployment in Amman, Jordan and women, peace, and security in Timor-Leste, and more.

“ I hope my research was able to capture and showcase the resilience of the WWII forced labor survivors and bereaved families and illustrate the importance of the current forced labor redress movement in Beijing and South Korea to advance human rights, corporate accountability, sustainable peace and reconciliation. Thank you AC4 for providing me with the opportunity to learn and grow as a peacebuilding practitioner and researcher, while further understanding the complex dynamic between corporate accountability, historical justice and sustainable peace.” —**Juana Lee**



Supporting Students and Young Professionals

2018-2019 GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

Daniela Romero-Amaya

Teachers College, Ph.D. candidate in Social Studies Education

Students' civic identities, attitudes, and decisions amidst the current peace process in Colombia

Daniella Gómez Bonilla

School of International and Public Affairs, MPA, Urban and Social Policy, specializing in Gender & Public Policy

Women, Peace and Security Project at Belun NGO in Timor-Leste

Darren Rabinowitz

Teachers College, MA, International Educational Development

Community based organizations for the arts for belonging within orphaned and vulnerable children in Rwanda

Emma DiNapoli

Columbia Law School

Human rights activists and researchers' incorporation of

trauma-informed strategies in human rights fact-finding activities in Kashmir and Palestine

Fatène Ben-Hamza

School of International & Public Affairs

Youth unemployment, exclusion, and the design of public policies to increase youth participation in the labor force in Amman, Jordan

Jihae Cha

Teachers College, Ed. D. International Educational Development

Schooling experiences and factors that contribute to school persistence and dropout among refugee children and youth in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya

Juana Lee

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, MA in Human Rights Studies

Analysis of mechanisms that influenced Japanese corporate

accountability for wartime forced labour during World War II

Madalina Ciocanu

Teachers College, MA, International Education Development

Alternative forms of education informed by indigenous knowledge system in the autonomous secondary education of ten indigenous communities in Oaxaca, Mexico

Paula Mantilla Blanco

Teachers College, Ph.D. student in International and Comparative Education

Peace education and the the potential role of memory sites in helping students empathize with alternative narratives of the armed conflict in Colombia

Valentina Errazuriz-Besa

Teachers College, PhD in Teaching Social Studies

the convergence between the



Project Dhvani was developed by AC4 Fellows Vijay Ramesh, Pooja Choksi, Sarika Khanwilkar, used non-invasive audio recorders across a landscape of remarkable stronghold of biodiversity in India: the dry tropical forests of central India. ■

recent Chilean feminist movement led by students and the apparent citizenship education crisis, particularly among young women

Vijay Ramesh, Pooja Choksi, Sarika Khanwilkar

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, PhD Candidates in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (E3B)

Project Dhvani, the use non-invasive audio recorders across a landscape of the dry tropical forests of central India to understand how biodiversity varies across human-dominated land cover types in central India using sounds.



Madalina Ciocanu conducted research on indigenous knowledge systems in Oaxaca, Mexico. ■

Supporting Students and Young Professionals

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (IACM)

AC4 is committed to providing professional development opportunities to peace practitioners by sending graduate students to conferences. This year's cohort of sponsored conference attendees included 7 graduate students who presented their research at the July 2019 IACM conference in Dublin, Ireland. Grantees presented on a range of topics in organizational leadership and conflict management, from organizational communication, nepotism, language choice and stigmatization, and more.

Sooyun Baik

London Business School,
Organisational Behavior

“ I really enjoyed seeing some of the field studies and qualitative work around conflict. I saw for instance, a talk about how and why women’s career trajectories differ in the workplace and the ways in which that may be contributing to the wage gap -- a very different perspective on the ‘women don’t ask’ conversation.”

—Andrea Freund

Andrea Freund

Stanford University,
Graduate School of Business

Elisabeth Mah

Teachers College,
Columbia University, Social
Organizational Psychology

Jieun Pai

UCLA Anderson School of
Management, Management
& Organizations

Teodora Tomova Shakur

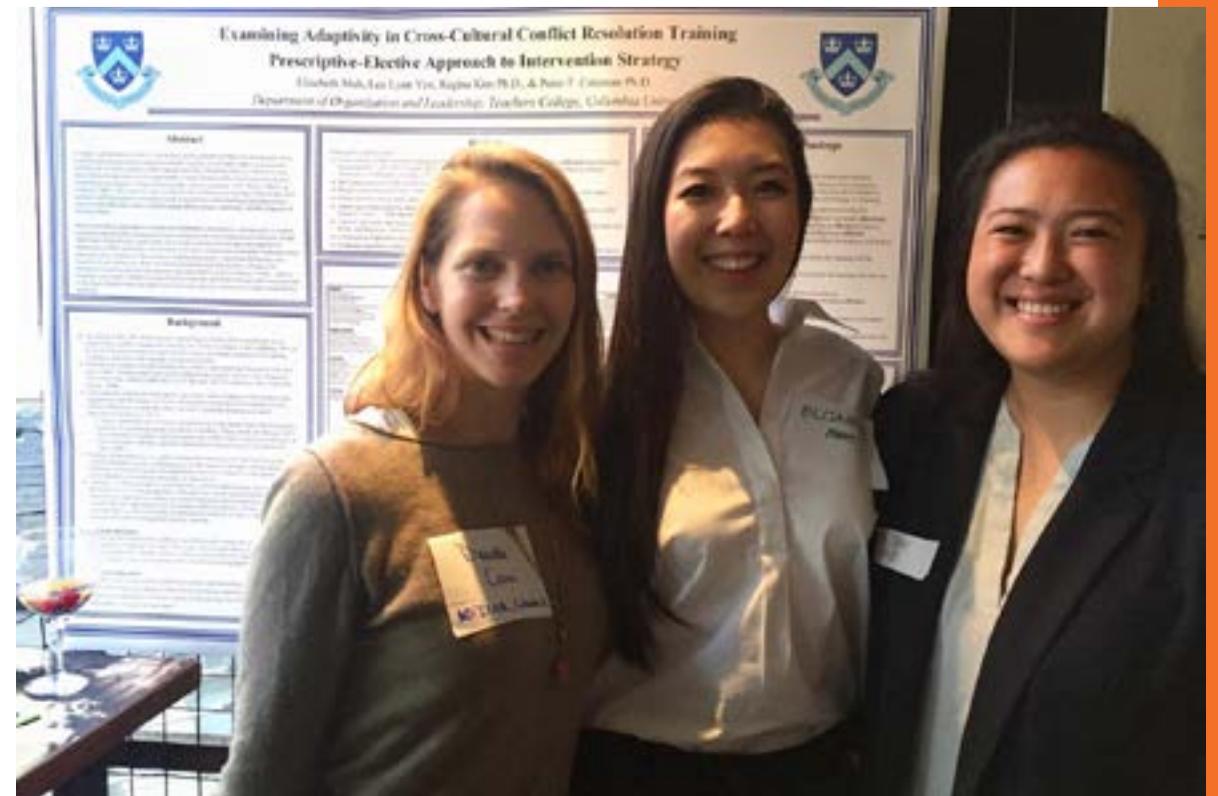
New York University, Stern
School of Business

Esther Uduehi

The Wharton School,
University of Pennsylvania

Lea Lynn Yen

Teachers College,
Columbia University



“ After the IACM conference, I will take back with me the rigorous research that I was introduced to, the many friendships I created, and the inspiration to keep doing good work.” —Teodora Tomova Shakur

Supporting Students and Young Professionals

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

AC4 has significantly increased the number of paid student internships offered to students over the last academic year. Through these internships, students are able to get hands-on academic and professional experience in quantitative and qualitative research and communications. Student interns have contributed to a range of projects including statistical work on the environment, peace, and sustainability pillars, data science research for a peace lexicon, providing research support to grassroots women's activist organizations, managing AC4's communications platforms, podcasts, and social media, and more. AC4's student interns have been critical in allowing research and communications outputs at the center to continue to grow. AC4 student interns from the last year include:

Thuy Hang (Angie) Tran (Communications)
 Mariana Casellato (Communications)
 Moh Moh Hlaing (Finance and Administration)
 Yuxiu He (Sustaining Peace Project)
 Qiqi Mei (Sustaining Peace Project)
 Manas Amish Dresswala (Sustaining Peace Project)
 Megala Sundar Kannan (Sustaining Peace Project)
 Siqi Chen (Environment, Peace, and Sustainability)
 Emma Venarde (Environment, Peace, and Sustainability)
 Jessica Engebretson (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Lilah Greenberg (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Udodilim Nnamdi (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Sivanthy Vasanthan (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Hannah Butler (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Varnica Arora (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Loren Cahill (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Angeline Lee (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Asha Jyothi (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Catherine Brown (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Kayla Kingston (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Nwakego Nwasike (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Samantha Happ (Women, Peace, and Security)

“My academic focus at Columbia is strongly related to my work at AC4, which provided me the perfect opportunity to apply what I've learned in class to an actual project and reciprocally to learn from doing it... Being part of the team that takes on this challenging and yet exciting task has been a truly rewarding experience for me. I also appreciate Josh and Allegra so much for the collaborative and supportive environment they've built for the team.” **—Qiqi Mei, Sustaining Peace Project Intern**

Pearlyn Neo (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Katia Henrys (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Sedef Ozoguz (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Whitney Okujagu (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Dante Violette (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Laura Oluchi Anuakpado (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Karla Koguchi (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Leana Cabral (Women, Peace, and Security)
 Aireankhue Omoragbon (Women, Peace, and Security)

Growing Digital Engagement



Nina A. Padilla/Vignette Portrait Photography; Thuy Hang (Angie) Tran conducted an interview with Ceiba — a musician, activist, and teacher, on the importance of listening to and learning from indigenous peoples, for the Earth Institute’s State of the Planet. ■

Through original content highlighting the peacebuilding work of AC4 and the Columbia University community, as well as e-mail newsletters promoting peacebuilding events around Columbia University and New York City broadly, AC4 is a critical hub for engagement with these topics. AC4 affiliates, including fellows and visiting scholars, have been profiled in our interview series and in our podcast, “Conversations from the Leading Edge”. This year, we engaged with topics ranging structural violence and peace education in Trinidad and Tobago to religious third parties on international conflict.

We have also contributed to the Earth Institute’s “State of the Planet” blog through sharing the work of our signature projects, as well as highlighting important perspectives of sustainability work. Blog topics have included reflections on the Sustaining Peace Project’s ground-truthing work in Mauritius, how grassroots activist women in Africa are supporting their communities amidst COVID-19, the legacies of colonialism in the Francophone Caribbean, indigenous environmental activism, and more. Over the last year, the ten blogs that we shared on the “State of the Planet” site have received a total of 9,088 unique views.

Through our digital platforms, including the online database AC4 Link and social media, we help students and the diverse members of our network learn from each other’s unique experiences and perspectives. We continue to increase our social media presence and reach through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Soundcloud, and LinkedIn to serve as a digital hub for new resources, events, and information in the fields of peace, conflict, and sustainability. This has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked to foster more virtual spaces of engagement for students and professionals to remain connected to these fields amidst these difficult circumstances. In the coming year, we intend to develop more partnerships around Columbia university for virtual events and workshops and will leverage these platforms for more academic and professional engagement.

Sustaining Peace Project



INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO SUSTAINING PEACE

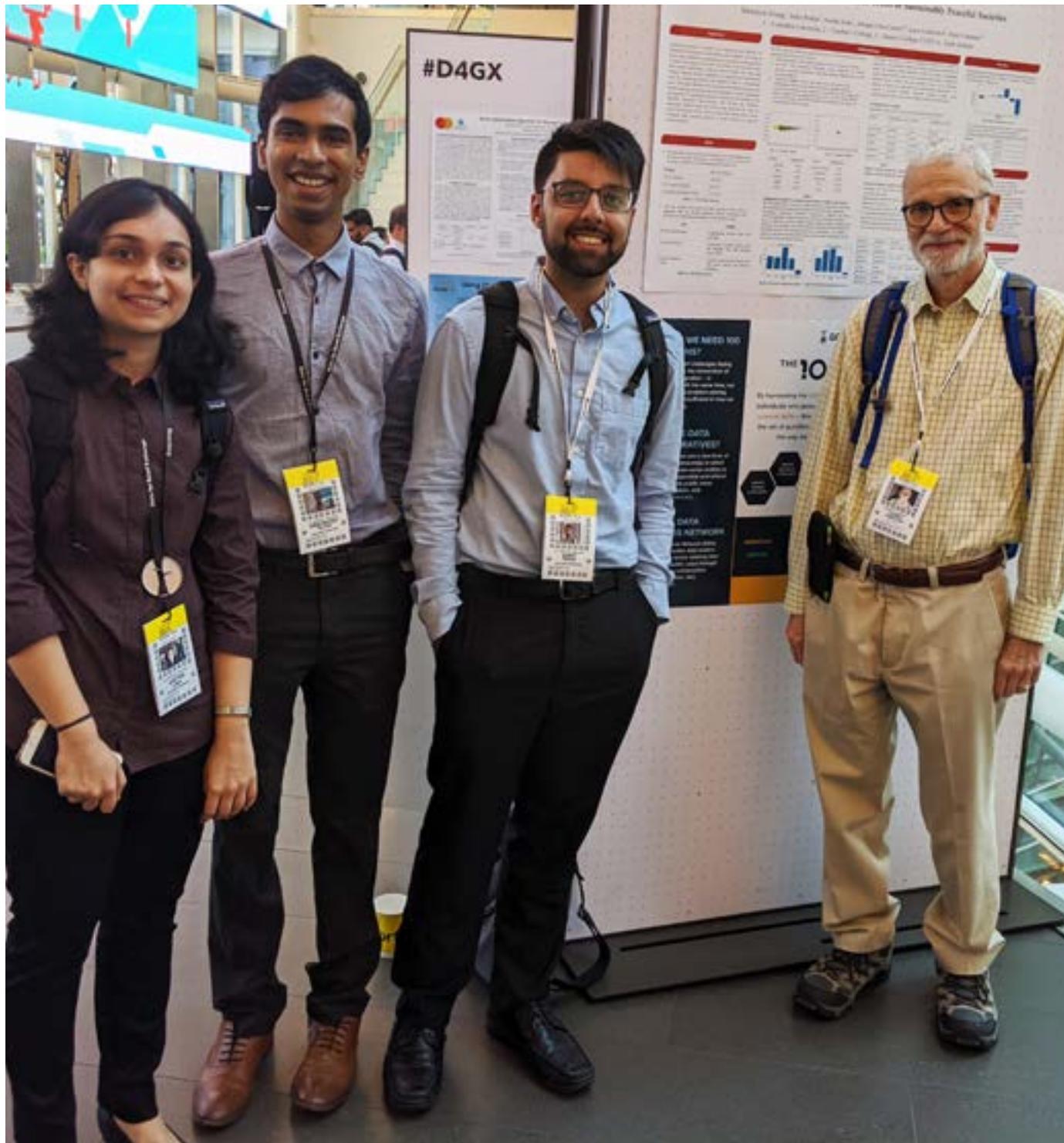
The Sustaining Peace Project (SPP) brings an eclectic team of scientists together to better understand the core dynamics sustaining peaceful societies, an area that has been rarely studied by scholars or viewed too narrowly through disciplinary or sectorial lenses. The project was launched in 2014 as a transdisciplinary, science-practice-policy initiative focused on providing a holistic, evidence-based understanding of how peace can be sustained in societies. The project takes a mixed-methods approach employing archival, expert survey, data science, community participatory and ethnographic case study research, and mathematical modeling, to develop a basic model of the core dynamics sustaining peaceful societies.

This year, the Sustaining Peace Project made very exciting progress on its research initiatives and data collection. In collaboration with the University of Mauritius, the Sustaining Peace project worked with a local team of researchers led by Dr. Naseem Aumeerally to conduct field research on peace in Mauritius, a multicultural island nation which has maintained peace for decades. Through focus groups and interviews with experts, we surfaced key drivers of peace, as well as challenges and sources of resilience to help meet these challenges. This work is currently being drafted into publications to share with local stakeholders and the academic community, and will continue through a country-level survey.

The Sustaining Peace Project's Data Science team has also come together to apply emerging techniques from data science and natural language processing (NLP) to the study of highly peaceful societies in order to better understand the vital role language plays in promoting and sustaining peace. Our initial work in this area resulted in the development of a preliminary version of the sustainable peace lexicon, an expert-curated and data-science enhanced corpus of terms that are commonly spoken in more peaceful societies. This was then translated into several languages in partnership with BBC Monitoring.



Members of the University of Mauritius project team participating in a workshop around key drivers of peace in Mauritius. ■



Sustaining Peace Project

In the summer of 2020, we also launched the Sustaining Peace Project website (sustainingpeaceproject.com). This website offers users an opportunity to interact with cutting-edge interactive tools, and explore visualizations related to peace and conflict. It reflects the work of our interdisciplinary team of researchers who have spent the past several years using methods from complexity science to visualize the dynamics of sustaining peaceful societies, and developing innovative ways to make this perspective accessible and useful for a broad audience. At a time when the 2020 Global Peace Report from the Institute of Economics and Peace has found that violence today costs the world over \$14 trillion annually and adversely affects millions of families, we are excited to have this science-based and accessible resource on how to sustain peace in societies.

EXPANDING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH GOALS

Over the last year, the Sustaining Peace Project contributed to the field through publications, conferences, and events both nationally and internationally. The Sustaining Peace Project team had the opportunity to present different

Three graduate students, Hrishikesh Telang, Ankit Peshin, and Aastha Joshi, presented at Bloomberg's 2019 Data for Good Exchange. Over the course of the year, they participated in a Sustaining Peace Data Science workgroup with AC4's Dr. Peter Coleman and Dr. Larry Liebovitch, and developed ways to use Natural Language Processing to analyze traits of peaceful societies. ■

Sustaining Peace Project

components of the project to an audience of academics and practitioners at the International Association of Conflict Management (IACM) in Dublin, Ireland in July 2019. Additionally, in the Fall of 2019, the Sustaining Peace Project team presented their multidisciplinary project geared towards better specifying and understanding what it takes to live in peace at the Building Sustainable Peace Conference hosted by the KROC Institute at the University of Notre Dame. At the 2019 Data for Good Exchange hosted by Bloomberg, research assistants from the Sustaining Peace Project's Data Science team presented a project they developed in a workgroup led by Dr. Peter Coleman and Dr. Larry Liebovitch where they showcased ways to use Natural Language Processing to analyze traits of peaceful societies. The Sustaining Peace Project also shared many publications on its research over the last year, including "Complexity analysis of sustainable peace: mathematical models and data science measurements" in the *New Journal of Physics*, "Taking complex systems seriously: Visualizing and modeling the dynamics of sustainable peace" in *Global Policy*, and "Approaches to



This screenshot from the Sustaining Peace Project website showcases the work of anthropologist Douglas Fry who has long studied peaceful societies around the world. ■

Understanding Sustainable Peace: Qualitative Causal Loop Diagrams and Quantitative Mathematical Models" in *American Behavioral Scientists*. Additionally, Allegra Chen-Carrel shared the Sustaining Peace Project work in the Earth Institute's "State of the Planet" blog through the pieces "Researchers Study how Mauritius Achieves and Sustains Peace" and "New Website Maps and Models the Science of Peace".

Additionally, student interns from Columbia University have played an important

role in advancing the research of the Sustaining Peace Project. Throughout the year, several student interns have conducted research on a metrics project where they reviewed existing data around peace and intergroup relations, and used this data to test whether the Sustaining Peace model holds up to empirical scrutiny. Results from this project have been submitted for publication, and are currently under review. Student interns for the Sustaining Peace Project's data science initiative have also worked to further develop and enhance the current iteration of the peace lexicon, an expert-curated and data-science enhanced corpus of terms that

Sustaining Peace Project

are commonly spoken in more peaceful societies. These student interns have gained practical and important academic research skills from their time with the Sustaining Peace Project while contributing important perspectives and helping to advance the research.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Sustaining Peace Project is excited to build upon its work in the year ahead. The team has been involved enhancing and validating the Sustaining Peace lexicon, and is excited to build upon the new partnership with BBC Monitoring. We hope to develop more partnerships in order to further develop this lexicon and develop methods to use this as a meaningful metric for peaceful societies. Additionally, after piloting a ground-truthing methodology in Mauritius to validate and refine our theoretical model of sustainable peace, we hope to continue this process by developing and distributing a survey that measures key metrics

critical to achieving and maintaining peace. As the Sustaining Peace project progresses, sharing findings with the larger peace and conflict community to impact policy is a

“ To help bridge the gap between academic understandings and current peace policy, the team intends to develop policy briefs, strengthen relationships with policymakers and practitioners, and find effective ways to translate current academic understandings of peace research into policy-relevant tools.”

priority. To help bridge the gap between academic understandings and current peace policy, the team intends to develop policy briefs, strengthen relationships with policymakers and practitioners, and find effective ways to translate current academic understandings of peace research into policy-relevant tools.

PARTNERS

Larry Liebovitch, Queens College, CUNY, Research collaboration
 Douglas Fry, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Research collaboration
 Genevieve Souillac, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Research collaboration
 Naseem Aumerally, University of Mauritius, Research collaboration
 Philippe Loustaunau, Research collaboration
 Tatiana Benavides, Research collaboration
 Estado de la Nacion, Research collaboration
 Mariska Kappemeir, University of Otago, Research collaboration
 LexisNexis, Elsevier, Research collaboration
 BBC Monitoring, Research collaboration
 Data Science Institute, Columbia University
 Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, Columbia University
 ShiftN, website collaboration

Environment, Peace, and Sustainability



Dr. Josh Fisher presented research on collaborative governance and integrated sustainability for the Hiroshima Dialogue Forum in Hiroshima, Japan, which marked the beginning of the Nexus of Environmental Research, Peace and Sustainability. ■



EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

Throughout this year, the Environment, Peace, and Sustainability (EPS) Program has continued to learn and refine how collaborative governance can contribute to conflict prevention and sustainable natural resource governance. This was through preliminary results seen around Tambopata National Reserve, Peru, as well as through more theoretical explorations on collaborative and sustainable societies.

Environment, Peace, and Sustainability

This year, EPS has partnered with Dr. Poonam Arora, an AC4 Adjunct Scholar, and Siqi Chen, a graduate student intern to quantitatively explore how environment, peace, and sustainability pillars are integrated (publication under review). Emma Venarde, a high school student from New York, also joined the EPS team during the summers of 2019 and 2020 as a student intern and provides support with research and communications.

In July 2019, Dr. Josh Fisher led a field course on environmental sustainability in the Middle East. Through this course, students from Columbia University and Tel Aviv University traveled to Jordan and Israel to learn about how the two countries are cooperating on environmental issues and managing shared natural resources. The course on regional environmental sustainability in the Middle East was developed through collaboration between Columbia University's Earth Institute, the School of Professional Studies, the Columbia University Global Center in Amman and the Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University. In December of 2019, Dr. Josh Fisher presented research from his work and this course on conflict management and water in the Middle East at one of the Columbia University 10th Anniversary of the Global Centers events, "Combating Climate Change: Regional Responses to Global Challenges".

Additionally, we conducted evaluation research on UNDP's country-support platforms (CSP) in partnership with the Agirre Lehendakaria Center (ALC). The lessons from the case studies in CSP early adopted countries will inform UNDP to better encourage both positive changes and awareness of the challenges associated with systemic approaches to sustainable development. These platforms have allowed UNDP to work to respond to the specific needs and priorities of each country to make the SDGs relevant and attainable in different contexts. The evaluation research conducted by AC4 and the ALC will allow the UNDP to do this even more effectively. This research expands how we understand collaborative governance, as critical not only for natural resource governance, but larger architectures of social change and sustainable development.

We have also continued our visiting scholar partnership with the ALC in the Basque Country and this year, the program hosted Professor Miren Onaindia as the Basque Visiting Scholar for 2019-2020. She is a Professor of Ecology at the University of the Basque Country/Euskal



Students in Jordan on the course Regional Environmental Sustainability in the Middle East (2019). ■

Environment, Peace, and Sustainability



EPS' newest Staff Associate, Sophia Rhee, joined AC4 to contribute to the research program with interests in political ecology and environmental peacebuilding. ■

Herriko Unibertsitatea (UPV/EHU) and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development and Environmental Education. During her time at AC4, Professor Onaindia partnered with AC4 Director Joshua Fisher to co-author a scientific article on the impacts of urbanization for biodiversity. That article is in press in the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, published by Springer. We were also excited to welcome Sophia Rhee back this year as a research associate after a successful year pursuing her MSc in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford. During her studies, she focused on land conflict, rights, and statebuilding in Tanzania, as well as extractive industry governance. Sophia is continuing to build upon her thesis research in the EPS program.

The EPS program has also started a new partnership at the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) at Hiroshima University in Japan. Dr. Josh Fisher participated in the 1st NERPS Research Seminar where he made the case for integrated sustainability and deeper collaboration in managing environmental conflict and achieving the Sustainable Development goals based on his multi-year fieldwork in Papua New Guinea. We are excited to build upon this partnership with NERPS at Hiroshima University in the coming years.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH GOALS

Over the last year, we have contributed to the field of environmental peacebuilding through both national and international conference presentations, as well as through publications. In August 2019, the EPS team and partners from the Amazon Conservation Association presented “Introducing the Strategic Buffer Zone Plan: A tool to strengthen forest conservation through enhanced buffer zone management” based on tools developed jointly, at the Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research and Engagement (FLARE) annual conference in Ann Arbor Michigan. Dr. Josh Fisher also presented “Collaborative conservation and indigenous natural resource management: Lessons from a conflict-sensitive capacity building intervention in the Amazon” at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In August 2019, Dr. Josh Fisher presented research on collaborative governance and integrated sustainability for the Hiroshima Dialogue Forum in Hiroshima, Japan, which marked the beginning of the Nexus of Environmental Research, Peace and Sustainability. In October 2019, Dr. Josh Fisher presented “Climate vs. conflict vs. climate: Understanding complex feedback loops to strengthen humanitarian action in Colombia” at the First International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding which took place at the University of California, Irvine. In December 2019, Brendan Moran presented a research poster, “Revealing Paleogroundwater and interbasin flow as fundamental to water and mineral resource sustainability on the arid Altiplano-Puna Plateau” at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting which

Environment, Peace, and Sustainability

took place in San Francisco, California. These findings were from EPS research on hydro-geo-chemical analysis of water resources in the Puna and Altiplano in Argentina. In March 2020, Dr. Alison Heslin, a Postdoc at the Earth Institute, and Dr. Josh Fisher, presented work on climate change and conflict prevention in development and disaster response planning at an expert roundtable for United Nations University and UKAID in New York. In June 2020, Sophia Rhee presented “Hidden extraction at Urban Frontiers: The Green Plan” in which she discussed modified results of her dissertation work focusing on the political ecology of peri-urban land development in Arusha, Tanzania at the “Extraction: Tracing the Veins” conference based in Massey University, New Zealand and Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

This year we contributed several publications to the field. These include “Revealing Paleo-Groundwater and Interbasin Flow as Fundamental to Water and Mineral Resource Sustainability on the Arid Altiplano-Puna Plateau” in The Earth and Space Science Open Archive (ESSOA), Collaborative Governance and Conflict Management: Lessons Learned and Good Practices from a Case Study in the Amazon Basin in the journal *Society and Natural Resources*, as well as the forthcoming Springer publication *Urban Growth and Biodiversity Conservation* in the Encyclopedia of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals: Life on Land.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming year, the EPS program intends to continue to develop the program based on lessons learned and changing models and theories. Additionally, we intend to more intentionally incorporate the principles of anti-racism and anti-colonialism in the environmental peacebuilding field through our research and practice. Lastly, we will prioritize diversifying our networks and the types of organizations with whom we engage. This will include continuing and expanding networks with NERPS, as well as working more with local organizations in New York City and elsewhere.

PARTNERS

Agirre Lehendakaria Center,
Visiting Scholar Program and
Research Collaboration
Network for Education and
Research on Peace and
Sustainability, University
of Hiroshima, Research
Collaboration

Amazon Conservation Association,
Research Collaboration

Youth, Peace, and Security



The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) program is designed to identify linkages between social conflicts and violence and then develop constructive ways to respond. One of the basic principles of YPS is to learn from what is being done effectively in the field and we are capturing and learning from the peaceful responses by youth to the phenomena of conflict and violence in their communities. We then take this learning and enhance it with other learning from the field and the academy and disseminate these best practices among youth leaders. In its fifth year of work, the YPS program has continued to use the guiding principle that *strategic community building is peacebuilding* through various forms of engagement with youth-led collectives. Throughout the years of work in the field and mutual learning with youth community leaders that have historically responded peacefully to violent conflicts, we have co-created our own variation of praxis for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

NURTURING FORMER AND BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA

This past year, the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) program has celebrated important milestones in its long-standing partnerships with youth leaders in Medellin, Colombia, while also developing new partnerships and projects. In the Fall of 2019, we began a new research project called “Discursive Practices About Human Security” in partnership with *Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana* and a local grassroots organization, Son Bata. With these partners, the program collected ethnographic data on how community members in comuna 13 in Medellin perceive human security. We conducted train-the-trainer workshops to inform our new partners about some of the practical and theoretical approaches we use, specifically, the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) and Dynamical Systems Theory (DST). Equipped with this new knowledge and approach to collecting, analyzing and interpreting data from action research initiatives, members of Son Batá and researchers from UPB, have facilitated conversations with different sectors of comuna 13. This included members of armed groups, mothers of school-age children, and the founders of the neighborhood, in order to explore their lived experiences, conceptual understandings, and desires on the concept of “security.” In order for any of us to intervene and help make these communities feel secure, we needed to have a deeper understanding of what security means to the community members, thus the research project. Some of the findings point out that the discursive practices around any concept, such as peace, violence, or security, manifest themselves in the everyday lives of the people as they live in their communities. In other words, the stories people tell about concepts such as “security” are yet another element in the life of a community, and play as active a role as being employed, accessing nourishment, participating in politics, and experiencing the presence of the State.

Additionally, after engaging in five years of fieldwork and Participatory Action Research initiatives with and among youth and community leaders in Medellin, we have been co-authoring a book with 10 local youth and community leaders about the lessons we

Youth, Peace, and Security



The YPS Program developed a new research initiative, Discursive Practices Around Human Security in Medellin, with Son Bata and UPB. Photo by Joan Lopez. ■

have collectively learned. The forthcoming book, *Theory and Practice Redefined: A Field Guide to Social Transformation*, which will be available Winter 2020, has been an opportunity for the program to take a step back and assess the impact of our work with youth leaders. It has allowed us to reflect on lessons that can be useful to disseminate to a wider community of academics, practitioners, and activists interested in peacebuilding and social transformation. Fisher-Yoshida and Lopez have co-authored each chapter with a different youth and community leader who has local expertise on the topic of conflict transformation in Medellin.

YPS LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: COMPLETION OF FIRST COHORT

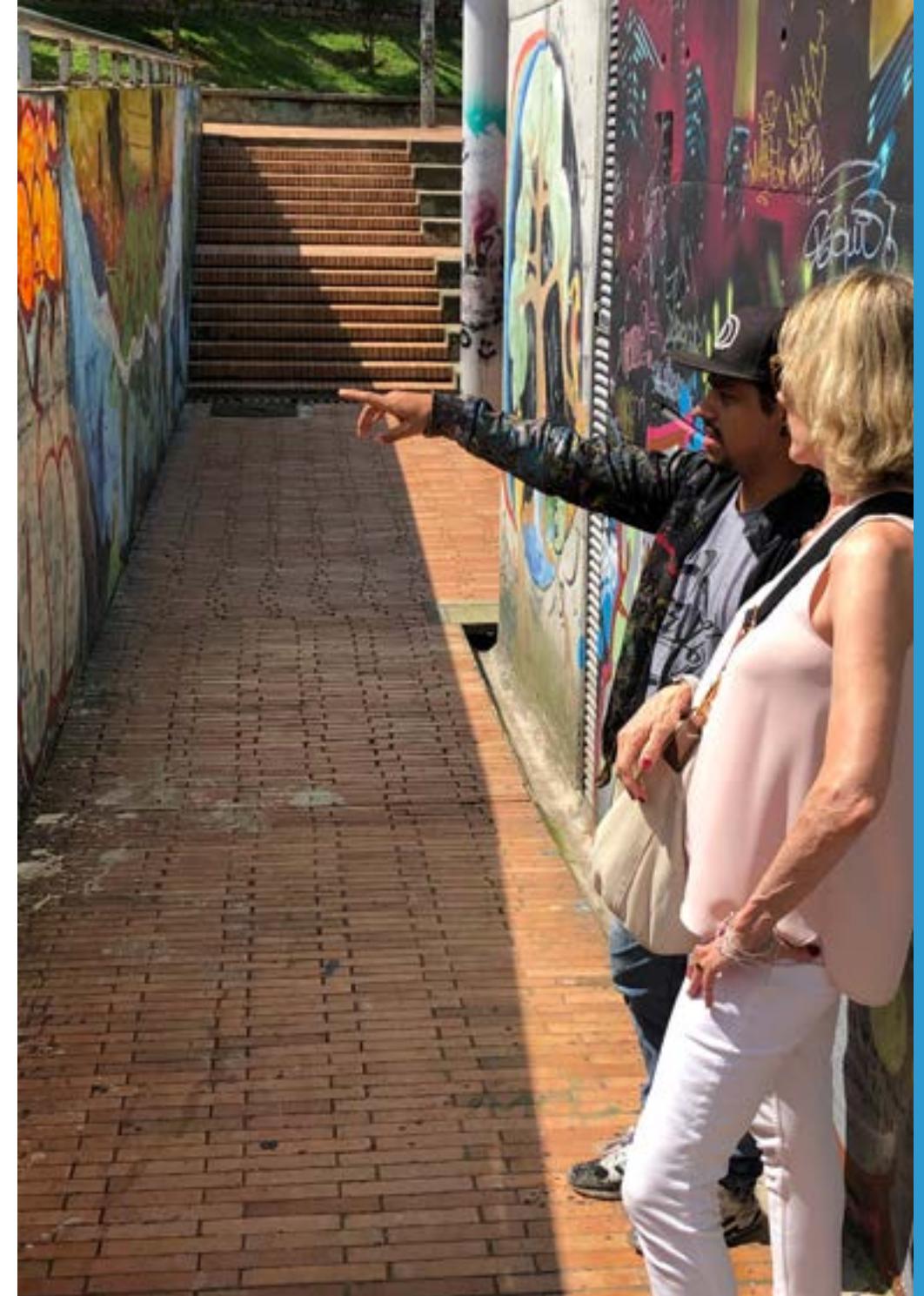
In June 2019, the YPS program launched its Youth Leadership Certificate Program. This program was designed to meet the technical and methodological needs of youth leaders working on the ground to strengthen and build upon their work to increase their local and global

Youth, Peace, and Security

impact. It consisted of two weeks of intensive training at Columbia University in New York City, followed by six months of coaching and support, culminating in real world projects in participants' local communities. This cohort of eight youth leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, worked on exciting and innovative projects on mental health and wellbeing of youth in Lebanon to providing STEAM education for young people in Togo, and more. After six-months of virtual coaching, we are excited to share that in December 2019, the first cohort of eight youth leaders completed the inaugural Youth Leadership Certificate Program.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH GOALS

The YPS program has several publications resulting from its research over the last year including a forthcoming peer reviewed article, "Transforming Conflict Narratives" in the Journal of Transformative Education and the new book, "Theory and Practice Redefined: Field Guide to Social Transformation" which will be published in the Winter of 2020. We shared our research at several conferences and events this year. In July 2019, Joan Lopez shared some of the thought processes that led to the composition of the Social Labs in Medellin at the International Association of Conflict Management (IACM) conference. Joan Lopez and Kobi Skolnick presented at "Evolution of Influence: Youth Lead", a wing of the International Leadership Association, where they shared the methods developed to design and offer the Youth Leadership Certificate Program. In October 2019, Dr. Beth Fisher-Yoshida and Joan Lopez presented the nature and scope of their joint research project with Son Bata and Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, around the vision of social transformation of human security in comuna 13, Medellin, to the student and faculty



Dr. Beth Fisher-Yoshida doing fieldwork with Shifo, EPA's director in comuna 7 in Medellin, Colombia. Photo by Joan Lopez. ■

Youth, Peace, and Security

body of Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana. In May 2020, Dr. Beth Fisher-Yoshida and Joan Lopez presented at the Association for Conflict Resolution Greater New York Chapter (ACRGNY) Annual Conference where they shared the principal ideas and methods included in the soon to be published book, “Theory and Praxis Redefined: Field Guide to Social Transformation,” as well as in July 2020 at the International Association of Conflict Management (IACM) annual conference. Beth Fisher-Yoshida and Joan Lopez also conducted a webinar for the Columbia University MS in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program called “Building Relationships and Rapport is a Long Process of Negotiation.” In June 2020, Joan Lopez presented “Grassroots Peacebuilding with Social Labs in Medellin” at the Earth Institute Live K12. He shared the methods behind the construction of social labs in general, and some particular findings from the YPS program’s experience with social labs in Medellin. This was offered to high school students.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming year, the YPS program is excited to celebrate the publishing of the book *Theory and Practice Redefined: A Field Guide to Social Transformation*, and intends to have a series of virtual workshops based on the specific chapters of the book led by the youth and community leaders co-authoring the chapters. YPS will continue nurturing our partnerships with universities, grassroots organizations, and youth leaders and will continue to strengthen our presence and influence in the youth leadership spheres in Medellin, and broader Colombia as we engage in conversations with a variety of actors there. Additionally, we will build new partnerships and collaborative projects with New York area youth organizations and leaders. These partnerships will seek to apply what has been learned in Medellin, Colombia to more local contexts. Lastly, we intend to continue our offerings of educational and skill-building programs to youth leaders around the world, building upon what we started with the Youth Leadership Certificate Program.

PARTNERS

Son Batá. Cultural Organization in comuna 13, Medellin, Research collaboration
Escuela Popular de Arte (EPA), Resito y Pinto. Cultural and Educational Organization in Medellin, Research collaboration.
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellin campus, Research collaboration.

Women, Peace, and Security



The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program, contributes to greater global and regional understanding of the diverse roles that women play to successfully influence sustainable peace and promote human security through everyday activism. Through education, public service, and research, the WPS program advances the visibility and knowledge exchange among women peacebuilders and practitioners – domestically and internationally – and disseminates lessons learned from their experiences.

EXPANSION OF PEACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Over this last year, the WPS program significantly expanded our Peace and Social Change Fellowship: convening three fellowship cohorts over the course of the year, with activists participating from 14 grassroots women’s organizations across 11 countries. In August 2019, the WPS program concluded its inaugural fellowship program cohort, which convened grassroots women’s organizations from across Ghana, South Sudan, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.



Lineo Matlakala (Barali Foundation, Lesotho), Mamello Makhele (Barali Foundation, Lesotho), and Kaltume Abubakar (FOMWAN, Nigeria) at January 2020 WPS Program Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo by Natalia Mroz. ■

In 2019, the WPS program also hosted its first domestic fellowship program, highlighting that women mobilize around complex peace and security issues across a range of contexts and spaces – including in the United States. This cohort was comprised of four frontline women’s organizations from across all 5 boroughs of New York City, each working to address multiple layers and forms of violence – domestic violence, violence against marginalized bodies, and state violence. Over the course of the fellowship, women from participating organizations shared the origins of their social justice work, explored themes that weaved their diverse work together, and engaged in shared learnings through multiple in-person convenings.

In 2020, the program launched its second cohort of the Africa-based fellowship program. This group includes 5 grassroots women’s organizations from Nigeria, Sudan, Lesotho, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition to individual organizations, the WPS program expanded to include networks of women’s organizations—reaching a greater number of activists and geographic areas. Since the January workshop, participating activists have collaborated weekly with one another in a critical learning community through live webinars and virtual platforms.

Women, Peace, and Security

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WPS program has hosted a series of webinars so this cohort could discuss their work in the context of the global health emergency. During these virtual convenings, participants exchanged mutual support, information, and strategies for addressing the impacts that the ongoing pandemic has had in their communities, and the WPS program has been sharing their insights in a public blog series.

GROWING INSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCES & VISIBILITY

In March 2020, the WPS program was set to host the first-ever Global Women Changemakers Summit to convene grassroots activists and speakers from 10 countries across Africa and from each region of the United States. Co-hosted by Columbia's Office of the President, the Summit sought to create possibilities for vibrant transnational solidarity among grassroots women peace activists across the globe. The Summit was the first recognized World Leaders Forum event at Columbia to feature grassroots women as policy and peace and security experts, marking an historic moment for the University. Though the Summit had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the networks of U.S. and African women leaders who were set to co-lead and execute the summit workshops on peace and security, are continuing their dialogue.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH GOALS

Throughout the year, WPS Executive Director Leymah Gbowee continued to serve as a globally recognized thought leader, advancing the WPS program's goals and visibility through her extensive advocacy and speaking engagements. In honor of the 30th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from prison in South Africa, on February 11, 2020, Leymah Gbowee delivered keynote remarks at the Cape Town City Hall. In February 2020, Ms. Gbowee was also featured as the keynote speaker for

Top: Nuria Abdi, Ruth Ochieng, and Martha Mutisi (WPS Fellowship Facilitators) January 2020 WPS Program Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo by Natalia Mroz. Bottom: Leymah Gbowee speaking at the 30th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from prison. Cape Town, South Africa. Photo by Nelson Mandela Foundation, 2020. ■



Women, Peace, and Security

Peace and Social Change Fellows with WPS program staff and Leymah Gbowee at the January 2020 Workshop in Nairobi. Photo by Natalia Mroz. ■



the She Opened the Door conference for Columbia University women alumnae. In March 2020, Ms. Gbowee received the inaugural Peace and Justice Award at the Martin and Coretta King Unity Breakfast, honoring the 55th Anniversary of the Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing in Selma, Alabama. In March 2020, in celebration of International Women's Day, Ms. Gbowee delivered a keynote address at the United Nations. Additionally, in June 2020, WPS Program Director Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland facilitated a virtual roundtable with international feminist peacebuilders from around the globe on feminist visions for peace and justice. Dr. Luttrell-Rowland also presented at the Law and Society Association in 2020, where she saw the range of interdisciplinary work being used to get at questions of everyday peace and justice.

Together with Associação Sócio-Cultural Horizonte Azul (ASCHA), a Mozambican feminist civil society organization, the Women, Peace and Security Program published a participatory visual methods project, which suggests that peace, as it is traditionally understood,

Women, Peace, and Security

should include everyday human security and wellbeing, beyond issues of war and armed conflict. The report, 'Public Spaces Should Belong to Us: Voices of Young Mozambican Women on Peace and Security,' was published in both English and Portuguese on the WPS program's website and disseminated by our partner organization in Mozambique.

Additionally, over the course of 2019-2020, the WPS program has published a series of reports to capture the themes and learnings that emerged from our Peace and Social Change workshops. These reports document the collaborative learning process built into the workshop design, and offer key lessons for the academic and policy community on grassroots women's activism and the field of women, peace and security.

Lastly, by working with the Peace and Social Change Fellowship cohorts in New York City and Nairobi, graduate students at Columbia and the City University of New York co-produced specific research projects designed to bolster participating organizations' work, over three fellowship cohorts. In the New York City cohort, these projects ranged from a toolkit of feminist evaluation strategies to a tailored storytelling and communications manual.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the year ahead, the WPS program intends to continue to document and expand on lessons learned from its Peace and Social Change Fellowship and the accompanying graduate student internship program. This includes broadening our fellowship scope to include new geographic regions and networks of women's peace organizations; piloting new processes to guide our internship program; and developing and institutionalizing internal practices to monitor, evaluate and learn about how it is advancing its goals. Additionally, the program is growing its participatory research agenda – developing several new projects and publishing blogs, reports, and peer-reviewed articles to help transform the field of women, peace and security. Finally, the WPS program hopes to host several visiting scholars in the coming year – to expand the scope and size of our reach.

PARTNERS

Associação Sócio-Cultural Horizonte Azul (ASCHA),
Research Collaboration

Columbia University Global Center, Nairobi, Kenya,
Fellowship Collaboration

Public Science Project at the Graduate Center in the City
of New York, Research and Fellowship Collaboration

Center for Justice, Columbia School of Social Work,
Fellowship Collaboration

Nobel Women's Initiative, Event Collaboration

Peace Is Loud, Event Collaboration

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
(WILPF), Event Collaboration

Office of the President at Columbia University,
Event Collaboration

Fellowship 2019

- Collaboration of Women in Development, Kenya
- Hope for the Needy Association, Cameroon
- Crown the Woman, South Sudan
- Institute for Young Women's Development, Zimbabwe
- WILPF – Ghana Chapter

Fellowship 2019

- Girls for Gender Equity, New York
- Women for Afghan Women, New York
- Sauti Yetu Center for African Women & Families,
New York
- Sakhi for South Asian Women, New York

Fellowship 2020

- Barali Foundation, Lesotho
- Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria
MANSAM, Sudan
- Réseau des Femmes en Action pour le Développement
Social, Democratic Republic of Congo
- The Suubi Center – Kibuku, Uganda



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