

**International Summer Academy in  
Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, Mediation, Security & Intercultural Dialogue  
Baar, Switzerland**

***IPD Summer Academy 09-19 August, 2016 Experts***



**Marc Finaud**  
*Switzerland*

**Majken Jul Sørensen**  
*Sweden*

**Aleksandar Weisner**  
*Serbia*

**Urs Bloesch**  
*Switzerland*

**Daniel Mekonnen**  
*Eritrea*

**1. Marc Finaud** is a former French diplomat with experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy who has been sharing it in training junior diplomats from all over the world and conducting research in sensitive areas such as arms proliferation, the Middle East, terrorism, peacebuilding, media relations, etc.

**Topics names for 2 Class Days:**

**Day One:**

The Elusive Middle East Peace (Lecture )  
Arms Proliferation: Legal and Other Responses (Lecture)  
Arms Control in the Middle East (Lecture)  
The Iranian Nuclear Programme (Group Work)

**Day Two:**

Media and International Security (Lecture)  
Media and International Security (Group Work)  
Controlling the Arms Trade (Lecture)  
Communication Skills (Group Work)

**Brief Introduction of each of the topics:** (2-5 sentences to attract the participant's attention)

A look at world challenges through the lens both of state and non-state actors as well as cooperative and multilateral responses to improve both national and human security.

**2. Dr. Majken Jul Sørensen** is an Honorary Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Wollongong, Australia. She received her doctorate in 2015 for her thesis "Humorous Political Stunts: Nonviolent Public Challenges to Power". Currently Majken is researching two different topics: One project investigates how conflicts can be escalated with nonviolent methods to bring otherwise ignored issues of injustice or oppression on the agenda, the other how civil society actors can use nonviolent action against violent non-state actors such as terrorists, companies and the mafia.

Majken is the author of three books and has published several articles in peer reviewed journals on topics such as social movements, nonviolent revolutions, gender & militarism, humour and peaceful societies.

## Topic names for 2 Class days:

**First day class:** Conflict analysis, understanding and dealing with the complexities of conflict. This day introduces the participants to a number of tools for understanding the complexities of conflicts, for instance the ABC triangle which distinguishes between the attitudes, behaviour and core contradiction in a conflict. Applying these tools makes it possible to identify possibilities for action for local as well as international stakeholders, based on for instance age, gender or role in society.

**Second day class:** What is nonviolence - from philosophy and way of life to effective way of challenging dictatorship. This day covers the great span of nonviolent action - from Gandhi's morally based form of struggle to modern day pragmatic approaches to nonviolence as an effective way of challenging dictatorship.

The classes will be a mix of lectures, group work, film, discussions and exercises.

**3. Dr. Daniel Mekonnen** is a human rights scholar and practitioner, with more than 15 years of experience in human rights research, teaching, advocacy and adjudication. On 26 June 2015, I led a historic mass rally of more than 5000 people, who congregated in Geneva to demonstrate unflinching support to the UN-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea. This was the largest ever demonstration to call for an end to impunity in Eritrea. Having worked recently as a Senior Legal Advisor and Research Professor at the Oslo-based International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI), I am currently a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Migration Law, University of Neuchâtel, and at the Institute of Federalism, the University of Fribourg. Formerly, I was Judge of the Central Provincial Court in Eritrea. I have a doctoral degree in Public International Law, with strong emphasis on international criminal law, human rights and transitional justice. After completion of my doctoral degree in September 2008, I have thus far won five prestigious European post-doctoral fellowships and lectureships, and also taught graduate and undergraduate courses in a number of European universities and institutes. The courses I taught include: International Human Rights Law, International Security Law, Introduction to Transitional Justice, International Refugee Law, and the African System of Human Rights. I recently relocated from Oslo to Geneva on family reunion.

## Brief Introduction of each of the topics:

**1<sup>st</sup> Class Day International Human Rights Law:** this course aims at equipping the learner with basic knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and historical development and application of international human rights law. This will be done by: providing an understanding of how human rights are regulated at the national, regional and international levels (and the relationship thereof); providing an understanding of the economic, social, cultural, political and global dimensions of the development and application of human rights.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class Day Introduction to Transition Justice:** will provide a sound knowledge base on the dilemmas that challenge post-conflict societies as they transit from dictatorship to democracy or from armed conflict (war) to peace. In particular, it will focus on the delicate balance that has to be struck between the seemingly competing values of peace and justice: in the context of the often cited and prominent dilemma “dilemma of transitional justice.”

**4. Aleksandar Weisner** is research fellow at European Centre for Peace and Development (University for Peace UN) and PhD candidate in Peace Study, Human Rights and Human Security. MA in Conflict Study. He is international trainer for peace education and conflict transformation (TCP trainings for NA of Luxembourg, Slovakia, Austria, Belgium, Czech R and Turkey). Author and Executive Director of School Without Violence Program (1994-2016). Founder member, president and coordinator of Pancevo Peace Movement (1991-2006, Yugoslavia/Serbia).

## Brief Introduction of the Class Topics:

**1st day: From Dictatorship to Democracy** - Principles of Nonviolent Struggle, Strategy and Methods for Nonviolent Change and Social Development, Colored Revolutions in East/South East Europe and Arab Spring - common strategy and methodology inspired by Gene Sharp's methods and techniques (implemented in Serbia and run by CANVAS) are the main topics the group will work on; presentation, case study and workshop about challenges for social movements and nonviolent change in nondemocratic states.

**2nd day: Strategies for Sustainable Peacebuilding and Social Change** - participants will have opportunity to work and learn how to create an integrative and systematic approach to strategic peace-building and sustainable social change. The topic contains issues such (dis)Obedience, Values and Attitudes, Needs and Political Power.

Critical reflection on actual peace-building strategies and innovative model for social development in post-conflict societies will be present and discuss as well.

**5. Dr. Urs Bloesch** founded in 1995 his own Tropical Environmental Consulting Office ([www.adansonia-consulting.ch](http://www.adansonia-consulting.ch)). Adansonia-Consulting has carried out numerous joint studies and Project/Programme evaluations in the humanitarian, development and conservation field for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC, former Head of Expert Group "Environment & Disaster Risk Reduction"), UN organisations (OCHA, UNEP, UNHCR), the World Bank, state and para-state organisations, international and national NGO's. Dr. Urs Bloesch gained long-term practical experiences from working in interdisciplinary teams in inter-cultural contexts. He strongly advocates for an inclusive project/programme approach. He was lecturing at the Institute for Communication and Leadership (IKF) in Lucerne on intercultural teamwork and communication. Moreover, he is lecturing at the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Science (HAFL, Bern University of Applied Sciences) in Zollikofen in Switzerland.

**Brief Introduction of the Class Topics:**

Conflict Transformation, Mediation, Intercultural Dialogue - This class illustrates the paramount importance of a conflict-sensitive programme management (CSPM) in humanitarian crises with a focus on fragile countries. Prevention of conflicts and "do no harm" should be the guiding principles of any activity/intervention. The different steps of a CSPM will be presented and practiced in case studies. A strong inclusive approach involving all key stakeholders is a prerequisite for successful conflict transformation. The class outlines the importance of an interdisciplinary and integrated mediation approach.