

Peace Pieces

Center Newsletter | Uppsala, Sweden | December 2020

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center

Educating and strengthening leaders to have a positive impact on peace and conflict resolution in the world



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to Class XIX	1
Applied Field Experience 2020	4
Alumnus Highlight	8
Words of Gratitude	10
Peace Fellows in Action	11
Moving to Sweden	12
Dog Spots	14
About the Rotary Peace Center	14



Welcome to Class XIX

Class XIX is the ninth cohort of Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows. The Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, their careers, and through community activities. We invite you to learn more about each of them below.



Carl Vosloh (Colombia/USA)

Carl is interested in citizen security, security governance, transitional justice, mediation, and the use of data to inform policy and prevent recruitment into criminal networks and support reintegration processes. In Latin America, he has worked with USAID, foreign governments, communities, CSOs, and PPPs in a diverse range

of programs: helping address community social conflict and violence in Guatemala; building federal, municipal, and community governance structures to prevent crime and violence through primary, secondary and tertiary interventions in El Salvador; and collaborated in a post-conflict transition program in Colombia. In West Africa, he has assisted education projects in conflict-affected areas of Northeast and Northwest Nigeria. Carl holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from American University in Washington, D.C. He is sponsored by Rotary District 7620.

Elina Francesca Rivera (Italy/Ecuador)

Elina is interested in sustainable conflict/violence prevention, community-led reconciliation, and the role of youth in these processes. She is also interested in refining her research skills to be better equipped to inform policy and programming. Elina has worked with UN agencies and international

donors on a variety of development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian matters in conflict-affected areas of Colombia. She worked on gender-based violence response and prevention and increased access to sexual reproductive health services in emergency settings. She also worked on issues related to rule of law, human rights, migration, reconciliation, and youth violence prevention. Elina holds a dual Bachelor's degree in International Relations, and in Economic Development and Gender Studies from Bucknell University. She also holds a Master's degree in Social Responsibility and Sustainability from Externado University of Colombia. She is sponsored by Rotary District 4281.





Joanna Nakabiito (Uganda)

Joanna is interested in exploring the economic foundations of resilience against Violent Extremism. She plans to influence regional Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanisms in Sub-Saharan Africa. Joanna worked at the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, coordinated the Uganda National Dialogue Process, and supported the

design and delivery of projects on governance and nation-building. Joanna has also worked as a Research Consultant in violent extremism with Wasafiri Consulting, and as a Programme Manager at the Allied Muslim Youth Uganda (AMYU) building the capacities of young faith leaders in interfaith dialogue, collective security, and religious peacebuilding. Joanna's passion for violence prevention can be seen through her diverse projects: she has a podcast where she shares up-to-date practices about violence prevention; and she is also the founder of Building Safe Spaces, a non-profit aimed at scaling-up violence prevention outcomes in Uganda. Joanna holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (International Affairs) and is a post-graduate finalist in Peace Studies at Makerere University in Kampala. She is sponsored by Rotary District 9211.



Alejandra Pineda (Colombia)

Alejandra is interested in providing a gender analysis, and reliable data, on the impacts of violent conflict and gender-based violence, as well as the design of post-conflict development. Alejandra is an experienced development practitioner with a breadth of experience in the non-profit and government sectors working within the fields of

gender, governance, and justice. Her work has mostly been focused on supporting ethnic women's grassroots organizations across the Asia-Pacific, especially in Burma and Thailand, and increasing women's rights and political participation, including participation in conflict resolution and negotiation processes. Alejandra has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and post-graduate studies in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. Her sponsoring Rotary district is 4281.

Katherine Grace O'Brien (USA)

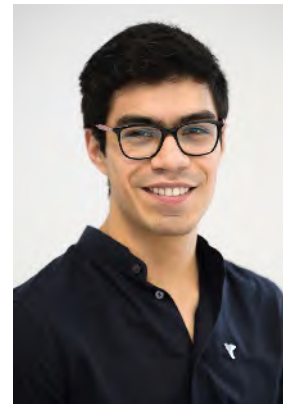
Katherine is interested in researching peacebuilding practices and opportunities for peacebuilding and development in Laos. Specifically, how lessons from this under-studied region may inform strategies for environmentally and culturally sensitive development globally. Katherine spent the last five years working in Laos, initially



for the Mennonite Central Committee, and later with an international development consulting firm. Her academic and professional experience includes leading an Alternative Break to study peacebuilding in Palestine and Israel, assisting with research at George Mason University analyzing post-conflict issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and teaching a high school peace studies class in Washington, D.C. Katherine has also participated in intensive peace and conflict study programs and conducted ethnographic research in Bosnia, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. Katherine holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from American University in Washington, D.C. She is sponsored by Rotary District 5100.

Francisco Urrutia (Mexico)

Francisco is interested in the intersections between peace and development; particularly in the role that public policies play in creating just and equitable societies for vulnerable populations. Francisco has worked in civil-society organizations with the design and execution of violence prevention and human security projects in



Mexico, collaborating with universities, communities, street gangs, and young people in custody in Mexico and Colombia. He has also participated in mediation processes regarding sustainability, LGBTQ+ rights, and forced disappearances, working with multiple NGOs, international organizations, and state institutions. He has also been involved in international consultancy projects on HIV prevention and LGBTQ+ rights. Francisco holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Tecnológico de Monterrey Institute in Mexico, and a Master's degree in International Relations from De Montfort University in the UK. He is sponsored by Rotary District 4170.



Malika Rakhmankulova
(USA/Kyrgyzstan)

Malika is interested in elucidation of the ways to make the practice of medicine safe in regions of a recent or ongoing conflict. She would like to use both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to explore past conflicts and determine factors and strategies that contributed to effective

medical practice in these challenging settings. Malika's interest in this field can be tied to her lifelong interest in health policy, tracing back from her time in college and work with engineers without borders, to her medical and public health training and work with local refugee health initiatives. Malika has a Bachelor's degree from Yale University; a dual degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry and political science, with a special interest in the field of Civil Warfare. Her medical and masters of public health degrees were obtained from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine and UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her sponsoring district is 7710.



Maria Francisca Garcés Ocampo (Colombia)

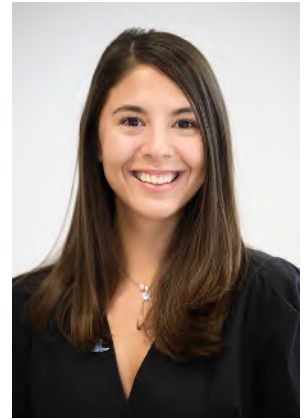
Maria Francisca is interested in conflict analysis and conflict transformation, restorative justice mechanisms, and peacebuilding. She worked in Mexico in the design and facilitation of spaces for effective participation among Civil Society Organizations, International Organizations, and families of missing people

to design, push and monitor public policies on enforced disappearances in Mexico. She has experience in the design and facilitation of capacity-building projects for political participation and conflict resolution. Previously, she worked in Colombia developing communication strategies for citizen participation and conflict prevention with youth and victims of the armed conflict. Maria Francisca holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Journalism from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and a specialization in negotiation and management of social conflicts from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She is sponsored by Rotary District 4170.

Marijana Markotić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Marijana's work has been focused primarily on peace and development in the international development sector in the Western Balkans. Her most recent research engagement focused on disaster resilience and disaster risk reduction. Marijana has many years of experience working at the United Nations

Development Programme and has worked as a lecturer and trainer for several local and regional non-governmental organizations. Her other professional interests are education and training – she is a great believer in knowledge management and knowledge sharing, and has been engaged as a lecturer for multiple regional programmes for the past decade. Her academic efforts and development, her career at the UNDP, and her community work have been focused on peace and conflict studies and practices. Marijana holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's degree in Disaster resilience and disaster risk reduction from the University of Sarajevo. She is sponsored by Rotary District 1910.



Niv Rabino (Israel/USA)

Niv hopes to explore the concept of Prosperous Economies as a means to peace-making, specifically in the intersection of technology and derived social entrepreneurship. He is also interested in researching how building capacity of peace-making methods can be leveraged following disasters during the immediate and recovery stages. Niv has six

years of experience in International Development and Humanitarian Aid. As a Humanitarian Aid director and worker, he was responsible for the outreach and development of an Israeli-based non-profit. He managed and designed short-term relief programs, psychosocial support, and medical services programs targeted at refugees arriving in Greece, and led emergency response missions in the USA after three major hurricanes. Niv holds a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Development from Columbia University, focusing on Public Health. His sponsoring Rotary district is 2490.



Applied Field Experience 2020

Updates from Class XVIII

2020 has been a year where nothing has really gone as planned. This was true for the Applied Field Experience, where second-year fellows pivoted and adapted to the situation as they planned and executed their AFEs. The second years discuss their unique learning experiences below.

Kamil Hamid: While I had initially been investigating the possibility of conducting my AFE at a peace and reconciliation center in Northern Ireland, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic caused me to reconsider whether or not it would be viable to pursue this option. Ultimately, I opted to remain in Uppsala and join a project titled “From hopeful agreements to disillusioned peace”, which was headed by Dr. Erika Forsberg. The project focused on a gendered study of the effect of peace agreements on women’s security and empowerment and incorporated working with data gathered in the field. Specific tasks that I focused on include conducting literature reviews and research for the topic of gender and electoral violence, with a specific

focus on how societal gender norms are likely to affect women’s political participation. I also helped to edit and format a blogpost based on women’s experiences with DDR processes following the Maoist insurgency in Nepal. I view my AFE as having been an opportunity to learn more about the Uppsala University Department of Peace and Conflict Research beyond the scope of our academic program, potentially even as a soft introduction towards further academic pursuits with the department if I so choose in the future. Being able to spend my summer in Sweden was also a very special experience, and I am profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to do so with a group of people who I now consider to be among my closest friends.

Jia ‘Muyi’ Yang: I had been looking forward to the valuable opportunity to do an Applied Field Experience (AFE) since the start of my fellowship. Setting it as a goal to expand my work experiences in the Middle-East and North Africa region, I planned to work with the Beirut Office of forumZFD, a German NGO that focuses on and specializes in non-violent communication and dialogue-based community reconciliation. Three months after discussing potential projects, COVID-19 finally forced a total lockdown in Lebanon, right before I could make any sensible travel move. I received tremendous understanding and support from the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center as well as Rotary International. I ended up interning with ViEWS, a Violence Early-Warning System to predict conflict outbreak, continuation, and/or termination in Africa. Working with ViEWS

bestowed upon me a precise insight into how a big-data-based prediction system was developed, constructed, and maintained. It also allowed me to experiment with machine-learning techniques. Another highlight was my role of representing our Uppsala Rotary Peace Center and Rotary Peace Fellow Alumni Association Europe to organize the first Rotary Global Peace Cyber Conference. Designing, coordinating, and moderating sessions including ‘Technology and Peace’ also shed new light upon how technology has been and could be used to promote peace. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by the difficult situation, I had an AFE experience that was enriching and intellectually fulfilling – not to mention that summer in Sweden was absolutely gorgeous with a vibrant vibe all over the town! That certainly was an unplanned but very appreciated surprise.

Tanushree Rao: I had two options for my AFE: take a risk and go abroad, gaining programmatic experience with an intergovernmental organization, or stay under the Uppsala summer sun and complete my AFE with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. I chose the latter, but it wasn’t necessarily the easy choice. Throughout my AFE I put myself outside of my comfort zone, honing my skills in quantitative analysis and data visualization. I worked on mapping UN global peacekeeping deployments and conducting statistical analyses to answer questions like which locations

have seen the largest number of countries that have contributed peacekeepers, and where the deployment of aviation troops is most common. I’m so happy with how my skills have developed over this time, even if it was daunting looking at sizeable databases and hundreds of lines of code towards the beginning! I’m confident I’ll be able to use these skills throughout my career to identify patterns, trends and themes in peace and development. I was also lucky to be part of the RightsCon digital conference, which discussed human rights in the digital age.

Agha Kamil Hamid



Jia 'Muyi' Yang



Tanushree Rao



Jordan Mathews



Samikshya Bhattarai



Maryam Safi



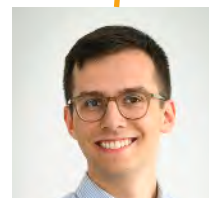
Andrew Fallon



Amanda Lanigan



Jonah Simonds



Mariko Yamaguchi



Jordan Mathews: Due to the pandemic, our opportunities were severely limited. Originally, I was hoping to do something related to gender and meditation, and was looking at internship opportunities with Mediators Beyond Borders. However, as things happened I decided it would be best to find something flexible, that would allow me to work remotely from the US, as well as something that would provide me with a refined set of employable skills. With these priorities in mind, I decided to intern as a research assistant at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, where we attend school. I was (and still am) - as I extended my AFE into the fall semester - working under the supervision of Professor and Head of Department, Erik Melander. Together, we are exploring the relationship between a society's level of gender equality (measured by the women's empowerment index variable) and a military's effectiveness (measured by the LER variable) through quantitative analysis. We

have now entered into the writing stages of our research project, with the goal to publish a review article discussing the gap of interdisciplinary research between the field of military and gender studies, and to propose a new theoretical framework to explain the nuanced relationship between gender and military effectiveness. We hope to have a final draft submitted for publishing by the end of the fall semester. Throughout this internship I have reflected on the importance of the scientific process and how its elements transcend academia and research. The ability to consume research, think about it critically, analyze it systematically and synthesize it so that it can be digestible and useful is necessary in, I think, every career path related to peace and conflict studies. Feeling as though you are contributing something useful to the field of research that could affect policy is powerful, and I thus believe this opportunity has opened my eyes to new potential career paths.

Samikshya Bashishtha Bhattarai: Like many of us, I also had different plans envisioned for my AFE. Victim centered conflict resolution and transitional justice being my significant areas of interest, I wanted to work with a credible organization carrying out project(s) on those thematic areas and I was in talks with a few of those in Uganda. However, with the Covid-19 insurgence it got difficult to realize my initial plan. So, I rather decided to stay in Uppsala and work as an intern at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University under the supervision of Erika Forsberg, Associate Professor and Director of Studies. Initially it was established that I would be involved in all her three projects and would be taking up the task of conducting and updating literature reviews on research specific topics, creating case narratives about peace agreements, with information about the implementation of gender provisions, conducting basic descriptive analysis of accumulated data and developing sub studies from the accumulated data. However, with the progress of the internship it was decided that I would be focusing on the

latter two tasks. I specifically worked with the FGD data of “Gender, War, Trauma and Peacebuilding” project and developed a brief paper entitled “From Agency to Victimhood” discussing former female combatants’ wartime agency in Nepal and the replacement of that agency with victimhood in post war context because of absence of gender responsive DDR strategy in the country. It is an initial qualitative research paper which I believe creates many future research prospects on the subject matter. I believe the internship provided me with enough freedom to exercise my existing skills and come up with innovative ideas to use the existing data. Besides my professional experience, one thing that I would like to highlight here is the flexibility, understanding and trust that my supervisor showed me during this stressful time of pandemic, which helped me to complete my task with sincerity even amid my personal challenges. I also have to thank my few friends from our cohort who have been a constant support through this difficult time and a great company to enjoy the Swedish summer.

Maryam Safi: For my AFE, I completed a remote internship with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C. I have selected the placement mainly due to my interest in issues related to the peace process in Afghanistan. My internship objective was to gain experience of working with the Embassy, establish professional networks and get an opportunity to be involved in Afghanistan’s peace process. During my internship, I have contributed to several research projects and conducted data collection for different departments of the embassy. I would say that the internship was very productive and added to my knowledge and experience to a large extent.

Read a blog post Maryam wrote on Women’s History in Afghanistan at:

<https://uppsalarotaryfellows.wordpress.com/>



Andrew Fallon: The original plan for my AFE was to work for International Alert in London. Luckily, the organization had largely transitioned to a remote, online format. I was welcomed to intern remotely from Uppsala, and was largely able to do the type of work I was planning to do. International Alert adapted well to the pandemic. I felt fairly connected to many of the team members through video conferences, online scheduling, and other internet-based resources. Obviously, there are limitations to video conferences, especially in close-knit teams with well-developed relationships. It's more difficult to build trust. People certainly get tired of looking at screens. You miss many of the spontaneous

discussions that happen in an office. You can't “drop in” on someone's office to ask a quick question or familiarize yourself with a project. Importantly, it is much harder to build meaningful relationships when you are unable to socialize outside of work or share a coffee in the morning or afternoon. All that being said, I am grateful for how International Alert was able to adapt to the situation and include me in their monitoring and evaluation work for my AFE. The organization builds resilience in many communities around the world, and it should be no surprise that they were able to demonstrate their organizational resilience during this pandemic.

Amanda Lanigan: When I first started planning my AFE, I had my heart set on working with Conservation International. But when COVID-19 hit, I had to rethink my options as traveling seemed a little too risky. I chose instead to remain in Sweden and embark on an entirely different path by working with the Electoral Processes team at International IDEA. Luckily, IDEA allowed me to pursue research topics and projects that piqued my interest. I was able to hone my research skills through an examination of the impact of COVID-19 on democratic processes, and respond to rapidly shifting electoral events and conditions with real-time data analysis. My specific focus was on Special Voting Arrangements, and the ways in which people who are marginalized

by larger systems and institutions are able to access the electoral process, especially in times of crisis. I also conducted an analysis of electoral law regarding Special Voting Arrangements in the Americas and a comprehensive analysis of access to voting for people who are incarcerated. I could not have imagined the ways in which this work would shift my trajectory and focus, as well as help me to build on the research skills I had already learned in Uppsala. Furthermore, staying in Sweden for the summer gave me the chance to forge lifelong bonds with others from my cohort under the summer sun, an experience I will always be grateful for. Thank you to Rotary International for this opportunity.

Jonah Simonds: For my AFE, I did a remote internship with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. My main duty was helping to set up a web-based platform for measuring inequality in UNESCAP member states using a novel statistical method. It was unusual doing an internship with a team without ever meeting them in person, but I was very grateful for the opportunity considering the

circumstances of 2020. My biggest challenge was the time difference between me and my colleagues - most of them are located in Bangkok, Thailand, which is 12 hours ahead of me, so I had a lot of meetings after 9 PM. Thankfully, my supervisors always did their best to have meetings early in the workday so I could participate without needing to stay up too late.

Mariko Yamaguchi: First of all, I'd like to express my appreciation to Rotary international and Rotary Peace Center for Applied Field Experience (AFE) opportunity. COVID-19 shifted my AFE both in terms of place and content: from UN peacekeeping operation to global governance and from New York to Japan. In the end, it turned out to be a meaningful shift in a sense that I could work on an ever more important theme for international peace, "global governance" and could contribute to the Japanese diplomacy based on my professional experience and learning at Uppsala University. I worked with Global Peacebuilding Association and Academic Council on the United Nations Systems of Japan. My main responsibilities included communication/

information dissemination and strategic organizational planning. The cornerstone of my mission was the translation of publication on Global Governance, which is posted on their websites. The publication is an advocacy policy paper targeting the Japanese Government but its content deserves international attention. Sometimes it seems that Japanese wisdom is not effectively transmitted internationally for various reasons, so it is crucial that this publication is translated into English to be recognized globally. Therefore, I am proud to contribute to this publication by analytically translating the huge-volume report within a limited period of time.

Alumnus Highlight: Jamie LeSueur

Jamie LeSueur is one of the three Heads of Emergency Operations in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where he has been working for the last four years. His exceptional professional trajectory focused on the humanitarian emergency response and made him Uppsala University's Alumnus of the Year 2020. Jamie was also a Rotary Peace Fellow during his studies of Peace and Conflict in 2013-2015. In this interview, Jamie shared some insights about his experience as a Peace Fellow and how this influenced his career.

How did you become a Peace Fellow? I guess how I became a Peace Fellow was that I took my first international deployment - although I'm not sure you can call it a deployment - in Cambodia. I went and volunteered for four months at a Rotary Funded school. It was in an NGO called Sustainable Cambodia in Pursat. I did monitoring, evaluation, and a little bit of operation support. After that, I worked for the Red Cross locally, back home in Canada. The Rotary Districts pegged me out and said that *fellowship is something you should consider if you are thinking about a Master's degree* and everything just snowballed from there. Of course, my application decision was built on a long history with the Red Cross domestically, but what was the tipping factor was heading out to Cambodia and wanting to work internationally in humanitarian work. Rotary sponsored that. I would probably not be here without that.

Was there ever a different pathway that you imagined? The short answer is no. There was never another alternative, and there was not ever another alternative to Uppsala. Qualitative peace research had never been in my future. You can see what Uppsala was putting out and where it sat on the global radar in terms of leading the way in conflict research. So, when an opportunity to apply to Uppsala came up, that was clear for me. What I think motivated my application was that I wanted to work internationally, and often making that transition from a national staffer to a delegate is huge. I volunteered for the Red Cross, Sustainable Cambodia, and search and rescue to try and get enough for someone within the international sphere to say *you might be worth it*.

The thing is, nobody thinks you are worth it. If you don't have a deployment under your belt, then you are toast. So, how did I get a deployment? Well, the Rotary Peace Fellowship gives you not only the master's education but also the Applied Field Experience (AFE). That is that CV bomb that the UN or the Red Cross or anybody needs. For me, that was the real motivation to apply.



Photo: Corrie Butler/IFRC.

And ultimately the AFE and the master's education that the Peace Fellowship gave set the foundation for everything else. When you get an opportunity to jump, as I did to South Africa working for UN OCHA, you make a network that snowballs into something more relevant. My AFE turned into a short consultancy with the government of Mauritius to design the government's national emergency operations center, which was just a three months consultancy. I don't think it would have been possible had it not been for Rotary.

Do you have any advice for current fellows? Clarity and direction are really important. You can't just join the UN, which is composed of hundreds of agencies. You have to know where you want to be in the next five years. Do you want to be in operations? Then you have UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR. Do you want to be in coordination, where you are moving all the puzzle pieces at the leadership level? Then you have UN OCHA. Do you want to be in medical? Then you have the WHO. Your real foundation needs to be *where do I want to be*. The second thing is that there is a big world beyond the

UN. Do you want to be in implementation? If so, there are many NGOs out there that are the implementing partners for the United Nations. If you want to be boots on the ground, you will have a better opportunity to do that with the Red Cross, Concern Worldwide, CARE, or one of many other similar NGOs. Knowing where you want to be is critical when you are picking an AFE.

How did you pick the opportunity for your AFE? For me, I've always wanted to do coordination. I'm a coordination natural, and what I do with the Red Cross right now is all founded on that. I like being in a leadership role and moving puzzle pieces. I like being on the ground, but I'm not a technical expert. I'm an expert in making sure that a coordinated operation can happen. For me, UN OCHA was perfect, because I always knew that I wanted to do coordination with the Red Cross. So, the first entry point was coordination with the UN.



Photo: Corrie Butler/IFRC.

Any reflections on your studies at Uppsala University as a Peace Fellow? When I was studying in Uppsala and going to grab a beer after a methods class with my classmates, I thought *Oh my god! What on earth am I going to use this for? We are sitting there thinking I want to be in humanitarian work, I want to be on the ground and this is super academic!* But what became remarkably apparent over time, is the necessity of qualitative and quantitative research methods in humanitarian work.

Just before this interview, I gave a global presentation on the lessons learned from the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The analytical framework we put together is essentially quantitative and qualitative analysis derived from Uppsala. Unfortunately, in the professional sector for humanitarian work, it is few and

far that you find people that can analyze data. We are very good at collecting it, getting a sampling methodology, getting a sweet data set, and forgetting about it! Taking that data and analyzing it, that's what Uppsala gave me. The ability to write a clear and concise analysis that I can turn into public information messaging can mean a lot to an organization.

What was the most challenging and the most rewarding about being a Peace Fellow? The most rewarding thing I think is the AFE, for sure. The network with Rotary is another cool thing. Sweden was wonderful, it was not hard to live there. I don't think that there were a lot of challenges of being a Peace Fellow in my opinion! Being a broke student is always tough, but it was only a positive experience.

What would you recommend to other fellows and future fellows doing their studies at the different Peace Centers around the world? I think the big thing would be to *Service above self*, which is an important part of what Rotary is and how it has positioned itself globally. In the Red Cross Movement whom I've given my life to, we also have this principle. What service above self implies is that you don't necessarily need remuneration for doing work. I'd say that going down the Peace Fellowship road, it's about adhering to service. If we are looking to humanitarian action as putting yourself on the line for others to alleviate human suffering, that implicitly means that you have to be willing to give above yourself.

I was deployed to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to lead the Ebola operation, and I did that three times in three tours where the IRC brought in global assets: delegates, money, and global staff. But we are hamstrung if we don't have volunteers. Our Ebola volunteers were the ones who were facilitating safe and dignified burials. They were doing so at low pay in their communities. It's not an international delegate, it's those local volunteers who are willing to put themselves in the front line to implement an emergency response who make humanitarian action work. So, if you are going to be a Peace Fellow, it is about service above self, to put yourself in the front line and give back. It all starts with volunteering: volunteer, do it first, learn, and then you can bring that up later. So, when you are a big expert in Geneva, you have something relevant to talk about.

What are your plans for the future? That is a good

question. I have just assumed the role of the IRCF's global head of emergency operations, so I plan to continue doing what I'm doing. This role is all about being deployed within 24 hours to lead the Red Cross' largest responses globally. My plans are really to go back to the field as much as possible because operations management happens as close to disaster as you can be. When you work at the global level, if you stay global you get disconnected from the field and from the people you are trying to serve. I plan to continue leading the Red Cross' largest operations world-wide but do so from the bush and as close to the disaster-affected populations as I can. Then I plan to bring that learning back to Geneva

and influence the way we do business. This is a major initiative that my other two key operations colleagues and I have for 2021: integration of operational learning into our global system and improvement in meeting the needs of the affected populations.

Any last-minute thoughts? Thank you Rotary and thank you Uppsala. I said it earlier, but there is not that would have been possible without them. I also wanted to say thanks and congratulate them on continuing to invest in people. The investment in Peace Fellows is really important to be able to put the right people into the right places around the world.

Words of Gratitude *by Class XIX*

Last year at about this time in fall, we all found out that we made it into the Rotary Peace Fellowship program. The joy and surprise at finding out the news are hard to describe on paper, yet this was not only our accomplishment. The road to getting the fellowship involved the wonderful help and patience of many people. Even before knowing our results, the Rotary donors made this experience possible with their generosity and trust. Our sponsoring clubs championed our candidacy, helped us revise our application, and kept us on track with deadlines. Our academic and professional advisers wrote us wonderful letters of recommendation. Our significant others, families, and pets kept us company through the long and arduous process. It was for this reason that many of us had a long list of people to share this joyous news.

But getting the fellowship was only the beginning of a long adventure. Moving to a new country and starting a new chapter in life is an exciting yet daunting endeavor. More so in this year when the global pandemic put in jeopardy our future studies. Many of us didn't know whether we would be allowed to come to Sweden. Others were outright blocked from leaving the country and only joined us in mid-fall. Throughout this process, our wonderful coordinators helped review our visa application, provided updates and paperwork that shifted and changed from month to month, and guided us through the labyrinth of bureaucracy.

And lastly, when we arrived, we found ourselves welcomed. The relief of knowing that someone was waiting on the other side in the new country was enormous. Whether it was greeting us at the airport,

pre-filling our fridges with food before our arrival, or taking us on that first Ikea trip, our host families embraced us in a way that made this transition easy and smooth. They introduced us to new foods and customs: pickled herring, aquavit and mushroom picking. They guided us around Uppsala and shared the rich history of our new home, for some of us through beautiful guided tours, for others during fika. We also owe much to our senior fellows, who paved the way and gave us much sage advice during this process.

With this letter, we want to thank the many people who made it possible for us to be. It is a privilege that we owe to a great multitude of people, so from the depth of our hearts, thank you.

Marijana, Francisco, Carl, Elina, Malika, Francisca, Katherine, Joanna, Niv and Alejandra



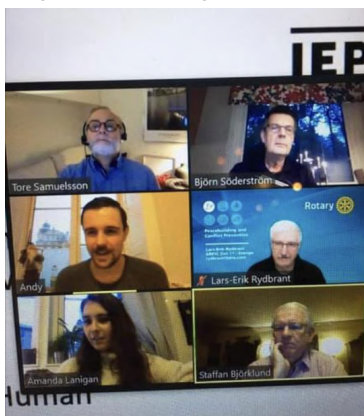
HAC tour of the city.

Peace Fellows in Action

As much of the world has gone virtual, Peace Fellows took advantage of the many virtual conferences, webinars, and workshops to expand their knowledge and build on the skills they have learned here at Uppsala.

Institute for Economics and Peace

In November, Andrew Fallon and Amanda Lanigan began taking part in the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Ambassador program. Through a series of webinars, they learned more about the mission and goals of the IEP, and indicators used to compile the *Global Peace Index*. They plan to apply what they learned by assessing Sweden's Global Peace Index ranking and presented their findings at a local Rotary Club in December.



K4P Online Symposium

In October, Amanda attended the Knowledge for Prevention International Symposium, held by the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security in conjunction with the Institute for Economics and Peace. This event invited researchers and practitioners from around the globe to engage in knowledge sharing around the foundational themes of the Dallaire Institute's K4P Project and enhance the security agenda. Topics included gender, peace and security, as well as early warning and its connections to preventing the recruitment of children as soldiers.

RightsCon

During her AFE, Tanushree was lucky to be part of the RightsCon digital conference, which discussed human rights in the digital age. A range of topics were covered, from the gender digital divide, to reaching the last mile through digital health initiatives.

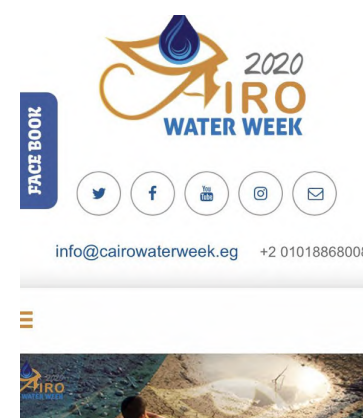


International Alert Brown Bag Lunch

Andy Fallon presented a Brown Bag Lunch to International Alert titled "Uppsala Conflict Data Program: What it Measures, Conflict Trends, and How It's Useful for a Peacebuilding NGO." Andy had noticed during his AFE that few of the staff at Alert utilized the UCDP and was later invited to share the UCDP basics with an eye for its practical application for NGOs.

Cairo World Water Week

In October, Maryam attended a session on Transboundary Cooperation for Flood and Drought Management in the Eastern Nile: Opportunities and Challenges at World Water Week. The session was organized in



collaboration with SIWI and the International Centre for Water Cooperation, along with Dr Ashok Swain, Uppsala University and research collaborators in Egypt, Sudan, and the UK. The session aimed to highlight the profound challenges related to floods, drought, and

land degradation in the eastern Nile river basin.

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

A recent webinar series held by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative focused on humanitarian spatial technologies. Tanushree attended sessions on decolonizing data, the power structures embedded in mapping, and remote sensing in conflict research.



Moving to Sweden *by Class XIX*

Peace Camp



Camping trip with fellows and Master's students to the Naturreservatet Florarna.



Peace circle on the hiking trip to Florarna.



Hiking through the Naturreservatet Florarna.



S'mores at the camping trip.



Host Families

Katherine has enjoyed many outings and activities organized by her host family, including joining her host mom's Rotary Club on a bike tour, a day trip to Sigtuna, and baking pepparkakor for advent.



Bonfellows

Weekly meeting of the fellows for a study break.



Introductory meeting with the Host Area Committee (HAC) and the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center (URPC).



Fika and presentations with HAC.



Dog Spots

For many of us, dogs, cats and other animals who live with us are also part of our families. As such, they have played an important role while in Uppsala. Some of them came with us from our home countries, and some have tagged along the way. Either way, there is no denying that they have been loyal companions during this exciting period of our lives, including the difficult times we have all experienced with the Covid-19 pandemic.



Tanushree Rao: I adopted this gorgeous girl Laila in September and she's been such a good dog already! She loves ripping cardboard, eating eggs, and licking people's hands.



Elina Rivera: This is Mila, she comes from Colombia so she's getting used to the Swedish cold! Whenever there is a fellow gathering, she is the life of the party.

Jonah Simonds: This is Pepper, she thinks she's a person. As part of the Peace Fellows Family, she's been an incredible support during the Covid-19 pandemic.



About the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center



Since 2011, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University has hosted one of the six Rotary International Peace Centers. Students from around the world can apply for Rotary scholarships to the Master Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center selects and educates Rotary Peace Fellows to have a significant, positive impact on peace and conflict resolution in their future careers. Stay updated on the fellows, hear about special events, and learn more about the Rotary Peace Fellowship online or contact us at:

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center website: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/education/uppsala-rotary-peace-center/>
Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows blog: <https://uppsalarotaryfellows.wordpress.com/>



Uppsala Rotary Peace Center



@UURotaryPeace



rotarypeace@pcr.uu.se



+46 (0) 18 471 6115



Gamla Torget 3, Uppsala, Sweden