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April 7 – 10, 2016
Paretz, Germany

Transatlantic Core Group

Connected Cities Workshop

Conference Booklet

HELGA BREUNINGER STIFTUNG

Transatlantic Core Group – Connected Cities

In July 2015, the BMW Foundation together with the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Atlantic Council and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs embarked on a new partnership to pursue a common mission to strengthen transatlantic trust among next generation leaders. In establishing the Transatlantic Core Group, the partner organizations created a network of American and German future leaders from a diversity of sectors and backgrounds who were charged with going beyond traditional discussions on foreign and security policy and to identify innovative ideas and new areas of transatlantic cooperation. In doing so, they would take ownership of the process and of the future of transatlantic relations.

The Transatlantic Core Group's first meeting on Wasan Island, Canada, produced two working groups: one focused on connecting US and German cities around migration and integration, and the other focused on sharing best practices in economic innovation

between the United States and Germany. By continuing the participant-driven dialogues and supporting the group in working on concrete project ideas, we hope to enable individual transatlantic engagement, grow our network of leaders, and deepen mutual understanding between Germany and the United States.

Connected Cities was started by members from the Transatlantic Core Group who identified migration and integration of minorities as an area where cities and local communities play a leading role. They highlighted the value of creating a transatlantic conversation as well as sharing ideas and best practices across sectors in this area. This first Connected Cities workshop is a continuation of this conversation, which will be enriched and enhanced by the addition of a diverse range of practitioners and thought leaders from Germany and the USA. The goal of this workshop is to further develop a first project idea initiated by the Connected Cities group and to ideally design an action plan that will outline strategies to be implemented throughout 2016.

Agenda

Thursday, April 7, 2016

4.00 p.m. Departure to Paretz
Group shuttle to Paretz from the BMW Foundation's Berlin office

6.00 p.m. Informal Welcome Reception – Getting to know each other
Paretz Barn

7.00 p.m. Dinner
Storchenhof

Friday, April 8, 2016

8.00 a.m. Breakfast
Storchenhof

9.30 a.m. Plenary Session – Setting the Stage
Paretz Academy

Introduction to the TCG Concept
Michael Schaefer Chairman of the Board of Directors, BMW Foundation, Berlin and Munich, Germany

Introduction to the Connected Cities Group
Adolfo Hernandez Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, City of Chicago, USA
Juliane Schäuble Head of Political Department, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, Germany

The Connected Cities representatives will provide a short introduction to the concept of "Connected Cities" and the current status quo of the project. The introduction will help set the stage for Saturday's discussions, geared toward further developing and refining the Connected Cities project and action plan.

10.00 a.m. Fishbowl Discussion – Migration and Integration in the Transatlantic Context
Paretz Academy

Presentation on current and historical challenges with integration and migration in Germany and the USA

Henriette Rytz Foreign Policy Advisor to Cem Özdemir, German Bundestag, Berlin, Germany
Adam Hunter Director, Immigration and the States, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C., USA

Facilitator
Chris Fowler Vice President, Creative Science Labs, Washington, D.C., USA

11.15 a.m. Coffee Break

11.30 a.m. Mini-TED talk – Promising Practices for Integration Initiatives
Paretz Academy

Arnd Boekhoff Founding Member, Hanseatic Help e.V., Hamburg, Germany
Raquel Casteñada-López Council Member, Detroit City Council, USA
Katharina Dermühl Co-founder, Migration Hub, Head of Marketing, Kiron Open Higher Education gUG, Berlin, Germany
Stephanie Hammond Policy Advisor for Conflicts and Disasters, World Vision USA, Washington, D.C., USA
Adolfo Hernandez Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, City of Chicago, USA
Rachel Peric Deputy Director, Welcoming America, Decatur, USA
Luisa Seiler Co-founder, SINGA Deutschland, Berlin, Germany
Letitia Zwickert Fulbright-Schuman Scholar, Belgium Fulbright Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Facilitator
Trooper Sanders Founder, Wise Whisper, Washington, D.C., USA

1.00 p.m. Lunch on the Boat to Potsdam
M.S. John Franklin

3.45 p.m. Site Visits
Potsdam

Participants will split-up in three smaller groups and have the chance to learn about local initiatives for refugees and integration approaches.

Hans-Otto Theater a theater that organizes projects in order to empower refugees to be a part of the Potsdam cultural scene
Internationaler Bund a service provider being in charge of the Wohnungsverbund Haecklelstrasse – decentrally organized refugee homes in Potsdam
Welcome Dinner Potsdam an initiative bringing together citizens of Potsdam and refugees by organizing welcome dinners at local homes

5.30 p.m. Departure to Paretz

7.00 p.m. BBQ Dinner and Bonfire
Storchenhof

Saturday, April 9, 2016

8.00 a.m. Breakfast
Strochenhof

9.00 a.m. Plenary Session – Recap of Connected Cities
Academy Paretz

Recap of Connected Cities project
Nina Smidt President, American Friends of Bucerius, New York City, USA
Chris Fowler Vice President, Creative Science Labs, Washington, D.C., USA

Introduction of Human Centered Design
Lauren Culver Benchmark Fellow, Stanford University, Stanford, USA
Sam Stevens Sr. Analyst for Strategy & Innovation Wealth Management, Northern Trust, Chicago, USA

9:30 a.m. Plenary Session – Synthesize to Finding Meaning
Paretz Academy

Participants reflect on and capture their observations from the previous day's discussions and site visits in order to systematically consider the problem we are solving.

Facilitators
Lauren Culver Benchmark Fellow, Stanford University, Stanford, USA
Sam Stevens Sr. Analyst for Strategy & Innovation Wealth Management, Northern Trust, Chicago, USA

11.00 a.m. Coffee Break

11.15 a.m. Plenary Session – Insights for Action
Paretz Academy

Participants expand on "How might we…?" questions to create seeds for the afternoon brainstorm sessions

Facilitators
Lauren Culver Benchmark Fellow, Stanford University, Stanford, USA
Sam Stevens Sr. Analyst for Strategy & Innovation Wealth Management, Northern Trust, Chicago, USA

1.00 p.m. Lunch
Storchenhof

2.30 p.m. Breakout Sessions I – Brainstorming for Initial Ideas
Paretz Academy Campus

3.45 p.m. Coffee Break

4.00 p.m. Break-out Sessions II – Prototype for Robust Solutions
Paretz Academy Campus

5.30 p.m. Plenary Session – Presentation of prototypes and discussion of next steps
Paretz Academy

7.00 p.m. Cooking together and Dinner
Paretz Academy

Über den Tellerrand kochen a social start-up that provides cooking classes with refugees

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Sunday, April 10, 2016

8.00 a.m. Breakfast
Storchenhof

9.30 a.m. Plenary Session - Final group discussion of the action plan
Paretz Academy

Participants will outline a strategy for moving forward, identify roles and resources to implement the project, and identify pilot location(s).

Facilitator
Chris Fowler Vice President, Creative Science Labs, Washington, D.C., USA

10.30 a.m. Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
Paretz Academy

11.00 a.m. Departure from Paretz (shuttles will be provided for transportation back to Berlin)

List of Participants

Basso Michael, Marina
Member of the Board; Head of Business Development at Port of Hamburg Marketing

Boekhoff, Arnd
Founding Member, Hanseatic Help e.V.

Casteñada-López, Raquel
Council Member, Detroit City Council

Culver, Lauren
Benchmark Fellow, Stanford University

Dermühl, Katharina
Co-founder, Migration Hub, Head of Marketing, Kiron Open Higher Education gUG

Fowler, Chris
Vice President, Creative Science Labs

Hammond, Stephanie
Policy Advisor for Conflicts and Disasters, World Vision USA

Hernandez, Adolfo
Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, City of Chicago

Hunter, Adam
Director, Immigration and the States, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Kerr, Juliana
Director, Global Cities and Immigration, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Mason, Travis
Public Policy & Government Relations, Google

McSwain, Dan
President, GEER

Mohney, Chase
Client Partner, Facebook Inc.

Morris-Lange, Simon
Deputy Head of Research, The Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration

Müller, Lothar
Foreign, European and Security Policy Advisor, German Bundestag

Pausch, Ferry
Managing Director, Deutschlandstiftung Integration

Peric, Rachel
Deputy Director, Welcoming America

Rytz, Henriette
Foreign Policy Advisor to Member of the Bundstag Cem Özdemir, German Bundestag

Sanders, Trooper
Founder, Wise Whisper

Schäuble, Juliane
Head of Political Department, Der Tagesspiegel

Seiler, Luisa
Co-founder, SINGA Deutschland

Smidt, Nina
President of American Friends of Bucerius, Director of International Strategic Planning and Business Development, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

Somaskanda, Sumangali
Reporter, Anchor, Freelance

Stevens, Samantha
Sr. Analyst for Strategy & Innovation Wealth Management, Northern Trust

Turner, Lev
Food Security and Humanitarian Aid Advisor, United States Mission to the European Union

Vincze, Viktor
Advisor of the Commissioner for Foreign Nationals of the Free State of Saxony, Saxon State Parliament

Zwickert, Letitia
Fulbright-Schuman Scholar, Belgium Fulbright Commission

Participants

Marina Basso Michael
Member of the Board and Head of Business Development at Port of Hamburg Marketing, Hamburg

Marina Basso Michael is Head of Baltic Sea Region Market Development of Port of Hamburg Marketing. She represents the interests of port companies in one of the most important markets for the Port of Hamburg. In her position she is responsible for the Port of Hamburg's activities in the Baltic Sea Region. After finishing her Degree in Politics and Transport Economics at the University of Hamburg, Marina Basso Michael joined Port of Hamburg Marketing in 2008. In her previous function as an international logistics project leader until 2014, she worked on improving multi-modal transportation in the Baltic Sea Region, developing better transport solutions for the private sector and examining the current situation on the transport and logistics market. She also managed the promotion of new services offered by the companies located in the Port of Hamburg and established new international working groups with special focus on container transportation.

Besides her professional experience, Marina Basso Michael brings a solid personal, international and intercultural background. Born and raised in Lithuania, she moved to Germany in 2001. During her studies she was a grantee of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation. In that time, she not only took part in different seminars and study visits, but also was an active member of the foundation's network who organized and leaded different workshops and international conventions.

Arnd Boekhoff
Founding Member, Hanseatic Help e.V., Hamburg

Arnd Boekhoff is a founding member of Hanseatic Help e.V., a charitable organization based in Hamburg, Germany. In August 2015 a handful of people spontaneously started to collect and sort clothes and other desperately needed items as a response to the accommodation of 1200 refugees in an adjacent hall of Hamburg Exhibition Center. Immediately the public support for Kleiderkammer Messehallen was overwhelming. After four weeks the donations-in-kind filled a 7500 m² hall. Based on the effort of thousands of volunteers and a self-developed IT warehouse system Kleiderkammer Messehallen soon managed to supply more than 100 camps, shelters and organizations for refugees and other people in need. In October 2015 the initiators secured the continuation of this project by founding Hanseatic Help. Its purpose is to improve the current services, to establish an interregional network of social logistics with similar organizations, and to provide a platform for projects, which aim to support the integration of refugees in Hamburg and beyond. Arnd Boekhoff holds a master's degree in History and Political Science from Christian-Albrecht-University, Kiel, and has worked as a Public Affairs consultant in Berlin. After moving to Hamburg in 2015 and entering Kleiderkammer Messehallen on its third day, Arnd instantly decided to put his job search on hold. For Hanseatic Help he is responsible for Public and Governmental Relations as well as the strategic planning and development of new projects.

Raquel Casteñada-López

Council Member, Detroit City Council, Detroit

Raquel Castañeda-López is a Detroit City Council Member representing District 6, home to the majority of the city's immigrant communities. She was recently elected to office in 2013, becoming the first Latina ever to serve in this position. A social worker by trade, Raquel has over ten years of experience in the non-profit sector developing & implementing innovative youth programming for marginalized communities.

She was a Fellow with the Center for Progressive Leaders and New Detroit Multicultural Leaders and recently completed the Transatlantic Inclusion Leadership training with the German Marshall Fund. She founded and currently co-chairs Detroit's Immigration Task Force.

Lauren Culver

Benchmark Fellow, Stanford University, Stanford

Lauren is pursuing a PhD in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. In her research, she is applying engineering techniques such as system modeling and decision analysis to improve energy policy design. Her current projects focus on global shale gas, liquid natural gas markets, and US energy assistance in Ukraine. Before pursuing her PhD, Lauren advised the Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs at the US Department of State on natural gas in international energy security, developed strategies for diplomatic engagement in energy, and advised US policymakers on energy markets and technologies. Lauren developed a model to analyze the Ukrainian gas system after the 2014 revolution which was the basis of discussions with European Union partners; the resulting action plan was later adopted by Secretary of State John Kerry and Former EU High Representative for Foreign Policy Catherine Ashton at the US-EU Energy Council. Prior to her work at the State Department, Lauren was an Energy Technology Commercialization Specialist at the US Department of Energy as a Presidential Management Fellow, where she advised the Undersecretary for Energy on innovation and manufacturing. Lauren received an MSc in Technology and Policy and an MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT, and received a BS in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Florida

Katharina Dermühl

Co-founder Migration Hub,

Head of Marketing, Kiron Open Higher Education gUG, Berlin

Katharina Dermühl is cofounder of Migration Hub Network and Kiron Ventures fostering synergies between, co-creation with and entrepreneurship for refugees and refugee initiatives and Head of Marketing at Kiron. Before moving to the field of social entrepreneurship she worked for Berlin based company-builder Found Fair Ventures as a Innovation and New Business Manager primarily in the field of MedTech. She gained experiences in the field of medical engineering while working for the MedTech Company Biotronik, researching on the future of human nature and the social implications of human enhancement technologies, also getting engineers and natural scientist familiar with the concept of user centred design. She holds a masters degree in futures research from Freie Universität Berlin and focussed on the interplay of Society and Technology while researching modi of change of status symbols for the Society and Technology Research Group of Daimler. Katharina is a passionate believer in cocreating solutions for social challenges involving those affected and meeting them truly on eye level, bridging gaps and providing the tools for actual self-empowerment.

Chris Fowler

Vice President, Creative Science Labs,
Washington, D.C.

A born storyteller and creative problem solver, Chris Fowler was raised near Syracuse University (New York, USA) where he later earned his MBA. Chris has over 15 years of experience in creative professional services and nearly ten in digital marketing and strategic communications, with experience spanning across creative agencies, start-ups and the foundation/NGO space. As Vice President for Creative Science Labs, a digital design and web development agency based in Washington DC, Chris leads Business Development and Digital Strategy efforts. In this role, he collaborates with his team to create high impact websites and applications for leading non-profits and select private sector clients. Chris serves as Board Chair for The New American Leaders Project, which is leading a national movement for inclusive democracy by empowering first and second generation Americans to progress from the community to the capital. Chris also serves as the national (US) Chapter Head of the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network and Member at Large of his community's home owners association. Chris and his partner Jennifer Herrera live in Fairfax County, Virginia with their two daughters.

Stephanie Hammond

Policy Advisor for Conflicts and Disasters,
World Vision USA, Washington, D.C.

Stephanie L. Hammond serves as the World Vision policy advisor for global conflicts and natural disasters. In this role, Stephanie focuses on the global refugee crisis and humanitarian emergencies and response. Stephanie previously was a foreign policy advisor in the U.S. Congress for over five years and focused on human rights, religious persecution, global health, religious freedom, and refugee issues. While on Capitol Hill, Stephanie also served as the staff lead for the International Religious Freedom Caucus, a bipartisan coalition of eighty members of Congress who address global religious persecution.

Stephanie has spoken before the United Nations Fourth Committee, Rutgers University, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and Gediz University and Sabanci University in Turkey about the global refugee crisis and religious persecution. She has met with government officials, civil society groups, religious leaders, and refugees in Algeria, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Iraq. Most recently, Stephanie traveled to Serbia where she interviewed thirty refugees for a World Vision policy recommendation paper on the European migration crisis.

Stephanie graduated summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis where she completed a thesis on the early history of the British eugenics movement with the history and biology departments. She studied at Christ Church, Oxford University, received Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation Certificate, and is currently a candidate for the Joint Professional Military Education Certificate at the U.S. Air Command and Staff College.

Adolfo Hernandez

Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, City of Chicago, Chicago

Adolfo Hernandez serves as the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement for the City of Chicago. Mr. Hernandez serves as a direct link between City government – including the Mayor's Office, City departments, and sister agencies – with external partners and communities across Chicago. The mission of the office is to engage neighborhoods and community leaders with City government, ensuring the resources of government are closely connected to the residents it serves.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Hernandez served as the inaugural Director of the Mayor's Office of New Americans. Launched in 2011, the Office of New Americans is dedicated to realizing Mayor Emanuel's goal of making Chicago the most immigrant friendly city in the nation. He worked to develop and implement policies and strategies that supported the creation and expansion of immigrant-owned businesses, that developed, attracted, and retained talent and expertise from other countries, and that created opportunities for undocumented students and families; bolstering Chicago's status as a vibrant and welcoming international city.

The White House has recognized Mr. Hernandez as a "Champion of Change" for his work to effectively integrate immigrants civically, linguistically, and socially into the fabric of their neighborhoods by bringing all residents together to create welcoming communities. The son of Mexican immigrants, Mr. Hernandez was born and raised in Chicago's Little Village community.

Adam Hunter

Director, Immigration and the States, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.

Adam Hunter directs Pew's project examining the intersection of federal, state, and local immigration laws and policies and their impact on all levels of government. Hunter is responsible for providing strategic direction, overseeing the development of research products, and managing relationships with external partners. Before joining Pew, Hunter was the acting chief of staff at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security, which administers immigration benefits and related activities for the U.S. government. In an earlier capacity at USCIS, he managed citizenship and immigrant integration policy research, interagency initiatives, and international engagement. Prior to his government service, Hunter led projects at the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Center for American Progress on issues related to national security and immigration. He also worked in Berlin, managing a nationwide election campaign for a candidate to the European Parliament and later in Brussels, coordinating the new member's foreign policy and justice and home affairs priorities. Hunter began his career managing foreign policy grants and institutional relationships at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Hunter was a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow and then alumni association Board Member. Since 2008 he is both a Security Fellow of the Truman National Security Project and Transatlantic Forum on Migration and Integration Fellow. In 2012 Hunter became an Atlantik-Brücke German-American Young Leader and in 2015, joined the Board of Directors of Cultural Vistas, an international exchange organization. He speaks German and French.

Juliana Kerr

Director, Global Cities and Immigration,
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs,
Chicago

Juliana Kerr joined the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in 2002 and currently directs the Council's work on global cities and immigration. She manages the Council's publications, research, and partnerships on issues related to global cities, urbanization, Global Chicago, and migration. She sits on the board of the Women's Global Education Project and was selected to participate in the 2013 Bucerius Stiftung Latin American Forum in Brazil. In 2007, she spent one month exploring immigrant integration initiatives and challenges in suburban Paris with the Rotary Group Study Exchange. A dual-citizen of the United States and Brazil, she studied political science and French at the University of Iowa, spent a year at Sciences Po in Lyon, France, and a year in high school in rural France with Rotary Youth Exchange.

Travis Mason

Public Policy & Government Relations,
Google, Washington, D.C.

As a classically trained musician and student of innovation, Travis brings a unique approach to solving complex policy challenges specifically for Google[x] - Alphabet's secret R&D lab. For the last 5 years, he has focused on the company's most innovative work in autonomous technology, renewable energy and health sciences. From self-driving cars to airborne wind turbines, Travis works with engineers, regulators and industry leaders to advance next generation technology. Before Google, he worked at Booz Allen Hamilton on government technology solutions for the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense and State.

Recognized for his commitment to public policy Mason was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar and Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow. He received his undergraduate degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University and his master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has also studied at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government as a Galbraith Scholar.

Dan McSwain

President, GEER, Washington, D.C.

Dan runs GEER, a boutique strategy firm based in Washington, D.C. and New York City. With more than ten years of digital experience in the public, private, political, and nonprofit sectors, Dan's portfolio spans public relations, online fundraising, rapid response, campaign strategy, press, communications, and executive coaching. After a brief but promising first career in digital music streaming, McSwain joined President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign headquarters as a writer and digital strategist. He later served as blogger for the President-Elect during the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition in 2009. At GEER, Dan oversees cultural and digital strategy for clients such as MTV, Sundance Institute, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Environmental Defense Fund, UNHCR, and more. Dan has a B.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame and an M.S. in Public Relations from the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. In 2014, Dan was named one of Huffington Post's "Top 40 Latinos in American Media."

Chase Mohney

Client Partner, Facebook Inc.,
New York City

Chase Mohney is a Client Partner at Facebook. In his role, he has advised some of the largest political, advocacy, and non-profit organizations in the US on their marketing and engagement strategies. Prior to joining Facebook, Chase was a Senior Strategist at Trilogy Interactive working with a range of political and advocacy clients on their digital engagement strategies.

Chase also serves on the board of Forward Montana, an organization focused on youth and civic engagement in his home state of Montana.

Simon Morris-Lange

Deputy Head of Research, The Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration, Berlin

Simon Morris-Lange is Deputy Head of Research with the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration (SVR), a leading non-partisan think tank devoted to immigration and immigrant integration. Before joining the SVR, Simon served as an analyst with the Illuminate Consulting Group in the San Francisco Bay Area and as Chief Operating Officer with iversity, a Berlin-based edutech company. Simon has gained extensive experience in comparative research and evidence-based policy advice through research projects in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States. Simon writes regularly on educational inequality, cross-border student mobility, and skilled migration. He was educated in Germany, the United States, and Singapore.

Lothar Müller

Foreign, European and Security Policy
Advisor, German Bundestag, Berlin

Lothar Müller works as a Politicial Advisor on Foreign and European policy for the CSU group in the German parliament. Before that, he worked for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, i.a. dealing with policy issues and representing the office at international conferences. Prior positions included working for the German Ministry of Defense, taking part in a European Twinning Project (Intellectual Property Rights) in Poland, working for the UNODC/Terrorism Prevention Branch in Vienna and being a member of the European Police Mission Proxima in Macedonia. Lothar studied law, political science and art history, holds a doctorate in law from the University of Vienna and a Master in European Governance from the ENA and the Humboldt University. Key interests: foreign policy, European cooperation, institution building.

Ferry Pausch

Managing Director, Deutschlandstiftung Integration, Berlin

Since 2010 Ferry Pausch is Managing Director of the Germany Foundation for Integration, which he helped setting up in 2008. At the foundation Ferry established a unique Scholarship Program that connects young talents with a migrant background with CEOs, top politicians and scientist. The foundation which is under the patronage of Chancellor Merkel helps shaping a modern and divers German society. Ferry is holding a Master Degree in Business Studies and a Master Degree in International Affairs. Prior to his position at the foundation he worked for the German Association of Magazine Publishers (VDZ), the Association of the German Industry (BDI), the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the United Nations. Ferry is Co-Founder of the German Alumni Network of Columbia University and Chairman of the Association of Migrant Businesses (VMW e.V.) and has been named Top 100 Young Leaders by the GQ Magazine and Top 40 Top Young Leaders.

Rachel Peric

Deputy Director, Welcoming America, Decatur

Rachel Peric is the Deputy Director of Welcoming America, where she works to create more prosperous communities where all individuals – including immigrants – have the opportunity to participate, thrive and belong. Welcoming America hosts the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, the nation's leading community of practice for municipal governments focused on immigrant integration, as well as Welcoming Refugees, which helps the nation's refugee resettlement network foster greater community support for their efforts. Beginning in 2016, the organization will co-host an exchange program between German and US cities on the topic of welcoming migrants.

Prior to Welcoming America, Ms. Peric served as Executive Director of the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL), a capacity building and advocacy organization supporting adult English and literacy programs in suburban Washington, DC, for which she was awarded the Montgomery Women Rising Star Award. Her career includes work spanning a number of community building issues at the local and international level, including serving as a regional director with the United Way of the National Capital Area and managing international development programs with a private consulting firm, Management Systems International (MSI).Ms. Peric holds a BA in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University and Masters in Public Management from the University of Maryland.

Henriette Rytz

Foreign Policy Advisor to Member of the German Bundestag Cem Özdemir, German Bundestag, Berlin

Dr. Henriette Rytz is a foreign policy advisor to Cem Özdemir, member of the Bundestag and head of the Green Party Germany (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen). Throughout her studies and professional career, Ms. Rytz has been passionately engaged with questions of international relations, foreign policy, and migration. From 2011 until 2013, she worked as a research associate with SWP Berlin (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik / German Institute for International and Security Affairs) where she focused on U.S. domestic politics, U.S. foreign policy, and transatlantic relations. Prior to joining SWP, she served as Congressional Fellow in the U.S. House of Representatives, supporting the work of a highranking member of the foreign-affairs committee. Further work experience includes stints at the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies in Washington, D.C., and at Yale University. Ms. Rytz holds a PhD in Political Science from the Free University Berlin and a joint M.A. in International Relations from the Free University Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin and University of Potsdam. In her free time, she enjoys music, yoga, movies & books, but above all spending time with her daughter who reminds her how wonderful the world is seen through the eyes of a child.

Trooper Sanders

Founder, Wise Whisper, Washington, D.C.

Trooper Sanders is founder of Wise Whisper, a partnership development and political brand strategy practice serving innovative companies and non-profit organizations. Previously, he served as a White House advisor to U.S. first lady Michelle Obama, which included working closely with the National Security Council and Departments of Defense and State on a variety of matters, and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore. He also served as a senior advisor to former U.S. President Bill Clinton building major initiatives and partnerships at his foundation, and was a Robert Bosch Foundation transatlantic fellow. Trooper serves on a variety of leading non-profit boards. He is pursuing a doctorate in international relations and has a post-graduate degree from the London School of Economics and undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

Juliane Schäuble

Head of Political Department, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

Juliane Schäuble is head of the Political department at the daily, Berlin-based newspaper “Der Tagesspiegel”. She is responsible for the front page, the political section and for the political supplement “Agenda”. Juliane Schäuble’s areas of expertise include nine years of experience in the business and the political department. She has developed and still organizes political conferences on a regular basis in cooperation with the “Freie Universität Berlin” and the “Schwarzkopf Stiftung”. She earned her Master’s in Political Science at the University in Potsdam, Germany. Her studies included one semester at American University in Washington, DC, where she took classes in American foreign policy and worked part-time for the “American Council of Young Political Leaders” (“Washington Semester Program”). Juliane took part in the “Manfred-Wörner-Seminar” of the German Marshall Fund and the Armed Forces Office of the German Defense Ministry (2003) as well as in the German-American “Young Leader’s Conference” of the Atlantik Bridge in 2008. 2009/2010 she was trained in the “Media-Manager-Program” of the Publishing House “Georg von Holtzbrinck”. 2006, she was a fellow of the Johanna-Quandt-Foundation for economic journalists. In 2014, Juliane was involved in the “Collaborative Leadership Program” of the non-profit organization “Leadership Berlin – Netzwerk Verantwortung”. In the same year, she took part in the Young Leader’s Conference of the Council for the United States and Italy. She is fluent in English and speaks some French.

Luisa Seiler

Co-founder, SINGA Deutschland, Berlin

Luisa recently co-founded SINGA Germany, an organisation dedicated to developing innovative solutions to refugees' societal participation and socio-economic inclusion. In her last position as a Mercator Fellow, she worked with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on forcibly displaced persons' access to decent labour in host countries. She regards migration of all kinds as a process that questions both traditional structures within states and relations between states, and thus as an impetus for societal and political creativity and innovation. Before receiving the Mercator Fellowship, she was a research associate and policy adviser at the efms (european forum for migration studies), a long-established migration research institute in Germany that aims to help improve migration and integration policy in Germany and Europe via informed discourse on these issues. Over the years, she has gained expertise in a wide array of migration-related fields, not least through her work with refugees in Morocco. Luisa studied Applied Political Science at the University of Freiburg and the Institut d'Études Politiques d'Aix-en-Provence with a focus on international relations and migration. She firmly believes in, and yet time and again is stunned by, the value of curated inter-/transcultural dialogue, which she endeavoured to facilitate during her time at university while working at the Franco-German TV channel ARTE and the Festival du Monde Arabe de Montréal.

Nina Smidt

President, American Friends of Bucerius, New York City

Director International Strategic Planning and Business Development, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg

Dr. Nina Smidt is President of American Friends of Bucerius. Nina has been leading the New York office since 2009 and has overseen the steady growth of the Bucerius network and business operations in the United States. As Director of International Strategy Planning and Business Development for the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, she is also responsible for initiating programs and partnerships around the world as part of the global Bucerius activities. Prior to joining AFB, Nina was CEO of Bucerius Education, the for-profit branch of Bucerius Law School, delivering international executive education, event management, and complex consulting services to the European and US marketplace. Before that, she served as Vice Director at the International Center for Graduate Studies in Hamburg, Germany, and as Public Relations & Communications Manager at the Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany. Her academic work in philosophy, education, and literary studies took her to Hamburg University (Germany), Cornell University (USA), Haifa University (Israel), and the University of Technology in Sydney (Australia). Nina frequently speaks and publishes on transatlantic issues, migration policy, and international philanthropy. A German native, she was educated in Indonesia, Germany, Australia, and the United States, and holds a PhD in literary and cultural theory. Nina is a board member of the American Friends of Atlantikbrücke and the American Council on Germany (ACG), as well as a member of the Atlantik-Brücke and a DO School Advisor. Nina is married to photographer Jürgen Frank, and they have a daughter.

Sumangali Somaskanda

Reporter, Anchor, Freelance, Berlin

Sumi Somaskanda is a Berlin-based freelance journalist reporting on Germany, Europe and the Middle East for the last eight years. She has covered politics, society, immigration, religion and economics for a variety of international publications including Al Jazeera, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, USA Today and Global Post. In addition, Sumi has anchored the flagship news program at Germany's international broadcaster, DW (Deutsche Welle), since 2012. Before coming to Germany in 2008, Sumi reported for local and regional television stations in Chicago and Albany. She also helped produce an award-winning documentary on autism and launch a headline news program at Al Gore's Current TV network in San Francisco. Originally from Rochester, New York, Sumi speaks German, Spanish and Tamil.

Samantha Stevens

Sr. Analyst for Strategy & Innovation
Wealth Management, Northern Trust,
Chicago

Samantha J. Stevens is a Specialist, Business Strategy for the Trust & Advisory Practice in the Wealth Management Group at Northern Trust in Chicago. In this role, Sam is responsible for developing long-term goals and strategic objectives for the practice. She is currently responsible for the procurement and management of software applications for the Trust & Advisory Practice, and is working on multiple projects aligned with the overhaul and integration of Wealth Management and enterprise software solutions. Sam also works closely with marketing and communications on projects directly related to her product lines and the overall communications strategy for the Trust & Advisory Practice. Prior to her current role at Northern Trust, Sam served as an Assistant Relationship Manager on a wealth management team. Before coming to Northern Trust, she was a criminal defense attorney at Sam L. Amirante & Associates in Palatine, IL. Sam received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Ohio University in Athens, OH and a J.D. from Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, LA. Sam is an active volunteer with Working in the Schools (WITS), a Chicago based literacy non-profit, and just completed her two-year term as Vice President of the WITS Associates Board. She is a former YP Ambassador for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a member of the Executive Council for the Intergenerational Model UN as part of the United Nations Association Greater Chicago Chapter. Sam is a member of the Transatlantic Core Group.

Lev Turner

Food Security and Humanitarian Aid Advisor, United States Mission to the European Union, Brussels

Lev Turner is a native of Chicago and mostly optimistic fan of the Bears American football team. While working in marketing and sales for Broadway shows, she was moved by the atrocities committed in Sudan and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. As such, she left her role to complete a Master's of Science degree in International Relations with a focus on Development. In her new career, she has held a number of development and policy positions on three different continents, but still aspires to work in Sudan or South Sudan someday. Recent positions include working for the U.S. Mission to NATO, U.K. Permanente Representation to the European Union, and the U.S. Mission to the European Union. In here current role as the USAID Food Security and Humanitarian Affairs Advisor in Brussels, she works with the EU Institutions and UN Agencies to coordinate humanitarian and development policies. Ms. Turner's second language is French and she is modestly proficient in Spanish, Arabic, and Tamil.

Viktor Vincze

Advisor of the Commissioner for Foreign Nationals of the Free State of Saxony, Saxon State Parliament, Dresden

Viktor Vincze, born 1977 in Mátészalka, Hungary, and with German and Hungarian nationalities, is a cultural diplomat. Since 2015 he works as the personal advisor of the Saxon Commissioner for Foreigners of the Saxon State Parliament. Before that, he was involved in Project RESQUE PLUS (Refugees Support for Qualification und Employment) by the INT Society to support the professional and social integration. In addition he hold several political and honor offices: Chairman, member advisory council for integration by the Saxon state capital Dresden, appointed member, member of the Steering Committee Advisory board of migration and integration by the Saxon State Ministry of social affairs and consumer protection in the interdepartmental ministerial working group and speaker, State Association for migration, integration and antidiscrimination of the Alliance 90 / The Greens, State Association of Saxony. From 2011 to 2015 he was dep. chief of the expert group for economy, profession, education (prof. language support) for the implementation of the integration concept, Saxon state capital Dresden. Beside this, he is officer of Foreigners' association of Dresden since 2009 and member of the coordination committee, Saxon migration advisory board since 2008. From 2006 to 2011 Vincze was speaker, head of unit and consultant for foreign students of the Technical University of Dresden. His PhD studies of linguistic and cultural sociology at the Technical University of Dresden had the topic: The cultural identity of minorities in bilingual regions. He holds a master degree from the Technical University of Dresden in studies of culture and management.

Letitia Zwickert

Fulbright-Schuman Scholar, Belgium
Fulbright Commission, Brussels

Letitia Zwickert is the first K-12 teacher to become a Fulbright-Schuman Scholar. Her research focusses on both EU educational policy's impact on Member States, and minority education/achievement gap and immigrant schooling in LUX, BE, and FR. Letitia is also a Visiting Scholar at Université du Luxembourg, Université Libre de Bruxelles, and Université de Strasbourg. Currently, she is on sabbatical from her teaching position at Naperville Central High School where she teaches International Relations, World Cultures, and Ethnic Minorities in America. Letitia holds a B.A. in Political Science, an M.A. in International Relations, and an M.A.E.D. in Secondary Education. Her prior work experience includes working as a researcher for the European Parliament in security and defense, and work on an EU grant at Harvard University. Letitia has one article publication entitled, "Membership of Foreigners: Algerians in France" in Arab Studies Quarterly.

Partner Organizations' Representatives

Sarah Braig

Project Manager Organization, BMW Foundation, Berlin

Sarah Braig has worked as a team assistant and project manager in the Organization team of the BMW Foundation since October 2015. She earned her bachelor's in European Studies in Maastricht in the Netherlands. As part of her program of study, she spent a semester abroad in Hong Kong. Sarah subsequently completed her Master's in Intercultural Conflict Management at the Alice Solomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin.

She was able to gain experience in project management and event planning during her internship with Amnesty International where she was responsible for, among other things, a nationwide Amnesty International informational tour and the International Day of Human Rights. Sarah volunteers in a neighborhood initiative in Moabit which provides advocacy and assistance to refugees.

Frances G. Burwell

Vice President, European Union and Special Initiatives, Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C.

Frances G. Burwell is Vice President, European Union and Special Initiatives, at the Atlantic Council. She has served as Director of the Council's Program on Transatlantic Relations, and as Interim Director of the Global Business and Economics Program.
Her work focuses on the European Union and US-EU relations as well as a range of transatlantic economic, political, and defense issues. She is the principal US-based organizer of the Wrocław Global Forum, held annually in Poland, which is the European home of the Atlantic Council's Freedom Awards. Among her publications are: A Transatlantic Approach to Europe's East: Relaunching the Eastern Partnership; Shoulder to Shoulder: Forging a Strategic US-EU Partnership; Rethinking the Russia Reset; and Transatlantic Leadership for a New Global Economy. She is also a frequent commentator on European politics and transatlantic relations, with interviews and op-eds appearing in the Huffington Post, Financial Times, Christian Science Monitor, al-Jazeera, BBC, and CCTV, among others. Prior to joining the Council, Dr. Burwell was Executive Director of the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland and also served as Founding Executive Director of Women In International Security. She has a doctorate from the University of Maryland, an MPhil from Oxford University, and a BA from Mount Holyoke College.

Katharina Götze

Project Manager Organization, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, Berlin

Katharina Götze studied Intercultural Business Communication, Political Science and English at the Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena and graduated in 2005 with an MA in "Culture, Communication and Globalization" from Aalborg University, Denmark. Before joining the BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt in 2012, she organized international conferences and events on the subjects of education and technology, both in Germany and throughout Africa. Katharina Götze has worked at the German Embassy in Copenhagen and the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Stockholm. In addition, she has volunteered for Amnesty International, Antislavery International in London, as well as CooperarPeru in Cuzco.

Jennifer Jun

Assistant Director of Visiting Fellowships,
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs,
Chicago

Jennifer Jun is assistant director of visiting fellowships at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Previously, she was at the Aspen Institute in Washington from 2011 to 2015 as associate director of the Aspen Strategy Group, a bipartisan policy program focused on US foreign policy and national security. Before moving to DC in 2011, she worked in Europe at various international organizations including the International Criminal Court and International Organization for Migration. She is a senior fellow with Humanity in Action, a transatlantic network of young leaders dedicated to human rights, and serves on the executive board of the International Career Advancement Program Alumni Association to advance diversity among thought leaders and decision makers in foreign policy. She has a BA in anthropology and comparative literature from the University of Pennsylvania, a double MA in European studies from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen and Universidad de Deusto, and an LL.M in international and European public law from Tilburg University.

Anda Ruf

Program Officer, Department International Relations America and Asia, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stuttgart

Anda Ruf is Program Officer in the Department “International Relations America and Asia” at Robert Bosch Stiftung. She has joined the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2011 and has worked with the Stiftung’s programs and projects with the US for 2 years as a project assistant until she became program officer in 2014. Before joining the Robert Bosch Stiftung she worked for the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, mainly responsible for organizing international workshops for young leaders and diplomats from Africa, South-East Asia as well as Latin America. She studied political science, history, and public law at the universities of Freiburg and Gothenburg/Sweden and graduated in 2010 (M.A.).

Michael Schaefer

Chairman of the Board, BMW Foundation
Herbert Quandt, Berlin, Munich

Dr. Michael Schaefer studied law in Munich, Geneva, and Heidelberg where he passed his Second State Examination in Law in 1978. In the same year, he joined the Foreign Service. After postings at the United Nations in New York from 1981 to 1984 he served as Permanent Representative at the German Embassy in Singapore from 1987 to 1991 and as head of the Political Affairs Section at the German Permanent Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva from 1995 to 1999. From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Michael Schaefer was head of the Western Balkans Task Force and subsequently Deputy Political Director and Special Envoy for Southeast Europe at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. From 2002 to 2007, he was Political Director of the Federal Foreign Office, before being appointed Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, a post he held until June 2013. Since July 1, 2013, Dr. Michael Schaefer has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt. Dr. Michael Schaefer is the author of numerous articles and monographs on foreign and security policy issues. He is among others honorary professor at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, member of the German Group of the Trilateral Commission, member of the Advisory Board of the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) and board member of the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN).

Jonathan Silversthorne

Director of the Millennium Leadership program, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C.

Jonathan Silverthorne is the Director of the Millennium Leadership program, where he develops and manages a portfolio of emerging leaders initiatives. From 2009 to 2011, Jonathan worked at the US Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of International Affairs, leading DHS-wide coordination of Central American policy and working with the White House and Interagency to strengthen regional partnerships and expand security assistance. From 2008 to 2009, Jonathan worked on the Obama campaign, coordinating the campaign's grassroots fundraising on the East Coast, and at the Presidential Inaugural Committee, helping to organize the committee's National Day of Service. He graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College with a BA in history. He speaks fluent French and Russian and conversational Arabic.

Claudia Strasser

Project Manager, BMW Foundation
Herbert Quandt, Munich

Claudia Strasser has been project manager for International Relations since April 2015 and is responsible for the Transatlantic Core Group. Before joining the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, she worked for seven years in different departments of the Robert Bosch Foundation, most recently as Director of the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program for Future Leaders. In addition, she supervised a variety of transatlantic cooperation projects and served as a Visiting Program Officer to the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, D.C. Claudia Strasser holds a dual diploma in International Cultural and Business Studies from the University of Passau and the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is also a certified CSR manager from the Fundraising Akademie and teaches cultural management at the University of Freiburg.

Johann Weicht

Project Assistant, BMW Foundation
Herbert Quandt, Berlin

Johann Weicht is a scholarship student in the BA course in marketing communications at the design akademie berlin, specializing in communications management. He worked as an intern in the BMW Foundation's Social Entrepreneurship department from April 2015 until August 2015, when he extended his stay as a student employee.
Prior to his studies, he spent a year volunteering with a nonprofit educational initiative and has since regularly run seminars and workshops for children and youth. His focus is on group and team building processes as well as individual development and vocational orientation.
In addition, he is active in a variety of committees, including the faculty council of his university and as an external member of the school conference of his former high school.

Practical Information

Event Location
Paretzer Akademie
An der Schleuse 1
14669 Ketzin / Havel OB Paretz
Germany

Transportation

All participants will meet on April 7 at 4 p.m. at the BMW Foundation's Berlin office, Reinhardtstr. 58, 10117 Berlin. From there a shuttle will bring you to Paretz. On Sunday, April 10, at 11 a.m., two shuttles depart from Paretz. One heads back to Berlin city center and one to Tegel International Airport (TXL). Each way takes about one hour. In case you need individual transportation, you can order a taxi via 0162 / 9103182 (Hendrik Wohlmann).

Emergency

In case of emergency, please contact Katharina Götze +49 151 6030 3527 or Sarah Braig +49 151 6030 3526.

Dress Code

The dress code throughout the event is business casual. Temperatures will be around 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit). We will spend some time outside, so bring along appropriate shoes and a (rain) jacket.

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs that need to be covered by the participants onsite.

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