

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

THE PAST IS STILL IN THE PRESENT

2021

Our Partners

Humanity in Action BiH cordially thanks the National Endowment for Democracy and Messer BH Gas for their generous support of this Fellowship. We thank our speakers and Senior Fellows. Without their dedicated help, the realization of this program would not be possible.



Humanity in Action BiH would also like to acknowledge the support of Open Society Fund BiH and School of Economics and Business at the University of Sarajevo.



The content of this program does not necessarily represent an expression of opinion by any of the aforementioned organizations or individuals.

About

Humanity in Action

Humanity in Action is a collaborative, international learning community of individuals from or based in Europe and the United States committed to the values of pluralism, liberal democracy, social justice, and human rights, particularly in the transatlantic context. We seek to promote these values through different forms of civic engagement shaped by the specific historical and cultural contexts in which we live.

- We **educate** to encourage critical exploration of liberal democracy, pluralism, and human rights, within the specific national historical, and contemporary contexts of our Fellowship programs.
- We **connect** an ever-growing transatlantic community to promote continual learning and collaboration.
- We **inspire** action for advancing human rights, social justice, and equity.

Through our work:

- We **affirm** the importance of strengthening democratic values.
- We **foster** environments in which individuals of diverse backgrounds and identities can engage openly and respectfully with contentious and challenging ideas and each other.
- We **support** a vision of pluralistic societies that embrace differences and negotiate their boundaries through constructive political, social, and personal dialogue and relationships.
- We **build** a multinational, inter-generational community of emerging and established leaders who share the Humanity in Action values.

>> PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

We believe that an important test of a genuine democracy is how it advances social equity and pluralism. We strengthen the commitment of our community to democratic values and foster knowledge around past and present human rights challenges.

The intellectual touchstone for Humanity in Action, founded in 1997, has been the study of acts of resistance - and lack thereof - during the Second World War and the Holocaust. These events raise critical questions: Why do some people resist while others remain bystanders? What connects those who recognize the need to resist? How are acts of resistance influenced by national and historical contexts?

Since Humanity in Action was founded with a focus on the 1943 flight and rescue of the Jews in Denmark during the Holocaust, we have grown conceptually, intellectually, and geographically. Our scope has expanded to include the legacies of American slavery and the Jim Crow era; colonialism and migration; peacebuilding and transitional justice in the Balkans; transitions from authoritarian to democratic forms of government in post-communist societies to other human rights challenges in Europe and the United States.

>> THE FELLOWSHIPS

Intensive and demanding, the Fellowship brings together international groups of university students and recent graduates to explore national histories of discrimination and resistance, as well as examples of issues affecting different minority groups today.

>> ABOUT HUMANITY IN ACTION BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina is a collaborative educational organization that strives to build a network of students and young professionals committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we particularly focus on promoting reconciliation and rebuilding social trust among deeply divided ethnic and religious groups. We are driven by a very strong idealism and identification with the larger organization and its mission are evident among fellows, senior fellows, program staff, leadership and board members. The main objectives and activities of Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina include the realization of peaceful and sustainable future in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region through education, networking and cooperation of youth with the aim of developing mutual respect and cultural, religious and ethnic tolerance in the international environment, as well as raising awareness of social problems, injustice, humanitarian work through domestic and international projects.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Humanity in Action Fellowships took place virtually from June 1 to 23, 2021. We thank our Fellows for their trust and willingness to experiment collaboratively. Due to the virtual nature of the program, we started and ended the Fellowship with the entire cohort of 110 Fellows joining all Humanity in Action Fellowship programs in Europe.

This year's Sarajevo Fellowship brought together carefully selected university students and recent graduates from Europe and the United States to explore historic and contemporary human rights issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Fellows met with activists, artists, experts, and policymakers to explore a variety of human rights issues, including how and why individuals and societies, past and present, have resisted intolerance and protected democratic values.

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FELLOWSHIP 2021

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Introduction to the Theme

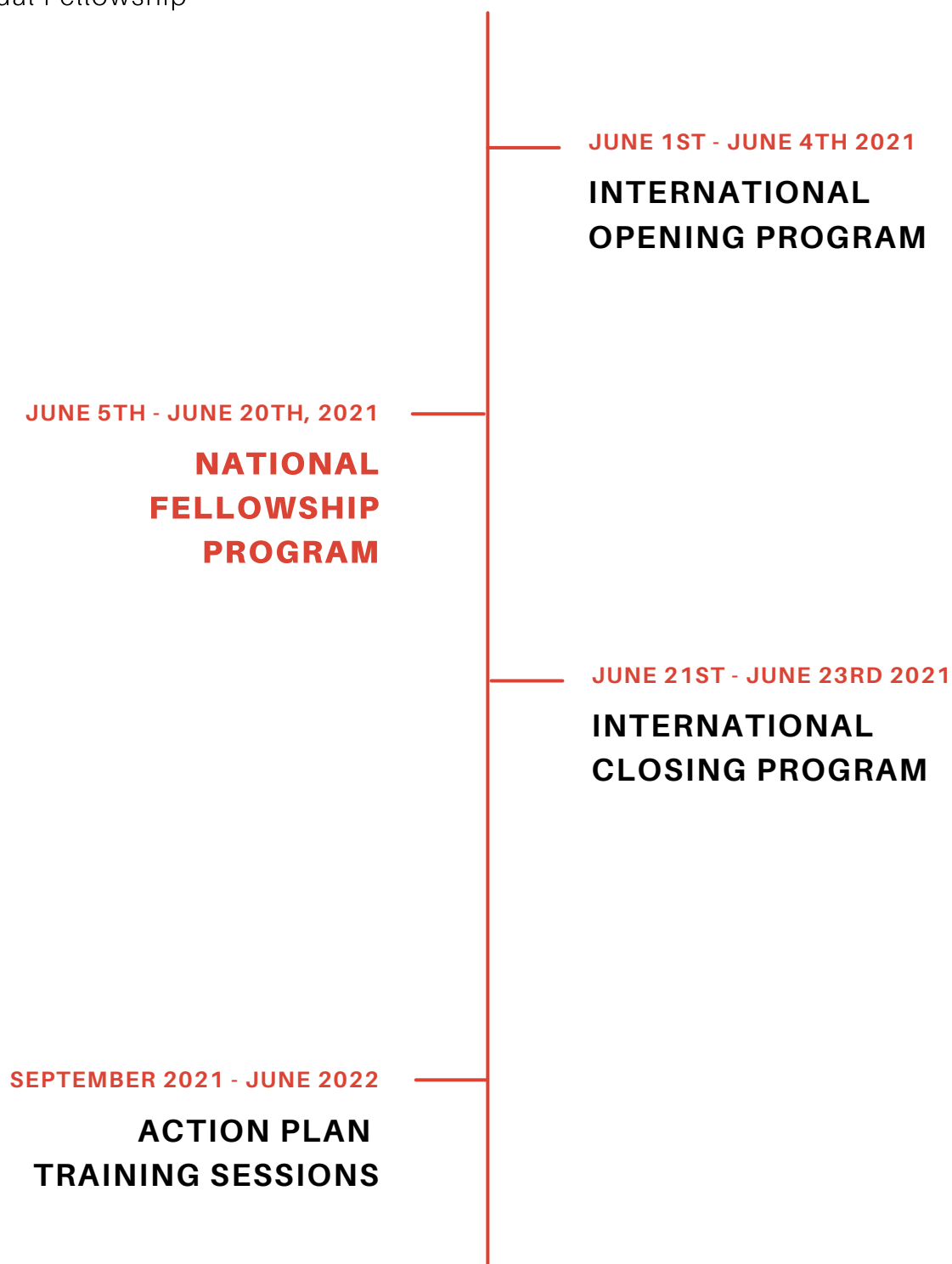
The Fifth Humanity in Action Fellowship in Sarajevo delved deep into the topics of transitional justice, post-conflict identity politics, peace-building and socioeconomic transformation in marginalized local communities.

Academically well-rounded, the program added diversity to the educational experiences and broadened the Humanity in Action program scope beyond Western Europe and the United States. It provided Fellows with an intellectual framework that connects issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina to both past and current global issues. It included insightful lecture-style sessions with high level speakers and workshop-based learning units, which focused more on discussions and Fellow interactions.

This combination of learning methods allowed Fellows to develop interpersonal relationships that solidify and strengthen the program itself. By challenging Fellows' perspectives on human rights issues, the program aimed to interrogate their own assumptions and encouraged them to question their scope and depth of knowledge of multiculturalism; economic inequality; interfaith dialogue; post-conflict social apathy, social unrests, divided communities and social exclusions; minority experiences and representations; progressive grassroots movements; the role of media and culture in a post-conflict setting; and civic resistance to various forms of institutionalized human rights violations.

Program Overview

Below is an overview of the important dates for the 2021 Virtual Fellowship



HIA 2021 SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

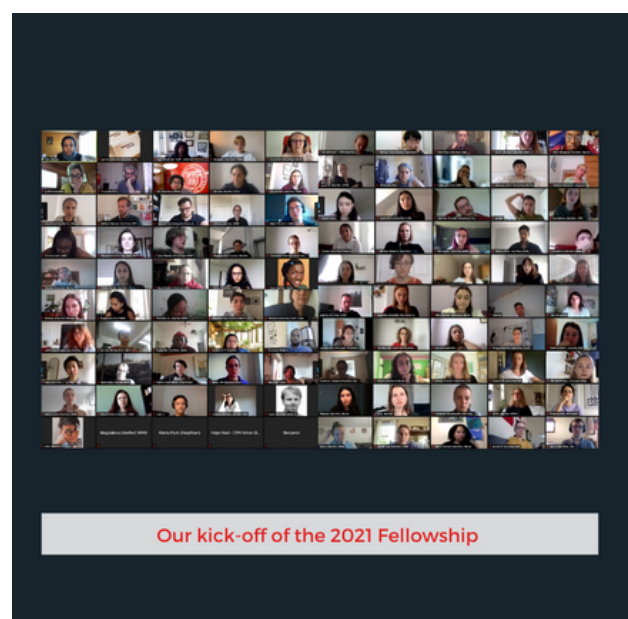
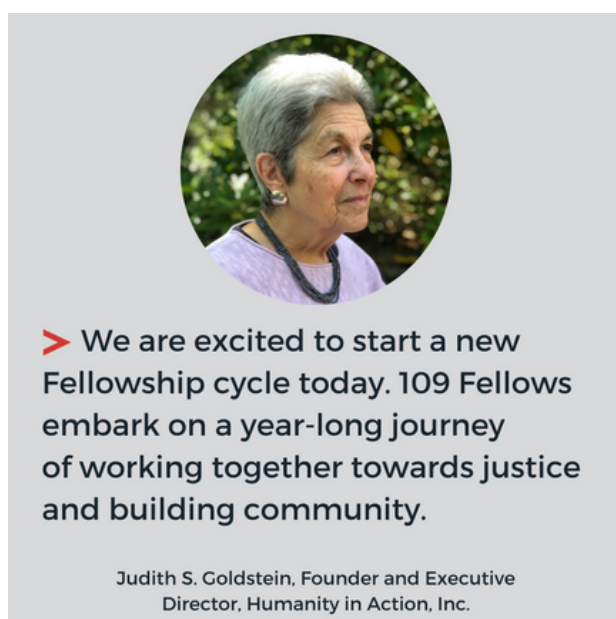
KICK-OFF DAY

Tuesday,
June 1st



Humanity in Action welcomed the new cohort of 110 Fellows on June 01, who joined the Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Sarajevo, and Warsaw programs for an exciting journey of the Fellowship year!

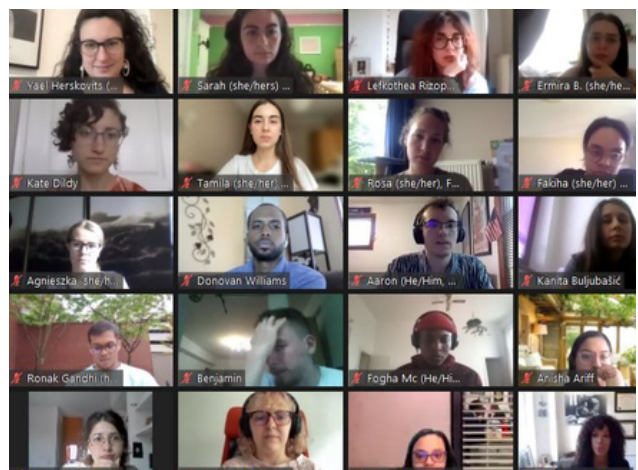
Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the 2021 Sarajevo cohort of 16 Fellows coming from 6 countries into the Humanity in Action Virtual Summer Fellowship for 2 weeks of very diversely focused sessions, panels and workshops in both international program and national Sarajevo Fellowship. During the program HIA aimed to provide knowledge and perspective on many global human rights and democracy related issues as well as on the very complex society that is Bosnia and Herzegovina.



HIA 2021 SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

KICK-OFF DAY

Tuesday,
June 1st





**Bosnia and
Herzegovina 25 Years
after Dayton
- An (Un)Pacified
Country at the
Crossroads**
*Jasmin Mujanović, PhD
York University*

During the kick-off session of the 2021 Sarajevo Fellowship our first speaker Dr Jasmin Mujanović explained to the Fellows the “unique” and complicated political system in nowadays Bosnia and Herzegovina after the 1992-95 war. Dr Mujanović explained the BiH's political system and how it contains all the elements of a democratic regime, however, he also elaborated on the fact that the “peculiar” case of BiH makes functioning of the institutions ineffective. He noted that BiH is often characterized as one of the most elaborate constitutional regimes worldwide and that the levels of government and its complexities affect the state building and decision-making which makes the country progress slow. He also touched upon the election rights and legal discrimination in electoral system which originates from the ethnical composition of Bosnian citizens. The fellows were really interested in getting to know the background of the story and posed many questions and developed a discussion.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING #1

DAY 1

Tuesday,
June 1st

Civic Engagement and Activism in Times of Covid *Panel Discussion with Senior Fellows and Q&A*



> The COVID-19 pandemic has put a pause on the business-as-usual way of being that capitalism operates under, which has allowed us to exhale and reflect. What comes next is really up to us, whether we shift back to what we know or forge ahead into what is possible.

Sara Osman, 2017 John Lewis Fellowship

The first day of this year's Humanity in Action Fellowship consisted of a panel discussion among some of the HIA Senior Fellows. Kali-Ahset Amen, Director of the John Lewis Fellowship, moderated the session.

2017 John Lewis Fellow Sara Osman touched upon her experience with the #BLM protests while 2019 Warsaw Fellow Zuzanna Krzatala shared her insights on the reproductive rights protests in Poland. 2019 John Lewis Fellows Hoang Tran Hieu Hahn and June Thalín Worm Gibba also discussed the continuing presence and surge in anti-Asian hatred, and their initiative to share stories of Asian community members across Europe.



> We learn about history which is really a story about power – it is a history of how the powerful became powerful, and how they keep using power to keep them in positions in which they can continue to dominate. However, I believe that power has always been with the people. The activist challenge is to make enough people realize that, to such an extent they want to be writing their own history – and take action.

June Thalín Worm Gibba, 2019 John Lewis Fellowship



> Resistance can manifest itself through powerful forms such as joy, positive energy, deep relationships and empowered togetherness. Though it can feel counterintuitive to take time for self-care when the world around us is in crisis, understanding and practicing self-care is not only 'allowed', it is required. Activism is a marathon, not a sprint.

Hoang Tran Hieu Hanh, 2019 John Lewis Fellowship

2021 SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

DAY 2

Wednesday,
June 2nd

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

JASMIN HASIĆ
Humanity in Action BiH
Executive Director

Jasmin Hasić holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Université libre de Bruxelles and LUISS Guido Carli of Rome. His research interests revolve around diaspora studies and demographic changes associated with post-conflict migration, along with peace-building and transitional justice in multicultural societies.

#HIA2021

**Action Projects:
Intro Session**
*Jasmin Hasić, PhD,
HIA BiH Executive
Director*

We started off the second day of 2021 Sarajevo Fellowship with an Intro Session on Action Projects with our HIA BiH Executive Director Jasmin Hasic. After sharing his own experience from the 2009 Berlin Fellowship and the implementation process of his Action Project "Books 4 Vijećnica", Jasmin encouraged our fellows to brainstorm and share ideas for their Action Projects. The session allowed everyone to exchange concepts with one another, but also to hear inspiring stories of our EDVACAY Alumni Fellows and their civic campaign journey. We are excited to see all of our Fellows rise & shine throughout the next year!

Where is the Action in Humanity in Action?

Monika Mazur-Rafał (National Director Humanity in Action Poland)



> Action is part of our name not by accident. It is a keyword for our philosophy, a pillar of our mission and the reason why we do our work. Taking actions can take various forms. As our Fellows prove with their Action Projects, there is no single one correct form of how to tackle social problems. There is however one common denominator. That is fighting against social injustice. In other words ACTION in Humanity in Action means not being indifferent.

Monika Mazur-Rafał, National Director of Humanity in Action Poland

During the session Monika talked about the #Action in Humanity in Action. As a part of the Fellowship, every Fellow implements an Action Project in their community. After they complete their Action Projects, Fellows are invited to join the Humanity in Action Senior Fellow network. This network is at the heart of our community.

Our 2,500 Senior Fellows work around the world and across many different industries working in government, journalism, medicine, law, education, the arts, business and grassroots action. Senior Fellows stay engaged with Humanity in Action through the conferences, workshops, grants, seminars and study trips we offer.

Solidarity & Allyship

Day 2 of the Fellowship closed with a discussion on solidarity and allyship. Not only do Fellows and Senior Fellows support and collaborate with one another but they also learn from each other. Connections made during Fellowship last for years. Many Senior Fellows find opportunities for their professional and social lives through the international Humanity in Action community.



> The Polish wom*n and their allies who took to the streets in 2020 in defense of reproductive rights will give rise to a new generation of feminists – revolutionary, but not exclusionary, attuned to social injustices and intersecting identities.

Zuzanna Krzȳtała, 2019 Humanity in Action Senior Fellow Warsaw

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING #1

COLONIALISM IMPERIALISM RESISTANCE

Thursday,
June 3rd

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP DAY 3

HUMANITY IN
ACTION

> Kali-Ahset kick-started our discussion with an invitation to reflect on the current **relationships of power and domination** as well as the underlying reasons for dividing people into categories. Our Fellows also explored and shared how colonialism is linked to their own countries' histories.

> Guest speakers Roo George-Warren and Jennifer Tosch introduced us to the **legacies of settler-colonialism**, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the **contemporary struggles for cultural and political autonomy** among Native Americans. Cultural historian and author Jennifer Tosch, from Black Heritage Tours, taught us more about the Dutch involvement in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Jennifer founded the Black Heritage Tour, which make the **'hidden history** visible' to visitors as they explore cities' early Black presence and colonial pasts.



> We live between the tension of the world as it is and the world as it should be. The possibilities of this moment can be found in the pathways within and between us.



> I couldn't learn our language until I learned our land.



> Race was the organizing principle that differentiated the transatlantic slave trade from other forms of slavery.

"Conspiracy, Hatred and Violence - Then and Now" *Konstanty Gebert, Journalist*



> The Nazis went to war with humanity based on a conspiracy. In all genocides, conspiracy theory functions as a crucial element. You do need a conspiracy theory to account for the evil of your enemy.

Konstanty Gebert, Polish journalist and Jewish activist

After the introduction into the Humanity in Action produced animated film "Voices in the Void" by Judith S. Goldstein, Founder & CEO of Humanity in Action, Fellows had the exclusive opportunity to be present for the premiere film screening. The film tells the story of the Melchior family in occupied Denmark and their escape to Sweden during October 1943.

Following was the session led by renowned Polish journalist and Jewish activist Konstanty Gebert. Fellows had the opportunity to talk with Mr Gebert about conspiracies, hatred, and violence in the past and the present.

Discussions in Breakout Rooms

- Politics of Memory or How to effectively raise awareness of young people on the Holocaust?, Dr. Tomasz Cebulski (Humanity in Action Landecker Fellow 2020)
- The Impact of Conspiracy Theory, Konstanty Gebert (Journalist)
- Nationalism and Race, Dr. Judy Goldstein (Founder & CEO, Humanity in Action)
- The her.tiez Initiative – Speaking truth to Power, Alexander Busold (Humanity in Action Senior Fellow)
- Jewish Youth Communities, Nitzan Menagem (Humanity in Action Senior Fellow)
- Art, Artists & Antisemitism, Emma Harjadi Herman (Humanity in Action Senior Fellow)



> The question to me is not 'what did your grandfather do?' but how do YOU deal with it?

Prof. Mirjam Wenzel, Director, Jewish Museum Frankfurt

Remembrance Culture in Germany - Its Successes and Its Weaknesses

Prof. Mirjam Wenzel, Director, Jewish Museum Frankfurt/Main

After small group discussions, we learned from Prof. Mirjam Wenzel Director of the Frankfurt Jewish Museum. Together with our Fellows, she investigated the successes and weaknesses of remembrance culture in Germany.

After the International Gathering #1 successful wrap up, our Fellows dove deeper into the Fellowship in their national cohorts, exploring contexts and social justice challenges facing their respective countries.

2021 SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

DAY 1

Monday
June 7th



SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

MARKO ATILLA HOARE
Associate Professor



Professor Hoare is an Associate Professor and Head of Research for the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. His research focuses on nationalism, genocide, fascism and antifascism, and state-building. He is the author of four books on Bosnian history and resistance in WW2 and is leading the Bosnian Genocide research project at the SSST.

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Dealing with the Past in BiH: An Overview

*Marko Hoare, PhD,
Sarajevo School of
Science and
Technology*

The first week of the National Program started off with Prof. Marko Hoare, who facilitated an educational lecture with regards to the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and how its complex nature affected the 1992-95 war in the country. The fellows had the opportunity to learn more about the demographic and religious past of BiH and how its effects are still shaping today's political system and people's cultural/religious identities. The Fellows had many questions related to the historic evolution of the country, actions that are being taken in properly addressing of crimes committed during the war, and how all of this fits into the political picture of the country.

**Collective Memory
of Mass Atrocities in
Bosnia and
Herzegovina**
*Hikmet Karčić, PhD,
Institute for Islamic
Tradition of Bosniaks*

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Meet the Speaker

HIKMET KARČIĆ, PhD
Senior Researcher

Doctor Hikmet Karčić is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks. He was involved in the work at the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was the coordinator for "Mapping of detention camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina". He produced two documentaries related to war crimes. His research focuses on genocide and holocaust studies, transitional justice, collective memory, human rights and history.

HUMANITY IN ACTION

#HIA2021

Talking about the memories connected with war and mass atrocities is never easy. The fellows were joined by Hikmet Karčić from the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks. Dr. Karčić discussed the role of the collective memory of mass atrocities within BiH, in the aftermath of a violent conflict, taking place in the '90s. He argued that different collective memories exist in each of the three ethnic groups, and they are instrumentalized differently within each of the groups. He explained in details the meaning of collective funerals, exhumation of mass graves and a variety of memorials, which fill up public space in Bosnia. Dr. Karčić also mentioned the use of audio-visual tools and learning from witness reports and court evidence as useful practices in preserving the memory and collective narratives.

DAY 1

Monday
June 7th

Fellow Talk #1

Anisha Ariff



Fellow Anisha Ariff opened the Fellow Talk portion of the Sarajevo 2021 program. During her Fellow Talk, Anisha gave a presentation on Care Ethics. According to Anisha, in a time of pandemic, it is really important to support other people who lack supervision. 'Caring about', 'caring for', 'caregiving', 'care receiving', 'caring with' are the five pillars of care that, if properly applied and used, can make the world a better and happier place.

The 'Minority Strengths Model' is something that our Fellow Victor Clark is very passionate about. Higher stress and deficits of well-being are common for people who identify themselves as part of a minority group. The 2019 model includes Social Support, Community Consciousness, Identity Pride, Resilience, Mental Health and Positive Health Behaviors. Healthcare, Gender Equity, Refugee Crisis, Racial Equality etc. are just some of the issues where this model of Strength and Stressors can be applied to. What are the strengths you see in communities you are interested in but people don't often talk about?

Fellow Talk #2

Victor Clark



Haunted by the Past: Failures and Successes of Transitional Justice in the Former Yugoslavia

*Jessie Barton
Hronešova, PhD,
Oxford University*

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

JESSIE BARTON
HRONEŠOVA, PHD,
OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Jessie Barton Hronešová is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oxford Department of International Development. Her research focuses on post-war dealing with the past in Central and Southeast Europe and the new wave of victimhood politics linked to populism and nationalism across the region. She authored and edited several studies on identity politics and retributive transitional justice.

#HIA2021

Dr Jessie Barton Hronešova started her session by defining transitional justice and explaining that it consists of judicial and non-judicial measures implemented in order to redress legacies of human rights abuses. After the introduction, Dr Hronešova then gave an overview on how transitional justice has been used in the complicated case of Yugoslavia and highlighted the major successes and failures of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). She discussed whether the ICTY helped in reconciliation across former Yugoslavia and BiH and what has been achieved. Dr Hronešova, alongside the fellows, defined the meaning of several terms such as transnational justice, societal peace, and talked about possible future developments after demonstrating notable examples of prosecuted cases and different rates of success. The main conclusion was that each process takes time including the transitional justice in BiH.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker



**MLADEN MRDALJ, PHD,
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY**

Dr Mladen Mrdalj is a Serbian political scientist focusing on Balkan and international politics. He is currently teaching at Webster University in Uzbekistan. He is a columnist at Belgrade based portal while also regularly commenting Balkan and international politics on Serbian independent TV stations and in daily newspapers.

#HIA2021

Multi-Perspective Analysis on Various Conflicts in the Western Balkans

*Mladen Mrdalj, PhD,
Webster University*

Dr Mladen Mrdalj gave a lecture on multiple perspectives on various conflicts in the Western Balkans by providing insight into how countries in the ex-Yugoslavia perceived Yugoslavia, what neighboring countries saw in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the federation, and how history played out in the 90s for each political ex-Yu stakeholder. The fellows learned about relations and perspectives from neighboring countries like Croatia and Serbia and how those circumstances lead to a war. Additionally, he gave a retrospective of the late SFR Yugoslavia history and how all those complicated political relations exploded and created an armed conflict lasting for a decade in the region. After the introduction most of the discussion was fueled by the fellows' questions and queries who were interested in learning more about the ethnical component of the conflict.

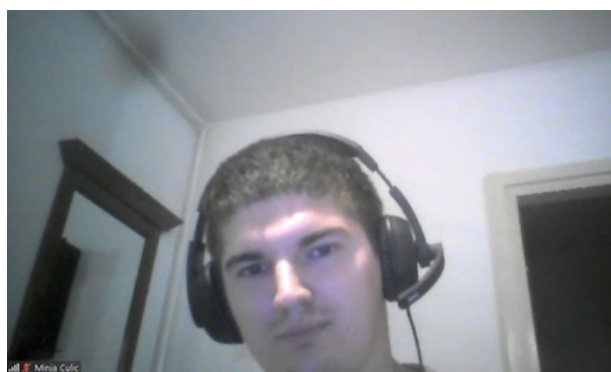
DAY 2

Tuesday
June 8th



Fellow Talk #3 *Sara Barač*

Fellow Sara Barač presented topics of Biopolitics and Biopower as defined by Michel Foucault. She devoted her Fellow Talk to remind us of how common these phenomena are in our societies nowadays - biological existence comes down to political existence, where humans don't exist if they are not contributing members of society. Such management of bodies and populations have real consequences in our lives as it means that the sovereign has a power to remove humanity from the human.



Fellow Talk #4 *Minja Čulić*

The Issue of Illegal Construction in the Western Balkans is a very important topic that more than ever requires attention right now! Minja Čulić during his Fellow Talk, through an unconventional presentation, raised awareness about this important issue of illegal building and deconstructing buildings without fully following protocols and laws of Western Balkans countries.



The graphic is a promotional poster for the Sarajevo Fellowship. At the top left, it says 'SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP' in red. At the top right is the 'HUMANITY IN ACTION' logo. Below the fellowship name is a red horizontal line, followed by the title 'Meet the Speaker' in large red font. On the left side, there are two large, stylized black chevrons pointing upwards. To the right of the chevrons is a circular portrait of Armela Ramić. Next to her name, 'ARMELA RAMIĆ ATTORNEY-AT-LAW', is a short biography: 'Armela Ramić is an Attorney-at-Law. Her academic and professional background is mostly related to Civil and Criminal Law. Previously she worked in a local law office in Sarajevo on war crimes cases and as a legal adviser for Track Impunity Always (TRIAL) in BiH. Besides her aforementioned professional engagement, she is also working as a project manager of Association "ARBITRI".' To the right of the biography is the hashtag '#HIA2021' in red.

Seeking Justice for Women Victims of War

*Armela Ramić,
Attorney-at-Law*

Ms Ramić talked about the process of seeking justice for women war victims. She spoke about judicial obstacles women face on their way of attaining justice in BiH. Ms Ramić discussed the imbalance between the treatment of victims and perpetrators, stating that the perpetrator will have right to more than one lawyer while on the other hand, the victim will have no access to free legal aid or social welfare. Later on she talked about specifics of criminal procedures and mentioned some positive changes that happened over the past few years. Since 2015, it is no longer necessary for prosecutors to prove the element of force in cases of rape which was completely against international standards. In Federation of BiH, the statute of limitations was removed. Unfortunately, statute of limitations of three to five years is still in place in Republika Srpska. Ms Ramić concluded her lecture with saying how there is still lot of stigmatization of victim and not enough of education on this subject.

Ajna Jusić joined us to talk about the important work of the Association of Forgotten Children of War, and their impact on shaping the narratives of post-conflict BiH. Dozens of thousands of women and girls were raped during the 1992-95 Bosnian war, according to some estimates, and it is believed that a number of children who were born as a result of that crime goes up to 4,000. They call themselves forgotten children of the war. Ajna Jusic shared with the Fellows that she herself is one of them and that her mother was a victim of a rape during the Bosnian war. Fellows also had the opportunity to view the with the screening of "Invisible Child", a true story movie featuring Ajna and an adopted child born during the war as a result of rape looking to reconnect with her biological mother.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

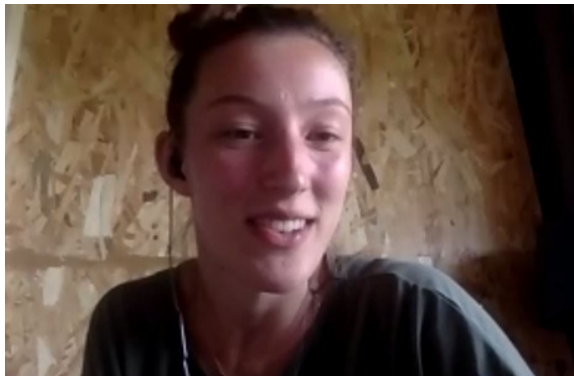


AJNA JUSIĆ
THE FORGOTTEN
CHILDREN OF WAR

Ajna Jusić is the president and founder of the "Forgotten Children of War" Association. Currently, this Association is the only one in the world that deals with the social and legal visibility of children born because of the war and its activities have raised this issue internationally, which has written the first pages of history. Thanks to this Association, BiH is the first country in the world to make systematic and social steps in the social and legal acceptance of this category.

#HIA2021

**Fighting for the
Rights of
"Invisible" Groups
in BiH Society**
*Ajna Jusić, Founder
and CEO of the
"Forgotten Children of
War" Association*



Fellow Talk #5

Grace Ellis

During her Fellow Talk, Grace Ellis reflected on her work on transitional justice and the fact that transition without justice poses a threat of invoking troubles from the past. In theory, transitional justice tends to be holistic and involves multiple elements, focus on reconciling, and prioritizing voices of victims, but in practice the situation is very different. Instead, Grace suggests taking people-centric approach to justice. Rather than building traditional justice systems, we should question what people seeking justice really need? We need to train more lawyers and build more courts that will take into account how people seeking justice experience the entire legislative system.



Fellow Talk #6

Ronak Gandhi

The Coronavirus pandemic hit very hard all around the world and it brought times that no one could ever imagine even in their worst nightmare. Despite the hard situation, our fellow Ronak Gandhi used the lockdown times to do something very creative. Inspired by the love of his grandma's cuisine, he created a cookbook with some of her best recipes in order to honour her caring legacy towards her. During his 'Fellow Talk', he even cooked one of the recipes and that looked really yummy. :)





Social-psychological Processes of Inter- group Reconciliation

*Sabina Čehajić-Clancy, PhD
Stockholm University*

Dr Čehajić-Clancy, a trained psychologist whose research is focused on the reconciliation process, spoke with the Fellows about social identities in (post-) conflict societies with a particular focus on youth in BiH. She mostly discussed the Bosnian context, however, she also admitted that the Bosnian society is not exceptional in dealing with the process of transitional justice. Since in all post-conflict scenarios the perception of “other” is very negative, it is crucial to answer a question how to move further and restore the trust that has been damaged. Dr Čehajić-Clancy discussed in depth the approach she adopts while conducting interviews with people. The key point of these conversations is to be non-judgmental and try to find a common ground with interviewees. Such a point of departure makes it easier to achieve reconciliation which should be based on three elements: the acknowledgment of the past, intergroup forgiveness and acceptance of moral responsibility. Dr Čehajić-Clancy explained that the process of reconciliation is non-measurable, because its goal is to regulate negative emotions such as fear, anxiety and anger.

Salience of Ethnicity in Post- Conflict BiH

*Adis Maksić, PhD,
International Burch
University*

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

ADIS MAKSIĆ, PHD
INTERNATIONAL BURCH
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Maksić is Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies of International Burch University. In 2014, he defended an award-winning dissertation "Mobilizing for Ethnic Violence? Ethnonational Political Parties and the Dynamics of Ethno-politicization", which examined the role of national movements in the ethno-political conflicts in Bosnia and the Republic of Georgia. His ongoing research examines the role of political agency in nationalist mobilizations in the Balkans, and theorizes nationalism more generally.

#HIA2021

Dr Maksić offered a perspective on the relationship between ethnic politics and violence that applies lessons from discourse theory and the recent findings on the role of emotions in human cognition. He discussed the intersection between discourse theory and the literature on affective cognition, outlining a discursive-affective analytical framework, and applying it toward an understanding of ethnic politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He analyzed the processes that led to the Bosnian War by exposing the role of nationalist parties in producing emotional polarization that culminated into armed mobilization. He then argued that the War's emotional legacy decisively shaped contemporary politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina, maintaining deep ethnic cleavages and potential for future violence.

2021 SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

DAY 4

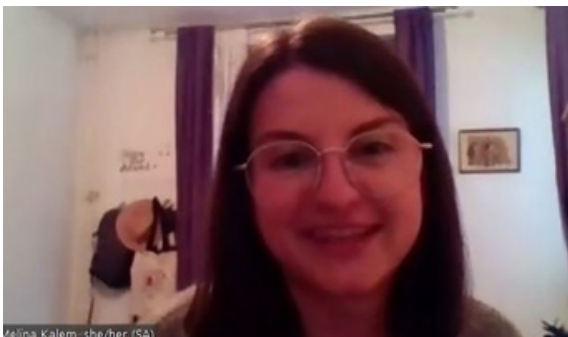
Thursday
June 10th

Fellow Majken Kiaby devoted her Fellow Talk to the topic of Stereotypes. She reflected on "The danger of the single story" by Chimamanda Adichie and used the well-known Ted talk to analyze the current political situation in Denmark and impact of power in our societies. She highlighted the importance of knowing who tells the story, how and when, after which our fellows cohort had a productive discussion and shared their own experiences of dealing with single stories.

Fellow Talk #7 *Majken Kiaby*



Fellow Talk #8 *Melina Kalem*



'Ajmo učiti bosanski! Our local fellow Melina Kalem created a mini Bosnian language session for her fellow colleagues. The mini-lesson introduced the basic greetings in Bosnian, as well as some cultural sayings that are typically being used by Bosnians in their daily lives.



SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

MIDHAT IZMIRLIJA,
PHD
Associate Professor

Midhat Izmirlija is Associate Professor at the Law School of the University of Sarajevo. His research focuses on human rights, anti-discrimination law, theory of state, theory of law and transitional justice. He served as legal expert in projects concerning implementation of antidiscrimination law, gender equality law and improvement of the system of human rights protection in BiH.

#HIA2021

Introduction to the BiH Political System: The Challenges of Consociational Democracy

*Midhat Izmirlija, PhD,
University of Sarajevo*

Dr Izmirlija provided an overview of the constitutional and legal realities that exist in BiH. He spoke about the two identities that each person in BiH has: the identity of being a Bosnian, as well as a member of one of the “constituent peoples”. This makes BiH a plural society, in which one person does not have one vote. Democracy is only possible in this instance should each group be represented according to Dr Izmirlija, and this can be achieved through the creating of a functional formula. He also pointed out that the political parties in BiH do not follow the traditional left-right spectrum, but are predominately ethnic-based.

Professor Izmirlija discussed the political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, its complicated nature and the minority representations in the Parliament, as well as, the present challenges that forbid to fully bring the country to its Consociational Democracy status.

When we first entered the digital space together, I wondered what it could be that brought everyone into this fellowship. Everyone's backgrounds were so varied and their interests so distinct. Yet what became clear as we moved through the topics together was that what united us was a thirst for knowledge and a passion for engaging critically and empathetically with the themes of the fellowship.

GRACE ELLIS

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP 2021



During the first week of the national program, I have understood that I, even a local, have fragmented knowledge about the history of my country and that I need to delve deeply into the ethno-national facade of the very region to be able to understand and discuss the situation nowadays. I am very grateful for the knowledge passed on by our lecturers, discussions and interaction. I particularly enjoyed discussing consociation, genocide and the role of international legal instruments and mechanisms for conflict prevention and human rights protection.

MELINA KALEM
SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP 2021



When reflecting on the first week of the national programme, I get a bit lost for words. The conversations were thought provoking, deeply engaging and tough. I ended the week both exhausted but also wired mentally. There was so much to continue mulling over and to consider in more depth.

MAJKEN KIABY
SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP 2021



Localized External Building in BiH

*Nick Micinski, PhD,
University of Maine*



SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Meet the Speaker

DR. NICHOLAS R. MICINSKI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
University of Boston
Associate Professor

Nick Micinski is Associate Professor at the University of Boston and a Senior HIA Fellow. He holds a PhD degree in Political Science from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Nick has worked as a research associate at the EU Studies Center, and research and editorial associate at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. Previously, Nick worked in the NGO sector in London for five years on refugee and social enterprise issues.

#HIA2021

As a HIA Senior Fellow, Dr Micinski started his lecture by explaining how his small action project based in Kevljani, north BiH, turned into a long-lasting peace building project. He explained his involvement with a local NGO, Most Mira, which was founded by one of the Prijedor camps survivors. Together they created a workshop with a goal to integrate the segregated children communities of Prijedor. After the explaining his own role on peace-building in BiH, Dr Micinski divided the fellows in two groups and gave them the instructions to discuss what is the difference between peace building and peace keeping, how they perceive the different terms, and what does it mean to look forward as a community. Dr Micinski pointed out that one of the most pressing issues in peace-building process is the question how to involve all of the stakeholders and most of the communities, which in reality are excluded from peace-building initiatives and conversations. After that, him and the fellows talked about the grass-root initiatives, and how using them and involving communities in different activities together can bring a whole community into peace step-by-step.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

IVANA KEŠIĆ
Program Manager

Ivana Kešić is the Program Manager of the Educational Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CIVITAS). She has been working on the development of program activities related to educating children and youth in the field of active and responsible citizenship in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ivana is the manager of educational programs of civic education in schools, and programs of professional education for teachers of Basics of Democracy, Civic Education and Democracy and Human Rights in elementary and high schools.

#HIA2021

**Perspectives on
Segregated
Education in BiH**
Ivana Kešić, CIVITAS BiH

Education is one of the most important things for the proper personal development of the human being. Despite that, many countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, struggle to create a singular, inclusive, and effective education system. Educational Program Manager, Ivana Kešić held a session for our Fellows during which she explained the complicated and ethnically-divided Bosnian educational system and how it fails to give the achieved results and to be fully inclusive. Unfortunately, according to Ms Kešić there are still a lot of school institutions who are divided based on the ethnic composition and many children do not have contact with their peers from the different ethnicity. She stressed how the COVID-19 pandemic also affected kids and their schooling and she talked about how the Bosnian educational system failed to accommodate everyone during the pandemic.

Post-Conflict Identities in BiH: The Pot Soup

*Maja Savić-Bojanić,
PhD, Sarajevo School
of Science and
Technology*

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Meet the Speaker

MAJA SAVIĆ-BOJANIĆ, PHD
Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

Maja Savić-Bojanić is a Professor at the Department of Political Science & International Relations at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. For the 11 years, she has taught courses on multi-ethnic states, modern political history and democracy. She holds a PhD from the University of Buckingham in the UK, an MA from the University of Bologna in Italy and a BA from Kent State University in the USA. She is a guest lecturer at several EU universities. In 2018, she was appointed an Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter (UK) where she actively lectures as part of the Applied Security Strategy MA program.

#HIA2021

Dr Maja Savić-Bojanić from the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology talked about the Bosnia & Herzegovina post-conflict case, and its ineffective process of creating a civil identity, while focusing on the ethnic identity of all three major ethnic/religious groups. Following the war in Bosnia, the ethnic and religious identity became really important for identification of citizens in Bosnia, while not adhering to its civil identity on the other side. Nowadays, still political parties stress the importance of the ethnic identity while still disregarding the civic identity, all in favor of maintaining the status quo of the country and the ethnic relations. Dr Savić-Bojanić talked about the elements that affect the creation of civic identity not just in Bosnia, but also talking about worldwide examples. She noted how symbols are crucial when building a certain identity and how using politicized and contentious visual everyday landscape affects its division between the ethnic groups.



SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

DINO ABAZOVIĆ, PHD
Sociologist and Professor

Dino Abazović is a sociologist and full-time Professor at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2015 he was named Co-Supervisor of the PhD Program at the Oxford Center for Mission Studies in partnership with Middlesex University London, as well as an External Examiner for the PhD program at the University of Salzburg's Faculty of Political Science. He is a Board member of the Graz-based Contemporary Southeastern Europe Foundation and a Member of the Editorial Board of the *Odjek* arts and humanities journal. He is one of the founders of the Open University of Sarajevo.

#HIA2021

**Establishing a
Secular State in a
Multiconfessional
Society**
*Dino Abazović, PhD,
University of Sarajevo*

Dr Abazović, who specializes in sociology of religion, started his lecture by introducing basic principles of secularism. He briefly presented the three main features of modern societies: the fragmentation of societies and social life, disappearance of the community, and a growth of bureaucracies, as well as its increasing rationalization. Dr Abazović explained three different models of accommodating relations between state and religion focusing especially in multiconfessional societies. He later moved on to explain how these can be applied to the Bosnian society and talked more about religious rights and feelings and how they can be incorporated and protected in Bosnia and only by the laws of the state. Dr Abazović noted that we are witnessing an increasing influence of religion and emphasized the need for proper actions from both the state and organized religions to properly address secularism within a multiconfessional society.

2021 SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

DAY 7

Tuesday
June 15th

Fellow Talk #9

Elma Kodro

Our Fellow Elma Kodro presented an unusual and unique topic of 'Peculiarities of the Norwegian Grocery Stores'. Elma gave us an insight to Norwegian culture when it comes to variety of products, and national protection of the food market. Needless to say, we were all surprised!



Fellow Talk #10

Nour Moazzen



Nour Moazzen is our fellow of Syrian descent who presented us her work in Denmark on the recent government's decision that listed Syria as a safe country which imposed a threatening implication that Syrian refugees in Denmark should be sent home. We discussed the possible political reasons behind it, as well as what it means for the Syrian community in Denmark, but also in the rest of Europe.

Fellow Talk #11

Estephanie Leindo Hoyos

Hola! Como estas? Our Fellow Estephanie Patricia Liendo Hoyos from Bolivia shared facts and insights during her Fellow talk on the general image of South and Latin America. She shared the beautiful cultures with the rest of the fellows, including their national dances, food and imagery, but also spoke and raised awareness about the political issues that most of the countries on the continent experience.



SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Meet the Speaker

IVANA KORAJLIĆ,
TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL BIH

Ivana Korajlić is the Executive Director of the TI BiH. More than twelve years of experience in working with Transparency International BiH, allowed Ivana to acquire vast expertise in the field of anti-corruption and rule of law. Ivana has been in charge of managing and developing TI BiH projects and research focused on transparency of political party finance, conflict of interest, public procurement, strengthening integrity and prevention of corruption and has also authored numerous analyses on the aforementioned issues.

#HIA2021

**Bosnia and
Herzegovina - A
'Trapped Country'
Phenomenon**
*Ivana Korajlić,
Transparency
International in BiH*

Ms Ivana Korajlić, executive director of TI BiH, provided an analysis of the role that Transparency International has had in increasing government accountability in BiH, which includes providing legal aid and advice for people looking into institutions or civil servants. She defined BiH as a "captured state", one arrested by the interests of ruling elites and one essentially serving those in power. She noted that the current system in BiH discourages people from coming forward to report corruption, however there has been increase in reports of corruption from those trying to change the system. Ms Korajlić, argued that the current ethnic divisions are an obstacle, as local politicians make an issue identifies about the ethnicity as opposed to corruption. Ms Korajlić also emphasized that the successes of TI in the political financing realm have been easier to achieve when working within a single institution rather than in the system as a whole. Citizens have also started reporting corruption and "agents of change" within institutions who are more willing to cooperate are being found.

Acting in Public Space in BiH

*Leila Bičakčić,
Center for Investigative
Journalism*

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Meet the Speaker

**LEILA BICAKCIC,
CENTER FOR
INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALISM**



Leila Bičakčić is one of the founding members of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) organization, which is modelled on US nonprofit media agencies. Her remit includes financial and administrative management, donor collaboration, planning, designing and coordinating CIN-implemented projects, and reporting. A special focus of Leila's work is on finding models of sustainable organization and new business models in the BiH context, the transition from traditional media to new digital models and the convergence of media content.

#HIA2021

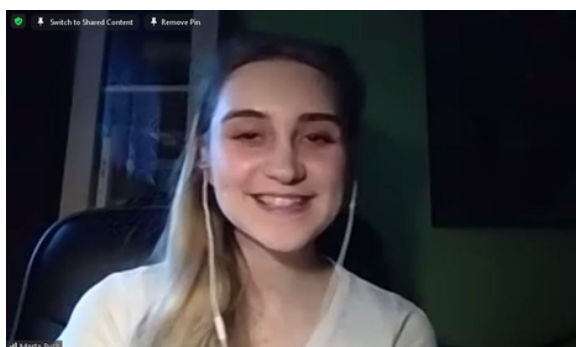
Lejla Bicakcic spoke about her work within the Center for Investigative Journalism. After having an overview of where Bosnia and Herzegovina stands today, the cohort had a chance to discuss hot topics such as corruption, political elites, EU integrations, and lack of political will. A particular emphasis has been given to the foreign influence and relations with countries with an active presence in the region. The fellows were very interested about all the topics and asked questions about the challenges that the journalism had encountered while investigating provocative political topics. Ms Bičakčić reiterated how the Balkan countries including BiH needs to democratize their parties first in order to achieve democratic order, "Societies are the reflection of their political parties". According to her, there will be no political progress until there's a pyramid scheme of corrupted politicians closely related to underground mafia.

DAY 8

Wednesday
June 16th

Fellow Talk #12

Marta Pych



Fellow Marta Pych presented the issues of the current housing market in Poland. Apart from a very low employment rate, young people in Poland are facing dizzying rental prices and only roughly a half of them can afford to move out from their parent's house in the first place. Those that can afford to rent a place usually end up in micro apartments with very challenging space restraints. This directly implies that only those coming from wealthier parts of the society can actually prosper, creating an enchanted circle of power and economic segregation.

Fellow Talk #13

Benjamin Nurkić



Fellow Benjamin Nurkić devoted his Fellow Talk to speak about the Rule of Love - the united love of ethnonationalist leaders against the rule of law and constitutional state. Benjamin listed out cases of BiH politicians that severely contradict the rule of law at all levels of governance. He researched and quoted politicians coming from different bh entities and cantons on some of the biggest political disputes endangering the overall democratic processes. Benjamin concluded that unlike other states, in BiH we cultivate the rule of love (of ethnonationalist leaders against the rule of law).



The graphic is a dark blue rectangle. In the top right corner, it says 'HUMANITY in ACTION' with a small red triangle above the 'i'. In the top left, it says 'SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP' in white. Below that, 'Meet the Speaker' is written in large white letters. To the left of the speaker's name is a large, light grey stylized 'A' made of two upward-pointing chevrons. To the right of the name is a circular portrait of Edita Miftari. Below the name and portrait, a paragraph of text describes her as a gender policy analyst, feminist researcher, and Fulbright alumna from Bosnia and Herzegovina. To the right of this text, the hashtag '#HIA2021' is written vertically in white.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY in ACTION

Meet the Speaker

EDITA MIFTARI
UN WOMEN BiH

Edita Miftari is a gender policy analyst, feminist researcher and Fulbright alumna from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thematic areas of her expertise and interest include women's political participation and gender responsive governance, and previous experience includes working with UN Women, OSCE/ODIHR, WFD, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, Swedish ICLD and KtK, German GIZ, and the U.S. Embassy to BiH.

#HIA2021

Gender and Gender Mainstreaming in BiH

*Edita Miftari,
UN Women in BiH*

Ms Miftari spoke about the legal framework and institutional mechanisms in BiH, which are not enough for achieving actual progress in the area of gender equality, even though these factors are of crucial importance in creating the foundations of a gender equal society. She provided several examples on how civil society organizations can support development of local policies for gender equality and how local governments can mainstream gender into their policies and practices in a more efficient way. The focus of her lecture was also set political participation of women at the local level and gender responsive budgeting.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

Meet the Speaker

NEDIM KULENOVIĆ
HUMAN RIGHTS
LAWYER

Nedim Kulenović is a human rights lawyer with over a decade of professional experience in protection and promotion of human rights. His working experience includes working at the national legal aid provider "Vaša prava BiH" and the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Currently he is working at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in its Human Rights Section.

#HIA2021

**Human Rights in
Post-Conflict
Bosnia and
Herzegovina**
*Nedim Kulenović, PhD,
University of Sarajevo*

Our fellows discussed human and constitutional rights issues in BiH with our speaker Dr Nedim Kulenović. The session focused on how provisions in the constitution and international treaties are (not) being implemented. Despite the BiH constitution being one of the shortest in the world, Dr Kulenović, explained that, referring to the 2013 California paper research which provides division of world constitutions, BiH Constitution classifies as a "Sham" constitution meaning that is characterized by its under-performance. After an introduction to the theoretical background of the constitutional law, focus shifted to particular violation cases of private property, issues on enforcement of rule of law, but also annexes of human rights related to the Dayton Peace Agreement.

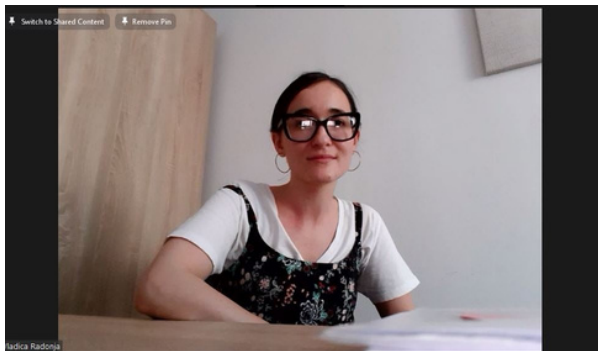
2021 SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

DAY 9

Thursday
June 17th

Fellow Talk #14

Vladica Radonja



Fellow Vladica Radonja gave an interesting presentation on BiH culture, flag colours, language(s), traditional dishes, Bosnian pyramids, and natural beauties. One of the fascinating facts our Fellows learned is that Bosnia has more waterfalls than Italy and France together.

Fellow Talk #15

Aaron Spitler



Final Fellow Talk was a fun lecture on The History of the Dachshund facilitated by our Fellow Aaron Spitler. The dachshund are a cute dog breed that became prominent in the 20th century by the likes of Pablo Picasso and American pop artist Andy Warhol. Nowadays, they are still one of the most popular dog breeds in the world that keeps on giving happiness to their owners.

Meet the Speaker

Establishing a Culture of Peace: A Multiple Approach to Remembrance and Transitional Justice

Velma Šarić,
Post-Conflict Research Center



VELMA ŠARIĆ,
POST-CONFLICT RESEARCH
CENTER



Velma Šarić is a researcher, journalist, peace-building expert, and human rights defender from Sarajevo. Velma has over 15 years of work experience and is currently, the founder and president of the Post-Conflict Research Center - an award-winning, peace-building organization, based in Sarajevo, which works to cultivate an environment for sustainable peace in BiH and the greater Balkans region, as well as Editor-in-Chief of Balkan Diskurs - an online platform for young activists and journalists that challenges stereotypes and shares diverse, independent views on society, culture, and politics.

#HIA2021

The final day of 2021 Sarajevo program was kicked off with Velma Šarić, founder and president of The Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC). She talked to our participants about establishing a culture of peace through a multiple approach to memory and transitional justice. Velma spoke about the "Ordinary Heroes" project, a project that depicts moral action and courage through the stories of ordinary citizens who acted in the war years to save citizens, their neighbors and who were members of another ethnic group. This one The award-winning project also resulted in the establishment of the Balkan Discourse platform, a platform that gives voice to young people in BiH, after organizing the Srdjan Aleksic competition where young people were invited to find stories of moral courage from the war or stories from everyday life. This project, through the monitoring and research component, proved that 70% of young people in BiH have shown great willingness to interact with members of another ethnic group and to be open to reconciliation after participating in the project.

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

HUMANITY IN
ACTION

Meet the Speaker



SAMIR BEHARIĆ,
HIA SENIOR FELLOW



Samir Beharić is an award-winning youth activist and international projects coordinator at Youth Center – Jajce, where he implemented numerous projects on fighting ethnic segregation in Bosnian education. Through his engagement in various he has openly advocated for several important initiatives regarding education standards at the University of Sarajevo and other academic institutions nationwide.

#HIA2021

Youth Identities in Post-Conflict Societies

*Samir Beharić,
HIA Senior Fellow*

During his session Senior Fellow Samir Beharić talked about the importance of being active and focused in ones local community. While discussing the identities of youth in the post-conflict Bosnia he talked about several positive examples about how he and his mixed-ethnically peers managed to achieve in its town of Jajce. He reiterated how the two-schools under one-roof approach still divides and makes more damage than good to the local community, unfortunately for Bosnian reality, still very present in a lot of cities, towns and villages. Additionally, he noted how the regional support is also really important for the Western Balkan countries in order to achieve prosperous region while promoting mobility and learning about one another's culture. Finally, he called up on Bosnian and regional politicians who during their campaigns instead of helping and reconciling youth, they are still dividing them with their ethnically and religiously-inspired rhetoric.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING #2

DAY 5

Monday,
June 21st

Country Presentations

Fellows from the Amsterdam, Berlin, Sarajevo, and Warsaw Fellowships share their lessons learned from the past weeks



After two weeks of national programming, the entire cohort and HIA Teams reconvened for the Second International Gathering. Fellows from the Amsterdam, Berlin, Sarajevo, and Warsaw programs shared some of the lessons they learned and experiences they shared in the past weeks ranging from intersectionality to transitional justice and post conflict peace building. We were delighted that the online format allowed each Fellowship cohort to share their experiences with the other cohorts.



During the Action Project Road Map day our Senior Fellow Kerim Hodžić (2020 John Lewis Fellowship) presented to the entire 2021 Fellowship cohort the collaborative Action Project "The Paths of the Future" during which Senior Fellows Kerim Hodžić, Emin Fafulić, and Merisa Okanović organized the five day event 'Stazama budućnosti' for eight participants in Tuzla in 2020. The event covered some of the main problems that local Roma people face on everyday basis, such as racism, institutional and social discrimination, stereotypes, lack of media attention, and hate speech. Kerim also presented his own collaboration with our EDVACAY Fellows on the Mask Out (Šta se krije iza maske?) civic campaign which resulted in a large mural and a documentary about the increased domestic violence against women in times of Covid-19 pandemic in BiH.



INTERNATIONAL GATHERING #2

DAY 6

Tuesday,
June 22st



Action Projects in the Making: Creating Change!

Fellows and Senior
Fellows share their
Action Projects

Another 2021 Fellowship day was spent looking ahead and focused on Action Projects! In the 11 months following the virtual or on-site Fellowship program, our Fellows work on an independent venture focused on promoting social justice in their own communities. In addition, there will be an ongoing training program to help Fellows implement their projects, to continue collaborative learning and to keep in touch with the community. Action Projects are as diverse as Humanity in Action Fellows. Fellows apply their new knowledge and perspectives to the communities they impact—in whatever format they find meaningful.

Activism in the Past Present and Future - Activism in a Global Health Crisis: A historical, legal, and practical approach to activism

Aastha KC and Kush Raithatha (Humanity in Action Fellows, 2020 Copenhagen Fellowship) present:

- *Cassandra Veney, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of International Relations at the United States International University - Africa*
- *Rodolfo Coutinho Marques, PhD candidate in International Law and Teaching Assistant at the Graduate Institute, Geneva (IHEID).*

PROGRAM CLOSING CEREMONY

DAY 7

Wednesday,
June 23st



> Hope is not empirically
demonstrated but morally
chosen!

Rev. Cornell Brooks, Professor, Harvard Kennedy School,
Member of the Humanity in Action Board of Directors

Looking Ahead: Let the Change Begin!

Fellows say goodbye for
the Summer, looking
forward to Fall-Winter
Sessions

The final day of the virtual 3-week Fellowship journey and the start of the upcoming 11 months of the Fellowship year was celebrated with a powerful musical performance by HIA Senior Fellow Gilberto Morishaw and Benjamin Fro. Afterwards, Rev. Cornell Brooks shared an inspiring and thought-provoking keynote with our Fellows. He reminded us that radical inclusivity needs to be at the heart of social justice. Humanity in Action founder and Executive Director Judith S. Goldstein then shared a beautiful poem with everyone, before the day was ended celebrating our achievements in the national cohorts.

Humanity in Action thanks our wonderful Fellows and inspiring speakers, artists and trainers for the nourishing and critical inputs, debates and sharing. We could not have done this without you!

SARAJEVO FELLOWSHIP

FELLOW BLUEBOOK

#HIA2021



ANISHA ARIFF

Dartmouth College
anishaaariff@gmail.com

Raised in Phoenix, Anisha is a recent graduate of Dartmouth College, where she studied Government and Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on human rights and gender. While at Dartmouth, Anisha worked on gender-based violence prevention, survivor advocacy, and building inclusive and equitable communities. As an undergraduate, she spent time working at the US Mission to the United Nations, studying abroad in Morocco, and working with social impact organizations in Peru and Arizona. Following graduation Anisha began working as a strategy consultant at Bain & Company. Anisha remains passionate about ending power-based violence and hopes to pursue a career at the intersection of law, social justice, and human rights.

Program, Christensen Legal PLLC, Her Justice and now as a translator for Critical Resistance, she is preparing to attend law school and hopes to make a change, one small step at a time.



VIKTOR CLARK

Virginia
Commonwealth
University

nowackv@mymail.vcu.edu

Viktor is a second-year doctoral student in the Social Behavioral Science program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Heading into their dissertation phase, their research is centered on understanding the strength and stressors LGBTQIA people experience throughout a lifetime and how these experiences impact health and wellness. Part of their goal of research is to find new and innovative ways to make findings from research more accessible. This includes social media campaigns, wearable art, and interactive experiences. Viktor's aim for this generation and the next generation is to inform, develop, and ignite agency in individuals through his research. They believe this gives people the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. In Viktor's spare time they work on launching a gender-neutral, liveable wage, social justice-oriented, casual and activewear line called Emote Actively. It aims to inspire disrupter culture and encourage everyone to get "active" in causes that stimulate emotions.



SARA BARAČ

Sarah Lawrence
College
sarabarac@gmail.com

Sara Barač is a mixed ethnic Bosnian-American who never stops asking questions, whether it's through poetry or academics. She is passionate about the power of curiosity to foster compassion. After a year interning with the Vibrant Village Foundation in Ecuador, she went on to earn a degree in International Studies. During her time at Sarah Lawrence College, she competed in the national College Union Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI), translated Croatian poetry for the translation journal Babel, was in the executive committee of student senate as parliamentarian, worked as a tutor for America Reads, and studied abroad in Cuba and Japan. After her time working with community-focused organizations such as New York's RAD,



MINJA ČULIĆ

University of Sarajevo
University of Salzburg
minjakas@gmail.com

Minja Čulić was born on January 22nd, 1998, in Mrkonjić Grad, where he finished primary school and Gymnasium. He completed his BA at the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Sarajevo, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, and won the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo. He is currently a Master's student at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, in the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy. In addition to the spheres of international relations and geopolitics, Minja is also interested in the sphere of democratization, international security and sustainable development of countries in transition and is an active member in the non-governmental sector.

She also volunteers with asylum seekers and status holders in The Netherlands. This has sparked a new curiosity: exploring the question of belonging, identity and unpacking the loaded notion of 'integration'.



RONAK GANDHI

Yale University
ronak.gandhi@yale.edu

Ronak Gandhi is a South Asian student at Yale University, wrapping up his third year. A Humanities major, Ronak focuses his studies on history, literature, and race. He holds a soft spot for creative writing as well, and he seeks to grow as a writer by learning how to amplify underrepresented stories and voices in his writing. He's also a "story-listener" who works to gather and collect oral histories for various Asian archives. On campus, Ronak works at the Asian American Cultural Center as a student leader, working to connect students with the center's resources, building solidarities across campus, and holding crucial conversations about identity and belonging. He cannot wait to start the Humanity in Action programming this summer!



GRACE ELLIS

Leiden University
grace.cd.ellis@gmail.com

Grace Ellis is an internationalist at heart, having lived in various places before finding herself in The Netherlands working in access to justice programming. Her work follows a Master's Degree where she was awarded cum laude in International Relations, specializing in Global Conflict. This degree took her to Kosovo to explore transitional justice and post-conflict peacebuilding. Prior to this, Grace lived in Warsaw and became rather obsessed with finding out more about women's diverse roles in the dissidence movements of 1980s Poland. Always fascinated by listening to new stories, Grace pays particular attention to those who may have been silenced and looks for ways to integrate their unheard perspective. Today, Grace's work takes her to Sub Saharan Africa.



MELINA KALEM

University of Sarajevo

melina.kalem@gmail.com

A human rights advocate and an English language teacher, Melina was born in Konjic and raised in Sarajevo. She holds a BA in English language and literature and a MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from the University of Sarajevo. Melina has been greatly involved in the field of education, having experience in teaching English language in local and emergency contexts. She also worked as a consultant to a US based organization 'The Global Sleepover' that strives to bring 21st century education and skills to post-conflict areas. In 2020, Melina obtained her second MA in Democracy and Human Rights of South-East Europe from the Global Campus of Human Rights, with a specific focus on youth activism and climate justice. Her research interests include children's and environmental rights. She is an avid lover of travelling and exploration, books, languages and outdoor activities.



MAJKEN KIABY

Aalborg University

majken.kiaby@live.dk

Majken Kiaby is born and raised in Denmark. She holds a BA in Cultural Encounters and International Studies from Roskilde University, and she spent one semester at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, studying globalization, governance and economics. She has volunteered abroad several times, working with refugees in Greece, Serbia and Kenya. Majken is currently taking her MA degree in Development and International Relations, where she specializes in Global Refugee Studies at Aalborg University. As a part of her degree, Majken has accepted an

internship with the Danish Foreign Ministry in Nairobi, where she will spend six months from August 2021, as a part of their Somalia Unit. Majken works as a program coordinator for ActionAid Denmark. She administrates and coordinates 15-20 volunteers programs each year and she is one of four coordinators that are establishing the EU funded program, the European Solidarity Corps, within Action Aid DKs volunteering community.



ELMA KODRO

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Elma Kodro is a HIA EDVACAY Fellowship alumna who, with her group, created their still active portable educational escape room project named "Kako cu? ...fali ti papir" (Eng: "Escape the Bureaucracy"). It is a fun twist on teaching young people the practicalities of Bosnian bureaucracy. She graduated from Sarajevo School of Science and Technology with a Bachelor's degree in political science, and is currently in a Master's program at Oslo University. In her younger days, she volunteered at Red Cross Youth, working with refugee children at an asylum centre in Norway, and has been an active participant at Agenda X (youth division of Norwegian Centre Against Racism), where she was also a leader at their summer camps. Other than that, she has partaken in two Jean Monnet winter schools. In the future she hopes to contribute to the community through more fun projects, as she believes creativity to be the bridge to success.



**ESTEPHANIE
LIENDO HOYOS**

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Estephanie Patricia Liendo Hoyos is a Bolivian forestry engineer who worked with rural women in the Bolivian lowlands. She is also inclined to literature and arts to create awareness about justice and equality. Currently, she is finishing her master's degree at the University of Copenhagen, writing her thesis about sustainable development and rural women's rights. She will be focusing on how broader policies -under the permanence of narratives- has been influencing gender roles and the impact on women's rights to access control their natural resources. With this, she aims to show how important it is to analyze the persistence of these narratives, how women are affected, and how they answer to forms of oppression. In addition to her thesis, she is supporting the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as an intern. Her main objective for the internship is to create awareness about rural women' daily-life using creative and innovative tools.

Currently, she is working to support her community in Denmark through raising awareness on issues concerning democracy and human rights in Syria, and advocating for stopping the deportation of Syrian refugees back to Syria. She also employs her architectural knowledge to empower vulnerable groups and communities in post-war zones through locally empowered projects. Nour aspires to go back to Syria, and be part of post-war community building and construction, and to support human rights and social justice as a part of Syria's future.



BENJAMIN NURKIĆ

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Benjamin Nurkic was born on October 1, 1994, in Tuzla, BiH. He earned a Master of Law degree in 2021. The more narrow scientific field he studies is the state and international public law. He is the author of several papers on the rule of law and is an active member of several regional libertarian organizations.



NOUR MOAZZEN

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Nour Moazzen is a Syrian activist, architect, and humanitarian. She is also a Rugby player and an artist. After fleeing from a war zone, Nour assisted her community in Turkey through volunteering and working as an interpreter in Refugee camps.



MARTA PYCH

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Marta Pych is currently studying at Maastricht University, exploring European Law and Comparative Legal studies. They are an activist in the field of asylum rights. Cooperating with the Association for Legal Intervention, they help to raise awareness regarding migration issues among Polish citizens and assist refugees in arranging their lives in Poland.

They currently work on networking and public relations for Court Watch Polska - the NGO which mission is to build understanding between citizens and the judiciary through civic monitoring of courts. They are also active in the area of preventing inequalities and minorities' rights abuses. They actively participated in protests against the actions of the Polish government limiting reproductive rights and discriminating LGBT people. They love music and poetry. Marta is a vocalist and play instruments. They are planning their career in the field of Human Rights Advocacy.



VLADICA RADONJA

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Vladica Radonja is 27 years old. She finished her master studies in International Public Law at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. While she was a student she participated at various competitions, national and international. The field she is most interested in are Human Rights. At the moment she is working in law office as Lawyer in Bosnia. Beside B/H/S languages, she is fluent at English and Spanish. She likes nature, reading books and exploring new things in life.



AARON SPITLER

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Aaron Spitler is a graduate of the College of William & Mary, where he received a BA in Sociology with a concentration in Globalization Studies. His research focuses on the socio-political implications of emerging technologies, especially within the context of multicultural societies. During his time in undergrad, Aaron completed a white paper on the myriad threats posed by historical disinformation, emphasizing the role of social media in spreading foreign-sourced propaganda. After earning his degree, he traveled to Kosovo on a grant provided by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Over the course of six months, he interviewed numerous stakeholders in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector to learn how it played a role in the country's integration into the international community. Upon returning to the United States, he has continued to explore this topic while pursuing a graduate degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

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