SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



Minh-Ha Pham, PhD
Counselor for Science and Technology
Embassy of France in the United States

Dr. Minh-Hà Pham was appointed Counselor for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in the United States in Washington on September 1, 2013.

After coordinating scientific cooperation for the Asia-Pacific Region for the French National Center for Scientific Research (Centre National de la

Recherche Scientifique, CNRS), she served as Director of the European Research and International Cooperation Office (DERCI) in charge of implementing the European and international policy of CNRS. She was in charge of creating this office and managed a team of fifty staff members and eleven satellite offices abroad.

As a member of the board of ParisTech (Paris Institute of Technology, a consortium of 12 "Grandes Ecoles" or Engineering and Management Schools), Pham was in charge of promoting ParisTech at the international level and of the recruitment of international students. She also contributed to the creation of a Europe-China Master program focused on renewable energy.

During her time at the French National Institute of Research in Agronomy (INRA), Pham leaded a laboratory conducting research on beneficial insect's biology, she published more than 100 papers in peer reviewed journals and chapters in 7 books, specialized or targeting the general public. She coordinated a European Union project investigating the impact of GMOs on beneficial insects. She was member of various national expert committees for the French Ministries of Agriculture, Research and Environment.

Pham also participated in the European Union EXPERTS Program for cooperation with Asia. Her scientific background is in neurobiology and the risk assessment of GMOs and pesticides on beneficial insects. She graduated from the Institut National Agronomique de Paris-Grignon (now AgroParisTech). She obtained her PhD in neuroscience at Pierre & Marie Curie University

(Paris 6) in 1983, her Habilitation in 1992 and she is a Senior Scientist at CNRS.



Tiffany LohwaterChief Communications Officer
AAAS

Tiffany Lohwater is Chief Communications Officer and Director of the Office of Public Programs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). A science communications professional, she is responsible for media relations and strategic communication for the world's largest general scientific society and

the Science family of journals. She founded the AAAS Communicating Science workshop program and the AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology. Her work encourages scientists to take a more personal and proactive interest in public engagement.









Prior to joining AAAS 11 years ago, she worked in research communications at Johns Hopkins University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Viktoria Bodnarova Regional Representative EURAXESS North America

Viktoria Bodnarova is the Regional Representative for EURAXESS North America, responsible for Canada and the US, as of 2013. Her main role is to inform the community of researchers of all scientific domains and nationalities based in North America about the funding and career opportunities the European Research Area (ERA) offers

(European, national or regional funding opportunities). Another important role is the management of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America initiative together with the EU Delegations and EU Member States & Associated Countries.

Prior to her position in the US, she was a Project Manager and EURAXESS Network Coordinator at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Viktoria holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Metropolitan University in Prague.



Dimah Mahmoud, PhDProgramme Officer
EURAXESS North America

Dr. Dimah Mahmoud is a humanist, activist, and passionate changemaker. Her extensive interdisciplinary expertise in research, political analysis and project management are reflected in the diverse conferences she has organized as well as the initiatives and collaborations she spearheaded through an independent research consultancy she established in 2014. Her work contributes to

advancing sustainable socio-economic and political development in Africa and the Middle East. She consulted for the League of Arab States, UN Women Arabia, *El Karama*, Arab America Foundation, Massimedia, FUTOUR and more recently for EURAXESS North America and The Antiquities Coalition. Prior to this, Dr. Mahmoud was the Interim Executive Director of Bridges of Understanding Foundation, during which she helped launch it onto its current forward trajectory: emphasizing the necessity of youth-targeted educational programming as part of the effort to catalyze an effective, long-lasting paradigm shift. In addition to her consulting, she has co-founded The Nubia Initiative (TNI), a transboundary organization aimed at leveraging art, academia and technology to protect, preserve and promote Nubia's endangered heritage and languages.

Dr. Mahmoud completed her MA and PhD at the University of Exeter in the UK on *Middle East Policy Studies* and *Sudanese Foreign Policy and International Legitimacy* respectively. She obtained her BA in Political Science from Towson University in the USA











Ana Maestre, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellows
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS), New York

Ana Maestre-Merens holds a BSc in Biology from the Complutense University of Madrid, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Autonoma University of Madrid, where she specialized in Virology. Dr. Maestre-Merens is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Microbiology Department at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) in New York. Her

primary research interest lies in the interaction of human viral pathogens like HIV, dengue and Zika with the immune system, and the main adaptative strategies that both viruses and the human immune system have developed during evolution to coexist. Dr. Maestre-Merens presents a keen interest in mentoring and teaching. She has been a Medical Microbiology Lab instructor at ISMMS, and mentor at several science-educational programs like the Urban Barcode Program from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. She is also a founder member and former President of the New York chapter of ECUSA (Spanish Scientists in the USA) non-profit. Currently, she is the co-founder and director of ECUSA's mentoring program FOSTERING DOCS, to promote the professional development of postdoctoral researchers.



Xavier EekhoutBiologist turned into EU project manager
Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), Spain

In 2002-2006 he worked as a researcher in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, an institution part of Spain's largest research organization, the CSIC (Spanish National Research Council). Working within the framework of museum's animal sound collection (www.fonozoo.com), he participated in several research projects and co-authored several papers on animal acoustic communication and anuran behavior.

In October 2011 he was hired by FECYT, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology, to coordinate the FP7 project EURAXESS TOP II (Jan 2012 – Dec 2014). Since October 2015 he is back in FECYT to manage its participation in other EURAXESS-related European projects: The FP7 project PIPERS (Dec 2014 – Dec 2016), and the H2020 projects EURAXESS TOP III (Sep 2015 – Aug 2018), EURAXIND (May 2016 – Apr 2018) and EUESCADA (Mar 2017 – Feb 2018).

Apart from EU projects, Xavier collaborates in the management of the EURAXESS Spain network coordinated by FECYT, including the administration of the national portal www.euraxess.es, and has participated in several working groups related to researcher career development of the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility.











Ádám Molnár Scientific Coordinator Cyprus Institute

Mr Ádám Molnár, MA, Head of Area at the Knowledge Management Centre of Bay Zoltan Nonprofit Ltd., project manager since 2005. He has been actively involved in the activities of EURAXESS since 2008. He contributed to the set-up of the Hungarian EURAXESS network, consisting of 14 institutions. Currently he is the coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project EURAXESS TOP III, and is actively involved in EURAXIND. Previously, he was project manager/work package leader of the

FP7 projects E*Care, EURAXESS TOP, EURAXESS TOPII and REFLEX. In E*Care, he prepared the country report on the barriers mobile researchers face when entering or leaving Hungary. Since 2008 he has regularly represented Hungary on the European level, in EURAXESS BHO meetings and working groups,.

Foteini Ziogou

Project Manager

Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), Greece

Mrs. Foteini Ziogou is a Chemical engineer and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. She has been working for the French multinational company AIR LIQUIDE for eight years, as an engineer for the production of industrial liquefied gases.

Since 2006 she is working at the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, involved for 8 years in the implementation of European and national R&D projects in the field of energy and CO_2 Capture and Storage technologies. She is an author of more than 50 publications in international scientific journals and conferences.

The last four years she is engaged in the Greek EURAXESS Network and European projects related to mobility of researchers' policy issues, awareness and promotional activities such as EURAXESS Researcher Skills for Career Development (PIPERS); HORIZON2020-EURAXESSTOPIII: Making European research careers more attractive by developing new services and enhancing the current services of the EURAXESS network (2015-2018); HORIZON 2020-ERA Mobility and Researchers Career Days in Greece: A contribution to decrease brain drain (ERAMobilCar.GR)-Coordinator and the HORIZON2020-EURAXESS TOP IV: Open EURAXESS — To strengthen the effectiveness and optimize the services of all partners in an innovative and open EURAXESS network (2018-2021)- Coordinator.











Irina Ramos, PhD

Portuguese American Post-Graduate Society (PAPS) - Washington DC Chapter

Irina is from Portugal and has lived in the USA since 2004, where she obtained her PhD in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering from the University of Maryland and Baltimore County. She was part of a graduate exchange program in the pharma company Wyeth (now Pfizer) in 2006. Today Irina is a scientist in the biopharma company

MedImmune (Biologics arm of AstraZeneca, Maryland), where she works in the development and optimization of purification processes of biological systems that lead to promising drugs in areas of oncology, respiratory inflammation and infectious diseases. She was one of the cofounders of the PAPS Chapter in Washington DC, which she led from 2011 to 2014, and was also Vice-President of PAPS in 2012/2013. These activities have allowed Irina to maintain a permanent contact with other Portuguese immigrants and representatives of the Portuguese immigrant and governmental society in the USA, and to organize initiatives that promote the integration and professional success of PAPS members in the American society. In 2012-2013, Irina was part of the organizing committee of the PAPS Annual Forum, with the theme "Bringing Portugal to new Heights", where Portugal-North America relations were analyzed in economical, entrepreneurial, scientific and artistic terms. In the past years, Irina has created opportunities for scientific collaboration between Portugal and the USA, in both academic and industrial levels



Gerry Alons, PhD

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, USA

Gerry Alons is Marie Curie Fellow at the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, and Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her research focuses on European agricultural and food policy and how

developments in these policies interact with transatlantic and multilateral trade relations. She particularly engages with questions on whether and how ideational variables such as norms, policy frames and policy paradigms influence state preferences and policies. Her research is published in a range of international journals among which the *Journal of European Public* Policy, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and *Sociologia Ruralis*. In 2017 she co-founded and currently chairs the North America Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association.











Gerrit K. Roessler, PhDProgram Manager
German Center for Research and Innovation

Gerrit K. Roessler is the Program Manager of the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in New York. The center facilitates transatlantic collaboration by bringing together leaders in science, the humanities, and technology. The DWIH provides a platform to foster creativity and enhance innovation in a rapidly changing world. Previously, Gerrit

served as the director of the German Academic International Network (GAIN), the network for German researchers working in the United States and Canada. He has published essays on building and maintaining international networks and support structures for mobile researchers in various journals in Germany and abroad. His goal is to specifically help early-career scientists and serve them as a resource and connector.

He received his Ph.D. in German literature and culture from the University of Virginia in 2013 and an Erstes Staatsexamen in music and English from the University of Dortmund, Germany in 2007. From 2011 to 2012 he worked as Assistant Adjunct Professor at Queens College, CUNY. He has published on popular culture in the US and Germany (science fiction, horror, punk rock), radio and radio drama, theater and performance theory.

He lives in Green Point, Brooklyn with his wife Allison and their dachshund Charlemagne.



Stefano Lami, PhD Science Counselor Embassy of Italy

Dr. Lami is a Ph.D. particle physicist, currently working at the Embassy of Italy in Washington DC as a science counselor, following basic research, energy and environment. In 2008-2013 he was the co-spokesperson of a project at the LHC (Large Hadron Collider) at CERN, the European laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Lami already worked at CERN in the eighties, as a student of the University of Pisa (Italy) and then as a post-doc of the University of Heidelberg (Germany). In the nineties, working with the University of Stony Brook (USA), he participated in a project at the Fermi Laboratory nearby Chicago where in 1995 the Top quark was discovered, the last foreseen quark particle still to be observed. In 1997-2004 he was a professor of physics at the Rockefeller University in New York.

Dr. Lami authored or co-authored more than 600 scientific publications on peer-reviewed international journals and have been a member of several international scientific committees.











Joseph Sparling, PhD
Chair
Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars

Dr. Joseph S. Sparling is the current Chair of the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS/ACSP), the spokesperson for the Postdoctoral Associations of Alberta (the group responsible for initiating the recent employment status change for Alberta postdocs), and a staunch advocate for evidence-based policy reform in post-graduate research, training, and labour relations. He has four advanced degrees, including an Honours BSc in Biology (McMaster University), an Honours BA in Psychology (Brock University), an MA in

Psychology (Queen's University in Kingston), and a PhD in Neursocience from the University of British Columbia. He studied cell transplantation as a means to treat spinal cord injury during his PhD and Alzheimer's and related neurodegenerative diseases during his postdoctoral training at the University of Calgary, but recently left academia to pursue a career in policy related to training and labour relations in advanced education. He is lead author on a number of reports from CAPS/ACSP regarding postdoc policy and labour conditions in Canada, an expert on postdoctoral labour and training issues, and an outspoken advocate for Canadian science and advanced education. His most recent publication appeared on the iPolitics website (http://ipolitics.ca/2017/09/22/what-canadas-young-scientists-need-from-us-now/) and highlighted the need for thoughtful and innovative policies to support early career researchers in order to secure a prosperous future for Canadian scientific research.



Dietrich Wolf FennerProgram Director
German Academic International Network (GAIN)

Dietrich Wolf Fenner is the director of the German Academic International Network (GAIN) in New York City, a joint initiative of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He designs and organizes events, workshops and

trainings to aid German researchers in North America with their professional development.

Until January 2017 Dietrich was head of communications of the Berlin based Government Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (Stiftung EVZ). From 2006 to 2011 he was spokesman and public relations officer for the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in GDR. He is a journalist by training and worked for the TV production company of the Georg von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group.









3rd Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in North America, 11 December 2017

Dietrich holds a Master's degree for German literature studies, contemporary and modern history, economic and social history of the Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg. He also studied history, English literature and Italian at the University of Cape Town.

Dietrich lives with his husband Thomas in Yorkville, Manhattan. He loves to run in Central Park, rides his bicycle through all the five boroughs and fancies a good read. He has a terrible passion for baking and contemporary European and American cinema.



Theodosios Vallas

Minister Counselor for Economic & Commercial Affairs Embassy of Greece

Experienced Minister with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Negotiation, Politics, Policy Analysis, Government, and

International Trade. Strong community and social services professional graduated from Glasgow University.



Helen Popp Counselor Embassy of Estonia

Currently based in the D.C., Ms. Helen Popp works as a digital policy and economic counselor at the Estonian Embassy in Washington.

In 2013- 2016 Helen served as Cyber Coordinator at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her role was to coordinate cyber policy planning and the coherence of Estonia's positions internationally, including contributing actively to the design of cyber security policies within international organizations and deepening bilateral cooperation with partner countries. In this role, Helen worked with policy and technical stakeholders, partners from government, international organizations, and academia on a range of cyber security issues, including cyber security strategy and policy, promoting norms of responsible state behavior and cyber stability, advancing cyber security in third countries, promoting multi-stakeholder Internet governance, and advancing Internet freedom.

In 2014-2015, Helen was an advisor to Estonian experts in the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UN GGE).

From 2010 to 2013, Helen worked at the Estonian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Helen holds a BA from Concordia International University, Estonia and an M.A. in Conflict, Governance and Development from York University in the United Kingdom.











Veronique Dockendorf Deputy Chief of Mission **Embassy of Luxembourg**

Véronique Dockendorf has been the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Luxembourg in Washington D.C. since the summer of 2016. She previously served as the Deputy Political Director in the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs from 2013 to 2016 and as a First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York from 2008 to 2012. She joined the Luxembourg diplomatic service in 2003 after studies of history, international relations and political science in Strasbourg and Paris, France. Véronique is married and has three

daughters.



Grażyna Żebrowska, PhD Science & Technology Advisor Embassy of the Republic of Poland

Since 2003, Dr. Grażyna Żebrowska has been working at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC. As science & technology advisor she initiates and facilitates cooperation between Polish and American partners in science and higher education. Her main responsibilities include promotion of Polish universities and research centers among American students and scientists.

Dr. Zebrowska holds an M.Sc. in physics and a dual Ph.D. in medical physics from the University of Rennes 1, France and the University of Gdansk, Poland.



Matthew Stefanski Press, Media & Public Relations Advisor Embassy of the Republic of Poland

Matthew Stefanski manages press and social media outreach for the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC. As public relations advisor he strives to promote Poland in the United States using different channels of communication to facilitate cross-cultural understanding.

A native of New Jersey, Matthew graduated from American University in 2014 with a degree in International Relations and History.











Catarina Ferreira, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow
UFZ - Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

<u>Dr. Catarina C. Ferreira</u> has been a conservation biologist for over 15 years with vast experience working for the private and the public sectors, and academia. Her expertise spans topics in terrestrial ecology, reintroduction biology, wildlife management, and impacts of human-driven global environmental change on biodiversity across multiple taxa, regions and scales. A Portuguese native, Dr. Ferreira completed her undergrad in 2000 at the Faculty of Sciences of Porto University in Portugal, as well as a MSc in Applied Ecology in 2003,

focusing her research in the conservation and management of small mammals and their predators in the Mediterranean Basin. She worked as the Senior Biologist in one of largest Protected Areas in Portugal for seven years and from 2009-2010 she was the Assistant Director/Ethologist of the Iberian Lynx Captive Breeding Centre in Portugal. In 2011, she obtained her PhD from IREC-UCLM in Spain, and in 2013 she started a Postdoc position at Trent University, Peterborough, Canada, where she developed different projects related to furbearer conservation and management. In that same year she was awarded a MSCA Global Fellowship to develop predictive models of landscape connectivity for wild felids, using Lynx species in Europe and North America as models (Project CONTRASST). This project is being developed in Canada (Trent University) and Germany (UFZ) as host countries and relies on a collaboration network of several cooperating partners. CONTRASST's ultimate goal is to provide conservation guidelines on how to maintain large-scale connectivity for umbrella species across fragmentation and climate scenarios (more info at http://contrasstprojecteu.com).



Leah Ashe, PhDPostdoctoral Fellow
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, USA

I think. I read, I write, and I critique, and I align more each day with a stance I can describe best as radical. Most recently I've taken special interest in Illich's critiques of modernity and its institutional/ized corruptions; Grosfoguel's, Dussel's, Maldonado-Torres's decolonial ethics and epistemology; and Agamben's and Esposito's perspectives on personhood and

exceptionality. My current line of research, Knowing Violence, is a project whose title reveals its dual focal interests in (the act of) knowing violence and in (the thing-that-is) the knowing-violence, the violence of knowing. In this project, I consider the modern construction and dominance of scientific/scientistic medical knowledge and authority and engage wide critiques of technoscientific modernity.









3rd Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in North America, 11 December 2017

I finished my Ph.D. as a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher in the PUREFOOD network with a dissertation on the particular discursive constructions of food security in New York City and Bogotá; my Master in the History and Culture of Food through another European collaboration, this one among the Universities of Bologna, Barcelona, and Tours; and my Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering in the United States. I'm affiliated now with the University of Notre Dame as a visiting postdoctoral scholar, and I pay the bills by way of editing and translation work with Ashe Language Services. I speak English, Spanish, Italian, and (with a terrible accent) French, I'm a big believer in "the ongoing conversation," and I welcome all contacts and "conversations," now or later. You can find me on Academia, LinkedIn, and at lashend@gmail.com.



Frauke Zeller, PhD
Associate Professor
Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada

Dr. Frauke Zeller is Associate Professor in the School of Professional Communication at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. She received her PhD (Dr. phil.) from Kassel University, Germany, in English Linguistics and Computational Philology. Her thesis focused on Human-Robot-Interaction from a linguistic perspective. From 2005 to 2011, she was researcher and lecturer at Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany, working in the Institute of Media and Communication

Studies. She finished her Habilitation (highest academic degree in Germany) in 2011, working on methods to analyze online communities. Before Dr. Zeller came to Ryerson, she was at the renowned Centre for Digital Humanities at University College London (Great Britain). She is also involved in several international research projects, and was awarded with a range of major research grants, among them a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. Dr. Zeller is the coordinator for Canada in the newly established MCAA North America Chapter.

Dr. Zeller is the co-creator of Canada's first hitchhiking robot - hitchBOT. The project garnered broad public interested all around the world (www.hitchbot.me), and since then she has been working on a range of human-robot interaction and AI-related projects.

Dr. Zeller's research interests include Human-Computer Interaction/Human-Robot Interaction, AI, digital communication, and method development for digital research analyses.











Iris Wiegand, PhD

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

Dr. Wiegand is a Psychologist with a PhD in Neuroscience working in the field of neuro-cognitive aging. As a Marie-Curie Global Research Fellow, she currently works at Harvard University and will return to the her host institution in Europe, the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research, in 2019. In her research, she uses psychophysics and brain imaging, to enhance our understanding of human cognitive aging and improve assessment

tools to reliably measure age-related changes, with the ultimate goal to develop methods to counteract cognitive decline.

Before she moved to the US in March 2017, Dr. Wiegand conducted her research in Germany and Denmark, also benefiting from the EU-funded mobility program for experienced researchers. Researcher mobility decisively shaped her scientific as well as personal development, allowing her to build up an international network and pursue an independent research line at an early career stage. However, there are also challenges to face when managing projects and life between different collaborators, institutions and countries. As the Coordinator of the US East Region of the Marie Curie Alumni Association's North America Chapter, she wants to support younger and experienced researchers to connect within the region and maintaining (or building) strong ties to Europe. Our goal as a chapter is to enhance collegiate support among fellows and establish a network, which serves as a platform for scientific and personal communication of researchers across Europe and the US.



Johannes Schöneberg, PhD Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Hurley Lab of Experimental Biophysics, UC Berkely, USA

I am a biophysicist who combines theory (computer science, bioinformatics) and experiments (biochemistry, advanced microscopy) to solve HIV, Ebola and cancer.

I was born in the South West of Germany, close to the French border. My studies brought me to Saarbruecken for my undergraduate and to the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Genetics and the Free University for my PhD in Berlin. Currently I am bridging between the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics and the University of California at Berkeley for my postdoc through a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship.

In Berlin, I co-founded the 'Junges Wissenschaftsforum Dahlem', where dialog between young researchers from all disciplines is facilitated. In Berkeley, I served as the Co-Chair of the Postdoctoral Entreprenneurship Program and am currently serving on the Dean's Advisory Committee for Professional Development for graduate students and postdocs.

I am part of the MCAA North America Chapter's Management Team and being located in the San Francisco Bay Area, I serve as the chapter's West Coast Coordinator.







