

# Peace Pieces

Center Newsletter | Uppsala, Sweden | June 2020

## Uppsala Rotary Peace Center

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



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September 2018. Class XVII Peace Fellows photographed with the Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University and local Rotarians. From top left clockwise: Bijay Shrestha, Ulrika Ståhl (Host Area Committee, in charge of host families), Rebecca Dawson, Tore Samuelsson (Host Area Coordinator, HAC), Afaf Doleeb, Magnus Elfwendahl (former HAC, Rotary District 2350 Governor), Victoria Carmona, Tania Estrada, Ayako Tsujisaka, Eva Åkesson (Vice-Chancellor), Amra Lee, Roli Mahajan, and Abdul Karim Issifu

# Welcome to the Special Edition of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center's Newsletter

This edition of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center's newsletter will look a little different, as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires us to adjust both our personal and professional lives. This adjustment has been particularly true for our Rotary peace fellows who, being based in Uppsala, are in most instances spending these trying times far from family and other loved ones. The fellowship program builds on components related to strengthening human connections and networks, including through international professional experience. With restrictions on travel and in-person interaction, we are finding new ways to connect. To this end, this year's graduating cohort of Rotary peace fellows are recounting their experiences from the fellowship program in a special edition of our regular [newsletter series](#).



Each spring, we organize a day-long seminar to showcase our graduating fellows' achievements and to link them more closely with a wider community of peacebuilders and supporters. As a core part of the fellowship program, the seminar provides the opportunity for our fellows to present their professional and academic work to Rotarians, their peers, faculty members, and other professionals. This year we were thrilled to welcome Professor Roger Mac Ginty of Durham University as our keynote speaker along with several members of faculty at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, all of whom had generously committed to share their time to support our fellows. Although the pandemic prevents us from meeting in person this year, the fellowship program remains intact and our graduating peace fellows' accomplishments deserve the spotlight. In lieu of this year's seminar, our graduating students offer some reflections on their fellowship experience and time in Uppsala.

Graduating peace fellows have now reached the end of the program and work on their theses to complete the requirements for a master's degree in Social Science with Peace and Conflict Studies as the main field of study. Independently writing a master's thesis is never a small feat; to do so in current circumstances takes both resiliency and dedication, and I want to commend each of them for their focus and hard work.

Both the first-year and second-year fellows also deserve praise for the remarkable care they have shown for one another during these trying times. As the fellowship comes to an end for Class XVII, I take away many positive memories partnering with these dedicated students on the center's activities, in connection with their course work,

and during social events. I have also been impressed by their sense of service. As the personal reflections of their time as peace fellows on the next several pages show, memorable experiences of their fellowship often extend beyond their time in the classroom. True to Rotary's aim, the peace fellowship program supports the creation of international networks for peace and a broader sense of community by linking current and past peace fellows and Rotarians in different parts of the world. In line with Rotary's commitment to service, these newly-graduated peace fellows go into their professional lives with a pledge to apply their skills to benefit others. This is both important and inspiring!

Essential to the success of the fellowship are its many supporters – local Rotarians, in particular, host families and members of the Uppsala Rotary Host Area Committee with Tore Samuelsson at the helm, our partners at Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation and other Rotary peace centers. Not the least, we are grateful for the generosity of Rotarians worldwide who serve as advocates and sponsors of the peace fellowship program in different ways. Finally, thanks go to our faculty and staff, who have remained committed to offering high-quality education in difficult circumstances and to supporting the fellowship program in different ways. To each of you, we appreciate all your support helping our peace fellows navigate this challenging time and highly value our collaboration.

To our graduating Rotary peace fellows: We have enjoyed following your academic and professional pursuits and accomplishments during these four semesters. As you go forward to apply your skills in a more uncertain world than when you arrived, we hope that the fellowship program and networks you have developed have better equipped you to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. We look forward to staying in contact and following your next steps!

On behalf of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center team,

*Dr. Sara Lindberg Bromley  
Director, Uppsala Rotary Peace Center*

# Messages to the Graduating Rotary Peace Fellows



It is my pleasure to congratulate all our graduating Rotary Peace Fellows! I wish you the best possible future, wherever you go on this planet!

Although you are ending your fellowship in unusual times, these challenging days demonstrate how closely connected we are on this planet and how important your work will be.

During your last year in Uppsala, we first experienced the remarkable “Greta-effect”: the attention brought to ongoing human-induced climate change. Then came the corona virus. In January, there were reports of a strange new disease in China and very rapidly it had spread across the globe, leading to the closing down – partially or fully – of almost all societies around the globe, still with no end in sight. Climate change and the corona pandemic both demonstrate that effective action requires international cooperation as negative effects in one part of the world will quickly affect the rest of humankind.

Your studies have focused on armed conflicts and conflict resolution, and now threats from climate change and pandemics make maintaining just and peaceful societies even more difficult. Clearly, the world needs your skills more than ever. Many of you have already made important contributions to finding peaceful paths in your own societies. It is my hope and belief that your two years in Uppsala have strengthened your resolve to pursue these important skills in these new circumstances. The traditional

peace challenges of ending wars and preventing new ones have not diminished. Rather, this perspective has broadened to include global climate change and health threats. These interconnections need to be sorted out, academically as well as practically. This is a challenge we will all need to face.

It seems clear that stronger – not weaker – international institutions are needed to meet the pressing demands of our troubled era. Research demonstrates that marginalization and discrimination are central in the history of many conflicts, be they about poverty, ill-health, or competition for limited resources. Therefore, the remedy has to be found in integration and mutual respect. As climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic inevitably will affect conflict patterns, these challenges will increase – not decrease – the urgency for internationally negotiated settlements as a way to the most effective and non-violent solutions to conflicts. This is, indeed, a long-term program for the world. It is also the ultimate reason for our teaching and research in this department. That is to say:

You are needed!

Thank you for coming to Uppsala.

Good luck in your coming assignments!

Congratulations!

And – Let us stay in touch!

*Dr. Peter Wallensteen*

*Senior Professor, Peace and Conflict Research*



Congratulations Peace Fellows!

On behalf of the Uppsala Rotary Host Area Committee, let me say a big thank you and GRATTIS!

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for staying with us in Uppsala over the past two years. You

brought rich experiences, flavors, and visions to us from all corners of the world. This exchange of cultures, not the least of which is the exchange of food, has enlarged our lives, further advancing the qualities Rotarians cherish – service to others, promotion of integrity, and the advancement of world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship. We have enjoyed your fellowship in forests, on lakes, in mountains, on foot paths, on bicycle paths, in

trains, and in cars on journeys to and from Rotary events. Although your Swedish journey has been less exploratory since the COVID-19 pandemic, you have managed to keep your spirit and commitment high, focusing on your thesis and ultimately your contributions to the world. Although we have missed meeting with you in person, we have become accustomed to meeting you on-line so we can hear about your plans and even appreciate sharing COVID-19 frustrations.

Now, with your thesis in hand, we trust that you will continue with your commitment to make this world a more peaceful one!

Yours in Rotary and Yours in Peace,

*Tore Samuelsson,*

*Host Area Coordinator*

# Reflections by Class XVII Peace Fellows

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In the early autumn of 2018, Class XVII peace fellows arrived in Uppsala to embark on a two-year program to further develop their capacity and skills to effectively serve the world as leaders promoting peace and development.

Peace fellows are young professionals with substantial experience working in various peace fields. Coming from diverse backgrounds and countries – Australia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Nepal, Sudan, and Venezuela – these peace fellows have learned new skills and advanced their existing expertise and knowledge to better serve communities in need.

As part of the fellowship program, Uppsala peace fellows follow a rigorous master's program focusing on peace and conflict studies at Uppsala University, where they develop long-lasting personal and professional relationships with their cohort, other students, and faculty. In addition, the peace fellows participate in an Applied Field Experience (AFE), providing an opportunity to apply classroom learning to a real-world context and to build a professional global network. In the following pages, our graduating fellows reflect on their fellowship experience over the past two years.

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*Rebecca Dawson*

**From:** Australia

**AFE:** Internship at *The Fund for Peace*, US

**Thesis Title:** Universal jurisdiction and the pursuit of justice for victims and survivors of genocide: A social network analysis of international norm diffusion

## Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

As I wrote my fellowship application, I thought a lot about the life I wanted to lead while in Uppsala. Although I chose the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center (URPC) because it offered the training in research methods that I lacked, I also chose it because I was drawn to Scandinavian culture and Uppsala gave me the chance to roam cobblestone streets and explore 500-year-old buildings. Returning to full-time study after a professional life can be daunting, so I wanted these years to be as enriching personally as academically. On both these accounts, the URPC experience exceeded my expectations.

Life in Sweden is everything I hoped it would be and even after almost two years here I am still finding things, small and large, that make me so happy and grateful for this experience. I know I am finishing my fellowship with a degree from an exceptional research institution, but I also

know my love for my life and home in Uppsala will never fade.

## What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship program?

Beyond my desire to learn research methods and dabble in statistics for the first time, my personal academic interest leans heavily towards the study of collective memory and social psychology of mass violence, particularly genocide. The fact that Uppsala University has a department dedicated to this field was another reason that it was my first preference. The three courses given through the Hugo Valentin Centre, an inter-disciplinary center that focuses on Holocaust and

Genocide Studies, were my favorite: “Social Mechanisms of Violence,” “Psychology of Violence,” and “Transitional Justice: Retribution, Coexistence, and Reconciliation.” These courses not only allowed me to pursue subjects and history that I am passionate about (the paper I enjoyed writing the most was an examination of dehumanization versus inhumanization) but also opened my eyes to academic research and professional policy making. In many ways, these courses inspired my thesis, which delves into how countries can prosecute perpetrators of genocide and seek justice for



*April 2019. Myself and Tania making friends with the ducks while enjoying the sunshine in Gamla Torget*

victims and survivors even when neither the crime nor the perpetrator falls within a country's traditional jurisdiction.

While pursuing a PhD in transitional justice or social psychology will remain a daydream, I hope to apply some of what I learned in my future career pursuits, perhaps seeking out and working for survivor advocacy NGOs, within the mechanics of government policy making or in a research capacity. Whatever I end up doing, however, I am grateful that I was able to branch out from the core MSSC program to study in a field I am really passionate about. It was a highlight of my fellowship.

### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

A fantastic part of the fellowship is the worldwide network of Rotary Peace Centers, peace fellows, Rotarians, and Rotary, which has taken me all over the world. I had the opportunity to connect with the global fellowship community in Hamburg, Germany, for the Peace Fellows' Un-Conference and Rotary Peace Symposium in May 2019. In January 2020, I connected with Bradford University's 2019/20 class in Oslo, Norway, for what turned out to be a fun and greatly insightful professional development retreat. I also participated in an international Rotary Peace Center conference in Cairo, Egypt, which was an amazing experience, and finally, my AFE took me to Washington DC for three months where I also connected with local Rotary Clubs and members. These experiences provided opportunities for me to expand my professional and personal networks, enriching my fellowship beyond the academic aspect of the program and adding to my overall sense of being part of the wider peace fellow (and Rotary) family.

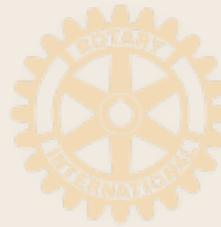
### What are your professional plans after the fellowship?

The COVID-19 pandemic has really altered my expectations for my professional life. It is a unique and challenging circumstance we find ourselves in as recent graduates. Before the pandemic, I believed I could pursue personal and professional growth opportunities from an almost limitless list of possibilities. As all our immediate opportunities decrease and feelings of isolation increase, new meanings are emerging regarding our global community and peace networks that I feel peace fellows are well suited to explore.

I had some ideas for my immediate career goals upon completing the fellowship that are no longer possible, at least for now. Therefore, I have expanded my thinking to develop ways people can stay connected while being physically apart. I hope to find my place in this new challenge and have opportunities to apply what I have learned in my professional life.



*September 2018. Finding hidden treasures on walks in my favorite place, the Stadsskogen Nature Reserve right by my apartment!*



*Do you know about...*

### Rotary's Peace Fellowship Program

Through academic training, practice, and global networking, the Rotary Peace Fellowship Program offers training for peace and development professionals and practitioners to become effective catalysts for peace. Each year, the Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fully-funded fellowships for students pursuing master's degrees and 80 fellowships for certificate studies at premier universities around the world. Peace fellows in the master's degree program study peace and development issues with research-informed teaching and as part of a diverse student body. As one of the highlights of the fellowship program, peace fellows also have an opportunity to participate in an Applied Field Experience (AFE) to build practical skills through a self-designed two- to three-month field experience. For more information, please visit [here](#).



## *Bijay Shrestha*

**From:** Nepal

**AFE:** Internship at *Tevel b'Tzedek (Tevel)*, Zambia

**Thesis Title:** The impact of peace agreements on the improvement of LGBTI security

### Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

In 2006, Nepal emerged from a decade-long civil war with the signing of the so-called “Comprehensive Peace Accord.” The conflict, which ultimately caused the death of around 13,000 Nepali civilians, was a result of isolating marginalized communities from getting equal access to political and economic power. I grew up during this time of political turmoil and witnessed the effects of the civil war and the people’s revolution (Janaandolan 2 in Nepalese). As a result of this experience, I joined a community development organization. As part of this work, I frequently visited villages where I observed the suffering of people as the result of violent conflict. This experience shaped my way of thinking and my professional life, inspiring my desire to work in the field of peace and conflict resolution, ultimately leading me to the Rotary Peace Fellowship.

### What was the most challenging part of your fellowship experience?

The most challenging aspects of my fellowship experience were on the personal level, not the fellowship program per se. The Swedish bureaucracy was a challenge to navigate; however, leaving my wife and new-born daughter in Nepal was the most challenging part of my fellowship. Nevertheless, I felt lucky to have a Rotary host family who took care of me, inviting me to dinners and “fika” and checking in frequently to see how I was doing. I felt so grateful when they introduced me to their son and granddaughter (who is almost the same age as my daughter). I played with her and got some parenting tips as well. My experience in Uppsala strengthened my beliefs that the world is really a small community full of love, friendship, and compassion. This realization and my memories of my host family will remain with me when I return to my family and community.

### What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?

I really appreciate the AFE as it allows fellows to participate in internships or carry out individual research between the first and second year of the program. Apart from gaining academic knowledge at the university, this experience gave me practical insight into various local peacebuilding and development initiatives for sustainable change. In addition, my AFE internship provided me with opportunities to practice participatory planning through assets-based community mapping. I did my AFE at Tevel, an Israeli NGO, in Zambia and worked on a baseline study as well as designed a project focusing on livelihood improvement of small holder farmers (see my blog-post regarding AFE experience [here](#)). Since 2006, Tevel has worked in the field of international development focusing on agriculture-based community development in vulnerable rural communities in developing countries. Although it was a short internship, I believe my AFE experience has deepened my knowledge of mapping communities and allowed me to gain practical skills in project management. I believe this experience will add a great value to my professional career. In sum, the AFE experience was the best part of my fellowship.



*August 2019. Facilitating focus group discussion with key stakeholders of Chananya village in Zambia during AFE*

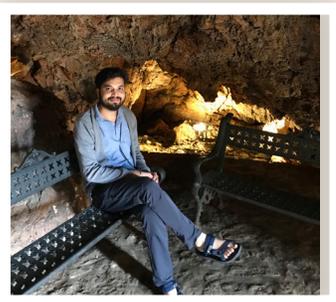
### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

My favorite memory during my fellowship was my birthday celebration in 2018. My co-fellows organized a surprise celebration for me and brought a vegan cake. I felt so touched by this gesture and appreciated it a lot. It is difficult to live away from family and friends, especially in the dark Swedish winter, so this gesture of kindness made me feel that there was someone in this country that cares for me and loves me. Moreover, I felt I gained wonderful friendships with my

co-fellows and I am grateful to have shared my fellowship journey with them.

### What are your professional plans after the fellowship?

I am planning to start my own organization in Nepal. These two years of fellowship gave me time to reflect on my work. I was able to evaluate my strengths and weaknesses, shape my values and create goals for my professional life. I am passionate about social activism. Today, Nepal is full of political activism although true social activism seems to be lacking. My country is in a transitional phase, institutionalizing peacebuilding processes and reconstructing the state. I think it is important to raise awareness of issues of human rights and democracy, particularly the rights of children and women. I want to educate people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, enabling them to make positive changes in their own communities. In addition, I would like to share my knowledge and experience in remote areas of Nepal.



March 2019.  
Traveling in Málaga, Spain

During my fellowship, I had an opportunity to work with people from all over the world. The program enabled

me to form strong connections with other international students and helped me learn and understand peace, human rights, and democracy in each of their respective countries. In addition, I automatically gained a connection with the Rotary family, and I believe this relationship will help me support the building of an equitable society and sustainable communities in my home country.



March 2019. Glimpse of Uppsala life: video chatting with my wife and daughter in Nepal

## Do you know about...

### The Department of Peace and Conflict Research (DPCR)

The DPCR was established in 1971 to conduct research and offers courses in peace and conflict studies, using a multi-disciplinary approach. The Dag Hammarskjöld Chair of Peace and Conflict Research – the first chair of its kind in Sweden – was created in 1985. By this time, the DPCR had developed complete educational programs. One of the largest research environments at the Faculty of Social Science at Uppsala University, the DPCR has about 80 employees and about 300 students pursuing bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees as well as commissioned training and dialogue programs. For more information, please visit the website [here](#).

### The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center (URPC)

Since 2011, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University hosts one of the now seven Rotary International Peace Centers – the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center (URPC). URPC peace fellows come from all over the world to pursue a master's degree in Social Science with a focus on Peace and Conflict Studies as the main field of study. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows, upon completing their fellowship program, are individuals expected to engage in impactful work that contributes to creating a more peaceful world. Peace fellows pursue a four-semester master's degree (120 credits) over two years. In addition to compulsory courses, these students take several elective courses, including the possibility of a semester-long internship linked to institutions that address issues related to peace and conflict studies. Between their first and second year of study, peace fellows undertake a so-called Applied Field Experience (AFE). For more information, visit the website [here](#).



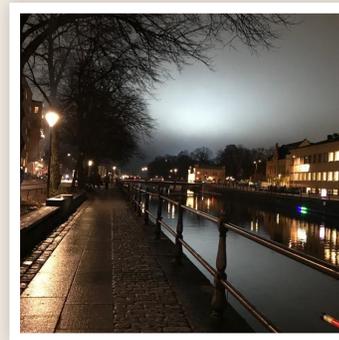
## Tania Estrada

**From:** Guatemala

**AFE:** Internship at *Front Line Defenders*, Ireland

**Thesis Title:** Successful peace agreements: an issue-based approach to civil war resolution

in Uppsala University's libraries, walking around central Uppsala to see the light festival, as well as working on course projects with my classmates in the student lounge. I also cherish the time I took a train to Stockholm to see Salvador Dalí's artwork, a dream of mine from a young age.



November 2019. Walking along the Fyris river one fall evening

### What was the most challenging part of your fellowship experience?

Leaving my family and my job (and everything I knew) in order to pursue a life-long dream was hard. I had no idea what to expect or how it would turn out, but I knew I had been given an amazing opportunity and I said "yes" in a heartbeat. I will always be thankful to my host family for their unconditional support, which gave me strength in my hardest moments. Learning to navigate through the challenges that come from living alone and so far away from home has made me stronger and better equipped to continue my path as an agent of positive social change.

### What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?

I have a hard time choosing only one aspect to highlight because there is great value in every part of the fellowship. Overall, I highly appreciate the trust Rotary International put in me when I was awarded this fellowship and the great network that comes with it. During my time in Dublin, where I did my AFE, I got to meet Dr. Delma Sweeney, a Rotarian who kindly connected me to academics in Ireland with whom I had very stimulating conversations about the fellowship. Before the fellowship, I did not have a direct relationship to Rotary, so I was not aware of the many projects and initiatives this network promotes. Now, I am part of a large group of people all over the world trying to make positive peace a reality.

### Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

After extensive research on the different peace centers and after careful consideration, I selected the URPC as my first choice because its emphasis on research would allow me to develop systematic research skills. Through the fellowship I was looking to expand my research skills since during my bachelor studies I discovered my interest and aptitude for academic research. My main interest was taking research methods courses, especially in quantitative research methods, as I had no experience with it. Other aspects of the center were also appealing to me, like the rich student life that Uppsala University provides by offering seminars, workshops and a variety of conferences and panels on different topics that complement course work. I can confidently say my expectations have been met.



September 2019. Joining the new cohort of Uppsala peace fellows for a District Conference in Stockholm

### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

I have a collection of memories and they all involve the great friends that I have made during my time in Uppsala. I fondly remember sharing fika with colleagues, studying



January 2020. Visiting PRIO in Oslo, during the Class XVII professional development trip



## *Abdul Karim Issifu*

**From:** Ghana

**AFE:** Internship at *Search for Common Ground*, Rwanda

**Thesis Title:** Women's participation in peace negotiations and social provisions in peace agreements

### **Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?**

In my home country of Ghana, we pride ourselves as the beacon of democracy in Africa because of the peaceful transition of political power since 1992. Yet, it is not widely known that Ghana also suffers from conflicts emanating from ethnicity, chieftaincy, and limited land resources. As a result of these conflicts, many lives are lost, a great deal of property is destroyed, and development is halted. It is against this background that I was motivated to become a peace fellow. I was convinced that the fellowship would enable me to investigate theories and concepts in peace and conflict resolution and give me the knowledge needed to contribute to addressing these challenges in Ghana.

In addition, during my previous master's program, I read several outstanding articles authored by some faculty members at the Uppsala Peace Center. This informed my decision to select the URPC as I knew that I would be exposed to comprehensive academic insights and in-depth knowledge in peace and conflict studies. At the URPC, I was taught by some of the teachers whose academic publications I had previously read. My primary expectation has been met through the first-hand knowledge transfer gained from these teachers. Now I have the capacity to solve problems independently and the ability to monitor and critically evaluate the development of knowledge within peace and conflict research.



*October 2019. Presentation of "Training Young Peacebuilders for Global Peace and Development" at the Falls Church Rotary Club in Virginia, US*

### **What was the most challenging part of your fellowship experience?**

Leaving my family and friends was the most challenging aspect of the fellowship experience. However, after a couple of months, I was not missing home anymore because my co-fellows helped create community, and the attention of my Rotary host families made my experience even more fascinating. My key takeaway was the importance of both building and maintaining relationships with host families. They are there for the fellows and are super responsive; some even go so far as giving you a ride to and from the airport.



*April 2020. Time with host family in the forest*

### **What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?**

The AFE is what I have appreciated the most about the fellowship. I did my AFE internship with Search for Common Ground in Rwanda between June and August 2019. During the internship, I learned practical ways of dealing with conflict. I also had the opportunity to visit the Genocide Memorial Center, where I learned about the 1994 genocide. During the AFE, I also established a great professional and informal network.

"Nonviolent Conflicts: Causes, Strategies, and Outcomes" was my favorite course. One of the aims was for students to integrate, critically and systematically, different perspectives on strategic nonviolent conflicts in their own analyses of particular cases and problems. I was fascinated by the topic of "political jiu-jitsu," a concept that highlights how the use of violent force to suppress unarmed dissidents, such as that seen during the Arab Spring, occasionally backfires on governments. I passed this course with distinction.

### **What are your professional plans after the fellowship?**

I have decided to pause my academic pursuits after the fellowship so that I can resume professional work in the non-profit sector or in a research/policy think tank institution. My passion for social change and conflict resolution has been refined by my experience as a fellow and I am convinced that I can apply the experience and knowledge I have gained to my professional pursuits.



*March 2020. Picnic time with host families*



## Ayako Tsujisaka

**From:** Japan

**AFE:** Internship at the *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*, Sweden

**Thesis Topic:** Effects of peace operations on local women's participation in peace processes

trains. I will miss relaxing with my family and friends in the beautiful Swedish nature, especially during the summer.



December 2019. Presentation of “Northeast Asian Countries’ Contributions to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda” at expert-level discussions in Beijing, China

### Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

In 2014, I was working in a medical humanitarian project in a camp for internally displaced people in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At that time, my interest started shifting from humanitarian aid to peacebuilding. After having militarily defeated the major insurgency group with the aid of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, the government and aid organizations were preparing for internally displaced people to return to their homes. As my organization confirmed that the medical needs in the camp were no longer acute, we were also preparing for the closure of the project. However, one day a patient came to see me and complained that there was no peace for her, so she could not go back home. She was one of numerous women who suffered from conflict-related sexual violence in eastern DRC. I was stunned by her words and started questioning my role as a humanitarian worker: Although it is inarguably necessary and important to provide medical humanitarian aid during crises, can I do more to contribute to peacebuilding in these countries hit by protracted crises? I came to realize that I wanted to tackle the root causes of conflicts, not just their consequences.



April 2020. Time with host family in the forest

### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

I think the beauty of Uppsala and the nature in and around Uppsala will remain my favorite memory. I have never lived in a city that has such easy access to nature and wildlife. It is common to see hares and deer in Uppsala,

and in the fourth largest city in Sweden! Anne-Marie Pernulf and Björn-Erik Erlandson, my Rotary host family, graciously shared Uppsala and its surroundings, including their summer house near Marielund. We enjoyed the typical Swedish summer holiday by the lake, only disturbed from time to time by the whistles of Lennakatten, old-style steam

### What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?

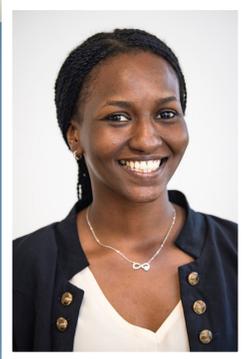
I think the best part of my fellowship was my AFE with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). At SIPRI, I was involved in a research project that investigated the advancement of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in Northeast Asia, specifically in South Korea and Japan. The WPS agenda calls for the participation and representation of women in peace and security governance, the protection of women and girls particularly in conflict situations, and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peacebuilding. By conducting various research tasks – from a desk review of Japanese legal and policy documents and interviewing key informants, to an analysis of Japan’s aid activities in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment – I honed my research skills and increased my knowledge of the WPS agenda. After the resulting report was published, we had the opportunity to share the research findings with regional civil society actors and academics in Beijing and Seoul, which allowed me to connect with them and widen my perspectives. Such an inspiring and rewarding experience would not have been possible without the AFE. I wrote a blog post about my AFE, which can be found [here](#).

### What are your professional plans after the fellowship?

My initial motivation for studying peace and conflict was to gain specialized knowledge in order to work on the root causes of conflicts and to contribute to sustainable peace, especially in so-called fragile states in Africa, where my interest in peacebuilding started growing. Over the past two years, my aspirations for peacebuilding work have become stronger and I now have a better idea of how to go about accomplishing my goals. While the fellowship allowed me to discover the extremely exciting world of peace and conflict research, I came to realize that I can add more value to my work by directly working with people and delivering activities

to build peace rather than by conducting peace research. Immediately after the program, I will work for the Africa Department of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which runs a wide range of development and peacebuilding

programs. The advanced level of analytical thinking and theoretical knowledge that I gained during the fellowship will be my greatest strength in my future peacebuilding career.



*Afaf Doleeb*

**From:** Sudan

**AFE:** Internship at *Amani Kibera*, Kenya

**Thesis Topic:** The effect of multinational energy companies on water disputes and cooperation

### Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

Sudan, my home country, has suffered from prolonged conflict since its independence and is still fighting to bring peace and development to conflict-affected areas. One of the conflicts in the southern part of the country was the main cause of the formation in 2011 of South Sudan, the newest country in the world. Many scholars have predicted that similar scenarios of secessionist movements will take place in other regions. For more than a decade prior to becoming a peace fellow, I was working in conflict-affected areas trying to contribute to the development of these regions as a way to address marginalization, one of the causes of conflict. I realized that my efforts were in vain unless I worked directly on peacebuilding. So, I became more interested in analyzing the causes of conflict and its dynamics and learning about peacebuilding, which inspired me to pursue a degree in peace and conflict studies, ultimately landing in Uppsala. The URPC was my first fellowship preference because I had heard about the high reputation of the university in the field and read about the unique multidisciplinary approach employed by the department, which includes psychology, political science, and sociology. I discovered that URPC's approach aligned with my belief that conflict is a complex matter that can't be resolved using one approach or one track of analysis. I was also interested in the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) as it is one of the largest databases in the field. Indeed, my expectations were met.



*May 2019. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center Annual Seminar 2019 with Class XVI*

### What was the most challenging part of your fellowship experience?

The most challenging aspect for me was personal rather than academic. I have been very much involved in the politics of my home country, and for years I have been actively fighting a corrupt and unjust system and government. Immediately after the first semester of the Rotary Peace Fellowship Program, all my dreams started to come true when people of Sudan initiated a peaceful revolution against the Bashir regime. I contributed to the revolution while in Sweden, but it was hard because I had to balance my time and energy between studies and activities supporting the revolution. I also faced psychological challenges, as my activism came with stress and significant responsibilities as well as security concerns because I was trying to avoid the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) as they were targeting activists at that time. I was lucky to be a peace fellow because the local Rotarians linked us with amazing host families who provided us with the support we needed to overcome the challenges we faced during our hard times. I never felt alone in Sweden because of the kindness of my host family.

### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

Most of my favorite memories are from the AFE, which enables fellows to gain field experience participating in internships or conducting independent research during the summer break. I took this opportunity to intern with a peacebuilding organization in Kenya, supporting the implementation of different projects aiming to reduce violence in the Kibera slum. The slum was formed before the independence of Kenya, mainly by Sudanese soldiers who fought with the British during colonization and later became Kenyan residents. It was fascinating for me to learn more about the mixed culture they adopted. My best memory was when my colleagues organized a farewell celebration for me that included traditional Sudanese food, singing, and dancing. A memory that will always bring a smile to my face.



*November 2018. The Oslo Dialogue Seminar*



## Roli Mahajan

**From:** India

**AFE:** Independent research on environmental conflicts and the rights of indigenous people in Latin America, Ecuador and Peru, and training at the *Nuclear Non-proliferation Education and*

*Research Center (NEREC)*, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), South Korea

**Thesis Topic:** Why are some maritime disputes resolved peacefully?

of natural resources, monetary wealth, and, of course, religion. By studying peace and conflict, I want to break these divisions down to encourage a more peaceful society. I know, I have many more miles to go in order to make a truly meaningful contribution; but by learning a scientific approach to peace and conflict studies, I hope to tell better stories such that we can create more tolerant societies.

Inspired by the work of researchers at my last workplace, I realized that I wanted to improve my research skills and contribute to evidence-based policy making. Thus, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center was my first choice. I will have to defer answering the question regarding my expectations as I am still immersed in the fellowship (although very close to the finish line). Only when I am back in the field, will I be able to evaluate how my time at the URPC has shaped my thinking.

### Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?

The partition of India in 1947, which led to the creation of current day India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, directly impacted the lives of my grandparents and, indirectly, all the generations that followed. I did not face the hardships that they had to overcome to settle in a new place when they were still teenagers, but there is a sense of loss that still haunts me. However, that violent part of India's history seems to be repeating itself as today's India is again becoming more and more polarized, leading people to be intolerant towards each other. This impacts me. I want to help create a more tolerant society. I realize that people in my country are divided on the basis of privilege. A privilege that is accorded to them on the basis of gender, availability



*June 2019. Women weaving handicrafts that are popular among tourists. These will be sold through their own collective in big cities of Puyo and Quito. (Location: Waorani village, Ecuador. Photo: Roli)*



*June 2019. Women being trained in weaving. Waorani women tend to use these skills to create handicrafts from natural fiber. These are then sold via their own collective in bigger towns. Documented as a part of my AFE. (Location: Waorani village, Ecuador. Photo: Roli)*

### What is your favorite memory from your time in the fellowship?

This fellowship was a very unique opportunity for me, so I have a plethora of memories connected to it. However, if I were to pick one, it would definitely be from my AFE experience. The entire AFE period was a dream-like sequence, and it will always be the best part of this fellowship for me. If not for my AFE experience, it would never have been possible for me to understand the Chinese multilateral approach, East Asian security struggles, environmental politics, law and order systems in Ecuador, the impact of indigenous women's organized groups, and the beauty of the Amazon.

One memory (and I am trying to paint it with words for you): A sight that is now only inscribed in my memory and may never be revisited is being on a wooden boat in a rainstorm with the thick Amazonian forests on both sides of

the rain-dependent stream while thick mist hung low over the green leaves of the forests and one could just hear the rain, the birds, and the thunder. It was as though I were the only person in that wild water body when the heavens decided to break free. I remember feeling cold and I remember feeling blessed. I remember my glasses being covered with raindrops and the world around me looking like an impressionist painting. And what I remember will be the strength that powers my life and soul over the next few years.



*June 2019. A view of the Waorani community area in the Ecuadorian rainforests. I stayed here for seven days during my AFE. (Photo: Roli)*

### **What was the most challenging part of your fellowship experience?**

Returning to academia and exploring the unknown, literally and figuratively, were the two most challenging aspects of the fellowship. I was working in competitive professional environments and observing life in the hustle and bustle of South Asia when I decided to apply for this fellowship. I wanted to do something new, something more reflective, and step away from the daily rigor of my professional life. This fellowship was that opportunity. In order to create, I needed to introspect, deconstruct redundant structures, learn and let go. This process is both painstakingly slow and difficult, but it is worth every bit of effort and resources spent. I believe that this fellowship experience was the same for me.

### **What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?**

I will not pick a course but one particular lecture on peace in South-East Asia as my favorite. I enjoyed this short preview of the economic journey of many of the South-East Asian countries and how economic development could also lead to peace. This lecture provided me with a perspective that helped me better understand Asian politics as well

as better use my time in Asia during my AFE. However, that is not to say that I did not enjoy other courses. I will always remember the line from a “Causes of War” course lecturer: the ability to store perishable goods changed the way states fought. On a personal level it made me realize that storage capacity is also the very foundation of the consumerist society we live in, and yes, this does keep me from becoming the self-sustaining environmentalist that I want to be. Reading and preparing for a course paper on mediation last year was one of my favorite learning exercises. Workshops on urban violence and the monitoring and evaluation training facilitated by the Rotary Peace Center will help my future prospects, and the course “Culture in Armed Conflicts” helped me understand the broad debates about power, violence, and culture along with deep dive into conflicts in three countries. In addition, I enjoyed writing about symbols, power, and China for this course paper.

Last but not least, I cannot not talk about “Methods” as that one word is intrinsic to research and is synonymous to my memory of the second half of my first semester in Uppsala. I dreaded it and struggled with it, and was really lost in the pursuit of mastering methods such that I could learn the craft of research. But today, when I am almost at the end of this journey, I have to say lessons learnt during the “Methods” time were hard but valuable and will possibly stay with me for the duration of my professional life. I am still not a master, but those fundamentals were needed for me to grow. So, it was not my favorite, but it was what I needed the most. To conclude, I liked almost all the courses because now that I have finished them, I realize their value.



*June 2019. A mural that depicts animal-human conflict which is common in the area. It also speaks of the ferocious nature of the Waorani Tribe. (Location: Waorani village near Puyo, Ecuador. Photo: Roli)*



## *Victoria Carmona*

**From:** Venezuela

**AFE:** Internship at the *International Institute for Caribbean Studies (IIEC)*, the University of Cartagena, Colombia

**Thesis Topic:** The contributions of a rural reform to positive peace in post-agreement Colombia: Peace from a regional perspective

which initially seemed very different from my own, and to learn from a country that has a long tradition of peace work and research.



*October 2018. At the Uppsala Carolina Rotary Club meeting. I am joined by one of my host families: Staffan Björklund and his wife, Lotta Björklund*

### **Why did you select the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center?**

Throughout my professional career, I have been driven to bring about a change in the lives of vulnerable populations such as student protesters for human rights in my home country of Venezuela, persecuted politicians, young activists, and Hispanic rural landowners and workers in the US.

I had been working in the local government of Maracaibo, Venezuela for four years when I decided to apply for the fellowship. During my tenure as a director, the municipality had been stripped of its financial resources because of political disputes at the national level, leaving little to no funding for any of the projects that I sought to implement. I realized I had learned everything that I could in that position and felt stagnant and frustrated. Additionally, I felt local government had distanced itself too much from the people, and I was no longer able to impact the lives of those who had motivated me to become a public servant. I realized it was time to return to academia, which I had wanted to do for some time. My practical experience had left me yearning for a better understanding of public works and policy as well as of dialogue and the power of nonviolent protests. These realizations led to my decision to pursue a master's program abroad that addressed these issues. This is when I fortunately found the Rotary Peace Fellowship Program.

I chose the URPC as my first choice because I had visited Uppsala in the past to attend the International Training on Dialogue and Mediation, hosted by the university in partnership with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. In that training, I met several professors and staff at the university, and I was impressed by their trajectory and dedication. Furthermore, I was exposed to some of the research that professors and researchers of the university were doing in my field, and it convinced me that an education here would be extremely beneficial and relevant to my goals. I was also motivated to learn about Swedish culture and politics,

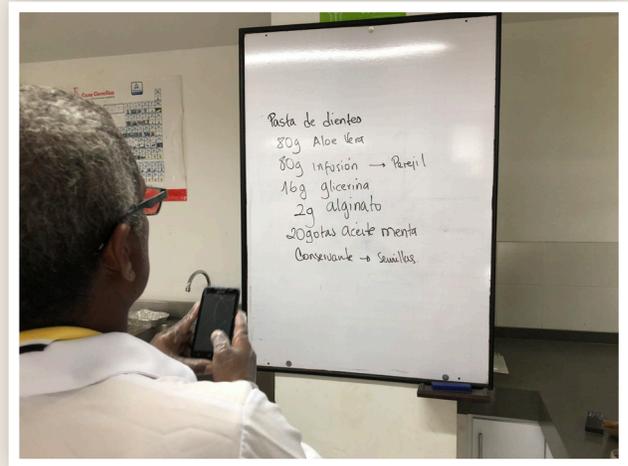
### **What did you appreciate the most about the fellowship?**

The best part of the program is the AFE. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been able to implement my newly acquired academic knowledge in the real world. From this perspective, my education was intensely theoretical and scientifically oriented, so pursuing my AFE in Montes de Maria (a rural region in the Colombian Caribbean heavily struck by the violent conflict) and realizing that I had much to apply and contribute to the work that my host organization was leading was incredibly reassuring and hopeful. I also feel very fortunate for the intellectuals that were directing the institute when I was there. I performed research under the tutelage of the center director, Dr. Amaranto Daniels, who is one of the best research minds that I have encountered, and Dr. Alfonso Munera, a national and international scholar for the study of social, economic, and political issues in Colombia. The rest of the staff were equally driven and talented. When I arrived at the institute, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Dr. Daniels was very flexible about research topics. He wanted me to choose my own topic insofar as it contributed to the main themes of work at the Instituto Internacional de Estudios del Caribe (IIEC). Hence, I developed a theory of positive peace in post-agreement Colombia based on the concept of coexistence in the regions. I will be pursuing this theory in my graduate thesis, and thanks to my AFE, I can count on support, equipment, networking, and the talent at the IIEC.

### **What are your professional plans after the fellowship?**

Before my fellowship, I was deeply concerned about peacebuilding's ability to improve the lives of people and to

achieve tangible and lasting results. However, after pursuing the master's program at the URPC, I am more wary of having a skewed perspective on any social or political conflict, which is why I intend to join an international organization after graduating. Furthermore, thanks to my courses at URPC and my experience with my AFE, I discovered a passion and knack for research. I see myself both as an analyst and as a diplomat. I will either conduct comparative or analytical studies or carry the results of impactful research to the highest political sphere for its implementation. Today, several international organizations use scientific knowledge to inspire local development programs. I plan to join these efforts in Latin America. In addition, I want to join an effort at the national level in Venezuela or Colombia to take the regional perspectives and meanings of peace to the national level. To accomplish this, I want to establish a private or non-profit organization myself that can exert its influence on policy-makers to establish peace in its broader definition, which includes economic and social development, on behalf of civil society.

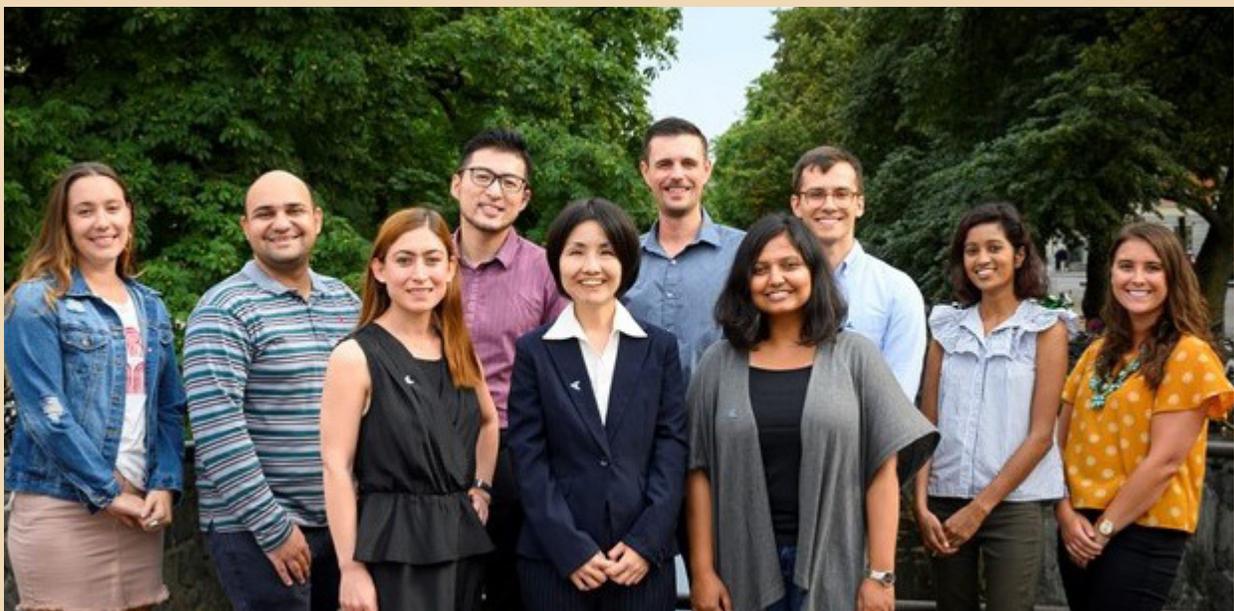


*July 2019. During my AFE, I attended a capacity development workshop with land workers from the rural areas of Colombia. The photo features a recipe for making organic toothpaste, offered to the participants as an idea for making products from locally grown crops to start a business*

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### *Introducing Class XVIII peace fellows...*

As the eighth Uppsala Rotary Peace Center cohort, Class XVIII peace fellows are finalizing the first year of their fellowship program. Before starting the second half of the academic program this autumn, they will be embarking on their Applied Field Experiences (AFE), providing opportunity to translate theory into practice. Despite the challenging circumstances caused by the pandemic, Class XVIII fellows are finding ways to design exciting and meaningful AFEs to further advance their expertise in peace work.



*August 2019. From top left clockwise: Jordan Mathews (US), Kamil Hamid (Pakistan), Jia (Muyi) Yang (China), Andrew Fallon (US), Jonah Simonds (US), Tanushree Rao (India/Australia), Amanda Lanigan (US), Samikshya Bhattarai (Nepal), Mariko Yamaguchi (Japan), Maryam Safi (Afghanistan)*

# In Other News

## Peace fellows' professional development trip to Oslo, Norway

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*Rotary visits:*  
**Tanushree Rao (Class XVIII)  
takes to Stockholm to share her  
peace fellow experiences**

As a peace fellow ambassador to the Stockholm district, one of the goals in my five-minute lightning talks (accompanying the district governor Anders Johansson) has been to share what we do as peace fellows and how the fellowship can lead to long-term outcomes.

I have discussed the diverse course content of our master's program while also pointing out that the fellowship not only includes academic studies but also focuses on practical experience and community engagement. A question I commonly receive is "what do you do afterwards?" I answer by not only stating my own goals but also by sharing our past peace fellows' work in various NGOs, intergovernmental institutions, media, and foreign missions (the Rotary Peace Fellow Alumni Network now has more than 1,300 members working in over 100 countries).

It has been interesting to observe how Rotary clubs have operated in different environments. I have spoken to many people of different ages and backgrounds who have shared with me their experiences in the armed forces or taught me how to say "thank you for having me here" in Swedish. The membership of my host family's club in Uppsala, Carolina, includes many people who have spent years working in academic institutions. In Järfälla, I met people who had worked abroad or in different cities and then returned to Stockholm. And during discussions over drinks at Stockholm International Club, I spoke to people who had moved to Sweden from abroad to pursue a career, a relationship, or just a fresh start. It has been a nice experience meeting Rotarians from various backgrounds and talking on different issues ranging from daily life in Sweden to global peace.



November 2019. Sweet Carolina: Tanushree Rao (Class XVIII) spoke at the Carolina Rotary Club in Uppsala along with District Governor Anders Johansson

Thanks to those clubs for having me and for continuing to support peace fellowship.

Peace fellows from Uppsala and Bradford universities were lucky enough to have made it to Oslo for a joint professional development trip at the end of January 2020. This was not long before the virus outbreak started to affect the Nordic region, restricting all forms of travel. For the fourth time, Norwegian Rotarians kindly hosted fellows from both the Uppsala and Bradford peace centers and arranged an extensive and amazing program that focused on peace work in different sectors and building a network across peace centers.

The group visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). For their final visits and based on their respective interests, Uppsala fellows visited the Oslo Center to learn about democracy assistance programming, and Bradford fellows visited the Nobel Institute. Presentations at the hosting institutions covered a range of important and engaging topics and were followed by enthusiastic discussions.

Tania Estrada (Class XVII) summarized the experience: "This experience allowed us to interact with local Rotarians and other peace fellows from Bradford, enabling us to make great connections with like-minded people. We learned about exciting career development opportunities in different organizations including those in the fields of research and policy making, which helped us all. This trip provided us with important connections, experiences, and knowledge that will guide us through our future career pursuits."

Karim Issifu (Class XVII) also found the experience valuable: "While the heart-warming welcome offered to us by the Rotarians in Oslo has reinforced my ability to serve humanity above myself, my professional career is also enriched by the network and connections built during the Oslo trip. I admit that the Oslo trip was a life changing experience for me and must be sustained."

This trip was featured in [Rotary Norden Nr 2 2020](#) (on page 40).

## *Peace fellows in Cairo:* **Jordan, Muyi, and Amanda share their experience**

In February 2020, Jia (Muyi) Yang, Jordan Mathews, and Amanda Lanigan (all Class XVIII) had the opportunity to attend the Rotary Peace Center Symposium in Cairo, Egypt. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the ground-breaking research taking place in the peacebuilding field and to connect with current and former peace fellows from around the world. Other participants from Uppsala

included Class XVII peace fellow Rebecca Dawson, Uppsala Rotary Peace Center Director Dr. Sara Lindberg Bromley, and Associate Professor Magnus Öberg. Presentations on recent developments in peace and conflict studies were juxtaposed with the ancient history of the Great Pyramids.



February 2020. Class XVIII Fellows Jia (Muyi) Yang, Amanda Lanigan, and Jordan Matthews (from left) in Cairo, Egypt

Muyi recounted the experience: *“I find Cairo is full of surprises but more so of interesting contrasts. On the one hand, the pyramids serve to remind you of a 4000 year history and old-time glory passing through this land; on the other hand, traffic jams, mobile phones, and modern hotels drag you back to its modernity.”*

Speakers tackled a wide range of topics, from technology and peacebuilding to the roots of the growing divide in political discourse. The peace fellows forged lasting connections with their counterparts from other centers. As Jordan said, *“[b]eyond traveling to a new place, the opportunity to meet other fellows and the Rotarians who make this fellowship possible is what made the Cairo conference such a memorable experience.”*

This unique journey and experiences and goals of each peace fellow contributed to a rich tapestry of perspectives of the future of conflict resolution in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

## Connecting during COVID-19

As the world has been adjusting to create some form of new normal amidst the pandemic, the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center has also had to adapt. We were disappointed to have to postpone or cancel a number of scheduled and much-anticipated events, including the Annual Seminar, a visit to the Swedish parliament, opportunities to interact with Rotarians, and a workshop and training with a visiting Fulbright scholar on mediation and conflict resolution. Nonetheless, the center still managed to maintain its connectivity with fellows and staff using online tools, including to retain its tradition of Friday fika, resulting in a new tradition – “online fika”.

Now that all classes and instruction have moved online due to COVID-19, the fellows have been finding all sorts of ways to cope with the COVID-19 isolation blues. Social distance walks have been a way to stay connected as well as online check-ins. Fellows have also kept in close touch with their host families via phone calls and social distance fikas. Thankfully, the Swedish spring has been kind enough for people to enjoy the fresh air and

take a break from their course work and thesis writing.

Fellows have also worked to stay connected to their Rotary community throughout the crisis. Amanda plans to speak virtually to a few US Rotary clubs in June, while Jonah has spoken virtually to Rotary clubs about his experience as a fellow in Sweden during the COVID crisis. Jonah alongside Center Director Sara Lindberg Bromley participated in a club meeting of the Modesto Sunrise Rotary Club over Zoom on 7 May. Sara and Jonah gave a presentation to the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center and Rotary Peace Fellowship and discussed recent developments related to the pandemic in Sweden and the US.

Muyi, on the other hand, took the work of maintaining the distant social connection to another level, launching a collaborative initiative named #CoronaFriend, a grassroots response that aims to help re-humanize the community’s collective experience of this crisis by mobilizing and highlighting the power of people in our communities. A firm believer in community empowerment and having worked with community development in the US, China, and the UK, Muyi leveraged his experiences to establish a [platform](#) that aims to strengthen the community connections during this isolation period, focusing on three issues:

1. Alleviating social loneliness and depression;
2. Facilitating the high-risk/more vulnerable groups such as disabled or elderly individuals to get help with things like grocery shopping from other community members; and
3. Sharing stories from community members about how they thrive and support each other during the pandemic.

The #CoronaFriend initiative re-imagines the ways in which people can connect, relate to, and support each other among all these lockdowns and self-quarantines. The initiative has partnered with local communities in Uppsala and West Bloomington, Illinois in the US, as well as established contacts with think tanks such as the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). As an initiative transcending geographical borders, the website has already been translated

into English, Swedish, and French. Muyi intends to include other languages such as Arabic.



The welcoming page of CoronaFriend

# Appendix 1: Class XVII Peace Fellows’ Thesis Abstracts

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During the final semester of their master’s program, all peace fellows conduct independent research for their master’s theses. In the following pages, graduating peace fellows share their thesis abstracts to provide an overview of what they have been working on these past months. Some peace fellows chose a topic of study inspired by their AFE or internship experience, some continued pursuing the same topic that inspired them to apply for the fellowship in the first place, and some focused on new areas of interest discovered in connection with their coursework in Uppsala. You can read some of their full theses on the Uppsala University Library’s [digital database](#).

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*Rebecca Dawson*

## Universal jurisdiction and the pursuit of justice for victims and survivors of genocide: A social network analysis of international norm diffusion

Universal Jurisdiction (UJ) emerged as a norm in international post-conflict justice after the Nuremberg Trials and is based on the principle that the nature of certain crimes is of greater importance than the nationality of the perpetrator, the location of the crime or any direct connection to the prosecuting state. This paper discusses the spread of UJ, which has been wide-ranging and consistent since the 1950s, and seeks answers to the question – why do some states adopt universal jurisdiction legislation while others do not? Through the novel use of Social Network Analysis (SNA) and application of diffusion theory (specifically emulation), the study tests the hypothesis that liberalist network ties influence a state’s willingness to adopt UJ legislation. This bivariate relationship is tested with a medium-n population of OECD states and the empirical results of the SNA reveal strong support for the hypothesis, findings that are determined to be statistically significant by the Pearson’s Chi-Square test. This study embodies an innovative methodological and theoretical approach to an important international post-conflict justice issue, and draws attention to the obstacles that often stand between victims and survivors of genocide and their day in court.

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*Bijay Shrestha*

## The impact of peace agreements on the improvement of LGBTI security

The gendered impact of armed conflict and women’s participation in peace processes received much attention from scholars, but little is known about the impact of the content of peace agreements on LGBTI people. This thesis aims to fill this research lacuna by asking what is the impact of peace agreements that adopt gender perspective on post-agreement LGBTI’s security. It argues that if peace agreements adopt extensive gender perspective they are more likely to result in improvement in LGBTI’s security compared to gender-blind peace agreement because gender-sensitive peace agreement creates a political opportunity for the LGBTI movement due to the spillover effect of women’s movements which push the government for policy reform and engage the wider population in issues of gender equity. The argument is examined through a structured focused comparison between two cases - Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA) 4 March 2007 - Côte d’Ivoire and Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) 12 November 2006-Nepal. The empirical findings suggest moderate support for the hypothesis examined. However, other factors such as regime types may also condition each case; so, may other provisions of the peace agreement. Thus, this thesis recommends future research to explore alternative explanations in order to increase LGBTI’s security.

*Tania Estrada*

## Successful peace agreements: an issue-based approach to civil war resolution

While issues remain under-researched, peace agreement success has been linked primarily to the proper treatment of the parties' security-related concerns. This study explores why some peace agreements succeed while others fail by using an issue-based approach arguing that issues are an expression of underlying grievances, which have caused the rebel groups to engage in armed conflict. Therefore, peace agreements that do not address the issues, which reflect grievances, will fail. I tested the hypothesis and the proposed theoretical relationship through the structured focused comparison of three peace agreements: The Lomé Peace Agreement, the Accra Peace Agreement and the Final Agreement National Government – Popular Liberation Army. The method employed in this study comprised first, determining the salience the rebel groups assigned to their issues -for which it was necessary to create a measure for issue salience- and second, examining the peace agreement's provisions to determine if the rebel group's issues were addressed. The results show that peace agreements that included the salient issues of the groups failed; however, peace agreements that did not include them, succeeded. Hence, the findings suggest that the inclusion of the rebel group's issues in the peace agreement cannot account for the agreement's success or failure.



*Abdul Karim Issifu*

## Women's participation in peace negotiations and social provisions in peace agreements

Is the inclusion of social provisions in peace agreements influenced by the participation of women, and if so, why? It is suggested that if women participate in the negotiation, the agreement is likely to broaden with social provisions. But our understanding regarding why social provisions are shaped by the participation of women is still limited as previous research rarely looked at this phenomenon. By drawing on theories suggesting women's participation will broaden the scope of the negotiation, and theories proposing women through the agency for being at the negotiation table would push for social provisions, this study hypothesizes that if women participate, the agreements are likely to broaden with more social provisions. A content analysis of the agreements reached on Liberia 2003, Sierra Leone 1999, Côte d'Ivoire 2003 and Niger 1995, and a supplementary in-depth comparative case study presents evidence suggesting women do influence peace agreements to become more holistic with more social provisions. At the same time, this study also highlights the essence of taking other factors that shape the scope of the agreements and the presence or absence of social provisions such as the context and duration of the conflicts and the belligerent actor's will into consideration.



*Ayako Tsujisaka*

## Effects of peace operations on local women's participation in peace processes

During the last two decades, UN peace operations have become increasingly multidimensional and robust. At the same time, they have been implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which seeks, among other objectives, to increase the effective participation of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. UN peace operations have been found to have effects that go beyond achieving negative peace, but the effects of robust peacekeeping on gender equality in host country have been underexplored. This thesis aims to shed light on this understudied area by asking the following question: under what conditions do UN robust peace operations affect local women's participation in peace processes? I argue that a higher level of robustness in a peace operation leads to a lower level of local women's participation, because targeting some groups as enemies opposing to the state authority promotes hostility among communities and deprioritizes peacebuilding tasks including support to women's organizations. To empirically test this hypothesis, a qualitative comparative study of two UN peace operations in the Central African Republic is conducted using the method of structured focused comparison. The findings show little support for the hypothesis, although suggesting the existence of some elements of the proposed mechanisms.

*Afaf Doleeb*

## The effect of multinational energy companies on water disputes and cooperation

Today, more and more scholars are of the view that water will cause the next big war. Given that climate change is exacerbating drought and flood-like situations in countries across the world, the need to study water-related conflicts and water-conflict mitigation is critical to our times. Water conflict and cooperation has been intensively researched by scholars from different fields including but not limited to social sciences, economics, environment. However, an overlooked research area that has been identified by this thesis is the relation between multinational companies (MNCs) dealing with energy and the states that share the same river. The thesis hopes to contribute to this under-researched area by investigating the question: Do multinational energy companies have an effect on water conflict and cooperation? It mainly investigates the following hypotheses:

H1: Cooperation is more likely when energy production is privately owned

H2: Cooperation is more likely when energy production in downstream state is privately owned while upstream state has no energy production

To test these hypotheses and to analyze the interactions between Riparian States, a new dataset has been constructed. It builds upon Mitchell and Lee's (2019), the "Global Database of Power Plants 2019", and the River Basin datasets. The time-range of the recorded interactions between Riparian States according to their position "upstream or downstream" is 1979 to 2002. Additionally, the research contributes to the identification of driving forces that shape the conflictive or cooperative nature of relations between riparian states.

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*Roli Mahajan*

## Why are some maritime disputes resolved peacefully?

This thesis delves into maritime border disputes in Africa. It aims to examine a relatively straightforward question "why do some states resolve their marine border disputes while others do not?" by opting for a qualitative approach to compare two cases: Ghana - Ivory Coast and Somalia - Kenya. Maritime boundaries are man-made constructs which are critical to resources like oil and gas, fisheries as well as trade. Recently, these delimitations in the sea have also become important in the environmental dialogue because the role of the sea has become scientifically more significant in the field of climate change. Drawing upon international law of the sea and political science, this study aims to find causes that underpin dispute settlement at sea.

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*Victoria Carmona*

## The contributions of a rural reform to positive peace in post-agreement Colombia: Peace from a regional perspective

Land ownership has been a constant intervening variable throughout the armed conflict in Colombia from its origins until today. While the peace agreement that was signed in 2016 recognized the centrality of territory to achieve positive peace in Colombia, its implementation has been the weakest on this regard. Not surprisingly, violence persists even in post-agreement Colombia. Rural poverty and the marginalization of peasants, community leaders, sympathizers of the ideological left, and other vulnerable sectors of the population continue to fundamentally undermine national advances for peace. The violent clashes between the guerrilla forces from the FARC and the government led to the displacement of approximately 7 million Colombians (Amnesty International and USAID), most of whom were peasants. In consequence, the majority of those peasants moved to urban centers for a chance at better living standards, however, the economy in the urban centers failed to include them into the productive sector. This led to a deepening of economic inequalities and the consolidation of extremely vulnerable populations who live at the edge of the poverty line. The research question that I attempt to study is: How can a rural reform contribute to territorial peace in post-agreement Colombia?

\*As Victoria will be finalizing her fellowship in 2021, this is a preliminary description of her intended thesis-research.

## Appendix 2: Fellowship Captured in Photography: Posters by Fellows

# Host Families

Rotary host families are a privilege fellows are granted. Fellows reflected that host families "make us feel welcomed, ensure we are not alone at the time of family gatherings and holidays, teach us about Swedish culture, and feed us so well!"



Ayako & her spouse at her host family's (Anne-Marie Pernulf & Björn-Erik Erlandson) summer house in Marielund, Aug 2019



Fellows' Thanksgiving dinner at Karim's host family, Gränby, Dec 2018



Karim in Uppsala with his hosts Ulrica & Gro, Aug 2018



Ayako & her family's short travel to Marielund on Lennakatten with her host family, Sep 2018



With Bijay's host family, Agneta, during her summer house visit, Jun 2019



Sunday Glogg party with Ulf (Bijay's host family) and friends, Dec 2019



Ayako having lunch with her host family in their house, Oct 2019

# Applied Field Experiences and Internship

Fellows engage in an Applied Field Experience (AFE) during the summer break, between June and August. They conduct research or join practical work related to their area of special interests. Class XVII fellows traveled across the globe for their AFEs. As master's students at the Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research, fellows also have an opportunity to do an internship for course credit. Several fellows took this chance to gain more experience.



Karim at Search for Common Ground office, Kigali, Rwanda, Jul 2019



Ayako visited the War and Women's Human Rights museum in Seoul, South Korea, Dec 2019



Bijay, after conducting a focus group discussion with small-holder farmers in Mazabuka, Zambia, Jul 2019



Tania meeting with co-workers at the Front Line Defenders to discuss human rights situation in the Middle East, Dublin, Ireland

Rebecca visited Paul Harris on the "Extra Mile" point of light volunteer during her AFE in Washington DC, US, Aug 2019



Roli attended a training on Nuclear non-proliferation organized by the Korean Institute of Science and Technology. She visited China as a part of the program.



Afaf, during a farewell gathering by the Amani Kibera organization in Kenya at the end of her two-month long internship

# Life as a Peace Fellow

Fellows travelled to Oslo, one of the peace research hubs in the world, as well as to other countries and places to represent the center and learn about peace-related work.



Ayako, Tania & Pedro participated in the 2019 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development on the theme "From crisis response to peacebuilding: Achieving synergies," Stockholm, May 2019



Rebecca attended Rotary Peace Centers Conference in Cairo, Egypt, Feb 2020

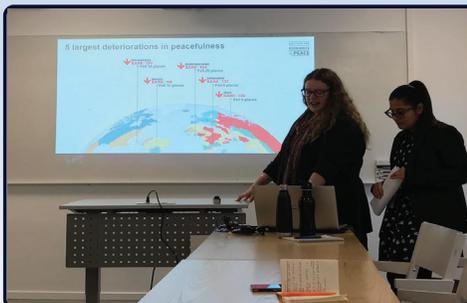
Karim presented a token of appreciation to Siriane Dahlum during PRIO Visit, Jan 2020 (part of a joint professional development travel to Oslo with Bradford fellows)



Ayako, Tania, Victoria & Bijay during the Annual Seminar, May 2019



Rebecca, Tania & Karim in Oslo during the Oslo Dialogue tour, Nov 2018



Tania & Rebecca did a presentation about the Global Peace Index as Ambassadors for the Institute for Economics and Peace to master's students at Uppsala University, Dec 2019

# Life in Sweden

Fellows take advantage of every occasion - holidays, nice sunny days - to gather and celebrate. Fellows enjoyed beautiful nature and a wonderful Swedish tradition of "fika" through different seasons.



Karim's life in Uppsala,  
Oct 2018



Ayako at elk stew dinner  
prepared by Maja's host  
family, Nov 2018



Tania's dream come true, saw  
Salvador Dali's art in real life,  
Stockholm, Dec 2018



Ayako on her family trip  
to Kiruna, Sweden



Afaf with her host family  
Gertrud and friends during a visit  
to historical museums in Stockholm



Bijay exploring Riga, Latvia,  
Nov 2018



Tania embraced her inner Viking  
by visiting museums in  
Stockholm, Feb 2019

# Rotary Clubs and District visit

Fellows are welcomed by Rotarians everywhere they go - in Uppsala, across Sweden, and around the world.



Rebecca, Ayako & Mariko visited the Rotary district conference in Gripsholm, Oct 2019



Karim visited Rotary Stockholm Vällingby, Feb 2020



Ayako, Tania & Rebecca, looking after the Peace Fellowship stall at the Uppsala district conference, Sep 2018



Karim visited the Falls Church Rotary club in Virginia, US, Oct 2019



Tania visited the Carolina Rotary club in Uppsala, Apr 2019



Bijay presenting on "A brief review on Nepal: opportunities & challenges in post conflict context" at Uppsala Östra Rotary club - Apr 2019