

**Biographies****Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>****Mariana ALBA**

Alba has 20+ years of experience as a public relations officer in private business and international organizations in Argentina, Spain, Canada, and Switzerland. During the last five years, in parallel with her responsibilities in academic programs in marketing and communication, she has dedicated herself to knowledge management and the execution of several projects related to corporate social responsibility, sustainability and social impact. She has been teaching since 2014. Alba's passion now lies in economic development and social progress through joint management with private business and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Her academic and professional experiences enable her to continue working on undertakings related to knowledge transmission both in the face-to-face and online modalities. Professor Alba was educated in both Argentina and Spain. She earned her doctorate in Communication Sciences (Cum Laude) in 2014, a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Audiovisual Communications in 2007, and a Bachelor's in Advertising and Public Relations in 2005 from Complutense University of Madrid. Prior to this, she obtained a Diploma in Journalism in 2000 from the Pontifical Catholic University of Buenos Aires.

**Anders SANDHOLM**

Anders Sandholm is a highly accomplished data scientist with over 15 years of experience in this field. He began his career in finance and medical simulations, where he gained valuable experience working with complex mathematical models. He then transitioned to a career in data science, he has worked on numerous projects related to data analysis, modelling, and software development. Anders has extensive knowledge of machine learning and AI, and has used these tools to develop innovative solutions for a wide range of clients. He has a deep interest in statistical analysis, data visualisation, and data mining, and has worked with large datasets to extract valuable insights and trends. He is currently working as a product owner in consumer insights at PMI, where he is responsible for delivering accurate and timely consumer insights to ensure effective consumer interaction and retention.

Anders holds a Ph.D. from EPFL in Neuromuscular Mechanics, where his research focused on studying the mechanics of muscles and their neural control. He also holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from Linköping University in Sweden and a Certificate in quantitative finance.

**Françoise MAILLARD-STRÜBY**

Françoise Maillard is Professor and Head of the Health Care Management Master and Certificates programs at Webster University Geneva since 2001. She earned her PhD from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia) and her MScN (Master of Science in Nursing) from the University of Rhode Island (USA). At Webster she teaches theoretical fundamentals, research and practice methodologies with a transformative worldview. She

frequently lectures at international conferences (USA, Canada, Singapore, France, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland).

**Teodora DUARTE-QUILAO**

Teodora Duarte-Quilao joined Webster University Geneva (WUG) in 2019 as an adjunct faculty of the Health Care Management Master and Certificate Programs. She obtained her PhD in Nursing Science at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, CUNY and focused her dissertation on the phenomenon of the living experience of feeling listened to. She earned her MA at WUG and has more than 20 years of leadership in nursing in the healthcare system in Switzerland, specifically in mental health. She is currently a member of “the International Consortium of Parse Scholars”, “the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International, and “the Association of Nurses in Switzerland (ASI).

**Lucienne BIGLER-PERROTIN**

## **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Sarah DE LATTE**

Sarah de Latte is a painter, children's book writer and illustrator, and founder of "Atelier Toriko", an art atelier that offers art classes, weekend workshops and expressive art counseling sessions. She has a BFA in Illustration from Paris College of Art and Design and an MA from The European Graduate School in Saas Fee in Expressive Arts Counselling. Her experience with expressive art counselling has made her a firm believer in the power of learning through movement, art and aesthetics.

### **Marisa CORNEJO**

Marisa Cornejo is a visual artist and researcher who lives between Chile, France and Switzerland whose artistic practice explores themes connected to forced migration. Marisa grew up during the coup d'état of Chile in the early 1970s, probably the most famous of the many neo-colonial coups and dirty wars that plagued Latin America at that time. Her practice opens a dialogue with the many layers associated with that event. She uses her dreams to inspire real-life performances, interviews, paintings, textiles, films and texts. One of her recent projects – La Huella – uses a dream to revisit the places of memory to activate her father's archive as a refugee. This work was created as part of her master's research in visual arts and critical studies at the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD) in Switzerland. Her latest book, entitled *The imprint: an artist's archive withdrawn from state terrorism*, is an account of her family's journey of exile, which was pieced together by means of 1,500 photographs found in her family archives.

### **Julianna SANDHOLM-BARK**

Julianna Sandholm-Bark is Assistant Professor and Head of the Global Citizenship Program at Webster University Geneva. She teaches courses in Art Appreciation, Current Art, Global Cornerstone Seminar, and Keystone Seminar, all of which are housed in the Global Citizenship Program. In 2018 she created the Meet the Artist Lecture and Podcast Series ([https://wcci.webster.ch/events/meet\\_the\\_artist/](https://wcci.webster.ch/events/meet_the_artist/)). A publication of her interviews with artists in the French-speaking area of Switzerland is currently in preparation. She holds a PhD in Art History from the Institute of Fine Art at New York University, an International Curatorial Program Certificate from the Node Center for Curatorial Studies (2018), and Art Market Analyst Certificate from ArtTactic (2021).

### **Amanda CALLENDRIER**

Amanda Callendrier earned her MA in English from Case Western Reserve University and a BA in English and French from Tulane University. She teaches courses in composition, literature, and creative writing, and her interests include twentieth century American literature, as well as contemporary fiction. She is the author of the novel *Camino Beach*, from Lake Union Publishing, and she is represented by Fine Print Literary Management. She also directs the Learning Center and the Scholars program, and serves as an academic advisor.

### **Teny PIRRI-SIMONIAN**

Teny Pirri-Simonian, M.Sc. is a former head of the Development Department, Middle East Council of Churches. She initiated literacy and adult education programmes in the region, coordinated a five-continent programme on education in religiously pluralist societies at the

World Council of Churches (WCC), and wrote curricula for women ecumenical leaders. Ms Pirri-Simonian is a co-founder of EPIL and is currently writing a doctoral dissertation on the World Council of Churches.

**Peter CARSON**

Peter Carson received a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver. He has practiced law in the area of tort litigation, worked as a reporter and editor for several publications in the United States and Switzerland, and worked in the community investment department of a large nonprofit in Houston, Texas. He taught Developmental Composition and tutored students in writing at the University of Cincinnati. At Webster University Geneva he teaches English Composition, Sustainability Studies and, Law & the Media, and serves as Learning Center Coordinator.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Jeanette TANTILLO**

Jeanette finished her degree in Political Science at Rutgers University and promptly left the country to explore the world. After much travel and many poetry readings in Irish pubs, having also worked in both Paris and Gabon teaching computer software, she returned to New Jersey, at Rutgers University, to pursue her first Masters degree in City and Regional Planning, focusing on international development. Clearly not satisfied, or simply addicted to academia, she then moved to Geneva, Switzerland to complete a second Masters in International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The next six years were spent working at non-governmental organizations in Geneva organizing and moderating dialogues, acting as liaison, and providing documentation, presentations and training on sustainable development in the areas of digital technologies, trade, and ethics. After a short, but intense “break” to bring two fascinating but willful human beings into the world, she started working at Webster University Geneva, where she engages students in exploring the complicated duties of international organizations, including the contributions and impacts of civil society, corporations, and digital technologies. She is otherwise a private consultant for lectures, research, and editing; a poet and fiction author; and an optimistic gardener with moderate success.

**Philippe STOLL**

Philippe Stoll is currently the Senior Techplomacy Delegate at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). His work is at the intersection between governments, the humanitarian and the private sector with the objective to shed light on the impact of cyber warfare, digital surveillance, online hate speech, privacy or autonomous weapons systems on conflicts and on people facing such crises. He also focuses on ensuring an ethical and principled use of technology with using foresight and innovation methodology. He created an immersive website, [www.digital-dilemmas.com](http://www.digital-dilemmas.com), to illustrate these issues.

In his 20 years of humanitarian experience, Philippe has managed strategic and public communications at ICRC Headquarters, and was based in Sierra Leone, Israel and the Occupied Territories, India, and conducted field missions in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Lebanon, Ethiopia... He was deployed in Ukraine in March and April 2022 for a support mission to respond to misinformation campaigns against the ICRC.

At night he is connecting art and humanitarian action by collaborating with several cultural institutions such as the Musée International de la Croix-Rouge et Croissant-Rouge, HEAD-Genève, Photo Elysée Lausanne or Antigél. He has worked with screen players such as Tiago Rodrigues or Yan Duyvendak. He is also engaging with artists Marta Revuelta and Lauren Huret to explore digital surveillance, artificial intelligence, autonomous weapon systems...

He is a jury member of the Prix Art-Humanité and has co-authored a [book on art and humanitarian action](#). Over his career, he spoke in numerous public events such as the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Asia-Pacific Senior Editors Conference in Manila, the Paris Peace Forum, the Nuit des Images in Lausanne, Art Genève, DocuDays in Kyiv, the Expo 2020 in Dubai, the Press Institute of India in New Delhi, Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network in Nairobi, Pro Helvetia, the Stockholm Internet Forum.

Philippe holds Master's degree in Economics from the University of Geneva, and a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Lausanne.

### **Kamilia AMDOUNI**

Kamilia is Public Policy Advisor at the CyberPeace Institute contributing to efforts to promote responsible behavior in cyberspace and to operationalise and advance international laws and norms. She is a multilingual professional with +10 years of experience in developing and implementing international security strategies. She has previously worked as a consultant on emerging technologies for multinational corporations, and focused in the past few years on advocacy, communications, and policy development on international security issues including nuclear disarmament and cybercrime, having contributed to efforts from organizations such as the EU agency for law enforcement cooperation and the Center for International Studies and Diplomacy.

Kamilia holds an MA in Global Diplomacy from the University of London (SOAS) and has an MBA from the French business school ESLSCA.

### **Hovig ETYEMEZIAN**

Hovig Etyemezian is Head of Innovation at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at its Geneva headquarters. He first joined UNHCR in 2008 working as an Emergency Officer in Algeria and Mauritania, and later as Head of UNHCR offices in Bassikounou, Mauritania and Mosul, Iraq. He was also Senior Field Coordinator/Camp Manager in Zaatari, Jordan and worked from 2009 to 2010 as Emergency Sector Coordinator for CARE in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. Hovig Etyemezian hold a B.A. in Political Science from Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon and a Master's degree in Gender and Security from Universidad Para La Paz in San Jose, Costa Rica.

### **Tayeb AL-HAFEZ**

Dr. Med. Tayeb Al-Hafez was born in 1968 in Damascus, Syria. After completing medical school in his home country, he immigrated to the United States in 1992. He is a passionate advocate for the use of media and technology in healthcare delivery and in enhancing public health education and preventive measures.

Currently, Al-Hafez serves as the president of the Global Health Equity Foundation (GHEF), which he founded in 2007. He directs several GHEF programs and projects, including Health Diplomacy for Arabic Speaking Refugees in Germany. The Shadows project, a foundational pillar for trauma literacy, is also part of this program.

In addition to his work with GHEF, Al-Hafez is the founder of Al'Myra, a multimedia organization dedicated to communicating the richness of cultural diversity by nurturing art, design, and science. Through Al'Myra, he aims to promote intercultural dialogue and foster greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.

### **Dorcas McLAUGHLIN**

Dorcas McLaughlin, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, TEP is a Professor in the Nursing Department at Webster University in St. Louis. She teaches graduate and undergraduate students. Dorcas is board certified both as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) in psychiatric mental health nursing and as a Trainer, Educator, and Practitioner (TEP) in psychodrama, sociometry, and group psychotherapy. Her areas of expertise include psychiatric mental health nursing, teaching, psychodrama and the expressive arts, interpersonal neurobiology, mindfulness, trauma-informed care, and family violence. With more than 40 years as an educator, psychotherapist and expressive arts therapist, Dorcas has extensive clinical experience working with clients in private practice, acute care, and

community settings. In her role as a TEP, Dorcas provides psychodrama training and personal growth workshops in the United States, Asia, and Europe.

## **Friday 28<sup>th</sup>**

### **Julie SMITH**

Julie Smith is a communications instructor at Webster University. She is the author of "Master the Media: How Teaching Media Literacy Can Save Our Plugged-In World" and has taught media courses at Webster for more than 15 years. She has presented on media-related topics all over the US and Europe and currently lives in St Louis. Smith is on the leadership Council for the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) and is on the Executive Board for Gateway Media Literacy Partners. Smith received her BA in Public Relations and Marketing from the University of Tulsa and holds a Master of Science in Mass Communications from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

### **Sarah JONES**

Sarah is a Professor of Education Innovation, committed to the transformation of higher education through pedagogy, technology and future practice.

Sarah is a strategic leader in the sector after nearly a decade in television news. Sarah holds a PhD in Immersive Storytelling and has published extensively on virtual and augmented reality, whilst continuing to make and create immersive experiences. She has advised the UK Government on Immersive Technologies and delivers keynotes and speaks at conferences across the world on imagining future technology.

Sarah is committed to diversifying the media and technology industries and regularly champions initiatives to support this agenda.

### **John COUPERTHWAITE**

John Couperthwaite is an education professional with excellent sales and customer relationship skills, having over 20 years of experience of working at a senior level across higher education and in education sales teams.

At Kaltura, Couperthwaite covers the EMEA region, working closely with global teams. The primary focus of his role is to support individuals and institutions to develop, plan and implement large-scale change, particularly around student retention and progression, by developing practice with video-based technology and building communities of practice for academic staff.

Prior to joining Kaltura, he held Customer Success and Solution Engineer posts at Echo360, and similar roles at the personal learning solution, PebblePad.

As Head of Educational Technologies in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences at the University of Birmingham in the UK, Couperthwaite was responsible for the strategic development of technology enhanced learning across all educational programmes and MOOCs in the College, and implemented new technologies, such as LMS's, event capture, ePortfolios and virtual simulation.

He is actively involved with the Association of Learning Technologists (ALT) in the UK, formerly as chair for a regional member group and currently as assessor for their certified member scheme. John is a school governor at a local high school and an online maths tutor for Action Tutoring.

He is also a frequent speaker and author on educational technologies, with a keen interest in learning analytics, personalised teaching and learning, and the evaluation of technology innovation.

John Couperthwaite has a PhD in River Hydraulics from the University of Birmingham, a



PGCert in Online and Distance Learning from the OU, and he is a graduate of the University of Leeds where he studied Physical Geography.

### **Francesco ARESE VISCONTI**

Dr. Francesco Arese Visconti (1971) is the Director of the School of Communications Programs at Webster University Geneva where he teaches visual communication courses. As a member of the research faculty, he focuses his work on migration processes in Switzerland and in Italy. In 2012, he published the book 'New World – Stories of African Immigration and Integration in Switzerland.' In 2015, Arese Visconti completed two projects on the Italian-Chinese community in Prato (Italy): 'Hidden Identity – The Italian-Chinese community in Prato' and 'We, Prato.' His current work is about Italian migration in the Swiss Confederation. Ten images from this research project were exhibited in 2015 at the EXPO in Milan and are part of his Ph.D. research at the Centre for Research and Education in Art and Media of the University of Westminster (UK). Arese Visconti is also member of the Union Suisse des Photographes Professionnels (USPP).

### **Anne-Laure OBERSON**

Anne-Laure Oberson (PhD) is a philosopher, photographer and curator. Her research focuses on the quantum nature of images, the impact of electronic images on cognitive processes and phenomena such as synchronicity. She is currently writing on imagination in regards to generative models for image creation. She is leading an art residency program and teaching contemporary philosophy. She has edited and contributed to books, catalogs and articles in the field of philosophy, contemporary art, photography, and art history. Her book "I see. Do you? Thinking Seeing" was published by Atropos Press. She studied History of Art at the University College of London and Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought at the European Graduate School.

### **Elisabeth CARNEGIE**

Carnegie's work explores key themes – the representations of cultures and people within cultural spaces - notably exhibitions and museums and is concerned with the impact of such spaces and events on local and tourist audiences. Thus her research is framed at the meeting point between culture(s) and representation and tourism. Elisabeth Carnegie specializes in 'how objects reflect societies' to examine the material culture of everyday and political life, and cultural events are framed within the present – often the political present. She additionally looks at 'festive spaces' as the meeting point of cultures. Key current projects include a study of Post-communist dissonance and discourse: exploring the relationship of tourists as visitors to museums and contemporary cultural spaces which carry political ideologies at both the local and/or national level within Central Europe (with colleague Jerzy Kociatkiewicz).

Additionally, other work is concerned with how art is used to (mis)represent and understand diasporic cultures within the Near East drawing on post-Saidian discourses and the exploration of Orientalism in contemporary society. Carnegie's research agendas grew from her background in museums, initially as a curator, and latterly as Deputy Director of a museum service. She therefore came to academia from practice and her research remains concerned with the role of the insider/outsider and framing of individual and collective memory and cultural remembering and she draws on the oral history and visual methods which shaped her practice and the relationship of theory to practice. At Glasgow Museums, Elisabeth was fortunate to have been at the forefront of a number of major projects, from

being a member of the core team devising the philosophical and curatorial aims, initiation, development and success of the £6 million award-winning St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art (1993), building conversions, as in the Gallery of Modern Art, (1996) and major redisplays as in the People's Palace (1998).

Prior to moving to Northumbria University, Carnegie taught arts and heritage management at Sheffield University Management School and was Programme Director for an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty masters in Creative and Cultural Industries with partners across the Arts Faculty. Elisabeth has successfully supervised PhD students to completion and welcome applications in the broad area of heritage and identity, museums, events and tourism management.

### **The Renegade Saints'**

The Renegade Saints' are an international group of improvisers whom fate has brought to Geneva. Blending a range of backgrounds in typically Genevan international community style, they had their first show in 2014, and now perform regularly in Geneva and around Europe.

### **Keith W. STRANDBERG**

Seasonal Films Producer Story Development

Strandberg has been one of the most successful action-adventure producers ever, with 10 profitable movies to his credit, all from his own screenplays. He began producing after his second screenplay, 'Raging Thunder,' was made into a feature film called 'No Retreat No Surrender II.' Some of the pictures he has written and produced include 'No Retreat No Surrender I - III,' 'The King of the Kickboxers,' 'American Shaolin,' 'SuperFights' and many more. Currently, Strandberg is prepping several new projects. In addition to feature films, Strandberg has produced many industrial films, advertisements, short films and documentaries. Strandberg has also taught producing at Towson University (Maryland, USA), at the Action Film Camps and is currently teaching at Webster University (Geneva, Switzerland).

### **Folkaboum**

Folkaboum is a folk-rock-pop-punk band from Geneva with violin, bass, congas, mandolin, piano, guitar, a singer and sometimes more (ukulele, maracas, flute and saxophone).