

## Panelist Biographies

**Ashley Bybee** is an analyst at the Institute for Defense Analyses where she has worked on a range of issues relating to international security including cooperative security exchanges with countries of the FSU, interagency cooperation on national security affairs, and complex contingency operations. For the last five years, Bybee has focused on African security issues with a particular focus on transnational criminal networks and counternarcotics. She completed her undergraduate degree in Foreign Affairs and French at the University of Virginia and received a Masters of Public Policy from George Mason University. She is now a fourth year PhD candidate researching the impacts of the drug trade on transit states. Her dissertation is titled “Narco State or Failed State? Politics and Narcotics in Guinea-Bissau” which seeks to understand how “Narco-States” evolving from a failed state differ from those that have emerged in more democratic regimes.

**Mahmut Cengiz** is a Major in the Turkish National Police where he has obtained many service awards. He previously served at the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department for twelve years. There, he worked in fields pertaining to mafia-type organized crime, nuclear smuggling, arms smuggling, as well as the Turkish Witness Protection and Undercover Unit. He also served in the Kosovo Peacekeeping Mission for one year.

Currently, he is a PhD student at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy. He holds two master’s degrees from the sociology department at Kirikkale University and the School of International Service at American University. He also possesses a doctorate degree from the sociology faculty at Ankara University. His Turkish dissertation was titled, “How Corruption Becomes Entrenched in the Public Bureaucracy.” He has also studied criminal groups and organized crime. He is the author of two books published in Turkish: *Turkish Organized Crime Groups* and *How Mafia is Explained According to The Conflict Theory*. Also, he has several published articles in journals about organized crime and corruption.

**Peter Gastrow** joined International Peace Institute from South Africa, where he was Cape Town Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). His work there related to organized crime, money laundering, corruption, and governance issues in sub-Saharan Africa. He has served as expert adviser to the South African government and as a member of various expert groups and panels of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

After obtaining degrees in economics and law from the University of Natal, Peter worked in the office of the Attorney-General in Durban, before establishing his own legal practice as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa. He served as a member of the South African parliament where he concentrated on justice, policing, and constitutional matters. He was involved in initiatives to address political violence in South Africa during the 1980s and participated in the establishment of the National Peace Accord in 1991. He thereafter served as a member of the National Peace Committee and of the National Peace Secretariat, which was charged with the implementation of the Accord and the establishment of Peace Committees. In December 1993 he was appointed chairperson of the Law and Order Sub-Council, which formed part of South Africa’s transitional government structures.

After the April 1994 election, Peter was appointed as special adviser to South Africa’s Minister for Safety and Security with the main focus on police transformation. He was

chairperson of the Minister's Interim Advisory Team with the task of providing strategic advice on the amalgamation and transformation of the different police agencies whilst simultaneously retaining the capacity and morale of the police to combat crime effectively.

Peter has been published widely and has been a frequent commentator in the South African media on matters relating to organized crime, corruption, and criminal justice.

**Keira Goldstein**, since joining the Department of State, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) in 2006, has served in strategic planning and policy roles both in Washington and abroad. Keira participated in the planning that launched INL's assistance programs in Southern Sudan, evaluated the effectiveness of law enforcement training in Peru, and completed a detail with the U.S. Africa Command. In her current position as West Africa Coordinator, Keira led the development of a Department of State Counternarcotics Strategy. The Strategy was informed by the findings from interagency missions Keira led in numerous West African countries to learn about narco-trafficking and regional responses. Prior to joining the Department of State, Keira worked on a conflict resolution project between Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans and lived in Guatemala for two years, teaching and working at an orphanage. Keira completed her undergraduate studies in anthropology at Stanford University and her graduate studies in international relations at The Fletcher School.

**Audra Grant** is a political scientist at the RAND Corporation, where she has worked on various projects concerning the evolution of domestic politics of Iraq; tribal configurations and insurgent group organization in Iraq; development in Al-Anbar province; the nature of apocalyptic rhetoric in Muslim discourse and Muslim perceptions thereof; the structure of attitudinal support for radicalism in the Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia; and issues related to democracy and governance in Africa and the Middle East and to societies in transition. A former intelligence analyst at the U.S. State Department, Grant focused on Middle East political analysis and on implementing and analyzing public opinion research in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She has conducted research on the dynamics of political Islam; democratization; and U.S. foreign policy in her extensive travels to the MENA, including Iraq. She has published articles on party dynamics in Algeria and Morocco; peace and reconciliation in Algeria; attitudes among Arab-Israelis; identifying support for democratization among Palestinians; gender as a determinant of support for political Islam and hard-line foreign policies; and illicit trade patterns in Africa. A visiting scholar at Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco (2006–07), Grant taught courses on Middle East politics and U.S. foreign policy and is an adjunct professor at The George Washington University. She is fluent in German and proficient in Arabic. Grant has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin.

**Leanna Leitnaker** is completing her MA at the School of Public Policy at GMU. With a TraCCC fellowship, she spent four months in Dakar, Senegal at the Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development where she researched regular and irregular migration patterns and challenges within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). After completing research on 'Microfinance as a Peacekeeping Tool in the Casamance', she traveled to the regional enclave to interview microfinance institutions and to gain a better understanding of West Africa's longest running civil conflict. After realizing that the Casamance conflict is much more complex than a separatist movement, she researched the origins and the factors perpetuating regional instability. Leanna interviewed Internally Displaced Persons, refugees,

landmine victims, local women's leaders and NGOs involved in peacekeeping efforts. She has documented her research in an AMLD publication entitled "Human Security and Peacekeeping Efforts in the Casamance"

**Dr. Ndioro Ndiaye** is the director of the Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development (AMLD), an NGO she founded after serving as the Deputy Director General at IOM from 1999 to 2009. AMLD is currently working on migration issues for ECOWAS and other organizations and is based in Dakar, Senegal... In 1988, she was appointed by the President of the Republic of Senegal to the post of Minister for Social Development. On behalf of the Senegalese Government, she coordinated humanitarian activities during the crisis between Senegal and Mauritania in 1989. As the supervising minister, Professor Ndiaye devised and implemented practical solutions to assist both Senegalese and Mauritanian migrants displaced by the conflict. From 1990 to 1995, Professor Ndiaye was Minister for Women's, Children's and Family Affairs.

Thereafter, and until her appointment as Deputy Director-General of IOM, she resumed her numerous activities at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, where she was highly instrumental in reforming tertiary education in Senegal.

In 1990, UNICEF invited her to take part in preparations for the World Summit for Children. In that context she proposed that the rich countries should plough back a part of debt service payments by poor countries into programmes to help children. She also made a major contribution to preparations for the World Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held in Geneva in 1992, which was followed by a meeting on the same topic in Brussels in 1994. Professor Ndiaye has published numerous scientific papers on social and political issues. She is Commandeur des Palmes académiques and Chevalier dans l'ordre de la Légion d'Honneur in France.

**Davin O'Regan** is a research associate with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. In this capacity he conducts independent research and analysis, edits and works closely with leading scholars to produce ACSS research publications on a wide range of African security issues, and supports the development of curricula for workshops and seminars for African security professionals. Prior to joining ACSS, Davin worked as a program associate with the Civil-Military Initiative of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs. Davin began his career working in the news room at allAfrica.com and has worked on research projects at the Open Society Institute, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Congressional Research Service.

**Dr. Helen Purkitt** is professor of International Relations at the U.S. Naval Academy. At the Academy she teaches African Politics, Political Psychology, Emerging Security Issues, and Methodology. She holds a PhD from the University of Southern California and directed International Relations graduate studies at Texas Tech before joining the USNA faculty. She is the Principle Investigator for an ongoing effort to develop a specialized wiki on the nexus of transnational terrorism and crime. Her most recent publication is an edited volume entitled, *Africa Environmental and Human Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Cambria, 2009). Professor Purkitt is the editor of the *Annual Edition: World Politics* series, co-author of *South Africa's Weapons of Mass Destruction*, and serves as an expert for 60 Minutes and other media forums. Dr. Purkitt is the recipient of a 2010 Fulbright Research award to develop a data base of ecotourism and sustainable development for different types of nature preservation areas in

Botswana. She will be in residence at the International Tourism Center of the University of Botswana during much of the fall of 2010.

**Louise Shelley** is a Professor in the School of Public Policy and the founder and Director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC) at George Mason University. Professor Shelley received her undergraduate degree cum laude from Cornell University in Penology and Russian literature. She is the recipient of the Guggenheim, NEH, IREX, Kennan Institute, and Fulbright Fellowships and received a MacArthur Grant to establish the Russian Organized Crime Study Centers. She is the author of four books, the most recent of which is *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* that will be published by Cambridge University Press in August. She serves on the boards of several journals. Her expertise in transnational crime and corruption includes money laundering and illicit financial flows, human smuggling and trafficking and national security issues.

Professor Shelley has testified before the House Committee on International Relations Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other committees on transnational crime, human trafficking and the links between transnational crime, financial crime and terrorism. She is on the co-chair of the advisory group on Organized Crime of the World Economic Forum. She has spoken at various international fora and at many universities both in the United States and abroad on terrorism, diverse aspects of transnational crime and corruption. Additionally, she appears on television and radio.

**Dr. Kimberley Thachuk** served for the past two and a half years as the National Counterintelligence Officer for Transnational Issues at the National Counterintelligence Executive, Office of Director of National Intelligence. There she analyzed intelligence on a variety of transnational issues from a multidisciplinary perspective employing a variety of analytic tools.

Formerly, she was a Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director of the Transformation Program at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University. There she conducted research and taught courses with an accent on force transformation in coping with transnational threats such as terrorism and insurgency.

Earlier positions included serving as a Visiting Professor of International Relations in the Security Policy Studies Program of the Elliott School at The George Washington University where she directed the Transnational Threats Concentration, and as the Senior Research Fellow for Transnational Threats and Deputy Director of the Globalization Project at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, the National Defense University.

Her research is mainly on transnational threats to national security, including organized crime and terrorism, drug, human, and arms trafficking, alien smuggling, smuggling of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats, and health and environmental threats.

She holds a Multidisciplinary Ph.D. in Criminology/Political Science/Latin American Studies from Simon Fraser University, Canada. She is author of numerous publications including, "Countering Terrorism Across the Atlantic?"; "Hijacked by Villains: Corruption and International Security"; "Transnational Threats: Falling Through the Cracks?"; and, "Terrorism's Financial Lifeline: Can it Be Severed?". Dr. Thachuk edited a book on transnational threats entitled, *Transnational Threats: Smuggling and Trafficking in Arms, Drugs and Human Life* (Praeger, 2007).