

# Gilman Foreign Policy in Focus: Refugees & Migration Virtual Seminar Series

## Seminar 1: Introduction to Foreign Policy in Focus: Refugees and Migration



### Theresa Gagnon

*Program Officer, USA Study Abroad, U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs*

Theresa Gagnon serves as a Program Officer in the USA Study Abroad Branch of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C. She is responsible for managing the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program (Gilman Program). She is a Civil Service Officer and has been with the Department of State since 2010. Prior to joining ECA, she was a senior analyst in the Office of Inspector General and previously worked in strategic planning in the Department of State's central budget office. Before joining the federal government, she taught English in rural Spain through the Spanish Ministry of Education's North American Language and Culture Assistants Program (NALCAP). She is originally from Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, where she spent her junior year studying Latin American Politics and Spanish in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She lives in the Washington D.C. area with her husband and two boys.



### Elisheva Cohen

*Director of International Education Programs & Outreach, Hamilton Luger School of Global & International Studies, Indiana University*

Dr Cohen holds a PhD in Comparative and International Development Education from the University of Minnesota, an MA from Columbia University Teachers College in International Educational Development, and a BA in Middle Eastern Studies from Columbia University. Dr Cohen conducts research and teaches in the field of refugee studies, with a particular focus on refugee education in the Middle East region. Her dissertation research examined educational experiences of Syrian refugees in settings of inclusive refugee education in Amman, Jordan.

She has extensive experience living and working in global settings, including studying abroad in Egypt and Israel, serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco, and conducting her dissertation field research in Jordan. She has worked for a range of international development agencies including UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee, CARE International, and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies.





## Taurean Webb

*Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University*

Taurean Webb holds a PhD from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and religion. He holds Master of Arts degrees in Black and cultural studies from Columbia University and Northwestern University. He directs the Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization and serves as the Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University.



## Nick Cullather

*Interim Dean of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies, Indiana University*

Nick Cullather is a historian of United States foreign relations, specializing in the history of intelligence, development, and nation-building. He investigates the United States' uses of aid, covert operations, diet, statistics, and technology to reconstruct social reality in countries around the world. His book, *The Hungry World* (2010), explores the use of food as a tool of psychological warfare and regime change during the Cold War. *The Hungry World* won the Ellis Hawley Prize for economic history, the Robert Ferrell Prize in diplomatic history, and was shortlisted for the Lionel Gelber Prize for the best book on a global policy issue.



## Hannah Buxbaum

*Vice President for International Affairs, Indiana University*

Hannah Buxbaum is a professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, where she holds the John E. Schiller Chair in Legal Ethics. Her internationally recognized research is in the areas of private international law and international litigation and jurisdiction, and she has been the recipient of research fellowships from organizations including the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. As vice president, Buxbaum promotes global engagement at IU across all aspects of the university's mission. She provides strategic leadership in advancing IU's international presence and works collaboratively with administrators, faculty, and staff to expand international research and educational opportunities. She oversees the offices that manage international admissions and student services, study abroad, international partnerships, and international development, as well as the university's Global Gateway Network.





## Eli Konwest

*Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University*

Eli Konwest is the Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change. She has been involved in education and internationalization as a classroom instructor and outreach coordinator. She previously served as the IU International Outreach Council coordinator, implementing programs that connected local and national audiences with global resources and international students. She has previously held positions or teaching appointments with the World Archaeological Congress, IU's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, IU's Global Village, the IU Department of Anthropology, and the America Program for Zhejiang University. Her other research interests focus on the Prehispanic and early Colonial period archaeology of Mexico, particularly community identity during the Postclassic period (A.D. 900-1500) in Oaxaca. Since 2005, she has been involved in archaeological research in Mexico, England, and the Midwest. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from Indiana University.



## Paula Reed Lynch

*Director of the Office of Policy & Resources Planning, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees & Migration*

Paula Reed Lynch's office (PRM/PRP) is responsible for the strategy, policy, planning, and analysis that underlies PRM's \$4.9 billion (2022) humanitarian budget, which her office formulates, defends, and allocates. Policies that her office covers include protection for refugees, conflict victims, and stateless persons, education, cash and voucher assistance, and promoting coherence among humanitarian and development programs. PRM/PRP designs and carries out training in monitoring and evaluation for PRM Refugee Coordinators overseas and PRM staff, and coordinates proposals for funding research and formal program evaluations.

Paula has spent her career connected to humanitarian assistance, whether serving at the Department of State in PRM, the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, or in the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance (F). As Director of F's Policy Analysis office, she led the development of an analytical database to compare publicly available data across economic growth, democracy, education, health and other sectors to inform decision making on resource allocation. She has served overseas at the U.S. Mission in Geneva (Switzerland), U.S. Embassy Kigali (Rwanda), and, an extended TDY to Kampala (Uganda) related to fraud in refugee registration. She is a career member of the Senior Executive Service.

Paula has received awards for her work on behalf of refugee women, for achievements as the elected Rapporteur of the Executive Committee of UNHCR in Geneva, Switzerland, for creating PRM's first strategic plan, and related to interagency humanitarian response in Lebanon, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. She was included in a USAID Group Award for the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative. Paula received an award as one of the founding members of the of PRM's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Council.

A 1975 graduate of Vanderbilt University, Paula studied in Regensburg, Germany, then married into and then joined the Foreign Service for more than a decade. She is the proud grandmother of five children.

