

# Inside U.S. Foreign Policy

## Global Equity and Racial Justice

### Speaker Bios

#### WELCOME



#### **Jamie Sharp**

Deputy Director for Global Academic Programs  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Jamie Sharp is the Deputy Director of the Office of Global Educational Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural at the U.S. Department of State. Jamie oversees the cooperative agreement process, budget planning and implementation, and advises on matters regarding student mobility, internationalization, exchange programming, and U.S. Higher Education. Previously, Jamie served as the Senior

Program Officer in the Near East Programs Branch in the Office of Academic Exchanges, managing the Fulbright Program budget for programs in the Middle East and North Africa, the Bureau's cooperative agreement with AMIDEAST to administer the Fulbright Foreign Student Program for the region, and Fulbright Programs in Egypt. Jamie has also managed a handful undergraduate programs for the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia during her tenure at the U.S. Department of State.

Prior to joining the Department in 2010, Jamie managed special programs for students and scholars in the Middle East and South Asia at the Institute of International Education and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. A former Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Jamie has taught English courses focusing on U.S. culture, English Literature, and pronunciation to secondary students in Germany. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with Bachelor's degrees in English Language and German Language and Literature.

#### KEYNOTE: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ON GLOBAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE



#### **Desirée Cormier Smith**

Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor  
U.S. Department of State

Desirée Cormier Smith is the Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice. Previously, she served as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Special Representative Cormier also worked at the Open Society Foundations as the Senior Policy Advisor for Africa, Europe, and Eurasia. In that role, she led the global foundation's U.S. advocacy strategy and execution on a wide range of human rights issues in these dynamic and diverse issues. From 2015 until 2020, she was the Senior Director with Albright Stonebridge Group's Africa Practice, where she advised and assisted private and social sector clients on growth strategies across the African continent.

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Ms. Cormier began her State Department career as a Foreign Service Officer with assignments in Mexico, South Africa, and Washington, DC. Ms. Cormier is the recipient of four Department of State Meritorious Honor Awards and the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Undergraduate Fellowship. She is an alumnus of the International Career Advancement Program and is a member of the 2019 class of Next Generation National Security Leaders Fellowship at the Center for a New American Security. She was honored by New America as a 2020 Black American National Security and Foreign Policy Next Generation Leader and is a 2020 alumnus of the New Leadership Council Washington, DC chapter. Ms. Cormier currently serves on the Advisory Council of Global Kids, an educational non-profit aimed to inspire underserved youth to pursue careers in public policy and global affairs, and on the Advisory Board of Shea Yeleen, a social enterprise dedicated to empowering women in West Africa and the U.S. Ms. Cormier is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ms. Cormier holds a B.A. in Political Science and Psychology from Stanford University and a M.A. in Public Policy from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is proficient in Spanish and French.

## PANEL: GLOBAL EQUITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY



### Hermes Grullon

Political Officer

U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States

Hermes Grullon has been a Foreign Service Officer since 2015. He serves as a Political Officer in the U.S. mission to the OAS and will transition this summer to be a Foreign Service Orientation Deputy Course Coordinator. Prior assignments include serving as a Watch Officer in the 24/7 Operations Center, Consular Officer/Acting Deputy Consul General in Embassy Managua, and Political Section Chief in Embassy Djibouti. A first-generation college graduate, he completed his BA at DePauw University, MA in International Relations at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and coursework at Howard University. He is from Brooklyn, New York born to Dominican immigrants and married with two young children. He was a Rangel Scholar, Pickering Fellow, Gilman Scholar, Institute for International Public Policy Fellow, and International Career Advancement Program Fellow. He currently serves as the Pickering and Rangel Fellows Association president.

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#### **Rebecca Danis Webb**

Acting Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Embassy Lima

Rebecca Danis Webb currently serves as Acting Public Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy, Lima. She has previously worked public diplomacy assignments in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Rwanda, in addition to completing a consular tour in Guatemala. In Washington, Rebecca has served as Acting Director of the Office of Religion and Global Affairs and as a Crisis Management Officer in the State Department Operations Center. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Health from Georgetown University and a Master of Military Studies from Marine Corps University. Rebecca's husband is also a Foreign Service Officer, and they have two young children.



#### **Maggie Hug**

Foreign Affairs Officer  
Regional Education Initiatives and Partnerships, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

Maggie Hug is the lead for Regional Education Initiatives and Partnerships at the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) at the U.S. Department of State. She manages the hemispheric-wide education initiative – 100,000 Strong in the Americas (100K Strong) – the regional public-private sector collaboration between the Department, U.S. embassies, companies, governments, and higher education institutions (HEIs) in the United States and Latin America. Hemisphere-wide 100K Strong partnerships and exchange programs build on resilient, regional alliances between industry, governments, and a growing network over 4,100 HEIs that strengthens institutional capacity and expands access to innovative exchange and workforce readiness programs for underserved students and faculty. Prior to joining the WHA Bureau, Maggie was the Deputy Director of the Fulbright Commission in Mexico for eight years where she led bilingual, bicultural teams and managed the annual implementation of 15 complex Fulbright programs engaging over 475 students and faculty from Mexico and the United States.

Maggie has 22 years of experience of working across sectors to develop partnerships, lead fund-raising campaigns, and collaborate with U.S. embassies, Ministries of Education, private sector, NGOs, and academic institutions to advance bilateral and regional education and workforce development program opportunities. She has also taught at the secondary and tertiary levels in the U.S. and Mexico, including a Fulbright Lecturing award to Mexico. She gives frequent (bilingual) briefings, workshops, and presentations in the United States, Mexico, and other countries, including events such as NAFSA, HACU, Summit of the Americas, and WHA events.

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#### **Ta'Adhmeeka Beamon**

Senior Policy Officer

Office of the Special Representative for Racial Equity & Justice, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor Affairs

Ta'Adhmeeka "Tada" Beamon joined the Office of the Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice (SRREJ), located in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), as a Senior Policy Officer in March 2023. In this role, she is responsible for monitoring international developments and trends affecting marginalized racial, ethnic and Indigenous communities in Africa and the East Asia and Pacific regions and developing policy recommendations in support of fulfilling SRREJ's mandate to embed equity in U.S. foreign policy, programming and decision-making processes and build global partnerships to combat systemic racism, discrimination and xenophobia.

Prior to joining SRREJ, Ta'Adhmeeka served with the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & Health Diplomacy (S/GAC), which administers the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). During her time with S/GAC, she served as Senior Gender Advisor focused on comprehensive prevention programming for adolescent girls and young women (i.e., the DREAMS partnership), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response, and the integration of gender responsive programming across the PEPFAR program. She also developed partnerships to center the leadership of girls and women in high-level decision-making fora.

She has over 15 years of experience with community-based organizations supporting underserved populations and at-risk youth and providing advocacy and direct service provision for survivors of SGBV. She has also worked on interfaith transitional justice initiatives leveraging research, education and practice related to conflict resolution and human rights to bridge differences between youth in communities in conflict. Ta'Adhmeeka has an MS in Peace Operations and Conflict Resolution with a concentration in addressing sexual violence in conflict and gender equity in traditional governance structures from George Mason University and a BA in Communications from Campbell University.

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#### STATE DEPARTMENT CAREERS AND STUDENT PROGRAMS INFORMATION SESSION



#### **Saúl Hernández**

Diplomat in Residence- South  
U.S. Department of State

Saúl Hernández is a career Foreign Service Officer with over nineteen years of experience at the U.S. Department of State. He is the Diplomat in Residence for the Southern region, recruiting diverse talent for career and student program opportunities with the U.S. Department of State. Saúl was previously the Director for the Outreach and Communications Unit and the Public Diplomacy Incubator Unit in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. He led a team that engages with Congress to advocate for public diplomacy resources for the Department, develops communications strategies for 4,000 public diplomacy practitioners worldwide, and manages digital outreach to the 700,000 members of the Young African Leaders Initiative Network and the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative Network.

Saúl's other Department of State assignments include Lima, Peru, where he served as the Press Officer; Washington, DC, where he served as the Digital Media Advisor for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and as a Media Relations Officer for the Washington Foreign Press Center; Tbilisi, Georgia, where he served as the Cultural Affairs Officer; and Prague, Czech Republic, and Bogotá, Colombia, where he served as a Consular Officer. Saúl earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before joining the Department of State, he worked as an information technology consultant and software developer in the Atlanta area.

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#### FOREIGN POLICY AND CAREER CONVERSATIONS

##### Room 1: Q&A about State Department Careers and Student Programs



##### **Saúl Hernández**

Diplomat in Residence- South  
U.S. Department of State

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##### Room 2: Life in the Foreign Service



##### **Dan Pattarini**

Foreign Service Officer  
U. S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Dan Pattarini is an Outreach Officer with the USA Study Abroad Branch in the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs where he supports efforts to increase and diversify study abroad opportunities for U.S. higher education students and institutions.

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A member of the U.S. Foreign Service since 2009, Dan previously served as the Public Affairs Officer in the Office of Foreign Missions and as an Outreach Officer in Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Public and Congressional Affairs. Dan was the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg from 2016 to 2019. In 2014-15, he was the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. From 2012 to 2014 he served in Cairo, Egypt as an Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer and Consular Officer. Dan's first Foreign Service assignment, from 2009 to 2011, was as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer in Muscat, Oman.

Prior to the Foreign Service, Dan worked at the Institute for International Education and as a history teacher in Alexandria, Virginia. Dan holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. from American University. He has studied Arabic and French. He and his wife Katy have three children and a Labrador retriever.

### Room 3: Pickering & Rangel Fellowships



#### **Marissa Scott**

Senior Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility Coordinator  
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Marissa Scott is the Senior Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility (DEIA) Coordinator for the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs supporting President Biden's Executive Order. Prior to that, she served as the French Language Spokesperson for the Department of State and the Director of the Department's Africa Regional Media Hub, a media platform that amplifies U.S. policy messages to the Francophone world and develops media training programs for U.S. government professionals. The Africa Hub also works to cultivate relationships with media outlets and journalists through conference calls and virtual briefings with U.S. policy makers. Marissa is a career American diplomat and has spent most of her career working on the African Continent. She served in executive positions as Deputy Chief of Mission in Cabo Verde and for a year as Chargée d'Affaires. She also served as Chargée d'Affaires in The Gambia. Her previous assignments were Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Algeria, Niger, Cabo Verde, and South Africa. Marissa has a Bachelor's degree English and Spanish language from Dillard University and Master's degree in International Relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She also holds an Advanced Certificate in Conflict Resolution from Syracuse and a Certificate in Strategic Communications and Public Relations from Portland State University. This fall Marissa will transition to her next assignment as Consul General at the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca, Morocco.

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#### Room 4: Career of a Foreign Service Specialist as a Diplomatic Security Special Agent



**Dan Bergin**  
Special Agent  
Diplomatic Security Service

Special Agent (SA) Daniel Bergin currently works at Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) headquarters as a recruiter. SA Bergin has been a Special Agent for 13 years, serving overseas in Iraq, Mexico, and Germany, and domestically at the Washington Field Office and within the office of Antiterrorism Assistance. Prior to joining DSS, SA Bergin worked for the Department of State in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. He has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Towson University.

#### Room 5: State Department Exchange & Scholarship Programs: Developing Tomorrow's Global Perspectives, Today



**Cybèle Cochran**  
Foreign Service Officer  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Cybèle Cochran oversees outreach to higher education institutions for USA Study Abroad in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. As a Foreign Service Officer, her previous tours include coordinating U.S. climate policy in the Americas, adjudicating visas at U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt, and serving as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer in Bern, Switzerland. Cybèle served as a conflict analyst at the U.S. Agency for International Development from 2009-2015. She holds a Master's degree in Islamic Civilization from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and an undergraduate degree in French from Mount Holyoke College. Cybèle is passionate about study abroad! She spent her junior year in Paris, France and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Morocco.



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#### Room 6: Life at the State Department as a Civil Service Officer



#### **Dineo Brinson**

Academic Exchange Specialist, Office of Academic Exchange Programs  
U.S. Department of State

Dineo Brinson (she/her) is a Fulbright Program Officer in the Office of Academic Exchange Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. Dineo's portfolio includes Fulbright alumni engagement, diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and outreach. Dineo received her Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Spelman College and studied abroad in the Dominican Republic. She later earned a Master of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. As a graduate student, she had the opportunity to intern at the U.S. Embassy in Panama in their Public Affairs Section. She enjoys mentoring students and young professionals. Dineo hails from New York with a heart for the Knicks and the transformational power of education, learning languages and cultures, and international exchange.

### CLOSING



#### **Dan Pattarini**

Foreign Service Officer  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs

Dan Pattarini is an Outreach Officer with the USA Study Abroad Branch in the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs where he supports efforts to increase and diversify study abroad opportunities for U.S. higher education students and institutions.

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