**Employability Fortnight**

**Panellist’s Biographies**

**Wednesday 2 June (2.00pm – 3.30pm)**

**Working in Geneva or for a UN human rights body**

**Floriane Borel** currently works as the coordinator of the UN advocacy team at Human Rights Watch in Geneva. She completed the MA in Theory and Practice of Human Rights at the University of Essex in 2018-2019, where she also worked over the summer as a project officer within the School of Law doing research on gender, terrorism and security. Before completing her Master's degree at Essex, Floriane worked for three years at the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York. During her time in New York, she was also a fellow at the New York Civil Liberties Union's Community Organizing Institute. Prior to this, she worked on EU foreign and security policy at the German Marshall Fund in Brussels and has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Economics from Wheaton College, Massachusetts.

**Angela Gianini** graduated with an LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in 2018 (cohort 2016-2017). From my time at Essex, I not only gained a critical understanding of human rights law, thanks to the sharing from passionate professors and colleagues, but also the need to observe the status of fundamental rights implementation at a grassroots level. Although I expected my first work experience to be connected with the destinies of displaced people and victims of armed conflicts, it was a position in Cambodia working with rural communities affected by natural disasters as a result of climate change and environmental degradation.

I was seconded by the European Commission, DH ECHO, to a local organisation to develop and coordinate projects to reduce disaster risk and increase adaptation. This experience was very relevant when I moved to a position at the International Labour Organisation researching the impact of climate change on workers’ rights and the breadth and depth of the concept of a just transition to ecological societies.

Currently, I am serving at the International Trade Centre, implementing projects to increase the green competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises in the least developed and developing economies. However, I have had interludes working in other capacities that have taught me additional skills that I consider essential for my professional and personal growth. I believe that a linear career path might seem ideal, but it isn’t necessarily the way that works for everybody: in my case, what has helped me from the beginning has been keeping an open mind and being flexible. This has led me to be involved in areas I was not expecting but which I love, and in which human rights have continued to be my principal guidelines and inform my actions.

**Olga Khan** has over 10 years of UN experience specializing in UN Programme and Project Management. She is a certified trainer and tutor of UNHCR Programme Management (PM1) learning course. Currently Olga works as Associate Programme Officer at UNHCR Yemen, one of the largest UNHCR operations in the world. Prior to it, she worked as a National Programme Officer (2014-2020) and Officer-in-Charge (2019-2020) at UNHCR Kazakhstan National Office in Nur-Sultan (Astana). Before joining UNHCR, Olga worked for the UN Women Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (2010-2014) and UNV Kazakhstan (2008-2009).

**Alice Lixi** graduated from Essex with an LLB in Law and Human Rights in 2012 and later completed the LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in 2013/2014. Alice has worked for the past 5 years for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). She worked initially for the OHCHR Tunisia Country Office as a UNV and later as Associate Human Rights Officer with the Rule of Law and Democracy Section in Geneva. Before working for the UN, Alice was Project Development Assistant at the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). In between the LLB and LLM Alice interned with the FIDH Representation to the EU in Bruxelles and worked with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights in Cairo as Litigation Assistant. In the course of her studies at Essex Alice interned for OHCHR in Geneva and was a Frontrunner with the Essex Human Rights Alumni Association and Essex Transitional Justice Network.

**Friday 4 June (12.30pm – 1.30pm)**

**Working Within Government**

**Nicola Brassil** is a Third Secretary with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, currently based in Dublin on the team leading Ireland’s 2021-2022 term on the UN Security Council. Prior to this, she worked on disarmament and non-proliferation issues for Ireland, both at Department headquarters and as an Advisor at Ireland’s Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. Since completing the MA in Theory and Practice of Human Rights at the University of Essex (2013-2014), Nicola has also worked on a range of human rights issues. In Kosovo, she was engaged on gender equality and women’s rights, including with UN Women and EULEX Kosovo, and on minority rights with the European Centre for Minority Rights Issues. Nicola also worked with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) on South East Europe. In Uganda, Nicola served as a UN Youth Volunteer with UNICEF, on their Justice for Children programme. Nicola also holds a BA in Psychology from the National University of Ireland Galway.

**Nina Gelashvili** has graduated from Master’s programme in Theory and Practice of Human Rights in 2012. Since 2009 Nina has been working for local / international non-governmental organizations, humanitarian institutions, government and academia. She is specialized in programme management mainly in the field of human rights and rule of law. While working for local and international organizations, she was coordinating long-term and big scale programmes funded by EU, UNHCR, DRC, USAID, OSGF, OSI, CoE and various embassies (UK, Norway & U.S.) on protection of rights of prisoners suffering from severe diseases, refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons, families of Missing, etc.

Nina has also been working for the ministries of Correction and IDP, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, as head of analytical departments. In 2016-2017 she was administering two departments in law school at one of the leading local universities, Free University of Tbilisi – National Institute of Human Rights & National Centre for Commercial Law. Nina has experience in working for International Committee of the Red Cross – Georgia Delegation as a capacity building manager of relevant ministries and CSOs.

Now she is working on position of regional project officer at the British Embassy in Tbilisi, managing British Council programme in the SC region, Moldova and Belarus that envisages ELL & core skills development among conflict affected youth and wider communities for building their resilience, gender equality, socio-economic empowerment, peace and reconciliation processes. She has BA degrees in sociology and international law, Master’s degrees in sociology and human rights. In 2013 she became a fellow of Human Rights Advocates Programme (HRAP) at Columbia University in the City of New York.

**Anne Peacock**

**Friday 4 June (2.00pm – 3.30pm)**

**Working Within Humanitarian Sector**

**Jonathan Horowitz** is a Legal Advisor at the ICRC’s Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada, based in Washington, D.C. Previously he was a Legal Advisor to the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and a Senior Legal Officer for the Open Society Justice Initiative. Jonathan has also worked as a Political-Military Affairs and Rule of Law Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan where he advised on detention policy.

In addition to being a legal advisor, Jonathan has managed teams of investigators and conducted investigations into alleged human rights and/or IHL violations in Afghanistan, France, Kenya, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and Sudan for the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and legal defence teams.

Jonathan received his LLM from the University of Essex (UK) and has published on legal aspects relating to the transfer of conflict-related detainees; the application of human rights law in times of occupation; transnational use of force; IHL and human rights fact-finding methodologies; and the “Responsibility to Protect” in Darfur. He is also the author and co-author of several reports that document human rights abuses and/or IHL violations in the context of armed conflict and counterterrorism.

**Hanneke Piters** worked in various positions at the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is currently dedicated advisor to the deputy Secretary-General at this ministry. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law from the University of Essex and an MA in Political Science from Leiden University.

**Jean-Nicolas Beuze** hasworked for some 23 years with the United Nations and civil society in the areas of Human Rights (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Peacekeeping (Department of Peace Keeping Operations) and Child Protection/Education (UNICEF) at Headquarters and in the field (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Afghanistan, the Middle-East and North Africa region) before joining UNHCR in Lebanon (2013) as Deputy Representative for Protection where he was also in charge of coordinating the humanitarian and development response by UN, NGOs, donors and government authorities for Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. He was most recently the UNHCR Representative in Canada (2017) where he advocated for legal and policy reforms to uphold access to asylum (irregular border crossing) and for economic and education pathways for refugees.

He joined the Yemen Operation in 2020 where he leads the response on Yemeni displaced by the conflict, including through one of UNHCR’s largest cash programs. In addition to having worked on emergency responses in Iraq, Libya and Syria, he is specialized in the protection of civilians/international humanitarian law, transitional justice, the fight against torture and women’s rights, and also worked on elections monitoring and poverty eradication. Jean-Nicolas holds a LL.M in international human rights law from Essex University and a Master in international relations from the Graduate Institute of International Relations.

**Marina Lostal** is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law of the University of Essex. She holds a PhD from the European University Institute, and an LLM from the University of Cambridge. She is an expert in reparations and in the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict. She is admitted to practice in Spain, and regularly advises international organizations such as the International Criminal Court or UNESCO.

**Working in the NGO/Civil Society Sector**

**Wednesday 9 June (2.00pm – 3.30pm)**

**Monica Granados** is a Costa Rican lawyer who graduated from the LLM in International Human Rights Law in 2019. Before undertaking the LLM, Mónica worked for NGOs with an outreach in Central America. She also was an intern at the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. Since completing the LLM, Mónica has been working as a Human Rights Officer for OHCHR Guatemala´s field office, on topics of access to justice and the prohibition of torture.

**Brian Griffey** is currently the regional researcher and advisor on North America for Amnesty International’s international secretariat, based in Washington, DC. Prior to Amnesty International, he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International USA, and as a consultant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), non-governmental organizations, and university human rights centers. He also worked as a journalist at several periodicals. Brian is an appointed member of the Commission on Human Rights of the District of Columbia. He holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (2010). Some of his recent publications are available [here](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bgriffey/).

**Helen Nolan** obtained an LLM in IHRL in Essex University in 2012. Since February 2020, she has worked as the Coordination Officer in Governance, Justice and Human Rights in the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in Viet Nam. Helen was previously based in Geneva, and led the International Service for Human Rights's programmes on LGBTI human rights defenders and capacity building, after having run the UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures programmes in ILGA World. Helen has also worked in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva), Front Line Defenders (Dublin), Women’s Link Worldwide (Bogotá), the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (Phnom Penh), the UN Refugee Agency (Geneva), and for an Irish barrister (Dublin).

**Mohammed Osman** obtained a law degree and a postgraduate diploma on human rights law from the University of Khartoum. He has a master's degree from the University of Essex on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (2015-2016). After graduation, Mohamed carried on research projects on enforced disappearances in Africa with Redress (UK).

Mohamed is currently a Researcher in Human Rights Watch's Africa Division, covering Sudan and based in Berlin. He joined the organization in late 2018. Prior to joining the organization, Mohamed worked with the Open Society Justice Initiative in New York as an Aryeh Neier fellow working on corruption and advocacy. He started his career as a practicing lawyer in Sudan before working as a legal adviser to Redress and Sudan Human Rights Monitor on torture and ill-treatment project. He has also worked as the legal adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Sudan, responsible for International Humanitarian Law dissemination among officials and arms carriers.

**Friday 11 June (2.00pm – 3.00pm)**

**Pursuing a PhD and an Academic Career in Human Rights**

**Dr Zümray Kutlu** is a lecturer at Smith College (MA, US). She received her B.A. and M.S. in Sociology from Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey), M.A in Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex, and her Ph.D. in Political Science from İstanbul Bilgi University (Istanbul, Turkey). She previously taught at Hampshire College, Istanbul Bilgi University, and Bahçeşehir University. Her teaching and research focus on refugees, urban inequality, and human rights. She also worked for more than 15 years in various NGOs including the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation and Anadolu Kültür, where she developed and supervised projects on participatory policy development, cultural rights, cultural heritage, and refugees.

**Dr Corinne Lennox** is a Senior Lecturer in Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and Co-Director of the Human Rights Consortium at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.  Her research focuses on issues of minority and indigenous rights protection, civil society mobilisation for human rights and on human rights and development.  She has worked for many years as a human rights practitioner with various NGOs, including at Minority Rights Group International, and has been an advisor on minority and indigenous rights to governments, the UNDP and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.   She is co-editor of the Journal of Human Rights Practice (OUP). Dr. Lennox is on the Technical Advisory Board of the Global Centre for Pluralism, Chair of the Dalit Solidarity Network-UK, Advisory Board member for the Tom Lantos Institute and was previously a Fellow of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex. She holds a PhD and MSc in International Relations from the LSE, an MA in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex and a BA(Hons) in Political Science from McMaster University.

**Claire Simmons** is a PhD candidate at the University of Essex Law School, focusing her research on international humanitarian law, human rights law, and military justice. She holds a BA in Politics with Human Rights and an LLM in International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law, both from the University of Essex. Claire has worked as researcher in the Human Rights Centre on various projects, including developing the “Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law” with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). She has also worked with the British Red Cross and local human rights organisations in Thailand, France and the UK.

**Sule Tomkinson** is an Associate Professor at the Political Science Department of Laval University. She teaches administrative law, public policy and administration. She studies justice outside of courts. More specifically, she examines how democratic states deliver administrative justice, how they measure its quality and how they innovate in this area with the contribution of non-state actors.

**Friday 11 June: 3.00pm – 4.00pm UK BST**

**Human Rights Philanthropy**

**Ximena Andión Ibañez** is a program officer in the Mexico and Central America office and part of the Civic Engagement and Government team at the Ford Foundation. She has 20 years’ experience working on issues related to human rights and gender equality. Before joining Ford in 2019, Ximena served as executive director of the feminist organization Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir for seven years. Prior to that, she worked at various civil society organizations in Mexico—including Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos and Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida—as well as at the international level with the Center for Reproductive Rights. She has also worked with the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico and Guatemala, and she has consulted for various private philanthropic foundations and UN agencies. Ximena is a professor of women’s rights at the Universidad Iberoamericana and has published various articles on issues related to gender equality and human rights. She has an LLM in international human rights law from the University of Essex and a specialization in human rights and democratization processes from the Universidad de Chile.

**Gabriela Barros de Luca** is an international law and policy expert with over eleven years of success working in philanthropy, public health and human rights across a range of issues and geographies. Originally from Brazil, she holds a Masters in international human rights law from the University of Essex and has worked in multiple countries in the Global South. Gabriela currently works as a Senior Program Officer with the Public Health Program of Open Society Foundations, where her work has focused on developing international grant-making portfolios around mental health, drug treatment and palliative care issues –always prioritizing intersectional gender and racial justice approaches. Previously, she has worked as a staff attorney for the Center for Justice and International Law in Brazil, as an Access to Justice Officer for the United Nations Development Programme in East Timor, and in multiple other roles as a researcher, consultant, project manager and trainer.