

BECKER, Manuel

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Manuel Becker is Head of the Scientific Programme of the Academy for International Affairs. From 2018 to 2023 he has been Managing Director of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the University of Bonn. He studies Political Science, Medieval and Current History as well as Philosophy at the University of Bonn and at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Science Po). Manuel teaches Political Science at the University of Bonn and at the Hochschule Bonn/Rhein-Sieg. His research interests include the politics of history, university policy, the history of political ideas as well as International Relations. He has recently published the monograph "Universitäre Bildung in Deutschland. Ideengeschichtliche Perspektiven und aktuelle Herausforderungen in NRW, Nomos 2022". Furthermore, he was co-editor of a book on migration policies "Fluchtpunkt Integration. Panorama eines Problemfeldes, Wiesbaden 2017".

CIOCO, Aureliu.

Aureliu Ciocoi is a Moldovan diplomat. Currently he is the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Germany. He worked as Ambassador to Germany and Denmark from 2010 to 2015, as well as to China and Vietnam from 2015 to 2017. He also briefly served as Ambassador to the United States in 2017. In April 2018 to November 2019 and March – November 2020 he was an adviser to President of the Republic of Moldova on foreign policy issues. In November 2019 to March 2020 and November 2020 to August 2021 he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. On 31 December 2020, President Maia Sandu appointed him as interim prime minister. He was awarded the Great Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2015.

DOUGLAS, Nadja

Nadja Douglas is a political scientist and researcher at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) in Berlin. She currently coordinates the thematic line "In:Security in Eastern Europe" within the externally-funded project "Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (KonKoop)" at ZOiS. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Sciences Po Paris and a PhD from Humboldt University Berlin. Her doctoral thesis dealt with questions of civilian control of armed forces in Russia (published in 2017 by Palgrave Macmillan). She previously worked for the German Bundestag, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and as a Liaison Officer during the German OSCE chairship at the OSCE Mission to Moldova. Nadja's research interests include among others peace, conflict and security studies, regional conflicts, and state-society relations.

FLENCHEA, Alexandru

Alexandru Flenchea has 20 years of experience in conflict settlement and peace negotiations, mediation, peace-building and peace transformation. Mr. Flenchea served as Deputy Prime Minister for reintegration and Moldova's chief negotiator in the 5+2 talks for Transnistria settlement (2019-2020). Prior to that he had worked for both national and international bodies – Head of the Bureau of Reintegration in the Moldovan Government (2019), UNDP (2018-2019), OSCE Mission to Moldova (2012-2018), US Embassy to Moldova (2008-2012) and Ministry of Reintegration (2003-2008). In January 2022 Alexandru Flenchea founded Initiative 4 Peace (I4P) Association where he serves as Director. I4P activities include policy support, countering disinformation and propaganda and civic education programmes.

FREISTEIN, Katja

Dr. Katja Freistein is the fellowship coordinator and a senior researcher at the Academy for International Affairs NRW. Her research focuses on international organizations, inequalities and poverty and she has published widely on these subjects. She is also interested in discourse theory, narrative and visuality in international politics.

GÄRTNER, Heinz

Prof. Dr. Heinz Gärtner teaches at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna. He was academic director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs. He has held various Fulbright Fellowships and the Austrian Chair at Stanford University. He was Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC. Among other things, he chairs the advisory board of the International Institute for Peace in Vienna and of the Commission Strategy and Security of the Austrian Armed Forces. He published widely on issues of international security, transatlantic relations, arms control, and the Middle East. Heinz Gärtner received the Bruno Kreisky (legendary former Austrian Chancellor) Award for most outstanding Political Books. He has been awarded the Decoration of Merit of the Austrian Armed Forces.

HEINEMANN-GRÜDER, Andreas

Prof. Dr. Andreas Heinemann-Grüder is a senior fellow at the Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, adjunct professor of political science at the University of Bonn and senior research at Bonn International Center for Conversion. His research focuses on politics and conflicts in the post-Soviet space, comparative federalism, the resurgence of authoritarianism, and violent political crises with irregular armed groups. Heinemann-Grüder has given policy advice to the German Chancellery, Federal Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and the Ministry of Defense, as well as the German Parliament, the European Parliament, OSCE, NATO, and the EU Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Heinemann-Grüder studied history, political science and German literature at the Free University of Berlin and joined a post-graduate program at Lomonossov University in Moscow. He earned his doctorate at the Free University of Berlin in 1989 and his habilitation at Humboldt University in 1999. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the German Government for Civil Conflict Prevention and Peace Promotion.

HEUMANN, Hans-Dieter

Dr. Hans-Dieter Heumann is a lecturer at the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Bonn. Until 2015, he was President of the Federal Academy for Security Policy in Berlin, and before that German Ambassador to the Council of Europe. Diplomatic service took him to the embassies in New York (UN), Washington, Moscow and Paris. At the Federal Foreign Office, he worked in the planning and management staff, among other positions, and at the Federal Ministry of Defense in the planning staff. As a political scientist, he taught and conducted research at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and at the Institute for East-West Security Studies in New York, USA.

JANKOWSKI, Dominik P.

Dominik P. Jankowski is a Polish security policy expert, diplomat, and think tanker. He currently serves as Policy Adviser in the Office of the NATO Secretary General. From 2018 to 2022 he was Political Adviser and Head of the Political Section at the Permanent Delegation of Poland to NATO. Prior to this, he has held numerous international security related roles within public administration (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security Bureau) and military (General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces), including those related to the EU, NATO, OSCE, and Conventional Arms Control policy. He specializes in NATO-Russia and NATO-Ukraine relations, arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation, energy security as well as Eastern European affairs. In 2019, he was James S. Denton Transatlantic Fellow with the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). In 2021-2022 he was Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA) Fellow with the Harvard University. He is a prolific writer with over 250 publications which appeared in 20 countries.

KULMINSKI, Vladislav

Vladislav Kulminski is an expert in strategic/political analysis and planning, public administration and conflict resolution. He was Peace and Development Adviser at UN's Resident Coordinator office in Ukraine. Vladislav was Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and Adviser on foreign policy and strategic planning to Prime Minister. He developed and ran conflict resolution programs in the region, including confidence-building programs. He worked on public administration reforms at the World Bank. Vladislav has an MPA degree from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and an MA degree in International Relations and European studies from the Central European University. He is a Fulbright, John Smith and Munich Security Conference Young Leaders Fellow.

MALYARENKO, Tetyana

Tetyana Malyarenko is a Philipp Schwartz research fellow at the University of Regensburg and Professor of International Security and Jean Monnet Professor of European Security at the National University 'Odesa Law Academy', Ukraine. Prof. Malyarenko is a non-resident fellow at Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, the George Washington University. She is the founder and director of the Ukrainian Institute for Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution, Mariupol, Ukraine. An expert on post-conflict and post-authoritarian transitions, she is the author of numerous books, book chapters, and journal articles in Ukrainian and English.

PISTRINCIUC, Vadim

Vadim Pistrinciuc, Executive Director of the Institute for Strategic Initiatives from the Republic of Moldova. Vadim is an expert in social policy and development, community development and public policy. Mr Pistrinciuc has been a member of Parliament of Moldova from 2014 until 2019. He served as the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection from 2009 until 2012 and was Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister from 2012 until 2013. He advised Prime Minister on public administration reforms, political programs and strategies. Prior to that, Vadim served an expert, project manager and consultant to international organizations (UNDP, UNICEF) in the areas of social protection, human rights, public administration reforms and anti-corruption. Mr Pistrinciuc has a PhD in sociology. In 2019 he was a researcher in European Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin office (ECFR), also as scholar of Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

PUPCENOKS, Juris

Juris Pupcenoks is an Associate Professor of Political Science and a Co-Chair of the Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at Marist College, NY, USA. He is also a Programs Co-Chair for the Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Studies Section of the International Studies Association. Currently he is a research fellow at the Academy for International Affairs NRW. He is the author of more than 20 academic publications including monograph *Western Muslims and Conflicts Abroad* (Routledge 2016), and articles in *International Interactions*, *Nationalities Papers*, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* and *Middle East Journal*, among others. His research and publications deal with Russian diplomatic communication and strategic narratives, military intervention, threat perception and securitization, diasporas and ethnic politics, and Russian-speakers in the post-Soviet space.

ȘUPAC, Inna

Inna Șupac works as an expert at the Institute for Strategic Initiatives (IPIS) from the Republic of Moldova. Currently she is a research fellow at the Academy for International Affairs NRW. She has extensive experience in public policy development, research and advocacy activities in the areas of good governance, human rights, interethnic relations, and conflict resolution. Prior to this, Inna was involved in politics as a member of parliament for ten years (2009 – 2019). At various stages of her parliamentary activity, Inna was chair of a parliamentary group, vice-chair of the European Union – Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She participated in the European Union Visitors Programme designed for young leaders and opinion-formers.

WOLFF, Stefan

Stefan Wolff is Professor of International Security and Head of Department, Political Science and International Studies, at the University of Birmingham, as well as the co-coordinator of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions. His work focuses on international conflict management and geopolitics, especially in the European Union's eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia. He is the founding editor of *Ethnopolitics* and has published over 80 journal articles and book chapters, as well as 20 books, including *Ethnic Conflict: A Global Perspective* (Oxford University Press 2007). He is the co-founder of *Navigating the Vortex* and a regular international affairs contributor to *The Conversation*. Wolff holds degrees from the University of Leipzig (Erstes Staatsexamen), the University of Cambridge (M.Phil.), and the LSE (Ph.D.).