Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society

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The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the CUNY Graduate Center is pleased to welcome six new Emerging Leaders International Fellows to our professional development program for young Third Sector scholar-practitioners from around the world. The Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program (ELIFP) complements the Senior Fellows component of the Center’s International Fellows Programs which targets decision makers in the grantmaking sector.

This year’s Emerging Leaders Fellows will focus on how community-based foundations can: work effectively with local constituencies to build social capital and support local development; identify adaptable strategies for board governance and asset management; and support efforts to increase the institutional vehicles available through which individuals may support their communities.

The Fellows, who will be at the Center from September 22 to December 12, 2014, are: Ms. Ana Paula Borges Pinho (Sao Paulo, Brazil); Mr. Daniele Pietro Giudici (Milan, Italy); Ms. Mihaela Giurgiu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania); Mr. Julius Bantar Ndzinwa (Bamenda, Cameroon); Ms. Ainuska Sheripkanova (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and currently, New York, New York, USA;) and Ms. Natalija Simović (Belgrade, Serbia). This year for the first time, Cameroon and Kyrgyzstan are among the countries represented in the International Fellows Program.

In addition to writing research papers, Fellows will participate in seminars on US and international voluntary-sector activities in comparative perspective; learn about the work of key agencies through readings and site visits; and meet with leading nonprofit representatives and scholars in the field.

The incoming group brings to 191 the number of International Fellows participating since the program’s inception in 1989. The 2014 Emerging Leaders Fellows will join an international network of researchers and practitioners from 63 countries who are working in the fields of philanthropy and civil society.

This year’s Emerging Leaders Fellows bring an impressive array of skills and experience to the program.
**Ana Paula Borges Pinho, Sao Paulo, Brazil**
Ana Pinho holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations and master’s in development studies from the London School of Economics. For the past ten years, Ana has worked for grassroots and international non-governmental organizations in Brazil (Peace Women Across the Globe) and the United Kingdom (Amnesty International) on a variety of issues including human rights, gender, adult education, and public policy.

Ana is currently knowledge management coordinator at Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaking Support (WINGS). Since joining WINGS in 2011, she has done extensive research and data collection on philanthropy infrastructure, and contributed to different publications and projects, including the Community Foundations Atlas. Ana coordinated two recent WINGS’ reports: "Infrastructure in Focus - A Global Picture of Organizations Serving Philanthropy" and "Global Status Report on Community Foundations - 2012 Update".

During the program, Ana plans to explore the role of community philanthropy in development.

**Mr. Daniele Pietro Giudici, Milan, Italy**
Holding a degree in economics and management in arts, culture, media and entertainment from Bocconi University, Daniele Giudici is a strategic philanthropy professional who designs and executes strategies to support organizational growth and competitive positioning in the Italian context. He blends his ability to turn ideas into successful ventures with hands-on experience setting up and directing business development, strategy, and creating partnerships within a wide variety of organizations and sectors including Italian banks, companies, and corporate foundations, as well as socially-oriented organizations.

As secretary general of Lambriana Foundation (Archdiocese of Milan), Daniele focuses on strategy, asset management and investor relations. He also serves as vice-chair of Nord Milano Community Foundation – Rho, and is a member or former member of the board of directors for Varesotto Community Foundation – Varese, Ticino Olona Community Foundation – Legnano, and Assifero (Italian association of foundations and grantmakers).

While a Fellow, Daniele intends to examine strategies for community foundation asset management and diaspora philanthropy for Italian community foundations.

**Ms. Mihaela Giurgiu, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**
Mihaela Giurgiu began her work at the Association for Community Relations (ARC) as an intern while working towards master’s degree in public administration at "Babeş-Bolyai" University in Cluj Napoca, Romania (a joint program with SUNY Albany, Michigan State University, Florida International University, and the University of Delaware). Having specialized in nongovernmental organizational development, Mihaela later joined the community foundations development program team at ARC, moving up quickly to the position of program coordinator.

Eager to create long-term, positive change in Romanian communities, Mihaela intends to conduct research that will help fill the gap in knowledge and practice related to the role and power of boards of civil society organizations in her country.

**Mr. Julius Bantar Ndzinwa, Bamenda, Cameroon**
Julius Bantar combines a background in political science and law (including a maitrise/master’s degree from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, University of Yaoundé II) with a strong interest in the field of development. His on-the-ground experience includes fundraising, project planning, budgeting, and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Always ready to
share knowledge and skills with others, Julius Bantar joined the Northwest Association of Development Organizations (NWADO), in Cameroon, where he currently serves as board president.

His commitment to improving the livelihoods of marginalized and vulnerable people in Cameroon, has led him to apply his legal and development training in assignments and consultancies related to women’s leadership and education, HIV/AIDS, and human rights violations in his capacity as regional field supervisor with Plan Cameroon.

Julius’ intention to examine perspectives on the role of community foundations in development reflects a shared research interest with Fellow cohort member, Ms. Borges Pinho.

**Ms. Ainuska Sheripkanova, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**; currently in New York, New York, USA) A social work and social policy specialist, Ainuska Sheripkanova recently earned a Master of Social Work from Columbia University. With a deep interest in advocacy and community mobilization, Ainuska currently conducts research on police reform progress in countries of transition for the International Harm Reduction Program at the Open Society Foundations.

In Kyrgyzstan, she worked as a community support specialist strengthening partnerships and cooperation between the Kyrgyz police and their communities, with a focus on training police in the handling of gender-based violence and interethnic issues. Ainuska also writes project proposals and supports fund-raising activities for a Kyrgyz grantmaking organization that is led by women with disabilities and that works to empower such women through training, counseling and employment.

While at the Graduate Center, Ainuska will study community foundations as a vehicle for individual donor giving in Kyrgyzstan.

**Ms. Natalija Simović, Belgrade, Serbia**

Active since high school in community initiatives and projects in her hometown of Uzice, Serbia, Natalija Simovic continued her activism while a university student of the English language and literature and, later, as she pursued a master’s degree in cultural management. For the last five years, she has worked with the Trag Foundation in Belgrade where she coordinated several grant programs related to youth, culture and social issues. Currently she is a philanthropy program officer working with community-based organizations on local resource mobilization. Natalija has organized philanthropy initiatives on a volunteer basis—such as the National Day of Giving—and has been a chair of the United Nations Global Compact’s Working Group for Social Inclusion. In her free time, she is a co-leader of International Art Camp in Kosjeric out of her big love for art and ‘artivism’. She strongly believes in the good in people, and loves wearing her “rose-tinted glasses.”

During the program, Natalija’s research focus will be on the role of community foundations in building local social capital and philanthropy in the Western Balkans.

Support for the 2014 Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program is provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation with additional support from individual and institutional donors around the globe.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is dedicated to strengthening philanthropy and civil society through education, research, and leadership training, and our alumni are working to
strengthen cultures of philanthropy world wide. Their efforts have supported the establishment of a variety of new organizations and new programs – from social funds and community foundations in Mexico, Uruguay, Egypt, Indonesia, Bermuda, South Africa and Turkey to network and service organizations in Poland and Russia; from philanthropic centers in India and Ukraine to a Masters Program in Nonprofit Management South Korea. They also bring their learning and passion about civil society organizations to bear on their work with government and the business sector. Since 2000, the Fellows Program has focused special attention on strengthening community philanthropy organizations with the goal of helping communities mobilize local resources to address local needs while thinking about long-term growth and strategies. We invite you to visit the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society’s website at www.philanthropy.org.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is based at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). The Graduate Center’s (GC) mission is to prepare the next generation of scholars for careers in the academy, cultural institutions and public service, to carry out advanced research and scholarship, and to increase public understanding of pressing matters of local and global significance. Approximately 4,500 students are enrolled in forty doctoral and masters programs, sustained by a wide range of financial support. Recognized for its scholarly leadership across the humanities, sciences and social sciences, the GC is also a platform for influential public intellectuals, who, through the GC’s public programs, inform and enliven debate, and enrich the cultural life of New York City. Visit www.gc.cuny.edu for further information on the Graduate Center.