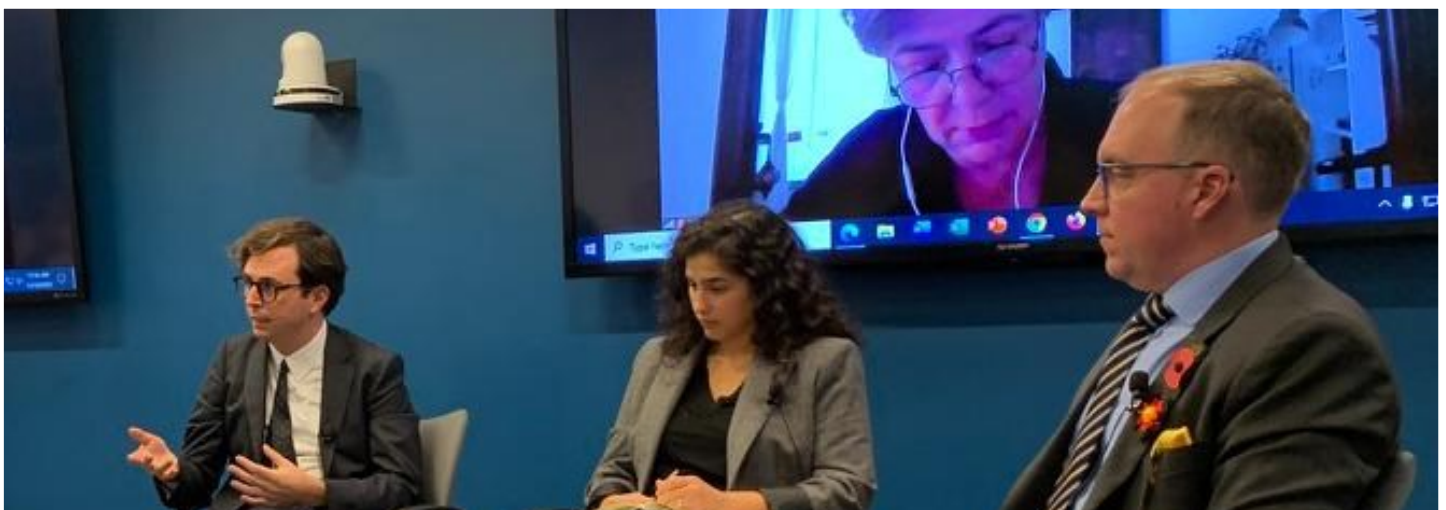




Happy Thanksgiving!

NEWS

Syrians in exile: Joshua Levkowitz fellowship report



With the war in Syria still one of the world's major crises more than a decade after it began, 60 percent of Syrians remain displaced from their homes.

Returning Levinson fellow **Joshua Levkowitz** spent two years based in Istanbul traveling across Turkey and around Syria's neighboring countries and beyond, immersing himself in refugee communities in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Armenia and Germany.

"All have faced challenges in their transition, navigating new languages, new lands, new limitations," Joshua said, reporting about his outstanding fellowship at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs in Washington, DC on November 10. "The majority remains stuck in a kind of extended limbo, unwanted by the country they're in, unable to move on and unwilling or unable to go back."

Following his talk, Joshua joined an engrossing expert panel with **Basma Alloush**, External Relations Officer at the UN High Commission for Refugees, and **Rafif Jouejati**, co-founder and director of the Foundation to Restore Equality and Education in Syria (FREE Syria). The discussion was moderated to a rapt packed room by former fellow **Andrew Tabler** (Lebanon, Syria, 2005-2007).

The event was co-hosted by the Delta Phi Epsilon Foreign Service Society.

To view photos and videos from the event, go to www.icwa.org/syrian-exile-talk-2

Fall Dinner



“Growing up in suburban America in the 1970s and ’80s, I didn’t think at all about what had happened in Nazi Germany all those decades before,” said The New Yorker’s Susan Glasser at ICWA’s fall dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC on November 10. “Kristallnacht was not part of my frame of reference... It did not in any way seem relevant to the present, never mind the future. And yet here we are.”

The keynote speaker went on to lay out some of the major challenges facing American liberal democracy around the world, presenting the room of some hundred guests with the starkest of questions raised by the US presidential election next year and its staggering potential consequences.

It was a fabulous evening, which included the feting of returning fellow Joshua Levkowitz, and a gathering of fellows—current, past and future—trustees and old and new friends.

To view photos and videos from the event, go to www.icwa.org/icwa-fall-dinner-2023



New fellows

We're delighted to announce the appointment of two outstanding new fellows who will begin their fellowships next year.



Brett Simpson | Norway | 2024-2026

The inaugural Peter Bird Martin fellow, Brett will be based in Norway examining examine two “Arctics” shifting in parallel: both the fast-melting, climate-critical landscape, and the zone of economic and militaristic contention in global geopolitics. She plans to untangle the intersecting scientific, economic, societal and political challenges in the globe’s fastest-changing region.



Rowland Robinson | comparative health care | 2024-2026

Rowland will investigate integrative health care approaches to problematic substance use in the Netherlands, Portugal and Brazil. He aims to better understand the public health approach pioneered by the Netherlands and Portugal, followed by an investigation of how that model translates in a larger country like Brazil, which implemented a Dutch-style drug law in 2006.

New trustees

We're delighted to announce the appointment of two outstanding new fellows who will begin their fellowships next year.

Fabrice Houdart

Fabrice is a former trustee of the institute and is currently the Executive Director of the Association of LGBTQ+ Corporate Directors, which he founded in June 2022. He has advocated for inclusion in the corporate world and international cooperation since 2010, leading relevant initiatives at the World Bank Group and the United Nations, where he worked from 2001 to 2020.



Joseph Bradley

Joseph is professor emeritus of Russian and modern European history at the University of Tulsa. He was a national fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and a Fulbright scholar at the University of Warsaw. The author of several books, he received his BA at the University of Wisconsin and his MA and Ph.D. at Harvard University.



Irving Spitzberg dies



Irving Joseph Spitzberg, Jr., professor, immigration lawyer, higher education policy consultant and former ICWA fellow, died on October 13. He was 81. His fellowship explored education policy in England, Kenya, Israel and the United States from 1971 to 1974.

Video: Russian scholars in exile

Many hundreds of thousands of Russians have fled their ever-more authoritarian country since the start of Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, joining a global exile community that had already been growing for years. They include leaders of the political opposition, civil society and media who have long opposed the Kremlin, are natural allies against Russia's war in Ukraine, and a key hope for reestablishing any future free and open Russian society.

Experts Alexander Abashkin, Dmitry Dubrovsky and Maria Yudkevich described how Russian scholars in exile are trying to keep teaching, researching and preserving Russia's intellectual capital for future generations in a virtual discussion moderated by IC-WA Executive Director Gregory Feifer. The third in a series of conversations about Russian exiles sponsored by the Institute of Current World Affairs, American Purpose and US Institute of Peace.



To view photos and videos from the event, go to
www.icwa.org/panel-series-russia-new-emigres-scholars-video

Please mark your calendars for the final in this series:

Post-Putinist Russia

10 a.m. ET, January 16, 2024

US Institute of Peace

Washington, DC

What are the plausible scenarios for a post-authoritarian Russia? What are the main challenges facing institutional and social reform, including decolonialization, the understanding of history and Russian identity, interests of minority regions? What roles should the US and other Western countries be playing, what lessons learned from the post-Soviet 1990s? The National Endowment for Democracy's **Miriam Lanskoj** will moderate a hybrid conversation at the US Institute of Peace with the economist **Sergei Guriev**, writer **Mikhail Zygar**, and Free Russia Foundation President **Natalia Arno**.

Registration coming soon!

FELLOWS

Steven Tagle



Amid regional instability, the oldest US military installation in Greece gets an upgrade

With wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East, Stavros Niarchos Foundation fellow Steven Tagle visited a key US naval supply base at Souda Bay in western Crete. He takes an in-depth look at how it has evolved to meet evolving American and NATO needs.

James Courtright

Market wars in Ghana

Donors fellow James Courtright travelled to northern Ghana, where he learned how an ethnically driven embargo of key local markets is “severely complicating any potential attempts at reconciliation and reintegration” to the benefit of Al Qaeda-affiliated jihadist insurgents.



Aron Ouzilevski



A documentary filmmaker reflects on Russians' collective complicity

In Latvia, Aron Ouzilevski spoke with the Russian documentary filmmaker Vitaly Mansky, who argues that the free-thinking Russian public “slept through the tragedy” of President Vladimir Putin’s rise to authoritarian power.

Russian actors struggle in emigration and at home

From his base in Tbilisi, Aron also spoke to Russian theater actors and others who have struggled to find work in emigration after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine. They now face a tough decision over returning home, where Putin’s government is demanding political loyalty as a condition for employment.



ALUMNI



ICWAns gathered for Joshua Levkowitz's fellowship report at George Washington University's Elliott School (left to right) Harley Dultz, Katherine Roth Kono (former fellow), Andrew Tabler (former fellow), Brenda Battat, Camila Gonzalez, Gregory Feifer (former fellow), Bruce Teeter, Peter Leon (trustee), Joshua Levkowitz (former fellow), Catherine Rielly (trustee), Whit Mason (former fellow), Joe Battat (trustee, former fellow), Luke Johnson, Savannah Weigel, Tom Kono, Bill Rielly (trustee)

“Cash Can’t Fix Japan’s Fertility Crisis,” by **Karina Piser** (France, 2017-2019), *Foreign Policy*, October 23, 2023

“Israeli talking points in Carrie Bradshaw’s voice’: what we can learn from two Israel-Palestine bestsellers,” by **Jonathan Guyer** (Egypt, 2015-2017), *The Guardian*, November 13, 2023

“The Rookie: Billionaire Steve Cohen is used to getting what he wants. His time as Mets owner and casino bidder is teaching him what money can’t buy.” by **Andrew Rice** (Uganda, 2002-2004), *NY Magazine*, November 8, 2023

“A first step’: what the Israel-Hamas hostage agreement means,” by **Neri Zilber** (Israel, 2011-2013), *Financial Times*, November 21, 2023

“Gaza War Shows Heightened Risk of Escalation in the Region,” by **Andrew Tabler** (Lebanon, Syria 2005-2007), Washington Institute on Near East Policy, November 17, 2023

“The spy, the lawyer and their global surveillance empire,” by **David Kenner** (Saudi Arabia, 2019-2021), International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, November 15, 2023

NEWS: Malia Politzer (India, Spain, 2013-2015) is finishing maternity leave and returning to writing for *Finance Uncovered* full time following the birth of her daughter, Maya Fey Escobar Politzer, on June 13.

The Institute of Current World Affairs has sent outstanding young professionals abroad to acquire deep understanding of global societies for more than 97 years. Institute fellows have become some of America’s leading experts on international cultures and affairs, thanks to the unique fellowships first designed by our founders Charles R. Crane and Walter Rogers. We continue their tradition with your support.

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