

100  INSTITUTE of CURRENT  
WORLD AFFAIRS  
*established 1925*

THE WORLD WE WANT TO LIVE IN



The Institute of Current World Affairs has advanced understanding of global cultures and affairs since our founding in 1925. As ICWA marks its 100th anniversary, leading alumni discuss major challenges facing global society, and key questions for advancing democracy, a sustainable environment, equitability and culture at a pivotal moment in history.

The event is hosted in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden.

November 14, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
House of Sweden, 2900 K Street, NW, Washington, DC  
and via Zoom

### **SCHEDULE**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>10:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.</b> | <b>The New Political Movements</b><br>Panel: Eve Fairbanks, Katherine Roth Kono, Emily Schultheis<br>Moderator: Andrew Tabler |
| <b>11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.</b> | <b>Economies and Populations in Flux</b><br>Panel: Joseph Battat, Bacete Bwogo, William Foote<br>Moderator: Joel Millman      |
| <b>1:15 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.</b>   | <b>Culture Across Borders</b><br>Panel: Bryn Barnard, Kenneth Cavander, Roger Reynolds<br>Moderator: Jean-Benoit Nadeau       |
| <b>2:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.</b>   | <b>The Environment and Adaptation</b><br>Panel: Deanna Donovan, William Knowland, Brett Simpson<br>Moderator: James Workman   |

## The World We Want to Live In

### 10:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M. | THE NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

A tidal wave of change is transforming the global order and fueling tremendous uncertainty about the future. In a world of new political realities, how do we shore up liberalism in traditional democracies and advance it elsewhere? What do historical perspectives tell us about the current upheavals?



**Eve Fairbanks** is a writer, journalist and senior editor at *Foreign Affairs*. During her ICWA fellowship in 2009–2011, she investigated medicine, politics and social change in South Africa. Her first book, *The Inheritors: An Intimate Portrait of South Africa's Racial Reckoning*, won the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Prize in 2023. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic* and other publications. She holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University in political philosophy. She received a Fulbright scholarship to South Africa and writing grants from the Daniel Pearl Investigative Journalism Initiative, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Writing Invisibility Project at the Max Planck Institute. In 2013, she was nominated for a Livingston Award, the top American prize for journalists under 35.



**Katherine Roth Kono** was a longtime correspondent and editor at the Associated Press. She began her career with Reuters and Radio France Internationale in Paris before heading to Cairo with the National Council on US-Arab Relations. One of her most widely read feature stories at Reuters was about a seemingly stateless man who lived for years in Charles de Gaulle Airport. The story later evolved into the film "The Terminal." During her ICWA fellowship, from 1993 to 1995, she explored Islamic movements. She later covered the front lines of the Yemeni civil war for Agence France-Presse. Katherine studied creative writing at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and earned a master's degree in journalism and African studies at the University of Illinois. She now divides her time between New York and Japan.



**Emily Schultheis** is a journalist reporting for POLITICO from California, where she writes about elections and democracy. On her Berlin-based ICWA fellowship from 2019 to 2021, she reported about the rise of right-wing populism across Germany and examined parallels with populist movements in Austria, Hungary, Poland and other neighboring countries. She has written for *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times* and other outlets. A San Francisco Bay area native, Emily holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's from Central European University.



**Andrew Tabler** is a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he focuses on Syria, the Levant and US Middle East policy. He served as director for Syria at the National Security Council's Middle East Affairs Directorate in 2019 and senior adviser to the special envoy for Syria engagement at the US State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs from 2020 to 2021. His ICWA fellowship (Lebanon and Syria, 2005–2007) focused on regional affairs and reform efforts. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs* and other publications. He has appeared on CNN, NBC and many other outlets. He is the author of *In the Lion's Den: An Eyewitness Account of Washington's Battle with Syria*. Andrew received a master's degree in comparative politics from American University in Cairo and a bachelor's degree from Washington & Jefferson College.

## The World We Want to Live In

### 11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. | ECONOMIES AND POPULATIONS IN FLUX

After two decades of post-Cold War globalization, the financial crisis of 2008 helped prompt a backlash against open borders whose full extent is becoming fully realized only today. With tariffs and anti-migration policies dominating the international agenda, how do we advance equitability and human rights in societies in which the chasm between rich and poor is yawning ever wider?



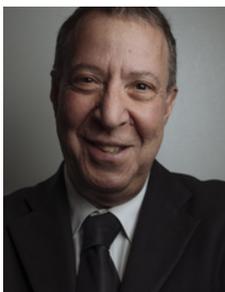
**Joseph Battat** spent 20 years with the World Bank Group, where he was a senior consultant and head of the Foreign Investment Advisory Service, a unit of the bank that advises governments about how to improve the business environments in their countries. He worked on the development of China's poorest regions, and became a co-dean of the first MBA program in the People's Republic of China. Earlier, he taught at Indiana University's graduate business school and worked with the philanthropist George Soros designing and establishing a school of Western-style management in Budapest, the first of its kind in Soviet Bloc Eastern Europe. He is currently a senior lecturer of global economics and management at the MIT Sloan School of Management.



**Bacete Bwogo** is a physician specializing in geriatrics and internal medicine in Britain. He earned his bachelor's degree in medicine from Egypt's Alexandria University and completed an internship at Khartoum North Teaching Hospital in Sudan, before beginning work for Sudanaid, a local non-governmental agency providing medical services to refugees on the Red Sea coast. He also worked at St. Jude Hospital in Saint Lucia, and helped establish the acute frailty services unit at Maidstone Hospital in West Kent, UK, where he worked as the clinical lead. He obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) in 2006, and he serves as a member of the British Medical Association, British Geriatric Society and Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom. On his ICWA fellowship from 1992 to 1995, he examined primary health care systems in Cuba, Costa Rica, Kerala State in India and the Bronx in New York. Bacete is also a musician and founder of the group Nile Star Friends Forever in his native South Sudan, with plans to open a music school to advance peace and national reconciliation.



**William Foote** is the founder and CEO of Root Capital, a nonprofit social enterprise that supports small-scale sustainable agricultural businesses in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Young Presidents' Organization, he serves on the Governing Council of Catalyst 2030 and the Strategic Advisory Council of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan. An ICWA fellow from 1995 to 1997, Willy, accompanied by his wife, Gina, studied the impact of free-market reforms on Mexico's people, society and politics.



**Joel Millman** is a journalist, author and authority on world migration. He was a longtime reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* covering global issues, immigration and the Pacific Northwest. He later became spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration in Geneva. As an ICWA fellow based in El Salvador in 1987-1989, Joel investigated the impact of arms aid on recipient countries in Central America. He is the author of *The Other Americans: How Immigrants Renew Our Country, Our Economy and Our Values*.

## The World We Want to Live In

1:15 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. | CULTURE ACROSS BORDERS

After two decades of post-Cold War globalization, the financial crisis of 2008 helped prompt a backlash against open borders whose full extent is becoming fully realized only today. With tariffs and anti-migration policies dominating the international agenda, how do we advance equitability and human rights in societies in which the chasm between rich and poor is yawning ever wider?



**Bryn Barnard** is an illustrator, artist and teacher. During his fellowship in 1981–1984, he traveled to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and the United States studying visual communication in relation to advertising, marketing, graphic design, architecture, illustration, performing arts, tourism, traditional culture and magic. He has worked with the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *National Geographic* and NASA, and also with schools and universities in Kuwait, Korea, Singapore, the US, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. His books include *Dangerous Planet: Plagues That Changed History*, *The Genius of Islam: How Muslims Made the Modern World* and *The New Ocean: The Fate of Life in a Changing Sea*.



**Kenneth Cavander** is an award-winning writer, producer and director whose work has been widely performed in the United States and Britain, including on Broadway, at the Yale Repertory Theater and by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Educated at Oxford University, as a US-based ICWA fellow from 1973 to 1976, he examined theater and “the origin and role of myth as a continuing force in society and in our individual lives” at a time when the country was reckoning with the aftermath of Watergate, the Vietnam War and youth and sexual revolutions.



**Jean-Benoît Nadeau** is a Canadian writer, journalist and leading explicator of French customs. His books include *The Bonjour Effect* and *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong*, both cowritten with his wife, Julie Barlow. During his decades-long journalism career, he has published articles and columns for many publications including *L'actualité*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. His ICWA fellowship in France from 1999 to 2001 focused on the response of the French to globalization. In 2007, he won the Quebec Writers' Federation's Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction.



**Roger Reynolds** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer (“Whispers Out of Time,” 1989) and author of five books. He was an ICWA fellow in Japan (1966–1971) studying music, culture and perceptions of time. He helped establish the University of California, San Diego's Music Department and has received Fulbright, Guggenheim and the National Institute of Arts and Letters awards as well as a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Revelle Medal from UC San Diego (2016). In 1998, the Library of Congress established a special collection of his work, and he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2023.

## The World We Want to Live In

2:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. | THE ENVIRONMENT AND ADAPTATION

In an age of mounting nativism, populism and corruption, in which identity politics are deepening polarization, how can music, art, literature and other forms of culture help bridge national and economic divides? Is it possible to keep high culture accessible to most at a time of rising inequality?



**Deanna Donovan** is an environmental economist who most recently worked in Britain at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. She has also worked with the Asian Development Bank, the Dutch government, the US Agency for International Development and UNESCO. She was an ICWA Forest and Society fellow in Nepal in 1978-1981.



**William Knowland** has spent more than four decades in international consulting on environment, energy and economic development. As an ICWA fellow based in Malaysia (1978-1981), he examined the role of forests in economic development. He went on to serve as USAID's first regional environmental adviser in Indonesia and Thailand until 1992. Later, he opened an office for the Mott Macdonald consulting group in Washington, DC, and chaired the Washington branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment.



**Brett Simpson** is a current ICWA fellow and environment journalist based 200 miles above the Arctic Circle in Tromsø, Norway—the world's northernmost city. She's investigating climate change and the growing environmental, societal and political challenges across the Arctic, one of the earth's most visibly changing environments. An alumna of Princeton and the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, Brett was previously a Fulbright fellow in Germany. She's written for *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times*.



**James Workman** designed and developed the world's first online water credit trading platform, the public benefits corporation AquaShares, Inc. As an ICWA fellow (Southern Africa, 2001-2003), he analyzed international water sharing in arid regions from Cairo to Cape Town, profiling communities in the Namib, Kalahari, Sahara and Negev deserts. Later, he was a White House-appointed speechwriter to US Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and wrote *Heart of Dryness: How the Last Bushmen Can Help Us Endure the Coming Age of Permanent Drought*. James is also a principal at Confluence Communications, a freelance consultancy on building resilience in water, forestry and fishery resources. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and has been a visiting professor at Wesleyan University and Whitman College.