



SALZBURG
GLOBAL
SEMINAR

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND GENOCIDE PREVENTION

Learning from the Past: Sharing Experiences across Borders to Combat Extremism

SESSION BROCHURE

Session 589

DATE

November 16 to 21, 2017

LOCATION

Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Charles E. Ehrlich

PARTNERS & FUNDERS

SERIES PARTNER

UNITED STATES
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MUSEUM

SESSION FUNDERS



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SESSION INFO

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GENERAL INFO

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OVERVIEW



Xenophobia, racism, and violent extremism are ripping at the fabric of societies across the globe. Although contexts and specifics differ, many shared human values do not: the wish to live in peace and security, and to ensure a positive future for the next generation. At the same time, where atrocities have occurred there is a need to commemorate victims and to confront perpetrators without perpetuating a cycle of violence or creating a climate overwhelmed by vengeance.

Since 2010, the *Salzburg Global Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention Program*, implemented in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, has sought to increase the capacity of institutions with educational missions (universities, schools, museums, remembrance sites, documentation centers, civil society, and religious communities) to combat extremism and promote pluralism in their countries, and to find dignified methods to study and memorialize their own national tragedies. Cross-border and cross-cultural exchanges facilitate new ways of thinking and international partnerships for building better societies, and generate methodologies for outreach to the next generation to create a better future.

During a workshop in Salzburg in December 2016, Salzburg Global Seminar convened fourteen representatives from six countries – Cambodia, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, Rwanda, and South Africa – and experts in Holocaust education and practitioners working on combatting extremism and radicalization across Europe. Together, the participants refined plans for pilot projects in the six participating countries to test local approaches to combatting extremism and promoting pluralism. Throughout 2017, Salzburg Global Seminar is providing support through peer advisory visits to the six countries by leading members of the network, to ensure hands-on expertise and wider impact in each location.

This year, Salzburg Global Seminar seeks to scale these pilot projects upwards and outwards, engaging a wider range of stakeholders to magnify their impact. Broader participation from each country and from additional countries will ensure the pilot projects can be further refined, modified for implementation elsewhere, and aided to spark positive change across their regions. Increased exchanges and partnerships among peers, including the involvement of diaspora communities, will strengthen common approaches and collaborations. New stakeholders, from policy-makers to public communications specialists will facilitate new avenues to optimize the work, increasing its impact in shaping broader public opinion for peaceful, secure, and tolerant societies.

MULTI-YEAR SERIES

SALZBURG GLOBAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND GENOCIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Since 2010, Salzburg Global Seminar has implemented the Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention Program in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Through a series of global and regional gatherings, the Program has engaged participants from more than 40 countries on six continents, the majority of which are non-Western countries, and many of which have a recent experience of mass atrocities. The Program has established a network of individuals and NGOs across these countries, and strives to deepen and extend their collaborative work, allowing practitioners to identify cross-regional strategies to empower institutions and individuals with tools for ethical education and peaceful conflict resolution.



SESSION FORMAT

RELATED SESSIONS

Learning from the Past: Promoting Pluralism and Countering Extremism

December 2016

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/564](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/564)

Living Arts in Post Conflict Contexts: Practices, Partnerships, Possibilities

March 2016

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/
fellow56](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/fellow56)

Youth, Economics and Violence: Implications for Future Conflict

May 2015

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/549](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/549)

Holocaust and Genocide Education: Sharing Experience Across Borders

June 2014

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/535](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/535)

Learning from the Past: Global Perspectives on Holocaust Education

June 2012

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/hol3](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/hol3)

The Global Prevention of Genocide: Learning from the Holocaust

July 2010

↳ [SalzburgGlobal.org/go/hol1](https://salzburgglobal.org/go/hol1)

The five-day session will bring together 60 participants from across the globe for a highly-interactive program at Schloss Leopoldskron, home of Salzburg Global Seminar.

The session will mix interactive methodologies, plenary and small group discussions, and thematic and regionally focused working groups to encourage participants to learn from the examples of the Holocaust and other atrocities, utilize experiences from their own countries, and share their reflections.

Participants will also have the opportunity to design and refine strategic plans for promoting pluralism and countering violent extremism, review these with peers, and take them back to their respective countries for implementation at greater scale.



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The Salzburg Global Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention Program seeks to bring together cross-sector and cross-generational change-makers to address the complex challenges associated with extremism.

This meeting will bring together representatives from institutions (including academia, museums and memorial sites, and civil society and religious organizations) seeking to maximize their impact to promote pluralism where recent atrocities and/or discrimination have made their countries particularly susceptible to a rise in extremism. This includes participants from countries in which increasing intolerance - whether in the form of anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim sentiment, xenophobia, racism – threaten their communities, regions, and the world. The program will include message multipliers: media and communications experts influencing public opinion and government officials wishing to make more effective public policy to combat extremism.



FELLOW TESTIMONIAL



RICHARD FREEDMAN
Director, South African
Holocaust and Genocide
Foundation, South Africa

“I gained enormous insight into the issues confronting Cambodia, Pakistan and Egypt, much of which I was unaware of and for that I am especially grateful. I also appreciated the size of the group which made it possible to make personal connections some of which I have already been able to initiate further engagement since my return...”

...We feel that [our Rwandan/South African] project has the potential to be a model for other countries on the continent and we are particularly excited about the African focus of the initiative. We very much look forward to the implementation of the pilot study which will be an important and timely intervention as we grapple with a world which seems to be coming an ever more intolerant and extreme place.”



FELLOW TESTIMONIAL



PINAR DOST-NIYEGO
Independent Historian,
Turkey

“This is an incredibly important place to discuss, influence and make an impact as important actors from around the globe, educators, responsible of civil society organizations who can make a difference in their national context get together at this seminar.

Coming from Turkey, a country very much involved in the Syrian war and home to millions of Syrian refugees and being exposed to terrorist threat in my everyday life, I especially found this year’s discussion’s focus on countering extremism... very timely and important.

[The] project-oriented approach was also very effective as I believe this is the best way of keeping the participants motivated and of achieving concrete progress and results.”

KEY QUESTIONS

Over the course of the five-day program, participants will address the following questions:

- What programs will build resilience and resistance to violence, help develop the necessary skills to challenge the idea of extremism, and encourage youth to become positive change-makers?
- What is the impact of extremist religious or political indoctrination on youth that encourages violent behavior? How can pluralistic visions within the same religion or society achieve precedence?
- If radical and violent groups may be effective in recruiting young people due to an absence of positive alternatives offering inclusion and belonging, how can societies become more inclusive for youth, particularly those with more limited economic opportunity or from more isolated or remote areas?
- What are the challenges of definition and nomenclature, causes, warning signs, propaganda, hateful or inflammatory speech, arising from the state’s own action or inaction?
- How can civil society organizations, especially those with educational missions, build a culture of awareness among the younger generation of the horrors hate speech and intolerance can unleash?
- What role do media play in reinforcing fears and stereotypes as opposed to increasing exposure to and understanding of diverse cultures? How can media facilitate shared dialogue and meaningful social action to support positive change across borders, across cultures, and across divides?
- In the face of sweeping populist and extremist narratives coming from social media and political sources outside the local communities, how can political, civil society, and religious leaders rooted within their local communities play a stronger role in supporting pluralist initiatives?
- Can public policy create a welcoming environment for refugees and migrants and make citizens more comfortable with diversity by creating a new sense of shared identity? What kind of initiatives can address this?
- What role can diaspora communities play to bridge understanding between countries of origin and countries of settlement? How can diaspora communities be better integrated and not themselves excluded from the societies in which they live?

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

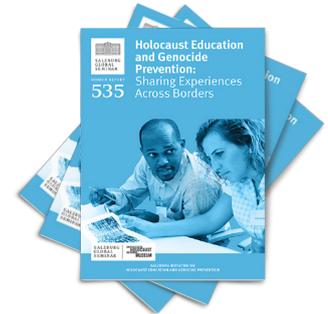
Participants will return home with new resources and leadership tools to scale up their efforts to combat rising intolerance and extremism, and to promote peace, understanding, and human security within their own societies.

Salzburg Global Seminar's expanding network of active partners across the world will provide ongoing support to forge future exchanges and longer-term partnerships both among institutions within their countries and across borders, as multipliers to achieve common goals.

A public report will capture the practical recommendations from the pilot projects carried out during 2017 and from the discussions at this session.



SESSION REPORTS



The report from the session *Holocaust and Genocide Education: Sharing Experience Across Borders* offers a comprehensive account of how the Holocaust is taught in non-IHRA countries. It is available online to read and download [↘ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/535](https://SalzburgGlobal.org/go/535)





ABOUT SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

Salzburg Global Seminar is an international non-profit organization founded in 1947 to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. More than 30,000 people from nearly 170 countries have participated in our programs over seven decades.

Our vision is to shape a better world by forging breakthrough collaborations to bridge divides. Salzburg Global designs multi-year programs to accelerate human, urban and conflict transformation and help organizations and change-makers achieve results at scale. We convene outstanding people across generations and sectors, aiming to catalyze transformative impact and long-term engagement through alliances, networks and projects on the ground. Our work is sustained through strategic partnerships, earned income and philanthropic support.

Our secluded and inspiring home of Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria – built in 1736 by the Archbishop of Salzburg, restored by the Salzburg Festival’s co-founder Max Reinhardt, used by Hollywood for sets in *The Sound of Music*, and now an award-winning hotel – allows us to welcome all participants in conditions of trust, openness and creativity.

SESSION INFO

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