



# Talking *[and Listening]* Across Divides



What We Can Learn from  
Research and Experience

June 26, 2019

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

Athens, Greece



ΙΣΝ SNF

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS  
FOUNDATION



## Talking [*and Listening*] Across Divides

What We Can Learn from Research and Experience

**H**ow can we open our minds to new, different, or conflicting ideas? How can we communicate our own values so that others are able to hear us? How do we create environments that support meaningful and sometimes difficult conversations? How do we bridge divides?

*Talking (and Listening) Across Divides: What We Can Learn from Research and Experience* brings together a diverse group of scholars and practitioners whose work will help shed light on how we might resolve, mediate, or even just consider competing claims while embracing multiple perspectives—essential work for any thriving democracy.

Today's workshop begins with an overview of SNF Agora Institute's vision from its inaugural director, Hahrie Han, a professor of political science whose research has focused on understanding civic and political engagement. Her remarks are followed by two discussions that will explore, respectively, the experiences of adversaries who are now working together, and methods of coalition and consensus building among groups with competing agendas. Our program ends with a conversation sharing different perspectives on refugees and integration, an issue currently being debated and discussed in communities around the world.

As with all of SNF Agora's events, this workshop is an opportunity to share research and experience, to model civil discourse, and to engage with audience members who will be encouraged to ask questions of our panelists throughout the day.

Today's workshop is hosted by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University, an interdisciplinary forum committed to strengthening democracy by examining the root causes of polarization and developing and testing new ways to foster inclusive dialogue, civic engagement, and the open exchange of ideas.

**The workshop is part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's monthly series, DIALOGUES.**

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

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**9:30 a.m.**

**Welcome**

Anna-Kynthia Bousdougou, Journalist, Managing Director, iMEDD and Executive Director, SNF DIALOGUES

Elizabeth Smyth, Executive Director, SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University

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**9:40 a.m.**

**Director's remarks**

Hahrie Han, PhD, Inaugural Director, SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University

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**10:00 a.m.**

**Discussion: Lessons from Reconciliation in South Africa**

Moderator: Hahrie Han, PhD, Inaugural Director, SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University

Speakers: Roelf Meyer, Former Minister of Constitutional Affairs, South Africa  
Timothy Phillips, Founder and CEO, Beyond Conflict  
Ebrahim Rasool, Former South African Ambassador to the United States

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**11:00 a.m.**

**BREAK**

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**11:45 a.m.**

**In Conversation: Building Coalitions and Consensus on Contentious Issues**

Martha S. Jones, JD, PhD, Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University

Marc Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League

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**12:30 p.m.**

**Discussion: Perspectives on Refugee Integration**

Moderator: Michelle Miller, Co-host, *CBS This Morning: Saturday*

Speakers: Munzer Khattab, Co-founder, BureauCrazy  
Mike Niconchuk, Senior Researcher, Beyond Conflict  
Barri Shorey, Senior Technical Director, Economic Recovery and Development, International Rescue Committee

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**1:25 p.m.**

**Closing remarks**

## DIRECTOR

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“*A healthy democracy requires a citizenry equipped to engage in open, inclusive discourse and action that enables the exercise of voice in the political process.*”

### **Hahrie Han**

Inaugural Director  
SNF Agora Institute  
Johns Hopkins University

**Hahrie Han**, the inaugural director of the SNF Agora Institute, specializes in the study of civic and political participation, collective action, organizing, and social change. She focuses particularly on the role that civic associations play in mobilizing participation in politics and building power for social and political change.

Prior to her position at SNF Agora, she was the Anton Vonk Professor of Political Science and Environmental Politics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. From 2005 to 2015, she was an associate professor of political science at Wellesley College, and from 2009 to 2011, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Harvard University.

She has published three books: *How Organizations Develop Activists: Civic Associations and Leadership in the 21st Century*, *Groundbreakers: How Obama’s 2.2 Million Volunteers Transformed Campaigning in America*, and *Moved to Action: Motivation, Participation, and Inequality in American Politics*. Her award-winning work has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Sociological Review*, and *American Journal of Sociology*, among numerous other outlets.

Han has also been involved in numerous efforts to bring research into practice, partnering with civic and political groups interested in organizing, movement-building, and building power for social change in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere. She has served on the Social Science Research Council Anxieties of Democracy Participation Working Group; co-chaired the Research Council of the PICO National Network; and served on the advisory boards of research4impact, the Climate Advocacy Lab, Citizens Climate Lobby, and the DEMOS Integrated Race and Class Narrative Project. In all of this work, she seeks to develop the leadership of younger scholars and practitioners, especially women and people of color.

She was co-convenor of a policy advisory committee for the 2008 Obama campaign and served as chair of the advisory committee to the EAC Agency Review Team on the Obama-Biden Transition Team, and as national issues and policy adviser to Sen. Bill Bradley’s presidential campaign in 1999–2000.

## SPEAKERS

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**Martha S. Jones** is the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University. She is a legal and cultural historian whose work examines how black Americans have shaped the story of American democracy. Prior to her academic career, she was a public interest litigator in New York City, recognized for her work as a Charles H. Revson Fellow on the Future of the City of New York at Columbia University.

Jones is the author of several scholarly books, articles, and essays, including *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America*. *Vanguard: A History of African American Women's Politics* is due out in 2020, in conjunction with the 19th Amendment's centennial. She is also working on a biography of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney.

A public historian, Jones has written for *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *USA Today*, among other more mainstream publications, and has curated several museum exhibitions. She currently serves as president of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians and on the executive board of the Organization of American Historians.



**Munzer Khattab** is co-founder of BureauCrazy, an app created to assist migrants and refugees with the cumbersome task of understanding and translating the complex forms required for refugees in Germany. The idea was born out of necessity. Khattab spent two years studying architecture at Tishreen University in his hometown of Latakia, Syria, before emigrating to Germany in 2015. When he arrived, he was unable to speak the language, much less navigate the complex government bureaucracy. He developed BureauCrazy along with two colleagues who were also refugees, serving as the principal UX/UI designer. In addition to his work with BureauCrazy, Khattab volunteers his time teaching graphic design and works as a UX/UI designer for 3pc media.



**Roelf Meyer** served as minister of defense and of constitutional affairs in the cabinet of former South African President F.W. de Klerk and was intimately involved in the negotiations on the settlement of the South African conflict as chief negotiator for the National Party government. In this capacity, he negotiated the end of apartheid together with Cyril Ramaphosa, who was chief negotiator for the African National Congress. These negotiations resulted in the first democratic elections in South Africa at the end of April 1994. After the election Meyer served in the cabinet of former president Nelson Mandela.

Having retired from politics, he is now an adviser in peace processes and has been involved in Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Rwanda, Burundi, Iraq, Kosovo, the Basque Region, Guyana, Bolivia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Colombia, Myanmar, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and the Central African Republic. He is currently director of In Transformation Initiative, a South Africa-based institution that does facilitation and advisory work in and outside the country.



**Michelle Miller** has been co-host of *CBS This Morning: Saturday* since July 2018. She is a regular contributor to *CBS Evening News*, *CBS This Morning*, and *CBS Sunday Morning* and has been a correspondent for *48 Hours*.

Miller joined CBS News in 2004 and has reported on stories of national and international importance, including the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the shooting death of Michael Brown; the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut; the shooting at Chardon High School in Ohio; the 2004, 2008, and 2012 presidential elections; the death of Whitney Houston; the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*; and medical care for the rural poor in South Africa.

She has received several prestigious journalism awards, including an Emmy for her series of reports on the National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy and an Edward R. Murrow Award for her coverage of a day care center stand-off in New Orleans. In 2019, Miller won a Gracie award for her reporting on the hidden world of sex trafficking in *48 Hours*: "Live to Tell: Trafficked."



**Marc Morial**, president and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation's largest historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization, has been described as one of the few national leaders to possess both “street smarts” and “boardroom savvy.”

He was a highly successful and popular mayor of New Orleans and served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He was previously a Louisiana state senator and a lawyer in New Orleans with an active, high-profile practice. He is a leading voice on the national stage in the battle for jobs, education, housing, and voting rights equity.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and the University of Pennsylvania, he has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential black Americans by *Ebony* magazine, one of the top 50 nonprofit leaders by *The NonProfit Times*, and one of the 100 most influential black lawyers in America by *On Being A Black Lawyer*, and he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Mike Niconchuk** is the senior researcher at Beyond Conflict's Innovation Lab for Neuroscience and Social Conflict, which generates and uses new insights from brain and behavioral sciences to improve conflict mitigation and resolution activities around the world.

A researcher and practitioner who works at the intersection of social cognition and community development, Niconchuk leverages his expertise in social cognition, social neurobiology, counterextremism, and community development to understand and engage the links between brain, mind, and behavior in contexts of forced displacement and violence. At the Innovation Lab, he leads the Refugee and Migrant Crisis Initiative, building research and interventions that focus on trauma, social identity, integration, and threat perception in communities dealing with migration and conflict.



**Timothy Phillips**, a pioneer in the field of conflict resolution and reconciliation, is the founder and CEO of Beyond Conflict, a global initiative that is internationally recognized for contributions to the field of transitional justice in post-communist Europe.

Using the unique approach of shared experience, Beyond Conflict has helped catalyze the peace and reconciliation processes in several nations, including Northern Ireland, El Salvador, and South Africa. Under Phillips' leadership, Beyond Conflict launched its Innovation Lab, a research and development unit that applies behavioral and brain science to real world issues to design and promote new tools that reduce conflict, increase tolerance, and facilitate positive social change.

Phillips has advised the United Nations, the U.S. Department of State, and the Council of Europe and has been a frequent speaker in national and international forums, including the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S. Congress. He also helped launch and serves on the Advisory Committee of the Club of Madrid, a forum for about 90 former democratic heads of state and government.



**Ebrahim Rasool** is the founder of the World for All Foundation, which aims to rethink the intellectual tools available to Muslims and faith communities, and to create cooperative relations between faiths, cultures, and communities at a global level.

He is the former South African ambassador to the United States and former governor of the Western Cape. Previously, he served as a member of Parliament in South Africa's National Assembly and special adviser to the state president. He has a long history of involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle, including leadership in the United Democratic Front and the African National Congress.





**Barri Shorey** is the senior technical director of the International Rescue Committee's Economic Recovery and Development unit, which works to ensure that people whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by conflict or disaster have their most basic survival needs met, and have the assets and income to prosper. She manages a team of 30 people supporting quality implementation, research and evidence building, and strategy development of the IRC's global cash and livelihoods programming.

Shorey began working at IRC in 2006, as the livelihoods and economic programming sector was just beginning. She had previously served as technical adviser providing support to IRC's West Africa, East Africa, Middle East, and Europe programs, with a specific focus on curriculum development, microenterprise development, and private sector partnerships.



## CONFERENCE HOSTS

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### **Anna-Kynthia Bousdoukou**

iMEDD Managing Director, SNF DIALOGUES Executive Director, Journalist

Anna Kynthia Bousdoukou co-founded iMEDD, incubator for Media Education and Development, where she serves as Managing Director. Since 2016, Anna-Kynthia also serves as an advisor to the Foundation on grants related to journalism and she curates and presents the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's monthly forum SNFDIALOGUES. During her 13 years of experience in journalism, she worked as a reporter on the radio, and then as a news editor, journalist and broadcast producer, while at the same time she has been a regular columnist in various outlets. In 2011 she was assigned as SKAI TV's news presenter and until 2018 was also responsible for SKAI TV's morning news program, which focused on domestic as well as international news, politics, economy, science and innovation.

She holds a degree in Sociology from Panteio University, specializing on the Sociology of Mass Media and is in the team of TEDxThessaloniki, which she has been presenting in recent years.



### **Elizabeth Smyth**

Executive Director, SNF Agora Institute

Elizabeth Smyth serves as executive director for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University. In this role, Smyth is responsible for oversight of the institute's operations as well as for development and implementation of the organizational framework and strategy for the institute in coordination with the institute director. Smyth has previous experience in organizational development, business strategy, and political communications strategy serving in a variety of roles including as a senior director at Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, a strategy director at Atlantic Media, a management consultant at Bain & Company, and an assistant press secretary at the White House. Smyth has an AB from Princeton University and an MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.





**During the workshop:**

Submit questions online at: [www.SNF.org/Dialogues](http://www.SNF.org/Dialogues)

Follow the conversation on Twitter at: [#SNFDialogues](https://twitter.com/SNFDialogues)