POTENTIAL PROGRAM TOPICS

We look forward to a series of discussion with scholars, diplomats, journalists and other experts as we shape the Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship.

This provisional list covers a range of potential topics for the lectures, discussions, readings and research during the program. The list is incomplete and appears in note format. Some topics are explored in greater length than others in this list.

The Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship is a new transatlantic Humanity in Action program. The Fellowship is an educational program for 24 American and European graduate students about the changing international dynamics of diplomacy and diversity. In Paris and Washington, the Fellows will explore how American and European governments and societies are responding to a wide range of transnational and national diversity issues.

Diplomacy, development and aid

- Promotion of progressive democracy and capitalism in Western development, aid and diplomatic initiatives
- The impact of domestic and national politics on diplomacy, development and international affairs; examples: domestic political polarization, sequestration, economic turmoil, etc.
- Impact of colonialism on foreign policy in regard to contemporary development aid; relationship between former colonial power and their colonies; example: France and Maghreb countries
- Impact of religious institutions and organizations on international aid and development; examples of Christian, Jewish and Muslim charities; the dynamics of local religious bodies and foreign religious groups; aid practices of the Roman Catholic Church

Immigration and migration

- Contemporary migration patterns toward wealthy liberal democracies Europe and North America
- Comparative studies of US and EU border policies and protocols; case study examples: activities of Frontex and the US Border Patrol
- Tensions among EU member states concerning the Schengen agreement and intra-state movements
- Refugee and asylum policy
- Roma issues in Europe; relationship between EU (and Schengen) member states on migration policies; variance of local policies addressing Roma camps and outposts
- Screening of Christina Wallace’s film “With Wings and Roots” about immigration and belonging in Berlin and New York
National security

- Global counterterrorism after the Bush administration; surveillance of minorities in America and abroad; example of NYPD surveillance on Muslim student groups at NYU; drone warfare and civil liberties; privacy and national security
- Role of local government in counterterrorism policies and strategies; discussion about how international policy becomes incredibly local (role of policing, mass transit, airports, etc.)

Economics, business and finance

- Impact of the ongoing economic crisis, beginning in 2008, on stability in Europe, relationships among member states, and vulnerable communities
- The political, economic and cultural stability of welfare states, especially since the economic crisis, in regard to tensions between host societies and their immigrants
- Tensions among rich Northern European states and struggling southern European states stemming from cultural and behavioral stereotypes; for example: the tensions between Germany and Greece
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and diversity initiatives of foreign companies: European companies in the States, American companies in Europe
- Examination of the effects of the economic crisis on minorities, especially minority youth; analysis of consequences in terms of social and national cohesion

Technology

- “Digital diplomacy” or foreign policy using new media; examples of Israeli, Palestinian and Iranian leaders using Twitter to communicate
- Activism, civic engagement and revolution through social media; critical analysis of the social media aspects of the Arab Spring, using the Malcolm Gladwell thesis
- Challenges and opportunities for journalists and diplomats in new media
- Political leadership in the age of globalization and technology; Shimon Peres thesis

Human rights

- Trafficking of human beings in Europe, the United States and beyond; vulnerability of minorities; forced prostitution
- Modern slavery and international law
- Ways in which domestic constituencies determine foreign (social) policy — conservatives and liberals in the United States influencing global gay rights
- Screening of the film “God Loves Uganda” about a campaign to change African culture with values from America’s Fundamental Christian Right.”

Public health

- Health disparities between majority and minority populations

Climate policy

- The relationship between environmental and national security: Migration, destruction,
access to water; disaster relief and policy

- The impact of climate change on vulnerable communities; how NGOs advocate for small nations on the world stage; the unequal effect of climate change on small underdeveloped countries

Race, history and society

- The continuing impact of colonialism on contemporary foreign policy; example: French and other European cooperation with former colonies, the American relationship with Central and Southern America
- Reparations for the slave trade and colonialism
- Impact of race issues in the United States for American foreign policy

Political philosophy

- Comparative concepts of citizenship, identity and inclusion: Europe and the United States
- Secularism in a transatlantic perspective: The role of religion in American, French and European societies and government

Diplomatic case studies

- Case studies in diplomatic initiatives in response to ethnic, religious and identity-based conflict
- Post-WWII Europe
- Former Yugoslavia
- Israel/Palestine
- Northern Ireland
- Turkey and Armenia

For more information about the Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship, please contact Program Coordinator Anthony Chase at +1 (212) 828.6874 ext. 4 or a.chase@humanityinaction.org.