



Owusu Akoto

Head of Transformation Programme
NOMS Directorate of Contracted Services
UK Ministry of Justice
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Danish Program, 2002

Owusu Akoto is the senior advisor on value chains at the UK Ministry of Justice, (MoJ). There, he leads the transformation program to improve how the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) works with contracted partners across various sectors. Owusu was initially asked to join the MoJ to work on the 2013 'overcharging' scandal: this occupied the top of the UK political agenda and involved the discovery of overcharging by providers of home-curfew monitoring equipment and services. The disputes concluded with a settlement totaling £180m and was a watershed moment for UK government in its commercial undertakings. Prior to joining the Ministry, Owusu worked as a management consultant, having completed Humanity in Action-inspired stints at the War Crimes Chamber of Bosnia & Herzegovina, and an internship program at the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol). Born in London, raised in Ghana and educated in America, Owusu attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with the Senior Honour Award, before earning his Master's degree from Imperial College London. Owusu is also an award-winner with a number of solo features and exhibits under his name.



Christina Antonakos-Wallace

Director/Producer
With Wings and Roots (Media and Education Initiative)
U.S. Senior Fellow from the U.S. Program, 2006

Christina Antonakos-Wallace is a filmmaker and activist working in the intersections of documentary, new media, and education. For over ten years, she has worked as a director and producer focusing on telling empowering stories and creating strategic media for the nonprofit sector. Cutting her teeth as a youth organizer for gender and racial justice, at age fifteen she founded a conference for Seattle young women, now going on its 20th year. As the initiator and Director of the transmedia project With Wings and Roots, she manages a team of over 20 voluntary collaborators based between Seattle, New York, and Berlin who do media production, community engagement and education work. Her films have won awards (Media that Matters Change Maker Award, Euro Media Award for Culture of Diversity, Berlin Active for Democracy and Tolerance Award) and offered her the privilege to present and screen internationally, at nearly 200 festivals and events often accompanied by workshops. In addition to developing educational materials through With Wings and Roots, for several years Christina taught filmmaking to immigrant youth with Global Action Project. She received her training from Parsons School of Design and the New School, supported by a Fight for Your Right scholarship from MTV.



Thomas Berghuijs

Strategic Advisor and Team Lead, Public Affairs
UWV National Social Security Agency
Dutch Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2002

Thomas Berghuijs is Strategic Advisor to the board of UWV, the Dutch national social security organization and Lead of the public affairs team. Previously, Thomas held the positions of Policy Advisor to the VVD (Dutch Liberal Party), Political Assistant for an Amsterdam Alderman, Political Advisor to two former ministers of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Strategy Consultant at Deloitte, and Consultant at Public Matters. Thomas is an active Fellow and Vice Chair of the Dutch chapter of Humanity in Action. He completed his law degree in Amsterdam University.

Mike Brickner

Senior Policy Director
American Civil Liberties Union
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2002



During his tenure at the ACLU, Mike Brickner has worked on a variety of critical civil liberties movements. These include coordinating campaigns to expand and protect the right to vote, combating privatization of prisons, and promoting reforms to Ohio's criminal justice system. In 2013, Mike co-authored two reports focusing on the intersection of poverty and the criminal justice system. The Outskirts of Hope: How Debtors' Prisons are Ruining Lives and Costing Communities chronicled how courts were illegally imprisoning low-income Ohioans because they could not afford to pay their fines. The report culminated in the Ohio Supreme Court increasing education and training for court personnel and issuing bench cards with clear rules for collecting fines. The second 2013 report, Adding It Up: The Financial Realities of Ohio's Pay-to-Stay Policies examined the burden placed on incarcerated people and their families by exorbitant jail fees. He followed this report with another in 2015, which culminated in the elimination of four counties' pay-to-stay jail fee policies. Mike is a nationally recognized expert on prison privatization. In 2014, he created a documentary showing the rapid decline of Ohio-based Lake Erie Correctional Institution, the first state prison sold outright to a private company in the nation.



Rasmus Grue Christensen

Managing Director
Monday Morning Innovation
Danish Senior Fellow from the Danish Program, 2001

Rasmus Grue Christensen is the Executive Director at the Danish policy think-tank "Monday Morning". Previously, he was the Deputy Ambassador to Palestinian territories for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark), Secretary General for the Social Liberal Party, and Executive Director at the Danish Red Cross. Rasmus is also a former Board Member and Staffer at Humanity in Action DK. He has Master degrees from Copenhagen Business School (business and philosophy) and the London School of Economics (international politics). Currently, he lives with his wife and three kids at a Danish "commune" (co-housing village) outside of Copenhagen.



Amish Dave

Rheumatologist, Physician
Virginia Mason Medical Center
U.S. Senior Fellow from the German Program, 2006

Amish Dave is a MD/MPH clinical rheumatologist at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, WA. He completed his training at the University of Pittsburgh (BA/BS in History, Neuroscience, Biological Sciences), the University of Chicago (MD), Stanford (Internal Medicine Residency), Brigham and Women's Hospital (Rheumatology Fellowship), and Harvard University (MPH). Aside from seeing patients from across the Pacific Northwest with complex autoimmune disease, Amish works in rural outreach and quality improvement in the hospital and clinical setting. He is co-president of his hospital's LGBTQ staff group (where he is working on PreP rollout to primary care, an LGBTQ healthcare lecture series, and outreach to a diverse patient population). Amish is a foodie and loves stand-up comedy.



Lydia Downing

Vice President, Government and Community Relations
New York City Economic Development Corporation
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Polish Program, 20007

Lydia Downing is the Vice President for Government & Community Relations for New York City's Economic Development agency, where she manages a team of five public relations professionals and oversees engagement with elected officials, community organizations, and other stakeholders across New York City. In this role, she is responsible for the local public approval process for NYCEDC-led neighborhood rezoning and real estate projects, as well as communications for major industry initiatives like LifeSci NYC. Lydia has worked at NYCEDC for five years. Previous roles there include managing public engagement for the Borough of Brooklyn, working on projects like the revitalization of the Coney Island amusement area and the redevelopment of the Bedford Union Armory. She also oversaw several initiatives to support immigrant entrepreneurs and food manufacturers in NYC. Lydia previously worked at the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs and the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Originally from Boston, MA, Lydia graduated from Colorado College in 2008, where she majored in Political Science and International Affairs and minored in Latin American Studies. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and cat.



Talia Dubovi

Deputy Director, External Relations:
Director, Congressional Affairs
Center for Strategic & International Studies
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2000

Talia Dubovi is an Associate Vice President and Deputy Director of External Affairs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She previously served as Deputy Director and Senior fellow with CSIS' Global Health Policy Center. Prior to joining CSIS, she spent six years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Appropriations Associate/Counsel for Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY), where she covered a wide range of foreign affairs issues and supported the representative in her work as Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Talia also served as Counsel to the House Oversight Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs and previously worked on human rights and judiciary issues for Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL). Before working in Congress, she was an Associate at Latham & Watkins LLP and a Fellow with Human Rights Watch's Refugee Program. Talia is a member of the Boards of Directors of Humanity in Action and the Global Campaign for Education U.S. Chapter. She is also a Fellow with the Truman National Security Project and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Jesse Elliott

Director
The Music District
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Danish Program, 2003

Jesse Elliott is the Director of The Music District, which brings together the art, business, technology, and community of one of humanity's longest-standing sources of inspiration, communication, and collaboration. Great songs, companies who care, and a commitment to the social and civic fabric are all at the heart of the District's ambitious mission. Jesse is a lifelong champion of collaborative creative efforts, social entrepreneurship, and the power of music and storytelling. He is the founder and songwriter of two rock and roll bands, These United States and Ark Life. The bands have released 6 albums and performed live 1,200 times in the last decade, from SXSW and Glastonbury to Lollapalooza and your favorite local dive. Before music recaptured his heart, Elliott wrote books and speeches with economist Richard Florida, co-founded a community nonprofit at the University of Iowa, helped shoot a documentary on water rights in southern Mexico and Guatemala, and ran an Italian deli on the Jersey Shore. With his company Range Music Ecosystems, Elliott and his co-founder Dr. Bryce Merrill researched and wrote the music strategies for the City of Denver and the State of Colorado, and brought together international thinkers on music and community for the City of Austin, the Biennial of the Americas, and more.



Lukas Goltermann

Team Leader
VENRO
German Senior Fellow from the Diplomacy and
Diversity Program, 2015

Lukas Goltermann is a Policy Advisor at VENRO, Germany's umbrella organization of non-governmental organizations in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, where he leads a programme on capacity development. He previously worked as researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and as project manager at the Partnership with Africa Foundation. Lukas received his MA in international relations from Free University in Berlin and his BA from the University of Sheffield. He lives in Berlin, Germany.



Danielle Goonan

Senior Manager II, Career Opportunity
Walmart Foundation
U.S. Senior Fellow from the U.S. Program, 2009

Danielle Goonan is a Senior Manager II at the Walmart Foundation, where she is responsible for investments in retail training worldwide. Most recently, Danielle was an Appointee of the Obama Administration where she led strategic partnerships for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. In this role, she worked with stakeholders in the corporate, labor and philanthropic sectors on behalf of the US Department of Education. Previously, Danielle led the Clinton Global Initiative's domestic education and skills development team with responsibilities that included managing the CGI U.S. Youth Employment Action Network in partnership with the Office of Secretary Clinton's JobOne program, overseeing the strategy of CGI America's education and skills Working Groups, and leading the growth of the workforce development portfolio of Commitments to Action. Prior to this position, Danielle worked at the Council on Foreign Relations. She received her MSc in IR from LSE and her undergraduate degree in American Studies summa cum laude from Dickinson College where she was a Posse Foundation Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Danielle sits on the Humanity in Action U.S. Planning Board and was a Fulbright Scholar to Italy. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York.

Emma Herman

Senior Officer for Communications and Outreach
Mama Cash
Dutch Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2006



Emma Herman is the Senior Officer for Communications and Outreach at the international women's fund Mama Cash. Since joining the organization in 2013 her projects have included three sold-out 'activism' festivals, two online solidarity campaigns that became trending topics on Twitter, a media partnership with The Guardian, and, most recently, the Women's March Amsterdam. Bringing the voices of women's rights activists to a wider audience is a constant theme in her endeavors. Prior to joining Mama Cash, Emma worked for the Dutch and European civil service and for several non-profits. Emma is an active member of several professional networks related to human rights, development and social entrepreneurship, including Humanity In Action, CSR Chicks and P!oneers. Emma has lived and worked in New York, Paris, Brussels and Cotonou. She is now back in her hometown Amsterdam, where she lives with her partner and two daughters.



Shoshana Iliach

Specialist and Program Manager
Google

U.S. Senior Fellow from the Polish Program, 2007

Shoshana Iliach is a Staffing and Analytics Team-Lead in Google's People Operations Division. She heads internal programs and research projects to help Google find and hire the best talent in the world. Shoshana previously served as Director of Analytics at Monitor 360, a strategic consulting firm focused on using machine learning and natural language processing to help clients harness the power of narratives. Before Monitor 360, Shoshana served as a Counterterrorism Analyst and Lead Briefer at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While at the FBI, she received the Intelligence Integration Award from the Director of National Intelligence. She also taught classes at Quantico to multiple law enforcement agencies on how to use intelligence to drive investigations. Shoshana is an active member of the Northern California chapter of Yale Women. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science from Yale University.



Zoe Kiefer

Attending Physician in OB/GYN
Winchester OB/GYN

U.S. Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2005

Zoe Kiefer currently works in private practice in Winchester, Massachusetts. Previously, she spent time working at a rural health outpost in India and providing medical care to the under-served residents of East Harlem during medical school, and was a member of Physicians for Human Rights. Her MPH thesis focused on building surgical workforces in sub-Saharan Africa for obstetric fistula repair. Zoe completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology in Boston's Chinatown at Tufts Medical Center, serving as Administrative Chief Resident. Her interests include quality improvement, building cultures of safety, and team-based patient care. She is also passionate about women's health, health equity, and ethical solutions to building human resources for health throughout the world. Zoe graduated from Amherst College with a BA in French, studying Islam in France through domestic coursework and during study abroad in Paris. She completed her MD at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and her MPH in Global Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. She enjoys writing, reading, and travel with her husband and 2 year-old son.



Nicole Kirkwood

Consultant
Self-Employed
U.S. Senior Fellow from the Danish Program, 2001

Nicole Kirkwood is a Growth Strategy Consultant with 15 years of experience. Her experience spans organic and inorganic growth for Fortune 500 and mid-tier companies/private equity clients, primarily in consumer-facing industries. Past clients include AB-InBev, Hershey, Best Buy, and CVS. Nicole holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a BA from the University of Iowa. She is based in Chicago.



Boukje Kistemaker

Associate Expert/Information Analyst
United Nations
Dutch Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2011

Boukje Kistemaker is the Associate Expert and Information Analyst at the United Nations. She has built on her academic background in Conflict Studies & Human Rights, working with think tanks (EUISS, Center for International Legal Cooperation), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, iNGOs (i.e. Human Rights Watch, Norwegian Refugee Council, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières) and academia in the field of international security, humanitarian emergencies and development. Her interests are in crisis response and management, risk & strategic analysis, and security governance.



Enno Koops

Lawyer
Council of State, Advisory Division
Dutch Senior Fellow from the Dutch Program, 2001

Enno Koops is often described as highly energetic, a generalist at heart, and a lawyer. Currently, Enno is a Senior Legislative Adviser to the Members of the Council of the State of the Kingdom. The Council is a constitutionally independent branch of the government, and provides advice on all draft legislation, and all other policies deemed appropriate. For the last ten years, he has served in all three branches of the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Enno has served the positions of Judiciary (Judge/Prosecutor), Independent Supervisory Agent for financial institutions, and Legislative Adviser to Parliament. Enno has also worked as Head of Legislative Affairs for the Government of the autonomous Island of Sint Maarten (Caribbean). Enno has founded and been a board member of critical mass foundation (conflict education for high school students) and Ellamo Foundation (promotion of commercial European film). He sees himself as a moderate pacifist, serves as educator for the Red Cross to promote Humanitarian Law, enjoys hiking in the mountains and skiing, and loves debating and critical thought. There seems to be no circumstance which can prevent him from enjoying moving pictures.



Marta Poślad

Head of Public Policy & Government Relations
Google
Polish Senior Fellow from the American Program,
2009

Marta Poślad joined Google in 2012. Before becoming the Head of Public Policy & Government Relations in Central and Eastern Europe she was responsible for privacy & security policy in Europe, Middle East and Africa, as well as analysing the impact of new technologies on societies on the academic front. She is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute Young Leader and an alumni of Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights' Programme. Marta graduated from University of Cambridge with a degree in sociology from at the University of Warsaw with a degree in political science.



Linnea Riensberg

CEO

Linnea Riensberg - Coaching
German Senior Fellow from the German Program,
2011

Linnea Riensberg works as a team developer, facilitator and coach – mostly for non-profits and political organizations. She started her own business in the beginning of 2016. Previously, she was executive director of Publixphere e.V., an NGO trying to form political discussion online and offline in a more attractive way. After completing her degree in Journalism, Communications and Philosophy, Linnea worked with digital human rights under an Italian representative in the European Parliament and later as managing director at the German based NGO Digitale Gesellschaft e.V. Since 2015, she is a board member of Humanity in Action Germany.

Rebecca Sherman

Managing Director
Bluecadet

U.S. Senior Fellow from the Danish Program, 2005



Rebecca Sherman is the Managing Director of Bluecadet, a digital agency that creates websites, mobile apps, interactive installations, and immersive environments for leading museums, cultural institutions, universities, and nonprofit organizations. She plays an integral role in driving company growth while fostering productive, longstanding relationships with both clients and staff. Combining a passion for social justice with a background in digital media, Rebecca excels at helping organizations leverage digital technology to achieve their goals. Since joining Bluecadet in 2008, Rebecca has produced a variety of interactive media projects and her work has been recognized by the Webby's, SXSW, AAM, HOW Magazine, and Communication Arts. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Sociology. Prior to joining Bluecadet, she mobilized community members and artists as a project manager for the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and spent a year working in India on mother-child health initiatives.