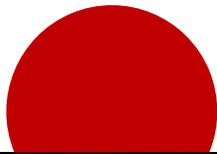


**Humanity in Action**

# Pat Cox Fellowship 2011



Brussels  
European Parliament  
11 fellows  
7 nationalities  
12 MEPs  
11 Friday lectures  
1 final event

**European Parliament**  
**28.1.-29.4.2011**

# Introduction by **Mona** Shair



Established in 1998, the Humanity in Action Foundation seeks to protect minorities and improve human rights by sponsoring an integrated set of educational programs for university students and young professionals in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, France and the United States. In particular, HIA seeks to inspire younger generations to be aware of human rights violations as well as instill in them a stronger commitment to minority rights and democratic values.

Following the core summer programs, HIA also provides professional development opportunities. It maintains an international network of students, young professionals, established leaders, experts and partners for which it organizes a range of educational and career opportunities, including seminars, workshops, study trips, and fellowship positions at leading civic and political institutions, such as the European Parliament, U.S. Congress, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Now in its seventh year, the Pat Cox Fellowship Program aims to familiarize a coming generation of international leaders in humanitarian action with the EP's dedicated commitment to human rights throughout the world. The Pat Cox Fellowship Program is a two-part program in which Fellows work in the offices of MEPs from Mondays to Thursdays and participate in a high caliber lecture series on Fridays.

With the support of our Patron Pat Cox and an active board we look forward to strengthening our network within the European Parliament.

We are also very grateful for the support of the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung and look forward to continuing our cooperation with them in the future.

Should you want to learn more about the program, or need an intern for the beginning of 2012, then please contact Mona Shair: [m.shair@humanityinaction.org](mailto:m.shair@humanityinaction.org)

On the following pages, we have compiled the profiles of the Humanity in Action Senior Fellows who participated in the 2011 Pat Cox Fellowship Program.

[www.humanityinaction.org](http://www.humanityinaction.org)



## Isa Gry Lindemann Elowsson

Denmark

*“The Pat Cox Program has been a unique opportunity for me to gain insight into the working procedures of the European Parliament, and a chance to work intensively on issues that are of great interest to me and to understand how they are dealt with at EU level.”*

### Educational and professional background:

Isa has a bachelor's degree in Arabic language and culture with supplementary courses in Minority Studies from the University of Copenhagen. After graduating she has worked as a researcher producing country profiles on corruption for a private company that works to strengthen anti-corruption efforts among SMEs.

### Worked for:

Alexandra THEIN, MEP from Germany, Member of Committee on Legal Affairs, Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council and Delegation for relations with Iraq, Substitute member of Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Delegation for relations with Afghanistan.

### The next step in the career:

After completing the Pat Cox Fellowship Isa will return to Syria, where she spent three months prior to her arrival in Brussels, to intern with a local NGO and give her Arabic a boost before she starts a Master's degree in International Migration and Ethnic Relations at Malmö University in September.

### An interesting fact about Isa:

Serve her a plate of hummus accompanied by Mahmoud Darwish recitations and you will see her truly happy. She has visited the Middle East several times, travelling in Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Syria, and is very fond of the region's diverse culture and hospitable people. She goes when time and finances allow it and plans to start projects on human rights and democracy education in cooperation with local civil society actors in Syria and the West Bank.

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**Jessica E. Mar**  
United States

*"The Pat Cox Program has been an eye-opening experience that has deepened my understanding of European politics. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with and learn from a diverse array of passionate people dedicated to improving society through the political process."*

#### **Educational and professional background:**

Jessica earned her Bachelor's degree in Public Policy and American Institutions and Ethnic Studies from Brown University where she received the Ethnic Studies Departmental Award. After graduating she was selected as a California Executive Fellow and worked at the Department of Finance where she staffed the Governor and Legislature's Commission on the 21st Century Economy to develop structural reform proposals to modernize California's tax system and to address issues associated with revenue volatility in the wake of the fiscal crisis. After completing her first year of law school at Berkeley School of Law Jessica assisted with pro bono legal representation for civil parties before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) for the prosecution of senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge. Jessica previously interned in the U.S. House of Representatives. This summer she will clerk at a law firm focusing on labor and employment law.

#### **Worked for:**

Dr. Wolf Klinz, MEP from Germany, Chair Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis, Vice-Chair Delegation for Relations with Canada, Member Conference of Committee Chairs, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Substitute Committee on Development.

#### **The next step in the career:**

After completing her law degree Jessica plans to pursue a career in civil or human rights law and policy.

#### **An interesting fact about Jessica:**

Jessica helped to develop the legal and case support unit of Chab Dai, a Cambodian-based NGO combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and worked with an NGO supporting education access for street working children living in the urban slums of Phnom Penh. She also learned to fit four people on a motorcycle and to negotiate in Khmer.

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## Joshua D. Cruz

United States

*“From an American perspective, this program has allowed me great insight not only into European politics, but world politics, thus helping me to broaden my understanding of the economy, the environment, and human rights.”*

### **Educational and professional background:**

Master of Arts in Criminology, Law, and Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago

### **Worked for:**

Jörg Leichtfried, MEP from Austria.

Joshua helped with the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, in specific, the issue with Hungary and its controversial media law implemented at the start of the year, and he also worked with the Delegations for relations to Iran and India.

### **The next step in the career and the long-term perspective:**

The next step in Joshua’s life is to continue to expand his working knowledge and understanding of the world in order to position himself to make an impact in human rights and environmental protection globally.

He has been accepted to the University of Essex for their Human Rights masters program, however he is anxious to start working soon and so will continue to look for employment. His motivation to move forward comes from neither career aspirations or a desire for money. His main goal is to live a fulfilling and happy life whilst doing as much as he can to help others along the way. His philosophy is to find happiness, be kind to himself and to others.

### **An interesting fact about Josh:**

He served in the United States Marine Corps.

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## Josua Andrés Gräber Mendoza

France

*“Josua, you might be interested in this :)”: Etienne Maury, dedicated assistant, was of very crucial importance in making this experience fruitful to better understand European politics and institutions.”*

### **Educational and professional background:**

After getting a BA in political sciences and a degree in Arab politics and societies (Univ. Lyon 2) Josua went to Cyprus to observe European integration mechanisms in a divided country. Along his strong interest in the articulation between domestic politics and foreign imperialisms on the conflict resolution process, he carried out field research on the impact of European integration on the structure of opportunities and constraints for Cypriot cause-lawyers supporting asylum seekers. In this scope, he could participate to different EU-granted research programs, with the FRA and the Univ. of Amsterdam. After obtaining a BSc. in International Relations (Univ. of Cyprus), Josua came back to Lyon where he is finishing a MA in political sociology (Lyon 2).

Along the university, he volunteered for various organizations in France (Forum Réfugiés, AFEV), regularly translates and publishes articles and reports for local and European revues (Anciela, Journal International de Lyon, Transform). His concerns on equal access to health services for all, and particularly foreigners, were encouraged after a working experience for the Red Cross regional offices in Lyon in July-October 2010.

### **Worked for:**

Dr Antonyia Parvanova, MEP from Bulgaria: Committee for women rights and gender equality; Committee for environment, public health and food safety; Iran, Canada and Mashrek delegations.

### **The next step in the career and the long-term perspective:**

Josua aims to enroll as a PhD student in October 2011 to analyze the cooperation between European regions, particularly on life-long learning and professional reinsertion programs. He would like to work as a researcher, either in the university or for local and international institutions and NGOs in these fields. He is very concerned about the drastic budget cuts in social sciences and education across Europe with the pretext of the financial crisis, threatening research independence and in fine democracy. On the long term... maybe gaining further experience and campaigning for a GUE-NGL MEP mandate, on a transnational list, in 2019 or 2024?

### **An interesting fact about Josua:**

Feeling himself deeply internationalist, he would like borders to disappear for ALL human beings, regardless of their gender, age, race, skills, or attractiveness for the currently celebrated "market"...

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**Judith Andres**  
Germany

*“The Fellowship Program offers an exciting array of perspectives on European policy-making. Getting to know the European Parliament up close (thanks to my brilliant host office!) as well as peeking into other Brussels organizations beyond the parliamentary bubble is a truly unique professional opportunity.*”

### **Educational and professional background:**

Judith holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish Philology from Ruhr-University Bochum. She will be finishing her Master's degree in International Relations in the joint program of Free University Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin and University of Potsdam soon. During her studies, she worked as an intern at the German embassy to Costa Rica and the political department of the Representation of the European Commission in Berlin.

### **Worked for:**

Baroness Sarah Ludford, MEP from the UK, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Substitute on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Human Rights and Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

### **The next step in the career:**

Judith will obtain her master's degree this summer and subsequently aims to work in the area of European Public Affairs either with an NGO or a business entity to intensify experience in the non-governmental sector.

### **An interesting fact about Judith:**

She is an avid explorer: diving into and getting to know new surroundings, people, culture and their sociopolitical environment is one of her great passions. However, the unknown does not necessarily mean the distant: working with a Berlin-based NGO on a mentoring project supporting traumatized refugees since 2009 opened up a whole new world within the sometimes all too familiar city to her.

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## Kitt Plinia Bjerregaard Nielsen

Denmark

*“Overall, the Pat Cox Program has provided me with invaluable insights into the workings of the European Union. In particular, working for Ms. Nicolai has been utterly inspiring on a professional as well as on a personal level. Thanks to this unique experience, I have identified the areas within security studies that I would like to specialize in in the future.”*

### Educational and professional background:

1st Lieutenant, Danish Defence  
BSc International Business (2011)

### Worked for:

Norica Nicolai, MEP from Romania,  
Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence,  
Committee of Foreign Affairs; Delegation to EU-Russia  
Parliamentary Cooperation Committee; Committee on Civil  
Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs; Committee on Women's  
Rights and Gender Equality; Delegation for relations with the  
NATO Parliamentary Assembly

### The next step in the career and the long-term perspective:

MA Peace and Security Studies, Hamburg University (TBA)  
1-year intensive language program (Mandarin Chinese),  
Shanghai Tongji University (TBA)

Kitt Plinia hopes to combine her military background with her academic studies of business, culture and human rights, thus she intends to specialize in issues such as “The arms industry's influence on human rights” and “Gender and conflict”.

### An interesting fact about Kitt:

She speaks more than seven languages - in fact, she has worked as an interpreter in five of them: Danish, English, German, Russian and Serbian.

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## Line Salmon-Legagneur

France

*“As I have always been interested in the European Union and studied the topic, the Pat Cox Program is a good opportunity for me to get to know the EU from within, and the way the Parliament works.”*

### Educational and professional background:

Line is a student committed to her studies. She graduated in Political Sciences, but is also trained in law and economics as she has studied “economic and social administration”. She is currently finishing her Master’s degree in International Solidarity, Humanitarian and Development at Lille University. She also studied International Relations at Corvinus University of Budapest. Through these studies she has acquired a multidisciplinary knowledge, which reflects her eagerness to explore and discover.

### Worked for:

Lívía JÁRÓKA, the Roma Hungarian MEP. Lívía JÁRÓKA is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and of the Delegation for relations with India.

### The next step in the career and long-term plans:

Line worked with an NGO dealing with education in Togo a few years ago. She would like to follow these experiences and work in the development field with local NGOs or International Organizations implementing development programs, in Africa or elsewhere.

Then she wants to specialize in the protection of human rights and develop policy proposals to promote human rights or social justice.

### An interesting fact about Line:

She has a particular interest in marginalized people. She worked two years in a non-profit association dealing with the human rights aspect of the treatment of prisoners and interned at an association called Prisons International Observatory concerned with the same issues. She is also interested in the Roma minority and wrote her thesis on the policies towards Roma in France and Hungary.

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## Nabil Berbour

France

*"It's an outstanding program that provides a deep overview of how European MEPs could implement their political ideas through the European institutions. Friday lectures are notably very pertinent inasmuch as they were an excellent way to remind us that Europe has (especially nowadays with the rise of the far right parties) a strategic and historic role to play in the defense of minority rights and civil rights."*

### Educational and professional background:

Nabil has an undergraduate degree in History and Geography and a graduate degree in international studies (with a focus on urban studies). Last year he got an MBA in operational management and sustainable performance. Professionally speaking, after a lot of summer jobs, he did all his internships in the public sector (audit of a decentralized cooperation, management of stakeholders for an Agenda 21).

### Worked for:

One month for Ms Marietje Schaake, (Dutch MEP, ALDE) and 4 months with Mr. Pascal Canfin (French MEP, The Greens). Two young MEPs tremendously involved in their political mandate. For instance, Ms Schaake is very keen on issues such as Internet freedom and Human Rights. She is also both member of the Committee on Culture and Education, and of the Delegation for Relations with the US. Mr. Pascal Canfin is the Vice-Chair of the CRIS Committee. His background as an economist led him to create (as an MEP) an NGO called Finance Watch, which aims to become a 'counter lobby' to financial powerhouses such as international banks.

### The next step in the career and the long-term perspective:

He is open for various careers but if he had the opportunity to choose, he would like to get more involved in politics (even though he strongly believes that politics isn't a matter of professional career). Indeed, as Abdelmalek Sayad said, he truly believes that "existing is existing politically". Thus, his aim is to empower citizens who live in disadvantaged areas. Nabil thinks that the increase of abstention in our democracies shows that it is urgent to rebuild our political system in order to get more in touch with the issues that concern our fellow citizens, especially the poorest and those facing the most discrimination.

### An interesting fact about Nabil:

His current project is to implement Community Organizing (Saul Alinsky's method) in the French banlieues. Indeed, history shows us that collectively the courage of ordinary people has greatly contributed to the great progress of humanity.

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**Nadja Groot**  
The Netherlands

*"I believe that the Pat Cox/HiA Fellowship Program represents a unique opportunity to better understand the dynamics of the European Union and gain first-hand working experience in one of its central decision making bodies."*

### **Educational and professional background:**

Nadja recently obtained a Master's Degree in International Relations (Political Science) from the University of Amsterdam's Graduate School of Social Sciences. Through research and internships she has committed herself to issues of ethnicity, identity politics and minority rights as well as post-conflict state building. She familiarized herself with the complexity of these issues in Western Balkan states, focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo in particular.

### **Worked for:**

Mr Jelko Kacin, Slovenian Member of the European Parliament for Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). Mr Kacin is the Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula. In addition, he is a substitute member on a number of Committees and Delegations.

### **The next step in the career:**

Nadja aspires a professional career in which she can combine her interests for inter-ethnic relations, (identity) politics and minority rights. Her short-term objective is to further explore these issues and gain relevant work experience through another internship – either in The Netherlands, where the current political climate heightens the salience of these issues, or abroad.

### **An interesting fact about Nadja:**

As a board member of an international exchange organization, Nadja enables young people in Europe and throughout the world to meet and discuss a broad range of social themes; varying from social exclusion and xenophobia to climate change and globalization.

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**Stefan Ivanovic**  
Bosnia & Herzegovina

*“The Fellowship helped me not only solidify some of my prior goals and ideas, but also remodel the others and adopt fresh perspectives. Priceless..”*

### **Educational and professional background:**

Enabled by an OSI scholarship, Stefan enrolled the American University in Bulgaria where he is finalizing his Political Science and European Integration studies, as well as Business Administration. He supported or coordinated numerous INGO and university events. After receiving a European Studies Diploma from University of Vienna and spending a semester at University of Maine, in March he was awarded the Young European of the Year 2011 title by Schwarzkopf Stiftung in Berlin.

### **Worked for:**

Dr. Hannes Swoboda, MEP from Austria, VP S&D, Member of: Committee on Foreign Affairs; Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly; Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia; Delegation for relations with the United States; Rapporteur for Croatia; Chair Improving the attractiveness of the plenary; Substitute: Industry, Research and Energy Cmte; Security and Defence sub-Cmte; Crisis special Cmte; EU-Ukraine PCC Delegation

### **The next step in the career and the long-term perspective:**

Furthering his education through a graduate degree in Public Policy, European Foreign Affairs or EU Law, and advancing practical skills through work in the field. Tossing the rock a little further, becoming a better person.

### **An interesting fact about Stefan:**

When given the chance, Stefan enjoys photography, team kayaking and behavioural psychology. He contemplates and plays with words. A chocolate fan.

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## Subhash Ghimire

Nepal



*"The Pat Cox Program has the real possibility of bringing together the aspiring youth from around the globe to create a powerful "mafia" of change agents."*

### Educational and professional background:

BA in International Relations: St. Olaf College (Minnesota, USA)  
2010

MALD (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy): Fletcher School  
of Law & Diplomacy (Tufts U) : Expected 2013

Founder and Director: Peace School for 400 war-affected  
children in Nepal

Founder, The Sarswati Foundation  
([www.sarswatifoundation.org](http://www.sarswatifoundation.org))

### Worked for:

Karin Kadenbach, MEP from Austria, ENVI and AGRI  
Committees

Delegation for Relations with South Asia

### The next step in the career:

Get involved in Nepal's politics.

### An interesting fact about Subhash:

He speaks Sanskrit.

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