Dear Readers and Collaborators of AC4,

We want to thank you for making 2018 such an exceptional year! This year begins AC4’s 10th year at the University. We are proud to be a part of the growing community devoted to building a peaceful, collaborative, and socially just world.

We were able to offer such incredible programs this year with the generous support of our valued partners, funders, and, of course, all of you. Together we are better.

From discussing the United Nations “Year of Sustainable Peace” alongside poetry with Aja Monet at Columbia University, to focusing on mapping and resilience with youth leaders in Medellin, Colombia, to expanding our horizons on cultural norms and rules with Michele Gelfand, to learning about social change with Leymah Gbowee on stage and in workshops, it has been an insightful and inspiring year. And, 2019 is already underway!

We look forward to delving into new research initiatives and forging new relationships together with each of you as we face the challenges and opportunities ahead. We invite you to learn more and contribute to our efforts at http://ac4.ei.columbia.edu/. Thank you for playing a part in this work for sustainable peace through innovation and integration.

Mark your calendars and join us for the 2019 Sustaining Peace Forum, happening March 28th at Columbia University in NYC.

Thank you all!

AC4 at a Glance

19 PRESENTATIONS
Including conferences, workshops & speaking engagements

24 PUBLICATIONS
Including academic publications, news articles, & blogs

21 COUNTRIES
For worldwide research and sponsored projects

42 SPONSORED STUDENTS
Including fellows, event partners, & workshop participants

10 YEARS AT EARTH INSTITUTE
Sustainable Peace Project

The SP project has continued to compile and map the science of sustaining peace. These contributions will further understanding on cooperation and harmony between groups. Research has progressed through coding ethnographic data from 15 sustainable “peace systems” (neighboring societies living in peace for 100+ years) and 30 non-peaceful systems. A series of case studies on peaceful societies, such as Costa Rica and Mauritius, have been developed, with one published in Courier. A workgroup of data science students was established to scrape real-world data and to validate the mathematical model of sustainable peace.

The SP team, led by Dr. Peter T. Coleman and involving multiple partners, presented to policy-oriented and academic audiences at International Peace Institute, International Association for Conflict Management, and PeaceCon 2018, among others. In 2019, the team will cultivate partnerships around the world in order to learn from communities that have sustained peace, such as Norway, Mauritius and New Zealand. The team will conduct research and ground-truthing workshops in each location. With partner shiftN, SP will develop a user-friendly website to utilize insights from complexity science and apply the model to real-world scenarios. The team will work towards developing metrics to measure peace in a way that is widely applicable and yet context-specific.

Women, Peace and Security

The WPS Program focused on development in 2018, strengthening the program’s sustainability through donor engagement, strategic planning, program outreach and by building administrative capacity. WPS Executive Director Leymah Gbowee was appointed by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to be on the G7 Summit’s Gender Equality Advisory Council, serving as co-chair for the working group, “Building a more peaceful and secure world.” WPS welcomed two new staff members: Hannah Yore as Program Coordinator and Dr. Padini Nirmal as Learning and Evaluation Manager.

The WPS Program has designed a Peace and Social Change Fellowship based on learning from the inaugural Peace and Social Change Workshop in May 2018. The workshop convened U.S. based grassroots activists to develop a greater understanding of why, how, and in what ways women have influenced sustainable peace. In January 2019, the program launched its first Peace and Social Change Fellowship pilot convening 19 grassroots activists from five different countries in Africa for a three-day workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Fellowship is a signature WPS Program that fosters horizontal partnerships with frontline women changemakers. By engaging women peace builders in participatory processes, the lessons from the Fellowship will also shape the future of the program. In Spring 2019, WPS will continue to grow and expand its network within Columbia and around the world by launching the Peace and Social Change Internship to complement the Fellowship, by engaging graduate students from Columbia and the City University of New York.

http://ac4.ei.columbia.edu
**Environment, Peace and Sustainability**

EPS has strengthened its applied and educational projects related to conservation, extractive industries, climate resilience, and innovation. By continuing projects with its partners and building new collaborations, including with the UNDP Regional Hub in Jordan, the EPS Program continues work in South America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Pacific. In this work, we create opportunities for students to engage with cutting-edge research while allowing EPS staff to learn from students!

In 2018, Dr. Joshua Fisher taught a field course for graduate students, offered jointly with Tel Aviv University, and an Environmental Conflict Resolution Strategies course at Columbia’s SIPA and School of Professional Studies. EPS Program Associate Sophia Rhee presented a 2018 co-authored paper on sustainable forest livelihoods tropical forests at the FLARE conference in Copenhagen. EPS also completed a 4-year capacity building program with indigenous forest managers in the Amazon, in partnership with the Amazon Conservation Association. The team designed a participatory planning process and generated a Buffer Zone Management Plan for the Tambopata National Reserve in Peru; an important step toward protecting ecosystems and communities of the Reserve.

In 2019, we are delving into new initiatives, continuing with ongoing projects, and finding ways to strengthen ties with researchers in the field. Stay tuned for new mining research in Argentina with partners at the American Museum of Natural History.

**Youth, Peace and Security**

Drawing from years of work in urban conflict and youth leadership, the YPS team, led by Dr. Beth Fisher-Yoshida and Dr. Aldo Civico, designed and facilitated two citywide social laboratories in Medellín, Colombia: “Social Lab Medellín” and “Social Lab Castilla”. These distinct social labs bring together stakeholders from all sectors, including youth leaders, elected officials, business leaders, and entrepreneurs. The launching of these social labs opened the way for a previously lacking conversation around issues of youth violence in Medellín. They provide spaces in which a pluri-perspective view of the city was produced, including its problems of violence, to co-create a real systemic approach to transform such realities.

In 2019, YPS is excited to launch an educational initiative, the Youth, Peace and Security Leadership Program, which includes two weeks of intensive classes on-campus and six months of coaching in the field. YPS will also begin research in tandem with the social labs and in partnership with Eafit University in Medellín. The research will focus on organic forms of conflict mediation and informal mediators who have resolved conflicts in Medellín. The YPS team will continue relationships with UNDP and young leaders at the United Nations, to support the new YPS Leadership program.

http://ac4.ei.columbia.edu
Peace & Conflict HUB and Graduate Fellowships

This year, a cohort of 19 graduate students, working on 12 sponsored projects, from Columbia University were awarded fellowships to conduct interdisciplinary work on topics ranging from environmental justice to gender inequality to social entrepreneurship and governance. Fellows published blogs for the series “Reflections from the Field” and many published peer-reviewed articles, op-eds, and reports. Many fellows have now secured new funding from grants outside Columbia and continue to carry their projects forward. We are excited for these fellows to present at the 2019 Sustaining Peace Forum.

In partnership with two professional associations, 13 fellowships were awarded to peace-focused graduate students or recent alumni from universities across the world. Nine of these fellows presented at the International Association of Conflict Management Conference, and four presented at the CMM Learning Exchange, co-hosted by the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) Institute.

We look forward to strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones within the peace and conflict network at Columbia. Beyond the fellowships, we have collaborated with CU student groups and partners across campus to offer public programs, including Conversations from the Leading Edge podcast, the 3rd annual Perspectives on Peace series, and the 6th Sustaining Peace Forum.

With special thanks to

[Images of logos from various organizations]