ABOUT AC4

AC4 is celebrating 10 years of fostering sustainable peace through innovation and integration. We were born out of the idea that creating sustainable peace and fostering constructive conflict resolution require the expertise of many disciplines and areas of practice and the merging of top-down policy approaches with the bottom-up knowledge generated through the lived experiences of communities and practitioners. We focus on supporting the peace and conflict community at Columbia University and leading interdisciplinary research on sustainable peace, constructive conflict engagement, and sustainable development. In service of these goals we lead four signature projects and engage the Columbia community by leading a university-wide consortium. Our signature projects are: Complexity, Peace & Sustainability, Environment, Peace & Sustainability, Youth, Peace & Security, and Women, Peace & Security. These projects create focal areas for research, educational, and practice-oriented collaborations across the Earth Institute, Columbia University, and with many academic, government, and civil society organizations around the world.
COMMUNITY BUILDING

Graduate Fellowship

For ten years, we have provided support to select graduate students who are doing innovative, interdisciplinary research and practice to address current social or environmental challenges, and to gain professional association within the peace and conflict field. The fellows engage with some of our world’s most pressing issues and often marginalized populations. The support received from the fellowship is often a stepping stone for further professional and research opportunities on their projects. The 2018 cohort of Fellows conducted research on topics aligning with AC4 core thematic areas: citizenship education for youth in Chile and global education for American high school students in Morocco; ecological and spatial drivers affecting human-wildlife conflict with lions in Namibia; women’s roles in peacebuilding in Timor-Leste and the DRC, and more.

This year, fellows wrote reflections for the AC4 blog series “Reflections from the Field”, as well as the Earth Institute’s “State of the Planet”. They also organized joint-stakeholder workshops in the field, published peer-reviewed articles, op-eds, and policy papers, produced reports on findings and recommendations for host or partner organizations, and gave conference presentations, policy presentations and completed dissertation chapters or master’s theses. One Fellow even published a policy paper for the Institut Francais des Relations Internationales (Ifri) based on conversations with community members and stakeholders about the upcoming elections in Malawi.

2018–2019 Fellowships at a Glance

“AC4’s support has been instrumental for my graduate studies experience. Moreover, AC4’s work of bringing together peacebuilding and conflict resolution research and practice from Columbia’s different institutes is such an important task! The poster presentation format for presenting my research was such a great and relaxed way for everyone to share their research. I ended up having many deep conversations on women, peace and security issues that I don’t think would have happened in a formal presentation.”

— ANNA LARSSON

$72,000 in Fellowship Awards
12 AC4 Graduate Projects in 11 countries
32 Sponsored Students and Professionals
TOP AC4 Fellow Rachel Kirk conducted evaluation research on her global education program for American high school students in Agadir, Morocco where students visited fog nets in the Anti-Atlas mountains.

LEFT AC4 Graduate Fellow Benjamin Steiner implemented teacher trainings for Human Rights instructors in Rakhine State, Myanmar in partnership with the Peace and Development Initiative (PDI) in Sittway Myanmar.
2018-2019 Graduate Student Fellows

The Graduate Fellowship Program offers Columbia University students an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of research and practice in conflict resolution and social change. Fellows conduct interdisciplinary research projects or internships addressing conflict, violence, development and/or sustainable peace. This year, there were 19 Graduate Fellows representing various departments across Columbia University and Teachers College:

**ANNA LARSSON** MIA, Human Rights; International Conflict Resolution and Gender & Public Policy Internship with Belun, a community-based conflict-prevention NGO in Dili, Timor-Leste, on their newly launched Women, Peace and Security project

**BEN STEINER** MA, International Education Development
Teacher trainings for Human Rights instructors in Rahkine State, Myanmar

**CLAIRE GOELST** MA, Conservation Biology
Research on ecological and spatial drivers affecting human-wildlife conflict with African lions around Etosha National Park in Namibia

**DANIEL THOMAS** Ph.D., Political Science and Government
A look at how violence shapes grievances and collective action in Kachin State, Myanmar

**IRINA SOBOLEVA** Ph.D., Comparative Politics and Cognitive Psychology
Cost-effective ways to empower local population and to provide citizens with practical tools of political influence in Ukraine

**LUIS RODRIGO MAYORGA CAMUS** Ph.D., Anthropology and Education
Citizenship education, social change and student activism in Chilean high schools

**NIWA R. DWITAMA** MIA, International Security Policy
Walking in Another’s Shoes: Provisional Understandings on Peace, Tolerance, and Extremism

**RACHEL KIRK** MA, International Education Development
Global education on race, gender, and environmental justice with high school women of color from the Southeast U.S. in Agadir, Morocco

**KEREN KUPERMAN NAHUM** M.S., Sustainability Management
Managing Problems of dry waste in East Jerusalem with the organization “Community – Connecting Environment and People”

**SUMMER LINDSEY** Ph.D., Political Science
Gender and Protection: Local responses to insecurity in eastern DR Congo

**TARA HEIDGER** M.S., Urban Planning and MIA
Planning for Peace: ownership and participation in resettlement process within Rwanda

**MARGARET SAGAN, STEPHANIE REGALIA, CHISATO SAKAMOTO, SABRINA KURI, DANIEL RAMIREZ, BIANCA FLAMENGO, KATHARINA BECK AND ANITA DORETT**
Business and Human Rights Clinic
Land Reform and changing land tenure practices in rural Malawi
AC4 is committed to providing professional development opportunities to peace practitioners by sending graduate students to conferences.

**International Association of Conflict Management (IACM)**

This year’s cohort of sponsored conference attendees included 9 graduate students who presented their research at the July 2018 IACM conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Grantees presented on a range of topics in peace and conflict management, from social injustice and cyberbullying, neo-ecology in Nigeria, and culinary diplomacy in India.

- Nd zamangwui Isidore Agha, Uludag University, Turkey
- Jiahui He, Zhejiang University, China
- Lawrence Ibeh, Ludwig Maximillian University, Germany
- Hemant Kakkar, London School of Business, UK
- Bhushan Kumar, Ashoka University, India & University of Pennsylvania, USA
- Huisi (Jessica) Li, Cornell University, USA
- Krithiga Sankaran, University of Utah, USA
- Yuanxin Wang, Temple University, USA
- Huiru (Evangeline) Yang, University of Buffalo, USA

The International Association of Conflict Management (IACM) conference took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in July 2018.
AC4 awarded 4 graduate students to attend the 2018 CMM Learning Exchange in Oracle, Arizona, which focused on “Making Better Social Worlds” in order to address patterns of inequality, and to foster inclusion. The awardees presented on their applied research linking communications, the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) framework in particular, and conflict resolution:

**Akri Çipa,** Columbia University, School of Professional Studies, Challenges and Opportunities in the Reconciliation Process for Kosovo

**Kjerstin Pugh,** Columbia University, School of Professional Studies, Social Cohesion and Connection to Non-Violence movements in the United States

**Sarah Stone,** Columbia University, School of Public and International Affairs, Equitable and Inclusive facilitation practices in youth organizations in divided cities: New York City and Jerusalem

**Tamara Smiley Hamilton,** George Mason University, School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, The Drew League: Making Better Social Worlds through Community Resilience: A Case Study of the Drew League of Watts, CA

In 2019, we will continue to support our graduate student fellows in their research and at conferences. This will enable emerging scholars and practitioners in conflict resolution field to join international professional associations, gain fieldwork experience, and expand the peacebuilding network.

“I grew exponentially in my understanding of the theory and practice of CMM. I left with a commitment to stay connected and a feeling of support from seasoned practitioners. This experience has deepened my own commitment to creating Better Social Worlds as I continue my practice of healing organizational trauma impacted by race, diversity and inclusion.”

— TAMARA SMILEY HAMILTON
Engaging the Public Around Peacebuilding

Through original content highlighting the peacebuilding work of AC4 and the Columbia University community, as well as e-mail newsletters promoting peacebuilding events around Columbia University and New York City broadly, AC4 is a critical hub for engagement with these topics. AC4 affiliates, including fellows and visiting scholars, have been profiled in our interview series and in our podcast and radio show, “Conversations from the Leading Edge”, co-hosted by Columbia’s 89.9FM. This year, we engaged with topics ranging from resilience and sustainability policy in Honolulu, Hawaii to indigenous women’s leadership in the Peruvian Amazon. We have also curated a written interview series to profile the work that both CU faculty and outside practitioners are doing on environmental justice for the Earth Institute’s “State of the Planet” blog.

Through our public programs and digital platforms, including the online database AC4 Link and social media, we help students and the diverse members of our network learn from each other’s unique experiences and perspectives. We have increased our social media presence substantially over the past year through our previously used platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Soundcloud. We have also grown to include Instagram among the platforms with which AC4 networks can engage. Because we strive to hold open space for new forms of dialogue and enact a vision that celebrates complexity, we will continue to grow both our physical and virtual engagement with peacebuilding communities through this content.
AC4 held its 7th Annual Sustaining Peace Forum in April of 2019. The Sustaining Peace Forum brings together the Columbia University community to discuss critical and timely issues that affect peace, conflict, and sustainability. It provides a platform for current and future policy makers to share knowledge and practices, and generate new ideas for advancing peace globally. Now in its 7th year, the forum has featured prominent thought leaders including International Peace Institute, Leymah Gbowee, and more, and has focused on topics ranging from complexity science to gender equity, and global policy. This year, we had an open call for proposals from students and alumni in the Columbia University Community and showcased students, alumni and fellows from Columbia and Teachers College. The event included workshops and presentations from peace-builders around the Columbia community, and it was an outstanding event for knowledge sharing, discourse, and networking.
COMPLEXITY, PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustaining Peace Project

The Sustaining Peace Project (SPP) brings an eclectic team of scientists together to better understand the core dynamics sustaining peaceful societies, an area that has been rarely studied by scholars or viewed too narrowly through disciplinary or sectorial lenses. The project was launched at the Earth Institute at Columbia University in 2014 as a transdisciplinary, science-practice-policy initiative focused on providing a holistic, evidence-based understanding of how peace can be sustained in societies. The project takes a mixed-methods approach employing archival, expert survey, data science, community participatory and ethnographic case study research, and mathematical modeling, to develop a basic model of the core dynamics sustaining peaceful societies.

This year, the SPP team has continued to employ models and methods from complexity science to study and visualize the dynamics sustaining peaceful societies, and has been developing a comprehensive causal loop diagram (CLD) of the empirical science related to sustaining peace. The team has been conducting a comprehensive review of second-level variables that research has found to affect levels of community peacefulness, which will be made available through an interactive, web-based visualization of the full diagram. Additionally, with the support of Masters students from Columbia’s Data Science Institute, the team has been developing new metrics and methods for measuring and tracking peace. The Data Science Workgroup was established to scrape real world data from social media, news sources, and empirical literature, and, using topic modelling, vector and sentiment analysis,

The Data Science Workgroup has been using sentiment analysis to identify temporal trends associated with peaceful and non-peaceful societies.
developed a peace lexicon of terms prevalent in more peaceful communities, thereby creating a new measure for tracking peace in societies across the globe.

The project has also refined its approach to ground-truthing, a bottom-up elicitive approach to measuring and studying community peacefulness. This approach will be piloted over the next year in sustainably peaceful societies such as Mauritius and Costa Rica with local research partners. Proxies of the model’s core variables are also being identified in existing indices in order to populate a new multi-dimensional index of sustaining peace. The research have also been coding and comparing ethnographic, political, and historical cases of peace systems versus non-peace systems, which are being coded using both top-down qualitative methods as well as bottom-up data science techniques in order to understand the elements promoting higher levels of sustaining peace.

The SPP has been able to do this timely and important work through several partnerships. At the national level, partnerships have include Dr. Douglas Fry at the University of Alabama Birmingham and Dr. Larry Liebovitch at Queens College, CUNY, as well as Tatiana Benavides, a peace practitioner based in Atlanta, Georgia, and Costa Rica. Our international partners have been critical to this work, as well, including Dr. Genevieve Souillac from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, Naseem Aumerally from the University of Mauritius, Mariska Kappmeir from the University of Otago in New Zealand, Phillippe Vandenbroeck and the team at ShiftN in Belgium, and the International Peace Institute.

**Publications, Conferences and Events**

The Sustaining Peace Project contributed to the field through publications, conferences, and events both nationally and internationally over the past year. The program presented its work at the International Association for Conflict Management (IACM) in 2018 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well as at the Processes of International Negotiation Program at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg, Germany. The program presented to academics, policy-makers, and practitioners in Washington, D.C. at Peace Con 2018, an annual conference hosted by the Alliance for Peacebuilding. We also are excited to have presented cutting-edge peace technology at the Data for Peace.
and Security Workshop in March of 2019, an event co-organized by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NYU Center on International Cooperation, and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. With three academic publications, several op-eds, and a video series, the SPP strives to make its research findings accessible to a wide-range of audiences.

The Dynamical Systems Theory Innovation Lab

For over 15 years, the faculty and staff at AC4 and the Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution have been exploring conflict through the lens of complexity science. With a group of interdisciplinary colleagues including Robin Vallacher, Andrzej Nowak, Andrea Bartoli, Lan Bui-Wrzosinska, Larry Liebovitch, Naira Musallam and Katharina Kugler, we formed the Dynamics of Conflict working group to explore conflict dynamics through complexity science and applied mathematics. Later, through the support of AC4 and partners Rob Ricigliano of The Omidyar Group and Danny Burns of the Institute of Development Studies along with others, we established the Dynamical Systems Theory Innovation Lab convening thought leaders employing DST and related approaches in order to foster the exchange of ideas and inspire innovative work.

The DST Innovation Lab was convened four times between 2012 and 2015, which spawned a variety of sub-projects around the globe. This interdisciplinary group of over 50 lab members from around the world included scholars and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines including psychology, law, anthropology, mathematics, biology, and economics, to name a few, each bringing their unique perspectives on understanding and addressing complexity and social change. Discussions are currently being held for the next iteration of the DST Innovation Lab, which we hope to launch in 2020.

Looking Forward

With this holistic set of methods, the Sustaining Peace Project is excited to build upon this research in the year ahead. The team intends to share this research through the development and launching of a new interactive website that showcases findings and research on peace. This website will be launched in the second half of 2019 in partnership with ShiftN. Additionally, we will be piloting our revised ground-truthing methodology in Mauritius and Costa Rica in the coming year. By including lessons offered from peaceful communities in the research process, we will validate and refine our theoretical model of sustainable peace. As the project progresses, sharing findings with the larger peace and conflict community to impact policy is a priority. To help bridge the gap between academic understandings and current peace policy, the team intends to develop policy briefs, strengthen relationships with policymakers and practitioners, and find effective ways to translate current academic understandings of peace research into policy-relevant tools.

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Program is designed to identify and then act on the linkages between social conflicts and violence, as well as the peaceful responses by youth to the phenomena of conflict and violence, to then elicit, further develop, and disseminate best practices among youth leaders. In its fifth year of work, the YPS program has continued to use the guiding principle that community building is peacebuilding through various forms of engagement with youth-led collectives.

Social Lab Medellin during a “sensing” and “seeing” experience.
YPS Leadership Program Launch

After years of engagement and collaboration with youth leaders around the globe, doing research, listening to and learning from them, the YPS program launched its Youth Leadership Program in June 2019. This program is designed to meet the technical and methodological needs of youth leaders on the ground, and to strengthen and build upon the work that they are already doing in order to increase their local and global impact. The program consists of two weeks of intensive training at Columbia University, followed by six months of coaching and support, culminating in real world projects in participants’ local communities. With over 900 applications from young leaders from around the world, our inaugural cohort was made of up 8 participants and consisted of young leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America with a range of fields of work including, women’s security and rights, technology, political pedagogy, and education. Participants discussed the implications of the YPS agenda toward a sustainable and peaceful future, enhanced their understanding of the concepts, models and theory behind conflict resolution, problem-solving and intervention practices and skills, and increased mastery of key communicative behaviors and skills for increasing effectiveness as leaders. Participants were also able to visit with the Youth Envoy of the United Nations and other prominent UN leaders. Support from KAS-Germany, the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University, and the YPS project at AC4, was crucial in allowing us to conduct this pilot program.

“I learned a lot in this program through the readings and workshops, but the most rewarding part of this program has really been the relationships. The people that I’m with have so many different projects and personal experiences and it has changed my perspective on so many things.”
— DAYANA MANSOUR (LEBANON)

“I’ve participated in youth programs before but I’ve never gotten so much knowledge in other programs as I have with this one. Through the program’s scientific approach to leadership, we’ve really gone very deep into the skills of what is means to be a leader.”
— LISA TAÏEB (FRANCE)

LEFT The YPS Leadership Program visited with the office of UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake. RIGHT Ousia Assiongbon Foli-bebe, presenting his work to YPS Leadership peers at Columbia University.
Creating a Community of Learning in Colombia

This year, the program conducted the first city-wide social laboratory in Medellin, as well as a lab exclusively in the city’s comuna 5, Castilla. The purpose of these laboratories is to design strategies that inhibit the patterns that produce and reproduce violence that affect youth. The social labs focus on creating the conditions that allow members of communities to feel secure (on a variety of levels) in a historically insecure city and are composed of not just youth community leaders, but also environmental activists, representatives from city government, CEOs of major corporations, and national NGOs. The social labs have allowed these youth leaders and other stakeholders to grapple with questions of human security and social transformation in their communities. Through the social labs in Medellin, as well as through other community engagement and fieldwork, we used Dynamic Systems Theory (DST), Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM), and Systems Thinking approaches to reach new findings in our work. We have discovered that there are more “actants” beyond organized community leaders that produce spaces of peace in conflict ridden areas. More specifically, we have found that there are individuals who have de-escalated conflicts within communities, despite not being explicit mediators of conflicts nor organized as community leaders. These individuals, who work as more informal actors in the social system, are called “organic mediators” within our approach.

We have also noted that our pedagogical approaches
of DST, CMM, and Systems Thinking are becoming a prominent part of the community fabric where we work in Medellin. The youth community leaders with whom we work have been using these theories in their own work, as well as re-interpreting them in innovative and creative ways. This observation is creating a conversation between academic and local understandings of these notions and practices that we are excited to explore further. YPS has been able to do this critical work in Colombia through strategic partnerships and research collaboration with Comfama-Colombia, the Secretariat of Youth-Medellin, the Fundacion Mi Sangre-Colombia, the Universidad EAFIT-Colombia, Medellin’s Mayor’s Office, as well as the Fundacion EPA-Medellin.

Publications, Conferences and Events

The YPS program shared its research at two notable conferences this year, as well as through written publications and blogs. At the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) conferences in San Francisco in April 2019, Program Manager Joan Camilo Lopez presented YPS research findings from the social labs in Medellin using a systems thinking approach. The panel, titled “The Missing Peace”, was an opportunity for panelists to discuss the role of youth in building peace around the world and engage with academics and practitioners on these questions. The YPS program is now a member of the Youth Education Special Interest Group at CIES and is excited to continue to engage with these questions with this academic society. Project Special Advisor, Kobi Skolnick, represented the YPS program at the Paris Peace Forum (PPF), an annual event that brings together states, international organizations, NGOs, and more and emphasizes the importance of international cooperating in tackling global challenges and ensuring durable peace.

Looking Forward

The YPS program is excited to build upon its research, as well as the YPS Leadership Program, in the coming year. The program will continue to grow the social lab initiatives in Medellin. Additionally, the program will further contribute to the field through writing, publishing, and disseminating research findings in academic, policy, and more informal community spaces. The growth of the YPS Leadership Program will be another key priority to ensure that there is diversity in latitudes and languages represented among the young leader participants. Our vision is to substantially grow this program in order connect and amplify the work of many more young people around the world in a variety of fields. We plan in the next few years to offer this program in Spanish, Arabic and French and to utilize Columbia University Global Centers.
ENVIRONMENT, PEACE, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Land-use, Mining, and Ecological and Human Rights

The Environment, Peace, and Sustainability (EPS) program emphasizes applied research, policy support, and educational coursework at Columbia around sustainable natural resource management, environmental conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This year, our research supported management decision-making biodiversity conservation and social and environmental impact assessment mining.

In our biodiversity conservation focus, EPS completed a four-year capacity building program with indigenous forest managers in the Amazon through supporting the Amazon Conservation Association in the planning and publication of the Strategic Plan for the Buffer Zone of the Tambopata National Reserve in Peru. Through this partnership, the program designed and implemented a land-use planning methodology and effectively engaged stakeholders in creating a sustainable land use plan for the reserve’s buffer zone.
This is an important step towards protecting ecosystems and communities of the Reserve.

Our social and environmental impact assessment focused on two value chains. We successfully completed a scoping visit to the Argentinian Andes to explore the impacts of lithium mining on ecosystems and stakeholders in the area. This project is particularly important with the increased global efforts to move away from carbon-based energy. The goal for this research is to continue to work with local stakeholders to assess how to mitigate the ecosystem disruptions that come with increased lithium mining amidst these global movements. Our partnerships with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and University of Massachusetts Amherst were critical to beginning this project.

We also completed a project to evaluate the ecological and human rights impacts of mining in the Porgera Valley in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This interdisciplinary study of the human right to water in the villages near the PJV gold mine found that local residents do not have consistent access to sufficient, acceptable, and safe water, or adequate information about their water resources. It concludes that the PNG government and the mining companies Barrick Gold and Zijin Mining, as well as their jointly controlled operator of the mine, Barrick (Niugini) Limited (BNL), can do more to meet their human rights obligations and responsibilities. This report was the product of a four-year interdisciplinary and mixed-methods investigation of the right to water and interrelated rights in the residential areas adjacent to the PJV gold mine. This was done in partnership with the Human Rights Law Clinic at Columbia University Law School, and researchers from Penn State University.

Publications, Conferences and Events

The EPS program is committed to sharing its interdisciplinary research findings in a range of academic and practitioner spaces. This year, the program shared its research through academic journals including Land Use Policy, Society and Natural Resources, and Sustainability. Additionally, we published working papers, policy briefs, blogs, and press releases. The program also shared research at a number of conferences this past year. EPS research affiliate Deborah Delgado presented the project summary and learning from our conflict sensitive conservation program in the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in Peru at the IACM conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in July 2018. Additionally, Program Associate Sophia Rhee presented at the Forest and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) conference in Copenhagen in October 2018. She presented the EPS program research paper entitle “Conserving Tropical Forests: Can Sustainable Livelihoods Outperform Artisanal or Informal Mining?” which discusses ideas
around valuating forest-based livelihoods. In November 2018, EPS Program Director Dr. Joshua Fisher spoke at the New York University School of Law at an event called, “Moments of Crisis, Moments of Transformation: What Human Rights Can Learn from Change across Disciplines”. He discussed the importance of multi-disciplinary approaches that integrate expertise from science, human rights, and conflict management.

Looking Forward

Over the next year, the EPS program intends to submit grant proposals for new collaborations with Columbia University researchers at Center for Sustainable Urban Design that will examine data-driven policy making in urban infrastructure projects in Nairobi, Kenya. Additionally, the program will submit grants to The Earth Institute to begin new multi-disciplinary collaborations on environmental governance in conflict-affected areas.

The program will also continue to maintain existing partnership. We will continue working with Amazon Conservation Association to develop a monitoring and evaluation system for land use plans in the Peruvian Amazon. We will likewise continue partnerships with the Agirre Lehendekaria Center for Social and Political Studies on Sustainable Human Development. We will likewise continue our collaboration with UMass Amherst and AMNH in order to analyze hydrological samples and isotopes from our expedition to Argentina.

We have a number of publications planned for the coming year including an Earth Institute Sustainability Primer. This book series is published as a collaboration between Columbia University Press and The Earth Institute. The EPS primer will publish a theoretical framework for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and will highlight case studies from EPS research that demonstrate the practical application of this theory. We also plan to publish a guidance note for conflict-sensitive land-use planning in forest landscapes, and several scientific publications on social and environmental impact assessment, integrated landscape planning, and monitoring and evaluation in environmental peacebuilding.

Finally, we will present our research findings in several conferences including the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, the 6th Annual FLARE conference at the University of Michigan, the Nexus of Environment Peace and Sustainability at the University of Hiroshima, and the Environmental Peacebuilding Association Annual Conference at UC Irvine.
WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program, led by Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, contributes to greater global and regional understanding of the diverse roles women play to successfully influence sustainable peace and promote human security through everyday activism. Through education, public service, and research, the WPS program advances the visibility and knowledge exchange among women peacekeepers and practitioners - domestically and internationally - and disseminates lessons learned from their experiences.

WPS Executive Director, Nobel laureate Leymah Gbowee (center) with participants of the Claiming Our Space convening in Liberia. Photo: Mbali Donna Khumalo.
Fellowship Program

The WPS program successfully launched the Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program pilot in October 2018, convening a cohort of women peace builders working for grassroots organizations in Cameroon (Hope for the Needy Association), South Sudan (Crown the Woman), Zimbabwe (Institute for Young Women’s Development), Kenya (Coast Women in Development) and Ghana (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom-Ghana). As a part of this fellowship program, the team conducted a workshop with this new cohort of peace builders in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 2019, in collaboration with the Columbia Global Center in Nairobi and the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center in New York. As one of four critical components of the fellowship program, this workshop focused on the program’s two main objectives. The first objective was to increase the visibility of grassroots women and their organizations’ peace and security work. The second object was to facilitate cross learning among the participating activists. The other three components of the fellowship program are: continued cross learning via remote engagement on a ‘Living Archive’, collaboration with graduate student interns through webinars and research exchanges, and a concluding workshop at the end of the six-month fellowship period. Since the workshop in January 2019, the WPS team has launched the ‘Living Archive’ and is currently facilitating collaboration and exchange between the interns.
and participants through two skill-sharing webinars prepared by CUNY graduate student interns, as well as with a series of policy briefs, annotated bibliographies and surveys of best practices prepared by CU graduate student interns in collaboration with the women peace activists.

**Growing Institutional Capacity and Networks**

The WPS program successfully launched the Peace and Social Change Internship program to accompany and support the Fellowship. Four Columbia graduate students are working with the WPS team to offer research support to our partner organizations in Africa. These students come from Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia Law School, SIPA, Columbia School of Journalism, Columbia School of Social Work and the Graduate School for Arts and Sciences. They have brought knowledge and skills in the realm of international and human rights law, public health, gender analysis, journalistic and academic writing, and social science research. Through the WPS program and mentorship, these graduate interns are gaining critical skills in writing, research, advocacy and policy work, and collaborative
The WPS program has expanded its visibility and institutional partnerships within Columbia University.

**Events and Public Outreach**

The WPS program successfully participated in organizing and convening three public events with other institutional partners at Columbia and in New York. Firstly, a launch of the second part of the PBS series titled ‘Women, War and Peace’ in March 2019, which showcased the work of several groundbreaking women filmmakers. This event brought together local organizations, funders, supporters and other interested audiences, and served as a means to showcase and promote the work of the WPS program. The second public event was the tenth anniversary celebration of the Columbia Global Centers in May 2019, where the Columbia Global Center in Nairobi showcased the work of the WPS program as their flagship partner doing critical work in the African context. Thirdly, the WPS team hosted a public book launch of ‘Gender and the Law of the Sea’ in June 2019 in collaboration the Columbia Law School and the Columbia Water Center.

**Moving Forward**

As the WPS continues to build upon its momentum from the past year, the program intends to expand and operationalize their research agenda, deepen lessons learned through their program pilot, as well as produce relevant policy white papers to support the work of women grassroots partners. Additionally, the WPS program will complete the first part of the pilot successfully by the end of the calendar year and to employ critical lessons from this year to effectively conceptualize and operationalize the final leg of the pilot in 2020. Lastly, the WPS will continue to foster relationships with institutional and outside networks to grow support and funding sources.

**WPS at a Glance**

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