Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are currently facing difficult times for international cooperation and exchange. The rise of exclusionary nationalism in countries around the world and the global health threat of COVID-19 have put stressors on the system of global economic and political relations. It is in such times that programs like the Fox Fellowship play an important role in continuing to foster peace and cooperation between nations. That is one reason why I am particularly proud to present the Fox International Fellowship Annual Report for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The report describes our actions this past year to expand and enrich the fellowship. In this letter, I will briefly describe some of the highlights of these efforts. First, I must acknowledge that I had little to do with these accomplishments as I was only appointed the incoming director in spring 2019. I instead offer my sincere thanks to outgoing director Ben Cashore. Ben did an incredible job with the Fellowship, and I know he is greatly missed by all.

Over Ben’s tenure, the Fox program expanded at a rapid rate. In spring 2019 we selected our first exchange students with University of San Andrés. Eli Rau and Alvin Padilla-Babilonia were selected to travel to San Andres, and Antonia Vazquez was selected to travel from San Andrés.

The fellowship took a major step forward in enhancing the longevity of our community ties by successfully integrating Fox Alumni into the larger Yale Alumni network. This change provides additional resources to Fox alumni and facilitates our continuing communications with the group.

The academic year ended with an engaging and innovative conference co-sponsored by the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on the theme of “Unorthodox solutions to climate change. The conference wrapped up a season of exciting mini-conferences in which the incoming Fellows presented their work and gained valuable feedback and served as a capstone to a year of exciting intellectual engagement, featuring events that included such prominent global leaders as John Kerry, Madeleine Albright, Hillary Clinton, and Nadia Murad, among others. Many other events and activities are described in the pages within.

The 2018-9 academic year was a period of expansion and integration for the fellowship. I look forward with great enthusiasm to continuing the hard work and dedication that has gone into realizing the tremendous potential of Joe and Alison Fox’s transformative gift.

Sincerely,

Emily Erikson
Joseph C. Fox Director
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Fox International Fellowship successfully continued its mission to nurture the next generation of “citizen scholar” ambassadors – scholars conducting academic work with the potential to offer practical solutions to the problems that stand in the way of the world’s peace and prosperity. The Fellowship sent 14 students from Yale to the world-renowned universities that are our exchange partners, while our exchange partners sent 18 students to conduct research and reside at Yale University.

Sociology professor Emily Erikson has been selected as the next director of the Fox International Fellowship. Erikson conducts research in the fields of social networks, comparative historical sociology, organizations, theory, and economic sociology, focusing on the role of social networks in historical and cultural change. Although her appointment officially started on July 1, 2019, she was extensively involved in selecting the 2019-20 cohort of Fox Fellows. During his last year as Academic Director of the Fox International Fellowship, Professor Ben Cashore continued to expand and promote the program as was outlined in the five-year plan.

Emily Erikson
Joseph C. Fox Academic Director of the Fox International Fellowship
Associate Professor of Sociology and School of Management (by courtesy)
emily.erikson@yale.edu

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 5-YEAR PLAN (2014–2019)

The original multi-year action plan was developed in 2014 in consultation with Yale faculty, staff, donors, and partner institutions. It outlines key areas of priority for the Fox International Fellowship and serves as an internal guide for efforts at proactive program building. The plan also identifies necessary administrative tasks and charts a comprehensive timeline for the Fox Fellowship’s development. (The plan is available in a separate document.)

Summary of 3 Key Goals of the 5-Year Plan and Related Activities during AY 2017-18

1. Establishing new partnerships and improve relationships with existing partner universities

In the third round of the program’s expansion, the University of San Andrés in Buenos Aires, Argentina was added to the list of partner institutions. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed and the first group of students was selected to participate in the exchange for the AY 2019-20. Eli Rau and Alvin Padilla-Babilonia will be the first exchange students from Yale to spend a year at the University of San Andrés.

Eli Rau is a PhD candidate in the Political Science department at Yale University studying elections in comparative context. His research examines the effects of voting rules and legislative list systems on party strategy and the implications for voter turnout and partisan identification.

Alvin Padilla-Babilonia is a recent graduate of the Yale Law School, where he earned a Master’s of Law. His academic research focuses on the relationship between democracy and constitutional law, as well as issues of separation of powers.

Antonia Vazquez, a Master’s student in Economics at the Universidad de San Andrés, was selected to be a 2019-20 Fox International Fellow at Yale. Her research interests are focused on the intersection between public economics and development.

Yale University and the University of San Andrés will be co-hosting a conference focused on the theme of “Perspectives on Poverty and Human Development” on October 18, 2019. This conference will mark the expansion of the Fox International Fellowship to include the University of San Andrés into its growing family of partner universities around the world.

2. Enhancing the Fox community

In collaboration with the Yale Alumni Association, the Fellowship started integrating Fox alumni into the broader Yale Alumni network. As a result, former Fox Fellows received access to Yale Alumni services that include a Yale Alumni email address, access to Yale Library resources, and invitations to Yale Clubs, Associations, and Alumni calendar events. Currently, 150 former Fox Fellows have been added to the Yale Alumni network. Each new cohort will be automatically enrolled by the end of their term at Yale.
3. Translating academic research into practice

The Fellowship continued to collaborate with the Scholar Strategy Network (SSN), a U.S. organization devoted to connecting academic and policy worlds. The SSN connects scholars and their research to policymakers, citizens’ associations, and the media. One of its core contributions to academic training are its efforts at policy briefs designed to give policy makers and activists a quick review of relevant research. The goal of the Fox Policy Brief training is to elaborate and emphasize the practical implications of the Fox Fellows’ research for policy makers and the public.

As part of the celebrations for its 30th Anniversary, the Fox International Fellowship in collaboration with the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies hosted a conference titled “Unorthodox solutions to climate change”. On April 5, 2019, a diverse group of emerging scholars and practitioners that included former and current Fox Fellows from Ecuador, Mexico, Australia and the United States gathered at Yale to highlight the importance of fostering creative thinking through the integration of theoretical, conceptual, and empirical scholarship, with insights and knowledge from the practice of environmental stewardship.

“I have had the time of my life at Yale and I’m referring to it as the leap pad for my next move. The Fellowship gave me the opportunity to shape my future professional life in many ways.”

— Charlotte Kwakye-Nuako

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Public Speaking Training

The public speaking training program for Fox Fellows develops skills in effective communication that are essential to their research and fieldwork. The training program seeks to transform how the Fellows explain their ideas, engage with audiences, participate in panel discussions, and establish credibility in the international community. Sessions are led by Dr. William Vance, a linguist and cognitive scientist. The Yale Recording studio for the Fox Fellow Spotlight features highlights of the training, as well as brief interviews.

Policy training retreat at Yale Great Mountain Forest

In August 2018, Fellows were trained in policy and research uptake during a two-day retreat at the Yale Great Mountain Forest. They received practical training on presenting their research in the format of a policy brief and viewing their work through a policy-relevant context.

Fox Fellowship Mini Conferences

During the spring semester’s Fox Fellowship mini conference series, all Fox Fellows at Yale presented their research to other Fellows as well as the Academic Director and received feedback on their progress. Each Fellow also had the chance to moderate a Question & Answer session after their presentation. This gave all Fellows experience in moderating panels and sessions at academic conferences.
In The Global Threat of Vaccine Hesitancy, Madhurima Shukla examines the new phenomenon of vaccine hesitancy that is causing serious outbreaks of measles and other preventable contagious diseases in developed and emerging economies. In her article Seeking Access to Life-Saving Vaccines, Jocelyn Chan, a medical doctor and PhD Candidate at the University of Melbourne, argues that amid many reports about the threat of vaccine hesitancy, a greater challenge lingers: millions of children miss out on potentially life-saving vaccinations because treatments are too costly or unavailable in developing counties.

In his article Rulebook for a Changing Climate, Elkanah Oluwafemisi Babatunde points out the shortfalls of the rulebook for implementing the 2015 Paris Agreement adopted by the UN Conference of the Parties on Climate Change. Lena Riemer published two articles, Dangerous Alliances on Migration and World Ignores Mass Detentions of Migrants, about the current migrant crisis in Europe and the United States. Political leaders face democratic pressures to bring immigration under control, and countries ignore international binding standards that prohibit criminalization of asylum seekers, instead engaging in a race to the bottom with increasingly inhumane treatment. Riemer notes that religious leaders and human rights organizations condemn the treatment while governments that once aimed for high ideals largely remain silent.

In her article titled A Trade Love Triangle, Xueying Zhang argues that the increasing US antagonism on trade moves the EU closer to China, thus challenging the traditional alliances. In another article, China’s Challenge to a US-Led World Order, she examines how climate change, terrorism, and refugee crises erode the US-led world order, creating an opportunity for China to seek a power balance to address worldwide problems.

In her article Second World War’s Legacy of Racism, Ruth Lawrence brings readers’ attention to the fact that the US helped defeat fascism during World War II, while relying on racial segregation as an instrument of its domestic wartime politics. In her second article Transatlantic Politics of Anti-Discrimination, she talks about the success of Title IX legislation and the challenges it faces under the Trump administration. She continued to explore this issue in an article she published with The Washington Post titled “How the Trump Administration’s Title IX Proposals Threaten to Undo #MeToo”.

During the graduation ceremony, Class Day speaker Chimamanda Adichie, a world-renowned novelist and graduate of the Master’s program in African Studies at Yale, encouraged all students to engage the world with courage and love. Lena Riemer, a 2018-19 Fox Fellow from Freie Universität Berlin, was elected as one of the representatives of the MacMillan Center for the Yale Graduate Student Assembly (GSA). The GSA is a democratic-ally elected body representing graduate students in all departments. The representatives work closely with both university and community officials to advocate on behalf of graduate students on a range of issues.

This academic year, seven Fellows published editorials on pressing issues ranging from the migrant crisis to the measles outbreak, climate change, and many more. In her article Recalling Turkey’s Peace Process, Ronay Bakan argues that the Turkish state should create more democratic and inclusionary space for all citizens, including the 75% who are ethnic Turks and the 28% that represent Kurds and other minorities. Increasing democratic participation could reduce the need for authoritarian measures and stabilize the country. Her second article, Women’s Struggle in Turkey, warns that Turkey’s transition from democracy to authoritarianism threatens the feminist movement in the country in turn.

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“My time at Yale on the Fox Fellowship was both professionally and personally rewarding. I immensely enjoyed working in such an academically rich environment and meeting with esteemed scholars...we will look back with fond memories at our time in America as another interesting and rich chapter in our lives” — Kate Macfarlane
The Whitney Center Retirement Community Annual Presentation

The Fox International Fellows shared their remarkable research findings with Alison Fox, the wife of the late founder of the Yale University Fox International Fellowship, along with residents of the Whitney Center retirement community. In what has become a hallmark event, the Whitney Center’s annual address has grown in stature and interest and is attended by a full house. Each year, this organized event allows for three selected Fox Fellows to present their research and reflect on their experiences and academic achievements at Yale University during their Fellowship.

Hazel Hollingdale shared the findings from her dissertation titled “Lehman Sisters’ Hypothesis”, which explores whether the presence of women in finance can lead to more stable economic markets. Meanwhile, Elkanah Oluwapelumi Babatunde discussed financial considerations and notions of historic equity in the acceptance of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by African states. Ruth Lawlor talked about her dissertation that examines racial disparities in prosecuting crimes of rape committed by American GIs in Britain, France, and Germany during the Second World War.

Social

Outside of the academic sphere, Fox Fellows joined the Fox family for their annual Thanksgiving celebration in beautiful Norfolk, a town in Northwestern Connecticut, where Mrs. Allison Fox spent her childhood. At an authentic Thanksgiving lunch, they learned about the meaning of the holiday and, of course, sampled many of its accompanying culinary traditions. The Fellows were treated to a home-cooked American dinner, including the traditional turkey roast and pumpkin pie. It was not only an opportunity for the Fellows to get to know the larger Fox family, but also the perfect occasion for them to express their gratitude for the family’s commitment to giving back to the academic community and encouraging an exchange of ideas across the globe.

On an organized group outing, Fox Fellows also traveled to the UN headquarters in New York for a tour of the institution. Yuri Sergeyev, a former Ambassador to the United Nations and Senior Fellow at the MacMillan Center, talked to Fellows about the challenges that Security Council faces in the rapidly changing world. At Yale, Fellows immersed themselves in the cultural and social sphere of the University and attended Oktoberfest, Halloween, Spring Fling, the GSAS formal, and more.

“I want to thank all the Fellows for their help, support and wonderful memories which we created together. The time at Yale and in the USA has been one of the most beautiful seasons of my life.”

— Elkanah Oluwapelumi Babatunde

such as health care, childcare, housing, transportation, facility access, access to workspaces, security, better academic and career resources, integration of foreign students into the Yale student life, and more. Lena, as a representative of the Fox International Fellows, especially advocates for better integration of visiting fellows into the Yale Grad Student Life and fair payment practices for research assistants at Yale.
The Fox Fellows sent to exchange partners had an equally successful year. Many of the Fellows advanced their work by conducting archival research, having conversations with peers and professors at the exchange partner institutions, and observing proceedings in a different environment. As many of these Fellows are only now returning home, we have not yet received their final reports. Further details of their activities will be reported in next Fox International Fellowship annual report.

MacMillan Student Spotlight interviews

Three outgoing Fox Fellows, Jude Alawa (2019-20 Fox Fellow to Cambridge University), Manus McCaffery (2018-19 Fox Fellow to Jawaharlal Nehru University), and Mara Revkin (2017-18 Fox Fellow to Bogazici University), were featured on the MacMillan Center Student Spotlight channel, which gave them a unique opportunity to showcase the research they were conducting as Fox Fellows at partner universities.

SUMMARY OF FELLOWS’ ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic and professional achievements

Both incoming and outgoing Fox Fellows achieved important milestones in their academic careers. Incoming Fellow Ruth Lawlor not only received the Iwan Morgan Lecture Prize by the Institute of Historical Research and became a finalist for the Pelzer prize for best article by a graduate student on the history of the U.S. for her article published in the Journal of American History, but also obtained a full-time junior research fellowship at Queen’s College, Cambridge starting in October 2019. Ronay Bakan received the Best Doctoral Paper Award on Turkey from the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) in 2019 and went on to be accepted as a PhD student at Johns Hopkins University. Outgoing Fellow Aradhya Sethia will pursue an MPhil in law at Oxford University. Many Fellows were also granted the opportunity to present their research at other academic institutions and conferences.

Some Fellows were successful in organizing academic conferences of their own. Outgoing Fellow Charlotte Kiechel organized a conference at Yale with the theme “Connected Histories: Decolonization and the 20th century”. Meanwhile, Ruth Lawlor put together a panel for the largest conference in US history: the American Historical Association.

Fox Fellows agreed that the Fellowship experience nurtured extensive intellectual growth. Incoming Fellow João Paulo Hernandez Teodoro reflected that the pragmatic, problem-solving approach used in his courses on International Political Economy at Yale was in contrast to the more theoretical approach employed at his home institution; he felt that his exposure to an alternative pedagogic approach would prove beneficial in a future teaching career.

Personal enrichment

Fox Fellows shared their experiences of personal growth through the Fellowship experience. In particular, many Fellows cherished the relationships they built with what they described as the “Fox Family”. Expressing gratitude for the program experience, Charlotte Kwakye-Nuako wrote, “the great minds I have met at Yale and within the Fox Fellowship have been enlightening and invigorating”. Alexander Held thanked “Alison Fox, the Fox Fellowship staff, and the whole Fox family” for the experience. Addressing the Fellowship staff, Madhurima Shukla wrote, “I want to thank Professor Benjamin Cashore and Gilad Abiri for their advice and support throughout the Fellowship period… I want to thank Julia Muravnik, Carol M. Sequino, and Joy Sherman for their consistent support and help. You took care of all our needs and supported us like close friends. Thank you so much”.

Many Fellows commented on enriching experience of being exposed to different cultures through the program. According to Madhurima Shukla, “one of the special experiences of this fellowship was building friendships with Fellows from different countries and getting the opportunity to know the education, social and cultural systems of different countries”. Lena Reimer was grateful for the opportunity to “[make] friends from around the world”, but also to gain greater awareness of socioeconomic inequalities by witnessing them firsthand in another country.

“The Fox Fellowship has been a great experience. It was a great avenue to understand perspectives, not just from different fields from mine, but from across the world”

— Elkanah Oluwapelumi Babatunde
DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

The majority of Fox program funding support continues to come from the returns of the Fox endowment. This generous support is bolstered by generous gifts from Benjamin Zucker’s endowment fund.

OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

First task will be to formulate a new 5-year plan that takes into consideration significant changes on campus including the development of the new school of global affairs and an increasing emphasis on data science and computational methods in the social sciences. This plan will include four key agenda items.

One, integrating fellows into the Yale community. In the past 5 years significant progress was made on this front, yet more can be accomplished. This year a board of advisors was created to serve as an important resource to the incoming Fox Fellows. This board should serve as both a point of engagement with the rich intellectual environment of Yale and a springboard into further involvement. We have created a biweekly seminar series that will pull new and prominent Yale faculty into direct conversation with the Fellows. The drive behind this and other events and activities planned for the future will be to expose incoming Fellows to the culture and richness of the Yale intellectual community, both assisting them in their research and policy goals and building a stronger web of attachments linking them to the central endeavor of the fellowship – fostering a global civil culture that promotes peace and prosperity.

Success in this first goal will also contribute to achievement in the second, advancing the intellectual agenda of the program. Our ambition is not limited to producing a community of scholars that knit different areas of the world into cooperative partnership. We also intend to produce research that helps our fellows and other like-minded parties achieve that goal. There is a significant body of research in the social sciences on how to foster and sustain cooperative international relationships, how to build global communities, and how to nurture civil society. Our first step will be to bring in experts in these areas into the seminar in order to give the Fellows and program officers invaluable research-based advice on how to most effectively achieve the goals of the program.

The focus on the intellectual contents of the programs activities goes hand in hand with structural considerations addressed in the third goal, strengthening the global network of the program. The fellowship has expanded rapidly over the past five years. We want to continue to expand while reinforcing the relationships between and across Fellows, alumni, Yale University and partner institutions. A dense network of ties between all parties will buoy up the program and facilitate its success.

Finally, all of these agenda items contribute to the larger objective of expanding the influence and reach of the program. The Fox Fellowship has an impressive resource base that can be deployed in new and innovative ways to encourage, support, and bring attention to the amazing Fellows, faculty, and the research they produce. Engagement with social media is only one potential pathway to explore in this regard. A promising direction is the exploration of new avenues for increasing the impact of the fellowship.
Sadly, it is now time to say goodbye to Ben Cashore, who served as the Director of the Fox Fellowship from 2014 - 2019.

Over the past five years, the Fellowship changed tremendously under the sage guidance of Professor Ben Cashore. The program grew by adding six new partner universities in Canada, Australia, Singapore, Denmark and Argentina, and former Fellows were able to attend a successful reunion in India in 2017. By instituting the Policy Briefs training program, he helped students learn how to translate their research into practice and enabled them to share their research findings with a broader audience that included both the public and relevant policy makers.

Students benefited tremendously from Ben Cashore’s insight and leadership through the years. Expressing his gratitude, João Hernandes Teodoro declared, “Of course I’ve had fun moments at Yale, but I’d rather focus on something else. I would like to thank Professor Cashore, who has been my academic advisor, for the enlightening academic discussions”. Charlotte Kwakye-Nuako wrote that she was “especially thankful for the insightful leadership of Prof Ben Cashore – your breadth of knowledge is amazing!”

“We thank Ben Cashore for his wonderful work as Director and wish him all the best in his new position as Li Ka Shing Professor in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.”

Professor Ben Cashore, Professor of Environmental Governance and Political Science at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies