



Supporting Local Leaders Working for Peace and Democracy in a Conflicted World: The Living Legacy of Raymond Shonholtz and Howard Wolpe

Tuesday, April 10th from 9:00am to 10:30am

Woodrow Wilson Center Auditorium
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

The recent passing of Howard Wolpe and Raymond Shonholtz was a great loss for the democracy and peacebuilding communities. Both men leave behind enduring legacies from inspiring lives spent pursuing social change both at home and abroad. This forum will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the impact of their work and implications for the future of the democracy and peacebuilding fields through a discussion with colleagues who knew them well.

Howard began his career in Congress where he diligently promoted justice and economic development on the African continent. He then played a key role in the Clinton administration's delegation to the peace talks to end the civil wars in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Later in his career, he was recognized for promoting the human dimension of democratic transition. Together with Steve McDonald he created a training aimed at reconciling adversarial actors and training future leaders in post-conflict Burundi. Howard believed that training individuals in non-violent conflict resolution would be the key to preventing a return to violence and his programs have since been replicated in Liberia and the DRC. He offered a new paradigm for working in post-conflict countries and is therefore not only remembered as a successful practitioner, but also as a thought leader in the peacebuilding and democracy building field.

Like Howard, Raymond also viewed local leadership and individual's capacity for non-violent conflict resolution as fundamental to ensuring a peaceful and vibrant democracy. Raymond believed conflict is the great engine of democracy. Stable democracies are built through nonviolent conflict, contest, and competition because it is the source of creativity, energy, innovation and citizen participation.

Raymond first applied this in his own community, creating the country's first community-based mediation program in San Francisco. He subsequently founded Partners for Democratic Change, an organization dedicated to supporting civil society's role in democratic transitions through the creation of locally-led Centers. What started as one Center has grown to 18, and the Centers are now part of an international network of centers working independently in their countries to foster collaboration between disparate sectors of society, promote rule of law and access to justice, and promote inclusion, among others. Raymond's efforts to sustain and grow the network in places from Sana'a to Rio de Janeiro and the success of these Centers today directly reflect his energy and commitment to mentoring new leaders.

Steve McDonald, Howard's longtime collaborator at the Woodrow Wilson Center and current Director of the Africa Program and Program on Leadership and Building State Capacity will speak on the impact of Howard's work and the challenges and opportunities facing peacebuilding and democracy practitioners. Julia Roig, current President of Partners for Democratic Change, will speak to the continuation of Raymond's vision and current challenges and opportunities in supporting peace-makers and democracy activists in the field. They will be joined by a distinguished panel of discussants who worked directly with Howard and Raymond throughout their careers including Andrea Bartoli and Neil Levine. This interactive session will invite interaction from the participants to discuss together the application of these principles in each other's work supporting and mentoring local leaders.

Speakers:

Andrea Bartoli

Dean, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution George Mason University

Neil Levine

Director, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, USAID

Steve McDonald

Consulting director of the Africa Program and Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Julia Roig

President, Partners for Democratic Change

Bios:

Andrea Bartoli

Andrea is S-CAR's Drucie French Cumbie Chair and the Dean of The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. He has been at The School since 2007. He works primarily on Peacemaking and Genocide Prevention. The Founding Director of Columbia University's Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), a Senior Research Scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), a Teaching Fellow at Georgetown University, and at the University of Siena, Dr. Bartoli has taught in the US since 1994 and is a Board member of Search for Common Ground.

He has been involved in many conflict resolution activities as a member of the Community of Sant'Egidio and has published books and articles on violence, migrations and conflict resolution. He is the co-editor of "Peacemaking: From Practice to Theory" (Preager 2012). Dr Bartoli knew both Ray and Howard and was familiar with their work.

Neil Levine

Neil Levine is the Director of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation in USAID's Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights & Governance in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. CMM leads USAID efforts to develop approaches to the causes and consequences of conflict. From 2000-2007, Mr. Levine served as the Chief of the Governance Division in USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance where he worked on issues involving promotion of transparent, accountable and effective democratic institutions. Mr. Levine served as deputy director for the Office of Central American Affairs (LAC/CEN) from 1995-2000. From October 1998 through June 2000, he worked to develop the strategy, budget justification, and implementation of the post-Hurricane Mitch Hurricane Reconstruction programs in Central America. From 1993 to 1995, he served as congressional liaison officer in the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs with responsibility for the Latin America Bureau and democracy and governance issues. Before coming to USAID, Mr. Levine served on Capitol Hill for 10 years, first on the House Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs and then as legislative assistant for foreign affairs to Congressman Edward Feighan (OH). He has also worked as a research assistant at Human Rights Watch in New York. He has master's degrees from the National War College (2008) and the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (1986), and a certificate from the Institute for Latin American and Iberian Studies, Columbia University (1986). He has a B.A. in International Studies from Earlham College (1983).

Steve McDonald

Steve McDonald is the consulting director of the Africa Program, as well as, the Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, at the Woodrow Wilson Center. McDonald has worked with both the National Endowment for Democracy and with the African-American Institute in implementing democratization activities. He has worked on assessment teams to design civic education, monitoring and training for elections officials for elections in South Africa and Uganda and has done assessments of human rights situation in Nigeria. He initiated and organized a series of

regional conferences with USAID, Department of Defense, World Bank and United Nations funding on the role of the military in democratization in Africa. McDonald also oversaw the African Regional Electoral Assistance Fund which engaged in training of elections officials, civic voters' education, observation and monitoring of elections throughout Africa, to include 34 separate country activities in partnership with the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, the International Republican Institute, and the Carter Center at Emory University. McDonald holds a Master's degree in African Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and a Bachelors' in French and Political Science from Southwest Missouri State University.

Julia Roig

Ms. Roig is responsible for the overall strategic direction of Partners for Democratic Change, an international organization committed to building sustainable capacity to advance civil society and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide. She is a team-oriented, collaborative manager who oversees the DC-based Partners team and provides technical and strategic leadership to the global network of 18 Partners affiliate Centers for Change and Conflict Management.

Ms. Roig is an attorney licensed in the state of Maryland with fifteen years of diverse international management experience. She is a substantive expert in Good Governance, Public Participation, Access to Justice and Conflict Resolution, and has provided systems design, strategic planning, cooperative advocacy, program management, community outreach and training throughout the world. Prior to joining Partners, Julia served for two years as the Country Director for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Belgrade Serbia. She is also a recognized expert on community justice and dispute resolution in Colombia having spent five years living and working from Bogota, promoting a national expansion of the Equity Conciliation and Justice Houses programs. Julia has specialized in the evaluation of international assistance programs and impact assessments, and has served as team leader for complex, multi-country evaluations in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Senegal.

Prior to her international work, Julia served as the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator for both the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, and the D.C. Courts, acting as the main architect and promoter of new workplace dispute resolution services in both institutions. She previously served as the Chair of the International Section of the Association for Conflict Resolution and as a member of the Editorial Board of *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*. Ms. Roig received her J.D. from the George Washington School of Law and is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French.

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