

The (Gates, Rothschild??)¹ Bridging Fellowships

Draft 3 (Edy Kaufman, Jon Wilkenfeld and Andy Blum)

(Prepared for discussion with the resource development staff advising CIDCM)

Program's Objective

CIDCM has acquired over the years a strong expertise both in conflict analysis and management, in research and training, and would like to share this knowledge with academics from areas of conflict, coming across the divide to learn together and the return as "Partners" to engage in joint sustained action for peace. There have been many programs that bring individual scholars to the United States, but none so far, has conceived the rather simple but ambitious idea to bring pairs or threes to share a unique experience. And, to the best of our knowledge, these "Partners in Conflict" cohort fellowships do not exist anywhere else in the world. The power of this innovative scheme is to contribute to plant the seeds towards a long-standing relationship based on mutual trust, friendship and a shared understanding of the roots of conflict and effective tools for its resolution.

Program's Structure

This program is planned to last one or two semesters at the University of Maryland – College Park and a second re-entry year back in their respective countries. **In the long term**, the program aspires to be global in scope and participants would represent several areas of protracted, complex social conflict (e.g., Catholic/Protestant from Northern Ireland, Bolivian/Chilean, Zapatista/ Mexican Govt., Tamil/Sinhalese from Sri Lanka, Turkish/Greek from Cyprus, Albanian/ Serb from Kosovo, Israeli/Palestinian.), often representing their main stream of society in dyadic or multi-party disputes, from inter or intra-state conflicts. **In each two-year cycle we will select the six cohorts from three conflicts within the same region** (East/Central Africa, Middle East, South Asia). Faculty selected in any relevant country would need to be in the same discipline, but could be at different institutions. They could be drawn from any of several relevant fields (e.g., political science, history, literature, sociology, anthropology, geography). In each case, their common discipline will provide the common ground for their learning experience from contending perspectives.

Introduced to the complete set of competence of CIDCM, the Bridging Fellows could opt to specialize in any of the specific programs. Additionally, there will be tailor-made short training workshops on capacity building skills (fundraising, team building, NGO management). The Fellows will also be introduced to the Greater Washington DC rich and diverse governmental and non-governmental conflict resolution community.

CIDCM Relative Advantage

¹ While it has been the case that a name has been added to a program (or two when one is prominent, like the Carter/Menill human rights award), in the spirit of our proposal, we could consider the possibility of approaching two prospective donors related to communities in conflict (i.e. an Arab and a Jew, an Irish Catholic and Protestant)

Our Center, one of the first and most comprehensive in the field, provides in its totality and through its different programs provides a unique coverage of the field of conflict resolution through an entire cycle which covers: longitudinal and global information gathering on conflict with complementary data bases; systematic and periodic analysis of the trends in peace and conflict; policy relevant research and sharing with governmental agencies; serving the diplomatic and NGO community through the dissemination of such findings; facilitating Second Track Diplomacy in inter and intra-state conflicts; training civil society, professionals, diplomats, students in the areas of negotiation, multi-track and citizens diplomacy; integrating the spiritual and non tangible dimensions of conflict in healing and reconciliation; get familiarized with ICONS, an experiential learning program that uses customized Web-based tools to support educational simulations and simulation-based training related to conflict resolution, decision making, negotiations, cross-cultural communication, and crisis management.

The Fellows will also experiment with the premise of the CASES project: in conflict-affected areas, timely, actionable information about similar conflicts in other communities, regions, or countries can help civil society actors develop more effective conflict management programming. It has been CIDCM's experience that local actors struggling to confront conflict are eager, at times desperate, for information about other conflicts. Yet it is often impossible for local actors to access this type of information. Instead they are provided either an intensive analysis of their own conflict or generalized training in conflict resolution skills. These scenarios will be analyzed in workshops in order to identify potential crisis points, dangerous policy moves, windows of opportunity, and effective interventions to help manage the conflict and build sustainable.

The second year for each cycle will focus on gradual implementation of the joint learning of the Fellows back home, with active involvement and support from the Bridging program staff at CIDCM, to include workshops and training in location. The specific of each cohort's program is to be designed together during the first year, and seed money should be allocated for joint activities in the second year.

Anticipated Results

The program could be mutually beneficial for both UMCP and the Partners coming to be trained at College Park, On the one hand, CIDCM would provide participants with techniques and ideas that they would be able to develop and implement on their campuses or in their communities when they return home. On the other hand, upon the return of the "Partners" could start their collaborative program with each other and with CIDCM, becoming a local or regional center for conflict analysis and management?

CIDCM can potentially enrich the learning process for participants and empower the instructor pairs to re-enter their societies with the purpose of continuing to cooperate as "Partners in Conflict" in their teaching and research in their respective universities. The diversity of participants will enhance their experience and provide a wealth of perspectives. In addition to developing courses that address their conflict, a long-term goal might be for participants to co-author a book on how to understand their own conflict with their shared disciplinary tools, possibly introducing two separate but acknowledged narratives. Empowering them in trying to facilitate the search for common ground in their own countries could be an added element for the development of joint

future projects with CIDCM.

The selection of candidates needs to be rigorous in order to ensure the long-term success of the Partners joint work, including the professional background, language knowledge, personality and attitudes towards innovation, etc. It is suggested that the CIDCM officer select the Fellows from a pull of candidates to be interviewed personally in their countries of origin.

BUDGET

This program is based on a semester (or two, depending on funding and priorities) participation at College Park and the rest of the second year through Internet and other communication tools with the partners (virtual communities network, etc.), evaluating the programs and continuous training and assistance in facilitation of workshops across the divide. A sustained program (minimum two years and optimal six years) or an endowment that can ensure its continuity can be a pivotal element in the development of an epistemic global community of specialists in conflict analysis and management with a shared understanding of the roots causes, trends, policies and their implementation.

The minimal estimated cost per-year is based on six “Partners” of three conflicts², as follows:

YEAR I (1 semester x 6 Bridging Fellows at CIDCM (minimum):

Preparatory cost including travel to region for	
Selection of participants	\$ 5,000
Stipend \$ 1,000 x 6 months = \$6,000 x 6 partners	\$ 36,000
Special insurances (medical, travel) \$ 500 x 6 partners	\$ 3,000
Housing \$600 monthly x five months x 6 partners	\$ 18,000
Travel \$1,500 x 6 partners	\$ 7,500
Program coordinator (1/21 time)	\$16,000
Program Director (1/4 time)	\$22,000
Special programs and activities within the Greater DC	
Involving conflict resolution experts and programs ³	\$12,000
Administrative expenses	\$ 2,400
Communication expenses	\$ 1,800

² It may be possible to negotiate with programs that are normally sending individual scholars to the United States (Fulbright, Humphreys, Regan, Randolph) interested in the field of conflict resolution that we use the new funds at CIDCM to match the already selected candidate with another “Bridging Fellow”

³ The special programs include a CASES workshop focusing on a conflict from the Fellows’ region, training in organizational skills, fundraising, etc

SUBTOTAL	123,700
Overhead (26%?)	
TOTAL	

YEAR 2 – Bridging Fellows joint work in respective countries

Operational costs – 6 fellowships x \$ 500 month x 12	\$ 36,000
Operational costs – programs \$ 5,000 x 6	\$ 30,000
Program coordinator (1/2 time at CIDCM)	\$16,000
Program Director (1/4 time at CIDCM)	\$22,000
Travel of CIDCM experts to region:	
2 trips x 2 persons \$ 1,500 x 2 x 2	\$ 6,000
Accommodation 15 days x \$120 x 2 trips x 2 persons	\$ 7,200
Special insurances (medical, travel) \$ 200 x 2 x 2	\$ 800
Administrative expenses	\$ 2,400
Communication expenses	\$ 1,800
SUBTOTAL	\$ 122,200
Overhead (26%?)	
TOTAL	

The initial donation should be granted for a minimal two year period (\$) and an optimal three two- year cycles (\$) and if the scheme is successful as expected, donors should be encourage to provide a lasting gift towards an endowment for the “Bridging Fellowship Program”

Closing remarks

This idea was inspired in a ten-year partnership that evolved at CIDCM of uninterrupted teaching of a Palestinian (Prof. Manuel Hassassian, Vice President of Bethlehem University) and an Israeli academic (Prof. Edy Kaufman, Senior Researcher and Past Director of the Truman Peace Research Institute at the Hebrew University) as well as co-authoring academic work and op-eds, facilitating conflict transformation workshops back home and other action-oriented research. Both sense that their experience should not remain unique and should be emulated and perfected elsewhere. This meaningful contribution towards peacebuilding can become a trade-mark for the University of Maryland, transforming College Park as a magnet for academics worldwide across the conflict divide, finding in their shared experience at CIDCM the embryonic stage of a developing epistemic community. Both academics are most willing to share the burden of fundraising, meeting donors, etc.