

# DIPLOMACY, RELIGION AND RESILIENCE IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

MAY 22, 2018  
12:00-2:00P.M.  
HOGAN LOVELLS  
555 13<sup>TH</sup> ST NW  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rooms 13202 & 13203

Join the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies and Sister Cities International for a public forum addressing forms of collaboration around climate change, primarily among countries in the Caribbean.



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RELIGION AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
IN CROSS-REGIONAL  
PERSPECTIVE



# DIPLOMACY, RELIGION AND RESILIENCE IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Co-sponsored by Sister Cities International and  
American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies

The role of religious actors as citizen diplomats in shaping public perceptions and priorities around resiliency and climate change is often overlooked. This forum focuses on the role of citizen diplomacy in climate issues for small island developing states (SIDS), particularly in the Caribbean, where citizens, community stakeholders and national policy makers work collectively to take up pressing concerns around economic livelihoods and sustainability.

How do faith leaders and other religious actors contribute to established and new forms of subnational diplomacy among SIDS nations? Building on a more than two-year program of research on "Religion and Climate Change in Regional Perspective" at American University, this forum addresses how religious actors identify resilience and climate as a basis of outreach and collaboration. Using a round table format, we will convene core participants from American University's religion and climate change project along with select ambassadors from SIDS nations, to report on project outcomes with respect to resilience and climate change.



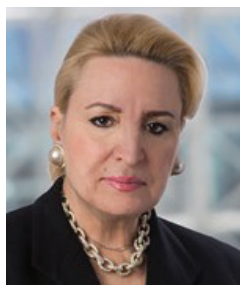
## WELCOME

### Christine M. Warnke

(Host)

Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor  
Hogan Lovells, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Christine Warnke works with companies, U.S. and foreign governments, global and domestic nonprofit organizations, and business trade associations to build, sustain, and grow national and international partnerships. As a problem-solving advocate, Christine helps her clients manage both public policy mandates and business needs. With an international focus on business and economic development, Christine has earned accolades for her work in the development of infrastructure, energy, and health-related projects impacting populations worldwide. Christine was elected to the International Board of Sister Cities International in July 2015 and subsequently asked to serve as the Director of our Nation's Capital sister cities network. In her capacity she is currently engaging the Diplomatic community on both a city-wide and national basis with communities throughout the world. Christine helps businesses establish long-term acquisition and contracting relationships with U.S. government agencies, such as the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, and other federal agencies. [Email: christine.warnke@hoganlovells.com](mailto:christine.warnke@hoganlovells.com)



### Robert Albro

(Welcome)

Research Associate Professor  
Center for Latin American & Latino Studies  
American University

Robert Albro is Research Associate Professor at American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies. He received his PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted ethnographic research and published widely on popular and indigenous politics along Bolivia's urban periphery, including resource wars over water and extractive resources. Much of this work is presented in his book, *Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics* (SAR Press, 2010), and more recently, on diverse arenas of cultural policy. His research and writing have been supported by the National Science Foundation, Mellon and Rockefeller foundations, and the American Council for Learned Societies, among others. He has been a Fulbright scholar, and held fellowships at the Carnegie Council, Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Albro currently serves as co-PI on the Henry Luce Foundation-funded project, "Religion and Climate Change in Cross-Regional Perspective." [Email: robert.d.albro@gmail.com](mailto:robert.d.albro@gmail.com)



# Climate Diplomacy Panelists

## Roger-Mark De Souza

(Moderator & Facilitator)  
President & CEO  
Sister Cities International

Roger-Mark is the new President and CEO of Sister Cities, International. He is responsible for leading and serving Sister Cities International's diverse network of volunteers, civic and cultural organizations, elected officials, educators, and private businesses that partner together to provide people-to-people international exchanges and promote sustained community-to-community connections. He most recently led efforts to engage international and U.S. partners on key diplomatic, development, and security issues as Director of Programs on global sustainability and resilience for the congressionally established Woodrow Wilson Center. He also worked at the Population Reference Bureau and the World Resources Institute where he designed and implemented projects in the USA, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Roger-Mark is originally from Trinidad and Tobago and has lived in the Washington D.C. area for over 20 years. He is married to Pascale De Souza and has two sons.

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## Evan Berry

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion  
American University

Evan is the Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at American University and Co-Director of the Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs master's program. He received his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research examines the intersections among religion, globalization, and climate change, and seeks to advance knowledge about the role of religious actors in contemporary environmental contestations. His recent book, *Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism* (University of California Press, 2015) explores the religious sources of the environmental imagination in the United States. His current work combines ethnographic research with philosophical reflection to address the study of religious civil society groups actively engaged with the challenge of climate change. He currently serves as Principal Investigator on the Henry Luce Foundation funded project, "Religion and Climate Change in Cross-Regional Perspective."

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## Kate Bentley

Division Chief, Professional Fellows Exchanges Division  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Kate is currently the Chief of ECA Professional Fellows Division where she leads a team of experienced program officers and coordinators who design professional exchanges for citizens around the world. Since Kate was accepted into the U.S. Foreign Service in 1998, she has advocated U.S. foreign policy in over 20 countries. Her overseas assignments include: Embassy Spokesperson in Panama, Nicaragua, and Colombia; Public Affairs Officer in Brazil; and Cultural Attaché in the United Kingdom. Her domestic assignments include: Operations Center Emergency Action Officer, Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for Brazil and the Southern Cone, and International Relations Officer in the Office of Oceans Scientific and Environmental Affairs where she was the U.S. Government lead for APEC's Marine Resources Conservation Working Group, the U.N. South Pacific Regional Environment Program, and the lead for negotiations with the Small Island Developing States block at the United Nations. Prior to entering the Foreign Service, Kate was a performing musician in the United States, Canada, and Argentina. Kate is married to Rajeev Kumar-Rathor and has two sons. She holds degrees in International Business and Spanish.

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## David Hales

Chair, Climate Action Task Force and Trustee of the Board  
World Parliament of Religions

David currently sits on the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions, a global interfaith movement focused on a variety of topics, including an interfaith response to climate change. He also chairs the Parliament's Climate Action Task Force. He has previously served as President of the College of the Atlantic, Chair and President of Second Nature (which pursues climate commitments through higher education), the managing organization of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and as Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He led environmental policy and sustainability programs for the US Agency for International Development. As a diplomat, he has represented the USA in numerous negotiations on climate change, urban affairs and policy, and biodiversity. He served in the Carter administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He was the first American to serve as Chair of the World Heritage Convention.

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# Climate Diplomacy Ambassador Panelists from Small Island Developing Nations (SIDS)

## Her Excellency Dr. Thelma Phillip-Browne

*The Ambassador for the Embassy of St. Kitts & Nevis to the USA*

Ambassador Thelma Phillip-Browne graduated with a medical degree from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona, Jamaica in 1978. Having served as a Medical Officer and later District Medical Officer for many years, in 1996 she received training at the John Hopkins School of Medicine's Summer Program in Public Health and served as Director of Primary Health Care and later Chief Medical Officer. She is a 1993 graduate of the Cardiff University School of Medicine in Wales, with a Diploma in Dermatological Science and practiced as a Dermatologist up until assuming her current post as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, in July 2015. The proud mother of two daughters and one son and grandmother of two girls, Ambassador Phillip-Browne is a sports enthusiast and former national netball player.



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## His Excellency Naivakarurubalavu Solo Mara

*The Ambassador for the Embassy of Fiji to the USA*

Ambassador Mara is a career Fijian diplomat having served in London and Brussels. He was Fiji's High Commission to the UK prior to his appointment as Fiji's Ambassador to the US. He was also Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Interested in learning more about  
climate change? Join us for our annual  
conference in Aurora, CO August 2 – 4.