



**INDIGENOUS STUDIES SUMMER PROGRAM
ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND POLICY**

2017 PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES/CVs

Pamela Calla, an anthropologist, is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University and Director of the Observatory on Racism of the Universidad de la Cordillera in La Paz, Bolivia. Currently she also co-coordinates the "Red de Investigacion Accion Anti-Racista en las Americas" an initiative launched by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas, and the Universidad de la Cordillera. She is the author of works on race, gender, ethnicity, interculturality and state formation in Bolivia and coeditor of *Antropologia del Estado: Dominación y prácticas contestatarias en America Latina*, as well as of the Dialectical Anthropology (September 15, 2011) issue on Reform and Revolution in South America : A Forum on Bolivia and Venezuela. She was an Associate Researcher of the "State of the State in Bolivia", a project of the Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano, 2007, United Nations Development Project and coeditor and author of Observando el Racismo: Racismo y Regionalismo en el Proceso Constituyente Boliviano, Agenda Defensorial No 11 and 13. Defensor del Pueblo and Universidad de la Cordillera. She is author of "Transversalizando el género y la etnicidad en la educación boliviana" (Cross-cutting gender and ethnicity in Bolivian education), in *Gender, ethnicity and education in Latin America*. Madrid: Ediciones Morata, 2004 and "Mujeres hacia la Asamblea Constituyente," (Women facing the constitutional assembly) *Tinkazos*17, November 2004. She co-authored "Development, Post-colonialism and Feminist Political Geography" in *Mapping Women, Making Politics. Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*, New York: Routledge, 2004 and "Gender and Ethnicity in Bolivian Politics: Transformation or Paternalism?" *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, Vol 2, No 2, 2000.

Dr. Myrna Kay Cunningham Kain, of the indigenous Miskito community of Waspam, is a teacher and physician working for over two decades to advance the rights of indigenous women and knowledge on indigenous peoples and the impacts of climate change, serving as FAO Special Ambassador for the International Year of Family Farming, adviser to the President of the UN World Conference of Indigenous People, and on boards of the Global Fund for Women, Permanent UN Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and The Hunger Project. She is currently Chairperson of the Center for Autonomy and Development of Indigenous People (CADPI) and Vice President of the board of the Latin American and Caribbean Indigenous People Development Fund.

Dr. Cunningham was the founding Chancellor of the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN), one of the first Latin American institutions for indigenous, intercultural, and gender-sensitive higher education. Dr. Cunningham has been honored with an Award of Woman Distinction from MADRE and the first American Award for Human Rights and Culture of Peace.

Beatrice Duncan currently serves as the constitutional and access to justice advisor for UN women as well as the focal point for indigenous and minority issues. She began her career in her native country, Ghana, as a gender and child law specialist, initially providing legal aid to indigent women and children through the Ghana Legal Aid Board, the Ghana Federation of International Women Lawyers and Women in Law and Development. While in Ghana, she also served as the Programme Officer for the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative, a tripartite exercise between government, Civil Society and the World Bank. Within the UN system, her work experience has been with UNICEF Ghana, as Chief of Protection, the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, as a Gender Officer and UNICEF New York as a Human Rights Specialist. She has supported law reform efforts in the fields of women's land rights, inheritance, marital property and violence, while also engaging in research and policy development in the areas of women in agriculture, women's land rights and harmful practices. During her tenure at the UNECA she was responsible for the revision and roll out of the African Gender and Development Index and its accompanying African Women's Report. She is a product of the University of Ghana (LLB), Georgetown University (LLM) and Birmingham University (PhD).

Tone Bleie holds MA and PhD degrees in Anthropology, based on studies of majority-minority relations in Bangladesh. Dr. Bleie has throughout her career shifted between applied research, aid administration and human rights advocacy. For more than two decades, Bleie was Senior staff of the Chr. Michelsen Institute for human rights and development in Bergen, Norway. She has also held positions as the Dy. Regional Director of Save the Children Norway in South Asia, as the Chief of Gender and Development in UN's Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and as Senior Advisor to the UN umbrella organisation IAWG comprising all UN organizations engaged in peacekeeping and as Director for the Centre of Peace Studies at UiT-the Arctic University of Norway. Bleie holds currently a Chair at the same university in Public Planning and Cultural Understanding. As visiting scholar Bleie has been affiliated with Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), Sussex University, Academy of Science (Helsinki University) and Columbia University (Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Race).

Bleie has been the Chair of the Forum for Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, with secretariat at UiT, and has served as expert on various government appointed commissions and international boards. She has written extensively on human rights, development, environmental change, peace and conflict in South Asia, East Asia and globally. Current academic writings of relevance for this summer course address indigenous pastoral peoples of Tibet and Northern-Norway; Scandinavian Mission as a globalizing agent among "Tribals"

of Central India during British Rule; and civil-military relations in Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh).

Karla E. General (Mohawk) is a Staff Attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit law and advocacy organization established and directed by American Indians. The Center provides legal assistance to Indian and Alaska Native nations who are working to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment, and cultural heritage. Ms. General is deer clan and was raised on the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory. She earned her Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Global Law and Practice from Syracuse University College of Law and her Master's degree in Sociology from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in 2010. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Government and Sociology cum laude from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, in 2007. Karla has worked with the Center since 2010 where she works to create and implement international human rights standards in the Organization of American States and the United Nations, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to end violence against indigenous women through the Center's Safe Women, Strong Nations project. Karla is licensed to practice law by the State of New York and also serves as an Associate Justice on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Appellate Court.

Mitra Motlagh works for the human rights unit at UNICEF headquarters in NY. She brings with her 13 years of experience in international law and development. Prior to joining UNICEF, Mitra worked for UNDP on Rule of Law and human rights in Nepal and at the regional office for the Arab States (Egypt). Mitra also worked for the World Health Organization on health and human rights, gender and equity at the country level (Mozambique) and regional level (regional office for the Asia-Pacific, Philippines). Before joining the UN, Mitra collaborated with the International Criminal Court in The Hague (Victims' participation and reparation section), and worked as a lawyer in the private sector in the area of European Competition law. Mitra holds a Law degree and Master's Degree in International Law from the University of Brussels, and an LL.M. in International Legal Studies (Human Rights Law) from Georgetown University.

Ib Petersen has served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations since 1 August 2013.

Before taking up his new position, Ambassador Petersen served as State Secretary for Development Policy of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2009. Prior to this, he was State Secretary for Development Cooperation, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United Nations (2007-2009).

Ib Petersen has held a number of senior management positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including Under Secretary for Bilateral Development Cooperation (2004-2007), Head of Department, Policy and Planning (2001-2004) and Deputy Head of Department, Development Policy and Planning (1998-2001). From 1995

to 1998 he served as Deputy Head of the Danish Embassy in Zimbabwe and from 1988 to 1991 as Advisor to the Nordic Executive Director on the Board of the World Bank in Washington D.C.

Ib Petersen served as President of the Executive Board of UN Women from January 2015 to January 2016, and as Vice President of the Executive Board of UNICEF from January 2014 to January 2015. He has also served on the boards of Danish International Investment Funds: The Industrialization Funds for Developing Countries and The Investment Fund for Central and Eastern Europe, and The Investment Fund for Emerging Markets.

Ib Petersen holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Aarhus. He is married to Annie Bakke Jensen and has two sons.

Stuart Rockefeller is a cultural anthropologist; he has done fieldwork with indigenous Bolivians in Bolivia and Argentina. His 2010 book, *Starting From Quirpini*, is about the local and transnational spatial practices of the people of the indigenous highland Bolivian community of Quirpini. In the book, Rockefeller shows how their spatial practices play a crucial role in producing the places they move through, from houses to the Argentine border to the city of Buenos Aires. Currently, he is doing research in preparation for fieldwork on Bolivian immigrant participation in the vibrant social movements of Buenos Aires. In the years since the Argentine economic collapse and social mobilizations of 2001-2002, many new avenues for social participation have opened up for Bolivian immigrants. This project investigates the kinds of subjects immigrants must become in order to speak to Argentine society. Rockefeller has also published articles and given talks on folkloric representations of indigenous culture, the political possibilities of Bolivia's MAS government, the role of hearsay in rural Andean society, and the language of globalization. Rockefeller received his B.A. from Yale University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He has taught at Haverford College and Fordham University; currently he is an Instructor at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. In addition he has experience practicing and teaching group facilitation, primarily for consensus-based groups. He is on the board of the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), where he served as chair from 2009-2012.

Raja Devasish Roy is the hereditary *Chakma Raja* and Chakma Circle Chief in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region of Bangladesh, since 1977 (area: nearly 2,500 square miles, population: 0.5 million approx.). As a Paramount Chief he heads a tribal system of civil and minor criminal courts, advises district and ministry-level bodies on matters of his Circle, and supervises the work of approximately 180 Territorial Sub-Chiefs and about 1,500 Village Chiefs, who act as local judges, manage customary lands and forests and act as land revenue officials.

He studied law in the United Kingdom and Australia in the 1980s-90s, and holds a Barrister-at-Law degree from the Inn's of Court School of Law, London. He started law practice in the late 1980s and has acted as legal counsel in several landmark cases on indigenous peoples' rights in the Supreme Court. Since the

last decade or so, he has only been acting as a *Pro Bono* lawyer on a selective basis.

In 2008, he was a Minister-of-State in the Interim Non-Party Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, in charge of the ministries of Environment & Forests and Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, in which capacity he led several national delegations to United Nations and international conferences.

He served as an indigenous-nominated member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) for two terms, from 2011-2016, occasionally acting as a Vice Chair.

He was the co-chairperson of the Global Indigenous Peoples' Caucus at the UN Working Group on the (Draft) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2006-07, which forwarded the draft declaration for adoption by the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

He helped facilitate the final negotiations between the Government of Bangladesh and the indigenous peoples' political party, JSS, which led to the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord of 1997 and ending the two decades-old armed conflict in the CHT.

He has several publications on indigenous peoples' issues, including with IWGIA, Minority Rights Group International, Routledge, Cambridge University Press, University of Arizona and University of Zurich, along with studies sanctioned by the UNPFII.

He lives in Rangamati, CHT, along with his family and clan, the headquarters of his Circle and the CHT region.

Elsa Stamatopoulou, born in Athens, Greece, has devoted 21 years of her UN work to human rights, in addition to several years exclusively focusing on Indigenous Peoples rights. She worked for the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as its first Chief from its inception in 2003 to 2010. She also promoted the integration, at international and national levels, of UN policies on indigenous peoples' issues in the areas of economic and social development, environment, health, human rights, education and culture. She supervised the production of the first ever *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* publication of the United Nations (2010).

Prof. Stamatopoulou has received various awards for her work, including Academia Award for Arts & Culture, 2016 presented by the University of Kent; the Ingrid Washinawatok El Issa O'Peqtaw Metaehmoh-Flying Eagle Woman Peace, Justice and Sovereignty Award; the award of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples; the Eleanor Roosevelt Award of the

Human Rights Center and of Voices 21. She is a member of human rights NGOs, Co-Chair of the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and member of advisory boards of indigenous peoples' institutions. In 2016, she was featured as one of the UN's Leading Women from 1945-2016.

She has written extensively on a variety of human rights themes: a book *Cultural Rights in International Law* (2007, Martinus Nijhoff/Brill) ; co-edited books *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 50 Years and Beyond* (1998) and *Indigenous Peoples' Access to Justice, Including Truth and Reconciliation Processes* (2014, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia U.); editor of *Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Unreported Struggles: Conflict and Peace* (to appear in 2017, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia U). She has been teaching at Columbia University since 2011 and is also the Director of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program at Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

She obtained her Law Degree from the University of Athens Law School and entered the Athens Bar Association. She did her Masters studies in the Administration of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University; and her doctoral studies in Political Science and International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva.

Kevin Tarrant, Former Director of the American Indian Community House (AICH) in New York has had long experience of community-building and programs for Native American living in urban areas. He has served for years on the Board of Directors of American Indian Community Houses, including as its Chairman. The mission of the American Indian Community House is to improve and promote the well-being of the American Indian community and to increase the visibility of American Indian cultures in an urban setting in order to cultivate awareness, understanding and respect.

He has worked for Columbia's Business School as Procurement Manager (2001-2012).

Kevin Tarrant has been the Head Singer / Managing Director – SilverCloud Singers New York, NY 1991-Present. As New York City's leading Native American Drum Group SilverCloud Singers, established in 1991, performed at all NYC's Premier venues, traveled both nationally and internationally sharing and educating on Native culture through song and dance.

He was the President, Native American Youth Council for New York City, in 1992. The Native American Youth Council for New York City was developed to provide American Indian/Alaska Native youth in New York City and its surrounding areas a safe space to feel welcomed and motivated to achieve their goals. He was East Coast Coordinator for Red Nations Survival Run New York, NY 1992:he raised funds and organized a week of kickoff events for Red

Nations Survival Run. A group of Lakota Runners ran from New York City to Los Angeles to bring awareness of Native issues. Raised over \$30,000.

Kevin Tarrant's education has been at Columbia's Business School (2010-2012, Senior Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals), at New York University (1991, General Studies), at City University of New York, Brooklyn (1989-1991, Electrical Engineering) and at CITTONE Institute, Edison, NJ (1987-1989, Electrical Engineering).

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz is the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since 2014. In the fulfillment of her mandate, she conducts fact-finding missions and reports on the human rights situation in specific countries; addresses cases of alleged violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples through communications with governments and others; promotes good practices to implement international standards concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and conducts thematic studies on topics of special importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. She is an Indigenous leader from the Kankana-ey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines. As an Indigenous activist, she has worked for over three decades on building movements among Indigenous Peoples and as an advocate for women's rights. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz is the former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2005-2010) and has also served as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. As an Indigenous leader, she was actively engaged in drafting and in the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. She has founded and managed various NGOs involved in social awareness raising, climate change and the advancement of Indigenous peoples' and women's rights. She is also a member of the United Nations Development Programme Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee. In her capacity as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz has provided expert testimony before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and policy advice to, *inter alia*, the World Bank and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).