



## PEACE III CONFERENCE 2010

### WATERFRONT HALL

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Tomas Baum - Director, Flemish Peace Institute**

Tomas Baum (born in 1972) studied Philosophy at the University of Antwerp, the University of Brussels and the New School for Social Research in New York; Applied Ethics at the Catholic University of Leuven; and International Politics at the University of Antwerp. Previously he was Director of the research organisation International Peace Information Service (IPIS).

His research interest concerns IR theory, ethics and political philosophy. Epistemological and ethical groundings of the use of violence by democratic actors are points of particular interest. Within the frame of track two diplomacy and 'P2P' programmes he engages as a facilitator in conflict transformation processes based on insights from participatory community building and theories of conflict resolution.

#### **Degrees**

- MA in International Politics (University of Antwerp, 2003)
- MA in Applied Ethics (Catholic University of Leuven, 2000)
- MA in Philosophy (University of Brussels, 1997)
- BA in Philosophy (University of Antwerp, 1994)

#### **Career**

- Director of the Flemish Peace Institute (2006 – present)
- Lecturer at the University of Antwerp (2004 – 2007) Seminar 'Power and Science'  
Department of International Politics, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences  
Lecturer-in-charge: Prof Dr Yvan Vanden Berghe
- Director of International Peace Information Service (IPIS) npo (2004 – 2005)
- Assistant in International Politics (2004)  
Lecturer-in-charge: Prof. Dr. Yvan Vanden Berghe  
Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, University of Antwerp
- Chief Editor at 'Out in Antwerp' (2002-2003)
- Freelancer at 'De Morgen' (2001-2002)
- Teacher Dutch, History, Religion and English (2001-2004)

#### **Articles in journals, chapters in books and reviews**

- Baum, T. (2008), De ethiek van een bedrijf en het bedrijf van de ethiek, in: Vanmolkot, R. (ed.) *Een doodgewoon bedrijf*, VUBPRESS, p. 41-46
- Baum, T. (2008), A Quest for Inspiration in the Liberal Peace Paradigm: Back to Bentham?, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol.14 No.3
- Baum, T. (2007), Risicotransfer: een evolutie in militaire aangelegenheden, in: *Internationaal Humanitair Recht in de kijker*, Red Cross

- Verbruggen D., Dansaert, P., Baum, T., e.a. (2005), *Wapentrafieken in de regio van de grote meren: Tanzania*, IPIS-dossier 145
- NATO, CCMS Report nr. 260 (2003), Methodology focalization, evaluation and scope of Environmental Impact Assessment (editing and conclusions)

#### **Awards, membership of scholarly associations, service to the community**

- Member of the Editing Board of Global Society – Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations
- Engagement in conflict transformation processes. Group facilitation with Palestinians, Israeli's and Europeans via Dialogue Lab: March 2007 in Talitha Kumi (OPT), January 2007 in Berlin (DL), December 2004 in Egmond (NL), February 2004 in Amsterdam (NL) and August 2003 in Kopenhagen (DK)
- Member of Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations

#### **Kenneth Bush - INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute)**

Kenneth Bush is the Research Coordinator at INCORE. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations and Comparative Politics from Cornell University. From 2004 to 2009, he was a founding professor of the Conflict Studies Programme at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada.

Dr. Bush has held teaching positions at Queen's University (Kingston, Canada), Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada), and Bilkent University (Ankara, Turkey). From 1998-2004, he was a Geneva-based Research Fellow with the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University.

Dr. Bush has worked with a broad spectrum of development and humanitarian organizations in the Global North and South. He was Special Advisor on Humanitarian Issues to the Canadian Government when it served on the UN Security Council (1998-2000).

He has published widely on issues of peace building, evaluation, identity-based conflict, and bad governance. Current activities include: developing and mainstreaming practical tools and processes that anticipate, monitor, and assess the peace and conflict impacts of development projects in conflict zones; the peace and conflict dimensions of diasporas; and work on the commodification of peace building or the conflict-generating impacts of "peace building" initiatives; and the role of local government in peace building.

#### **Maurice Maxwell - The European Commission Office in Northern Ireland**

Maurice is an honours graduate in Economics from Queens University and qualified as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, Belfast in 1975. He transferred to the Brussels office of Price Waterhouse in 1976 and later joined Beecham Pharmaceuticals as a Financial Manager.

Maurice joined the European Commission in 1983 and has worked in the fields of Research and Development, Enterprise policy, Small Business policy and the Internal Market. He subsequently worked closely with Commissioner Neil Kinnock's team charged with the Reform of the internal management of the Commission.

In 2004 Maurice was asked to open a new European Commission Delegation in Wellington, New Zealand where he represented the Commission as Head of Delegation until September 2007. He was appointed Head of the European Commission Representation in Northern Ireland effective 1 September 2008.

### **Ronan Gingles - Irish Regions, (Brussels Office)**

Ronan Gingles is based with the Irish Regions Brussels Office – a joint venture between the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, the eight Regional Authorities and two Regional Assemblies.

His position as EU Programmes & Communications Officer involves monitoring and reporting on a range of issues associated with the EU which are of specific relevance to Ireland's regional and local authorities and their various stakeholders. As well as advisory and advocacy efforts, this role includes identifying networking and funding opportunities offered by the EU and facilitating beneficial uptake by Irish organisations'. He produces and circulates a monthly electronic *EU News Bulletin* for his target audience.

Ronan's background in EU funding was through the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly (2002-2008). This included coordinating the organisation's involvement as a partner in separate transnational INTERREG projects on technological innovation for regional competitiveness (ESTIIC) and on improving the general quality of INTERREG programme and project management practices (Re-ACT).

Simultaneously he had responsibility as National Contact Point for developing Irish involvement in project applications to the IIIB and IVB INTERREG North West Europe programme as well as for assisting approved projects' implementation.

From 1998-2001, he managed the official European Commission EU information service for Ireland's North-East region, based in Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Ronan is a native of Co. Meath and holds First Class Masters Degrees in Town & County Planning (University of the West of England) and in International Studies (University of Limerick).

### **Bernice Sweeney - International Officer, Youth Council for NI**

Bernice Sweeney is the International Officer within the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI). She has responsibility for the co-ordination of the YCNI International Committee which is comprised of representatives from both the statutory and voluntary youth sectors, and is charged with the promotion, coordination and evaluation of European, International and North/South policy and initiatives. With their expertise and networking capacity within the non-formal education sector, the YCNI have through Bernice, undertaken the role of Regional Co-ordinator for the former European 'Youth', and now 'Youth-in Action' Programme, in Northern Ireland, on behalf of the UK National Agency.

Bernice has previously lectured in European Policy at the University of Ulster (Magee), and has taught both French and European studies at the North-West Institute of Further and Higher Education, and a number of schools in Derry. She has worked for many years in Luxembourg and Athens for the European Commission, within the education field, and was awarded a Robert Schuman Scholarship to the European Parliament.

## **Peter Bunting - Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions**

Peter Bunting is the Assistant General Secretary for the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Peter has the responsibility of co-ordinating and developing the Trade Union Movement in Northern Ireland. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is the single umbrella organisation for trade unions on the island of Ireland. The Northern Ireland Committee (NIC) of the ICTU is the representative body for approximately 36 trade unions with 231,000 members across Northern Ireland. Peter also co-ordinates the work of NIC.ICTU Belfast office which includes ten staff members who support a variety of trade union initiatives.

The trade union movement plays an active role in the social and development life in Northern Ireland. For example, as well as a number of community initiatives, Peter is involved in several organisations including the Management Committee of TradeMark, the Management Committee of Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre; Belfast City Council Good Relations Committee and the Economic Development Forum. Peter also served on the Board of Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company, the Labour Relations Commission and Concordia (Social Partnership Alliance).

A native of Belfast, Peter has been an active trade unionist since 1972. Prior to his appointment to Congress, Peter served as General Secretary of the National Bus and Rail Union in the Republic of Ireland. Peter held several representative positions within the NBRU from shop steward to General President. He holds a BA (Hons) from the Faculty of Business, Economic and Social Science, Trinity College, Dublin.

For more information on the work of the Northern Ireland Committee Irish Congress of Trade Unions go to [www.ictuni.org](http://www.ictuni.org).

## **Angila Chada - Executive Director of Springboard Opportunities Ltd.**

Angila Chada is currently Executive Director of Springboard Opportunities Limited. Since 1992 she has been responsible for the development of a range of innovative community based interventions, involving over 5000 people and each promoting an appreciation of intercultural diversity and building capacity.

In 2009 she was appointed as a Charity Commissioner in the first ever Charities Commission for Northern Ireland, she also currently holds Board membership for Intercomm a local regeneration agency in North Belfast and sits on the Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership.

She has also been involved in numerous activities for the voluntary and community sector, such as participation in PEACE II evaluation processes, membership of various fora and involvement in community planning and strategic development activities. Previously Angila built her professional skills base as a Manager in a London consultancy house. She is a certified practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming and has attained a range of qualifications including Msc in Voluntary Sector Management.