







## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

### ■ DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE BAHÁ'Í CHAIR FOR WORLD PEACE

In 2023, the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland celebrated its 30th anniversary. This amazing accomplishment was only made possible by years of hard work and generous support from so many individuals over the decades. To acknowledge this historic moment, the Chair hosted a special event at the University of Maryland on January 30, 2023. More than 300 people, some of whom traveled from across the world, came to celebrate this momentous occasion. It was a special time to remind ourselves and others about the Chair's accomplishments, reaffirm our dedication to the Chair's

principles, and renew our commitment to the Chair's ongoing efforts. The Bahá'í Chair seeks to engage the world's most complex questions.

Questions like:

What is the best pathway to a successful model of global governance? How can we best address the dangers facing our natural environment? What is the best way to secure the full equality of women in the world? How can we remove structural racism and prejudice? And finally, how can we better understand ourselves, and each other? All these questions – and many more – can be summed up by an additional question.

How might we imagine a new world?

Against the backdrop of increased division and fragmentation, the Chair invites scholars, writers, educators,

researchers, and academics to consider the major questions of peace and security. The Chair is not beholden to specific ideologies, nor do we engage in identity competitions. Instead, we do the difficult work of peace – harnessing intellectual and spiritual insight with practical and pragmatic steps. But while difficult, we believe the work of peace is necessary, and possible. Or, as we stated at our 30th anniversary celebration:

We are sunny about the possibilities of change, but we are sober-minded about the complexity of the world and the existence of evil. We are always looking for an alignment of social and moral and ethical interests, and we believe – indeed, we have seen over time – that such an alignment is possible. We refuse to consider the notion that a better world cannot be constructed. For we can see, historically, that in fits and starts, progress has been made. Our optimism is therefore not a metaphysical, hand over the eyes, unscientific optimism. Rather, it is an optimism rooted in empirical reality. Because we believe this, we are ever eager to contribute to the causes of peace.

For 30 years, the Bahá'í Chair has collaborated with scholars, researchers, and practitioners, both at the University of Maryland and internationally, to tackle the difficult issues of peace, promote the Chair's vision of peace, and how this vision aligns with the University of Mary-

land's strategic plan to move fearlessly forward.

During the past year the Chair hosted 7 events. These include: [“Academic Discourse and Dialogue: The Israel-Palestine Crisis”](#); [“Challenges to Global and Peace and Security”](#); [“Breaking the Spell of High Conflict”](#); [“The Interplay of Technology, Ethics, and Policy”](#); [“Infrastructure, Wellbeing, and the Measurement of Happiness”](#).

During the past year the Chair published 4 edited books. These were: [Women and Inequality in a Changing World: Exploring New Paradigms for Peace](#); [Infrastructure, Wellbeing, and the Measurement of Happiness](#); [Systemic Racism in America: Sociological Theory, Education Inequality, and Social Change](#); and [Fundamental Challenges to Global Peace and Security: The Future of Humanity](#). Our [Visiting Research Professors](#) also published more than 10 articles.

We believe that peace will never be fully realized without a fundamentally different approach. We believe that the work toward the creation of peace requires a diligent, scientific, and heartfelt commitment to humanity's betterment. We believe that our common diversity is a source of strength. We believe that human beings can work together to accomplish great things. We believe that this work hinges on our ability to educate ourselves and others.

We are proud of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Yet, our journey towards peace is far from over, and our battle for peace is only beginning. Challenges persist in a world marred by hatred, conflict, and division. Difficulties abound in a modern environment defined by separation. But because of your ongoing efforts, we are creating a legacy of peace for generations to come. In these times of great uncertainty, your continued support has been the cornerstone of our endeavors.

As we look forward to a new year, we reaffirm our commitment to being the architects of a more just and compassionate world. Using the blueprint of peaceful principles, we are seeking to extend the reach and impact of the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace.

Thank you for standing with us on this transformative journey. Your support fuels our determination and your partnering with the Chair is an investment in a world where peace is not just an ideal but a living reality.

With gratitude and unwavering dedication,

**Hoda Mahmoudi**

Chair and Research Professor  
The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace

➡ [CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHAIR ONLINE](#)



# OUR EVENTS



[Learn more →](#)

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT

January 20, 2023 (In-Person)

**Dean Susan Rivera**, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland College Park

**Provost Jennifer King Rice**, Vice President and Provost, University of Maryland College Park

**Professor Hoda Mahmoudi**, Research Professor and Chair, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland College Park

**Mr. Kenneth E. Bowers**, Secretary, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

**Ms. Sein Chew**, President and CEO, Unity Asset Management

**Ms. Emily Gorey**, Strategist, 72andSunny

**Dr. James Madaio**, Research Fellow, Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, and Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Professor Rashawn Ray**, Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Lab for Applied Social Science Research, University of Maryland, College Park

**Dr. Tiffani Razavi**, Visiting Research Professor, Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland College Park

**Ms. Ashli Taylor**, US Air Force



[Learn more →](#)

## BOOK DISCUSSION: INFRASTRUCTURE, WELLBEING, AND THE MEASUREMENT OF HAPPINESS

March 30, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Hoda Mahmoudi**, Research Professor and Chair, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland College Park

**Professor Jenny Roe**, Professor and Director, Centre for Design & Health in the School of Architecture, University of Virginia

**Dr. Kate Seaman**, Assistant Director, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland College Park

**Moderator: Ms. Stella Hudson**, Graduate Assistant, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland College Park



# 30 YEARS

THE BAHÁ'Í CHAIR  
FOR WORLD PEACE



International Advisory Board Members with Professor Hoda Mahmoudi at the 30th Anniversary Celebration Event

**Variants in the Machine:**  
Mothering and Other-mothering  
Toward Afrofutures

**KRIS F SEALEY**  
Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair,  
Fairfield University

April 25, 2023  
2:00pm–3:30pm EST • Virtual  
Register: [tinyurl.com/bahai-sealey](https://tinyurl.com/bahai-sealey)

## VARIANTS IN THE MACHINE: MOTHERING AND OTHER-MOTHERING TOWARDS AFRO-FUTURES

April 25, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Kris Sealey**, Professor of Philosophy at Fairfield University (now Professor of Philosophy at Penn State University)

[Learn more →](#)

**The Interplay  
of Technology,  
Ethics, and Policy**

**PROFESSOR ROB REICH**  
Professor of Political Science, Director  
of Center for Ethics, Technology, and  
Policy, and Professor of  
Engineering, Applied  
Science, and Behavioral  
Science Department,  
Stanford University

**PROFESSOR MEHRAN SAHAMI**  
Professor of Engineering, Applied  
Science, and Behavioral  
Science Department,  
Stanford University

**PROFESSOR JEREMY M. WEINSTEIN**  
Professor of Political Science,  
Faculty Director of Center for  
Ethics, Technology, and Policy,  
and Director of Center for  
Ethics, Technology, and Policy,  
Stanford University

May 2, 2023  
2:00pm–3:30pm EST • Virtual  
Register: [tinyurl.com/bahai-tech](https://tinyurl.com/bahai-tech)

## THE INTERPLAY OF TECHNOLOGY, ETHICS, AND POLICY

May 2, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Rob Reich**, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University  
**Professor Mehran Sahami**, Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University  
**Professor Jeremy M. Weinstein**, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

[Learn more →](#)



## DISTURBING THE PEACE: PLACING PUBLIC DISCOURSE

October 3, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Samantha L. Martin**,  
Associate Professor in the School of  
Architecture, Planning and Environmental  
Policy, University College Dublin

**Dr Thaisa Way**, Director for Garden &  
Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks  
Research Library and Collection

[Learn more →](#)



## ANNUAL LECTURE 2023: BREAKING THE SPELL OF HIGH CONFLICT

October 19, 2023 (In-Person)

**Amanda Ripley**, Co-Host of the Slate podcast How -To, and best selling author of 'High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get out', and 'The Unthinkable'

[Learn more →](#)

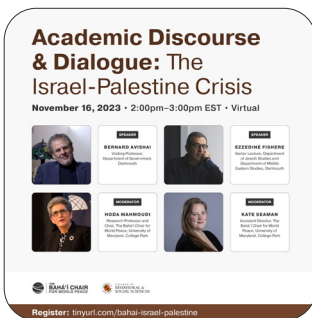


## BOOK DISCUSSION: GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY (PUBLISHED BY THE BAHÁ'Í CHAIR)

November 6, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Simon Dalby**, Centre for International Governance Innovation Chair in the Political Economy of Climate Change at the Balsillie School of International Affairs

[Learn more →](#)



## ACADEMIC DISCOURSE & DIALOGUE: THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CRISIS

November 16, 2023 (Virtual)

**Professor Bernard Avishai**, Visiting  
Professor of Government, Dartmouth,  
and Adjunct Professor of Business at the  
Hebrew University

**Professor Ezzedine C. Fishere**, Senior  
Lecturer, Jewish Studies and Middle  
Eastern Studies, Dartmouth

[Learn more →](#)



ANNUAL LECTURE



Professor Mahmoudi and Dr Kate Seaman with Student Ambassadors from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences



Annual Lecture Speaker Amanda Ripley (R) with Professor Mahmoudi





Ms. Ashli Taylor, Former Student



Professor Barbara Finkelstein and Dr. Homa Mahmoudi

# PUBLICATIONS

## MONOGRAPH PUBLICATIONS

**Dr. Susan I. Moody’s Travels to Iran, 1909-1935: Courageous Odyssey** (Routledge, Forthcoming April 2024) Dr Hoda Mahmoudi. Part of the book series in Routledge Research in Gender and History.

**A World Without War** (Bahá’í Publishing, 2020) co-authored with Dr. Janet Khan

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUME PUBLICATIONS

**Peace**, Professor Hoda Mahmoudi in Ed. Robert H. Stockman, [\*The World of the Bahá’í Faith\*](#), (Routledge, 2022)

**The Bahá’í Faith: Interface between the Secular and Religions**, Professor Hoda Mahmoudi in Eds. Simone Raudino and Uzma Ashraf Barton, [\*Abraham and the Secular: Fracture and Composition\*](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021)



Dr. Kate Seaman, Professor Hoda Mahmoudi, Ms. Zoe Lebovic and Ms. Eden Adhanom



---

## VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW PUBLICATIONS

---

Razavi, Tiffani Betts (2023), [Parity, paradigms, and possibilities: a constructive approach to advancing women's equality](#). SN Soc Sci 3, 49

Razavi, Tiffani Betts & Hoda Mahmoudi, (2023) *What can be learned from looking for gender differences in peace education data? Lessons from a Bahá'í-inspired undergraduate course*. Journal of Peace Studies.

Razavi, Tiffani Betts & Hoda Mahmoudi (2022): *A Bahá'í concept of peace as a resource for peace education: Case study of 'The Problem of Prejudice'*, Journal of Peace Education.

des Bouvrie, Nicole (2021) [Exploring the Craft of Exilic Thinking/Becoming](#). Open Philosophy, Vol. 4 (Issue 1), pp. 124-135.

Dehghani, Sasha and Omid Ghaemmaghami (Eds.), (2023) *From the Seed of Love we Sow: Further Research on Tahiri Qurrat al-Ayn, Hawwa*, Brill Publications.

Dehghani, Sasha (2023) "Tahiri Qurrat al-Ayn and the Women's Avantgarde in Europe", in *Hawwa*. Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World, Brill Publications, pp. 381-409.

Dehghani, Sasha (2023) "From the Seed of Love We Sow": *Further Research on Tahiri Qurrat al-Ayn*. Introduction to *Hawwa* Special Issue on Tahiri, Hawwa,

Brill Publications, pp. 282-284.

Dehghani, Sasha (2023) "The Kitab-i-Iqan, Iran and the Challenge of 'the New'", in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam / 54*

Dehghani, Sasha (2022) "Baha'u'llah's Suratu'l-Haykal: Leib, Frieden und International Body Politic" [Baha'u'llah's Suratu'l-Haykal: Peace and 'International Body Politic'], in Leibverständnis und Leibvergessenheit, special issue of *Falsafa. Horizonte Islamischer Religionsphilosophie*, ed. Milad Karimi and Maryam Palizban: 6/2022, pp. 131-151.

Dehghani, Sasha (2022) "Tahiri Qurrat al-Ayn im deutschsprachigen Europa: Faszination der Orientalistik und Inspiration der Frauenbewegung" [Tahiri Qurrat al-Ayn: Fascination of Oriental Studies and Inspiration for Women's Movement], in *Handbuch der Religionen, Hohenwarsleben: West Science Verlag, 70/2022 (v. 3.1.)*, pp. 1-23.

Dehghani, Sasha (2022) "Me, We – Jenseits von Exklusivismus" [Me, We: Beyond Exclusivism], in *Dialog und Transformation. Auf dem Weg zu einer pluralistischen Religionspädagogik*, ed. Thorsten Knauth et al., Waxmann: Münster/New York, pp. 136-155.

Dehghani, Sasha (2022) "Progressive Revelation", in *The World of the Baha'i Faith*, ed. Robert Stockmann, Routledge, London/New York, pp. 188-201.



**IN RELATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ACTIONS ACTUALLY NOW CARRY CONSEQUENCES AND CONSEQUENCES AT A MUCH MORE RAPID RATE THAN WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO UNDERSTANDING.**

PROFESSOR SIMON DALBY AND PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE KU

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACIES

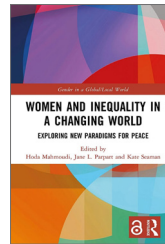
■ The African American experience at the connecting point between segregation and integration is a watershed moment in our nation's history. From there, we can trace the lines as a distinct and separate culture merges into others. In the wake of this transition, one can therefore have a snapshot glimpse of a remarkable before and after moment by speaking with those individuals who grew up in an age before integration and can then speak to their lives after. Even for those who did not grow up under 'direct' segregation, the systemic and experiential reality of our nation's racial practices forced communities to develop their own indigenous life approaches – their own unique civilizations.

The purpose of these planned cultural documentation activities is to gain a sense of the variety and nuance that existed in the African American community – across regional, economic, and structural differences. As such we have identified individuals from Southern/Northern, rural/urban, well-to-do/poor, Eastern/Western, and a variety of other differences as well. Reaching for such a minimum of diversity requires that we interview a considerable number of individuals (roughly 25). Teasing out the true expression of their experiences also demands that these interviews be somewhat long (roughly 3-4 hours). The roughly 100 hours of footage we plan to develop requires detailed pre- and post-production planning. We have enlisted a mobile videographer and are also creating interview locales on both the East and West coasts. To date 22 individuals have been interviewed.

The next stage is to apply for a grant to make a documentary and an online archive from the footage recorded.



## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

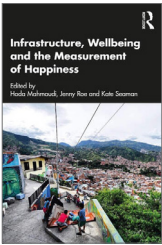


### [Women and Inequality in a Changing World: Exploring New Paradigms for Peace](#)

(Routledge, 2023)

This volume is co-edited by Hoda Mahmoudi, Jane Parpart and Kate Seaman explores the obstacles women continue to face to their equal participation in all areas of daily life—political, social, and economic—which persist despite the growth in the education of girls, large-scale social movements, and political waves. The volume widens and deepens understanding of women in relation to the inequalities they face, based not only on gender, but also on race, class, religion, and more. It also highlights the progress that women have made, and how this progress contributes to the creation of more peaceful and prosperous societies. This interdisciplinary book brings together leading scholars and practitioners from across the globe to provide a wide range of perspectives and experiences, examine crucial questions, and offer new ideas and innovative solutions to increasing the role of women moving forward. *Women and Inequality in a Changing World* has been selected by the [Knowledge Unlatched Selection Committee](#) (comprising specialist subject librarians from all over the world) to be part of the “[Knowledge Unlatched Select 2023 HSS Books](#)” collection of Open Access (free access) scholarly books. The [title list](#) is highly selective, and only a small number of submissions from publishers are chosen to make the final cut, which has a rejection rate of over 60 percent. ►





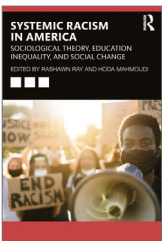
**[Infrastructure, Wellbeing, and the Measurement of Happiness](#)**

(Routledge, 2022)

This volume was co-edited by Hoda Mahmoudi, Jenny Roe, and Kate Seaman.

This book takes an interdisciplinary approach to our understanding of infrastructure, and its influence on happiness and wellbeing, by examining the concept from economic, human development, architectural, urban planning, psychological, and ethical points of view. Providing insights from both research and practice the volume discusses how to develop happier cities and improve urban infrastructure for the wellbeing of the whole population.

The book puts forth the argument that it is only in understanding the true nature of infrastructure’s reach – how it connects, supports, and enlivens human beings – that we can truly begin to understand infrastructure’s possibilities. It connects infrastructure to that most elusive of human qualities – happiness – examining the way infrastructure is fundamentally tied to human values and human well-being. The book seeks to suggest novel approaches, identify outmoded undertakings, and define new possibilities in order to maximize infrastructure’s impact for all people – with a focus on diversity, inclusion and equity.

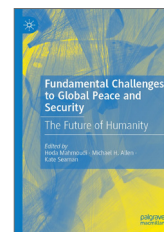


**[Systemic Racism in America: Sociological Theory, Education Inequality, and Social Change](#)**

(Routledge, 2022)

This volume features papers from the series on Structural Racism and the Root Causes of Prejudice. The volume is co-edited by Rashawn Ray and Hoda Mahmoudi. The volume assem-

bles renowned and thought-provoking social scientists to address the destructive impacts of structural racism and the recent, incendiary incidents that have driven racial injustice and racial inequality to the fore of public discussion and debate. The book is organized into three parts to explore and explain the ways in which racism persists, permeates, and operates within our society. The first part presents theoretical perspectives to analyze the roots and manifestation of contemporary racism; the second concentrates on educational inequality and structural issues within our institutions of learning that have led to stark racial disparities; and the third and final section focuses on solutions to our current state and how people, regardless of their race, can advocate for racial equity.



**[Fundamental Challenges to Global Peace and Security: The Future of Humanity](#)**

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

This volume was co-edited by Hoda Mahmoudi, Michael Allen and Kate Seaman. The book challenges the current thinking and strategies in the field of global peace and security. It is clear that current global public and private institutions are inadequate for the challenges we face today. These challenges cut across borders and require a more coordinated and concerted effort to find workable solutions. This book therefore begins with the question of global leadership and works its way back to the interconnected dynamics of global modernity and conflict. It is divided into four parts, each addressing a fundamental challenge to global peace and security. By exploring how we break out of the current framework, in which we understand global activities and the distribution of resources, and this book provides new ways of understanding the material, cultural, political, and spiritual relations that form the basis of international society.

## FORTHCOMING EDITED VOLUME

■ ***Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Environmental Justice and Climate Equality*** (Forthcoming, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024)

Co-edited by Hoda Mahmoudi and Kate Seaman, this volume is under contract with Edward Elgar Publishing and features papers presented at both the Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Solutions Conference in April 2020, and the Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Environmental Justice and Climate Equality Conference in September 2021. The volume will be published in 2024.

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

■ ***“What can be learned from looking for gender differences in peace education data? Lessons from a Bahá’í-inspired undergraduate course.*** *Journal of Peace Education*, 2023. *Dr. Tiffani Betts Razavi & Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi*

This article describes a Bahá’í concept of peace in the context of discussions about the nature and focus of peace education, in particular the role of moral education as an element of peace education. It introduces the notions of human nobility and the oneness of humanity as the moral basis for holistic peace within a framework of the collective social evolution of humanity, and explores the idea of identifying, understanding, and removing barriers to unity, specifically in the form of inequalities and prejudices, as the foundation of an approach to peace education. The application of such an approach to a university level course is shared through a case study of ‘The Problem of Prejudice’, offered by the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland, College Park. Key strands of content and pedagogy are described, and qualitative data from students participating in the course in 2021 (n = 20), collected in the form of self-perceptions of changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and commitment, are presented. The article concludes with a discussion

of the learning gained from this study and how a Bahá’í concept of peace may serve as a resource for university peace educators and students.

■ ***A Bahá’í concept of peace as a resource for peace education: Case study of ‘The Problem of Prejudice’.*** *Journal of Peace Education*, 2022. *Dr. Tiffani Betts Razavi & Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi*

This article describes a Bahá’í concept of peace in the context of discussions about the nature and focus of peace education, in particular the role of moral education as an element of peace education. It introduces the notions of human nobility and the oneness of humanity as the moral basis for holistic peace within a framework of the collective social evolution of humanity, and explores the idea of identifying, understanding, and removing barriers to unity, specifically in the form of inequalities and prejudices, as the foundation of an approach to peace education. The application of such an approach to a university level course is shared through a case study of ‘The Problem of Prejudice’, offered by the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland, College Park. Key strands of content and pedagogy are described, and qualitative data from students participating in the course in 2021 (n = 20), collected in the form of self-perceptions of changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and commitment, are presented. The article concludes with a discussion of the learning gained from this study and how a Bahá’í concept of peace may serve as a resource for university peace educators and students.

■ ***The Split That Isn’t in International Journal for the Historiography of Education 11(2) 2021.*** *Dr Hoda Mahmoudi*

(Ed.) Secularization theories play(ed) a central role in our self-understanding as modern people and researchers. However, it has become increasingly clear how much



they have marginalized the difference between church and religion and tended to overlook how religiosity shapes modern understandings of science, nation, and school. This insight plays an essential role especially in the field of modern education, as it is precisely located at the intersection of modern educational science and psychology, the nation-state, and the modern school. Mette Buchardt has taken on the task of analyzing this complex phenomenon, which has so much to do with us and our self-understanding as rational citizens and researchers, asking what epistemological consequences it has for research when we abandon the premises of secularization theories. Seven internationally operating scholars have commented on her considerations.

---

■ ***Peace is Everything: An Examination of the Bahá'í Faith's Concept of Peace in Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte 72 (3) (Journal of Religious and Cultural Studies). Summer 2020. Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi***

---

■ ***Freedom and the Iranian Women's Movement in Contexts Magazine. Summer 2019. Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi***

---

■ ***Networking Responsibility: Regional Agents and Changing International Norms in Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations. Global Governance 25(1). 2019. Dr. Kate Seaman***



Professor Hoda Mahmoudi at Maryland Day 2023





Professor Rashawn Ray at the 30th Anniversary Celebration Event

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

### JULY 2023

#### Online Event

History of the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace

### APRIL 2023

#### Flagship's Finest: An Evening of Gratitude

Hillwood Estate, DC

At the invitation of the University of Maryland's Provost, Professor Jennifer King Rice, Professor Mahmoudi was invited to be the faculty speaker on the theme "determined women." This event brings together some of the university's most dedicated donors (with lifetime giving of more than \$250K to Maryland) and university leadership at the Hillwood Estate.

### APRIL 2023

#### Trip to University of Georgia, Athens

Events and Class Lectures Included:

1. Welcome meet and greet
2. Human Rights Class with Dr. Deen - Human Dignity & Human Rights: Ethics of Care
3. Global Security Policy Class with Dr. Park - Transformations Required in Current World Order
4. Global Peace Lecture - Is a world without war possible?
5. School of Social Work - Promoting Civil Discourse
6. Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens - Religion as Barrier to Greater Society
7. UGA President Jere Morehead - Discussion of 30th Anniversary of Chair
8. War and Gender Class with Dr. Gallagher - Iranian Women's Movement
9. Religion Department Lecture with Dr. Medine - Institutional and Personal Investment in the Fight Against Racial Prejudice
10. Global Perspectives on Gender Class with Dr.



---

Richards - Iranian Women's Movement

11. Human Rights Class with Dr. Clay - Human Dignity & Human Rights: Ethics of Care
  12. Panel Discussion with Athens Area Human Relations Council - Panel: Transforming Unjust Systems
- 

## **MARCH 2023**

### **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Bahá'í Studies Program, Online course

The Spiritual Struggle for Global Peace Through a careful exposition of the Bahá'í concept of peace, 'Abdu'l-Bahá details how world leaders have chosen a narrowly focused political approach to peace. He explains that such an approach is insufficient, and that in order to build a lasting peace humanity must join together to eradicate the manifold barriers to peace wherever they occur.

---

## **MARCH 2023**

### **Race to Speak Up Podcast**

Online Event

---

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

### **Healing a Wounded World: Voices from the Bahá'í Tradition**

Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion and co-sponsored by the University of Notre Dame's Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, and Department of American Studies. Online event

Humankind has long struggled with afflictions such as war, racism, and gender inequality. On February 28, we welcome perspectives from the Bahá'í tradition, which teaches the essential worth of all religions and the unity of all people.

### **Panelists:**

Hoda Mahmoudi, Research Professor and Chair, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland  
Robert Stockman, Director, Wilmette Institute, Affiliated Faculty Member, Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion

June Manning Thomas, Centennial Professor Emerita of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

### **Moderator:**

Charles W. Powell, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Multifaith Engagement Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion

---

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

### **Racial Healing-Justice and Unity Bahá'í Inspired Series**

The Intersectionality Between Race, Environmental Justice and World Peace

---

## **JANUARY 2023**

### **Career Q+A: Navigating Religious Identity at Work**

University of Maryland Engineering Career Services  
Online Event

Professor Mahmoudi offered comments on navigating religious identity in the workplace

---

## **OCTOBER 2022**

### **At the invitation of the Embassy of Azerbaijan**

Professor Hoda Mahmoudi attended the International Conference on "Interfaith harmony for global peace and security". Catholic University of America, Washington DC

# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



## VISITING RESEARCH FACULTY

### Dr. Sasha Deghani

received an M.A. degree in Islamic Studies, Political Science, Protestant Theology/Religious Studies from the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena and earned a

'summa cum laude' Ph.D. in Arabic Studies from the Free University of Berlin.

His current focus is on prevalent academic theories at the interface of Religion, Philosophy and Civilization since the end of the second world war – such as Samuel Huntingtons Clash, Edward Saids Orientalism or Karl Jaspers Axial Age, to name only a few – examining to what extent their works have had a peaceful-unifying or divisive-disintegrational effect on the academic world and beyond.



## VISITING RESEARCH FACULTY

### Dr. Tiffani Betts Razavi

holds a D.Phil in psychology from the University of Oxford (Values and Occupational Stress: The Role of Individual-Organizational Value Congruence

in the Workplace), has lectured in psychology, research methods, and organizational behavior at the University of Southampton, and coordinated values-based curriculum development for the spiritual education of children.

Dr Razavi's research and writing explore people and their environments, the changing nature of work and education, women and peace. She is especially interested in human values, and in the conversations that connect observation and insight with practice. As a staff writer for The International Educator, in recent articles she has reviewed critical thinking skills, progress in education prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the health crisis on global happiness.

This year, she collaborated with the Chair to conduct a case study of the undergraduate course, The Problem of Prejudice, as part of a discussion of the Bahá'í concept of peace and its pedagogical implications for peace educators. She also published "A Bahá'í Perspective on the Meaning of Work and Values" as a chapter in the edited volume, The University of Haifa Lectures in Bahá'í Studies, and is working on various pieces examining the themes of the Chair, in particular the equality of women and men, peace and the process of social change.



**OUR JOB IS TO SHOW THEM HOW THEY CAN BUILD AN ARGUMENT, UNPACK DISCOURSES, IDENTIFY BIASES, FIND OUT, EXPAND, AND QUESTION OTHER PERSPECTIVES.**

PROFESSOR EZZEDINE FISHERE



A Student Ambassador from the College of Behavioral and Social Science at the 30th Anniversary Celebration Event





**GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

**Eden Adhanom** serves as the Graduate Assistant at the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace. She is currently a Graduate Student at the University of Maryland, where she's pursuing a Master of

Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Care Management. Eden completed her B.S. in Public Health Science at the University of Maryland in 2023. She's also an alumni of the Global Public Health Scholars program at UMD.

With a strong foundation in public health, Eden's work as a Graduate Assistant reflects her determination to make a positive impact on the world by promoting peace, well-being, and equitable access to healthcare.



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING**

**Zoe Lebovic** is the Social Media and Marketing Intern at the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace. She is in charge of creating and sharing content across our social media platforms as well as promoting upcoming events. Zoe is a senior at the University of Maryland studying Marketing. She is an alumni of the Justice and Legal Thought Scholars program at UMD and is involved in various on campus clubs.

After college, she plans on attending law school and pursuing a future career in the legal field. She also hopes to visit more new countries after finding a love for traveling while studying abroad in Spain. In her free time, Zoe likes to workout, spend time with friends and family, and binge watch her favorite TV shows.

After college, she plans on attending law school and pursuing a future career in the legal field. She also hopes to visit more new countries after finding a love for traveling while studying abroad in Spain. In her free time, Zoe likes to workout, spend time with friends and family, and binge watch her favorite TV shows.



Dr. Kate Seaman, Professor Hoda Mahmoudi, Ms Stella Hudson and Ms Meredith Friedland at Maryland Day 2023





#### ANALYTICS





## WEBSITE

The website has had over **13,000 visitors** since launching in February of 2022. Around 57% of these visitors come to the site directly, 34% via search engine, and 9% through our social media links. The geographic reach of the site has increased, and we have now had visitors from over **100 countries**.

#### ANALYTICS

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Bahá'í Chair is active on social media: Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. The Chair's following has increased from 2022-2023 by:

-  **5.57%** increase in followers on **Twitter**  
(1,098 Followers)
-  **13.23%** increase in followers on **Instagram**  
(1,144 Followers)
-  **192** new followers on **Threads**
-  **38.4%** increase in likes on **Facebook**  
(2,039 Page Likes, 2,324 Followers)

In addition, the **YouTube** channel has accumulated over 12,200 views, and 124 new subscribers. Since the YouTube channel was created in 2013, it has accumulated over 90,200 views, 926 subscribers, and has **1,322,750 impressions**.



Professor Hoda Mahmoudi with Professor Barbara Little and Professor Paul Shackel



Dr Rabi Musah and Professor Hoda Mahmoudi at the Annual Lecture 2023



## BLOG POSTS AND SPECIAL SERIES

■ In September 2016, The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace created a blog to share news about our events, and other posts related to the work of the Chair. The blog now features 281 posts from 34 contributors, including faculty, staff and interns at the Chair, as well as other UMD Students. Posts on the blog explore our events, celebrate key dates, and explore the research themes of the chair. The blog has now been moved to the new Bahá'í Chair website from its old wordpress site. The blog has also featured special series posts.



ANY INTUITIVE THING YOU DO IN HIGH CONFLICT WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE..... THE ONLY THING THAT I FOUND TO WORK IS TO DO THE COUNTER-INTUITIVE THING WHICH IS HARD, IT TAKES PRACTICE AND TRAINING, THOUGHT AND PREPARATION.

AMANDA RIPLEY

### **Edited Volume Read Along: Women and Inequality in a Changing World**

[December 2023 - Current](#) • 4 Posts

This series is being written by Eden Adhanom, a Graduate Assistant with the Chair. Eden is reading the edited volume Women and Inequality in a Changing World and is sharing her reflections on each chapter in a weekly blog post.

---

### **Edited Volume Read Along: Children and Globalization, Multidisciplinary Perspectives**

[November 2023](#) • 3 Posts

This series was written by Eden Adhanom, a Graduate Assistant with the Chair. Eden read the edited volume Children and Globalization, Multidisciplinary Perspectives and shared her reflections on each chapter series in a weekly blog post throughout the month.

---

### **Edited Volume Read Along: Infrastructure, Wellbeing, and the Measurement of Happiness**

[February 2023 - March 2023](#) • 3 Posts

This series was written by Stella Hudson, a Graduate and Teaching Assistant with the Chair. Stella read the edited volume Infrastructure, Wellbeing and the Measurement of Happiness and shared her reflections on each chapter in a weekly blog post.

---

### **Edited Volume Read Along: The Changing Ethos of Human Rights**

[November 2022 - February 2023](#) • 6 Posts

This series was written by Stella Hudson, a Graduate and Teaching Assistant with the Chair. Stella read the edited volume The Changing Ethos of Human Rights and shared her reflections on each chapter in a weekly blog post.

---

### **Edited Volume Read Along: Fundamental Challenges to Global Peace and Security**

[March - July, 2022](#) • 14 Posts

This series was written by Stella Hudson, a Graduate and Teaching Assistant with the Chair. Stella read the edited volume Fundamental Challenges to Global Peace and Security and shared her reflections on each chapter in a weekly blog post.



