

**SILVIA FONTANA**

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Summary

Silvia is a Peace Ambassador for the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#); she is pursuing a [PhD in Human Rights, Society and Multi-level Governance](#) at University of Padova (Italy). Silvia has an integrated profile of academic and professional accomplishments. She has experience in developing and managing complex projects in crisis and post-conflict zones: she coordinated an impact evaluation project for the World Bank and held increasingly responsible positions with Médecins Sans Frontières, including Human Resource and Administrative Coordinator with a staff of 460 in the DR Congo. As a [Rotary Peace Fellow](#), she studied international development policy and peace and conflict resolution at [Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University \(USA\)](#). She is a committed citizen, involved in many initiatives for the public good. For instance, she is the Scientific Committee Coordinator of "*Premio Valeria Solesin*", award in memory of Valeria Solesin, Italian researcher killed in the Paris terroristic attack at the Bataclan, in 2015. Recently she has been selected as a lecturer and moderator for the "States General of the Erasmus Generation" in Rome, to support the Youth in better understanding the meaning of European citizenship today.

Education

PhD in Human Rights, Society and Multi-level Governance

University of Padua, Italy, 2016 to 2019 (expected).

Research on the role of multinational enterprises in peace and sustainable development.

Master of International Development Policy (MIDP)

Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy, North Carolina, USA, 2012 to 2014.

Rotary Peace Fellowship, Concentrations: Economic Development and Governance, Peace and Conflict Resolution. Thesis project on regional development and youth (NEETs) at European and Italian level.

Certificate in International Peace & Conflict Resolution

UNC, University of North Carolina, North Carolina, USA, 2012 to 2014.

B.A. degree in Business Administration, cum laude

Luigi Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, 2000 to 2005.

Majored in Management of International Corporations.

Erasmus scholarship for a semester abroad at the *Université Catholique de Louvain*, Belgium, 2003.

Professional Experience

Lecturer and Moderator, Indire (Erasmus+Indire), institutional research centre linked to MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research), Italy, February 2017 to present.

Moderating a discussion with Erasmus students on policy recommendations and concrete initiatives to foster the understanding of the **European founding principle of Humanity, Solidarity and Peace in the framework of the European Citizenship and contribute to a more active participation of Italian citizens as Europeans.**

Presented during the General States of the Erasmus Generation (Rome, February 2017) a lecture on the concept of European Citizenship.

Professional Development Coordinator, Social Change School, Rome, Italy, January 2017 to present.

Contracted by Social Change School to advise and assist students of the Masters in Project Management for International Cooperation (PMC), Humanitarian Operations (HOPE) and Fundraising management in NGOs (FRAME) on their professional development.

Technical Advisor, Social Change School, Rome, Italy, January 2017 to present.

Contracted by Social Change School to advise students of the Master in Humanitarian Operations (HOPE) on their final projects (project proposals and research papers on humanitarian operations).

Social Change School is an International non-profit organization based in Europe (London, Milan, Madrid, Rome) that offers master programmes for key professional profiles in the international cooperation.

Project Planning Officer, COOPI – Cooperazione Internazionale, Milan, Italy, October 2015 to June 2016.

Wrote grant proposals to major donors: DG ECHO, DG DEVCO-EuropeAid, MAECI (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), USAID, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR.

Drafted narrative and financial reports for donors.

Provided technical guidance to the staff in the field for project design and follow-up on funded projects.

Coached and trained staff in the field on donor guidelines, quality assurance and policies.

Accomplishments (examples of funded projects): North Kivu, DRC, Health, Budget EUR 1 Million (DG ECHO);

Multiple countries, Access to Energy in Humanitarian settings, Budget EUR 0.8 Million (ERC, European Research Council).

Field Coordinator, The World Bank, Gemena, DRC, October 2014 to June 2015.

Responsible for the final phase of an impact evaluation project on the adoption of improved seed varieties by PARRSA (Agricultural Rehabilitation and Recovery Support Project) in collaboration with PSE, Paris School of Economics.

Supported and followed up teams in the field for performance oversight and HR management: 58 people under management in nine territories of the province of the Equator.

Monitored and evaluated the data collection, organized the data entry of more than 3000 household surveys.

Managed all financial, legal and administrative aspects of the project.

Represented The World Bank and PSE with local authorities.

Human Resources and Administrative Coordinator, *Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse* (Doctors Without Borders Switzerland), Bunia, DRC, December 2011 to July 2012.

Led a team of professionals and operational staff of an international non-governmental organization (INGO) totalling 460 people.

Ensured the implementation of all human resources policies and management guidelines in an INGO serving the needs of civilians in a conflict zone.

Monitored and evaluated the HR management of each project and prepared key reports and programme evaluations.

Represented INGO interests with local authorities and local NGOs regarding legal and administrative issues.

Made regular field missions to evaluate the projects and forwarded recommendations to superiors regarding potential improvements.

Administrator and Financial Controller, *Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse* (Doctors Without Borders Switzerland), Gety, DRC, December 2010 to July 2011.

Led 80 staff in providing medical assistance to citizens displaced by violence in the Ituri province.

Responsible for all accounting, budget control, financial reporting and HR management.

Helped develop the evolving MSF financial operating procedures used to analyse and respond adequately to the needs of those affected by armed conflict and violence.

Volunteer, Mission Enfance, Gyumri, Armenia, April 2010 to July 2010.

Taught English and French to orphans and poor children.

Group leader at a summer camp in Tsaghkadzor.

Asset Manager, AEW Europe S.P.A., Milan, Italy, 2009 to 2010.

Managed assets for a real estate fund with assets of EUR 200 Million.

Updated cash-flow forecasts and analysed potential offers.

Prepared and managed capital draw-downs (project financing)/reimbursement of debt.

Collated and managed due diligence information and transaction execution (asset sales).

Financial Advisor, Pirelli & Co. Real Estate S.P.A., Milan, Italy, 2006 to 2009.

Evaluated and screened investment opportunities.

Structured operations (joint venture agreements, PPPs, financing).

Evaluated company cash flow analysis and asset analysis (elaboration of models).

Performed forecast analysis based on business planning.

Business Analyst, Young Professional Program at Pirelli & Co, Milan, Italy, 2005 to 2006.

Managed cash-flows for business plan needs in the asset management division.

Collaborated with the Finance division to handle required financial items.

Professional Development

DG ECHO training on FPA (EU partnership agreement), implementation and closing of ECHO funded projects (3-day training), Punto.Sud, January 2016.

Conflict Resolution for Peace of conflict resolution tools (1-week intensive training course), Center for European Initiatives, Sumy, Ukraine, August 2015.

Collaborative Listening Program on what recipients of aid assistance think about the cumulative effects of aid efforts, and ideas on how to make international aid more effective, (1-day intensive workshop), Collaborative for Development Action, Durham, NC USA, February 2014.

Corporate Engagement Program on the impact of corporations on individual communities, on practical management options for developing constructive relationships between companies and local communities, (1-day intensive workshop), Collaborative for Development Action, Durham, NC USA, February 2014.

Do No Harm Program on understanding and dealing with the complexities of providing aid and assistance in local communities, (2-day intensive workshop), Collaborative for Development Action, Durham, NC USA, October 2013.

Human Resources Coordinator course (2-week intensive training course), *Médecins Sans Frontières* (Doctors without Borders), Geneva, Switzerland, April 2012.

Research, Presentations and Articles

Indire (Erasmus+Indire), Lecturer and Moderator on European Citizenship, General States of the Erasmus Generation, February 2017-present

Author at Social Change School, Rome, Italy, May 2016 to present. Articles:

- Erasmus +, a Programme of Value
- Shared responsibility to address the challenges of human mobility
- Investing in Peace Education against fear and violence illiteracy
- #LetGirlLearn: il ruolo della Banca Mondiale e delle ONG

AICS Magazine, report on Global Peace Index (GPI) and IDPs (page 20), June 2016.

Lausanne University, UThink, speaker on the chronic crisis facing the DRC with a focus on politics and insecurity, October 2016.

International Jacques Maritain Institute Summer School, Basilicata, Italy.

Presented the 2016 Global Peace Index to the IJMI fellows, August 2016.

Presented the research: "Conflict Minerals and the Eastern Congo: a global conflict", September 2015.

Bocconi University, April 2016, Milan, Italy.

Presented at the event "Conflict Minerals: a global connection" and supported the student-led campaign "Conflict Free Campus Initiative".

Duke-NC Rotary Peace Center, Spring 2014 Conference, NC, USA

Presented the research: "Integrated Peace and Development, a Local Perspective: The Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Julienne as Agent of Change".

Visiting Researcher at Centre for Business in Society (CBS), IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain, summer 2013.

Analysed the economic and social impact of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation in Anantapur, India and co-wrote a case study on the Vicente Ferrer Foundation and the Rural Development Trust.

Teaching and Mentoring experience

Mentor at Mentee, innovative mentoring platform for young graduates, 2015 to present.

Graduate Teaching Assistant for “Empirical Analysis for Economic Development,” teaching the techniques and methods of statistical analysis, Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy, Durham, North Carolina, USA, spring 2014.

Graduate Teaching Assistant for “Applied Development Economics,” teaching macroeconomic and microeconomic principles in the context of development, Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy, Durham, North Carolina, USA, fall 2013.

Awards and Honors

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| 2017 | Selected by the University of Salerno as a Member of the Steering Committee for the Department of Economics and Business |
| 2016 | Selected by ISPI to attend MED 2016, Mediterranean Dialogues. |
| 2014 | Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Foundation. |
| 2013-14 | Representative to the Sanford Honor Board and to the Duke University Judicial Board. |
| 2013 | Team Leader for the Hult Prize: Food Insecurity in Urban Slums, Boston. |
| 2013 | SEPI (Social Entrepreneurship and Policy Initiative) risk-taker award. |
| 2012-13 | MIDP Class representative at Duke University and Rotary Fellow Representative |

Voluntary service

Pro bono consultant for initiatives organized by Human Rights activists in the DRC on women empowerment (income generating activities, political participation) and peacebuilding. 2012 to present.

Valeria Solesin Award, Italy, June 2016 to present. Coordinator of the scientific committee of the award in memory of Valeria Solesin for young graduates with research thesis focusing on the role of women in the labour market and in society.

Global Peace Index Ambassador, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), December 2015 to present.

Presenting the 2016 GPI in Italy. Selected by IEP as one of 135 peace ambassadors worldwide to share on the GPI and advocate towards peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities.

Global Ministerial Summit to End Violence in Conflict, London, UK, June 2014. Assisted in the participation of leaders of SOFEPADI, a non-governmental organisation located in Bunia, DRC, to represent rape survivors in the DRC.

Additional information

Italian citizen currently based in Milan, Italy. Fluent in Italian (mother tongue), English and French, intermediate in Spanish. Advanced user of Microsoft Office and Excel. High level of competency in modelling in Excel, knowledge of STATA and CSPro. Member of the Italian Chapter of WISS, Women in International Security.