

15th International Summer Academy: 5 - 15 August, 2025

Basel, Switzerland

Trainers & Topics

IPD Academic Programs: Theory - Practice - Research - Exchange - Networking - Contribute



Mr. Peter Aeberhard
Trainer

Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht
Trainer

Prof. Alicia Cabezudo
Trainer

Mr. Urs Stirnimann
Trainer

I LECTURER: Peter Aeberhard Class Days: 6 & 7 August, 2025

Peter Aeberhard brings over three decades of experience in strategic leadership, conflict transformation, and organizational consulting across government, international NGOs, and foundations. With expertise in high-level policy development and on-the-ground implementation, Peter has served as a political advisor to the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, country director for SWISSAID in Tanzania and Niger, and consultant in fragile contexts, including Somalia, Kenya, and the Sahel region.

Core Expertise

- **Strategic Planning and Evaluation:** A specialist in results-based management, Peter excels at developing measurable frameworks that ensure transparency and drive impactful outcomes. His experience spans complex, multilayered governance structures in diverse cultural and political environments.
- **Mediation and Conflict Resolution:** Peter is highly skilled in mediation and conflict prevention, with a focus on fostering long-term solutions in conflict-prone regions. His work has included coaching security and civil society leaders in trauma-informed approaches to security reform.
- **Systemic Organizational Consulting:** Experienced in enhancing organizational performance, Peter has facilitated capacity-building initiatives for senior officials and developed tools for strategic controlling and policy alignment in international and cross-cultural contexts.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** As a certified mediator and coach, he has led workshops on conflict mediation, leadership, and intercultural dialogue in settings ranging from national conferences to international summer academies.

Peter's recent publications include contributions on trauma as a critical component of security sector governance and reform, highlighting the importance of trauma-informed policing and governance frameworks.



Essence of Training

Peter's two-day program, "Empowering Leaders for Conflict Prevention and Mediation," will guide participants in developing self-reflective leadership strategies that support resilient, sustainable conflict resolution.

Day 1 will focus on strategic insight, system thinking, and conflict prevention, allowing participants to build empowered leadership approaches within complex regional frameworks.

Day 2 centers on trauma-informed mediation and culturally sensitive negotiation, equipping participants with adaptable, empathy-driven skills for managing high-stakes, multicultural dialogues.

This training offers an integrated approach to leadership that balances practical conflict resolution with reflective personal growth, enabling participants to foster stability and resilience within their own organizations and contexts.

Proposed 2-Day Training: Empowered Strategic Leadership and Mediation for Conflict Resolution

Training Title: Empowering Leaders for Conflict Prevention and Mediation: Strategic Insights and Practical Tools

Day 1 Topic: Foundations of Empowered Leadership and Strategic Insight

Objective

Equip participants with a strong foundation in strategic leadership by fostering self-reflective practices and practical tools for conflict prevention. Day 1 introduces safety, security, and systemic conflict prevention within the broader framework of leadership and empowerment.

Topics Covered

1. Personal Vision and Empowered Leadership

- Guide participants in identifying and clarifying their personal leadership goals and values, especially in high-stakes environments.
- Empowered leadership is framed as a source of sustainable solutions, with participants exploring how personal strengths contribute to resilience.
- Self-reflection exercises help participants articulate core motivations, allowing them to anchor their leadership vision in real-world contexts.

2. Strategic System Thinking for Conflict Prevention

- Introduce system thinking to analyze interconnected conflict drivers, with safety and security considerations incorporated as part of the strategic landscape.
- Practical discussion of preventive strategies in high-risk or fragile environments, highlighting the importance of anticipatory leadership.
- Explore regional case studies (e.g., systemic challenges in high-conflict regions), offering lessons that are broadly applicable but rooted in regional insights.

3. Interactive Case Study and Reflective Strategy Session

- Participants analyze a multi-faceted conflict prevention scenario that incorporates elements of safety, security, and resilience.
- Group work encourages participants to apply system thinking and empowered leadership techniques to a complex, realistic case.

Methodology

- Reflective Presentations: Introduce strategic system thinking with security and safety examples where relevant, grounded in your experience.
- Guided Reflection and Vision-Building: Use prompts for participants to clarify their leadership vision and consider how it aligns with security-aware conflict prevention.
- Collaborative Strategy Exercise: Group exercise where participants develop strategies for a regional scenario, applying strategic insights and personal leadership goals.

Day 2 Topic: Mediation, Empowered Decision-Making, and Trauma-Informed Leadership

Objective

Develop participants' mediation and negotiation skills through trauma-informed, culturally aware approaches, while subtly integrating safety considerations. This day emphasizes personal empowerment in decision-making, with practical applications for regional and multicultural contexts.

Topics Covered

1. Trauma-Informed Mediation and Cultural Sensitivity

- Mediation techniques tailored for high-stakes, multicultural settings, with trauma-informed approaches to build trust and resilience.
- Participants learn to identify trauma responses and adapt their mediation style to enhance safety and emotional security.
- Culturally sensitive communication techniques, focusing on the role of personal presence and empathy in mediation.

2. Strategic Negotiation and Safety in Decision-Making

- Introduce practical negotiation strategies designed for diverse environments where power dynamics and security considerations are crucial.
- Participants practice making balanced, resilient decisions that support safety for themselves and their teams.
- Reflective coaching on personal negotiation styles, balancing empathy with the realities of high-stakes or high-risk negotiations.

3. Simulation and Reflective Workshop on Mediation Techniques

- Role-play scenario where participants practice mediation and negotiation in a complex regional setting, with built-in security considerations.
- Post-simulation coaching and feedback help participants refine their approaches, emphasizing personal empowerment and context-sensitive leadership.

Methodology

- Scenario-Based Learning: Mediation and negotiation practice through a security-aware conflict scenario with trauma-informed approaches.
- Reflective Coaching: Role-play with structured feedback and coaching to refine participants' personal mediation and decision-making styles.
- Group Reflections: Peer discussions and reflections on learned skills, encouraging participants to apply insights in their own environments.

Expected Outcomes for Participants

By the end of this training, participants will

1. Gain a clearer, empowered vision of their leadership style, grounded in personal strengths and values.
2. Develop skills in trauma-informed, culturally sensitive mediation, with the ability to incorporate safety considerations into conflict resolution.
3. Enhance decision-making and negotiation capabilities, building resilience and empowerment to operate effectively in high-stakes environments.

Appreciation

Peter's extensive experience in conflict zones, strategic system thinking, and trauma-informed mediation brings unique value.

The Training allows participants to benefit from a comprehensive approach to leadership and conflict resolution, enriched by practical examples and coaching that address high-stakes realities in an accessible, universally applicable way.

The training subtly incorporates safety and security insights, making it adaptable for professionals in diverse international contexts while emphasizing leadership that is both resilient and empowering.

II LECTURER: Alicia Cabezudo Class Days: 8 & 9 August, 2025

Dr. Alicia Cabezudo is Professor Emeritus at the School of Education - University of Rosario / Argentina and at the UNESCO CHAIR on Culture of Peace and Human Rights - University of Buenos Aires / Argentina. Think Tank Member of the Global Education Expertise Group and Consultant on Global Education Citizenship Education of the North South Centre, Lisbon. International Peace Bureau - IPB Berlin former Vice President , actually Education Consultant and IPB representative in Latin America.



She is the Latin America Representative and Organizer of the Global Alliance of Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace - GAMIP and member of the International Association of Teachers for Peace as well as the International Association of Peace Research - IPRA. She is University, Trainer and College Professor on Peace Education, Culture of Peace, Democracy, Citizenship, Intercultural Dialogue and Human Rights.

Her work is rooted on these fields having wide teaching experience in Latin American and European universities as well as on Public Policy Consultancy in Latin America and Europe local governments.

She was invited as Academy Member at the MA on Peace Education - University of Peace / Costa Rica and at the MA on Development, Conflict and Peace - University Jaume I / Spain as well as many research centres and universities in Japan, South Korea, Italy, Austria, Germany, United Kingdom , Switzerland, Cyprus and Spain. In the past ten years she conducted courses on Culture of Peace Summer Academy to Arab attendants at the Institute of Peace Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt and was pointed as Faculty of a new program on Citizenship Education and Democracy in Jeju University, South Korea. Mrs Cabezudo teaches at Latin American Universities in Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, México, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Panamá and Bolivia. She is living now in Colombia working as Education Expert and Program Consultant after the Havana Peace Agreements Process signed in 2016. She develops there pedagogy research, training and peace projects . She is author of various books, publications and research articles on her specific expertise and field.

Class Day 1

Violence, Conflict and the construction of Peace in the world of today. Mapping the actual situation. Theory of Conflict, Conflict Resolution and Transformation by Peaceful Means. Theory and practices. Developing a workshop with Course attendants.

Day 1 Topic Introduction

How do you define conflict? How can you analyze it and what are the actual theories related to conflict resolution and conflict transformation? Types of Violence, their relationship and levels. The roots of violence and conflict. The spiral of violence and conflict. Analysis of the present situation bridged to these two concepts in the globalized world. How to stop it. Model cases taken from the attendant countries. Analysis of the world situation. What can we do at individual and collective level?

Day 1 Topic Intended Methodologies

Theoretical presentation. Exchange of different perspectives, ideas and academic positions with attendants. Round of questions and answers. Analysis of situations in small groups based in diverse given resources. Comments on given documents /book chapters and International Reports. Analysis of international on-ground practices and model cases. Workshops. Presentation of attendant experiences on the themes developed during the Course. Exchange of information on the Course main themes related to attendant national countries , their history and present situation. Collective and individual conclusions.

Class Day 2

Culture(s) of Peace Building. Dialogue, Negotiation, and Mediation. Intercultural Dialogue. Developing a Toolbox for designing projects and programs in Peace Building. Theory and practices. Workshop with Course attendants.

Day 2 Topic Introduction

Evolution of the Peace concept. The need of contextualizing it. Negative Peace - Positive Peace - Imperfect Peace - The newest/ latest concept: Total Peace (Colombia). Analysis of the Culture of Peace concept and work field in Peace building. Its institutional platform: the UN Resolution A - 53/243.

Dialogue as a bridge for creating negotiation and mediation scenarios. Description and creation of tools and methodologies for building a Tool-box and practical processes on these themes.

Day 2 Topic Intended Methodologies

Theoretical presentation. Exchange of different perspectives, ideas and academic positions with attendants. Round of questions and answers. Analysis of situations in small groups based in diverse given resources. Comments on given documents / book chapters / International Reports. Analysis of international on-ground practices and model cases. Workshops. Presentation of attendant experiences on the themes developed during the Course. Exchange of information on the Course main themes related to attendant national countries, their history and present situation. Collective and individual conclusions.

III LECTURER: Urs Stirnimann Class Days: 11 & 12 August, 2025

Urs Stirnimann is the **chairman** of **Swiss Academy DMCC** in Dubai.

Urs worked more than **30 years** in various countries of the **Middle East** and **Latin America** with different responsibilities in the financial and legal field. Before coming to the UAE, he was leading on behalf of the **Swiss Foreign Ministry** a special mission in the Middle East working as legal advisor and head of staff and giving lectures in international law to members of different foreign ministries. For several years, Urs was the **CEO of VP Bank** in **Switzerland** and before that CEO of VP Bank in the **Caribbean**, where he also was the founder and **president** of the **BVI Bank Association** and **advisor** to the **BVI government**. In the 90s he was for **Credit Suisse** in **Bahrain** and covered **Saudi Arabia** and **Qatar** as private banker. In the 80s he worked several years for the International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**) and was legal delegate in **Lebanon** and dissemination delegate in **El Salvador**.

2004, Since Urs gives regularly courses about International Humanitarian Law to diplomats, journalists, NGO members in the UAE.



Urs had plenty of **honorary positions** like for 18 years **Vice President** of the **Swiss Business Council Dubai** and Chairman of the **Swiss Financial Group**, where 20 Swiss banks and insurance companies are represented. In addition, he was the **Executive Director** of the **Emirati Swiss Friendship Forum** under the leadership of HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan and HE Pascal Couchepin former president of Switzerland. For many years he represents the Swiss in the UAE at the **Council for Swiss Living Abroad**.

Urs studied **economics** and **law** at the University of Zurich, where he graduated as lic. iur. Urs is fluent in **German**, **English**, **Spanish** and **French** and has a basic knowledge of Italian and Arabic.

Class Day 1 Topic: Introduction to International Humanitarian Law

Day 1 Topic Introduction

- What is International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- How must Prisoners of War be treated
- What is the difference between IHL and Human Rights Law

On the first day of the program, students will embark on a journey through the origins and evolution of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). They will learn about the early developments of IHL and how it was implemented in armed conflicts to protect those affected by the horrors of war. The session will offer an in-depth exploration of the First World War, which marked a critical moment in history with millions of prisoners of war (POWs) held by various parties. The suffering and poor treatment of these individuals highlighted the need for more robust protections, ultimately leading to the establishment of the 1929 Geneva Convention.

This landmark convention provided a framework for the humane treatment of POWs, outlining their rights and the responsibilities of the powers detaining them. Students will analyse the key provisions of the Geneva Convention and its significance in shaping modern IHL.

In addition, the course will cover the relationship between International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, two distinct yet sometimes overlapping bodies of law. Students will assess the scope and purpose of each, exploring how they work in different contexts to protect individuals in times of peace and conflict. This foundational session will provide a strong understanding of the legal frameworks that govern wartime conduct and the protection of those involved in or affected by armed conflicts.

Methodologies

- PowerPoint presentation
- With short exercises

Class Day 2 Topic: Protection of Civilians and War Crime Matters

Day 2 Topic Introduction

- Treatment of Civilian Persons in time of war
- How are war criminals prosecuted under IHL
- What measures are available for implementing IHL?
- What is the ICRC's role in ensuring respect for IHL?

On the second day, students will explore the profound impact of the Second World War on the revision of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). This session will focus on the introduction of special protections for civilians, a key development following the widespread devastation of the war. Participants will also examine how internal armed conflicts contributed to the expansion of IHL, addressing the complexities of warfare within states.

Key topics include an in-depth understanding of war crimes, the legal frameworks for prosecuting war criminals, and the various mechanisms available for enforcing IHL. The critical role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in promoting and ensuring respect for IHL will also be discussed. This comprehensive session will provide students with a deeper understanding of the evolution of legal protections in armed conflicts and the importance of accountability in modern warfare.

The day will conclude with a comprehensive test, designed to assess students' understanding of the content covered over the two days. This evaluation will ensure students have a solid grasp of the key legal frameworks, historical contexts, and principles of accountability that shape modern IHL.

Methodologies

- PowerPoint presentation
- With short exercises

IV LECTURER: Ms. Sibylle Ruprecht from Switzerland

2 Whole class days in 13 & 14 August, 2025



For 30 years, **Sibylle Ruprecht** headed profit centers, SMEs or international NGOs. Her rich and varied experience makes her a consultant with an excellent understanding of the challenges faced by companies and organisations. She has also created her own consulting companies, accompanying her clients in their growth, reorganization and political representation.

An experienced advocate at the UN and the European Union, she appreciates the importance of governance, negotiations, mediation and communication.

Building on her experience as a member and chair of various boards and expert groups, Sibylle Ruprecht also brings her expertise to companies, foundations and associations by helping them to embrace diversity, upskill their human capital and enhance performance of the board of directors.

Sibylle Ruprecht is a speaker, trainer and certified coach. A former mentor at the Cherie Blair Foundation, she teaches at various training institutes and is a consultant and mentor to establishing NGO's and companies.

She holds a postgraduate diploma in Management of International Organizations of Fribourg University, an Executive Certificate in International Advocacy from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and is certified in Human Behavior Analysis as well as Relationship and Intimacy Coaching.

Day 1 Topic: Ethical Leadership - Key to Social Peace and Justice

Introduction of Topic

From accounting scandals, political unethical behaviour to pollution to executive compensation, **Business Ethics** has always been a hot topic. It is related to the broader field of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**, plays a role in **ethical investing** and may or may not influence **sustainable (“green”) business** as well.

Ethics calls for ethical leadership. Ethical leadership is essentially characterised by respect for values, for the rights of others and for our environment. It reflects trust, honesty, consideration, charisma and fairness. These qualities are manifested by ethical leaders both within and beyond their companies and communities. And yet, we have witnessed over recent years an alarming increase in leaders who are failing to strike a sustainable balance between the financial imperatives of their mission and the vital social and environmental dimensions that should rationally complement them.

As we rebuild our economy after this crisis, let us create it as sustainable, inclusive and resilient as possible. Building ethical leadership into the organisation culture, make it more likely to attract top employees, clients and supporters.

Methodology

- A) Lectures & Theory B) Group Works & Presentations C) PowerPoint Presentations
D) Interactive Discussions and Experience Sharing

Day 2 Topic: Ethics and Advocacy - How to Defend, Negotiate, Mediate

Introduction of Topic

This training is focused on the understanding that communication processes are needed for effective advocacy at a national and international setting. Emphasis is placed on the application of key principles that will enhance communication, effectiveness and the development of skills and attitudes appropriate to communication, especially in matters of public persuasion.

In a national environment, politicians constantly strive to attract and sustain attention from their target audience with focused planning. A strategic approach to advocacy is crucial to allocate resources where they deliver the highest impact.

Effective advocacy calls often for negotiation and mediation. This area requires real learning to understand the causes of conflicts and how they are created. A professional attitude is useful to discover the human needs and mechanisms of functioning in society, as is the mastery of the tools and techniques that allow to defuse conflicts by mediation and by a creative process leading to win-win solutions.

Methodology

- A) Lectures & Theory B) Group Works & Presentations C) PowerPoint Presentations
D) Interactive Discussions and Experience Sharing

We are looking forward to seeing you in our Summer Programs 2025