

SAFWAN M. MASRI

Vice President for Global Centers and Director, Columbia Global Centers | Middle East

Professor Safwan M. Masri is Vice President for Global Centers at Columbia University. He has been a member of the Columbia Business School faculty since 1988 and was appointed Vice Dean in 1993, a position he held for thirteen years. Professor Masri has been Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East since its founding in 2009. He was Visiting Professor at INSEAD in 1990 and 1991, and has also held teaching positions at Stanford University and Santa Clara University.



Professor Masri earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in 1982; his Master of Science in Industrial Engineering also from Purdue in 1984; and his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management from Stanford University in 1988. He was honored with the Singhvi Professor of the Year for Scholarship in the Classroom Award in 1990, the Robert W. Lear Service Award in 1998, and the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence in a Core Course in 2000. He has also been honored with the 2003 American Service Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Professor Masri is Founding Chairman Emeritus of King's Academy, Chairman of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, Trustee of International College, Trustee of the National Children's Museum in Jordan, Director of Endeavor Jordan, Director of the Luxury Education Foundation, and member of the advisory boards of the School of Business and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo. He has also served as Advisor to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

Professor Masri's area of expertise is in operations management, with a focus on supply chain management, technology change management in the financial services industry, and manufacturing flexibility. His recent work has focused on education and business development in the Middle East.

JOAN KAUFMAN

Director, Columbia Global Centers | East Asia

Joan Kaufman, MA, M.S., Sc.D is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | East Asia. Most recently, she has been a Lecturer in Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Principal and Faculty Affiliate of the Hauser Center for Non Profit Management at Harvard's Kennedy School, and Distinguished Scientist and Senior Lecturer at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she has been teaching on health policy.



From 2008-2011, she was the Associate Director for Academics for the Masters in Science program in International Health Policy and Management, one of two Sustainable International Development masters degree programs at the Heller School. Dr. Kaufman also worked as the China Team Leader for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative from 2002-2012. Dr. Kaufman was the first UNFPA international program officer in China in the 1980s and from 1996-2001, she was the Ford Foundation's Reproductive Health Program Officer for China based in Beijing.

She spent 2001-2002 as a Radcliffe fellow at Harvard and 2005-2006 as a Soros Reproductive Health and Rights Fellow. In 2002, she founded the AIDS Public Policy Project at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, a program which trained government officials in China and Vietnam about the multi-sectoral and governance requirements for an effective HIV/AIDS response.

She holds a doctorate in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health, masters degrees in Asian Studies and Health and Medical Sciences from UC Berkeley, and BA cum laude in Chinese Studies from Trinity College. She has published widely on AIDS, reproductive health, gender, population and international health policy, emerging infectious diseases, and civil society and health with a focus on China.

PAUL LECLERC

Director, Columbia Global Centers | Europe

Paul LeClerc began his tenure as Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Europe on July 1st, 2012. LeClerc's academic interests are Voltaire and the French Enlightenment. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in French at Columbia University and wrote a dissertation on Voltaire that was awarded distinction. He is the author, editor, and co-editor of six scholarly volumes, all published by the Voltaire Foundation of Oxford University. His foreign honors include the French Legion of Honor (Officier), the French Order of Palmes Academiques (Officier), and the Spanish Order of Isabel the Catholic (Commander), as well honorary doctorates from Oxford University and La Nouvelle Sorbonne. In 2004, Dr. LeClerc received the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Achievement and he holds honorary doctorates from nine American colleges and universities. In addition, President Bill Clinton named him to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.



Prior to joining the Columbia staff, Dr. LeClerc was President and CEO of the New York Public Library (1993-2011); President and Professor of French of Hunter College, CUNY (1988-93); Provost, Academic Vice President and Professor of French, Baruch College, CUNY (1984-88); University Dean for Academic Programs, CUNY (1979-84); Instructor, Assistant Professor, and Associate Professor of French, Union College (1966-79).

Throughout his career, Dr. LeClerc has been committed to international educational and cultural relations. He directed terms abroad for Union College students in France, was instrumental in creating the CUNY-Universities of Paris Exchange Program, the first large-scale exchange

program between an urban US university system and a European counterpart, created exchanges between the Hunter College Master of Fine Arts program and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and between the Baruch College School of Business and the University of Paris-Dauphine, and organized landmark exhibits at the New York Public Library with European partner libraries.

Dr. LeClerc is presently Chair of the Advisory Board of the Columbia Maison Francaise and a Trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the J.Paul Getty Trust, The Voltaire Foundation (Oxford University) and the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation. He is an Honorary Trustee of the New York Public Library and past Trustee of Union College, the National Book Foundation, and a variety of other non-profit educational and cultural organizations. He is married to Dr. Judith Ginsberg, Executive Director of the Nash Family Foundation in New York City. They have a twenty-five year old son.

NIRUPAM BAJPAI

Director, Columbia Global Centers | South Asia

Dr. Nirupam Bajpai is Director of the Columbia Global Centers | South Asia and a Senior Development Advisor at the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York. He is also a member of the United Nations Millennium Project on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by the year 2015.



Over the last two decades, Dr. Bajpai has been working at different U.S. universities beginning at the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1992; Harvard University from 1995 to 2002 and since July 2002 at Columbia University. Prior to his arrival at Columbia, he worked for seven years at Harvard University, most recently at the Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Bajpai is considered to be a leading economic advisor of his generation. For over two decades, he has been studying the challenges of economic development, poverty alleviation, and globalization and the impact of anthropogenic climate change and advising governments.

Since June 2004, Dr. Bajpai has had the high honor and privilege of advising the Honorable Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and several of his cabinet ministers, including the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. Earlier, between 1999 and 2004, he served as an economic advisor to the Honorable Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India and to several of his cabinet ministers, including the Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry, and Information Technology.

Dr. Bajpai is the recipient of several honors and awards. On the eve of India's 59th Republic Day on January 25, 2008, Dr. Bajpai was awarded the Padma Shri by the President of India, which is a high civilian national honor bestowed by the Government of India. In the category of 'Literature and Education,' Dr. Bajpai is the youngest awardee ever since the Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 having been conferred the award at the age of 45.

IPEK CEM TAHA

Director, Columbia Global Centers | Turkey

Ipek Cem Taha is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Turkey since 2011. After completing her secondary education at Robert College, Ipek obtained her B.A. degree with Honors in Political Science from Amherst College. She holds M.B.A. and M.I.A. degrees from Columbia University.



Ipek started her career in 1993 as an Associate for Bankers Trust Company (now part of Deutsche Bank) in New York, in the International Capital Markets Group. She was a managing partner of Netwise between 1996-2007, an internet company with multinational clients. Between 2005 and 2010, Ipek was producing and hosting ‘Global Leaders,’ a television program on NTV networks, consisting of interviews with personalities such as Kofi Annan, Richard Branson and Madeleine Albright. Before creating Global Leaders, Ipek was a columnist for daily newspapers, including Milliyet, and Sabah, for eight years.

Ipek is founder and board member in several NGOs, including URAK (National Competitiveness Research Institute), KAGIDER (Women Entrepreneurs Association) and SAHA, an association that supports contemporary art. Ipek is also a Trustee of Robert College in Istanbul. She is also a board member of the Strategic Advisory Council of the Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration.

Elected an Eisenhower Fellow in 2003, Ipek also holds an Honorary Professorship from T.E.I. in Greece for her work in promoting friendship and cooperation between Greece and Turkey.

KAREN PONIACHIK

Director, Columbia Global Centers | South America (Santiago)

Karen Poniachik is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | South America based in Santiago, Chile. She was Chile’s Minister of Mining between 2006 and 2008, a time during which she chaired the boards of directors of state-owned companies Codelco, Enap and Enami. From March 2006 to March 2007, she also served as Minister of Energy. Currently, she is a member of the corporate boards of directors of E.CL, British American Tobacco Chile, Terpel-Chile and Maersk Container Industries San Antonio as well as the Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce.



Ms. Poniachik was Chile’s Special Envoy to the OECD in charge of the country’s accession process to the Organization, which was successfully completed in January of 2010. Previously, she served as Executive Vice-President of Chile’s Foreign Investment Committee (2000-2006); and as Director of Business and Financial Programs at the Council of the Americas in New York

(1995-2000). Karen Poniachik graduated as a journalist from Universidad Católica de Chile (1987) and holds a Masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University (1990).

BELAY EJIGU BEGASHAW

Director, Columbia Global Centers | Africa

Dr. Belay Begashaw is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Africa since January 2012. He joined the Earth Institute at Columbia University in January 2009 as Senior Agriculture Policy Specialist for Eastern and Southern Africa, and was appointed Director of The Millennium Development Goals Center in August 2009.



Dr. Begashaw serves as Associate Director of the Earth Institute’s Tropical Agriculture and Rural Development Program, and has over 20 years of experience in agriculture extension and rural development, ranging from a grass-roots development agent to the Minister of Agriculture for Ethiopia. Over the past three years, he has done extensive consulting work for several international organizations in the area of food security, poverty reduction and investment.

Dr. Begashaw earned his MPA degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, M.Sc. from University of Reading and a B.Sc. from Addis Ababa University, Almay College of Agriculture. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural policy from Texas A&M University where he is a Borlaug Fellow. Begashaw has served as a member and chair of several boards of trustees with national and international mandates, including International Live Stock Research (ILRI), Alamaya University, Ethiopian Agriculture Research System, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, the National Drug Administration the National Standard Organization, the National Food Reserve Agency and Ethiopian Radiation Agency.

THOMAS TREBAT

Director, Columbia Global Centers | South America (Rio de Janeiro)

Thomas J. Trebat is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | South America based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is the former Executive Director of the Columbia University Institute of Latin American Studies and of the Institute’s Center for Brazilian Studies.



Dr. Trebat joined Columbia in 2005 after a lengthy career on Wall Street dedicated to economic research on Latin America. In addition to his administrative duties at Columbia, Tom taught courses on the Latin American economy and on Brazil as an adjunct professor at SIPA. Tom has a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University. He is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations. His book, “Brazil’s State-owned Enterprises: A Case Study of the State as Entrepreneur,” was published by Cambridge University Press.

HANYA SALAH

Deputy Director, Columbia Global Centers | Middle East

Hanya Salah is a Senior Manager at the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. She joined the Center in August 2010. She is responsible for overseeing and managing the Research and Academic Support Department at the Center and supporting the Director in a number of initiatives. Prior to joining the Center, Hanya was the Director of the Children's Museum in Jordan and was responsible for implementing and coordinating the final phase of the museum's development and launch, as well as managing its overall activities. Hanya also directed the Ali Jabri Human Heritage Foundation, where she curated and oversaw the opening of the Foundation's inaugural exhibition and managed the Foundation's daily operation. Prior to that, Hanya worked for over 10 years at UNICEF and the United Nations in New York in different capacities.



Hanya received her B.A. in Art History from Williams College and studied for her M.A. in Near Eastern Studies and Museum Studies at New York University.

BRUNEHILDE BIEBUYCK

Administrative Director, Columbia Global Centers | Europe

After obtaining her Ph.D. from the Folklore Institute at Indiana University, Dr. Brunhilde Biebuyck taught in the French University system (1981-1987) and is still affiliated with a CNRS research team. She began to work at Reid Hall in 1984, first as Director of the Columbia-Penn program (1984-2010), then as Director of Studies for Columbia's Masters in French Cultural Studies (1993-2010). She was named Administrative Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Europe in 2010. Belgian of nationality, Dr. Biebuyck has lived in the RdC, various parts of the USA, and Paris. Her research concentrates on oral traditional narrative, and she is currently working on the French and English translation of a Bantu epic collected in the 1950s. She sits on the editorial boards of the *Classiques africains*, a prestigious collection of works on African poetry and prose, and the *Cahiers de Littérature orale*, the only academic journal in France devoted to oral literature.

