

# 21st Century Diplomacy: The Challenges and Opportunities Diplomats Face in the Digital Age

Mardi 7 février 2017, 16h

Salle Clark, Maison du Développement Durable  
50 rue Ste-Catherine O. Montréal



Une édition spéciale de notre série de conférences diplomatiques

## IEIM-MIGS Diplomatic Conference

### **21st Century Diplomacy: The Challenges and Opportunities Diplomats Face in the Digital Age and Scotiabank-IEIM Scholarship Award Ceremony**

Over the past decade, we have witnessed great social, economic and political transformations. As the world becomes more complex, the balance of power between national governments and non-state actors is undergoing rapid change due to the widespread advances of new technologies. Governments and international organisations, however, have been slow to adapt to the rapid advances of technological innovation that has marked the new century. From online extremism and cyber security threats to Internet governance and the global role of cities as digital diplomats, no one is immune from the positive and negative aspects of how technology can be used.

Last November, Concordia University and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) welcomed the Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL), an innovative initiative of the German Foreign Ministry and several large German foundations, to Montréal, the first North American city to welcome the Lab. For 4 days, more than fifty young leaders from across the planet working in international relations either with governments, international organisations, universities, civil society organisations or private enterprises, discussed how technology is transforming international relations. The goal of the GDL is to find solutions to some of the biggest digital challenges governments are faced with and share this knowledge with government officials so that they can make better informed decisions on issues of local, national and global importance.

One solution that came out of the discussions in November was the increasing need to approach these challenges in a collaborative way and to embrace a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics and actors. It seems more and more that the new governance models need to adopt multi-stakeholder processes that aim to stimulate dialogue and consensus building amongst a wide variety of state and non-state actors. But what does this mean concretely for traditional diplomats, those representing state actors in foreign countries? What mechanisms or policies are states developing to cope with the opportunities and challenges brought on by the digital era?

Co-organised by l'Institut d'études internationales de Montréal (IEIM) at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University, this conference aims to discuss the challenges faced by state actors. We have the pleasure to welcome two consul generals, **Mr Walter Leuchs** from Germany and **Mr Ziv Nevo Kulman** from Israel, to provide some insight into their own challenges as they adapt to new technologies in their day-to-day work and to share some of their governments' best practices in this new digital diplomacy.

**Programme**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

**Maison du développement durable**  
**50, Ste-Catherine St. W.**  
**4pm - 7:30pm**

- 4:00 - 4:10 Opening remarks by Kim Fontaine-Skronski, Deputy director of IEIM-UQAM
- 4:10 - 4:15 Introductory remarks by Kyle Matthews, Director of MIGS-Concordia, and moderator
- 4:15 - 4:30 Presentation by Mr Walter Leuchs, Consul general of Germany
- 4:30 - 4:45 Presentation by Mr Ziv Nevo Kulman, Consul general of Israel
- 4:45 - 5:15 Exchange between moderator and invited speakers
- 5:15 - 5:30 Questions from the audience
- 5:30 - 5:35 Closing remarks by Frédérick Gagnon, Director of Chaire Raoul-Dandurand-UQAM
- 5:35 - 5:50 Break
- 5:50 - 6:20 Scotiabank-IEIM Scholarship Award Ceremony presented by Mr Bernard Derome, President of IEIM and Mrs Micol Haimson, Regional Director, Wealth Management Client Solutions, Eastern Region for Scotia Wealth Management, Scotiabank
- 6:20 - 6:30 Closing remarks by Hugo Cyr, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Law, UQAM
- 6:30 - 7:30 Cocktail reception

**Organisers:** [IEIM-UQAM](#) and [MIGS-Concordia](#)

**Partners:** [Faculté de science politique et de droit, UQAM](#)  
[Scotiabank](#)  
[Chaire Raoul-Dandurand](#)  
[Consulate general of Germany](#)  
[Consulate general of Israel](#)  
[Connexion internationale de Montréal \(CIMtl\)](#)

## Biographies

### Diplomatic Conference



**Walter Leuchs**, Consul General of Germany in Montreal since 2012.

Born in Cologne in 1951, Walter Leuchs holds a Master's degree in public administration from Carleton University in Ottawa. He held different functions with the German Embassies in Tripoli (Libya) and Cairo, before serving as Consul General in Toronto. In 1993, he became German Ambassador in Bujumbura (Burundi), returning to Bonn in 1996 to serve as head of the Consular Assistance Unit. In 1999, he was appointed Deputy Consul General in San Francisco and also served as Consul General in Dubai in 2004, from where he was transferred, in 2007, to be Consul General in Thessaloniki. Before Montreal, he served as Deputy Ambassador of the German Embassy in Skopje (2010).



**Ziv Nevo Kulman**, Consul General of Israel in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces since 2014.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1969, he joined Israel's foreign service in 1995. His diplomatic career includes a posting in Prague (2006-2008), where he served as Israel's Deputy Ambassador. As Director of the Training Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem, he was in charge of Israel's Diplomatic corps' professional training, including language studies worldwide, a field he excels at, having extensive linguistic skills in six languages. His profound interest in the arts has led him to hold several significant positions promoting Israel's cultural interests abroad, notably in Tokyo and Paris.

**Kyle Matthews** is the Executive Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University.



He joined MIGS as Lead Researcher of the Will to Intervene Project in 2008 and was appointed Senior Deputy Director in 2011. At Concordia, he founded the Digital Mass Atrocity Prevention Lab, which works to counter online extremism and study how social media platforms are being used as a weapon of war. He previously worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with postings in the Southern Caucasus (Tbilisi), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) and Switzerland (Geneva).

**Kim Fontaine-Skronski** is Deputy director of the Montreal Institute of International Studies (IEIM) at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).



Currently completing a Ph.D. in Political Science, her research interests include the institutional design of trade agreements and the impact of new technologies on global governance. After working at the Canadian Embassy in Vienna from (1999-2001) in the Political and Cultural Affairs Section, she was Political Advisor to the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications (2003-2007) before returning to academia. She holds a Master's degree from McGill University.

**Frédéric Gagnon** is Professor of Political Science at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and head of the Chaire Raoul-Dandurand in strategic and diplomatic studies.



He is the recipient of two Fulbright scholarships, one to the U.S. State Department for a post-doctoral seminar on American politics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2005, and the second as Fulbright Canada Chair on Quebec-United States relations at the University of New York at Plattsburgh in 2014 and at the University of California at Berkeley in 2015. He also acted as Visiting Researcher at the Canada Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

## Scotiabank Scholarship Award Ceremony



**Micol Haimson** is the Regional Director, Wealth Management Client Solutions, Eastern Region for Scotia Wealth Management.

She is responsible for enabling the delivery of our full suite of wealth management services to best meet client needs in Québec, Eastern Ontario and the Atlantic Region. She has over 15 years of experience in the financial services industry and has also held several positions within Scotiabank's Global Transaction Banking division, working with both Corporate and Commercial clients to help streamline their banking operations locally and around the Globe. She currently sits on the board of the McGill University Health Center Foundation as well as the board of the Trafalgar School Foundation.



**Bernard Derome** is President of the Montreal Institute of International Studies (IEIM).

Journalist and television host for over 30 years, he was news anchor at Radio-Canada between 1970 and 1998, and again in 2004 until his retirement in 2009. He was sent to Afghanistan in 2007 to report on the Canadian presence in the war. He has received several honors including the Grand Prix of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television in 1992 and the Coup de Coeur-Gala MétroStar in 1999. He was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1994 and Officer of the Ordre national du Québec in 2006. He holds honorary doctorates from Université du Québec à Rimouski (2009) and the University of Montréal (2013).



**Hugo Cyr**, LL.B., B.C.L. (McGill), LL.M. (Yale), LL.D. (U. de Montréal), is Dean and Professor of Public Law and Legal Theory at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

A member of the Québec Bar and of the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la diversité et la démocratie (CRIDAQ), he has been a Boulton Fellow at McGill University, a Schell Fellow at Yale Law School, a law clerk to the Honourable Justice Ian C. Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as Visiting Researcher at the European Academy of Legal Theory and Visiting Professor at McGill University. He is frequently consulted by governments, media and private parties for his expertise in constitutional law.