

Biography

Amb. Cynthia P. Schneider, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, Georgetown University
Senior Non Resident Fellow, Brookings Institution
Co-Director, MOST Resource (www.mostresource.org)

EMPLOYMENT

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Washington D.C 2004- present

Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, School of Foreign Service

- Developed advanced course, Diplomacy and Culture (CULP 420), incorporates *Soliya* online program with weekly discussions with students in Europe and the Middle East
(<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/international/2007/12/03/ime.dec.a.soliya.cnn>)
- Organized public cultural events for Georgetown community (Salman Ahmad of *Junoon*, Pakistani rock musician; *Afghan Star: Singing, Voting, Defying the Taliban*, and others)
- Organized conference “Communicating with the World: Diplomacy that Works”, held at Georgetown University, April 30, 2003 (see www.culturalpolicy.org/issuepages/culturaldiplomacy.cfm and Cultural Diplomacy: Recommendations and Research, Center for Arts and Culture, July 2004, p.4)

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, SABAN CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST POLICY,
PROJECT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Senior Non-Resident Fellow; Coordinator, Arts and Culture Dialogue Initiative, 2006
- present

- Have developed program and projects that represent a unique blend of policy and the arts in the area of U.S. relations with the Muslim world. Since 2006, have built up a network of over 50 organizations and over 200 leaders in arts and culture engaged in leveraging potential of cultural connections to increase understanding on both sides.

- Organize annual Arts and Cultural Leaders sessions at the U.S. Islamic World Forum (Doha, Qatar), 2006-2009
 - Organize events that bring together cultural leaders and policy makers, such as *Contested Identities in Pakistan: the Role of Culture and Civil Society* (April 9, 2010)
- Published *Mightier than the Sword: Arts and Culture in the U.S- Muslim World Relationship*; *New Way Forward: Encouraging Greater Cultural Engagement with the Muslim World* (<http://www.brookings.edu/experts/schneiderc.aspx> ^[1])

MOST RESOURCE CENTER, Los Angeles, Co-Founder and Co-Director, *Muslims on Screen and Television (MOST): A Cross Cultural Resource Center* (www.mostresource.org ^[2]), 2008- present.

- Developed out of the Brookings Arts and Culture Initiative, MOST provides television and film writers, producers, and showrunners information and resources about Muslims, Islam, and Muslim majority regions with the goal of facilitating more accurate plots and characters. MOST also convenes discussions and events that explore intersections between policy and media and entertainment.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CENTER ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, Senior Research Fellow, 2009-2011.

ABU DHABI AUTHORITY FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE (ADACH)

- *Consultant on development of global cultural diplomacy initiative*, February-August, 2010

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, *Director, Life Science and Society Initiative (LSSI)*; *Pfizer Medical Humanities Fellow, 2004-2006*

- Initiated program to pool and strengthen Georgetown's resources in the science, ethics, policy, law, and international dimensions of the life sciences to address for the public and the Congress the challenges of the integration of the life sciences into daily life.
- Principle Investigator on a project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation to research and define "Best Practices" in public-private partnerships for agricultural biotechnology in the development world.

Associate Professor of Art History 1990- 2004

Assistant Professor of Art History 1984-1990

- Courses, publications, and exhibitions in Baroque and Renaissance art, with a specialization in Dutch art of the seventeenth century and Rembrandt. Organized exhibition of Rembrandt's landscape drawings and prints that was held at the National Gallery of Art in 1990.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington D.C., 1998-2001

Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Initiatives in public and cultural diplomacy, biotechnology, cyber security, military affairs, and education, as well as work in international justice and the environment. Selected examples:

- *Public and Cultural Diplomacy:* White House Millennium Project of oral histories by Dutch high school students of World War II veterans and survivors, published on CD and distributed throughout Dutch school system
- Partnership with North Sea Jazz Festival and annual North Sea Jazz Jam session at the American Embassy
- Assembled museum-quality collection of American art, and published catalogue of the collection Another Salute
- *Biotechnology:* Organized and hosted a two day conference "Biotechnology: the Science and the Impact" (January 2000, 450 attendees, 80 press and media) which is credited with fostering a positive climate for biotechnology in The Netherlands. Follow up conference co-hosted by the EU Ministry of the Environment, held at Ministry in Brussels.
- *Cyber-security:* co-hosted with Royal Dutch Shell and the Rand Corporation a conference on cyber security that brought together U.S. and EU officials and private sector experts to examine their respective roles and responsibilities in addressing this problem.
- *Kyoto Protocol and Climate Change:* hosted US delegation of over 100 to the COP-6 Climate Change Conference in The Hague in November 2000.
- *International Justice:* responsible for US cooperation with and assistance to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY); acted as a liaison between the US government (State Department, White House, and FBI), the Tribunal, the Dutch government and NATO; top U.S. official in the Netherlands responsible for the Lockerbie trial of the two Libyans

accused of bombing Pan Am 103.

- *Political/Military*: Liaison between the Dutch and American military in coordinating with the Dutch before and during the Kosovo war. Groundwork towards successful sale of Joint Strike Fighter to Dutch.
- *Speeches* on wide range of topics including the global economy, biotechnology, Dutch American relations, the glass ceiling, politics and culture in America, and traditions of freedom and democracy in America and in Europe. Was the first American to be invited to give the keynote address on the annual Dutch commemoration of the liberation from the Nazis (May 5, 2000, “Freedom Must be Passed On”) and the first non-Dutch speaker to deliver the annual William of Orange lecture (June 5, 2001, “Culture, Society, and Government).

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON 1980-1984

Assistant Curator of European Paintings

EDUCATION

Harvard University Ph.D. in Fine Arts, 1984

Harvard University BA Magna cum Laude in Fine Arts, 1977

HONORS

Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award, June 2001 (highest civilian award given by Pentagon, in recognition of support for the U.S. military during ambassadorship).

Flevo Award, 2001 (awarded annually by the Province of Flevoland, the Netherlands) in recognition of international leadership.

U.S. Secret Service, Department of the Treasury, Honor Award, June 2001.

Honorary Member, Phi Beta Kappa (Harvard University chapter).

1. <http://www.brookings.edu/experts/schneiderc.aspx>

2. <http://www.mostresource.org/>

