To maximize its outreach, WIIS encourages the creation of U.S. Chapters and International Affiliates. Chapters and Affiliates enhance WIIS’s efforts to advance the leadership and professional development of women in the field of international security. WIIS Chapters and Affiliates operate independently but in close contact with WIIS Global. Currently, WIIS has a network of six U.S. Chapters and 21 International Affiliates.

Meet Our Team

In honor of the new year, we would like to introduce you to the new program assistants at WIIS Global
**Stephanie Breitsman** is a master’s candidate at the Institute for Middle East Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs and specializes in conflict and conflict resolution. She holds a BA in Middle East Studies from Ursinus College, where she completed her thesis work on Moroccan Islamist Politics. Stephanie received a grant from the Aramex Student Fund to study Arabic at Birzeit and translate children’s books and organizational reports for the Tamer Institute for Community Education in Ramallah. She is currently researching the motives, methods, and perceptions of youth-organized movements on West Bank university campuses, and recently published her piece, “Hamas and Fatah: A Detrimental Divide,” with the GWU International Affairs Review. Prior to joining WIIS she was a research assistant for Dr. Peleg at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C.

**Gabriel Dayley** is currently completing a master’s in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the School of International Service, American University. Gabe graduated from Pomona College with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, where he completed a thesis on social-psychological empathic processes and methods for improving empathy and compassion among groups in intractable conflict. His academic and professional interests include the construction of identity in conflict, methods of empowering women in conflict environments, dialogue as a tool for shifting intergroup attitudes, and the role that mindfulness techniques can play in conflict resolution. He is thrilled to be working at Women in International Security, deepening his interest in and understanding of the experience of women and gender dynamics in peace and security.

Gabe is also the Washington Project Coordinator for Mediators Foundation, where he supports the development of collaborative projects among organizations seeking to transform hyper-partisanship in the American political system. His previous work includes dialogue facilitation at American University’s Intergroup Dialogue program and at Building Bridges, a Colorado-based organization that runs leadership and communication programs for young women from Israel, Palestine, and the United States. Additionally, Gabe is co-founder and editor of The Arrow: A Journal of Wakeful Society, Culture & Politics, a scholarly publication that explores the connection between cultural transformation and political and economic change.
Sung-gyu (Mark) Hong recently graduated from Washington State University with a Master of Arts in Communication, specializing in political communication and media effect. Sung-gyu also holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Communication from Han-yang University in South Korea. His academic interests include topics related to political polarization, focusing specifically on the role of mass media in political polarization in political parties and the general public. Sung-gyu has also conducted research on the use of social media and media framing in political communication. Before joining WIIS, he worked as a research associate at AudioNow LLC in Washington, DC. In this capacity Sung-gyu specialized in conducting market research and developed marketing strategies for prospective domestic and international clients through various social media platforms. Moving forward, Sung-gyu will continue his doctoral studies in political communication and build on his existing knowledge of marketing and communication systems.

WIIS Global

The new WIIS website was launched in November with a new and improved member-only platform. Please note, for security reasons members will need to reset their password the first time they log into the member portal. We kindly ask all members to update their profiles in order to take full advantage of the new platform. These efforts help the WIIS network provide the highest quality services.

WIIS is launching a membership drive to propel us into a new phase in our organization’s development. This is a multi-front campaign. If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2015, please do so now. You can find information on membership categories and payment links on our website. We call on all of the senior members of WIIS and every member who has the means to do so to pledge $500-1000 for 2015. We need 200 of our members to step up and join this Leadership Circle. Your donation will be tax deductible. We also urge every member of WIIS to recruit a new member over the next 12 months.

February 16-17, 2015: WIIS President Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat will speak at the international conference, "Women: Powerful Agents for Peace and Security," in Amsterdam. The conference is organized by the Dutch Foreign Ministry and will bring together civil society partners from post-conflict countries, policy makers, UN representatives, and experts in the field.
February 17-21, 2015: Dr. Gale Mattox will represent WIIS at the 2015 International Studies Association Conference in New Orleans. WIIS will be hosting a panel on women and negotiation in peace and security on February 19 from 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm. Follow us on twitter at @WIIS_Global and #ISA2015.

WIIS Affiliates

WIIS Canada
WIIS Canada will host an annual academic conference in May 2015 at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Keep an eye out for the upcoming call for proposals and papers! Find more information about WIIS Canada's activities and events on their website.

WIIS Germany
WIIS Germany has invited High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security, Federica Mogherin, to speak at an invitation only meeting organized by WIIS in conjunction with the Munich Security Conference on February 7, 2015. The German Defense Minister, Ursula von der Leyen will also be speaking at an upcoming conference on women and security. Learn more about WIIS Germany's activities and events on their website.

WIIS Israel
WIIS Israel recently hosted a mentoring event in which a prominent Israeli judge spoke to ten law students about working in the field as a woman. In addition, a One-to-One roundtable event is scheduled for February 2015. This roundtable will address the gender parity in Israeli politics and feature women representatives from the major parties.

WIIS Malta
WIIS Malta is strengthening its connections with local universities and mentoring students on issues related to women and security. Additionally, WIIS Malta plans to launch a program building community mosaics to strengthen ties between female migrants and local
Wiis New Zealand

Dr. Anna Powles of Wiis New Zealand has been invited to speak at the Women In Leadership Summit in Vanuatu hosted by the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), a regional organization comprising Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands. Powles will discuss the importance of UNSCR 1325 in respect to the MSG's development of a UN mandated regional peacekeeping force.

Wiis (Spain)

February, 2015: SWiis will participate in the Atenea Forum to discuss security issues and the role of women.

In anticipation of International Women's Day, SWiis will hold three lunch events in March 2015 featuring women who worked in peace missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and Bosnia with the UN, EU, and NATO. Additionally, an exhibit on women, peace, and security will feature photographs from the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), including Spanish women working at UN, NATO, and OSCE Peace Missions.

Wiis UK

January 15, 2015: Wiis UK will co-host a networking skills workshop with a group from King's College perfecting the tips and tricks of the trade. Another event is being planned with the same group to discuss women war reporters.

March, 2015: Wiis UK and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) will organize an event on gender and leadership in the fields of security and defense. Stay posted for the launch of the Wiis UK website!
WIIS DC

January 22, 2015: WIIS DC will be holding its monthly mentoring circle at 6:30 pm at the GWU Elliott School of International Affairs (1957 E Street, Washington, D.C. - Room 316). The event will feature Dr. Nora Bensahel, who will share her range of experiences and advice working national security issues across the think tank community in D.C.

WIIS Blog

Be a contributor! Submit yours to blog@wiisglobal.org today!

Elizabeth Pond emphasizes the effects soft-economic power could have on restraining aggression in Ukraine.

Ellen Haring discusses the prospects of the full integration of women into the U.S. Marine Corps.

Elizabeth Pond analyzes clues suggesting Moscow may be ready to deescalate the crisis in Ukraine.

Need to renew your membership?
Join today!