

## **Dr. Wanda Wigfall-Williams**

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### **OVERVIEW**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams is the Chair for the Intercultural and International Communication MA Program at American University's School of International Service. She is an experienced teacher, researcher and practitioner. As a highly skilled interculturalist, she focuses on identity-based conflicts across a variety of cultures in domestic and transnational settings. She has a successful track record in all aspects of project management including program design, development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. In her role managing research projects, she has demonstrated expertise in training, conducting program assessments, situational analyses, and monitoring and evaluating programs. Dr. Wigfall-Williams' extensive intercultural communication and social marketing and health communication skills coupled with her expertise in conflict management, mitigation and transformation uniquely position her to successfully manage a complex brief.

### **EDUCATION**

George Mason University, PhD

Fairfax, Virginia

Doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Dissertation Topic: Peace in the Margins: Identity Negotiation in Mixed-Tradition Marriages and the Potential for Mitigating Inter-Community Conflicts in Northern Ireland

Committee Chair: Professor Wallace Warfield

Committee Member: Professor Richard Rubenstein

Committee Member: Professor Marc Hopson

George Mason University, MS

Fairfax, Virginia

Master of Science in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Temple University, BS

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams is an Assistant Professor at the American University's School of International Service (SIS). She is responsible for teaching a variety of courses, including: *Intercultural Communication*, *When Worldviews Clash: Navigating Constructively Across Identity Faultlines*, *Identity, Race, Gender and Culture*, *Justice Ethics and Human Rights in Hispaniola*, and *Peace, Global Security and Conflict Resolution*. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Wigfall-Williams supervises student internships, directed readings, MA Thesis, and Significant Research Projects (SRPs). She supports and

mentors undergraduate and graduate students in developing and implementing their research proposals and projects, applying for scholarships, fellowships, and she advises co-facilitators from the Center for Diversity and Inclusion's Intergroup Dialogue series. She has co-facilitated several community dialogues, including *Racial Inequities in the United States*. During her five-year term on the SIS Diversity and Inclusion committee she supported many initiatives to bring different constituencies together. **2009 – 2014.**

### **Research Interests**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams' academic interests include intercultural communication and identity-based conflicts (race, gender, sexual expression, class, sectarianism, colorism and ableism) domestically and transnationally. She focuses on the root causes of inequities, and explores how the very nature of marginalization and disenfranchisement impacts United States' foreign policy and national security. An unfortunate by-product of structural and institutional inequity and bias is a marked increase in the global trafficking of humans, organs, drugs, and weapons..

### **Professional Leadership and Service at American University**

Active faculty participant in the Graduate Students of Color

Attend and promote Graduate Open House events for prospective students interested in the Intercultural and International Communication program September **2018-present**

Member of the Search Community for the Distinguished Diplomatic in Residence **April 2019-July 2019**

Member of the Search Committee for the Undergraduate Program Director

Former Chair, Term Faculty Reappointment Guidelines Task Force **2018-2019**

Member, Constitution and By-Laws Task Force **2017 – September 2018**

Member, Faculty Learning Community **2017 - 2017**

Presenter, Ann Ferren Annual Conference **2016 -2018**

Member, SIS Dean's Advisory Council **2016 – June 30, 2018**

Chair, Term Faculty Committee **2016 – June 30, 2018**

Member, Term Faculty Committee **2014 - 2016**

Member of the National Review Committee for AAAS/ DSD Fellowships **2016 - 2018**

Member of the National Review Committee Boren Awards **2012 – 2017**

Member of the Retreat-Planning Committee **April 2016 – December, 2016**

Faculty Tutor domestic and international students **2009 - present**

Actively engaged in SIS recruitment and retention activities **2009 – present**

Faculty Advisor for the Agape Campus Ministries **2011 – 2016**

Faculty Advisor for the Phi Sigma Pi Fraternity **2011 – 2016**

Faculty Advisor for the Alternative Break to the Dominican Republic **2014 - 2015**

Faculty mentor to students applying for competitive scholarships, fellowships, grants and Internships **2011 – present**

Green Teaching Award **2013 - present**

Active in SIS retention events for sophomore students **2014 - present**

Faculty Mentor for the SIS Gateway for incoming students **2009 - 2015**

Identify high performing and high achieving students and refers them to the Office of Merit Awards **2010 - present**

Active in SIS prospective student events **2009 - present**

Supervises undergraduate students participating in American University's *Community Service-Learning Program*

Former member of the General Education Committee (five-year term)

Former member of the SIS Advisory Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (five-year term)

### **COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was an Assistant Professor at Columbia College's Human Behavior and Conflict Management Program. In that capacity she was responsible for developing and teaching innovative courses for the graduate students. During her tenure she refocused the Masters of Arts program by adding rigorous research methods courses, developing new courses on cross-cultural and intercultural communication, and strategies for managing culture and conflict in the workplace. Dr. Wigfall-Williams established the Conflict Management Film Series at Columbia College, worked with local and state law enforcement representatives and medical students from the University of South Carolina to develop a social marketing campaign targeting inner-city youth involved in drug use and drug-related violence with prevention, treatment, and intermediary messages. Dr. Wigfall-Williams advised and mentored graduate and undergraduate students and contributed to the reorganization of the Human Behavior and Conflict Program. **2008 – 2009**

### **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was Adjunct Faculty at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) and taught in the Graduate Certificate program, which was designed for mid-career professionals. The Graduate Certificate program integrates conflict analysis and resolution theory, research, and practice techniques. The program utilizes intensive course sessions, lectures, seminars and applied mentored learning in real and simulated situations to prepare students to utilize conflict analysis and resolution approaches relevant to their focused areas of work. Dr. Wigfall-Williams also taught conflict courses at the undergraduate level. **2007-2008**

### **WORLD VIEW MANAGEMENT GROUP**

As president of this professional services consulting firm, Dr. Wigfall-Williams directs all conflict analysis, mitigation and management as well as cross-cultural and inter-cultural communication, social marketing and other activities for World View Management Group's clients. Dr. Wigfall-Williams provides technical expertise to a variety of domestic and transnational agencies in both the public and private sectors. She also directs program implementation, assessment and evaluation of projects for numerous agencies. Dr. Wigfall-Williams regularly develops and designs training workshops for broad audiences on issues of identity, communication, gender violence, sectarianism, pluralism, justice and building sustainable peace. She has conducted a variety of training workshops for USAID, including the Washington and field staff. In addition, Dr. Wigfall-Williams has and continues to work with a broad variety of NGOs in preparing conflict assessments, conducting threat analyses, developing risk policies, and curriculum and training modules for staff operating in transitional conflict zones and divided societies. **1993 – present**

### **Selected client list**

Ministry of Education, Jamaica  
Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Education, Barbados  
INTEC, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
U.S. Department of State  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Institute on Drug Abuse Prevention  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Queen's University  
George Mason University  
Cooperative Housing Foundation  
International Resource Group  
Consortium for Child Welfare  
Initiative for Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity at the University of Ulster & United Nations University

### **GLOBAL EXCHANGE**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was the Project Director for The Urban Youth Public Education Campaign that was funded by the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The goal of this \$12 million national multimedia public information campaign was to target African-American youth living in high-risk environments with alcohol and other substance abuse prevention messages. The campaign was designed to reinforce ongoing drug abuse prevention efforts in the top twenty urban media markets nationwide. She was responsible for supervision and management of all aspects of this project: market research, creative development, implementation, training, replication, and evaluation. **1991 – 1993**

### **CENTER FOR POPULATION OPTIONS**

As the Project Director for the National Initiative on AIDS and HIV Prevention Among Adolescents, which was funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she provided overall direction, and evaluation. Dr. Wigfall-Williams made presentations, authored publications, and analyzed policy. She was involved in fiscal management and strategic planning. This initiative was primarily funded by a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and was supplemented with foundation grants. As part of her brief, Dr. Wigfall-Williams organized a consortium of national CDC-funded organizations. The goal of this consortium was to maximize the individual organizations' efforts to reach out-of-school youth in high-risk environments with HIV prevention and intervention messages by combining the strengths of each organization. The consortium developed a two-day training model design for *front line* youth-serving professionals, and provided follow-up technical assistance. **1989 – 1991**

### **AWARDS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

#### **Outstanding SIS Faculty Mentor Award**

May 9, 2019

Dr. Wigfall-Williams is supportive of faculty with respect to offering advice, introducing them to colleagues internal and external to the School of International Service. I review draft documents and wrote a letter of reference for a prestigious fellowship, which the Associate Professor was successful. I contribute to term and tenure-line and tenured faculty.

#### **Darrell Randall Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community**

May 9, 2018

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was presented with this award because of her service to the School of International Service. She chaired the term faculty committee, chaired the committee for developing guidelines for term faculty reappointment, She served on the SIS Faculty By-Laws, she served on a workshop at the annual Ann Ferren Teaching Conference; and Dr. Wigfall-Williams participated in a panel related to challenging the canons of academe.

### **Outstanding Service to the University Community**

May 10, 2017

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was presented this award because of her service to students, faculty and staff. She served on the planning committee for the American University's retreat; was a co-presenter on a panel for a workshop addressing how to decolonize the syllabi. She participated in a faculty learning community (FLC), which was facilitated by Dr. Fanta Aw and Dr. Amanda Taylor. I continue to work with faculty, staff, and students informally on how to manage difficult conversations.

### **Thomas P. O'Neill Peace Fellow**

2000-2001

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was named the Tip O'Neill Peace Fellow for 2000 – 2001. The University of Ulster (a United Nations University) and Initiative for Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity (INCORE) made the selection from a highly competitive field of candidates. The purpose of this Fellowship was to recognize and support original research being undertaken by the fellow. During the course of her study examining identity negotiation within the context of mixed-tradition marriages in a divided society, she conducted extensive interviews with a diverse selection of people in Northern Ireland. She spoke to community based organization workers, paramilitary members, police administrators, human rights activists, clergy, journalists and politicians. The result of her work formed the content of her dissertation.

### **George Anderson Award**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams was selected by the faculty of the School for Conflict and Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University to be the 2006-2007 recipient of the George Anderson Award. The Institute made this award based on her academic excellence, and her contributions to the body of knowledge in ethnic and racial conflict.

### **Brenda Rubenstein Peace Scholar**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams received the *Brenda Rubenstein Peace Scholar* award from the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This award based on her academic excellence, and her contributions to the body of literature in the conflict management and mitigation field of study.

### **Co-Convener for Mixed Marriages – The International Dimension**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams and Dr. Gillian Robinson worked to identify, organize, and convene a workshop addressing the variety of similarities, differences, and lessons to be learned from other case studies around the world. A working group emerged as a result of this workshop, as well as several articles.

### **Co-Convener for the Working group on Building a Multicultural Community**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams co-convened this working group at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution in a variety of capacities during her doctoral studies. She organized events to encourage dialogue among School faculty, staff, and students around issues related to race, ethnicity, identity, nationality, and gender. She developed outreach efforts to support and enhance diversity work in neighboring communities, and applied for foundation grants to support the activities of the work-group.

Dr. Wigfall-Williams won a Telly Award for a 30-second public service announcement developed for the Urban Youth Public Education Campaign. She co-executive produced *Dispelling Myths, Restoring Hope*. This video examined the effects of negative media coverage on the identity of African-American youth so that the media could approach the challenges and triumphs based on reality rather than myth. Dr.

Wigfall-Williams was co-executive produced, *By Our Own Hands*. This documentary chronicled a substance abuse prevention campaign targeting urban youth living in high risk, urban environments. Dr. Wigfall-Williams provided technical assistance to WGBH in the development of, *In the Shadow of Love: A Teen AIDS Story*.

#### **Executive Committee Member for Hospice of Northern Virginia**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and served as a board representative to the Patient Care, Governance, Development, and Long Range Planning Committees.

#### **Steering Committee Member for Women and HIV Conference**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams also participated on a committee formed at the request of the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The charge of the group was to identify and implement the content portion of the first national Women and HIV Conference. The committee ended its work by identifying critical future research directions.

#### **Co-Founder, WOAR (Women Organized Against Rape) Philadelphia General Hospital**

Dr. Wigfall-Williams and two other associates co-founded WOAR. This organization was set up to counsel rape victims from their initial contact with the medical and legal systems through the final disposition of the incident. Primary responsibilities included the design and development of training workshops for the organization's volunteers.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Psychological Association  
International Studies Association  
Women's Foreign Policy Group  
Women in International Security

#### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

*Envisioning a New Landscape for Peace: Reorganizing Structures that Function for All*. The International Studies Annual Convention. New Orleans, Louisiana. February 17-20, 2010.

*The Lies that Bind: Understanding the Role of Sex, Drugs and Violence in Contemporary Slavery*. The European Slave Trade: Character, Causes, Challenges, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. July 3rd-5th 2007.  
*Identity Negotiation within a Mixed Marriage: An Opportunity for Conflict Escalation or Conflict Transformation Mixed Marriages*. The International Dimension Workshop, November 26-27, 2001

*Making Amends: The Role of Apology, Justice, and Reparations in Maintaining Peace in Northern Ireland*, Dealing with the Past Conference, June 8-9, 1998.

*Sectarian Violence in Northern Ireland: Are There Lessons to be Learned from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement?* International Civil Rights Conference, March 4, 1998.

#### *Gender and Conflict*

The National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution. "Peacemaking Journeys," May 25, 1997.

*What's the 411 on Urban Youth?*

The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Conference "New Dimensions in Prevention: Sharing Today, Shaping Tomorrow," February 8-10, 1993.

*Reshaping Shattered Dreams*

The National Conference of Substance Abuse Prevention among Youth of Color, "Ethnic Identity Development: The Missing Link"; April 2-3, 1992.

The Secretarial Conference: Strengthening the Linkages; February 26-28, 1992.

*Reaching Urban Youth in the 90s*. The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services - 17th Annual Symposium, 1992: Leading the Nation as a Voice for Youth; February 9-12, 1992.

*HIV and AIDS in the Black Community*

The National Education Association's Annual Black Caucus Meeting; March 17, 1991.

*A National Perspective on HIV and AIDS among Adolescents*

National Comprehensive School Conference on AIDS, Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Unification through Leadership - Sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service and the American Red Cross; March 12-15, 1991.

The First National Women and HIV Prevention Conference - Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the United States Center for Disease Control; December 13-14, 1990.

VI International Conference on AIDS: The Role of Skills Building on the Reduction of HIV Infection among Injection Drug Using Sex Workers. June 21-24, 1990.

Third International Conference on AIDS Education: Reaching High Risk Youth with HIV Prevention Messages through Peer Education. September 12-15, 1989.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED**

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Identities; "Shared, Multiple and Peace." In *The International Encyclopedia of Peace*. Edited by Nigel Young. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Book Review of *Ruairí Óbrádaigh: The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary*, by Robert W. White. Bloomington and Indianapolis: University of Indiana Press.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Peace in the Margins: Identity Negotiation in Mixed-Tradition Marriages and its Potential for Mitigating Inter-Community Conflicts in Northern Ireland. Doctoral Dissertation, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, 2007.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Identity Negotiation in the context of a mixed marriage: What lessons can be learned and applied to the larger divided community? INCORE, 2002.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda and Gillian Robinson. A World Apart: Mixed Religious Tradition Marriages in Northern Ireland.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Minority College-Based AIDS Risk Reduction Program Curriculum (Intervention Chapters); issued by RII for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1991.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda and Nancy Rosenshine. Intervention Modules for the Sexual Partners of Injection Drug Users. Issued by NOVA Research for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1991.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. The Center for Population Options' Testimony before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, May, 1990.

Wigfall-Williams, Wanda. Out of the Shadows: Building an Agenda and Strategies for Preventing HIV/AIDS in Street and Homeless Youth; issued by the Center for Population Options, 1990.