

SPEAKERS

MARTIN RUSSELL



Is the Associate Director of DiasporaMatters. He completed his PhD on diaspora engagement at the Clinton Institute, University College Dublin. He served as Senior Research Assistant on the Global Diaspora Strategies Toolkit which was launched at the inaugural Global Diaspora Forum. He has served as advisor on numerous fora and conferences, including the Global Diaspora and Development Forum. He recently completed a visiting fellowship at UNU-MERIT. He was lead consultant on an EU funded project to develop a national diaspora policy for Malawi and currently leads a project to develop a diaspora policy in Albania. He has written and spoken extensively on diaspora for a range of clients including Comic Relief, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ireland), ICMPD, IOM, UK Trade and Investment, USAID, and the World Bank.

H. E. GARY KOREN



Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Israel was born in 1959 in Riga, Latvia, when it was under the Soviet rule. In 1973, in the first massive wave of “Aliyah” (repatriation) */ , his family was allowed to leave the Soviet Union for the historical homeland of the Jewish people, Israel. His career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs includes the following missions: second and first secretary at the Embassy of the State of Israel in Lilongwe and Moscow, the Counselor of the Israeli Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, the Ambassador of the State of Israel to Latvia and Lithuania and many other.

*/ Nowadays approximately 1.5 million Jews from the former Soviet Union live in Israel. They are fully integrated and they are successfully contributing to the state prosperity and security.

HANA ČERVINKOVÁ

Graduated from the New School for Social Research in New York (PhD in Anthropology – 2003) and University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław (associate professor in 2013), where she now teaches Anthropology and Pedagogy. She also holds the position of the Vice Dean for International Research and Education and is a Director of the International Institute for Cultural Studies and Education which she founded in 2003. Since 2012 she has been a member of the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. She is author of numerous publications on Central European transformation, anthropology of a city, pedagogical anthropology and active research, member of the board of European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) as well as Council of Anthropology and Education (part of the American Anthropological Association).

PANELISTS

PANEL I

Economic issues related to diaspora and its relationship to the kin-state

LUKÁŠ SEDLÁČEK



Co-founder and executive director of European Leadership & Academic Institute (ELAI) and founder of Poetizer start up. Earlier also a president of Oxford & Cambridge Alumni Society Czech Republic. Lectured at New York University and Anglo-American University in Prague. Worked at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Defense, O2 and Yes for Europe (NGO). Graduated from the University of Cambridge (International Relations) and Charles University, Prague (European studies, International Relations, Hebrew studies and Religious studies).

Motto: Building a relationship with its own diaspora represents a great (not only) economic potential for the Czech Republic. The Oxbridge Alumni societies all over the world could be an inspirational model for keeping a good relationship with the Czech diaspora.

RADEK ŠPICAR



Graduated from the University of Cambridge. After Cambridge, he spent one year as a Fulbright scholar at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. After his return to the Czech Republic, he joined the government and later became a Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs. Until recently, he worked in the Czech Republic's largest private company, Skoda Auto (Volkswagen Group), as a Head of External Affairs. At the moment, he works as the Vice-President of the Federation of Industry of the Czech Republic. He is also active in the non-profit sector and academia as a member of the Corporate Council of Vaclav Havel's Forum 2000 Foundation and Chairman of the Supervisory board of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design.

Motto: Central European diasporas was my dissertation topic at the University of Cambridge – I am very happy to share some of my findings with conference attendees.

PANEL II

Science, Education, Mobility – Czechs abroad and their linkage to the motherland

ZDENKA ALMEROVÁ



Since 1993 manager of the Open Society Fund Scholarship Programme for secondary school students – organized in cooperation with professional association of heads of the world's leading independent schools (HMC) and American Secondary Schools for International

Students and Teachers (ASSIST). It is a very unique programme enabling students of the first and second secondary school year to get a scholarship and study at private and independent schools, where otherwise they wouldn't be able to afford the fee. Subsequently many such students were able to get a scholarship at prestigious universities worldwide. We have managed to send out almost 400 students since the beginning of the programme.

Motto: What may our students expect after the return to their secondary school? Cultural shock when starting studies abroad or after the return? What are the obstacles to continue at Czech university post finishing secondary school abroad? Do graduates of foreign schools and universities get appropriate recognition and jobs in the Czech Republic corresponding their education?

PAVLÍNA KOUBSKÁ



Graduated from the Faculty of Sociology, Charles University in Prague (political sciences). Her studies included one year at the Institute of Political Sciences in Aix-en-Provence. From 2003 to 2005 she continued her studies at ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration). She has worked in France since 2005, since 2011 at the Ministry for the Economy and Finance, where she is in charge of the relationship with the European Parliament. Soon she will act as a French “exchange officer” in the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague. In 2015 she acquired the status of the French public officer and French citizenship as well.

Motto: My experience of the French public service could be inspirational for the Czech Republic: in the process of adopting tools already working in France and avoiding mistakes already made.

KRISTÝNA KŘÍZOVÁ



In September 1990 she started her studies in France within a newly restored “Czech sections programme”. She has lived in Prague since her return, having worked in a non-formal education field both in business and non-profit sector. After the establishment of the Association of Czechoslovak and Czech students in France Alumni in 2010 she has engaged in Czech/French cooperation, she is the Association chairwoman since 2012.

Motto: Success of an individual as well as of an entire society in our modern and complex times is unthinkable without a “different” experience. The knowledge itself is not enough nowadays, it is important to be able to quickly adapt to new circumstances, be able to contextualize and think “outside the box”. Educational mobility offers such competencies. It should be regarded not as a “brain drain” but as the “brain gain”.

JIŘÍ NEUŽIL



Graduated from the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology, he completed his post-graduate studies at the Institute of Microbiology, Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. As a visiting researcher he worked at the University of Cambridge in Great Britain, at the Heart Research Institute in Sydney, Australia (1991–1997), the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany (1998–2000) and at the University of Linköping in Sweden in 2001. Since 2002 he has worked at the School of Medical Science, Griffith University, Qld, Australia and since 2006 he has been working in parallel in Prague, as the Head of a research group in the Institute of Biotechnology, Czech Academy of Sciences. His research interests focus on biology

of neoplastic diseases and new anti-cancer therapeutic strategies, he is author of some 180 research papers and holds several patents on new anti-cancer therapies and drugs, one of which is being planned for a clinical trial.

Motto: By means of world-class research in Australia and the Czech Republic to provide efficient therapy to cancer patients. The best is yet to come.

MODERATOR

TOMÁŠ SAMEK



Linguistic and cultural anthropologist, worked a number of years abroad, namely in the US, Germany and France where he taught and did field research in migrant communities. Today he teaches at the Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice; he studies the influence of the language on social knowledge and awareness. A monograph on the subject is soon to be published.