

LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE IN POLITICS

REBUILDING TRUST IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Anna Dolidze

Former Parliamentary Secretary and Chief Legal Advisor of the President of Georgia

Anna Dolidze, who graduated with a PhD in Law from Cornell University, is the founder and chairwoman of the 'For the People' party, as well as a professor of international law. She has in recent years been a member of the Georgian High Council of Justice, as well as served as the Parliamentary Secretary and Chief Legal Advisor to the President of Georgia. She is an active speaker on international and local issues, particularly on human and women's rights in Caucasus and Central Eurasia. During her time as president of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, a leading human rights organization in Georgia, she targeted legal and criminal justice reform, as well as advocated for government transparency and accountability. Notably, she is also the founder of the 'Women Empowerment Network', which mentors and empowers young women leaders.



Brian Baird

Former Member of the US House of Representatives

Brian Baird is not only a licensed clinical psychologist, but also, having served as a Member of U.S. Congress for 12 years, an experienced leader and public speaker. His areas of specialty include education and organizational and individual communication skills training and strategy. His strengths lie in communication and his ability to work collaboratively to find practical solutions to challenging issues. As such, he has experience as a consultant for leading organizations, corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and individuals on communication, psychology, and policy. He also regularly teaches professional development courses to attorneys and judges on communication, ethics, and the psychology of persuasion.



Edward Brooks

Director of Oxford University's Global Leadership Initiative and Oxford Character Project

Edward Brooks graduated from Oxford University with a PhD in Philosophy and has since spent many years exploring from a philosophical standpoint the question of good leadership. His research looks primarily at the intersection between virtue ethics, character and leadership development, with the concepts of hope and resilience, the educational potential of role models, the relationship between character and organizational culture, and the importance of character for ethical and effective leadership being of particular interest to him. This expertise allows him to head the Oxford Character Project, an interdisciplinary initiative exploring the intellectual and ethical aspects of leadership that are vital at a time of complexity and uncertainty. This project has created several character and leadership development programmes for universities and commercial organizations around the world, including the Global Leadership Initiative, which aims to develop individuals' intellectual and practical understanding of good leadership.



Emma Broomfield

Founder of Locale Learning & Locale Consulting

Emma Broomfield is a trained lawyer and a nationally accredited mediator in Australia, whose work aims to create better communication and connection between communities, councils, and councilors. Her work involves providing leadership and professional development support for political leaders within local government, educating communities about high-conflict decisions that affect them, and collaborating with them to, for example, develop plans in the disaster resilience space. As a part of this, she founded Locale Learning, a non-partisan political leadership accelerator responsible for training, coaching, and mentoring Australian councilors through the election period, providing them with the skills to effectively and ethically govern their communities. She is also the founder and director of Locale Consulting, a consulting firm that aims to create better outcomes in regional areas of Australia.



Fabiana Fernandes

Business Analyst, AFFINITY Portugal and participant in the LEiP training, Próxima Geração alumni (Cohort 2023)

Fabiana Fernandes is an active leader in civic education, student advocacy, and equal rights for women and minorities. Currently, she is working on a project focused on public administration and European funds and remains actively involved with Próxima Geração, a non-partisan, non-profit academy dedicated to training future civic society leaders. In May 2024, she participated in the prestigious Leadership Excellence in Politics (LEiP) training in Geneva, where she further developed her skills in policymaking and governance. Fabiana previously served as President of the Associação dos Estudantes do Instituto Superior de Agronomia, where she worked for student rights. She holds a Postgraduate Degree in Communications and Policy from ISCTE-IUL, along with degrees in Agronomy and Food Engineering from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia. Fabiana's diverse experiences highlight her commitment to leadership and public service.



Fadi Daou

Executive Director of GlobeEthics

Fadi Daou is currently the executive director at the non-profit organization GlobeEthics, which aims to advance ethical decision-making and leadership skills in individuals and institutions through educational programs and global collaborations. He believes that fostering ethical leadership will support the deconstruction and transformation of structural divides and discriminations, ultimately moving the world further towards sustainable peace. His research in peacebuilding, cultural and religious geopolitics, dialogue and human rights, as well as founding and executive management role at Adyan Foundation has allowed him to contribute substantially to the international promotion of peace, interfaith relations and inclusive citizenship. This work has earned him MIT's 2020 Elevate Prize, which is awarded to "global thinkers and changemakers".



Gabriela Vega

Executive Director and Co-Founder of Recambio

Political scientist, action researcher, and entrepreneur with experience across public and private sectors, specializing in political practice, public management, social innovation, and researching on electoral systems, political parties, citizen participation, and disinformation. Gabriela has served as a member of the Advisory Cabinet at the Ministries of Finance and Culture, led the social innovation practice at Insitum, and headed the Political Analysis Unit at El Comercio, one of Peru's leading newspapers. She has held positions as Executive Director at Kunan, and as coordinator of the Best Practices in Public Management Award by Ciudadanos al Día. Presently, she volunteers with the Political Reform Working Group at the Consortium for Economic and Social Research, evaluates technical aspects for national innovation awards, and is a member of IPAE's National Development Community and is involved in mentoring young professionals. She actively participates in research initiatives, advocacy, and activism within Peru's democratic ecosystem, and engages across the globe in networks of organizations focused on incubating democratic political leadership.



James Weinberg

Senior Lecturer in Political Science at The University of Sheffield

James Weinberg received his PhD in Philosophy, Political Science and Government from the University of Sheffield, where he is currently a Senior Lecturer in Political Science. His work focuses primarily on political behavior, specifically ideas of trust, personality, and decision-making, as well as democratic education. His research in these areas, which has been published in a range of high profile peer-reviewed journals, has earned him international recognition. Additionally, Weinberg currently holds the role of Principal Academic Advisor for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Political Literacy. His achievements not only in research, but also government and parliamentary circles have earned him multiple grants and awards, including Sheffield University's Chancellor's Medal and the 2024 Richard Rose Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Advancing Knowledge by the UK Political Studies Association.



Joseph Asunka
CEO at Afrobarometer

Joseph Asunka is currently the Chief Executive Officer at the non-partisan, pan-African research network Afrobarometer. He received his PhD in Political Science from UCLA, is dedicated to fighting for social justice and inclusion in Africa. His work has been published in journals such as the British Journal of Political Science and the Journal of Modern African Studies. Prior to his current position, he spent many years as a Program officer in the Global Development and Population program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, one of America's largest philanthropic organizations, as well as program officer at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development. He also has experience as a Political Science lecturer at UCLA, specializing in African politics, political economy of development, research methods, and data analysis.



Lukas Golder
Co-Head & Chairman of the Board of Directors at GFS Bern

Election and media expert Lukas Golder is Co-Head and Chairman of the Board of directors at the policy and communications research specialized company GFS Bern. Clients of the company include political parties, associations, private-sector companies, and civil society organizations. Prior to this, Golder served almost 10 years as a Senior Project Leader at the company, allowing him to gain a strong competence in the areas of integrated communication and campaign analysis, youth research and social change, elections, state modernization and political reform. Currently, he is also a lecturer at both the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and the University of Bern, specializing in political campaigning and its impact. Golder's work has been published in anthropologies, specialist journals, the daily press, and more.



Marcos Peña

Former Argentinian Chief of Cabinet of Ministers and Author

Marcos Peña is an Argentinian politician, political scientist, and author with both extensive theoretical and practical experience in the area of politics. He graduated with a degree in Political Science from the Torcuato Di Tella University, and has since served as the General Secretary of the City of Buenos Aires and the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers for Argentina respectively. In 2015 and 2019, Peña led the presidential campaigns of former Argentine president Mauricio Macri. He is also a founding member of the political party 'Republican Proposal' (PRO). In 2024, Peña released a book titled *El arte de subir (y bajar) la montaña: Cosas que aprendí sobre la dimensión humana del liderazgo*, which explores the human aspects of leadership through extensive conversations with leaders from various fields, drawing insights from his podcast *Proyecto 77*.



S. Michele Nix

Advisor, Spokesperson, and Speechwriter, Communications Consultant and Global Fellow with GCSP

S. Michele Nix is an expert in global affairs, as well as policy and public leadership. She has experience as an advisor, spokesperson and speechwriter for some of the world's most prominent leaders in government and politics, including two United States Secretaries of Homeland Security. Currently, she is an independent communications consultant within the Global Fellowship Initiative of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, which aims to develop sustainable solutions for a more peaceful future. Previously, she served as a Senior DHS Public Affairs Official, as well as Chief Communications Officer, Senior Strategist, and Spokesperson at the international security consultancy Ridge Global.



Nic Cheeseman

Professor of Democracy at the University of Birmingham, Founding Director Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (CEDAR)

Nic Cheeseman is a scholar in the fields of democracy, governance, and African politics. Holding a PhD from Oxford University, he was formerly the Director of the African Studies Centre at Oxford University, and now is the Founding Director of University of Birmingham's Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (CEDAR) where he is currently a Professor as well. His research focuses on the dynamics of elections, democratisation, and authoritarianism, particularly within African contexts. He has authored and co-authored several influential books, including *Democracy in Africa* and *How to Rig an Election*, and his work is regularly featured in leading academic journals and international media. He is also the founding editor of the *Oxford Encyclopaedia of African Politics*, the *Oxford Dictionary of African Politics*, and the co-editor of the *Handbook of Kenyan Politics*. As the founding editor of *Democracy in Africa*, Professor Cheeseman is dedicated to fostering informed debate and advancing the understanding of political systems across the continent.



Odanga Madung

Co-founder of Odipo Dev and Mozilla Fellow

Odanga Madung is an investigative journalist and researcher focused on digital rights and the impact of technology on society. He is the co-founder of Odipo Dev, a data analytics and digital research company that provides insights into online narratives and the influence of digital platforms in Africa, and also serves at the Advisory Board of DW Akademie. As a Mozilla Fellow, Odanga investigates the role of social media platforms in shaping public discourse in Kenya, with a particular focus on disinformation and online manipulation. His work has been published by leading organizations, such as the *Wired*, *Quartz*, the *Mozilla Foundation* and *JournalismFund.eu*. Through his research and advocacy, Odanga is committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within the tech industry, ensuring that digital spaces serve the public good.



Shahida Jamil

Former Federal Minister of Law, Justice, and Human Rights of Pakistan

Shahida Jamil is a prominent Pakistani lawyer and politician who made history as the country's first female Federal Minister of Law, Justice, and Human Rights. She served in this capacity from 2000 to 2002, and again from 2007 to 2008, playing a pivotal role in legal reforms and the promotion of human rights, particularly for women and minorities. She is a Barrister at Law from the Society of Gray's Inn, London and holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science and English Literature from Karachi University. She was also the first woman to be appointed as Provincial Minister of Law in Sindh province. She is practicing law as a Legal and Policy Consultant and is a Professor of Law at School of Law at the Karachi University. Throughout her career, Shahida Jamil has been an advocate for legal reform and has worked extensively on issues related to human rights, judicial independence, and the rule of law in Pakistan.



Shan-Jan Sarah Liu

Political Scientist and Senior Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh

Sarah Liu earned her dual PhD in Political Science and Women's, Gender and Sexual Studies from Pennsylvania State University. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Politics at the University of Edinburgh, where her research focuses on the cross-national comparison of gender and politics, specifically the ways contexts shape the gender gap in political attitudes and activities. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, she held academic positions at the Australian National University and Newcastle University. Sarah was an Associate Editor of *Representation: Journal of Representative Democracy* and Coordinating Editor of *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. Currently, she sits on the editorial board of *Political Behavior* and the *Journal of Taiwan Studies*. She is also co-organizing the Women and Politics section program for the 2023 American Political Science Association annual conference and serves as an invited member of the Equality, Inclusion, and Access in the Discipline Taskforce of the Western Political Science Association.



Simonetta Sommaruga
Former President of the Swiss Confederation

Simonetta Sommaruga has many years of experience as a prominent political figure in Switzerland. Prior to her presidency in both 2015 and 2020, she spent 11 years as a Member of the Swiss Federal Council. She also has eight years of experience as the Head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Justice and Police, and four as the Head of its Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications. She served as the president of SWISSAID for 5 years, an organization which hopes to, through international development cooperation, defeat world hunger, poverty, and war. Currently, she is the president of the EQUAL-SALARY Foundation, an organization committed to, through a certification process, closing the wage gap at companies globally.



Ximena Peredo
Former Secretary of Citizen Participation at the Government of Nuevo León, Mexico

Ximena Peredo Rodriguez is a Mexican political scientist, author, citizen activist, and political leader. With a PhD in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Coimbra (Portugal). Beginning her career as the youngest opinion columnist for *El Norte*, a leading newspaper in Monterrey, Ximena wrote for 23 years, known for her sharp-witted commentary. As a long-time citizen activist, she has been a prominent voice in defending human rights and environmental causes, notably protecting the La Pastora forest. In her role as the first Secretary of Citizen Participation in Nuevo León, she pioneered programs to professionalize public services, promote open government, and enhance public decision-making. Recognized as a Democratic Innovator of the 21st Century at the Athens Democracy Forum, she is currently developing a political project focused on integrating citizen participation in solving complex public issues in Nuevo León.



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