

Spring 2021

# HUMPHREY CONNECTIONS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



**Boston University** Questrom School of Business



**Humphrey Fellowship**  
A Fulbright Exchange Program



## THE HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Cohorts of Fellows specializing in designated fields are hosted by universities chosen for their academic excellence in those fields and for other support they offer. Fellows pursue an intensive, semi-structured program focused on:



Professional  
Advancement



Collaboration with  
U.S. Counterparts



Leadership  
Development



Intercultural  
Exchange

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was established in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter to honor the late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life-long commitment to international cooperation and public service. The program invites experienced professionals from designated countries to spend a year in the U.S. preparing to address several of the most compelling development issues in the world today. Humphrey Fellows are selected based on their leadership potential, commitment to public service, and professional expertise. Today's Humphrey Fellow alumni network comprises over 6,000 influential leaders worldwide. This is a Fulbright exchange activity, primarily funded by Congress and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State, with administrative assistance provided by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

# THE PROGRAM AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY



Boston University has operated as a host campus since the Program's inception in 1978. The Questrom School of Business serves as the program's administrative home at BU, where all nine 2012-2021 fellows specialize in finance and economic development. Under the guidance of program coordinators and faculty advisors, fellows pursue individualized programs of non-degree, graduate level coursework, independent research, special seminars and colloquia, and six-week, professional affiliations related to their respective fields. The Humphrey Fellowship Program has contributed to BU's development into one of the world's most globally connected private universities, where more than 7,000 international students live and study. As of 2021, the BU Humphrey alumni network exceeds 500 members in over 125 countries

# MEET THE 2020-2021 HUMPHREY FELLOWS



## RAHAT AIYLCHIEVA, KYRGYZSTAN REPUBLIC

Ms. Rahat Aiylichieva works as a chief inspector in the Systemic Risks Analysis Division of the National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic. Her responsibilities include regular analysis and assessment of systemically significant risks of the banking system, as well as the impact of economic conditions and external factors. During her Fellowship year, Rahat plans to advance her knowledge of how innovative systems (FinTech) are set up and implemented in the U.S. with an emphasis on internal credit rating systems. Rahat hopes to gain deep knowledge in banking regulation, risk management, and financial inclusion and to learn the hands-on experience of U.S. supervision authorities.

Ms. Aiylichieva graduated from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University with a BSc in Economics.



## MOHAMMAD RIFKI AKBARI, INDONESIA

Mr. Mohammad Rifki Akbari works at the nexus of research, policy and practice with over 15 years of professional experience in public policy and economic development at various government agencies and international organizations. He previously served as a Program Manager at the National Council for Financial Inclusion of Indonesia where he was responsible for managing research to expand access to finance through the application of technology-enabled approach and behavioral insights. During his Fellowship year, he aims to enrich his academic and professional endeavors with a focus on topics related to digital finance, behavioral economics, and entrepreneurial leadership.

Mr. Akbari holds a Master's degree in Development Studies from Melbourne University.



## LEEMOON MAL CHAGLANI, PAKISTAN

Mr. Leemoon Mal Chaglani is the Assistant Vice President & Project Manager at the National Bank of Pakistan. His core responsibilities are to monitor and manage NBP Card business and mainly engage in making arrangements with Card companies, selection of locations of ATMs and its arrangements with external companies. During the Humphrey Fellowship Program, he hopes to explore best practices used in United States financial institutions regarding financial technology and digitization processes.

Mr. Chaglani holds an MBA in Finance from the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) Karachi, and is a Certified Junior Associate of UK Chartered Banker and Certified Associate of Institute of Bankers Pakistan (AIBP).

# MEET THE 2020-2021 HUMPHREY FELLOWS



## ILHAM KALASHOV, AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Ilham Kalashov is the General director in Mortgage and Credit Guarantee Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan. His position has functions related to support the Fund's activities in the field of mortgage lending, as well as mortgage loan guarantees and to realize general monitoring over these spheres. Mr. Kalashov has twenty years of experience in financial sector, most of them dedicated to organization of mortgage programs, granting and servicing of mortgage loans. During his Fellowship year, he would like to strengthen his professional training with an emphasis on housing finance and banking, financial and real estate markets, the state housing policy, as well as to deepen his leadership skills.

Mr. Kalashov holds master degrees both in Law and Finance.



## SELENICAH MARUZA, ZIMBABWE

Ms. Selenicah Maruza is the Financial Manager for Merrylight Enterprises, an export agri-business contributing to agricultural development in Zimbabwe. During the fellowship year, Ms. Maruza plans to advance her knowledge and practical applications on how digital financial solutions can be better designed to drive financial inclusion; remove barriers to financial accessibility in sectors such as agriculture in order drive economic empowerment especially among women and youth in Zimbabwe and Sub Saharan Africa.

Ms. Maruza is a qualified chartered accountant with the institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe and is currently studying to become a Certified Digital Finance Practitioner with the Digital Frontiers Institute.



## MARIA DEL CARMEN PANTOJA MENDEZ, ECUADOR

Ms. Maria del Carmen Pantoja has more than ten years of experience in civil society and public organizations working in the oil and gas industry. She has also performed as an economic researcher and public policy analyst. During her Fellowship year, she plans to widen her knowledge in capital markets and enhance her leadership skills. Her goal is to reinforce her role as a change-maker woman in the extractive industries and is interested in networking with experts in legal and financial institutions with expertise in the extractive sector.

Ms. Pantoja is an Economist and holds a MBA degree focused in International Business from the Universidad de las Americas of Ecuador and a specialization in Extractive Industries, Surveillance and Sustainable Development of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

# MEET THE 2020-2021 HUMPHREY FELLOWS



## DUANGHATHAI PENTRAKON, THAILAND

Ms. Duanghathai Pentrakoon serve as an Associate Professor lecturer at Materials Science Department, Faculty of Science and also Technopreneurship and Innovation Management Program, Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. During her fellowship year, she would like to boost her capabilities with cutting-edge tools and methods in technology/innovation strategy and management, empower her capabilities in solving complex challenges and seizing strategic opportunities, and explore approaches in promoting research work for commercial purposes.

Ms. Pentrakoon holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Polymer Science and Technology (Chemistry) from University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, United Kingdom, and also a Bachelor of Laws degree major in Business Law from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.



## MARTYNAS PILKIS, LITHUANIA

Mr. Martynas Pilkis is an Adviser to the Board Member at Lietuvos Bankas (The Bank of Lithuania, a central bank and integrated regulator). In this position he is responsible for coordinating institutional actions to develop a FinTech-conducive regulatory and supervisory ecosystem as well as foster innovation in the financial system. During the Humphrey Year, Martynas would appreciate the chance to learn more about finance, especially at the intersection of finance, innovation and policy making.

Mr. Pilkis holds a master's degree in Public Policy Analysis from Vilnius University. He has also completed a semester of studies in University of Copenhagen (Erasmus-scholarship) and Applied Economic Policy Course at Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), receiving a Letter of Excellence as one of exceptional participants.



## KERELOS SOLIMAN, EGYPT

Mr. Kerehos Soliman is a Regulatory Compliance Officer at the National bank of Egypt where he is a member in the correspondent relations department in the Compliance & corporate governance group. He is responsible for assessing all the correspondent banks and financial institutions relations, developing proper AML/KYC procedures & policies to benchmark it with the internal laws and regulations within international best practices. During his Humphrey Year, he would like to develop and enhance his experience and knowledge regarding regulatory compliance, and be able to expand his network in the U.S. with peers and experts from other parts of the world.

Mr. Soliman received his Bachelor of Commerce & Business Administration from Helwan University in May 2010.

# ADJUSTING TO COVID-19

Like many colleges and universities, Boston University has faced unprecedented challenges to campus life because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But thanks to the excellence of our faculty and researchers

and extraordinary cooperation from the entire BU community, we've been able to put in place comprehensive health and safety protocols. That includes our own clinical testing lab, a dedicated healthcare team, and a robust contact-tracing program. As we move forward together, we will continue to make compassionate, respectful decisions in consultation with public health authorities, epidemiologists, and other experts at BU and around the world.

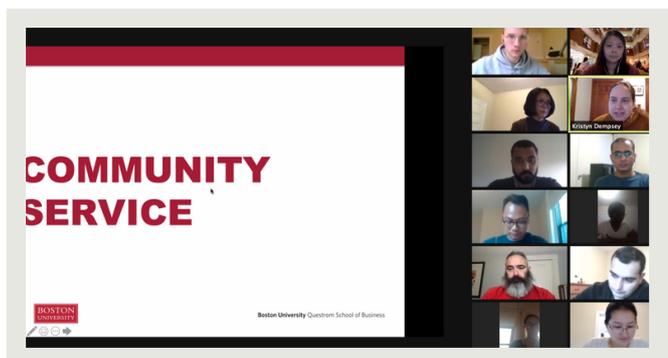
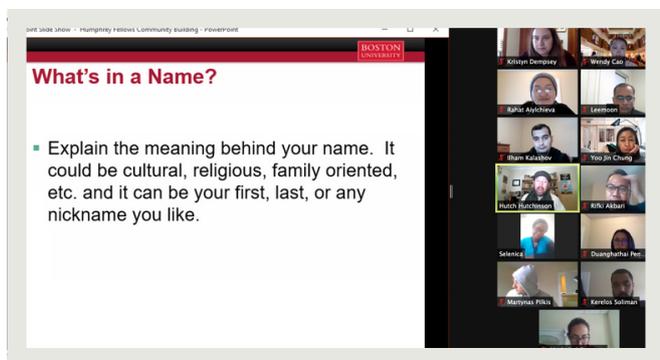
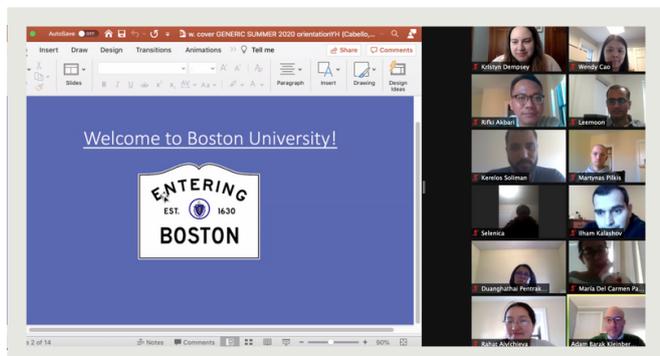
COVID-19 created a unique challenge for the Humphrey Fellowship this past year. We have been very fortunate to be able to hold a number of seminars and events virtually and in-person on our campus thanks to Boston University's protocols. We are so grateful to our Fellows for their flexibility during these challenging times, and to our staff, who put in an incredible amount of work to make everything possible. Despite all the circumstances and hardships, we were still able to persevere and build a tight-knit Humphrey Fellowship community!



# ORIENTATION

In early December, we welcomed the 2020-2021 cohort of BU Humphrey Fellows! During our three-week orientation, we focused on familiarizing the fellows with the BU Charles River Campus and health and safety services.

Highlights from our orientation were hearing from Professor Ian Mashiter, to introduce Innovate@BU to the fellows. Prof. Mashiter spoke about BU's entrepreneurial ecosystem and skill building workshops offered by the BuildLab. Dr. Yoo Jin Chung provided an overview of Questrom School of Business, including a brief history and the types of resources the fellows could utilize. Lastly, we held a team-building exercise with Dr. Paul Hutchinson!



# JANUARY SEMINARS



On January 6, the fellows attended a virtual site visit with the BU Global Development Policy Center. Dr. Bill Kring introduced the research initiatives led by the GDP center.

On January 8, to launch the semester-long leadership coaching session, Prof. Agan introduced Kouzes and Posner's Leadership model and discussed Leadership Practices Inventory. Based on the discussion, the fellows individually took the LPI survey and received 360 feedback from their colleagues, direct reports, and supervisors.



On January 11, the fellows met with BU Humphrey Alumni: 2019-2020 Alumna Patricia Idrobo from Ecuador; 2019-2020 Alumna Dora Perjesi from Hungary; and 2018-2019 Alumna Hadiza Gagara Dagah from Niger to learn from their experiences when they went through the PA process, and how they managed to work at their PA Host Organization.

# JANUARY SEMINARS

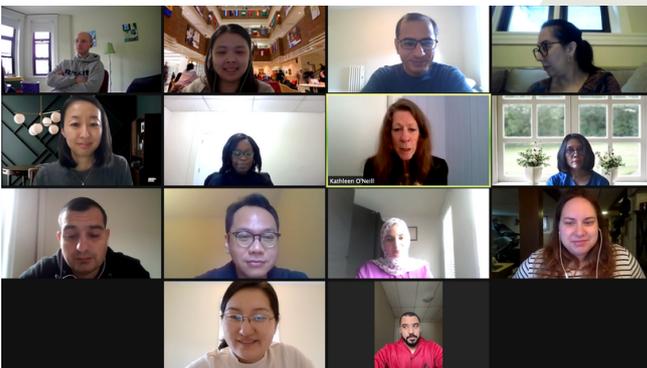


On January 3, Prof. Hutchinson led team building initiatives with the fellows. The activities provided an opportunity to assess the fellows' communication skills as well as collaboration skills. The main takeaways from the activities allowed the fellows to reflect on their leadership challenges.

On January 9, as a kick-off of the Humphrey Seminar, the fellows presented their My Humphrey Year Presentation. In this individual presentation, the fellows shared their background and discussed their specific goals for the Humphrey year. The session served as a baseline assessment for the fellow's presentation skills as well.

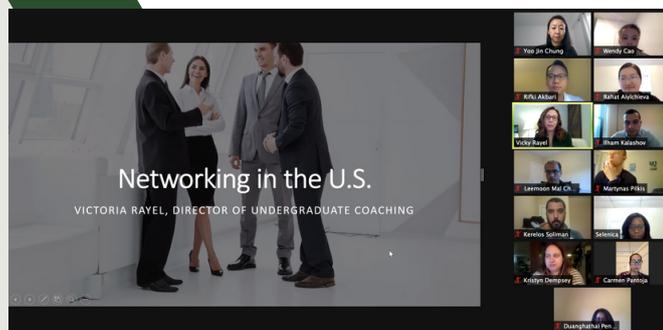


On January 21, fellows virtually met with Dr. Kathleen O'Neal, the Director of Single Stop USA at BHCC, to learn about how the program has helped shape the Boston community by helping students move toward economic mobility to end cycles of poverty. We were also joined by Professor Wissal Nouchrif to discuss topics regarding financial literacy, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship.

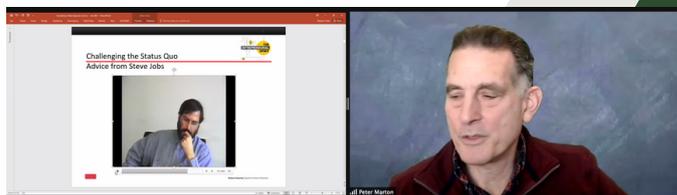


# FEBRUARY SEMINARS

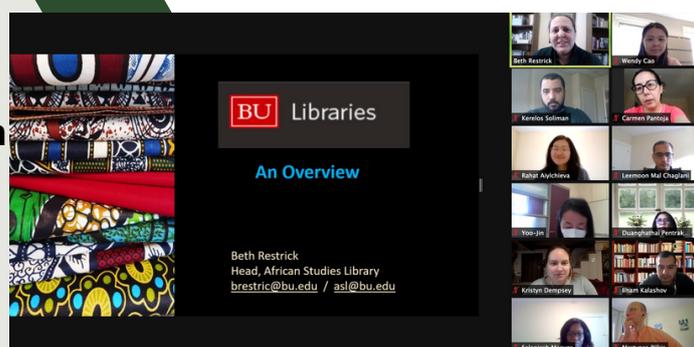
On February 1, Vicky Rayel discussed how to network in the U.S. specifically focusing on utilizing LinkedIn for cold contacts. The fellows had an opportunity to receive feedback on their LinkedIn profiles and discussed how to improve their search to increase the matchability for the PA.



On February 8, Prof. Marton introduced the concept of Innovation and discussed the specific roles leaders play in implementing innovation. Several innovation concepts such as pivoting were presented and the fellows were encouraged to think outside the box.



On February 10, fellows virtually visited the Boston University African Studies Library. Beth Restrick, Head of the African Studies Library at BU, held a session on useful resources fellows can use for any potential research projects during their time here in Boston!



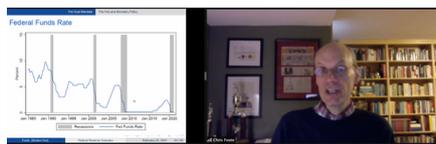
On February 16, Yoo Jin Chung provided an overview of theories and frameworks in leading high performance teams. The fellows reviewed several examples of teaming models, and critiqued their strengths and weaknesses.



On February 19, Emily Yates, Program Manager of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program from IIE gave a presentation to BU Humphrey Fellows about the program, experiencing culture shock, and resources they can use during their time in the US.

## FEBRUARY SEMINARS

On February 22, as part of the discussion on strategic communication, Prof. Mandolese introduced the elevator pitch to the fellows. Each fellow had an opportunity to practice their elevator pitch and receive feedback from Prof. Mandolese and other fellows.



On February 24, the fellows had the chance to virtually meet Dr. Chris Foote, Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Dr. Foote gave an overview of the Fed's purpose in the United States, and shared ongoing research projects Fed Boston is working on.



On March 1, the fellows were engaged in a 2 hour long Everest Simulation where they were asked to make team decisions to climb Mountain Everest. Through this simulation, the fellows were able to identify challenges in group decision making and discussed action plans to improve their decision quality in a team setting. Relevant course concepts such as psychological safety was introduced and discussed.

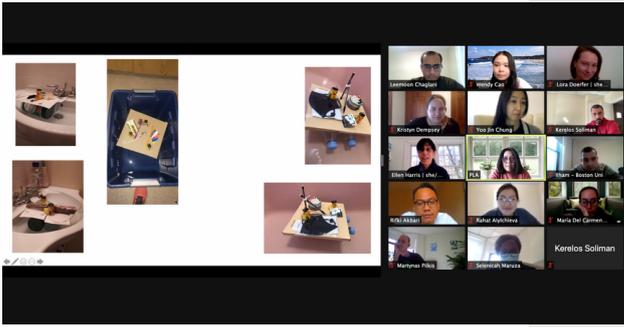
On March 8, Yoo Jin Chung led a discussion on providing effective feedback. The session put a specific emphasis on how to manage difficult conversations at work. The fellows were engaged in case studies to critically assess their own feedback skills and discussed how to create transparent feedback culture.



On March 10, the fellows were invited to a virtual site visit to the Fidelity Investments Boston office to meet with various staff members. The virtual visit included a tour of Fidelity Labs, an overview of their in-house incubator for fin-tech startups, as well as the Fidelity Center for Applied Technology (FCAT).

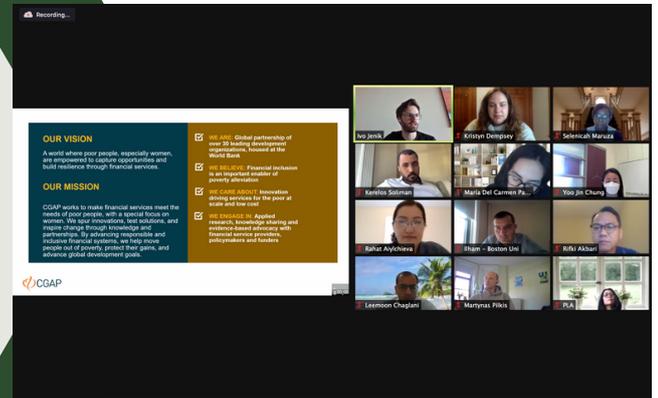
# MARCH SEMINARS





On March 12, BU collaborated with OBP to create a customized team building session for the fellows. The fellows were engaged in a series of activities to explore and reflect on their skills in communication, problem-solving, and leadership specifically within a team setting. As an outcome of the session, the fellows have developed a 'sourcing' document where they listed specific resources they can provide to help other fellows.

On March 15, Ivo Jenik, Senior Financial Sector Specialist at the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), held a presentation about CGAP and how their institute is a financial inclusion think tank, hosted under the World Bank Group. Ivo took questions from fellows who asked about regulations in financial inclusion and fintech!



On March 19, Prof. Cohen led an experiential workshop on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. The fellows were engaged in role plays to practice their negotiation tactics. The session provided the fellows with an opportunity to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses when it comes to negotiation and conflict resolution.



# MARCH SEMINARS



**BEYOND COVID-19** | SOCIAL INCLUSION & GLOBAL RECOVERY

**LIVE**

**06 APRIL**  
9-11 AM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Organized By **Humphrey Fellowship**  
A Fulbright Exchange Program

In Partnership With **IIE** The Power of International Education

**BU** Boston University Questrom School of Business

## BEYOND COVID-19: SOCIAL INCLUSION & GLOBAL RECOVERY WEBINAR



On April 6th, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Boston University hosted the webinar, Beyond COVID-19: Social Inclusion and Global Recovery, in collaboration with Questrom School of Business. This event brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, students, and former Humphrey alumni to discuss the world's efforts to create an inclusive and green recovery plan to foster a sustainable future.



The event kicked off with opening remarks from Questrom Dean Susan Fournier, followed by Mahesh Uttamchandani, Practice Manager for Financial Inclusion, Infrastructure & Access at the World Bank!

# BEYOND COVID-19: SOCIAL INCLUSION & GLOBAL RECOVERY WEBINAR

Caroline Flammer from Questrom School of Business moderated topical questions related to social inclusion and global recovery in an international and domestic perspective. Panelists included William Kring from Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, Nalin Kulatilaka from Boston University's Susilo Institute, and Udaibir Das from the International Monetary Fund. Udaibir Das graciously returned as a guest speaker to Boston University as a 1998 - 1988 BU Humphrey Alumnus.

**THE IMF, COVID-19, AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
William N. Kring, PhD.

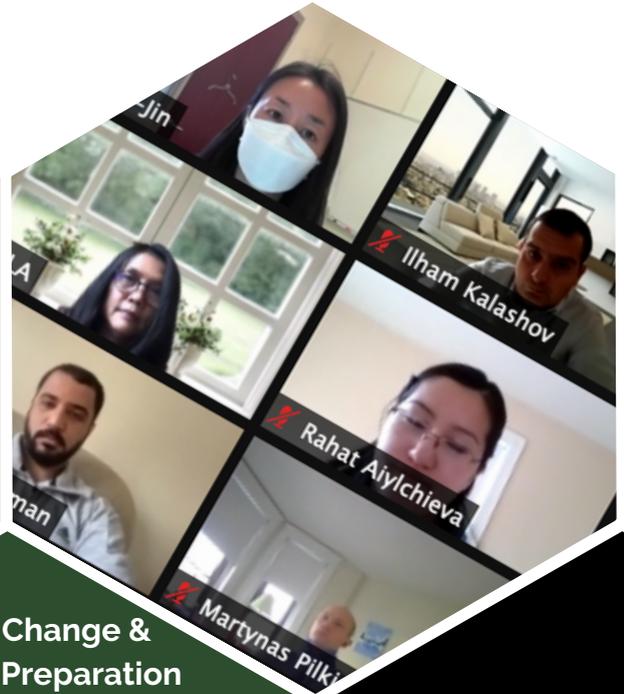
**A Quandary**  
Will Summer 2021 be the beginning of the end of the 2020 pandemic?  
Or  
The start of a complex and a very difficult phase for the global economy?

**Pandemic reduced emissions**

Region	2019 Emissions (Tm tonnes)	2020 Emissions (Tm tonnes)	% Change
World	~50	~47	-6.4% reduction from 2019
China	~12	~11	-1.4%
United States	~15	~13	-12.5%
Europe (EU27 & UK)	~10	~7.5	-7.7%
India	~3	~2.7	-8.0%
Russia	~2	~1.5	-2.8%

The topics discussed were especially important as COVID-19 and climate change disproportionately negatively impact underprivileged populations, increasing social and economic inequalities. Participants were able to join for a global, interdisciplinary dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in creating such future.

# APRIL & MAY SEMINARS



## MO460: The Leadership Challenge

On April 8, fellows appeared as surprise guest speakers for MO460: Leadership Challenge class at Questrom School of Business. The fellows shared their experience and discussed opportunities and challenges as global leaders. The students found the experience invaluable to be able to directly connect with the fellows from all around the world.

## Leading Change & Capstone Preparation

On April 12, each fellow is asked to identify an organizational problem and make leadership recommendations for their final deliverable. On the topic of Change Management, fellows discussed what their thoughts were on change and how to embrace it. Fellows are encouraged to consider enabling and engaging their organizations back home to implement change.

## Capstone Presentation

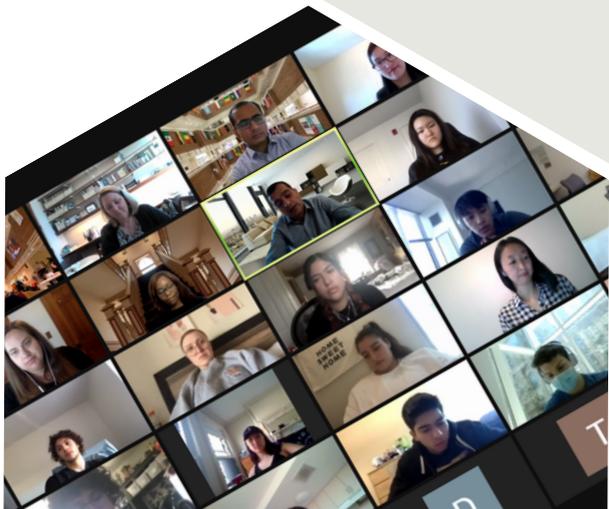
On April 26, as a culmination of the fellowship year, each fellow was asked to identify an organizational problem and make leadership recommendations. The fellows presented their proposal and received feedback from the coordinators and other fellows. This provided mutual learning experience of the fellows to further develop their own capstone project and share common interests.

## Global Economic Governance

On April 27, in collaboration with Penn State University, American University, Arizona State University, Emory University, Michigan State University, and Virginia Commonwealth University, Boston University hosted our cross-campus collaboration event: Global Economic Governance with Dr. Bill Kring and Ms. Hadiza Gagara Dagah (2018-19 BU HHH Fellow, Niger).

## Leadership Wrap Up

Wrapping up a semester-long leadership coaching session with Prof. Agan, the fellows debriefed on their challenges and opportunities as a leader. Prof. Agan walked them through leadership frameworks and discussed strategies in managing up.



## RE-ENTRY SEMINAR WITH MIT FELLOWS AND ALUMNI



Focusing on the theme of resilience, 20 BU and MIT fellows participated in the Re-entry Seminar over Zoom.

Breaking out into 4 groups, fellows were able to spend time together to discuss the meaning of resilience and came up with action plans to cope with reverse culture shock, w curve, and professional and personal challenges returning home. After returning to the main room, each group came to the conclusion that resilience can help those to become a better leader.

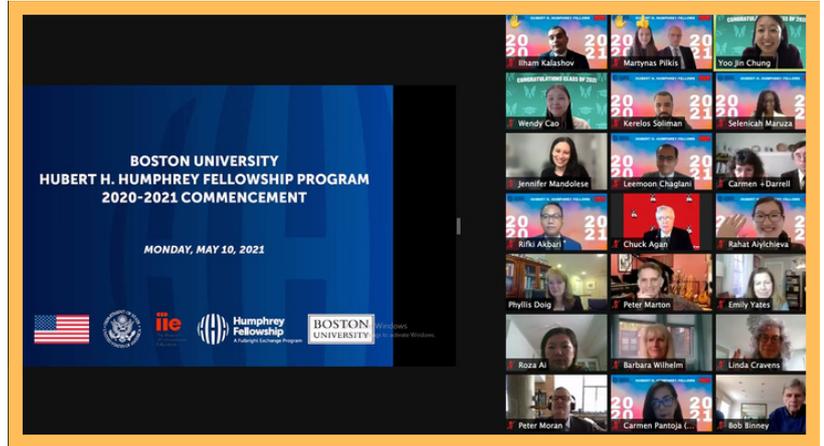
Afterwards, we were joined by 4 Humphrey Fellow Alumni: Frank Obeng, 2018-2019 BU Humphrey Fellow from Ghana; Tanya Recalde, 2019-2020 BU Humphrey Fellow from the Philippines; Ajara Ceesay, 2018-2019 MIT Humphrey Fellow from the Gambia; and Ognyan Georgiev, 2019-2020 MIT Humphrey Fellow from Bulgaria. Each alum had the chance to speak about their experience returning to their home country, reverse culture shock they experiences, and how the program prepared them for their new career. A key takeaway that each alum explained is the Humphrey program opened so many opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Always keep an open mind and to pivot your plans when things don't always work out the way you plan!

# 2020-2021 BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT

On Monday, May 10, the program held our 2020-2021 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Commencement for our nine Boston University Economic Development and Finance and Banking fellows.

Fellow's family, friends, classmates, professors, and long time supporters of our program joined our special intimate ceremony over Zoom. Attendees heard from a number of speakers: Peter Moran, Director of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at the International Institute of Education; Emily Yates, Program Manager of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at the International Institute of Education; 2020-2021 BU Humphrey Fellow Class Speaker Rifki Akbari from Indonesia; and 2020-2021 Host Family Speaker Phyllis Doig, Independent Consultant, Sunddach Enterprise!

A huge congratulations once again to the Humphrey Fellowship Class of 2020-2021! Despite our non traditional Zoom commencement, we were extremely happy to honor all of the work that the Fellows have done this year and the connections you've made!



## HOST FAMILIES & SOCIAL EVENTS

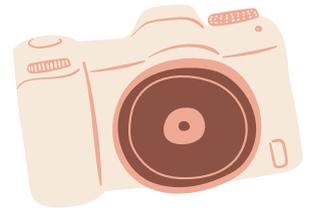


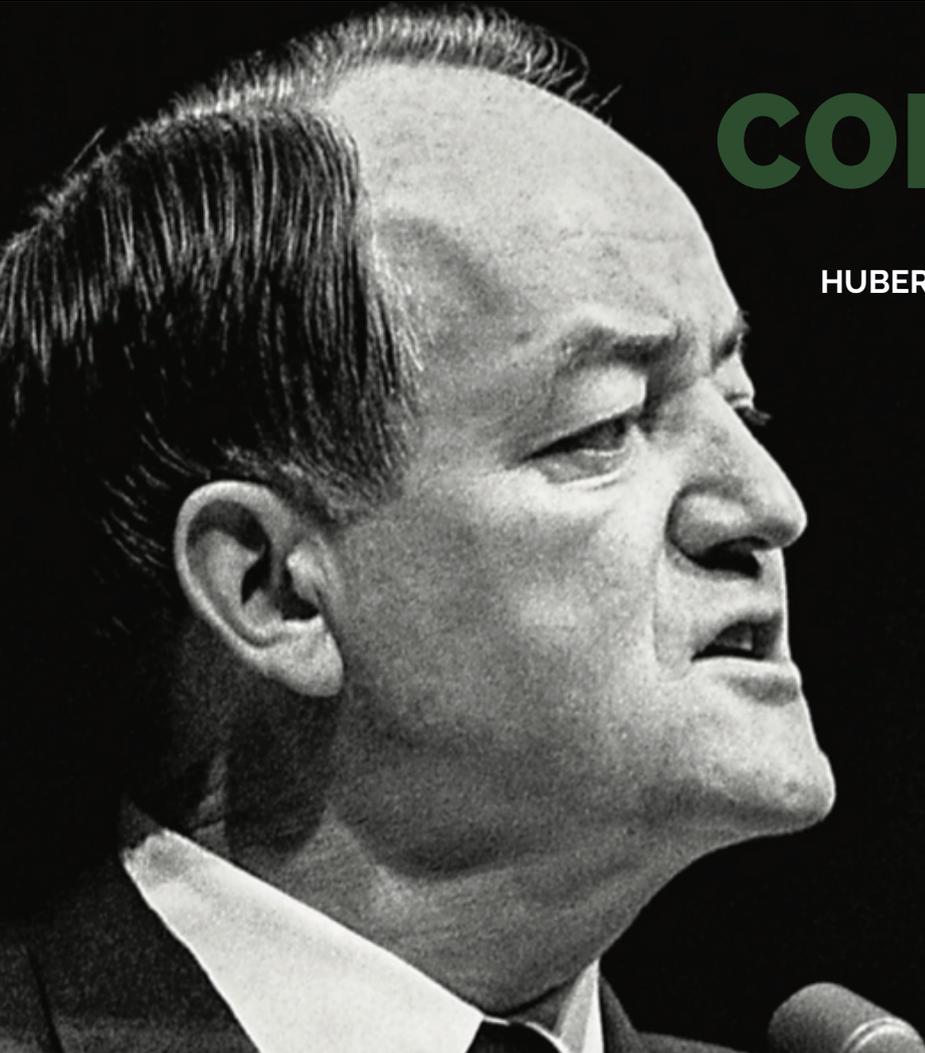
We want to express our appreciation and extend our thanks to our wonderful Host Families, especially for supporting our 2020-2021 Humphrey Fellows during this extremely challenging time. While navigating Massachusetts's and Boston University COVID-19 protocols and guidelines, our host families still coordinated birthdays, holiday events, and virtual meetings with our fellows. Our fellows were able to fulfill their social and cultural component of their program all thanks to the zoom calls and road trips our host families hosted throughout these last 7 months!

Thank you once again to our wonderful Host Families for all they do!



# FELLOW'S HIGHLIGHTS





# CONTACT US

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