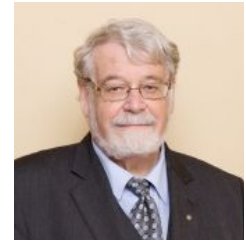


## Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Rights Selected Speakers' Bios

### **Petr Jan Pajas, MSc.**

Co-founder of the conference, Petr Jan Pajas is AAU President Emeritus, formerly serving as a member of the AAU Board of Trustees. A physicist by original profession he was forced to abandon the profession in aftermath of 1968 events. In early 1990th, he managed the Czechoslovak Charta 77 Foundation and the Office for Establishment of the Central European University in Prague. Since that time, he worked in several other managerial positions and is actively involved in promoting the civil society.



### **Keynote Speakers**

#### **Dr. Daniel Kroupa**

Daniel Kroupa is a Czech politician, philosopher, university professor, and former dissident and signatory of Charter 77. After the Velvet Revolution, he was one of the founders of the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA). Some of the other positions he held include member of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia, member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament, and member of the European Parliament.



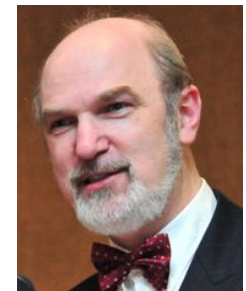
#### **Dr. Alexandr Vondra**

Alexandr Vondra is a Czech politician, diplomat, and a former dissident and signatory of Charter 77. During the Velvet Revolution, he co-founded the Civic Forum, a political movement. He served as Minister of Defence, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Since his exit from politics, Vondra has served as director of the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations at the CEVRO Institute in Prague.



#### **Prof. Dr. theol. Dr. phil. Thomas Schirmacher, PhD, DD**

Thomas Schirmacher is a Christian moral philosopher and a specialist in the Sociology of Religion and Religious freedom. He serves the World Evangelical Alliance as Associate Secretary General for Theological Concerns and as Chair of the Theological Commission. He is President of the International Society for Human Rights, and is also presiding Bishop of the 'Communio Messianica' with congregations in 75 countries of the world.



## Special Speakers of the Conference (abc)

### **Kelly Adams-Smith**

Kelly Adams-Smith is a career diplomat in the senior Foreign Service at the U.S. Department of State. She took up her duties as Embassy Prague's Deputy Chief of Mission in August 2016. Before arriving in Prague, Ms. Adams-Smith served as Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in London. From 2011-2013 she served as Deputy Executive Secretary of the White House National Security Council.



### **Rowland M. Brucken, Ph.D.**

Co-founder of the conference, Rowland Brucken is a professor of history at Norwich University. He earned a PhD and MA from the Ohio State University and a BA from the College of Wooster. His main areas of expertise cover American diplomatic history, 20th century American history, and world history, with specialties in the history of international human rights law and U.S. civil rights. He is also the Zimbabwe Specialist for Amnesty International USA.



### **Thomas K. Johnson, Ph.D.; Kt. SMA**

Thomas K. Johnson, a foremost evangelical voice on behalf of human rights and religious freedom, represents the World Evangelical Alliance as Special Envoy to the Vatican. He is the author of six books and more than 250 articles, essays, and book chapters. His best-known work, *Human Rights: A Christian Primer*, became a standard evangelical resource upon publication in 2008. The second edition, 2016, was jointly released by the WEA and the Vatican-based *Dignitatis Humanae* Institute. He taught at AAU 1996-2000.



### **Mikuláš Kroupa**

Mikuláš Kroupa is a journalist, and director and founder of Post Bellum. He worked as an external publisher of Český rozhlas Radiožurnál, Dvojky, and Vltava. Later, he worked as a radio editor at Radio Prague, and a reporter at the BBC's Czech editorial board. In 2001, he registered the nonprofit organization - Post Bellum, became its director, and co-founder of the digital archive Memory of the Nation.



### **Doc. Ing. Lubomír Lízal, Ph.D.**

Lubomír Lízal, President of the Anglo-American University, is a Czech economist who served most recently as a member of the Bank Board of the Czech National Bank. He has worked as a senior researcher in the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and as an associate professor at CERGE UK. He also served as a joint director of these institutes.



**Michael McGinnis, Ph.D.**

Michael B. McGinnis joined the faculty of Norwich University in 2013, where he serves as Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, and professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. He holds a BS from Elizabethtown College and a PhD from the University of Tennessee. Through his work with the American Chemical Society (ACS), he advocates and champions impactful science outreach experiences both domestically and abroad.



**Prof. PhDr. Milada Poliřenská, CSc.**

Milada Poliřenská, Deputy to the President and Chief Academic Adviser, is a tenured professor of history and international relations. Her main specialization is the modern and contemporary history of CEE, with a primary focus on diplomatic history and the history of nationalism. She has worked for the Institute of International Relations in Prague and for the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences.



**Dr. Richard W. Schneider, Ph.D.**

Dr. Schneider, Rear Admiral USCGR (Ret.), is the 23rd President of Norwich University and one of the longest-seated college presidents in the U.S. He has championed Norwich's charge to distinguish the University in the marketplace of higher education institutions. Dr. Schneider is a 1968 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and holds a doctorate in Public Policy from the University of Delaware. He commissioned as an ensign in the Coast Guard and served thirty years of active and reserve duty, retiring as a Rear Admiral in 1998.



**Richard L. Smith, Ph.D.**

Richard L. Smith, Anglo-American University Founder, also served as the first AAU (then, AAILS) president. In late 1990's, Dr. Smith also founded the Comenius Institute in Prague. He has always been supportive of all the AAU activities, even after his return to the US. Dr. Smith currently lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

