

WPS Kickoff Reception - Speaker Biographies

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, Los Angeles

Shira Efron is a Policy Advisor with Israel Policy Forum and a policy researcher at the RAND Corporation, where she also serves as special advisor on Israel with RAND's Center for Middle East Public Policy and as a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. She is leading RAND's new Israel program and researches issues related to Israel, the Middle East, food security, and technology adoption in developing countries. Prior to RAND, Efron worked at several think tanks and NGOs focusing on the Middle East. She was the policy director and country representative of the Institute for Inclusive Security in Israel. She has a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School. She also has an M.A. in international relations/international business from New York University (NYU) and a B.Sc. in biology and computer science from Tel Aviv University.

Tabby Refael is a Columnist with The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles. An Iranian-American Jewish writer, speaker, and civic action advocate, she escaped Tabby escaped post-revolutionary Iran with her family as a young girl and was granted refugee asylum by the United States in 1989. She is also the co-founder of 30 Years After, which aims to promote the participation and leadership of Iranian-American Jews in American civic, political, and Jewish life. Based in Los Angeles, she received a Master's in Public Diplomacy from the University of Southern California (USC) and a Bachelor's in Communication from UC San Diego.

Rachel Wallace is the Director of Outreach & Engagement at IsraAID US, an international non-governmental organization that has worked in emergency and long-term development settings in 50+ countries. Her background and expertise is in nonprofits, interfaith/international relations, and young professional and youth leadership development. A member of the inaugural cohort of IPF Atid Charles Bronfman Conveners and the Los Angeles Steering Committee, she is the Chair of IPF Atid's Women, Peace & Security Channel. She received her B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Adam Basciano is the IPF Atid National Director at Israel Policy Forum, based in New York City. In this role, he oversees the activities of Israel Policy Forum young professional chapters in New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, and across North America. He also manages the Charles Bronfman IPF Atid Conveners Program, a new network of emerging Jewish communal and policy leaders working in support of the two-state solution. Prior to joining Israel Policy Forum, he interned on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Mayor of Tel Aviv's International Relations team, and at AIPAC. He also served as a Research Assistant for two years on the book, *Thou Shalt Innovate: How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World*. He received his B.A. in International Relations from Colgate University, where he was a member of the Benton Scholars international leadership program.

