

Short Biographies - ARIT 2017 Speakers



Hannes Androsch

Chairman, Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development

Hannes Androsch was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1938. He held the positions of Austrian Federal Minister of Finance (1970 - 1981), and of Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria (1976 - 1981), as well as Director General of the banking institution CA Creditanstalt Bankverein (1981 - 1989). Today he is an industrialist and dedicated to economic-political, socio-political, and scientific-political matters. Androsch has received numerous distinctions and awards, he is author of a multitude of publications, and has instituted the most significant private Scientific Foundation in Austria. Androsch is known as well-connected "Elder Statesman" whose opinion on current matters is often requested, among which during presentations and interviews.



Joanne Padrón Carney

Director for Government Relations, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Joanne Padrón Carney is the Director for Government Relations for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She also serves on the AAAS Fellowship Advisory Committee, the Golden Goose Award Steering Committee, and the Task Force on American Innovation Steering Committee. Carney contributes to the annual AAAS Intersociety Working Group R&D Report and is coauthor of the publication Working with Congress. Previously, she head the Government Relations Office for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) where she followed civil space, civil aeronautics and defense issues for almost ten years. Carney holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a Master of Arts in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.



Hannelore Fauqueux-Veit

Bureau Chief, Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF

Hannelore Veit is the Bureau Chief for the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation, ORF, for North America and is based in Washington, DC. Before her current assignment she anchored ORF’s main evening news *Zeit im Bild*. She joined ORF in Tokyo as Far East Correspondent. Hannelore began her journalistic career as a radio correspondent at the East Europe Bureau of the *Voice of America* in Vienna. She holds a Master’s degree in Translation and Interpretation from the University of Vienna, Austria, and a Master’s degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame, USA.



Franz Franchetti

President, Austrian Scientists and Scholars in North America

Franz Franchetti is the President of the Austrian Scientists and Scholars in North America and leads the ASciNA Pennsylvania chapter. He is an Associate Research Professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and CTO and Co-Founder of SpiralGen. He received the Master’s degree (M.Sc.) in Technical Mathematics and the Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Computational Mathematics from the Vienna University of Technology in 2000 and 2003, respectively. In 2006, he was member of the team winning the Gordon Bell Prize (Peak Performance Award). In 2013, he was awarded the CIT Dean's Early Career Fellowship by the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Franchetti's research focuses on automatic performance tuning and program generation for emerging parallel platforms and algorithm/hardware co-synthesis. He leads two DARPA projects in the HACMS and PERFECT program and is PI/Co-PI on a number of federal and industry grants. Franz has been playing the electric guitar on-stage in various rock bands since 1993.



Lindsay Grace

Director, American University Game Lab and Studio

Lindsay Grace is an Associate Professor at American University and founding director of the American University Game Lab and Studio. His game designs have received awards from the Games for Change Festival, Meaningful Play, Advances in Computer Entertainment and Gamescape. Grace has published more than 50 papers, articles and book chapters on games since 2009. His creative work has been selected for showcase in more than eight countries and twelve states. He has given talks at the Game Developer's Conference (GDC), SXSW, Games for Change Festival/Tribeca Film Festival, the Boston Festival of Independent Games and many others. Current academic liaison and former vice president for the Global Game Jam™, Grace also served on the board for the Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA). He has curated game events in Europe and the US, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum's SAAM arcade. At American University Game Studio, he has worked with a client portfolio of more than \$800,000 USD in gamification contracts for clients that include ETS, the World Bank and others.



John Main

Program Manager, Defense Sciences Office, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

John Main is a Program Manager in the Defense Sciences Office at DARPA where he is responsible for initiating new programs in the physical sciences and fostering the R&D communities that will support those programs. Main has previously worked at technology startup Intific Inc., initially as an Executive Producer. He was an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maine and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kentucky where he started research laboratories devoted to precision control of adaptive optical systems. He founded Precision Systems and Instrumentation LLC in 2001. Main received his Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science degrees in mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mathematics from Western Kentucky University.



Clemens Mantl
Director, OSTA

Clemens Mantl was appointed director of Office of Science and Technology Austria - Washington, DC in September 2015. A career diplomat, he was posted in various countries focusing on cultural and scientific diplomacy. Mantl served as director of the Austrian Cultural Forums in Teheran, Iran and Cairo, Egypt. In these positions, he promoted internationally successful, dialogue-driven intercultural cooperation. During his time at the ministry headquarters in Vienna, he coordinated Austria's current membership in the Executive Board of UNESCO. Mantl was also a member in EU working groups that focus on culture in external relations. Before taking up his new assignment in Washington, DC, he served as the deputy spokesperson of the Austrian Foreign Ministry.



Jennifer McNamara
Vice President, Serious Games at BreakAway Games

Jenn McNamara, Vice President of Serious Games at BreakAway Games, is a recognized global leader in the Serious Games industry. She is also an adjunct professor of learning game design at both the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and Harrisburg University. McNamara has lead teams creating interactive and engaging game-based learning solutions and assessments. Her team's games are currently used by over 100,000 people across multiple industries including defense, homeland security, medical, and corporate training communities. McNamara is also a respected researcher, dynamic speaker and passionate advocate for the power of well-designed games to drive outstanding real-world results. She serves as the Director of the non-profit Serious Games Showcase and Challenge, an annual international competition and exhibition for serious games. Her work has received international recognition including awards from the Serious Game Showcase and Challenge, International Serious Play Awards, the Association of Test Publishers, and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.



Konstantin Mitgutsch

Founder, Playful Solutions | Research Affiliate, MIT Game Lab |
Red Bull Mind Gamers

Konstantin Mitgutsch is the founder of [Playful Solutions](#), a Viennese agency that creates playful solutions for real world problems. Konstantin is also an Affiliate Researcher at the MIT Game Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. He also serves as Gaming Director of the [Red Bull Mind Gamers](#) project, and explores novel forms of using game design as a tool for personal development with [Superpower Discovery](#). Konstantin received his PhD in education science and media education at the University of Vienna education and has published books on purposeful game design, learning and technology.



Wolfgang Petritsch

President, Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation

Wolfgang Petritsch is president of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation and chair of the Herbert Kelman Institute for Interactive Conflict Resolution. After graduating from the University of Vienna, he spent a post-doc Fulbright year at USC, Los Angeles. He has served as press secretary and as deputy chief of cabinet to Austrian Federal Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Petritsch was ambassador to Yugoslavia, and the European Union's special envoy and chief negotiator at the Kosovo peace talks at Rambouillet and Paris. He chaired the International Succession Commission in charge of distributing the public assets and liabilities among the states that succeeded the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Petritsch was the international community's high representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was appointed Austria's permanent representative to the UN, the WTO, and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Petritsch chaired the Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World. He represented Austria at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Petritsch was the Schumpeter Professor at Harvard University; he is currently a visiting professor at the universities of Vienna and Berkeley and a member of the European Leadership Network.



Stefan Riegler

Director, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW)

Stefan Riegler joined the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour in 2007, where he served as a political advisor in the office of the Federal Minister and was responsible for economic policy and economic promotion as well as for research and innovation policy. In 2011, Riegler became Head of the Department for RTI-Strategy and International Research and Technology Cooperation. Previously, he worked for the Austrian Economic Chamber and for IBM Austria. He is a member of the supervisory board of the "Austria Wirtschaftsservice" (Austrian federal bank for economic promotion and financial support for companies) and the current chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Austrian National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development. Riegler holds a PhD in Business Administration from the Karl Franzens University Graz/Austria. He was an ERASMUS student in Edinburgh/Scotland and Research Assistant at the Center for Austrian Studies in Minneapolis/Minnesota/USA.



Ingolf Schädler

Deputy Director General, Innovation, Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)

Ingolf Schädler is serving as Deputy Director General for Innovation at the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). He is responsible for the development and implementation of the Ministry's technology policy, its strategic technology programmes and the related R&D infrastructure. Within the European Union, Schädler is representing Austria in various high level committees related to Research and Technology Policy, Satellite Navigation, and Space Policy. He fostered space technology innovation in Austria and created a special section within the ministry focusing solely on Space policy. Schädler was been elected as chairman of the governing board of the EU-Joint Programming Initiative "Urban Europe" and was representing the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology as the national host of the World Congress on "Intelligent Transport Systems" in Vienna. He studied Economics at the University Vienna and International Law and Politics at Johns Hopkins University, Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.



Maria Schneider
Co-Founder, Dynofit, Inc

Maria Schneider is an engineer and scientist with university degrees in Physics, Electrical Engineering and Bio-Medical Engineering. She is co-founder and CEO of Dynofit, Inc., a startup Biotech company that develops tools to promote improved health outcomes and lower costs for physical rehabilitation by supporting patients to understand and effectively implement their recovery protocols. Schneider has worked at NASA and Bell Labs and has served as the principal investigator for a National Institute of Health grant developing smart orthotics for pediatrics. Her passion for helping patients with physical recovery stems from helping her son thrive in spite of his cerebral palsy and using technology to help him and others live their best lives. Schneider lives in Dallas with her husband, son and dogs and volunteers with a non-profit to help low income communities.



André Thomas
Lecturer, Department of Visualization, Texas A&M University

André Thomas' passion for game-based learning resonates inside and outside of the classroom. With more than 20 years in CGI production, he has worked around the world on legendary video games, live action feature films and gripping commercials. He served as Head of Graphics for EA Sports Football (including NCAA, Head Coach, NFL Tour and Madden, the longest running and most successful sports franchise in this history of the games industry); and is also credited with creating graphics for such notable films as Men in Black, Con Air, Independence Day, Valiant, Ant Bully and Tomorrow Never Dies. Thomas shares his insights, ideas and overall love for gaming across academia. He founded and serves as the director of the [LIVE Lab](#) in the Department of Visualization at Texas A&M University, where he also teaches game design, game development and interactive graphics techniques. Thomas founded Triseum and currently serves as the CEO. He was named an EdTech Leadership award winner and is a renowned speaker at education and technology events, including SXSW.



Dawn M. Tilbury

Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Dawn M. Tilbury received the B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota in 1989, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1992 and 1994, respectively. In 1995, she joined the faculty of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she is currently Professor of Mechanical Engineering with a joint appointment in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Her research interests lie broadly in the area of control systems, including applications to robotics and manufacturing systems. She has published more than 150 articles in refereed journals and conference proceedings. She was elected Fellow of the IEEE in 2008 and Fellow of the ASME in 2012, and is a Life Member of SWE.



Rose Mary Valencia

Executive Director, Visa and Immigration Services Administration, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Rose Mary Valencia, a proud native Houstonian, has been working in the area of International Higher Education since 1975 with her primary focus in the area of Academic Medicine. As Executive Director, of the Visa and Immigration Services Administration Office for The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, she is responsible for providing highly professional advisory and administrative skills in assisting faculty, students, trainees, and staff from diverse cultures by performing complex duties involving application for temporary and permanent visas. Valencia has been an active member of NAFSA since 1980 and has held several leadership roles. She has presented numerous times at local, state, regional, and national NAFSA Conferences and has been an invited speaker for several professional associations. Valencia co-authored the Association of Hospital Medical Education Chapter on International Medical Graduates in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2015.



Wolfgang Waldner

Ambassador of Austria to the US

Ambassador Wolfgang Waldner was born and raised in Villach, Austria. He started his career in the Federal Ministry for European & International Affairs in 1981. Previous to his appointment as Austrian Ambassador to the U.S., he served as State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for European & International Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, as Minister in the regional government of Carinthia, and as Director of the Museums Quartier in Vienna. He also served two postings in the U.S. as Director of the Austrian Cultural Fora in Washington, D.C. and New York. Most recently, Waldner served as Director General for Cultural Policy at the Foreign Ministry in Vienna. He holds a Doctorate in Law and Languages of the University of Vienna and Post Graduate Diplomas from the Johns Hopkins University, School for Advanced International Studies and the Université des Sciences Sociales in Grenoble, France. He took up his duties as Head of Mission in Washington, D.C. on January 11, 2016.



Barbara Weitgruber

Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW)

Barbara Weitgruber was a founding staff member and Director of the Office for International Relations, a lecturer at Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, and Director of the Office for European Educational Co-operation of the Austrian Academic Exchange Service in Vienna. In 1994, she joined the Austrian Ministry in charge of higher education and research as Director and subsequently became Deputy Director General for Higher Education, and Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations. Weitgruber represents Austria in numerous committees, including the Task Force for Research, Technology and Innovation of the Austrian Federal Government, the Austrian Fulbright Commission, the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria and the European "Research Policy Group". She holds a Master's degree in English/American and Interdisciplinary Studies, a Certificate in Mass Media and a Translator's Diploma in English from Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz and a M.A. in Communications from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she worked as Fulbright Grantee as a Teaching Assistant.