

Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference
June 2, Dinner Program Speakers

Nathalie Applewhite Introduces Nadja Drost

Thank you so much, Yochi, you've been so great to work over the years-both as grantee and editor.

Another grantee that has been a great pleasure to work with...I mean...they are all a pleasure to work with, of course!

But our next speaker: Nadja Drost, does stand out for a few reasons.

First, for many years she held the unique honor of being the grantee who had received the smallest grant we had ever given! The terms read:

"I'm pleased to tell you that the Pulitzer Center will make a grant of \$600 to support your travel in Colombia—on condition that:" and then went on to list some 10 very specific things she needed to do for that!

The story was about mining in Colombia and the impact large companies were having on the local communities. She turned around a half dozen stories. One of our best returns on investment ever! We then went on to do outreach in schools with Nadja, and she proved to be as good of an educator as she was as a reporter. [A little off-topic but she is also the only person I have ever met who received a ticket for jaywalking during that week or two they decided to crack down on that in DC, which happened to be during her visit!]

More seriously, Nadja exemplifies exactly what we look for in our grantees, she takes on under-reported or mis-reported topics, tackling complex issues with a humanistic lens that helps viewers understand the underlying issues in question. As she did in two separate very powerful series from Venezuela for PBS *NewsHour*, and in her recent work in Colombia, which is related to a much larger, longer-term project about peacebuilding in Colombia. And I know she'll share some more on that with us now.

So please welcome Nadja Drost.