

## Biographies

### Jacobus Boers

Jacobus Boers is the assistant dean for international engagement and a senior lecturer of International Business at Georgia State University. He is also the director of the Global Partners MBA program. As an assistant dean, Boers is tasked to define and execute a strategic vision for the college's portfolio of international programs including international experiences, study abroad, exchange programs, and the experience international students have while at the Robinson College of Business. In teaching, Boers shares practical experience he gained while conducting business on five continents. Through extensive travel and expatriate assignments, he has worked in different cultural, economic, political and legal environments. He has developed a systematic approach for establishing and developing strong relationships of trust with customers, clients, associates, and partners in diverse cultures, at times under difficult circumstances. Over the years, he has supported the international growth and success of organizations both as a member of the management team and as a consultant. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacobusboers>



### David Bruce



David Bruce is a clinical professor of International Business at Georgia State University. Additionally, Dr. Bruce has taught at the Caucasus Business School (Tbilisi), Georgia Tech, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the University of San Francisco, Olivet College, and the University of Michigan. He is a founder and the manager of the U.S.-Latin America Trade Program, advising Latin American companies on entering the U.S. market and U.S. companies on the Latin American market through a process of “action learning.” As a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Bruce conducted research on the regional impact of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America. This involved field work in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. Currently, he is the chairperson of the GSU Taskforce on Brazil and he conducts study abroad courses on “Management in South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile)” and “Management in Transition Economies (Hungary & the Czech Republic).” <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/david-bruce/3/743/585>

## Bernie Burgener



Bernie Burgener serves as the Executive Director of the Greenhouse Accelerator at the Green Chamber of the South. He previously worked with BioLab Inc., Lonza AG, & ADELA Investment Company. As a PhD economist, his business experience centers around business development, investment analysis and acquisition practice. His activities are now focused on encouraging and supporting companies to adopt sustainable business practices - and help create sustainable local jobs. He leads the Greenhouse Accelerator, helping cleantech entrepreneurs succeed, either by advising and financing early-stage green startups or by supporting sustainability initiatives within

existing companies <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/bernie-burgener/7/50b/b19>

## Mourad Dakhli

Dr. Dakhli is associate professor of International Business and holds a Ph.D. from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. His research centers on the value-generating processes of human and social capital across different cultural and institutional settings and the implications on learning and innovation. Prior to joining GSU, he served as a faculty member at the American University of Kuwait, and taught at various places including the University of South Carolina, Azerbaijan State Oil Academy (Azerbaijan), the Caucasus School of Business (Republic of Georgia), and others.



His prior work experience includes developing and marketing industry training programs, managing capacity development projects at a number of academic institutions, and directing the activities of a bi-national chamber of commerce responsible for the promotion and implementation of a wide array of international trade and investment initiatives. <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/mourad-dakhli/20/3a6/969>

## Fernando Doria



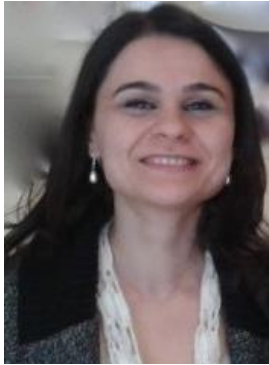
Evaristo F. Doria co-leads the US – Latin America Program (USLAT) at the Institute of International Business. USLAT, an initiative of the IIB, connects U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs to their counterparts in Latin America. IIB faculty provides a range of technical assistance for market entry and expansion and facilitates successful global business.

Doria has worked as a corporate executive in strategic marketing and sales in Latin America and Asia for Fortune 100 companies for more than two decades. Most recently, he served Johnson & Johnson as an international executive in charge of International Marketing.

Doria has authored several articles and books in his field targeted to the Spanish speaking business community.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/evaristofdoria>

## Ilke Kardes



Ilke Kardes is a visiting assistant professor in the Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia and teaches classes in International Business at the Institute of International Business. Additionally, she serves as Research Director for CIBER (Center for International Business and Education Research), where she is responsible for driving research initiatives as well as managing CIBER's IT needs including web publishing, database management, and other technology requirements. Her research interests focus on emerging markets, middle class, branding, and IB pedagogy.

Ilke's academic career and experience have been shaped by different cultures over the years. Before joining GSU, Ilke was a faculty member at the University of Applied Sciences, Düsseldorf, Germany and at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey, where she earned her Ph.D. degree in Marketing. She also served as a research associate at the Robinson College of Business in 2011. Ilke is fluent in English, German, and Turkish.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/ilke-kardes-ph-d/59/23a/980?domainCountryName=&csrfToken=ajax%3A1253504180556361898>

## Erica Kovacs

Erica Kovacs, a native of Recife, Brazil, is a visiting scholar at Georgia State University, where she is conducting research on the influence of international agents in the internationalization process and the perception of success and failure for external agents. Erica is a Professor of Strategy and International Business at Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil. Erica received her bachelor's degree in Business at Universidade de Pernambuco, Brazil, her master's degree in Strategy & Logistics at Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (2004) where she studied the Beverage industry in Brazil, and her Ph.D. in Business from the same institution (2009) where she studied the internationalization process of agribusiness.



In 2009, she was awarded "Best Paper" from the Brazilian Strategy Academy, "One of Ten Best Papers" from Universidade de Sao Paulo, and was nominated for numerous other awards. Additionally, she has published in several journals both in Brazil and internationally. She is also involved with the Academy of International Business (AIB), European International Business Academy (EIBA), and the Brazilian Academy of Business where she served as Track Chair (2011-2012). Kovacs mentors alumni at Sebrae in Brazil. Her hobbies are running, swimming, and northern lights hunting. [https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=AAkAAAEhV1kBqT\\_giLwgCGQRhL9dE6DQOmAVwQ&authType=NAME\\_SEARCH&authToken=dno2&locale=en\\_US&trk=tyah&trkInfo=clickeVertical%3Amynetwork%2CclickedEntityId%3A18962265%2CauthType%3ANAME\\_SEARCH%2Cidx%3A2-4-5%2CtarId%3A1444434626019%2Ctas%3Aer](https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=AAkAAAEhV1kBqT_giLwgCGQRhL9dE6DQOmAVwQ&authType=NAME_SEARCH&authToken=dno2&locale=en_US&trk=tyah&trkInfo=clickeVertical%3Amynetwork%2CclickedEntityId%3A18962265%2CauthType%3ANAME_SEARCH%2Cidx%3A2-4-5%2CtarId%3A1444434626019%2Ctas%3Aer)

## Leigh Anne Liu

Leigh Anne studies the roles of culture and cognition in negotiation, conflict management, collaboration, teams, and relationships in multicultural settings. Her research has appeared in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, and *Management and Organization Review*, among other outlets. She has been a visiting professor at Toulouse Business School in France, Peking University, and Nanjing University in China. She has consulted for Fortune 500 companies and the nonprofit sectors on conflict management and multicultural competency programs. Professor Liu has taught courses and workshops for undergraduate, MBA, MIB, Ph.D., and executive students on topics of international negotiation, multicultural competency, global management, and cross-cultural behavior. <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/leigh-anne-liu/0/895/a02>



## Shawn Powers



Shawn Powers is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University. His research specializes in international political communication with particular attention to the geopolitics of information and technology policy. Powers is a faculty affiliate of GSU's Transcultural Violence and Conflict initiative and co-leads its European Union and British Council funded project on Civic Approaches to Religious Conflict. He also Directs GSU's Center for Global Information Studies, serves on the Board of Advisors for the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, and is a Fellow at Central European University's Center for Media, Data and Society.

<https://gsu.academia.edu/smp>

## Glenwood Ross

Ross' research interest focuses on issues related to urban economics, economic development, and economic pedagogy. He is currently engaged in an attempt to analyze the spatial allocation of economic activity as it relates to minority populations in urban settings, examining the extent to which the populations are under- or over- served by particular retail industries. Another line of research investigates urbanization and poverty trends in post-apartheid South Africa. He is also in the initial stages of introducing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in his teaching and research activities. Ross is an assistant professor of economics at Morehouse College and the Director of the Economic Studies Abroad Program in South Africa. <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/glenwood-ross/71/a1b/81b>



## Raj Sashti



Raj Sashti is currently a visiting faculty member and director of international education at Middle Georgia State College. He previously worked at Southern Polytechnic State University and the Nine University and College International Studies Consortium of Georgia. A recipient of three Fulbright scholarships, he worked at Clayton State and Columbus State universities of the University System of Georgia as an associate professor of geography and director of the Consortium. He has also worked for the American Embassy/USAID and the University of Wisconsin College Year in India Program in New Delhi, India. His teaching and applied research interests include international education, training and development, and inter-linkages between Western and non-Western societies. Sashti received his M.A. in Geography from the University of Akron, Ohio, and earned B.S. and M.A. degrees from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.

## Rahm Sitaraman



Rahm Sitaraman is a results oriented leader with a strong track record of bringing about sustainable change in multiple organizations facing a variety of challenges. These challenges have included brand turnarounds, new brand introductions, business turnarounds, new business entry, and functional transformations. In each instance Rahm developed the necessary vision and strategy, focused on organizational development, consistent execution, and continuous improvement to impact the bottom line via top line growth and/or significant productivity gains. Rahm has over 35 years of consumer packaged experience in leading organizations like General Mills, Inc. and The Coca-Cola Company. His experience (U.S., Pan African and Global) includes executive roles in Marketing, Innovation and New Business Development, Technical/Supply Chain and Strategy. Rahm has an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai, India and an MBA from the Graduate School of Management (Anderson) University of California, Los Angeles. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.