



# FIGT Connections

Where Research Comes to Life

**Families in Global Transition**

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In March 2012, FIGT launched a new membership program, [click here](#) to learn more or join today!

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Families in Global Transition leads the worldwide community in empowering families and those who serve them in global transition. FIGT is the premier advocate and educational resource for families, organizations and service providers.

**2014 ANNUAL FIGT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



*Families in Global Transition*

For a limited time, FIGT is offering an Early Bird Discount - Offer Ends February 15!

To pick the discount that applies to your unique application, [click here](#)

[March 21-23, 2014](#)  
[Marriott Tysons Corner, just outside of Washington, DC](#)

## MEET OUR CONCURRENT SPEAKERS

Introducing Our Exciting Lineup of Concurrent Speakers!

FIGT 2014 is rallying around a central question: How do today's global families "do family" in real life? We have asked twelve cross-sector experts -- grouped into four themes -- to share their findings, practices, and nagging questions about the changing worlds of global nomads. And we're asking you to help us redefine how to put cross-cultural family support into practice in the future.

Theme #1: SYSTEMS opens the lens wide to look at the big picture. In these sessions, we'll explore not just how we "do" global family support, but how we think about social structures, diversity, and how we form global identities in the communities we inhabit.

- Ruth van Reken & Michael Pollock:

Founder of FIGT and co-author of the Third Culture Kids "bible," Ruth van Reken, and international educator Michael Pollock will go right to the heart of thinking through a "flow of care" for all types of global family constellations.

- Rebecca Grappo & Ryan Haynes:

Psychologist and educational consultant Rebecca Grappo and high school counselor Ryan Haynes will unpack global teenagers' ever-more complex identities -- both hidden and visible.

## Opportunities

- Danau Tanu:

Danau Tanu, University of Western Australia lecturer and 2014 David C. Pollock Scholar specifically addresses the social hierarchies existing within international schools and how these power dynamics further impact the self- and outside-perception of third culture kids.

Theme #2: FOUNDATIONS attempts to redefine how we conceive and describe unique aspects of global expat family experiences. We're taking creativity, research and revised definitions as the base ingredients for a recipe for success. You can use these foundations in any sector and in any family -- and have an impact in ways you might never expect.

- [Evelyn Simpson & Louise Wiles](#): The founders of [Thriving Abroad](#), entrepreneur Evelyn Simpson (MBA) and occupational psychologist Louise Wiles, will have a fresh look at the realities of the "trailing spouse" -- a role particular to the expat family experience that's changing constantly.
- Patricia Stokke: Global-mindedness is the topic of 2013 Pollock Scholar Patricia Stokke's freshly minted research, which demonstrates both how adult third culture kids approach leadership and how professional research itself can set the tone for corporate leadership practices.
- Mary Langford & Kyung Hee Kim: International education guru Mary Langford and creativity researcher Kyung Hee Kim take "thinking on your feet" common to the global lifestyle a step further to show us how specific creativity practices can boost the potential of a third culture upbringing.

Theme #3: CONNECTIONS uses our common personal experiences to bolster real-world connection with others. One of the unique aspects of FIGT is its personal and highly connected environment. These sessions are made for a conference like ours as well as the global communities to which you belong.

- Justin West & Jennifer Gold: There's a magic in each ending, as Hermann Hesse once wrote. [Beijing International Middle School](#) counselors Justin West and Jennifer Gold will share with us a practice they are perfecting in their field: How to harness the potential of a "good goodbye" and build relationships for life.
- Jill Kristal & Elizabeth Vennekens: But what about those in our families we have to leave behind? Psychologist Jill Kristal and international trainer Elizabeth Vennekens provide their skilled insights into connecting with and supporting "forgotten relatives" from afar.
- [Elizabeth Liang](#): In her reprise writing workshop, actor and writer Elizabeth Liang prompts attendees to answer simple questions about personal moments of transition that allow for fresh ways to share one's global story.

Theme #4: APPLICATIONS takes what we've learned in theory and applies it to careers in the "real world." How you end up using what you learn at FIGT will set the course for families and communities around the globe.

- Trisha Carter: In the past few years, FIGT has drawn an increasing number of professional coaches working in all

sectors. Organizational psychologist Trisha Carter will deliver practical tools derived from neuroscience, cultural intelligence and positive psychology -- specifically for global coaches.

- Jennifer Patterson: A leader in the emerging specialized field of cross-border financial planning, Jennifer Patterson merges the traditional field of money management with the needs of 21st-century global families with assets in more than one country.
- [Ellen Mahoney](#): Founder of [Sea Change Mentoring](#), Ellen Mahoney will use the launch of her global teen mentoring business as a case study for thinking about how to professionalize the cross-cultural field as a whole.

## BECOME AN FIGT SPONSOR!

The 2014 FIGT Conference provides an excellent opportunity for your organization to gain face-to-face exposure with conference attendees, network and mix with key decision-makers who have a genuine interest in supporting families in global transition and demonstrate your involvement, commitment and support of our membership.

Ready to become a sponsor? [Click here](#).

## FIGT SPONSOR SOUND BITE

"FIGT brings together a fantastic group of people who think passionately and deeply about the international experience," said Josh Stephens, Director of International Development for ArborBridge, a tutoring and test preparation company that serves students worldwide. "The chance to take part in the discussion, and to learn about expat and TCK culture, and to participate in a truly global community is invaluable."

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR MESSAGE

Welcome to the FIGT Community from the Membership Chair!

If you are a reader of this monthly Newsletter but not yet a member, today is a good time to consider joining the FIGT Community.

Why should you become a member of FIGT?

- Because you get a \$100 discount off your registration fee for FIGT's annual conference;
- Because you get free access to FIGT's webinars throughout the year;
- Because you are fascinated by the richness of a truly global life and mindset;
- Because you are an interculturalist who wishes to connect with others with the same dedication to increasing the understanding between people from different cultural backgrounds;
- Because you are a researcher, an expatriate or someone who supports expatriates as they move across the world.

We all have different reasons why we became members of the FIGT Community. What brings us together is our shared passion for a global, intercultural life. I joined FIGT after having participated in the FIGT Conference a couple of times.

My experience at the conference was so different compared to other conferences I had attended that I kept coming back. The FIGT conference was a welcoming community, compared to many other more corporate conferences I had attended. When I arrived at my first conference five years ago, I knew one person. When I left I had formed several new connections both personally and professionally. This was and is important for me as I transformed my career path from Corporate HR to that of a trainer and consultant working with clients globally.

When YOU join FIGT, you will receive several worthwhile benefits, a \$100 discount off the Conference Registration, FREE access to all our very popular Webinars in addition to all our other member benefits, such as submitting articles for the monthly newsletter and blog posts for the blog.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you and welcoming you back, or if you are a first time attendee, welcoming you into our community.

To become a member of FIGT and to register for the conference, go to <http://figt.org/members> and [http://figt.org/2014\\_conference](http://figt.org/2014_conference).

Welcome!

-- Katarina Holm-DiDio, FIGT Membership Chair  
Contact me at: [Kat@khdinternational.com](mailto:Kat@khdinternational.com)

## FIGT FEBRUARY 2014 NETWORKING EVENT

Save the date: Thursday, 6 February 2014, 6-8pm

FIGT is hosting a pre-conference networking event evening for folks in the Washington, DC area at AKA Whitehouse Lounge, 1710 H Street NW (Metro: Farragut North or Farragut West).

In anticipation of the conference the theme of our networking session will be: How To Navigate And Maximize Your Experience At An FIGT Conference

Please [register](#) for this FREE event, so we can anticipate a headcount.

Have a future FIGT-related networking event in mind for your city? [Contact us here](#).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS AT FIGT 2014

Are you an aspiring or established writer, with a passionate curiosity for global issues? Do you want to develop further?

This year two fabulous opportunities ([click here for full details](#)) await you at FIGT!

### Opportunity # 1: Parfitt Pascoe Writing Residency

This year marks the start of the [Parfitt Pascoe Writing Residency](#), in which four budding writers will be offered partial scholarships to the 2014 FIGT Annual Conference. The name has been chosen to honour the trailblazing writing work of Expat Expert Robin Pascoe and the ongoing commitment to supporting new writers of Jo Parfitt of Summertime Publishing.

Successful writing scholars will receive a wonderful range of benefits including:

- Free tuition & mentoring from Jo Parfitt prior to the conference on how to write articles for the global market and how to place them with publications. This will be conducted by means of an eight-session online course, completed by email, prior to the conference.
- Partial scholarships to the conference - pay just \$200 for full conference entry - a discount of \$325.

The four successful scholars will be selected on merit by February 15th. To apply, please email Jo Parfitt at [jo@summertimepublishing.com](mailto:jo@summertimepublishing.com) with a link to any published work, including a blog and a 200-word explanation of why you would like this opportunity.

[Find out more here](#) .

### Opportunity # 2: Writer's Forum FIGT 2014

We are delighted to announce the inclusion of a 4-hour Writers' Forum to take place directly prior to the opening of the 2014 conference. This forum is open to all registered attendees of the conference. Register here.

The Writer's Forum will take place from 12 noon to 4pm on Friday March 21 and will be led by Jo Parfitt, publisher of Summertime Publishing, an independent publishing house specialising in books by and

for people living overseas. Summertime will have published 86 books by the time of the conference and many of its authors will be attending.

The forum is suitable for anyone who may be interested in writing for business or pleasure, those who want to learn how to express themselves effectively to an intercultural audience and those who are keen to explore why putting pen to paper matters for global nomads. There is much to learn and plenty of opportunity for discussion whether you are skeptical, novice, budding or experienced writer.

The forum will be led by Jo Parfitt and Eva Lászlò-Herbert.

Can't wait to see you there!