Brian Ganson, J.D.

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Professor Brian Ganson is an expert on socio-political risk mitigation, conflict prevention and resolution, and third party roles in post-conflict and other complex environments. His research, writing, teaching and consulting focus at the nexus of business, conflict, and development.

Brian Ganson is Professor and Head of the Centre on Conflict & Collaboration at the University of Stellenbosch Business School, a platform for research and dialogue at the nexus of business, conflict and development. CCC works with business, government, labour and communities to reduce the costs of conflict and increase collaborative opportunities. He concurrently holds appointments as Professor in the Stellenbosch University School for Data Science, where he studies the intersection of human systems and data systems to improve conflict risk assessment and mitigation, and Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

Prof. Ganson's focus is on particularly challenging environments. He has worked with companies, civil society organizations, and governments and intergovernmental organizations to better assess and manage risks related to mining, agricultural development, and business operations more generally in tumultuous and often enough violent socio-political contexts. His work helps emerging economies and post-conflict societies to find more peace- and development-positive pathways for private sector development.

Prof. Ganson integrates academic and field perspectives to provide practice- and policy-relevant insight. He is (among other work) co-author of the books, BUSINESS AND CONFLICT IN FRAGILE STATES: THE CASE FOR PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS, and MANAGEMENT IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS: QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS, as well as articles in the *Academy of Management Review*, *Global Strategy Journal*, and *Harvard Business Review*. P He also co-leads the Business & Conflict Research Initiative, an international consortium expanding the frontiers of conflict analysis through the tools of data science. This and other research addresses the relationships between the private sector and conflict, human rights, and inclusive development.

Prof. Ganson has taught negotiation, mediation, and conflict risk mitigation for more than 30 years in both executive education and degree programmes at leading institutions including Harvard University; Stellenbosch University; and The Fletcher School, Tufts University. He was first qualified as a family mediator at age 20, and later worked in formal mediation as a practitioner, trainer, and clinical supervisor with the Harvard Mediation Program. He has worked with companies, communities, governments, and development actors to implement systems for conflict prevention and resolution at the local, national and international levels. He specializes in negotiation and mediation in contexts of social and political strife.

Prof. Ganson was previously a Senior Researcher with the Fletcher School Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, and a Director of Conflict Management Group, a non-profit consulting firm founded to apply the innovative approaches of the Harvard Negotiation Project to protracted conflicts of public importance. He was a co-founder of the Organization Practice of Mitchell Madison Group, where he consulted to Fortune 100 companies across a variety of industries. Earlier he served as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He began his career as a human rights advocate in Texas, helping to expand access to quality higher education for underserved populations.

He received his Juris Doctor with honors from the Harvard Law School, his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, and his Bachelor of Arts in history with high distinction from the University of Michigan.

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