

Norine MacDonald QC



Norine MacDonald is the President and Founder of ICOS (International Council On Security and Development), a policy think tank engaged in grassroots research and policy innovation at the intersections of security and development issues, presently working in Brazil, Paraguay, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates.

ICOS Rio de Janeiro's Security and Citizenship Programme utilises the unique 'Policy Labs' methodology. Policy Labs involve inter-linked phases of grassroots research, and participative working meetings between citizens, stakeholders and institutions. ICOS'

Policy Labs have been implemented in Luís Eduardo Magalhães, in the west of Bahia, in Rio de Janeiro and in Asuncion, Paraguay.

In 2008, ICOS organised the first International Symposium on Public Security and Drug Policy, which took place in Rio de Janeiro.

Since 2005, as Lead Field Researcher for ICOS Afghanistan Ms MacDonald has helped to direct ICOS' investigation into the relationship between counter-narcotics, security efforts, and development. Ms MacDonald's research for the Council has also taken her to 'War on Terror' hotspots in Iraq and Somalia.

She has briefed various Pentagon forums and White House staff on Afghanistan, testified before the US Senate Caucus on International Counter Narcotics, The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development and Standing Committee on National Defence in Canada, and the House of Commons' Defence Committee in the United Kingdom.

Ms MacDonald's work has been featured in a long list of international and national publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Sunday Times, The Globe and Mail, and The Daily Telegraph, while she has also appeared on CNN, BBC, CBC, CTV and Al Jazeera International and other television outlets.

Ms MacDonald is also a member of the International Advisory Council of the International Crisis Group. In February 2007, she was awarded the First Class Medal of Merit of the Italian Red Cross for outstanding contribution to international humanitarian cooperation.

Ms MacDonald co-edited "Global Philanthropy" and "Philanthropy in Europe" with Mr Luc Tayart de Borms, Managing Director of the King Baudouin Foundation.

Ms MacDonald is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of The Frontline Club.

Before founding ICOS, Ms MacDonald was a partner in the law firm Bull, Housser and Tupper. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1997.