

# KRISTIANE BACKER



**Art Consultant**  
**Public speaker**

Date of birth: 13.12.1965

Place of birth: Hamburg, Germany

Residence: London, UK

## **Language skills**

Bilingual English-German,

Conversational: French, Italian

Basic: Arabic

## Profile

Kristiane Backer is engaged in media and public speaking, too, usually related to the issue of Islam and the West as well as diversity at the work place due to her personal journey and the book she published, From MTV to Mecca. She works as an art consultant and takes a personal interest in Islamic and Eastern art and has curated a major Art exhibition by the Egyptian Calligraphy Artist, Ahmed Moustafa, in Sarajevo in 1998.

This year Kristiane conducted the Opening Ceremony of the Global Donor's Forum 2018 in London with HRH Sheikha Aisha Al Thani. She also presented the Award Ceremony at Mansion House in the presence of Alderman Alison Gowman and the First Lady of Turkey, HE Ermine Erdogan. Kristiane spoke at the IOD Lord Mayor's 'Business of Trust' event at Mansion House on the Islamic perspective of ethics in business.

Kristiane was the leading presenter on MTV - and NBC Europe for nine years, hosted a travel show for Travel Channel and created her own youth show in Germany for which she won a number of TV awards, including the prestigious Golden Camera.

She regularly chairs conferences, hosts corporate and cultural events and speaks on interfaith or Islamic matters.

In 2012 Kristiane published her best-selling memoir 'From MTV to Mecca' in the UK. The original book was published in German. Dutch, Arabic, Indonesian, Malaysian and Urdu editions are available as well.

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For more information please see her websites [www.kristianebacker.com](http://www.kristianebacker.com) and [www.barakaconsultants.com](http://www.barakaconsultants.com)

## Professional achievements

### Speaking engagements:

- 2018
- Kristiane conducted the Opening Ceremony of the Global Donor's Forum 2018 in London with HRH Sheikha Aisha Al Thani and she presented the Award Ceremony at Mansion House in the presence of Alderman Alison Gowman, the First Lady of Turkey and HE Ermine Erdogan.
- Kristiane spoke at the IOD Lord Mayor's 'Business of Trust' event at Mansion House on the Islamic perspective of ethics in business. After performing the Hajj in Saudi Arabia, Kristiane was the only female keynote speaker during the Hajj Closing Ceremony in Jeddah which was broadcast around the Muslim world and she was selected to address the Emir of Mecca during a press conference. A video produced in Mecca of Kristiane at the Holy Mosque, the Haram Sharif, went viral and received over 13m clicks.
- She was the keynote speaker at the City of London Eid event at London Guild Hall and also at Interfaith Iftar Events at Harrow and Hounslow Mosque. Kristiane spoke at the Convert Circle at Central London Mosque which she helped creating a few years ago. Kristiane chaired the Telegraph conference on Institutional Sexual Harassment – Are Institutions Silent Witnesses? #metoo campaign. She also spoke at London Central Mosque to inspire the youth. For the art exhibition HUMAN at the German Embassy UK Kristiane interviewed the participating artists.
- 2017
- At the German Embassy Kristiane moderated 'In Conversation' The British Abstract Artist Frances Blane together with Syrian artist Darin Ahmad, hosted by the Ambassador. She also

interviewed Artist Kimberley Gundle at the German Embassy. Kristiane presented her book at the German Embassy to a group of Ambassador's wives hosted by Mrs Ammon. Kristiane spoke to students at Eaton College, followed by a lengthy Q n A.

2016

Kristiane spoke at the Global Donours Forum in Istanbul on behalf of the Media Production Company SoundVision US and presented her book at several functions throughout the UK.

In April Kristiane co-hosted the opening of the Diyanet Centre of America in presence of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which was broadcast live on Turkish and international TV

2015

With the charity organisation Muslim Hands Kristiane went to Pakistan to support their Honouring our Mothers project. She visited hospitals and other projects in Lahore and Karachi then participated in fund raising events back in the UK

Kristiane hosted numerous charity fundraising events and spoke to different Muslim communities especially throughout Ramadan. In June Kristiane spoke at the international law firm 'Herbert Smith Freehills' Diversity Event

In May Kristiane was the keynote speaker in Chicago at the Sound Vision Conference.

In April Kristiane chaired a number of sessions at the Prestel and Partner Family Office Forum in Wiesbaden. She performed at the Southbank as part of the Immigrant Diaries- Changing Britain Shows. She also chaired the LISA Islam on Trial – Islamophobia conference in London where she was also one of the keynote speakers.

Kristiane visited Pakistan's Rahim Yar Khan and its surrounding areas with the charity Save an Orphan. She helped distributing food, spoke to various communities and back in London participated in TV fundraising throughout Ramadan.

In March Kristiane spoke at the House of Commons in London in front of various MPs and community leaders on 'British values and Islam'. In February she was part of a panel at SOAS discussing 'Pakistan beyond the Headlines and Homeland'. KB

was the key note speaker at Sound Vision fundraising events in Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Dayton speaking about the qualities of Mercy and Compassion exhibited by Prophet Muhammad when attacked. She is also developing TV programs with different stations.

2014 In December 2014 Kristiane spoke in front of 9000 people at MAS in Chicago about her journey to Islam. She has spoken in several US cities as part of the Sound Vision fundraising tour. In October Kristiane spoke at the House of Lords in London about the plight of the IDPs in Pakistan, she moderated the Family Office Forum at the Dorchester Hotel and hosted the latest Sami Yusuf album launch with a q n a session in London in September. She also presented her book in Pakistan at the Iqbal e Dagestan in Lahore as well as LUMS University and others across Pakistan. In February, she was the honorary speaker at North Eastern University, Boston and in January she toured Asia, speaking to sell out audiences in Borneo, Singapore and at the University of Hong Kong where she was one of the speakers at a conference exploring Religion and Power.

2013 Kristiane presented her book at several UK Universities - Cambridge, Oxford, SOAS, Liverpool and Portsmouth and gave key note speeches at several interfaith events throughout the country. She chaired the Cambridge University launch of the 'Narratives of Conversion to Islam' Report in London and hosted several Mawlid events and Graduation Ceremonies.

2012 Kristiane's book *From MTV to Mecca* was published in English in September. In December 2012 Kristiane spoke in front of 16,000 people at the RIS Convention, Canada. She gave the key note speech at the 'Legacy of the Torch' Event held at Eton College. She chaired a discussion at the House of Lords on the Arab Spring with Prof Tariq Ramadan. She spoke at the Congress of Leaders Of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan, gave

2011 the opening speech at the think tank FIRD in London before the US First secretary as a 'friend of Pakistan', she also spoke to FIRDS's student body about 'How to achieve success and awaken

the inner giant’ and she spoke at several University ISOC events about Muslim issues. Kristiane also hosted an event for Takeda in Budapest.

2010

Kristiane presented the ‘Reise’ show on Travel Channel Germany for three years. Kristiane chaired the ‘Hier and There’ Cultural Event for the German Embassy in London as well as a panel discussion on ‘Euro Islam’ with Prof Tariq Ramadan for the Conference Beyond Multiculturalism- Islam in Europe at the University of Westminster (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung), she spoke at the Progressive Muslims Forum and chaired the Launch of Missing Pages EIF at the House of Lords, and hosted “The London Initiative” business networking dinner at London’s Park Plaza, Westminster and was the keynote speaker at the international accountancy firm Auren on ‘Self Development’.

Publication of the revised paperback “From MTV to Mecca” in Germany. As Global Ambassador for the Exploring Islam Foundation Kristiane was one of the faces of the “Inspired by Muhammad” campaign in the UK and engaged with local and international media including BBC Question Time, Sky News, Al Jazeera and Die Welt in order to challenge existing stereotypes and build bridges of understanding between Islam and the West. She spoke to interfaith groups around the UK and Germany, hosted the Pakistan Achievement Awards in London, chaired a Radical Middle Way debate on Islam and the environment, launched the Muslim/ Swarovski fusion artist Nurjan for the Mica Gallery in London, and the EMWI Awards in Madrid, spoke on Muhammad’s environmental teachings at Warwick University and on a Common Identity at an Integration Conference at the German Reichstag as well as moderating the Allegria Festival in Hamburg amongst others.

2009

Presenter ‘Reise’ for Travel Channel, presenter of the interfaith magazine ‘Matters of Faith’ for Ebru TV. Published

autobiography: *From MTV to Mecca* in Germany, currently translated into Turkish, Arabic and English

- 2007 - 2008      Presenter and producer of a news analyses program and a chat show for Press TV, UK
- since 2005      Reporter from international events for German TV ARD, ZDF, Premiere, guest speaker at international events and commentator on health issues for the BBC and Sky TV. Guest presenter QVC UK for a range of food supplements, Presenter of international live events, conferences, award ceremonies, galas, debates, cultural festivals, guest speaker
- 2004 - 2018      Speaker Inflight show for Emirates Airlines
- 2004              Presenter of weekly health slot on RTL giving natural health tips
- 2003              News Anchor for ATV, international satellite TV channel, London
- 2001              Presenter Now.com internet TV, London
- 1999 - 2002      Education as homeopath, London
- 1996 - 1998      Presenter of daily guide to culture and entertainment “The Ticket NBC”. Arranged and interviewed international artists including Placido Domingo, Yehudi Menuhin, Peter Gabriel , Ute Lemper, Ben Kingsley
- 1995- 2010      Voice -overs including BBC, Virgin Radio, MTV networks, Ufa, VW, Landrover, Tempo, Palm phones
- 1992 - 1995      Presenter of youth show “Bravo TV”, Germany
- 1989 - 1996      Presenter and reporter for MTV Europe, presenting different formats within the channel including “MTV Coca Cola Report”, “European Top 20”, “MTV at the Movies”, interviews with major artists including Lenny Kravitz and the Rolling Stones

## **Affiliations & Charities**

2018	Articulation – The Roche Court Education Trust Speaker trainer for art students  Justice For Rohingya – management board
2014	Save an Orphan Ramadan 2014 Campaign
2012	Patron TellMama Campaign, Faith Matters
2011	Ambassador Progressive Muslims Forum, Faith Matters
2010	Global Ambassador for Exploring Islam Foundation. Honorary advisor of CEDAR
1998	Chief Organiser of a multicultural concert and art exhibition in Sarajevo as part of the political and cultural project ‘The Bridge’ in association with Bosnia’s UN ambassador
1996 – 2002	Executive member of the charity “Learning for Life” producer and organiser of fundraising events and shows

## **Awards**

- Sharjah International Forum for Muslim Women, 2010
- Presidential Medal of the Sciences and the Arts from Egypt
- Progressive Muslims Forum Award
- Golden Camera, 1995
- 2 x Golden Otto

## **Lecturer**

Guest lecturer at several colleges in the UK including the Foundation for International Education, the Cambridge Muslim College and the London Academy of Media, Film and TV



## **Interests**

Arts and culture, current affairs, the Arab world and the Subcontinent, health, medicine, travel, human interest, spirituality, inter faith dialogue, ecology, cooking

## **Training**

- 2016- 2017 Sotheby's Institute of Art  
Art and Business, Art Law, Caring for one's Collection, Art History
- 2017- 2018 City Lit Art History- Art Evolutions – Modernism, German Expressionism, What makes a Masterpiece
- 2018 Christies Education Art Business
- 1987 - 1989 Education radio journalist and producer, Radio Hamburg. First major interview: graffiti artist Keith Haring