

# yaleworldfellows

## YALE News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### First Icelander named 2014 Yale World Fellow

**New Haven, Conn., USA** – Thora Arnorsdottir, a 2012 candidate for the Presidency of Iceland and a renowned national media personality and documentary film producer, has been named a 2014 Yale World Fellow. Arnorsdottir joins 15 other World Fellows selected this year from thousands of applicants.

“Like prior cohorts, the 2014 Yale World Fellows are dynamic, high impact practitioners committed to effecting positive change. Arnorsdottir fits that mold perfectly and will bring immense talent and vision to the group,” said Yale World Fellows Director Michael Cappello, professor of pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine. “Through the Fellowship, Yale will provide global leaders like Arnorsdottir with the valuable opportunity to take a step back from the intensity of their work and to develop a strategic vision for their personal and professional trajectories and continued impact on the world.”

Although she lost the 2012 race by a narrow margin, along with her husband, Arnorsdottir sparked international debate on gender roles and equality: she was 8 months pregnant with her third child when she announced her candidacy. Currently, Arnorsdottir is a journalist and senior news editor at the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service. During the week she is editor of the main current affairs TV program on INBS and on weekends, she hosts Iceland's most popular TV quiz show. Arnorsdottir is founder and owner of Hugveitan, a documentary production company that has created films including *Outlaws: The Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Society* in India (2009) and *At the Bottom of the Fiord: The Last Farmers in Ísafjardardjup* (2013). She has been a lecturer at the University of Iceland on International Relations and holds degrees in Philosophy and International Economics and Development from Universities in Iceland, Italy and Washington, D.C., where she was a Fulbright grantee.

Arnorsdottir joins an Italian robotics engineer/ hacker, an award-winning Indian actress and director, a Syrian peace activist and 12 other multitalented, global leaders as 2014 Yale World Fellows. This year's cohort brings the total number of World Fellows since the program's inception in 2002 to 257, representing 83 countries.

“It is a privilege to welcome these impressive leaders to campus,” said Yale President Peter Salovey. “Each year, World Fellows enrich the educational experience of Yale students through their participation in classes, presentations on campus, and individual mentoring. With their experiences on the ground, they also provide valuable context and practical perspectives that inform the scholarly pursuits of Yale faculty seeking to address today’s most pressing global challenges. This innovative program continues to represent the very best of Yale’s efforts to educate and inspire future leaders.”

**The Fellows:**

Yale World Fellows are mid-career professionals with an exceptional record of accomplishment in the public, private, or non-profit sector. Selected from thousands of applicants, they are dynamic, creative practitioners and disruptive thinkers. Fellows work across national boundaries and disciplines: in technology, art, finance, politics, social entrepreneurship, government, media, advocacy and more. Each cohort is carefully assembled, taking into account geographical, cultural, economic, and sector diversity and a rich variety of political and social views.

**The Program:**

The Yale World Fellows Flagship Program recruits 16 international Fellows to Yale each year for an intense and transformative confluence of ideas, worldviews and experiences. Fellows partake in both structured and individualized learning opportunities, with access to Yale's unparalleled academic resources and world-renowned faculty. The Program creates space and time to broaden perspectives and deepen funds of knowledge - presenting a unique opportunity in today's fast moving world. From August to December, the 2014 World Fellows will participate in specially designed seminars in leadership, management, and global affairs taught by leading Yale faculty; audit any of the 3,000 courses offered at the University; engage in discussion and debate with a wide range of distinguished guest speakers; receive individualized professional development training; and deliver public talks on the issues about which they are passionate.

**The Mission:**

The mission of Yale World Fellows is to cultivate and empower a community of globally engaged leaders committed to positive change through cross-disciplinary dialogue and action. We challenge leaders to become more agile and creative in response to the pressures of accelerating change. We encourage them to think beyond their disciplines and sectors, and to question the status quo. Our work is based on the belief that effective leaders need broad knowledge, a network of trusted collaborators, and the courage to create "new normals" in all sectors of society.

Visit <http://worldfellows.yale.edu/digital-2014> for a digital version of this release.

For more information on the program, visit <http://worldfellows.yale.edu>

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