

MPA in Development Practice

Student Biographies
Class of 2023



ZAYNAB ABDI

University Attended: St. Catherine University in Minnesota
Degree Awarded: B.A. in Political Science, International Studies and Philosophy
Country of Origin: Somalia

Zaynab is a Black, Muslim, West Asian (Arab), immigrant woman who is passionate about social justice work. Zaynab is the Civic Engagement Coordinator at Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment and works as the Immigrant and Refugee Youth Ambassador at Green Card Voices. She was also appointed by Governor Tim Walz's office to serve in the Young Women's Cabinet. She is an advocate for girls' education and has been working with Malala Yousafzai, where she spoke at the UN. Zaynab is a co-author in *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from Minneapolis, Our Stories Carried Us Here* and *We Are Displaced*.



TANYA (TANIYA) AGARWAL

University Attended: University of Delhi
Degree Awarded: B.A. Honours in Psychology
Countries of Origin: India and Nepal

Tanya's most recent undertaking was designing games for enhancing community participation in HIV clinical trials. As a design thinking practitioner at Quicksand Design Studio, India, she has worked on multiple healthcare projects including co-designing a USAID-Jpeigo incubator program that supports healthcare startups in India. Additionally, she has worked extensively in rural entrepreneurship across Nepal and India for over three years. Her functional focus areas have been project management, communications, and partnership management. She hopes to co-create a better world by creating new pathways for addressing global challenges and integrating systems thinking as an approach to foster innovation.



RWODAH (RAWDAH) AL NAIMI

University Attended: Qatar University
Degree Awarded: B.A. in International Affairs, Diplomacy and International Security
Country of Origin: Qatar

Rwodah currently serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD). Rwodah graduated with a bachelor in International Affairs, International Security and Diplomacy. During the bachelor degree, Rwodah published research with world renowned scholars on misconceptions, orientalism, discourse analysis and political economy. She is currently overseeing international, multilateral (UN) and strategic partnerships within QFFD and leading the integration of climate change in QFFD development and humanitarian assistance. She is an active member in the UNRWA Advisory Commission, a representative for the QFFD as UNDP's core investor of the Accelerator Labs project, and a member of the crisis risk donor finance group.



HAYKAL ARDHANIKUSUMAH

University Attended: Bandung Institute of Technology

Degree Awarded: B.E. in Engineering

Country of Origin: Indonesia

Before pursuing his master's degree, Haykal worked as a Project Officer for Kemitraan: The Partnership for Governance Reform's Low Emission Development Project, where he supported the effort to strengthen nationwide emissions reduction targets by improving policy coordination and recommending a selection of effective legal instruments. He also has experience supporting the national government in setting up climate funding mechanisms as well as working in the waste management sector. Originally from Indonesia, Haykal obtained his B.E. in Environmental Engineering from Bandung Institute of Technology and is currently residing in Jakarta.



EMMA ARDINGTON

University Attended: University of Georgia

Degree Awarded: B.S. in Environmental Chemistry

Country of Origin: United States

Emma sees importance in addressing inequalities at the intersection of environmentalism and social justice, and aims to gain a deeper understanding of those issues during her time at SIPA. She has interned for the New York Office of the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau, where she researched legal matters of pollution, public health, and sustainable infrastructure. More recently, Emma served as the AmeriCorps VISTA for the College of Menominee Nation - Sustainable Development Institute. She worked with the Menominee Indian Tribal Government and local Indigenous community exploring climate change mitigation strategies and conservation solutions specific to the Menominee context.



ANUSHKA BANSAL

Universities Attended: University of Delhi, India; Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India

Degrees Awarded: B.A. Hons. in Economics; Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Business Management (Distance Learning)

Country of Origin: India

Anushka holds a B.A. Hons. in Economics and a Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Business Management (distance learning). Prior to joining SIPA, she worked within Public Sector Advisory at Deloitte India for three and a half years. She was involved in and led several prestigious management consulting projects across the infrastructure space in India and other developing nations like Vietnam, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Jordan. To further her passion for women empowerment, she worked on research projects across three themes: improving women's roles in farming, Gender Responsive Budgeting, and the impact of COVID-19 on female labor force participation. She has also interned with USAID, Pratham, Jagori, and VIDYA.



MONALISA BARMAN

University Attended: KLE Bangalore, Tata Institute for Social Sciences

Degrees Awarded: Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Master in Social Work

Country of Origin: India

Monalisa Barman is an indigenous woman from northeastern India. She is the first person from her tribe to come abroad for her higher education, as well as the first northeastern Indian woman at SIPA. She has previously completed her Bachelor of Law and Masters in Social Work, specializing in Dalit and Tribal Action. For the past 7 years she has been working as a researcher and advocate for the marginalized communities in India, as well as in Bangladesh and some African countries on various human rights violations. Her recent work pertained towards abortion rights within the tribal indigenous community in India. She is passionate about working on policy research/advocacy by synthesizing quantitative and qualitative research for sustainable human-centered policies.

RISHAV BHATTACHARYYA

University Attended: Ambedkar University, Delhi

Degree Awarded: B.A. (Hons) in Psychology

Country of Origin: India

Rishav is a psychology graduate from Ambedkar University (New Delhi, India). A Bengali by birth, Rishav's school and college years were spent in Tamil Nadu and Delhi. His four years of experience working at the grassroots with marginalized communities in India have fueled his passion for the development sector. It has also helped him to identify his calling: working to bridge the gap between policy formulation and implementation, by making intended beneficiaries an integral part of the formulation-implementation chain. In his free time, Rishav, a confirmed foodie, loves to try out new and innovative recipes from across the world.

PAULINA BUSTOS

University Attended: Universidad Anáhuac

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

Country of Origin: Mexico

Paulina is a passionate ally of the non-profit sector. She was born and raised in a northern town of Mexico called Chihuahua. Her experience includes working with different communities such as indigenous people, female inmates, and orphan children, with whom she has been able to manage projects and create social financial models to support the less advantaged. One of her favorite interests is volunteering. She has had the opportunity to volunteer in India and Thailand, and the poorest regions of Mexico. At SIPA, Paulina is eager to learn about social finance and impact measurement to empower the economically disadvantaged in her culturally rich yet chaotic country.





PAOLA CALA ORTIZ

University Attended: Universidad de los Andes

Degrees Awarded: B.A. in Economics; Master of Public Policy

Country of Origin: Colombia

Paola is an Economist and MPP (Master of Public Policy) with over 5 years of experience in monitoring, managing, and developing projects for the private and public sectors in Colombia. She is impact-oriented and believes in the potential of education and infrastructure as drivers of development. For the past four years, she has served as Advisor to the Mayor of Bogota, and recently to the President of the Colombian National Guarantee Fund. She has led teams and the articulation of parties involved in the approval of strategic projects, and the negotiation of agreements that needed to be reached for large projects to come to terms.

NUTJAREE CHAMAPLIN

Universities Attended: Mount Allison University, Monash University, Chulalongkorn University

Degrees Awarded: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Interpreting and Translation Studies, Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Country of Origin: Thailand



Though born in Bangkok, Nutjaree attended international schools in Karachi, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. She obtained an Honors degree in Modern Languages (Spanish, German, Japanese) and minored in Biology at Mount Allison. Before completing a Master of Interpreting and Translation Studies at Monash, she worked part-time in Compliance and interned at the Mexican Embassy (Bangkok). She pursued an LLB while working as a court interpreter at a law firm and later became an Associate in International Dispute Resolution, with some experience in PPP. Nutjaree is interested in challenging the sustainability-profitability dichotomy in food and fostering an integrative mindset in minimizing socioeconomic inequalities.

NIKITA CHETTRI

University Attended: University of British Columbia, Canada

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Country of Origin: India



Nikita is passionate about using evidence from action-based research for policy and advocacy work. Upon graduation, she joined the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), where she engaged with informal workers. Her research has contributed to advocacy work for the promotion of livelihoods and social security for women in the informal economy. Her research interests include understanding digital financial solutions for women in the informal economy. Prior to SEWA, Nikita interned in Kenya where she focused on developing monitoring tools for education policies in the Trans-Mara region. During her undergraduate years, she worked with organizations in British Columbia to evaluate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Canada. She is deeply passionate about bringing in a gendered analytical framework into the policy space, especially in the informal economy, and exploring the intersection of storytelling and data in impact evaluation.



BARBARA DE BARROS

University Attended: New York University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Psychology

Country of Origin: United States

Barbara graduated from NYU in 2018 with a B.A. in Psychology. Since then, her various roles in diverse industry spheres have complemented her many interests. Now, she hopes to switch career tracks to focus on the subject she's most passionate about: environmental sustainability. More specifically, Barbara hopes to spend her time at SIPA learning about intersectional environmentalism and the far-reaching impacts of environmental injustice. She is looking forward to connecting with and learning from her prospective peers and professors.



ALLISON DODAKIAN

University Attended: The George Washington University

Degree Awarded: B.B.A.

Country of Origin: United States

Allison comes from a background in marketing, where she has partnered with global companies to evolve and grow their businesses. She understands the value of strategic storytelling and the impact of messaging to advance policy, and is looking to apply this knowledge in the development field. Allison is passionate about making food systems work harder – increasing equity, security, and sustainability. She intends to leverage her marketing background and gain the knowledge at SIPA to develop and implement actionable solutions.



MICHEL FAYAD

University Attended: American University Of Beirut

Degree Awarded: Business Administration

Country of Origin: Lebanon

Michel is a finance professional from Lebanon with six years of experience in Asset Management. He majored in business administration at the American University of Beirut before joining FFA Private Bank in Beirut where he works mainly as an analyst for the FFA International Bond Fund. Deeply affected by the collapse of Lebanon's economy, Michel now seeks an MPA-DP hoping to positively impact and contribute to the betterment of the world we live in.



MUHAMMAD RIFQI FEBRIAN

University Attended: Bandung Institute of Technology

Degree Awarded: B.S. in Electrical Power Engineering

Country of Origin: Indonesia

Febrian is a passionate impact-driven engineer who graduated from Bandung Institute of Technology in electrical power engineering. He focused on renewable energy during his undergraduate studies to support the clean energy transition in Indonesia. After graduation, he joined Rekosistem, an Indonesian waste management startup that promotes a sustainable ecosystem. While there, he designed and deployed a smart waste bin in public places to increase public awareness on responsible waste segregation. Moreover, he was also involved in several voluntary activities that deepened his understanding of poverty and development. Currently, he seeks deeper knowledge in technology-related public policy to alleviate poverty.



NILE FOSSETT

University Attended: University of Maryland, College Park

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Communication (Public Relations track)

Country of Origin: United States

Nile is a communications professional and brings experiences from various fields including business, education, tech and public health. After graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park, Nile worked in public health in COVID-19 response as an Outreach Specialist. She built relationships with community partners to address challenges related to COVID-19, and coordinated info sessions about vaccines, testing and guidance. Additionally, Nile assists with operations for AZIZA PE&CE, a Maryland-based non-profit that uses the arts and fashion to teach life skills to youth. At SIPA, Nile hopes to learn more about the intersection of social impact and economic development.



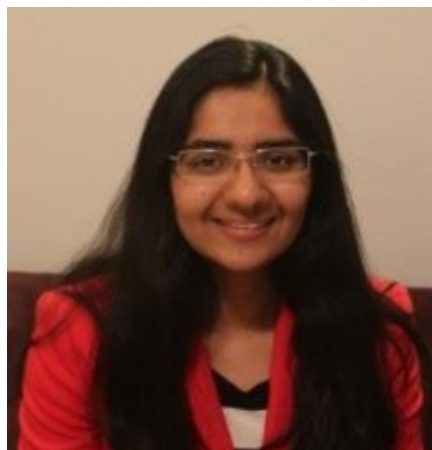
EMILY FUNG

University Attended: Georgetown University

Degree Awarded: B.S. in International Politics

Country of Origin: United States

Emily earned her B.S. from Georgetown University in 2017, majoring in International Politics and specializing in International Law, and minoring in Mandarin Chinese and Jewish Civilization. She then spent the next four years in Washington, DC working at the global development nonprofit Development Gateway, focusing on data and digital solutions for international development. She also led communications for Open Heroines, a volunteer organization for women in the civic tech, open data, and open government fields. While at SIPA, Emily is looking forward to focusing on building more gender-inclusive programs and learning skills for in-country development project work.



KANIKA GANDHI

University Attended: American University of Sharjah

Degree Awarded: Bachelor of Science in Economics

Country of Origin: India

Kanika graduated from the American University of Sharjah with a degree in Economics. During her time at university, she actively volunteered on numerous community service initiatives as well as worked with the international student-run organization AIESEC. After graduation, she has worked in a multinational company in various roles including HR, business development and translation coordination. Her experiences have inculcated in her a desire to work on community development and, thus, at SIPA, she wishes to focus her studies on human rights and social inclusion.



NORA GHOBRIAL

University Attended: American University in Cairo

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Sociology

Country of Origin: Egypt

Nora worked at the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD), one of the main players in Egypt's social development sector, for the past five years. As a junior liaison between the foundation, the NGOs in Upper Egypt and an academic research partner running impact assessments, Nora became very passionate about the complementary role of both academia and practice in the development field. At SIPA, Nora hopes to supplement her experience with strong knowledge of the international context and quantitative, analytical, and managerial skills that would allow her to become a more competent development leader in Egypt's development field.



DIMA HAMUDA

University Attended: University of Khartoum

Degree Awarded: B.S. in Econometrics and Social Statistics

Countries of Origin: Sudan

Dima is a development professional passionate about data and the role that evidence should play to inform development policies. She graduated from University of Khartoum with a B.S. in Econometrics and Social Statistics. She worked with the United Nations Development program on effectively monitoring and quality assuring the results of implemented projects and programs. Later, she joined the UN Resident Coordinator Office where she supported inter-agency development coordination and planning through mapping of development activities and creation of various information products. At SIPA, Dima wishes to acquire the necessary skills to solve development issues through evidence-based policy and data-driven insights.



ALEXIA IPIOTIS

University Attended: George Washington University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Organizational Sciences

Country of Origin: United States

While pursuing a B.A. in Organizational Sciences, Alexia interned for a nonprofit where she developed programs to engage students from low-income communities in entrepreneurship. After graduation, she joined the Peace Corps and worked for two years in Liberia, West Africa. In Liberia, Alexia taught science and independently developed a Sexual Reproductive Health training program for twenty schools, with the goal of reducing the rate of unplanned pregnancy, thus increasing female engagement with academia. Her work with NGOs in Liberia inspired her to work in program development, monitoring, and evaluation to create more efficient and effective programs for rural communities.



ARANZAZÚ JORQUIERA JOHNSON

University Attended: Cornell University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Government, Minors in Inequality Studies, Business, and Law and Society

Country of Origin: Peru

Aranzazu is passionate about creating positive social change, supporting gender equality and the LGBTQ+ community. Her undergraduate studies in Government and concentrations in Inequality Studies and Business led her to develop a steadfast belief in the potential of public and private partnerships and harnessing the power of corporations to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society. This belief was strengthened through her work with GenderLab, a diversity and inclusion consulting firm that she helped launch in Peru and that now plays a crucial role in furthering gender equality in her home country. As a person and as a professional, she thrives listening empathetically, especially to views different from their own, building consensus and relationships.



PRANATI KOHLI

University Attended: Emory University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Mathematics & Political Science

Country of Origin: India

Pranati began her career with the UNDP in Bangkok, where she was responsible for the monitoring & evaluation of user-learning outcomes. Following that, she joined Invest India, the national investment facilitation agency under the Government of India. While drafting policies to promote investments in clean energy, Pranati was introduced to disruptive homegrown entrepreneurs and the operational challenges faced by them. This motivated her to focus on capacity building of Indian entrepreneurs. She successfully supported more than 30 enterprises in navigating multiple regulatory, financial and infrastructural barriers. She has a podcast, Startup Safarnama, to better understand the trials, tribulations and triumphs of Indian entrepreneurs. She is an Advisor at Eckle Ventures, an early-stage impact

investing firm. Her profile includes deal-sourcing, business advisory support to investee businesses and monitoring of investments and partners.



ANA PAULA LAMAS OVANDO

University Attended: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas A.C.

Degree Awarded: LL.B. Bachelor in Laws

Country of Origin: Mexico

Ana Paula is a Mexican lawyer who graduated from CIDE. For the past seven years she has worked at the Mexican Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy. Having focused her professional career in international law, she has contributed to the implementation of different socioeconomic policies, such as the creation of instruments governing sea and environment, designing policies for regulatory improvement and economic growth in Mexico, and participating in the negotiation of treaty-based obligations. As of 2017, Ana Paula lives in Washington D.C. serving as Staff Attorney at the Embassy of Mexico. She is a dedicated advocate for feminism and migration.



REBECCA LAMBERT

University Attended: Texas State University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in International Relations

Country of Origin: United States

Rebecca is an avid traveler and has had the opportunity to see the world while serving the U.S. Army. She is currently a Civil Affairs Officer who specializes in civil-military operations in Asia. Rebecca has experience in Southeast Asia, collaborating with embassies and host nation governments in Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia to help develop disaster management and response procedures, medical outreach programs and training, and education program projects. At SIPA, she hopes to cultivate the knowledge and networks to pursue her passion in development. Following graduation, Rebecca will return to continue her service in the U.S. Army.



LAYA MOSTO

University Attended: University of Toronto

Degree Awarded: BA in International Relations

Country of Origin: Syria

Laya is a Syrian refugee and a community activist who has been working in the nonprofit sector. Growing up in Syria during the war and moving to numerous countries has inspired her to dedicate her career to supporting refugees and advocating for human rights. Laya earned her degree from the University of Toronto. She holds a BA in International Relations with a focus on Human Rights and International Law, as well as a double minor in Psychology and Political Science. Laya's interests lie at the intersection of social justice, peacebuilding, post-conflict development, and public policy.



MU'AZU (MUAZU) MUHAMMAD

University Attended: Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

Degrees Awarded: B.A. in History and M.A. in International Studies

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Mu'azu spent over a decade working in global health and international development, implementing projects and programs that improve access to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition in Nigeria. He initially worked with John Snow Inc. (JSI) for seven years, where he supported the implementation of two USAID funded health system strengthening projects. He later joined Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (JHCCP), where he has coordinated a team in the field office for another USAID project for four years. At SIPA, Muazu is looking forward to learning how best to improve Primary Healthcare (PHC) systems' performance that will increase the uptake of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) services.



GADHA RAJ NADUPPARAMBIL

University Attended: Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)

Degree Awarded: Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management

B Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering

Country of Origin: India

Gadha is a rural manager and has worked as a development practitioner for more than six years in diverse areas such as food and nutrition, public health, technology, and livelihoods. She led the countrywide implementation of Milk Fortification in India, a World Bank initiative with the National Dairy Development Board across 23 states of the country, making it one of the largest public health interventions to address micronutrient deficiencies. Additionally, she worked with an international nonprofit designing solutions for the health and well-being of underprivileged communities. Gadha is passionate to work with people and strongly believes that understanding the needs of the community is fundamental. She is also a solo backpacker exploring places, people, books, food, and anything that excites her curiosity.



MADELINE NINNO

University Attended: Tulane University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Economics and International Development

Country of Origin: United States

Originally from Oviedo, Florida, Madeline earned a B.A. in Economics and International Development with a minor in Public Policy from Tulane University. While in New Orleans, she worked with Fund 17, a local nonprofit, in developing business education programming for Latinx immigrants in Louisiana. Prior to joining SIPA, she worked as a consultant at BryteBridge Nonprofit Solutions, crafting development plans for new nonprofits and monitoring compliance procedures. Madeline is interested in the intersection of microfinance, community development, and high-impact enterprises.



CHINWUDE NWANA

University Attended: Earlham College

Degree Awarded: B.A in Biochemistry

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Chinwude obtained her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from a liberal arts college in the U.S. In a bid to acquire quantitative analysis skills and financial knowledge as well as contribute to her country, she worked as a Financial Risk Consultant in KPMG Nigeria advising clients on how to manage their business risks. She also volunteered as a Training liaison officer at Gracit Foundation and a Project Manager at Project Godoji which worked to close digital skill gaps and healthcare inaccessibility in rural Lagos and Abuja respectively. She is committed to helping governments of developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, bridge social inequities especially in healthcare through programmatic interventions and funding mechanisms.



TOCHUKWU (TOCHI) OKOYE

University Attended: University of Benin

Degree Awarded: B.Sc. (Ed) in Human Kinetics

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Tochi is a grit and grind person, having co-founded and exited a lending start-up. She also coordinated a farmers cooperative and taught design thinking processes to high school students in Nigeria. The common thread that binds these experiences is her desire to build wealth for the collective and contribute to more prosperous and inclusive communities. The MPA-DP at SIPA will serve as a melting pot to consolidate her development interests with raw tactical skills that enable her to use data and evidence to advocate for global good and influence shared prosperity and equality.



NNEKA ONYEKA

University Attended: Northwestern University

Degree Awarded: Bachelors of Arts and Science in Political Science

Countries of Origin: United States and Nigeria

Nneka graduated from Northwestern University in 2018 with a Bachelors in Political Science and minors in African Studies and Business. While there, she held internships with NGOs in Uganda, where she focused on women's public health and economic initiatives. Nneka improved the design of a reusable sanitary pad that had been used by those in the community and stimulated business for a women-led microfinance group. She also conducted field research for an HIV/AIDS clinic. Upon graduating, Nneka worked as a technology consultant leading teams through software implementations and product development. Nneka is thrilled to join SIPA and return to the development field with a more informed perspective on creating sustainable change.



EMILY PARK

University Attended: Syracuse University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Public Policy and Public Relations

Country of Origin: United States

Emily was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. She graduated from Syracuse University with a B.A. in Public Policy and Public Relations. After graduating, she worked in finance for almost seven years -- two years at Moody's managing client relationships with collateral managers, and most recently with BlackRock, where she spent five years working on analyzing firm-wide assets to financial planning & analysis for global institutional businesses. She is passionate about understanding the intersection of both the public and private sectors, and how the combination of effective policy and private markets can deploy more capital in achieving sustainable development goals.



VRUTI PATEL

University Attended: Gujarat National Law University

Degrees Awarded: Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Law

Country of Origin: India

Vruti, upon graduating from law school, worked as a corporate lawyer at Trilegal, Mumbai. During her time there, she worked on high-value Mergers & Acquisitions and investments by Private Equity funds. She then joined a start-up incubator and assisted in the deployment of capital to technology start-ups developing products for the underprivileged segments of India. She also has founded "ecoflo", an initiative that uplifts women by providing them access to menstrual hygiene products and debunking menstrual myths. At SIPA, Vruti awaits the opportunity to explore the intersection of environmental sustainability, gender equality, and social entrepreneurship.



TSETSEGBADAM PUREVSUREN

University Attended: The National University of Mongolia

Degrees Awarded: B.A. in International Relations, M.A. in International Relations

Country of Origin: Mongolia

Tsetsegbadam is passionate about sustainable and inclusive development. She spent three years working as a manager to an executive director of the policy institute Asian Khuleg, where she gained much experience in policy analysis and advocacy. After that, she joined the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia, where she served as the youngest member of the working group that drafted the country's first long-term development policy called "Vision 2050". Prior to joining SIPA, Tsetsegbadam worked as an advisor to the Government of Mongolia on climate change and digitalization.



ROHINI RAM MOHAN

University Attended: University of Delhi

Degrees Awarded: M.A. & M.Phil. in Sociology, B.A. in Journalism

Country of Origin: India

Rohini is a Senior Specialist in Gender Research at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). At IRRI, Rohini has managed and led fieldwork on gender dynamics in seed systems, dissemination of climate smart varieties, impacts of male out-migration, and women's entrepreneurship. She also supports the CGIAR GENDER Platform's Evidence module, building evidence, gap-maps and overseeing big data research in the areas of gendered labor time use and food security. She was previously engaged with a World Bank supported project as Social Specialist. Rohini has an M.A. and M.Phil. in Sociology from University of Delhi.



APARAJITA (PARI) RAO

Universities Attended: Singapore Management University, University of Durham

Degrees Awarded: M.Sc. in Economics, B.A. in Business Economics

Countries of Origin: India, UK, Singapore

Pari has six years of experience in telecom. At Vodafone, she worked in pre-sales and was recently recognized as a top talent. Before, she was an Associate Project Manager with SITA, implementing telecom technologies for aviation projects globally. With an M.Sc. in Economics from Singapore Management University, she's nurtured her curiosity in development studies and policy at Takshashila Institution. She volunteers at two non-profits training female foreign workers in financial literacy and communications. Finally, she is a Global Shaper and a Climate Reality Leader. She aims to eliminate the global digital divide, creating a world that offers equal opportunity, especially in and through education.



SREENIDHI RAO

University Attended: University of Delhi

Degree Awarded: B.A. (Hons) in Geography

Country of Origin: India

Sreenidhi graduated from Miranda House, Delhi University with a B.A. (Hons) in Geography. Her interest in development began during her internship with the State Human Rights Commission of Karnataka. Since then, she has worked with several NGOs including Lead School, Rahi Foundation, Central Square Foundation and Teach for India in different capacities with a focus on marginalized at-risk women and children. She also loves learning languages. Conversant in French, Hindi and Malayalam, she is currently studying Spanish. At SIPA, Sreenidhi wishes to acquire the skills to create sustainable solutions to inequality through evidence-based policy and data driven insights.



GABRIEL RATER

University Attended: State University of New York at Cobleskill

Degree Awarded: B.T. in Agricultural Business Management

Country of Origin: United States

Reared on a farm in Upstate New York, Gabriel has spent his life working in food systems across the Western Hemisphere. In 2018, he earned a degree in Agricultural Business Management from SUNY Cobleskill and later worked and WWOOF-ed in Alaskan fisheries and Patagonian ranches. Most recently, he assisted refugee farmers in developing urban farms and food-related SMEs at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Watching climate change influence global agriculture in real-time, and vice versa, led Gabriel to SIPA. He is excited to help develop and implement global policies targeting the nexus between innovation and sustainability in agriculture.



ASHA RICHARDS

University Attended: Virginia Wesleyan University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Political Science & International Studies

Country of Origin: United States

Asha is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants and believes in the saying, “to whom much is given, much is expected.” Her life goal is to advocate and assist in the development of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. She currently works with the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, a US Department of State initiative to support African partner nations in obtaining the capacity to independently rapidly deploy United Nations Level 2 Hospitals in times of global crisis. Asha is also a member of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council where she serves on the Policy and Advocacy Committee.



CAROLINE SANJOYO

University Attended: Universitas Indonesia

Degree Awarded: Bachelor of Economics, Major in Accounting

Country of Origin: Indonesia

Caroline earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from Universitas Indonesia in 2017. Knowing that there are tremendous development issues that can’t be instantly resolved in her country, she decided to join the public sector right after graduating to better understand the underlying problems. For the past four years, she has been an Expert Staff in Indonesia Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, where she was entrusted as project leader on debottlenecking several National Strategic Project issues by giving policy recommendations. While at SIPA, Caroline hopes to leverage her skills in policy planning, implementation, and evaluation in order to pursue her dreams to become the center of change that will make the world a better place.



BERYL SEILER

University Attended: Tufts University

Degree Awarded: B.A. in International Relations and Spanish

Countries of Origin: France and United States

Beryl was born in France and raised in Connecticut and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She holds a B.A. in International Relations and Spanish from Tufts University. For the past three years, Beryl has been working in the monitoring and evaluation sector at Mathematica, where she focuses primarily on developing evaluations of education, agriculture, and family planning projects in Francophone West Africa. Having taught in several countries, Beryl is passionate about the intersection of education and technology and uncovering data-driven recommendations with tangible impacts. She comes to SIPA with the goal of making education policy more sustainable and equitable.



EKKY SIMANJUNTAK

University Attended: Universitas Indonesia

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Accounting

Country of Origin: Indonesia

Ekky earned his undergraduate degree in Accounting from Universitas Indonesia. He is a finance professional with more than nine years of experience in both commercial and development banks. His experience in Agence Française de Développement has allowed him to work on sustainable finance projects to support some Government agencies and state-owned enterprises in his home country. At SIPA he is interested to learn more about poverty alleviation in the rural community through social enterprise. He is also keen to have a strong foundation in other development issues such as climate change and energy. He loves traveling, and his travels to the eastern part of Indonesia inspired him to work in the development sector.



BADI SIRUNO

University Attended: Sciences Po Paris

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Social Sciences (Middle Eastern Studies)

Country of Origin: Singapore

Badi is an impact-driven management consultant with five years of experience both at PwC's Consulting practice and as an independent contractor. Badi led the implementation of a multi-million-dollar economic reform fund in South East Asia. He also designed a food security strategy for a Middle Eastern environmental services client and most recently consulted for the Prime Minister's Office on scenario planning and green economy opportunities for Singapore. Badi aims to deepen his understanding of sustainability and resource management across the nexus of food systems, energy and the built environment to help clients navigate an increasingly high-stakes and uncertain future.



DANIELA TAGLE

University Attended: Universidad del Pacífico

Degree Awarded: Bachelor in Business Administration

Country of Origin: Peru

Daniela is a passionate impact-driven professional with expertise in inclusive recycling. She graduated from Universidad del Pacifico in Lima, Peru with a bachelor's in business management. Upon graduation, Daniela worked in the Peruvian jungle as a KAM in P&G which made her realize the immense inequalities and inefficient waste management throughout the region. This made her co-found Recicla LATAM in 2018, an NGO that seeks to raise awareness and educate the Latin American (Peru and Colombia) population about recycling solid waste and bring the tools to achieve the circular economy that the world needs by focusing on inclusive recycling. She looks forward to continue her DP journey at SIPA and learn from her talented peers.



ESTEFANIA TENA ALONSO

University Attended: Universidad Iberoamericana

Degree Awarded: B.Sc. Economics

Country of Origin: Mexico

Growing up in different parts of Mexico, Estefania witnessed inequality, poverty and lack of opportunities in her country from an early age. Since then, she has directed all her efforts to close development gaps and reduce social disparities. Within the development field, she has worked in different sectors, from a sustainable agribusiness NGO in South Africa, being a planning and evaluation advisor at the Federal Ministry of Social Development, to becoming an entrepreneur at a social enterprise as a project manager. Estefania is passionate about the role of economics in achieving sustainable development goals and poverty reduction.



THET-HTAR THET

University Attended: Carleton College

Degree Awarded: B.A. in International Relations and Education

Country of Origin: Myanmar

Thet-Htar Thet holds a B.A. from Carleton College in both International Relations and Education. Upon graduation, she worked as a College Access Coach at the non-profit College Possible, whose goal was to support college admissions and success for low-income students, predominantly students of color. In the past two years, she was a National Consultant at UNESCO Myanmar supporting the pre-service teacher education reform process of the Myanmar National Education Strategic Plan (NESP). In February 2021, she joined the people's resistance movement in opposition to the Myanmar military coup as a protester and field organizer. Thet-Htar has a demonstrated history of experience in the intersection of education, social justice, peace, and politics. She is particularly interested in the focus areas of gender, education, land rights, and advocacy.



CATARINA VIDOTTO CARICATI

University Attended: University of São Paulo

Degree Awarded: B.A. in Economics

Country of Origin: Brazil

Catarina comes from São Paulo, Brazil and is passionate about public policy and education. She holds a bachelor in economics from USP with an exchange program at Sciences Po Paris. She worked as a consultant at BCG for three years, including multiple social impact strategic projects in topics such as Digital Government, Nature Conservation, Education and a period at BCG's Centre for Public Impact. Prior to that, she worked with Education at Cidadão Pró-Mundo and as volunteer coordinator at Mapa Educação. At the DP, she looks forward to deep-dive on the main challenges of effective policy making in a development environment.