MPA in Development Practice

Student Biographies
Class of 2024
Maha Abahussein

**University Attended:** Alfaisal University (Saudi Arabia)
**Degree Awarded:** BS in Business Administration
**Country of Origin:** Saudi Arabia

Maha is a passionate impact-driven professional who found her life’s purpose at the age of 15 and started taking a leading role in organizing volunteering groups and representing Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council in youth forums. At age 17, she became a founding member in a leading non-profit incubator focused on enabling social entrepreneurs. After college, she worked as a consultant at Dalberg & Kearney to enable policymakers to reshape their programs and policies, including supporting the UN in identifying gaps and overlaps to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, she has over nine years of experience in advising large endowments on best practices and regulating endowment national policies.

Olajide Abiose

**University Attended:** University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
**Degree Awarded:** Bsc. Food Technology
**Countries of Origin:** Nigeria

Olajide Abiose has 6 years of expertise in technology-driven social entrepreneurship, as well as experience working in the public and nonprofit sectors. Olajide co-founded THE CANS, a development-focused innovation hub that provides technology to social innovators, non-profit leaders, and other stakeholders to address social and economic problems. Olajide has collaborated with a broad range of organizations, including the Open Society Foundations, the World Bank, and Nigeria’s Ministries of Finance and Defense, to deliver technologies ranging from GBV and police brutality responses to ERPs and Cyber Security Solutions. Olajide also launched Trifta Inc., a financial services company that provides financial services to customers and businesses in underserved communities. At SIPA, Olajide hopes to further explore the connections between entrepreneurship and development while building a global network of friends.

Gonzalo Aguirre Anelli

**University Attended:** Pontificia Universidad Católica (Chile)
**Degree Awarded:** Master in Vegetal Production and Agroecology
**Country of Origin:** Chile

Gonzalo is an agronomist whose work focuses on the use of agriculture to achieve sustainable rural development, particularly in its role in overcoming poverty. He has worked with farmers, rural communities and development institutions in Chile, Brazil, France, Italy and Spain. Until recently, he worked at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean as a technical consultant for the regional strategic program. At SIPA, Gonzalo seeks to complement these experiences with an interdisciplinary formation that allows him to develop solutions with an understanding of the complex social dynamics, political wills, and economic influences that surround development interventions.
**Rawan Alsinaidi**

**University Attended:** King Saud University (Saudi Arabia)

**Degree Awarded:** Bachelors in Business Administration and Finance

**Country of Origin:** Saudi Arabia

Rawan is a development enthusiast. She started exploring the development sector professionally through her work in management consulting where she worked as a business analyst at The Boston Consulting Group, where most of her projects were focused on public sector development and transformation. She has then shifted towards industrial development once she joined the Saudi Industrial Development Fund where she worked on short and long-term strategies on building a sustainable industrial sector in Saudi Arabia.

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**Devashree Arora**

**Universities Attended:** Durham University (United Kingdom)

**Degrees Awarded:** B.A. Geography

**Country of Origin:** India

Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Devashree has been driven to create a more sustainable and equitable world since she was a child. Prior to her admission into SIPA, she worked with PwC India in their Sustainability and Climate Change practice. From grass-root supply chain audits to evaluation of worker welfare programs, she has gained immense practical and on-field knowledge. Being in the field and engaging with diverse clients from multilateral agencies to multinationals, Devashree has been exposed to rich perspectives on the challenges and the potential for real solutions in the large businesses as well as the MSME segment. She wishes to focus on becoming a significant contributor in the area of responsible business, thereby fulfilling her aspiration of making a compelling difference in the world.

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**Kevin Atimango**

**University Attended:** Gulu University, Uganda Management Institute

**Degrees Awarded:** Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting)

**Country of Origin:** Uganda

Atimango spent eight years with a Government of Uganda-owned Microcredit Company, the Microfinance Support Centre Ltd and supported poor communities in Northern Uganda with access to affordable credit for income generating activities through business development services and partnerships. Atimango championed development of various innovative financing products and projects to help government meet financial needs of the disadvantaged region that is still undergoing economic rehabilitation from the "Lord Resistance Army" (LRA) insurgency which lasted for over 20 years. Atimango is focusing on economic empowerment of women and youths through rural microfinancing for sustainable development.
JAVIER BARANDA ALONSO

University Attended:  Technical University of Madrid (Spain)  
Imperial College (United Kingdom)

Degree Awarded:  B.S. Aerospace Engineering  
M.S. Sustainable Energy Futures

Country of Origin:  Spain

Javier is an energy specialist passionate about the interlinks between energy, climate and economic development. Javier holds a degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Technical University of Madrid and an MSc in Sustainable Energy Futures from Imperial College London. Prior to SIPA, Javier researched energy access in humanitarian settings at Imperial College London and worked at the NGO Energy 4 Impact – Mercy Corps supporting businesses to tackle energy poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, based in Nairobi. Through the experience at SIPA, Javier seeks to better integrate evidence and data in the policies and efforts towards a just energy transition globally.

KHULAN BATKHUYAG

University Attended:  ECUST, CITI University (China)

Degrees Awarded:  Bachelor in Law

Country of Origin:  Mongolia

Khulan Batkhuyag is a communication strategist and project manager who began her career consulting commercial businesses on branding and marketing. During the eight years in the private sector, she worked as a marketing consultant for companies in health management, retail, banking, and finance. She also consulted on a development projects communication program for a state-owned enterprise during its initial public offering (IPO). Khulan is on a mission to deliver effective programs designed to advocate for sustainable development in emerging countries. She is a regular guest speaker at nationwide project management conferences and symposiums in Southeast Asian countries.

JORGE BELTRAN

Universities Attended:  Universidad del Pacifico (Peru)

Degrees Awarded:  Bachelor of Economics

Country of Origin:  Peru

Jorge has always liked travel and sports and in 2009 moved to Colorado to work at a ski resort. At the end of the season, he had a life changing accident that caused him to use a wheelchair from that moment on. He went back to Peru to finish his degree in economics but soon realized people with disabilities in Peru did not have access to sports. As a result, he founded a non-profit association to promote adaptive sports as a tool for empowerment and inclusion.
**Lucy Brewah**  
**University Attended:** Fourah Bay College (University of Sierra Leone), Williams College (MA)  
**Degree Awarded:** BSc Economics, MA Policy Economics  
**Country of Origin:** Sierra Leone

Lucy Brewah is a compassionate and result-oriented professional with over 6 years’ experience in aid coordination and effectiveness, program planning, revenue and tax policy analysis and domestic resource mobilization. She has worked in Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Finance in the Development Assistance Coordination Office (DACO) and Revenue and Tax Policy Division (RTPD). At DACO, she was responsible for monitoring the inflow of donor resources and their deployment to finance government development programs across the public sector. Currently, she supports the planning, design and development of revenue enhancing policies under the RTPD.

**Ankit Chandra**  
**University Attended:** Indian Institute of Plantation Management  
**Degree Awarded:** Post Graduate Diploma in Agribusiness Management, B.Tech in Agricultural Engineering  
**Country of Origin:** India

Ankit comes to SIPA with over eight years of multi-faceted experience across Agriculture-Food Systems. Until recently, he was working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Foreign Agricultural Service) in India. Handling a wide commodity portfolio, his role involved facilitating bilateral trade, market access, commodity analyses, and policy advocacy along the agri-food and climate change axes. Between 2021-22, he was awarded with the USDA FAS Extraordinary Achievement award for deftly handling the Organic trade dispute with India and the USDA TFAA Administrator Award for his efforts in securing market access for soymeal in India. Previously, he has worked for Fortune 500 companies like Monsanto and CNH Industrial. At SIPA, Ankit aims to hone his understanding around the policy landscape intersecting agriculture, climate change, international trade, and food security.

**Lu Dou**  
**University Attended:** Hong Kong Baptist University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S.S. Communication (Film and Media Arts)  
**Country of Origin:** China

Before pursuing a master’s degree, Lu worked as the leader of a well-known Chinese NGO, the Beijing Da Ai Qing Chen Foundation. After graduating with film major in 2016, she worked in media companies and theaters. However, when she started working at the institution to tackle the problem of pneumoconiosis among migrant workers in China, she found herself becoming more interested in the topic. In the past four years, she has led the team to promote the introduction of relevant policies, fundraise and efficiently solve social problems. In the future, Lu wants to continue helping people who live in poverty.
**Neely Egan**

**University Attended:** University of Virginia  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Political and Social Thought  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Neely dedicated her undergraduate thesis to the study of the political history of Palestine and Israel by means of local poetry, visual art and theater. Her academic focus on the MENA region brought her to Tunisia after graduation where she worked first as a teacher, then as an advocacy intern at an Egyptian human rights NGO, and finally as a cultural heritage fellow at a Tunisian research organization. While her previous roles have been more focused on the political sphere, Neely is excited to, with the experience of the MDP program, shift her specialty towards food security and sustainability.

**Saadman Faisal**

**University Attended:** North South University (Bangladesh)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.B.A. and MS in Economics  
**Country of Origin:** Bangladesh

Saadman is an aspiring computational social scientist with the experience in policy communication, project coordination, and research. Saadman previously worked at BIGD as a senior programme associate in Bangladesh, at the intersection of research, partnership and policy. He also worked in BRAC for two years in programme coordination. The best part about working in BRAC and its ecosystem has been the opportunity to work cross-functionally in various roles for root-level development solutions. Saadman is also associated with Women deliver and Youth Ag Summit, two leading international youth-based organisations, as a young leader.

**Kyra Frederick**

**University Attended:** Cornell University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. Environmental Engineering  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Kyra earned her B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University in 2022. She became passionate about investing in achieving sustainable development through her work engineering water treatment solutions in Honduras. Before joining Columbia's SIPA, Kyra held many diverse internship roles including researching private investment in Indian infrastructure at the World Bank, emerging market private equity at the US Development Finance Corporation, software equity research at Bank of America, healthcare venture capital at VU Venture Partners, corporate social responsibility at Tesla and project management at Bechtel Corporation. At SIPA, she hopes to learn more about emerging markets, development finance, and the instruments to promote private sector participation in development.
**Takumi Furuichi**
*University Attended:* Meiji University  
*Degree Awarded:* B.A. in Economics  
*Country of Origin:* Japan

After graduating from Meiji University with a B.A. in Economics, Takumi worked in finance and consulting for eight years—four years at GE Capital managing customer relationships on commercial leasing, and PwC Consulting, where he spent four years conducting market research and business planning for multiple new businesses utilizing blockchain and big data. Most recently, at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), he redesigned the program to support Japanese companies building businesses aiming to create development impact. He is passionate about understanding how to align public and private sectors on business development process, and how this can facilitate involving diverse stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals.

**Beniva Ganther**
*University Attended:* Washington University in St. Louis  
*Degree Awarded:* B.A. Economics & B.A. Anthropology  
*Country of Origin:* United States

Driven by her lived experiences, Beniva is passionate about policy solutions that center communities of color, reimagine institutions, and create equitable systems. Beniva obtained her B.A. in Economics and Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis, where she served on the executive board for City Faces Tutoring and helped spearhead a partnership with the Public Housing Authority. She continued her mentorship work with The SMART Program in San Francisco and provided translation to ESL parents. Professionally, Beniva has worked at mission-driven health and education technology companies and specialized in legal and business operations. At SIPA, Beniva’s research interests include developing equitable and effective partnerships between grassroots organizations and broader institutions.

**Wesley Garner**
*University Attended:* College of William & Mary, University of St Andrews  
*Degree Awarded:* B.A. (International Honors)  
*Country of Origin:* United States

Wesley is excited to apply the consulting and product management skills he learned working with a dozen federal agencies, companies, social enterprises, NGOs, and startups in emerging markets. He sees poverty alleviation, renewable energy, and education technologies as major topic areas to explore in his career. Wesley studied international affairs in Virginia and Scotland before entering the federal contracting business in Washington DC, where he has worked the last three years. Wesley comes from Fort Worth, Texas. He loves reading vibrant books, exploring big cities, and trying new food. He also enjoys sci-fi, martial arts, and hiking.
**SARA HASSAN GASIM AHMED**  
**University Attended:** University of Medical Sciences and Technology  
**Degree Awarded:** B.Sc. Business Administration  
**Country of Origin:** Sudan

Sara is a Sudanese finance professional who graduated with an honors degree in business administration from the University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Sudan. Upon graduation, she supplemented this with professional accountancy studies and earned an advanced diploma in Accounting and Business from the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), UK. Sara spent the first three years of her professional career working in the finance department of Sudan's largest conglomerate: Dal group. In 2017, she joined the United Nations World Food Programme in Sudan. Her work in UNWFP centers around resource management – she has served with UNWFP in Sudan, Kenya, and Algeria and now holds the post of a senior budget & programming associate.

**YING-JOU HUANG**  
**University Attended:** National Chengchi University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in Advertising and B.B.A. in International Business  
**Country of Origin:** Taiwan

Ying-Jou earned her dual undergraduate degrees in Advertising and International Business in 2016. Prior to SIPA, Ying-Jou worked with Social Enterprise Insights (SEI), the first and most influential hub for social entrepreneurship in Taiwan. At SEI, she has led 20 initiatives, mostly advising and managing corporate clients’ CSR projects and social engagement. Meanwhile, she also worked with the public sector to raise public awareness and support towards social entrepreneurship in Taiwan. Leveraging her background in business and communications, Ying-Jou is looking forward to studying environmental sustainability and sustainable development tools at SIPA, aiming to help impact-driven businesses scale up their social and environmental initiatives in the future.

**Meha Jain**  
**University Attended:** Macalester College (MN)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Economics and International Studies  
**Country of Origin:** India

Meha most recently researched East Asian economic development at a Mumbai-based think-tank, Artha Global. Previously, at the Georgetown Institute of International Economic Law in Washington DC, she executed events on global macroeconomic policy issues, conducted research for faculty policy briefings, and advised student engagement efforts. In past roles, she has done pricing analysis for Ecolab, aided refugee rehabilitation at the American Red Cross, and administered field interviews to measure the effectiveness of public health in Dharavi slums. A Mumbai native, she received her BA in Economics and International Studies from Macalester in 2019. She hopes to supplement results of traditional academic research with individualized stories from low-income communities of South Asia and West Africa at SIPA.
Khulan Jamiyandorj

University Attended: Nagoya University  
Degree Awarded: Bachelor in Economics  
Country of Origin: Mongolia  

Khulan Jamiyandorj holds a B.A in Economics from Nagoya University. Prior to joining SIPA, she worked as a project officer at Grass Roots Grant Aid Project funded by Japanese Government for two and a half year. Within the scope of the project, many schools and kindergartens were renovated and medical equipment was provided to hospitals in remote rural regions of Mongolia. Her team successfully carried out over 40 projects in the last two years. She also has experience in working as a researcher for a public engagement campaign which aims to eradicate environmental and social issues in Ulaanbaatar city.

Aidai Kadyrova

University Attended: American University of Central Asia  
Degree Awarded: B.A. Economics  
Country of Origin: Kyrgyzstan  

Aidai is a young professional from Kyrgyzstan with more than five years of experience in finance and audit. She has worked as part of multicultural teams in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Having supervised audit engagements of important companies in Central Asia, she is passionate about economic development and opportunities in the region. The area of her research interest is a long-term development strategy of Kyrgyzstan. Aidai envisions that SIPA will be a perfect platform to broaden her understanding and knowledge about sustainable development practices while interacting with some of the world’s most talented and ambitious individuals.

Cameron Kaufmann

University Attended: New York University  
Degree Awarded: B.A. Individualized Study  
Country of Origin: United States  

Cameron is entering into the Master of Public Administration - Development Practice program in the Fall of 2022. They have worked for various companies and organizations in sustainability and as an event producer in Brooklyn, New York and Berlin, Germany with a focus on Queer and music performances. Their interests alongside the master’s degree are in Queer and Gender studies, as well as policy advocacy for the arts.
SHANZEH KHAN
University Attended: Lahore University of Management Sciences
Degree Awarded: B.Sc. Politics and Economics
Countries of Origin: Pakistan

After obtaining a B.Sc. in Politics and Economics, and a minor in Psychology, Shanzeh worked at organizations in development policy research, women’s rights and the rights of indigent prisoners. Her work mainly revolved around data management, analysis, research, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation of projects. During her 2+ years in the development sector, she was a supporting author for "The Gendered Impact of COVID-19 in Pakistan", part of the core editing team for "Trapped Inside: Mental Health & Incarceration" and conducted primary research as a part of a training needs assessment of senior bureaucrats of Pakistan.

MAY KUROBE
University Attended: Waseda University (Japan)
Degrees Awarded: B.A.Liberal Studies
Country of Origin: Japan, United States

May graduated from the University of Waseda in Tokyo with a BA in Liberal Studies. She developed her interest in the sector of infrastructure development while working in the infrastructure team at Mitsubishi Corporation (Peru). Over the last five years, May has dedicated her time supporting project development in the sectors of urban development, airports and logistics at Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development, a public-private infrastructure investment fund based in Tokyo. At SIPA, May is excited to learn how to create policies to accelerate infrastructure development in developing countries.

YI-HAN LIEN
University Attended: The University of Hong Kong
Degrees Awarded: B.A. Linguistics, Global Creative Industry
Country of Origin: Taiwan

Yihan, originally from Taiwan, is the co-founder of Love Binti International, a non-profit focusing on women empowerment in East Africa. She represented the organization to share their efforts in sustainable development at UN HLPF 2018. She has 5+ years of experience in project management, fundraising, and creating social enterprise initiatives. Prior to joining SIPA, she has lived in 5 countries across 3 continents. She speaks five languages. She is passionate about promoting women’s economic empowerment, which will help end poverty, through impact investment and social entrepreneurship. Yihan is also a columnist writing about her experience in development work.
**VERONICA MARSEILLAN**  
**Universities Attended:** Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires  
**Degrees Awarded:** B.A. Business Administration  
**Countries of Origin:** Argentina

Veronica is passionate about global social challenges like poverty, inequality and immigration. She has volunteered several times on these issues in Argentina, India, Brazil and more recently in Ukraine. Veronica has always worked in the private sector as a business leader. She worked at Google for 5 years in the Sales and Marketing teams and more recently she developed a food startup in Spain which is growing at a fast pace and expanding internationally. Now, Veronica wants to make a shift in her career and follow her passion to make the world a better place.

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**HERIANI MEIDLATI**  
**University Attended:** University of Bremen (Germany)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Integrated European Studies  
**Country of Origin:** Indonesia

Heriani is a development practitioner with experiences in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and digital inclusion. Before joining SIPA, she worked as Advisor for GIZ in Indonesia, managing a PPP project in three ASEAN countries. Her career at GIZ took her across Southeast Asia and to Germany, with multiple projects on sustainable economic development that incorporated PPP and digitalization components. She holds a B.A. in Integrated European Studies from the University of Bremen with a focus on political sociology. During her undergraduate program, she attended Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain as an exchange student sponsored by the Erasmus Mobility Program.

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**TIMOTHY MENTOR**  
**University Attended:** Salve Regina University (RI)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Political Science  
**Country of Origin:** South Africa

Tim Mentor is originally from Cape Town South Africa, though spent his formative years in NYC. He studied political science at Salve Regina University in Newport Rhode Island. He hopes, after his time at SIPA, to be involved in policy creation, adjustment, and implementation, specifically in regards to Tech Policy. He spends his downtime with his dog, Mimi.
**Assel Mukasheva**

**University Attended:** School of General Studies (Columbia University)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Architecture  
**Country of Origin:** Kazakhstan

Assel graduated Columbia University in 2016 with the Bachelor of Arts in architecture. She then started working as a construction engineer and provided an affordable housing for low-income families in Kazakhstan. After 4 years of professional experience, she joined international development and started working as an Independent Consultant for the UN Women in Kazakhstan. She developed visual materials about domestic violence and actively participated in the actions against gender inequality. She also developed social media campaign against toxic masculinity in her region. In SIPA, Assel is eager to learn about renewable energy, low carbon economy and sustainable development.

**Madiyar Nurakhmetov**

**University Attended:** Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. Chemical Engineering  
**Country of Origin:** Kazakhstan

Longevity and Urbanism enthusiast with experience in public policy, management consulting, banking, mining, and HR. Hit Madiyar for a discussion on pedestrian-centric cities, a quick longevity tip, or a consulting case interview partner. Madiyar worked as Managing Director at #3 bank in Kazakhstan, Manager at Ministry of Economy’s think-tank, Project Manager at Kazakhstan’s largest mining company, and Head of Strategy at National Civil Service Agency. He also co-founded a consulting case interview simulator and an app teaching safe behavior while encountering police. Big fan of rock, trivia, and podcasts, Madiyar also loves playing guitar, dombyra, and harmonica.

**Stefano Lean Ortiz**

**University Attended:** The New School  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Philosophy, B.A. Literary Studies (Literature)  
**Country of Origin:** Philippines, United States

Stefano graduated from The New School in 2018 with degrees in Philosophy and Literature. After graduation, he worked for Brooklyn-based community organization El Puente as an Academic Mentor. He later returned to the Philippines and wrote for the Film Development Council of the Philippines. After FDCP, he moved to the Office of the Press Secretary (then PCOO) under its Media Research and Development Staff. Stefano is inspired by various philosophical and literary traditions alongside his practical experience in nonprofit and governmental organizations. While attending SIPA, Stefano is most interested in studying the intersections of economic inequality and educational opportunity.
**Margaret Rogers**

*University Attended:* The George Washington University  
*Degree Awarded:* B.A. International Affairs  
*Country of Origin:* United States

After receiving her BA in International Affairs with concentrations in Development and African studies, Maggie worked as an administrator at Concern Worldwide's headquarters in NYC. She left to serve as an HIV Outreach Volunteer with US Peace Corps in Mpumalanga, South Africa, where she focused her work on reducing HIV infection transmission among young women. After completing service, Maggie moved to Dakar, Senegal as Executive Assistant to the CEO at myAgro, a social enterprise fighting food insecurity. She eventually began managing special projects, working closely with the leadership team and designing pilot programs to increase myAgro’s reach.

**Alexandre Rongé**

*University Attended:* University of Warwick (United Kingdom)  
*Degree Awarded:* BSc in International Management  
*Country of Origin:* Slovakia and Belgium

Alexandre graduated from the University of Warwick in 2019 with a BSc in International Management. Since then, he worked as Lead Research Analyst at YUX Design, a user-centric market research firm based in Dakar, Senegal. In this role, Alexandre conducted several quantitative research projects across different policy areas including public health, agriculture and energy. More recently, Alexandre worked at Altai Consulting, a development consultancy, where he focused on monitoring and evaluation projects for large-scale development aid programs. At SIPA, Alexandre will look at further strengthening his economic and statistical background as well as focus on economic and political development opportunities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions.

**Sally Schuster**

*University Attended:* Universidad del Norte, Universidad de los Andes  
*Degree Awarded:* B.A. International Relations, B.A. Political Science & Government, M.A. State, Public Policies and Development  
*Country of Origin:* Colombia, Spain

Sally Schuster was born and raised in Colombia. She studied International Relations, Political Science and has a Master's in State, Public Policy and Development. She has contributed for Oxford University Press and worked at Colombia’s Department for Social Prosperity (Presidential Office) and the Ford Foundation’s Andean Region Office in Bogotá. Sally has dual nationalities, Colombian and Spanish and speaks Spanish, English, Hebrew and some French. She has been involved in poverty alleviation, social justice and philanthropy. At SIPA, Sally wants to learn more about impact investing and social businesses.
ALBINA SHARSHENOVA
University Attended: American University of Central Asia
Degree Awarded: B.A. Sociology, M.A. Migration and Intercultural Relations
Country of Origin: Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation

Albina holds a BA in Sociology and an MA in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR), the program, through which she lived and studied in Germany, Norway, South Africa, and the Czech Republic. She has interned and worked in development media, consulting agencies and in the UN migration agencies in Prague, Vienna, and Nur-Sultan, focusing on migrant integration projects and migration policy. Albina also volunteered for the AIESEC development projects in Turkey and Sri Lanka. At SIPA, she intends to leverage her humanitarian aid and research background to expand and deepen her knowledge of complex development problems and acquire the analytical and practical tools to design and implement sustainable solutions.

AURORA SILITONGA
University Attended: Universitas Indonesia
Degree Awarded: B.S. Economics
Country of Origin: Indonesia

Aurora was born and raised in Bandung, Indonesia, just a 3-hour train ride from the capital. She has always been passionate about international issues and economics, especially how both intersect and lead to social change. After earning her Bachelor's in Economics from Universitas Indonesia, she spent 1.5 years working on carbon Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and sustainable palm oil at World Resources Institute, Indonesia. She then worked in Australia Indonesia Partnership for Economic Development (PROSPERA) where she helped Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Agency and Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investments with their carbon pricing policies and conduct international trade surveillance. At SIPA, Aurora wants to gain more knowledge on sustainable development policies and focus on leadership and implementation.

YANTI SILIVIANA
University Attended: Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia)
Degree Awarded: B.A. in International Relations
Country of Origin: Indonesia

Yanti Silviana is passionate about social entrepreneurship and community development. In 2013, she founded Plastic Fused, a project with women trash pickers aimed at upcycling plastic waste into commercial bags. She is co-creator of Gaia Jaya, an online app/education game on waste separation. She is a frequent speaker on youth entrepreneurship. Most recently Yanti has worked for USAID CEGAH Project and New Zealand Aid Program to improve public services, develop human capital, promote inclusion, and respond to the Covid pandemic in Indonesia. At SIPA, she looks forward to immersing herself in understanding social entrepreneurship, social justice, and environmental sustainability.
RAGHUVENDRA SINGH  
**University Attended:** University of Delhi (India)  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor of Commerce  
**Country of Origin:** India

Raghuvendra has grown up facing issues such as environmental degradation, caste discrimination, and low quality education. He designed a UNICEF-partner project to mentor 100,000 youth to resolve their local civic-environmental issues. He mentored 500 students in building a waste management system enabling a 1200 kg annual reduction in non-biodegradable waste. At Teach for India, he established a community center improving learning for 250 students, while also educating 600 members of the school community about untouchability through theater. Raghuvendra seeks to build a strong foundation in development theory and praxis to achieve his vision of building an equitable and sustainable world.

VANSHIKA SINGH  
**University Attended:** O.P. Jindal Global University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. (Hons) in Global Affairs  
**Country of Origin:**

Vanshika has spent the last two years navigating the interface of digital education for elementary learners in India. First, as a Teach For India fellow, she was an educator and designed interventions for accelerated learning, tech inclusion, and children's data protection. Then at Rukmani Trust, as a program and planning consultant, her focus was monitoring and evaluation of education access and inclusion projects in rural settings. She earned her bachelor's degree in global affairs and worked extensively with research and grassroots organisations, including NAPM, The ANT, Digital Futures Lab, and J-PAL South Asia in varying capacities. At SIPA, she is interested in exploring the intersection of technology and education and locating the role of inclusive and sustainable regulatory practices in protecting the rights of the underrepresented.

AADITYA TIWARI  
**University Attended:** Harcourt Butler Technological University (India)  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor in Technology  
**Country of Origin:** India

Aaditya Tiwari is working as Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. Prior to that he worked with the New Delhi based think tank India Foundation and assisted Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha Shri Swapan Dasgupta. Aaditya also curated a national level meet for youngsters across India. He has worked as a Fellow with Teach For India where he taught students in a low income primary class for two years in Seelampur, Delhi. Aaditya is a Chemical Engineer by training and has interned with Hindustan Unilever. He has authored two chapters in the book 'Public Policy- A Citizen's Guide', written articles for publications like the Indian Express, Press Information Bureau and Firstpost. His hobbies include writing poems and running. At SIPA, Aaditya wants to focus on ESG.
**Nursultan Ubbiyev**  
**University Attended:** Kazakh-British Technical University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. in Finance  
**Country of Origin:** Kazakhstan

Nursultan is a development finance professional with five years of experience in organizations, such as IFC (International Finance Corporation / World Bank Group) and EY (Ernst & Young). Nursultan became passionate about inclusive and sustainable development programs after realizing that most marginalized communities’ problems could be solved by removing barriers and creating opportunities for private sector development. He believes that facilitating financing for SMEs would stimulate economic growth and jobs creation. At SIPA, Nursultan is looking forward to studying the intersection of sustainable development financing and empowering of marginalized communities through social entrepreneurship.

**Amy Darajati Utomo**  
**University Attended:** University of Indonesia  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. International Relations  
**Country of Origin:** Indonesia

Amy is a development practitioner who is passionate about gender equality. For the past four years, she has worked for ASEAN Foundation, an intergovernmental organization aimed at community building in Southeast Asia. Amy is experienced in managing funds for multi-year, multimillion projects under the ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund and various other donors. She has also covered diverse areas such as oil and gas, youth empowerment, data science, agriculture, and arts and culture. Aside from her professional work, she also initiated the Girl Speak project focusing on training youth in Sumatra on gender awareness. She hopes to acquire skills in SIPA to create sustainable solutions to inclusive development.

**Meenakshi Viswanathan**  
**University Attended:** Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
**Degree Awarded:** Integrated M.S. in Development Studies  
**Country of Origin:** India

Meenakshi obtained an M.A. in Development Studies from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. Being part of an interdisciplinary program, Meenakshi studied different domains within social sciences such as economics, gender, and urban studies, among others. After graduation, Meenakshi worked at IDinsight – a global development advisory organization. She worked closely with India’s central planning commission, NITI Aayog, to study district data management systems and improve data quality for governance. She focused on India’s health infrastructure, particularly tuberculosis. Prior to joining IDinsight, she worked on the intersections of democracy and media as a research intern at the Graduate Institute, Geneva.
Jiasheng Wang

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Originally from China, Jiasheng earned a B.A. in Economics & Finance and a B.A. in Korean-Chinese Interpretation & Translation from Hanyang University in South Korea. He initially worked as an Audit Assistant Manager in KPMG China for 4 years. He later spent a year as a Risk Management Manager at a boutique private equity firm, focusing on investment due diligence in the primary market. At SIPA, Jiasheng looks forward to learning how to improve energy and environment through impact investing.