MPA in Development Practice

Student Biographies

Class of 2022
**FARID AL AZIM**  
**University Attended:** University of Bristol  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor of Laws, LLB (Hons)  
**Country of Origin:** Malaysia

Farid joined Bank Negara Malaysia (the Central Bank of Malaysia) in October 2014 and has worked in the fields of financial integrity, financial inclusion, economic policy and strategic communication. Among others, he spearheaded the legislative review exercise aimed at addressing the problem of illicit financial flows, served in the central committee of the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development 2018 in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and contributed to developing financial inclusion strategies for underserved communities. Additionally, Farid also worked on issues related to the balance of payments as part of the Secretariat to the National Current Account Task Force and wrote speeches for senior officials of the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. At SIPA, Farid hopes to build expertise in new areas including infrastructure policy and program evaluation.

**ESHWAR BANDI**  
**University Attended:** Visvesvaraya Technological University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.E. Computer Science  
**Country of Origin:** India

Eshwar is a passionate educator with tremendous belief in human potential. He co-founded the nonprofit Inqui-lab Foundation to nurture the innovative potential of people from the marginalized sections of society. Eshwar was a Teach-for-India fellow, who later worked at Sikshana Foundation to extend his grassroots understanding to implement education interventions at scale. Prior to transitioning to the social sector, Eshwar worked at IBM for six years. His work has been continually commended - Eshwar is a WIPRO seeding fellow, UNLEASH fellow, InnovatED entrepreneur, and was recently featured in the book "Grey Sunshine: Stories from Teach for India" for his leadership.

**DENISSE BECERRA**  
**University Attended:** Regent's University London  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A (Hons) Global Management and Sustainability  
**Country of Origin:** Peru

Denisse is a passionate impact-driven professional, and an avid globetrotter. You can always find her planning her next trip and seeking for travel tips. Being raised in Peru during the 90s, she faced inequality from an early age, this fueled her to join movements and projects that help reduce the opportunity gap in developing countries, like her beloved Peru. This purpose, is what drove her interest in the study of policy making and development, and what led her to work for organizations, like the UN World Food Programme, or as Sustainability Lead at Breca, one of Peru's main economic groups. After working in both the public and private sector, she is a strong believer that only through cross-sectional strategies, that strengthen the public and private sector dynamic, true progress for all will be achieved.
DANIEL (DAN) BI
University Attended: Boston College
Degree Awarded: B.S. Business Management, Concentrated in Accounting & Information Systems
Country of Origin: United States

Daniel graduated from Boston College in 2016 with a bachelor’s in business management. He is passionate about understanding global systems and their impact on climate change. After working in IT audit, Daniel transitioned into Peace Corps Namibia to focus his work on sustainable development. As a community economic development volunteer, Daniel lived in a village with small-scale farmers in the Zambezi region where he worked to increase food security and promote income-generating activities to help improve the livelihoods of farmers. At SIPA, Daniel is looking forward to studying the intersection of sustainable finance, energy, and environmental studies.

NADINE BIBAWI
University Attended: German University in Cairo
Degree Awarded: B.Sc. Business Informatics
Country of Origin: Egypt

Upon graduation, Nadine worked as a storage specialist at an IT corporation where she provided technical implementations of the company's products. After working in the IT industry for 6 years, Nadine moved to an innovation and development consulting firm looking to shift things by understanding the mechanism of practices in technology and innovation and how it moves communities forward within the development context in Egypt. Her work included strengthening the exporting capabilities of Egyptian businesses through product innovation as well as supporting social entrepreneurship among women. At SIPA, Nadine looks forward to understanding the intersection of technology, data, and social entrepreneurship.

MIA CHIN
University Attended: Bryn Mawr College
Degree Awarded: B.A. Sociology
Country of Origin: United States

Mia Chin brings eight years of humanitarian and international development experience in Asia and the Middle East. Mia spent the last three years serving USAID/Jordan’s Education and Youth team managing the $68 million Early Grade Reading and Mathematics Initiative, a $3.5 million direct-finance agreement with Jordan’s Ministry of Education, and various technical assistance mechanisms in monitoring and evaluation, decentralization, and extracurricular activities. Previously, Mia was a Princeton in Asia and Fulbright Fellow and consulted with Oxfam, Save the Children, and Right To Play for education and WASH programs in Jordanian host communities and refugee camps.
HANNAH CLIFFORD

University Attended: University of Toronto
Degree Awarded: Honors B.A. International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies, Women and Gender Studies
Country of Origin: Canada

Hannah holds an Honors B.A. from the University of Toronto in International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies and Women and Gender Studies. For the past five years, she has worked in media development managing projects in Jordan, South Africa, and across Canada focusing on Indigenous representation in media, combatting misinformation and disinformation, and supporting independent media. Her background is in international development having previously worked in the Upper East Region of Ghana. Hannah believes deeply that local challenges are often best addressed by locally-led solutions. She is particularly interested in the intersection of representation, gender, public discourse, and policy.

LOUISA FRUEHAUF

University Attended: Rollins College
Degree Awarded: B.A. Critical Media and Cultural Studies
Country of Origin: United States

Louisa graduated from Rollins College in 2013 with a B.A. in Critical Media and Cultural Studies. After spending two years working in fashion in New York City and becoming frustrated by the sustainability problems deluging the industry, she transitioned to a role at a non-profit. She has spent the past three years managing media and talent relations for one of the world’s largest AIDS research foundations, and has traveled to annual fundraising events in Cannes, Hong Kong, São Paulo, Paris, Vienna, and Milan. Louisa is passionate about improving ESG practices in the private sector. At SIPA, she hopes to gain the necessary strategic and analytical skills to become a leader in effecting positive change.

KEVAL GALA

University Attended: Carnegie Mellon University
Degree Awarded: B.S. Civil Engineering
Country of Origin: United States

Keval earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He also completed an additional major in Public Policy and minors in French and Global Engineering. His international experience includes week-long service trips to Haiti and Honduras, a month-long Engineering for Developing Communities course in Ethiopia, a semester studying abroad in France, and 16 months working as a Food Security Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal. In his free time, Keval loves learning languages. Conversant in Hindi, French, and Nepali, he’s currently studying Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.
LISA GARCIA
**University Attended:** University of Michigan  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in International and Comparative Studies  
**Countries of Origin:** Guatemala and United States

Lisa grew up in Guatemala and graduated high school in Southern California and college at the University of Michigan. Her academic focus is on human rights and social inclusion, and her research interests include chronic conflict and resilience. Prior to joining SIPA, Lisa worked with the Women's Justice Initiative, a non-profit organization fighting gender-based violence and inequality in rural Guatemala as a Princeton in Latin America fellow. An abolitionist, Lisa has worked with incarcerated persons, immigrant communities, and low-income racial minorities. Ultimately, she plans to aid in the sustainable and equitable development of previously colonized countries.

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.

GABRIELLE HAYES
**University Attended:** McGill University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. International Development Studies and Economics  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Gabrielle is an urban farmer with 5+ years of experience managing educational farms and gardens in New York City. Before ever having planted a vegetable seed, she earned a BA in International Development Studies and Economics from McGill University. That education allowed her to contextualize her work on small urban farms as part of a global system in need of dramatic change. Having worked at the individual level with thousands of youth from across NYC, she is eager while at SIPA to examine how the public and private sectors can work together to create equitable access to sustainably-grown food.
**Kate Highstrete**  
**University Attended:** Saint Mary’s College of California  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Performing Arts  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Kate has devoted much of her life to the arts, completing a career as a professional ballet dancer, followed by an administrative role at the Colburn School, a performing arts conservatory, while completing her undergraduate degree. She then initiated a dance workshop for unaccompanied minors at Moria Refugee camp and volunteered with a Ghanaian social enterprise, experiences which compelled her to transition into a career working toward a world of more inclusive and equitable opportunity. Kate is excited to spend the next two years at SIPA immersed in the work of sustainable development and learning from her talented peers.

**Ting (Irene) Huang**  
**University Attended:** Beijing Foreign Studies University; Chinese University of Hong Kong  
**Degrees Awarded:** M.A. in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition; B.A. in Spanish Studies  
**Country of Origin:** China  

Irene, originally from southwestern China, has spent the last seven years in Hong Kong, working in the infrastructure sector where she took on roles of project development, public relations and team management. She supported realizing large scale infrastructure projects such as the Nicaragua Canal and the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge. These experiences sparked her interest in sustainable development, impact evaluation and data analytics. At SIPA, she looks forward to developing expertise in the intersection of urban development, inclusion and statistics, and seeks to contribute to promoting corporate social responsibilities in the years to come.

**Zekun (Edison) Huang**  
**University Attended:** University of California, Berkeley  
**Degrees Awarded:** B.A. Cognitive Science  
**Country of Origin:** China  

Zekun graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Cognitive Science. He started a social enterprise in Singapore and the Bay Area with the goal of promoting financial inclusion for migrant workers. After graduation, he worked as an analyst at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong; while there, he participated in the risk management and financing of a large-scale renewable infrastructure project and routinely assisted various development banks on their EM currency funding programs. Zekun believes in a carbon neutral future and is convinced that a coordinated global initiative is critical to a more sustainable development model.
**E**

**LISABETH (LIZ) HUTH**

**University Attended:** California Institute of the Arts  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor of Fine Arts  
**Country of Origin:** England

Elisabeth graduated from California Institute of the Arts and began work as a graphic designer for children shows. Since then she moved to Indonesia where she took over an environmentally focused travel business in a developing tourism region in Indonesia. Following the 2018 earthquake in Indonesia, Elisabeth refocused her efforts on helping to rebuild her local community. She spent time supporting local initiatives such as Trash Hero, focusing on education and awareness in communities of sustainable practices for plastic waste. She also volunteered for Ocean Quest, an organization that focuses on the protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs.

**A**

**MIT KHATRI**

**University Attended:** Delhi University  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor in Engineering  
**Country of Origin:** India

Having been part of the bureaucracy for a decade, Amit brings rich grassroots governance experience in stakeholder management (Caste groups/political), human resource management (with a workforce of 10,000+ and handling worker protests/strikes), riot control (causative factors, facing bullets, restoring normalcy and bridging communities), service delivery (giving over 2000 "autographs"/day while sanctioning driving licenses, arms licenses, funding approvals, judicial work, civic infrastructure and even marriages), and automation (time bound delivery & quantified monitoring). He'll be working at the Union Ministry/State headquarters upon return in a role involving policy planning. He's also a travel & fitness enthusiast and hopes to pick up both again at Columbia.

**S**

**HREYANS (SHREY) KOTHARI**

**University Attended:** Boston University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in Political Science & Global Studies  
**Country of Origin:** India

As an undergraduate, Shrey created a tech-based social venture: an online platform for nonprofits to collaborate on projects and campaigns. After graduating, he moved to Washington, DC to work at Save the Children as an innovation coordinator. There, he assisted in the development of technology-driven solutions including statistical learning tools to predict the duration and scale of forced mass displacement, and AR and VR technology to provide career assistance to youth in Myanmar. After this role, Shrey took on a position at the United Nations Foundation working for the Shot@Life global childhood vaccination campaign, where he employed data analysis and visualization to help raise funds for, and maximize efficiency in, their grassroots advocacy. At and after SIPA, Shrey plans to explore the intersection of data science, development, and innovation.
**Kerong Kelly**  
**University Attended:** Bucknell University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. International Relations  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Originally from New York City, Kerong earned her B.A in International Relations from Bucknell University. Over the last two years, she has served as a maternal and child health volunteer for the U.S Peace Corps in Rwanda. Her primary focus was on the prevention of chronic malnutrition in pregnant women and in children under the age of two. She is interested in development, preferably working on project implementation and innovation that promote nutrition, agriculture, and economic growth in the global south.

**Erin Leonard**  
**University Attended:** Georgetown University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. in Foreign Service  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Erin has worked at the intersection of agriculture, hunger, and sustainability since graduating from Georgetown in 2016. Most recently, she worked at Mercaris, a start-up which provides innovative market-data tools to the organic agriculture industry. At Mercaris, she focused primarily on land valuation of organically certified farmland. In 2017, Erin spent 6 months in Sri Lanka researching the impact of food security policies through a fellowship awarded by The Asia Foundation. At SIPA, Erin hopes to hone the quantitative and methodological skills needed to engage in a culturally informed approach to development that prioritizes the self-determined needs of rural communities.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Logalbo**  
**University Attended:** George Washington University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Anthropology  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Elizabeth is a professional chef who has spent the last seven years cooking in Washington D.C. After earning a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the George Washington University she decided to explore the various connections between food and culture. She later published an ethnographic study of food security and mental health in Community Mental Health Journal. Elizabeth’s work in the restaurant industry illustrated to her how tightly food and community are intertwined. It also led her to question the relationship between agricultural policy and our everyday lives. Using her knowledge and unique perspective, she hopes to create more equitable and sustainable global food systems.
**STEPHANIE MA**

**University Attended:** University of Delhi, India  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in Economics  
**Countries of Origin:** Nepal and China  

Stephanie returned to Nepal to pursue her interest in women empowerment and poverty alleviation after completing her Economics Degree in Delhi, India. Her ten years of professional experience in the microfinance and development sector is shaped by field visits, interactions with target groups and dialogues with policymakers. She has volunteered with various NGOs in India and Nepal working with marginalized at-risk women and children. During the 2015 Nepal earthquake, she took an active role in supporting the disaster response team. Stephanie believes in the potential of each individual to become agents of change provided there is an equal opportunity for all.

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**JOHN MADRID**

**Universities Attended:** Arkansas Tech University, South Dakota State University  
**Degrees Awarded:** M.S. Emergency Management & Homeland Security, M.S. General Engineering, B.S. Engineering Physics  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Originally from Yankton, South Dakota, John has worked in disaster management with the Red Cross in South Carolina and with the Peace Corps in the Philippines. He has also served in WMD defense and military public health with the US Army. John hopes to address the underlying factors contributing to poverty, and he would like to explore the impact of poverty on crime, conflict, and disaster vulnerability. In his free time, he enjoys doing martial arts, reading classics and books about leadership, and visiting historic sites and other local attractions.

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**NATHANIEL MAEKAWA**

**University Attended:** University of Michigan  
**Degree:** B.A. International Studies  
**Country of Origin:** United States  

Nathaniel is a first generation multicultural American with a passion for public service and the environment. As an undergraduate, he interned in Madagascar at an NGO focused on poverty alleviation through sustainable seaweed and sea cucumber aquaculture. After graduating, he taught health education as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia. Throughout his service, Nathaniel collaborated with local organizations to prepare and inspire youth environmental leaders, and with his community, to connect students in limited resource settings with pathways and role models for pursuing a higher education. At SIPA, Nathaniel intends to focus on community development, sustainability, and climate change.
KADIDIATOU (KADI) MAGASSA  
University Attended: Southwestern University  
Degrees Awarded: B.A. International Studies  
Country of Origin: United States  

Kadidiatou Magassa is from Harlem, New York City. She obtained a B.A. in International Studies and Political Science from Southwestern University. Currently she works as the Interim Assistant Director of the Baby College, a program of the Harlem Children's Zone. At Columbia SIPA she wants to study how policy reform can improve the capacity of poor-functioning mental and physical health services for survivors of intimate-partner and sexual violence. She is interested in exploring how to set and evaluate health policy and service delivery in biased systems and unfair power relations, which are at the center of inequitable health outcomes.

LUIS MANCILLA  
University Attended: Kean University and Pontifical Catholic University of Peru  
Degree Awarded: B.A. in Political Science & Global Studies  
Country of Origin: Peru and United States  

Luis is a Peruvian-American citizen living in New Jersey. He began college at the Pontifical Catholic University of Perú. He transferred and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kean University in 2020 with a B.A. in Political Science and Global Studies and minors in Sustainability Science and Latin American Studies. Luis is a founder-developer of a successful elementary school in a low-income neighborhood in Lima. He mobilized support for and led community-based, economic and political development and environmental sustainability projects there. He seeks to develop strategies to combine local participation, with public and private support, to build sustainable livelihoods for communities around the world.

MICHAEL MCCARVILLE  
University Attended: Fordham University  
Degree Awarded: B.A. English  
Country of Origin: United States  

Michael grew up in southern Arizona near the US/Mexico border. After graduating from Fordham University, he returned to his home state to join Teach for America. Teaching in Arizona, and later Brooklyn, New York, Michael learned that everything in the classroom is political. In the low-income neighborhoods in which he taught, poverty, lack of funding, and anti-immigrant and anti-refugee policies were painfully evident. Michael is excited to join the MPA-DP program at SIPA to gain the knowledge and skills to confront the issues that affected his classroom and to create safer and more enjoyable environments for students.
EMMA MORGAN
University Attended: Dartmouth College
Degree Awarded: B.A. in Religion, Geography, and Native American Studies
Country of Origin: United States

Emma is from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and spends her time doing anti-poverty work on her reservation and with indigenous communities around the world. Emma has assisted in designing healthy and innovative communities on and off the reservation. Additionally, she has worked on large-scale agriculture projects in Rwanda. More recently, she set up and ran a food pantry on the reservation in response to coronavirus. At SIPA, Emma looks forward to studying urban planning and sustainable agriculture.

LEIGH NUSBAUM
University Attended: Brandeis University
Degree Awarded: B.A. International & Global Studies; Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies
Country of Origin: United States

Though Leigh Nusbaum studied International Relations at Brandeis University, her career after undergrad has focused on both Democratic political campaigns and legislative offices. Though she spent time on U.S. Senate races in Hawaii and Louisiana, most of her career was spent in her home state of Virginia on campaigns and in the state legislature. Prior to joining SIPA, she served as Chief of Staff to the first woman to serve as Minority Leader (and later Speaker) of the Virginia House of Delegates. Leigh is interested in learning about best practices to increase representation of women in positions of government, especially in emerging democracies.

NATHAN (NATE) OSENDahl
University Attended: University of California, Santa Barbara
Degree Awarded: B.A. International Relations
Country of Origin: United States

Since 2015, Nathan has supported comprehensive and market-based approaches to sustainable development at home and abroad. Internationally, he has coordinated global operations for the Clean Cooking Alliance and BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative. In 2018, he joined the Rebuild Texas Fund to finance Hurricane Harvey recovery and disaster preparedness projects throughout Southeast Texas. Recently, Nathan managed operations for three farmers’ markets in Austin, Texas, generating $7 million annually towards the region's sustainable food economy. At SIPA, Nathan hopes to combine his interests in market-based development, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture, and apply them toward an education in supporting food systems, food security, and farmers, while navigating changing climates and markets.
**Titilayo Ola**

**University Attended:** University of Lagos  
**Degree Awarded:** BSc. in Economics  
**Country of Origin:** Nigeria

Born and raised in Nigeria, Titilayo holds a BSc. in Economics from The University of Lagos. Upon graduation, she worked as an Investment Analyst in a pan-African investment firm, where she focused on investment advisory, research, and business strategy. She is passionate about infrastructure development and won an undergraduate award for her paper on "Infrastructure – a Catalyst for National Development in Nigeria". As a volunteer with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, she drafted policy briefs on budget priorities for the Federal Government of Nigeria and reviewed policy literatures. Her interests lie at the intersection of infrastructure financing and public economics.

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**Jessica Peck**

**University Attended:** University of Notre Dame  
**Degree Awarded:** B. A. Romance Languages  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Jessica Peck is an international development professional focused on the environmental and developmental concerns inherent in world food systems. Most recently, she was a Senior Program Analyst at the Howard G. Buffett Foundation where she oversaw $100M+ in grants in Africa and Latin America related to food security and public safety. Jessica received her BA in Spanish and French, with a minor in International Development, from the University of Notre Dame. While there, she studied abroad in France and Spain and received funding for research projects in El Salvador and Chile. She belongs to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

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**Yuliya Petsyk**

**University Attended:** Gordon College  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. Business Administration  
**Country of Origin:** Ukraine

Yuliya Petsyk was born and raised in Crimea, Ukraine. She joined the development sector after graduation, working with HOPE International, United States in microfinance and conflict-sensitive media development with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Ukraine. After that, Yuliya joined UNDP in Ukraine, where for almost 4 years she led M&E unit, developed, and monitored multiple projects in environmental protection, recovery and peacebuilding, democratic reforms, and human rights. Yuliya is interested in innovation, entrepreneurship and private sector engagement for social impact, and anthropological approaches in development. Dreams of one day being able to lead sustainable development initiatives in her native Crimea.
**GISELA ROMERO HERNANDEZ**  
**University Attended:** ESADE Business School  
**Degree Awarded:** BBA  
**Country of Origin:** Spain

Gisela is a development finance professional with experience in impact investing, particularly working in multilateral organizations such as the IFC (World Bank Group) and Inter-American Development Bank. Ms. Romero was born and raised in Spain but also spent her time in other countries such as United States, China, Singapore and Mexico. She is passionate about the role of finance in achieving sustainable development goals and reducing poverty. At SIPA, Gisela is eager to learn about the intersection of renewable energy, finance and technology.

**ERICK ROZO**  
**University Attended:** Central University of Venezuela  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. International Affairs  
**Country of Origin:** Venezuela

Erick Rozo is a Venezuelan activist living in New York City. He holds a B.A. in international affairs from Universidad Central de Venezuela, a certificate in public policy for youth from the Organization of American States (FLACSO) and a certificate on empowerment and civic engagement from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He worked in the sales division of private wealth management in New York for over three years. Rozo, is also an organizer for the Venezuelan diaspora in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, where he has been connecting and acting as a liaison for diverse initiatives, including demonstrations and forums to raise awareness on the Venezuelan crisis. He is a founder of the Venezuelan political party Voluntad Popular and serves on the Steering Committee for Young Professionals of the Americas at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas. He enjoys connecting with people, music, movies, all types of outdoor activities, and learning about design thinking.

**DANTE SALAZAR BALLESTEROS**  
**University Attended:** Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in Economics  
**Country of Origin:** Mexico

Dante is a project manager committed to social development, public services improvement and poverty reduction. He earned his BA in economics from ITAM in Mexico City. His work has focused on translating technical knowledge into public action oriented to help groups that have been left behind. He spent three years as an officer in M&E for alimentary programs in the Mexican Welfare Ministry. He then coordinated an experimental research project that aimed to understand health care for diabetes and inform relevant policy for public providers. He is joining SIPA with a keen interest in building innovative, more secure paths to development while exploring the intersection of food systems, health policy and nutrition.
**VINCENT (VINNY) TANG**  
**University Attended:** New York University  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. in Business (concentration in Finance and Marketing)  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Vincent, born and raised in New York, holds a B.S. in Business from New York University. After graduation, Vincent joined Nielsen's Financial Leadership Program, where he worked as a financial analyst in Chicago, New York, and Amsterdam. Wanting to pivot his career to social impact, he joined the Peace Corps as a business development specialist and worked with local NGOs in Western Ukraine focusing on community development and organizational capacity building. More recently, he has been working with small businesses affected by COVID19 at the U.S. Small Business Administration. At SIPA, Vincent will be focusing on social and financial inclusion of minority communities.

**JULIA TAUSCHER**  
**University Attended:** Universidad Torcuato Di Tella  
**Degrees Awarded:** BA in Political Science and Government; MA Applied Economics  
**Country of Origin:** Argentina

Julia was born and raised in Argentina. She pursued a B.A. in Political Science and Government, and an M.A. in Applied Economics to become proficient in quantitative and qualitative analysis. After graduating, she worked at the economic consulting firm Elypsis, where she conducted public opinion surveys and inflation reports. Later, she joined the Delivery Unit of the Buenos Aires City Government to support the Mayor’s top priorities. She also led a program of evidence-based initiatives to perform evaluations and to apply behavioral economics interventions. Julia joins SIPA interested in leveraging evidence-based policy design to raise the accountability and effectiveness of policymaking in developing countries, in particular at the city level.

**BENJAMIN TIMM**  
**University Attended:** Colby College  
**Degree Awarded:** B.A in Biology with a Concentration in Ecology and Evolution  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Growing up in the state of Maine, Ben developed a love for the outdoors and an interest in environmental conservation. After graduating from college, he worked in forestry in Washington State and New Hampshire. Seeking to expand his knowledge of natural resource management in an international setting, Ben served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar. He lived in a small village and worked with local gardening cooperatives to implement sustainable agriculture techniques. This experience motivated Ben to pursue further education at SIPA to gain a deeper understanding of the relationships between economic development, agricultural sustainability, and environmental conservation.
CHRIS TINGLEY

**University Attended:** University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

**Degree Awarded:** B.S. Emergency Health Services Management

**Country of Origin:** United States

Originally from Massachusetts, Chris has spent the last four years working with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Food and Nutrition Service in San Francisco, California. His work has focused on providing oversight and technical assistance to State and Tribal administered food security programs throughout the Western U.S. Prior to his time at USDA, Chris served as a Peace Corps Volunteer focused on HIV/AIDS outreach in South Africa. Chris is passionate about the intersection of disaster recovery, human equality, and climate change, and comes to SIPA with the goal of making disaster assistance more sustainable and equitable.

RAJ UPRETY

**University Attended:** Purbanchal University

**Degree Awarded:** B.A. in Economics, MBA (Finance)

**Country of Origin:** Nepal

Born and raised in Nepal, Raj is a development practitioner with a keen interest in agriculture, microfinance, food systems and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). He is the youngest member of Barilla (Young Earth Solutions) Alumni family. He was a speaker at the 5th International Forum on Food and Nutrition. Also, he was part of a team of researchers to draft the Youth Manifesto, which was presented to the European Union at the Milan Expo in 2015. Most recently, he worked for Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project, a $69 million joint project of IFAD, Helvetas, FNCCI and the GoN.

FEBY UTARI

**University Attended:** Padjadjaran University

**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor of International Relations

**Countries of Origin:** Indonesia

Born and raised in Tangerang, Indonesia, Feby spent her life trying to familiarize herself with issues that need solutions in her country. Before coming to New York, Feby worked for some companies, such as IBM. However, her professional years were pivoted mostly at UNDP Indonesia. She was involved in various projects at UNDP, including the Programme for Earthquake and Tsunami Infrastructure Reconstruction Assistance (PETRA), Health Governance Initiatives (HGI), and Market Transformation Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (MTRE3). Feby aims to focus her study on climate resiliency, low-carbon economy and sustainability.
**Leselle Vincent**  
**University Attended:** Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. Environmental Engineering  
**Country of Origin:** Trinidad and Tobago

Leselle’s career began at the Georgia Tech Research Institute where she contributed to research on urban parks as opportunities for stormwater management and alternative transportation and directed a college preparation and engineering research program for minority high school students. She spent the last three years with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean and supported the development and execution of projects to assist regional governments and private sector stakeholders with implementing chemicals and waste international Conventions. Leselle hopes to focus on sustainable development and resilience in the Caribbean through identifying and establishing effective global partnerships and engaging the diaspora.

**Kevin Vu**  
**University Attended:** Santa Clara University  
**Degree Awarded:** Bachelor of Science in Commerce: Accounting  
**Country of Origin:** United States

Kevin was born and raised in the Bay Area of California. During his first five years as a professional, he worked as a CPA in the Venture Capital Practice of the Big 4 Accounting firms, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers. After gaining experience on initial public offering engagements and tax return preparation for venture-capital firms, he felt the desire to do something greater and joined the Peace Corps. Kevin served as an economic advisor volunteer in the community of Mbacké, Senegal, conducting trainings on entrepreneurship and micro-finance to spark development and change. He looks forward to continue his DP journey at SIPA.

**Yishuang (Antonio) Xu**  
**University Attended:** University of California, Davis  
**Degree Awarded:** B.S. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems  
**Country of Origin:** China

Yishuang graduated from UC Davis with a B.S. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. While there, he spent two years working closely with Soil Born Farms in disadvantaged communities providing educational opportunities and strengthening community inclusion. He is passionate about using internet and education as ways of striving for equity for disadvantaged communities that are suffering under insufficient resource availability and accessibility. He then joined Grow NYC, where he worked as a Youthmarket Manager, reducing food insecurity and empowering the youth in the Bronx, Gouverneur and Astoria. Most recently, he tried to develop a sustainable online platform to help guide and serve current and admitted Chinese SIPAers to increase accessibility of school resources by mitigating cultural shock and eliminating linguistic barriers.