WE ARE

MSLS

M.Sc. Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Karlskrona, Sweden
msls.se

THE PROGRAMME

The Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability (MSLS) Programme is a 10-month transformational masters programme in Karlskrona, Sweden that focuses on advancing student knowledge, skills, and global networks, in order to build our capacity to be strategic leaders in the co-creation of thriving, sustainable societies.

The **MSLS 2019** cohort came to Sweden from countries around the world to learn how to collectively lead our societies towards a sustainable future. We are hereby excited to share our stories and aspirations with you!

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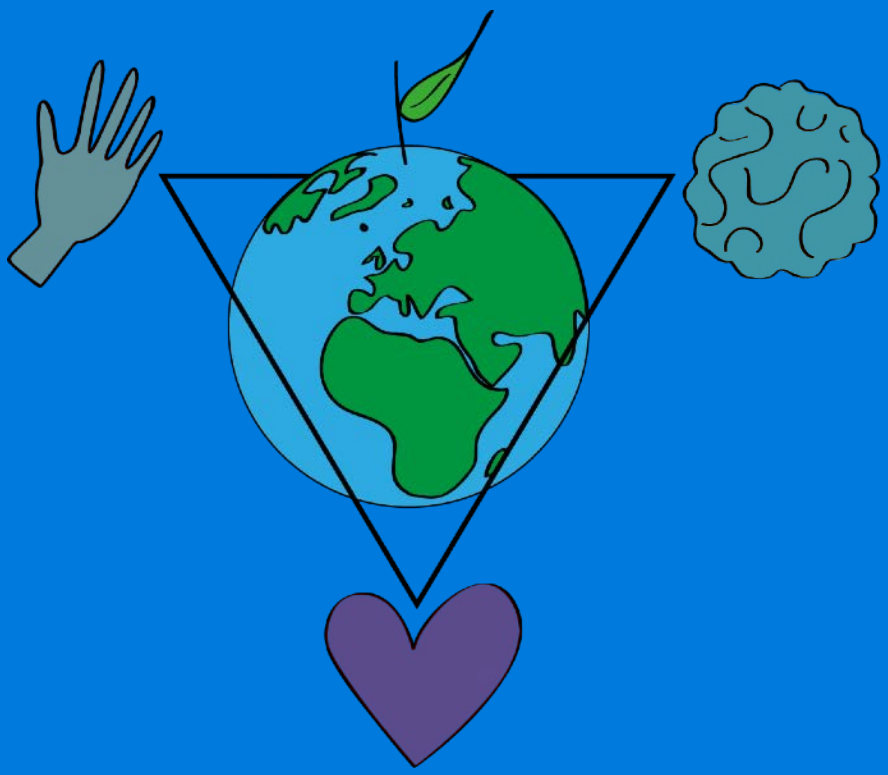
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

MSLS 2019 empowered each other to create a collective, compassionate, conscientious force reflected in the Living Lab they laid the groundwork for.



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"It takes just as much time to dream about something as it does to actually do it"
- Nate Staniforth, Magician & Author, "Here is Real Magic"

Akash Bhalerao

India | akashbhaleraoabab@gmail.com

Akash is a social entrepreneur by lifestyle. He loves talking about ideas, and executing them. His motto is: Dream it, Do it, Love it! He is originally from Pune, Maharashtra in India, where he had been involved with sustainability initiatives, since he was 12 years old, when he and his friends accidentally started EcoFriends Community (with support from his school, The Bishop's School, Camp), an organization that works on environmental awareness through community engagement & leadership development by taking students from different schools for environmental restoration/rehabilitation projects with other community partners. He got a Bachelor's in Social Entrepreneurship & Environmental Restoration, through the Interdepartmental Studies Program at the University of Iowa, which was basically an interdisciplinary study of sustainability. Through various different roles on campus he also got an opportunity to apply what he learned, and worked on integrating sustainability into the campus culture at the University through negotiations, policy change, event planning, fundraising, environmental awareness initiatives, and leadership development. He also started a couple more organizations on campus. Before joining MSLS, he was interning for the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, in Washington DC, that works on helping corporations, universities, NGO's & governmental agencies with their sustainable purchasing goals through their supply chains. Akash wants to understand the complexity of sustainability, and use social entrepreneurship and community engagement as a tool to help address the complex contemporary sustainability issues of our time.

"In the 21st century, I think the heroes will be the people who will improve the quality of life, fight poverty and introduce more sustainability." - Bertrand Piccard

Arne Stamer

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Arne was born in Hamburg in 1988. In his BA he studies social economics and he is in the master program Sustainability Economics and Management in Oldenburg, Germany. He is an Erasmus student at the MSLS program.
During the studies he worked in different profession, like in the student union. He worked as an investment- and insurance consultant. In a youth club he helps with homework and made different projects with the kids. He was a personal assistant of a blind psychologist and worked in the foreign authority. In Oldenburg he worked in the university administration and is a research assistant in a project for development of organically bred fruit varieties in commons-based initiatives. After his studies he wants to work in the government in a leadership position. His other plan is to go in the politics. He is since 2010 a member of the green party in Germany and was in different position in the green group at the university of Hamburg and Oldenburg. His plan is to change the governmental system to a sustainable system and make a change in Germany. This is a big step, but he thinks, that he can make this change.

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you." - Walt Whitman

Alexander Edward Albert Coley

Canada

Graduating from Dalhousie University, Alex Coley took part in an interdisciplinary degree in Environment, society and sustainability with a focus on conservation science. Alex has his certificate in environmental impact assessment and wrote his undergraduate thesis on the food system resilience and capacity of his home province of Nova Scotia, Canada. Born and raised in Halifax, Alex is deeply connected to his communities and holds a strong understanding of the unique environmental challenges they face. Fueled by a sense of responsibility and urgency, and a feeling that his communities are not doing enough Alex is hoping to explore ways by which his people can make an impact. With a background in activism, community youth development, and ecological research Alex has a diverse set of tools, but is searching for focus. Most recently Alex has been working as a conservation biologist in Northern Alberta where he was assisting a project looking to understand the potential impacts of an open pit mine on a protected population of wood bison. Though working in remote wilderness was a dream come true for Alex, he knows that his role must be more people-oriented. Alex has been shaped by his relationships and looks forward to unpacking the complex systems with a diverse and experienced cohort. Understanding that collaboration is the only way forward, he will take the tools and knowledge from the MSLS program and use them to support others fighting the good fight.

“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.“ - Charles R. Swindoll

Arturo Heckathorn Vidal

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Being in the outdoors since he was a small explorer made him a keen outdoor sportsman, as well as developing a profound respect towards Mother Nature. He doesn’t recall exactly when he started concerning about the human impact in the world, but he states it goes almost as far as his memory can go.

Arturo is a Business Administrator, Leed Green Associate, Post graduate diploma in Sustainable Development and now aiming for the MSLS 2019 programme. He has worked both in the public and private sector, dependent and independent in areas that range from Business Development & Sales, to Process Consultancy and Strategic Planning.

His interest on environmental issues and experience traveling within his country has given him a deep understanding of the socio-environmental challenge they’re facing as a system. He is decided to focus efforts in promoting projects and initiatives where socio-economic development and respect for the environment create synergies, not being exclusive.

Arturo aims to go back to Peru and get involved with projects focusing in 3 specific interests; sustainable food chain, waste management, and renewable energies. Nevertheless, his belief is in change as the only constant in this world, so don’t be surprised if you see him developing projects on other sustainable areas.

"Now that we have identified the problem, we will even find ways to solve it.“ - Marie Louise Fische

Alexandra (Ada) Auf der Strasse

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Six years ago, Ada became a full time environmental change-maker and with a Master in directing and choreographing and a bachelor in pedagogics in the back, she grounded her social entrepreneurship company Papiliona AB in the south of Sweden. She started to cooperate with the Swedish agency for employment and the social offices in four different cities. As she earlier have worked as a rehabilitation consult, professional coach and lecturer in digital culture and communication at BTH, her company Papiliona AB became a regional force for both: education, integration, personal development and environmental change. She is even a graduated permaculture designer, Yoga teacher and nutritionist.
As a CEO her curiosity for complex decision making processes, health and sustainability led to her current double studies in both MSLS and Cognitive Behavior Therapy. Beside her studies she already works as a CBT specialized professional coach and consultant for strategic development towards sustainability. She loves Argentine Tango, sleeping over in the forest and training triathlon. She comes originally from Berlin, but is nowadays a Swedish citizen who lives in Karlshamn, close to her two adult kids. She thinks life was never better and adores the work of Hans Rosling, Hanna Arendt, Y. Mingyur Rinpoche and Judith Beck.

Alyona Yuzefovich

Russia | alyona.yuzefovich@gmail.com

Alyona was born in Kurgan, a Russian city in the very middle of Eurasia continent and a gate between European and Asian part of the country. The link between two worlds became her major at the Moscow State University â€“ she picked Oriental studies for Undergraduates and was learning Malay language and culture.
For the last 2 years Alyona was a social entrepreneur, running a waste battery recycling service. The business grew from her project at international retailing brand, where she was a PR manager for 3 years. Her professional experience also includes a position as a program manager for "Sustainable Development Goals“ at Effie Awards (world’s leading award for marketing effectiveness) in Russia. Side projects and education include training as a mediator and conflict resolution specialist and Nonviolent Communication courses.
Her personal aspiration is to mainstream sustainability by designing systems and policies that make a good thing the easiest thing. She is also dreaming of career as a public speaker, educating and making business people passionate about sustainability. Favorite sustainability areas: waste management, purpose-driven marketing, social entrepreneurship.
Alyona adores traveling (and even contributed to several guidebooks), meeting new people, learning languages, walking at least 10 000 steps a day, reading maps and eating out. She came to Karlskrona with her 3.8 years daughter, who is now learning Swedish at lovely local childcare.

"There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." - Nelson Mandela

Anna Durward

Australia | anna.durward@gmail.com

An ambitious, determined and passionate global citizen committed to Sustainability since a young age via surfing, sailing with family and traveling and living all around the world. Anna was exposed to cultural diversity, connection to nature and its creatures, nature and humanities hardship, complexity and beauty. The fire within Anna to help mother earth and humanity shines bright through everything she does.

A creative soul, humanitarian heart and business and strategic mind led Anna to: studying a Bachelor in Design, majoring in Interior Design and sub majoring in Architecture focusing on sustainable design, working for the Green Building Council of Australia as a Project Manager in Sydney, working as a Design Manager (Architecture, Interiors and Furniture) for Zapp design in Bali, doing aid and volunteer work locally and internationally with waste management, disaster relief design and women and children education and empowerment, and running her own Sustainable Design Studio and Social Enterprise in Byron Bay Australia.

Anna is at a powerful and pivotal point in her life, where she has 9 years of experience in sustainability, mostly in the building and design industry and the social sector, the courage, confidence and life experience and the freedom to listen to her heart and commit to becoming an empowered leader who can create holistic positive change locally and globally.

"I don't want to protect the environment. I want to create a world where the environment doesn't need protecting." - Anonymous

Chantal Spruit

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Chantal Spruit was born in a small village in The Netherlands in 1994. She lived there throughout her childhood and youth. During her bachelor's at The Hague University of Applied Sciences she moved to the city of The Hague. This is where she got to know more about different cultures and lifestyles and where she worked in more international settings. As this was much to her liking, she continued operating in an international setting throughout her bachelor's and now her master's. During her bachelor's, it was also the first time she used sustainability in her professional life. She followed the course "Sustainable Urban Engineering" and fell in love with the challenges and solutions that lie within this field. Determined to continue this path, she wrote her thesis about energy labels and the relation to the actual energy usage during the exploitation of a building. As inspired as she was from the course she took and her thesis, she enrolled for MSLS. Chantal is delighted to be in this amazing atmosphere and to be part of the change-maker-family!

“There is a voice that doesn’t use words, Listen“ - Rumi

Batool Banihani

Jordan | batool.banihani88@gmail.com

Batool is a Business Administration graduate from Jordan. She has spent the seven years of her career life in the telecommunication industry, six of which she spent working for Ericsson. Her role as a Contract Execution manager, she has experienced working for Embargo Countries like Syria and Iran, and troubled countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

On her vacations, she has volunteered for refugee camps, in Jordan, Turkey and Greece. Those experiences changed the way she prioritized the issues that need urgent attention. Since then, she has been managing UNICEF funded projects for local Jordanian organizations in the fields of education for refugees and less fortunate children after working hours. Today, she looks forward to become a project manager for social sustainable projects.

Foreseeing a huge gap between how fast technology is growing and how slow the growth is in our social problems, she has decided to search for answers by joining MSLS; knowing that being in the same room with other 27 countries who are represented by class mates is a diverse experience with one main question in common, where do we even start in a world of priority disorder?

“You need to aim for the sky to reach the top of the trees.“ - Unknown

Annie Rüdén

Sweden | annieruden_92@hotmail.com

“She is just an ordinary human being, but she wants to change the world anyway". Born in Sweden 1992, Annie was raised close to the forest, sea and her beloved horses. She loves the nature and finds peace in it, admiring this elegant system where all different creatures, no matter of color, gender, age, species -work together.

She took her Bachelor in Business Management in 3 different cities including an exchange semester in Australia. After her studies, she travelled and worked around in the country for 1,5 years. Annie loves movement of all kinds and found Surfing, Yoga, Acroyoga and Horse Riding as central parts of her life.

Annie believes in human beings and in their capacity of coming together, creating greater awareness, understanding, and together helping to create a sustainable world. She has a high need to feel a sense of purpose. Money doesn't drive her, saving life does; saving money to be able to reinvest it in projects that serves a bigger purpose does; creating safety for people in need; helping to inspire people and organizations to change and evolve does.

Her vision is to create platforms or/and situations where like-minded and non-likeminded people can meet; to create a context where people work side by side, respecting each other and treated equally, similarities and differences, reaching to reach each other, learning with and from each other, and evolving together.

She is now in her MSLS journey, looking forward to what this amazing 10 months will uncover continuing to be an ordinary human who will change the world anyway.

"It is hard to stay mad when there's so much beauty in the world" - American Beauty

Francesco Amabile

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Francesco Amabile was born in the north east part of Italy. He discovered the beauty and importance of traveling when he was 17 years old when he participated in a exchange program in Thailand where he spent one year living there.

After high school, he decided to study Political Science at the University of Bologna, where he also participated to an Erasmus program in Estonia. He graduated in 2016 and, after that, Francesco applied for a EVS (European Voluntary Service) program at the biodynamic farm/community Toivo, in Finland. The cooperative works throughout organic manures (biodynamic) and tries to be as self sustainable and ecological as possible. Through this experience, Francesco realized that he wanted to keep on studying and acting in this field.

“Have you thought that all instruments that seek intelligent life are directed away from Earth?“ - Unknown

Camilla Johansson

Sweden | naturhealer@gmail.com

Camilla was born 1973 and grew up in Latikberg, Lappland, Sweden. She was known as a professional country skier for 10 year, but her compassion for Nature and her need to contribute to make a better Society led her to studies.

She is an Environmental Engineer, Project Manager but also a Master in Earth Science. Camilla have a strong interest in consciousness knowledge and travelling that’s why she also was become a tourist guide and developed skills in mind and dream control.

Camilla´s work experiences started as an Environmental Officer, continue as an consultant in project management, Teacher in High School, Investigator in County Administration board, Project Manager in Environmental Collaboration in the county of Jönköping and headhunted for a Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management because of her good reputation in project management.

During the last five years in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency as Senior Supervisor and Coordinator for the council of Environmental Enforcement and Regulations. One of the responsibilities was the newspaper for the environmental officers in Sweden. She wants to combine her experiences and her passion to take a lead on sustainability challenges to create a world where humanity stay in harmony with nature. The MSLS program can help her to learn more about complex leadership, get international perspectives and skills how to lift a group stuck in simple solutions when complex thinking is needed.

Her long time vision is to develop the new trend about Earth Rights parallel to the Human Rights - as they depend on each other.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing" - Billy Connolly

Caroline de Filippis

France | carolinedefilippis@yahoo.fr

Imagine a ten-year-old wanting to change the World for the better, who ignored she had such powers. Almost two decades later, after a long, painful, yet developmental and determinant journey, she has never been so close to finally gaining mastery of her very own ship. It is a challenging work, but she knows it is unquestionably worth it.

Caroline has an eclectic and colorful professional and personal experience, although she last pursued a Masters in Communication Marketing, after taking a year to complete a Bachelor in Arts and Cultural Mediation. She believes in betting on her existing skills and developing the necessary competencies to make the change happen. Being resilient, passion-driven and focused, Caroline knows there is no problem¦ only solutions!

Optimistic, open-hearted, she has been working in social environments, health and safety departments, and various industries such as food, telecommunications, BtoB agencies, and transportation. She's also launched the Plastic-Free Scotland association, and feels drawn to Waste Management, Innovation, Renewable Energy, and Sustainability as a whole.

However, she is particularly interested in pursuing a PhD in Environmental Sociology, to have the chance to dive into a burning problematic and dedicate her time and energy to address such a complex issue. She is thriving in positive, benevolent environments, tainted with raw honesty and a realistic picture of the current situation. She hopes to support projects of all kind to attain their goals, and to empower people. Doubled with a curious mind, she is looking forward to learning amongst, from and with others on her side.

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" - Matthew 25:13

Luca Rota

Italy | l.rota19@studenti.unibg.it

Luca is a natural explorer. Since the first years of his life he has gotten in touch with the different ecosystems its homeland offers. Growing up in the Bergamo's valleys, he could have especially nourished a strong relationship with the mountain environment, discovering the genuine dependence of the human life to nature.

He believes in the idea that you can give colour to your life only by making yourself promoter of a larger purpose, so he decided to develop his social commitment by entering as a volunteer into the Civil Protection.

After having achieved a bachelor degree in management engineering at the Universitá degli Studi di Bergamo, Luca has taken part in the Erasmus program offered by his university obtaining the possibility to attend MSLS. Believing in the strong connection between its field of study and sustainability, he has come here firstly to learn more about it but even about himself. Learning by experiencing and broadening his horizons by meeting other points of view, he wants to become aware of the consequences the world is incurring due to the reckless human choices, having in this way the opportunity to direct correctly his life aiming to become an example for the others.

WE ARE INTERDISCIPLINARY

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“Stand and make mountains jealous of how much you've grown.“ - Shane Koyczan

Christina Vogel

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Christina’s fascination and love for nature have shaped her life from an early age. The beauty of the world’s ecosystems and their vulnerability to human actions fuel Christina’s goal to contribute to a more sustainable future. After her A-levels in 2012, she did a voluntary ecological year in the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Site Visitor Center in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Leading groups of up to 200 people in teams, she educated visitors about the ecosystems of the Wadden Sea. In 2017, Christina completed the B.Sc. Environmental Science at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg which trained her in the natural sciences and planning approaches. During her ERASMUS year at Kingston University London, she deepened her knowledge about climate change and sustainable management approaches. Realising that a purely environmental perspective is insufficient to solve the complex sustainability challenges we are facing today, Christina enrolled in the M.A. Sustainability Economics and Management which complemented her education with insights from economic and social perspectives. Her research at the Center for Environment and Sustainability Research of the University of Oldenburg focussed on facilitating a sustainable development of the North Sea’s energy fields by linking them to marine ecosystem services. Acknowledging the importance of transdisciplinary and intercultural exchange for solving complex challenges, Christina participated in a transatlantic summer academy on sustainability in 2017. During the international M.Sc. Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden, Christina aims at gaining the proficiency that is necessary to co-shape a more sustainable future.

"If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together." - African Proverb

Dan Ritchie

Canada | dan.dritch@gmail.com

Raised in the "ocean playground" of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Dan has fostered an exponential appreciation for our natural world. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Recreation management and Environmental Sustainability studies from Acadia University. His most recent work experience was Sustainable Programs Manager at the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care.

Dan has a passion for audio recording, basketball, improve comedy, and photography. A self-proclaimed human jukebox - Dan wants to explore the idea of shared experience and place-making. Observing that many of today’s leaders are reactive instead of visionaries, he hopes to have the foresight to revert this trend and help uplift communities.

Through MSLS, he hopes to build leadership skills that will help aid in revitalising cities across Europe and back home in Canada. With an open mind - Dan is ready to gain insight from his colleagues into what is working well and how our purposes can collectively combine.

"Adversity introduces a man to himself.“ - Albert Einstein

Hrishabh Sandilya

India / Czech Republic

Hrishabh is a passionate advocate of sustainable entrepreneurship and urbanity. Raised in Bombay, India he studied business and finance before moving to Prague, Czech Republic to study politics.

Hrishabh worked at the confluence of business, government, civil-society and higher education in Prague for a number of years before he caught the entrepreneurial bug. This culminated in him founding a small sustainable café / bar in heart of Prague's old town, which he ran for two years before he heard the MSLS program calling.

Hrishabh is a passionate cyclist, and is currently working on a script for a documentary film and TV series he hopes to make after the program. Having lived across the world in Poznan, Hong Kong, Delhi and Yerevan, Hrishabh is a firm believer in capacity of humans to change, and sees sustainability as the go-to mantra of the future.

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.“ - Thorin Oakenshield (J.R.R. Tolkien)

Hailey Vidler

Canada | haileypvidler@gmail.com

Curious and creative are two words that come to mind when describing the way Hailey moves through the world. After growing up in Ontario, Canada Hailey moved east to the province of Nova Scotia in 2011. There, the "Maritime Charisma“ drew her in, and she became rooted by a deep connection to the ocean, the people and the vibrant communities she shares.

Hailey's undergraduate education in Development Studies and Anthropology was an important chapter in her life and leadership journey. Through her uniquely experiential studies and active student life, she was set on a path toward the practice of local organizing and community building. After graduation, she began working for an organization called Engage Nova Scotia which strengthens citizen capacity to build more collaborative and resilient Province. Positioned at the intersection of government, business and the grassroots, Hailey developed a dynamic skill set in project management, facilitation, process design, and research. As a natural convener who believes in the power of storytelling, she is inspired by the energy you feel in space when a diverse group of people are brought together to share their truths and seek a common purpose. While at MSLS she hopes to refine her skills, challenge her assumptions and learn new ways to harness the power of the collective to face the sustainability challenge.

When not being a “shift disturber“ on and off the clock. Hailey can be found hiking, painting, or in a local thrift shop adding to her extensive cozy sweater collection.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.“ - Mahatma Gandhi

Halis Subaşı

Turkey | subasihalis@gmail.com

Halis graduated from the Department of Public Relations and Advertising from Kocaeli University in Turkey. He participated in the environmental and social sustainability projects at his home university and in Europe.
He ran a social responsibility project to promote recycling in Kocaeli by forming and leading a team in the university, and by collaborating with a recycling company, the city hall and the local media channels.
After he graduated from the university, he took part in EU projects and worked in a Youth Centre to help young people in the Netherlands. He met a lot of people from all over the world and organized some international events.
And then he went to the summer school of Liverpool University to have an English language course for a while. When he came back to his country, he went to the compulsory military service, and then he worked at an open university. He is strongly motivated to learn more about sustainability. His goals are reaching more people to persuade them for sustainability by utilizing power of communication and using his knowledge from MSLS!

“When nothing is sure, everything is possible“ - Margaret Drabble

Jana Christina Fälbl

Austria | jana.faelbl@gmail.com

Jana is a passionate optimist with a strong drive to foster positive change in the field of education. "How come?“ you may ask. Well, during her former studies in business administration, Jana came to the conclusion that economics and business are being taught in a very one-sided way, where profit-driven corporate thinking is not yet critically questioned. Therefore, Jana founded an association, the Social Entrepreneurship Forum in Vienna, with the aim to inspire students to figure out more sustainable ways of doing business.
While and after her studies, Jana worked for some public and private organizations, including the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Allianz Deutschland AG and IBM. Following her inner drive to focus on something meaningful, Jana then took part in the “Teach for Austria“ program and worked as a middle school teacher, where she learned a lot about the challenges the Austrian education system is facing. Her big, hairy audacious long-term goal is now to found a school in which every child can prosper. Jana takes part in the MSLS program, because she is keen to learn how to implement positive and sustainable change in a complex system with many stakeholders (e.g. schools).
Besides her urge to save the world by becoming a leader in the field of education, she loves to swim in the Baltic Sea, to hike and to run. She also admires to discuss critical issues with humans from all over the world and to find solutions together in a collaborative and playful manner.

"For every individual is a unique manifestation of the Whole, as every branch is a particular outreaching of the tree. To manifest individuality, every branch must have a sensitive connection with the tree, just as our independently moving and differentiated fingers must have a sensitive connection with the whole body. The point, which can hardly be repeated too often, is that differentiation is not separation." - Alan Watts

Iina Santamäki

Finland | iina.santamaki@gmail.com

Growing up "in the land of a thousand lakes", Iina has felt connected with nature from very early on. Appreciation for nature as a whole and love for outdoor activities started from camping and cross-country-skiing with her family as a kid and has been an integral part of her life ever since.

Before starting a Bachelor´s degree in International Business, Iina took a year off traveling solo in Australia where she met a bunch of inspirational people from all over the world and fell in love with the diversity of different cultures. During her sophomore year of BBA studies, Iina established her own online store for quality second hand clothing.

After working in the field of Marketing for a Design Furniture startup and Sustainable Clothing Designer, Iina wanted to pursue something more meaningful. Furthermore, she felt like having done significant changes towards sustainability in her personal life yet was still having an urge to be part of the bigger picture and tackle the sustainability challenges on a global scale.

Now being part of the MSLS program, Iina feels she is exactly where she needs to be. Combining the science-based knowledge with compassion and clear action, she simply cannot wait to co-create sustainable future with other change makers.

"Take responsibility" - Jordan Peterson

Ilja Maiber

Germany | ilja_maiber@gmx.de

Originally born in Russia, Ilja moved to Germany when he was 4 ½ years old. He spent all his life refining his abilities when it comes to understanding people and communicating effectively.

In order to do that, he studied Rhetorics and Sociology. He also worked as an interviewer in the field of Social Science and spend the last two years as a Project Co-ordinator in a Business Development Company in Munich. There he worked directly with decision makers of major companies, as well as with the people who use their products. He experienced how important the presentation of any product or concept is: If done the wrong way, even great ideas don't make it through to the people.

Now he wants to use the theoretical groundwork from his studies, combined with the practical realities he experienced in his work-life to be part of the solution for the sustainability challenge.

Ilja is especially interested in the communications aspect of sustainability: To bring people together by facilitating mutual understanding and the need for action.

In his spare time Ilja likes to play football and enjoys sharing stories, no matter if they take the shape of a book, a movie or an experience.

"Courage is not having the energy to go on; it's going on when you do not have the energy." - Ellen MacArthur

Inna Chilik

Moldova / Bulgaria | inna.chilik@gmail.com

Moldovan born with a strong connection to nature, global living, adventurer for purpose. Inna has over 7+ years of experience as an executive advisor, innovations and change manager. She led strategic consultancy projects in Finance, Consumer Healthcare and FMCG, with strong focus on increasing profitability, from both reduction of costs (including organisational redesign and operational transformation) and growth of revenue streams sides (geographic expansion, M&A, commercial and market strategy, portfolio management, NPD, innovation). Soon she realized that raising awareness about the bigger "purpose" of businesses with the top management, was not enough to trigger transformation in the industry and she left her corporate career in search of other models of creating sustainable impacts. Her personal journey brought her to nature conservationists in Costa Rica, indigenous spiritual communities in Mexico, academic Sustainable Cities research centers in Singapore, tech innovation hubs in Asia and Europe, blockchain entrepreneurs and social experiments in USA.

In order to leverage her strong business background, Inna shifted her attention to Circular Economy. By capturing innovation opportunities, combining profits and purpose, strategic design thinking and using technology as tool, Inna believes, we can facilitate change on the fundamental level in our economic systems.

She joined MSLS to synthesise her fractured knowledge on sustainability, connect with like-minded visionaries and doers to build the foundation of a new inclusive, collaborative and fair paradigm with hopes that the old unsustainable one would become obsolete.

"As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round." - Ben Hogan

Kerstin Antonsson

Sweden | carlson879@hotmail.com

Kerstin comes from Sweden and lives with her husband just outside of Karlskrona. In her day to day business she works to make both companies and golf courses more environmental friendly.

You are never too old to learn. With 30 years of work experience in the environmental field, it was time for her to renew and expand her strategic management knowledge and argumentation. MSLS was the perfect opportunity for her to raise her head from the details and look at the bigger picture.

Kerstin really wants to be able to influence and lead manufacturing units to be more successful in the sustainable field. It does not feel fair that it shall be the little man's responsibility to choose sustainably. It should be met already in the upstream.

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.“ - Albert Einstein

Jonathan Hönninger

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When Jonathan was in elementary school, adults began asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?". His answer was "the Environmental Minister of Germany". His reply was an indication of a deep interest and concern for social and environmental issues from the earliest age. Waldorf education opened up questions of diversity within a society - his school was the first Integrated Waldorf School in Southern Germany. His view of the world widened after high school, when he lived abroad in the United States and worked in a Camphill Community and organic farm for a period. Travels have taken him around the world. Jonathan's Liberal Arts studies in Philosophy, Arts and Social Entrepreneurship revived his interest in ecological and social issues. Interdisciplinary and group projects awakened his interest in learning more about the facilitation of diverse stakeholders in social, environmental or artistic processes. This led to the development of his own workshops and seminars at his University in Germany. Topics included "Designing Living Spaces with the Arts and Permaculture" - (German: "Lebensräume"), or the Future of Sustainable Agriculture. At the same time he studied, he worked in an evolving organic farm project and expanded his knowledge of agricultural techniques by participating in Permaculture Workshops in Germany. Jonathan's interest is now focused on agriculture, permaculture and food management with the objective of making organic food more widely available and affordable. He is pleased to be part of the MSLS class and is looking forward to this learning journey together.

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.“ - Harry S. Truman

Peter Ralph

New Zealand | petetralph@gmail.com

Peter studied environmental management and economics at the University of Otago in New Zealand. Peter has two years of experience as an environmental consultant, prominently in contaminated land, and two years experience as Sustainability Manager at a recycling company. Peter was a co-founder of the membership organisation, The Now Crowd, that engages young professionals with sustainability.

Peter's interest in sustainability started at an early age. Growing up in coastal New Zealand, he has always had a strong appreciation of the natural environment. He is eager to build on this understanding while also gaining a better understanding of the social issues at play in the sustainability challenge. Peter’s path to MSLS started as a search for a framework that combines all aspects of sustainability. This led him to The Natural Step and then on to MSLS alumni. The strong focus on leadership was the final nail in the coffin to inspire him to commit to the programme as he is keen to develop and fine tune his leadership capacity. Post MSLS he is eager to live and work in Europe, most likely in the private sector. In his downtime Peter enjoys surfing, team sports and playing guitar. He plans to live on a boat during his time in Karlskrona. Winter is coming so we will see how long he lasts.

WE ARE INTERNATIONAL

— WE ARE MSLS 2019 —

"Let the beauty of what you love be what you do" - Rumi

Lucas Coutinho Costamilan

Brazil / Italy | lucascostamilan@gmail.com

Lucas grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and his drive in life is presence. Either by himself, in one on one conversation, or in a group situation. Inspired by nature, he sees life in cycles and makes his decisions via intuition and trust.

He is a yoga teacher, and connects to the present through meditation, surfing, and movement. He also, enjoys playing and composing music with his guitar, having meaningful exchanges and being in nature.

His background is industrial engineering. He worked with prevention of oil spills and explosions in the oil & gas business for 5 years. During this period, he was able to develop practical skills and emotional resilience; working hands-on, leading a diverse team in complex situations, and dealing with solitude in a harsh environment. He understands how it is all interwoven through human relationships.

He has volunteered in regenerative agriculture projects, recently attended Schumacher College, and he holds this experience close to his heart.

His intention is to act as a leader that will bring regeneration to our planet, in any scale. He deeply believes in the power of the human being as individuals and as communities to drive impactful positive change.

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.“ - Anais Nin

Kim L. Edens

Australia / Netherlands / USA | kedens23@gmail.com

Brave, intuitive, quick wit - are words used by family and friends to describe Kim- They also cite her strengths as a compassionate teacher, leader, and inspirer - skills practiced extensively through public speaking and group facilitation. Traveling extensively throughout childhood, 'home' has included Australia, the Netherlands, and the USA. Professional training at the University of San Francisco Medical Center to become a Registered Dietitian led to working with Dr. Dean Ornish’s medical team and an holistic approach to healing the mind, body and spirit through plant-based-whole-food nutrition, mindfulness, and alternative practices. As a yoga instructor, Kim integrates over 15-years of personal practice, 3-teacher trainings, and a insatiable drive to share authenticity and acceptance to help others. While leading a lifestyle intervention program at Mayo Medical Center, she explored participants' motivation, self-efficacy & resilience by teaching personal responsibility. In 2016, she launched Nice Ride Minnesota-Rochester, the city's first bike-share program, working as General Manager overseeing all facets of the operation. Eco-conscious choices can align with personal health goals. Awareness is key -along with strategies used in addiction counseling to examine the human psyche’s complacency or adaption. MSLS 2019 represents 48 world-peers who answered the call to show-up, respond, and take action. Kim is especially grateful for the opportunity to develop leadership skills designed to significantly impact and protect the planet as we know it. This influencer collective is determined to make a difference!

“Dare to live life“ - Kurt Klusch

Kurt Klusch

Germany | kurt.klusch@web.de

Not all those who wander are lost. Kurt is a Knowmad, a traveler and wanderer, driven by curiosity and passion. Born in Romania, with Austrian roots, his first move led him to Germany as a child , where he studied Industrial Engineering after graduating school.

With a track record of 20+ years of professional and life experience by working for different organizations in different industries (Trade, Telecommunications, Semiconductor, Education), living in different countries and traveling the globe he became a world citizen, with his home located by his heart.

Skilled in leading teams and individuals, in coaching and consulting, in business process design and international project management, in business transformation and management he dared to step out of the corporate environment to follow his dream. A dream, where he actively contributes to make a difference and impact in a world, which needs to be looked at from a different perspective in order to solve complex challenges on different levels in our society. That’s why his path led him to MSLS in Karlskrona.

He will utilize his intuition, creativity, structural thinking and experience to facilitate, coach, mentor and train individuals, groups and organizations on their transformation journey and processes towards a more sustainable behavior within a defined system, by helping to improve the communication, the connection and the awareness for the whole, the bigger picture and the blind spots of it, in order to contribute to a more sustainable society and future.

“Everything will be okay in the end. If it’s not okay, it’s not the end.“ - John Lennon

Larissa Fiona Franke

Germany | larissafranke@yahoo.de

Larissa was born and grew up in the Hanseatic city Bremen in Northern Germany. She has always loved to travel and to get to know other cultures. This is why she spent a school year in Guayaquil, Ecuador where she lived with an Ecuadorian host family for a year. She did not only experience life in another culture but was also drawn to sustainability for the first time as Ecuador is a country with a lot of poverty. Since her time in Ecuador, she works as a volunteer for an international youth exchange organization in order to help people and communities learn to live together.

She has a double Bachelor’s degree in cultural studies and in business ethics (social business). During her studies, she went to Medellín in Colombia for seven months, where she learned a lot about the huge transformation of the city which she analyzed afterwards in her Bachelor thesis.

Before she came to Karlskrona, she studied for one year the 2-years-master program ‘Sustainability, Economics and Management’ in Germany which she will finish after MSLS. Besides her studies, she worked at various jobs. One of them was being a leader in a hospitality program for the football club of her town. With MSLS, she wants to bring her passion about sustainability at a higher level and be able to implement her skills afterwards in the world of business.

“Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within ourself, in our way of thinking.“ - Marcus Aurelius

Luong Nguyen

Vietnam | jimmyluong25@gmail.com

Luong grew up around the world as a “third culture kid“ due to his family's diplomatic background, often being surrounded by international friends and foreign cultures. In the past, he has called Rome, Helsinki and Hanoi his home, now he is very grateful to have Karlskrona as his new home. Luong sees himself as a global citizen with big concern for the unsustainable direction humanity is heading toward.

Professionally, he has extensive experience in public-private partnership sector between Finnish and Vietnamese government, contributing toward developing a healthy entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Vietnam. In addition, Luong is passionate about helping change-maker community such as Knowmads Hanoi and Art of Hosting in creating space for self-development and meaningful conversations.

Combining his cross-cultural understanding, tech-savviness, and business background to create sustainable impact. He hopes to facilitate organizations transformation toward a more collaborative and human-centric workplace. In his spare time, Luong enjoys traveling and taking part in community activities. He is always excited to meet new people and looks forward to listening and sharing good stories with them.

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." - Warren Buffet

Marc Wicki

Switzerland | marcwicki94@gmail.com

Marc has a Bachelors degree in Business and Economics from the University of Basel. He was born and raised in central Switzerland and has spent four years of his early youth living in the Silicon Valley, USA. He has traveled through North America, Europe and parts of Asia, where he received the opportunity to participate in an educational project concerning sustainability.

As a former football coach, reviver and multi year president of the business and economic student body and executive board member of the official student body at his university, Marc is not afraid to assume responsibility and take on big tasks.

Thanks to his thesis about sustainability investments and the understanding of new valuation criteria of millennials, Marc was able to do an internship in the sustainability and next generation departments at the private bank Julius Baer.

Marc’s definition of sustainability is: “Creating a clean, safe and fair world, based on everlasting interconnectedness of mankind“. He is very optimistic, determined and loves to work in a highly diversified environment, together with people who understand that a sustainable way is the only way.

"I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the luckier I get" - Thomas Jefferson

Maria Alejandra González

Costa Rica / Ecuador | mariaagonzalez93@gmail.com

Maria Alejandra is an internally motivated person deeply passionate for collaborative leadership. The basis of her development is the love that has surrounded her throughout her life. From a young age, she learned she had the ability to create and transform herself and her environment through work, passion and discipline. She has been able to practice that and nourish her learning in different professional and personal spaces. She has a bachelor's degree in International Relations and 3 + years of experience working in a global corporate travel agency. As a trainer, her goal was to empower others to perform at a high level through introspection and teamwork. There, she understood her personal success was strongly linked to collective success. And decided to address the most important collective challenges there are.

Maria Alejandra is an advocate for local solutions to global challenges. She has been close to territorial development in Costa Rica and is involved in Rio Gigante Community, a sustainable rural development project which aims to transform the peninsular region of Costa Rica through social sustainability. Her purpose is to make the world, the community, the home a better place. MSLS will strengthen her to be able to transform that purpose into impact.

"Be brave. Take risk. Nothing can substitute experience." - Paolo Coelho

Michael Tei Quarmyne

Ghana | mictei89@outlook.com

Michael Tei Quarmyne is Ghanaian and resided in his home country for the most part of his life. He studied Economics, but challenged himself to take on opportunities, which were not necessarily related to his study.

Michael has worked briefly for the Government of Ghana and for NGOs mostly. He interned with the Ghana Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he did clerical tasks to assist in planning programs to promote export trade from his country. Michael has also served as a Lead Field Officer to coordinate the gathering and analysis of data at the Economic and Organised Crime Office.

More recently, he has been with "A Ban against Neglect" (ABAN), where he was with the operations team, followed by his latest gig as a Business Development Officer at Orios Capital. ABAN is social and environmental development enterprise. Orios Capital, on the other hand, is committed to promoting entrepreneurship in Africa. Based on his productive experiences, Michael looks forward to adding new layers of skills to complement his knack for proof reading strategic business plans, developing financial models, start-ups valuation, team building, grant writing, and initiating stakeholder engagements.

His friends find his sense of humour rather weird, good thing is that he has one at least! At home, he is often called "Chef" because of the numerous trial recipes that went well. You will catch Michael on a Saturday night watching movies and he hardly sees any twice. He is a football fanatic and also enjoys different genres of music. Michael wants to travel the world and experience different cultures.

"The major problems in the world are the results of the difference between how nature works and the way people think" - Gregory Bateson

Mikkel Pilgaard Madsen

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Mikkel is a curious generalist with a love of learning. Educated from The Kaospilots school of enterprising leadership, innovation and design based in Aarhus - the city where he has spent most of his adult life. He has a diverse background with work experience from both private, public, NGO and the civic sector.

As a social entrepreneur and political activist, he was part of the core group forming and establishing the Danish green party The Alternative which he helped lead in to Parliament. As a business entrepreneur, he has partnered in starting up several companies in the specialty coffee industry all focusing on high product quality and developing sustainability from seed to cup both environmentally, socially and economically. In recent years, he has worked with dialogical systemic organizational development and leadership coaching; specializing in collaborative efficacy and how to develop productive and sustainable trans-disciplinary relationships/networks with a capacity to collaboratively solve problems as they bridge boundaries and fill gaps around complex (welfare) challenges.

He enjoys the woods, silence, music, winter bathing, fishing, hiking, functional training, wine, coffee, philosophical conversations, cooking and dining with friends and family.

He has come to MSLS in search of a nourishing and competent learning environment where he can sharpen his mind, strengthen his craft and further develop his character because he feels called to be part of the solution to the increasingly urgent and comprehensive global challenges of environmental decay/imbalance, social poverty/inequality coupled through and driven by economic/political misguidedness and injustice.

“It’s now or never.“ - Bon Jovi - It’s My Life

Miyuki Ochiai

Japan | vnmiyuki@gmail.com

Miyuki grew up in Saitama, a prefecture next to Tokyo. She loves music, art, nature and good food. Currently, she is dreaming of permaculture as a way of living. Her definition of sustainability is to live in harmony with people and nature. She even thinks it can be represented by a single Japanese word "wa“, which means one’s self, circle, harmony, circulation in each different Chinese characters.

She considers herself to be a curious learner and a passionate teacher. After she completed Masters in Education at International Christian University, she taught English at a middle school. Although she loved her job and her students, she realized that her way of living and working were not sustainable at all. She shifted to freelance teacher and translator, also coaching performers through Alexander Technique. She firmly believes that a sustainable way of living is a matter of choice in everyday life, and feels an urgent need for opportunities to obtain sustainability education. Inspired by the alumni in Japan, she came to MSLS to learn and eventually teach people how to make wiser decisions towards happiness. At the same time, she hopes to be able to go anywhere in the world and follow whatever calls her.

WE ARE LEADERS

— WE ARE MSLS 2019 —

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.“ - Margaret Mead

Muthoni (Noni) Nduhiu

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In 2014, Muthoni founded a consultancy that engages corporations and relevant stakeholders in designing and implementing responsible business models that create employment and economic opportunities for youth and women in Kenya. Mastermind Africa Alliance also involves its clients in working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and engaging women in leadership through strategic and long term interventions. A lawyer by profession, she is also involved in offering legal advisory and technical expertise to investors, corporations and institutions interested in conducting business with social and environmental impact in Kenya.

Her goal of coming to MSLS is to learn best practices for engaging corporates in sustainability practice and to form collaborations with individuals and institutions committed towards creating a better world.

"If you think the way you've always thought, you'll do the things you've always done, and you'll get the things you've always gotten." - a former mentor

Jordan Jerkovich

USA / Croatia | ja.jerkovich@gmail.com

Jordan was born in Salina, Kansas in the United States but has lived, studied and worked in many locations, including Copenhagen, San Diego and Kansas City. His educational background includes degrees in Environmental Studies and Business Management and Leadership with certificates in Sustainability and Research from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, USA. He conducted his undergraduate research in the field of renewable energy policy, later parlaying his experience into a brief career in the renewable energy industry as a sales manager for multiple residential solar companies. After completing his year at MSLS, Jordan will pursue a Master’s of Public Administration in City Management at the University of Kansas. His goal is to combine his degrees and pursue a career in city management, specializing in the sustainable development of communities. His primary sustainability interests include economic, environmental and social resilience in the age of climate change and social complexity.

Jordan’s interest in sustainability continues to be inspired by a variety of individuals, organizations and experiences. Some of these include: his father, George Jerkovich, who made him go outside; Wes Jackson and The Land Institute, who introduced him to sustainability; his professors at the University of Kansas, who opened his mind; Copenhagen, which cemented his purpose; and his cancer diagnosis, which gave him the agency to pursue his dreams. Jordan is primarily motivated by empathy and concern for the human condition. He considers it his purpose to give voice to the voiceless, empowering others to make a difference in their communities.

Rana Jukhadar

Syria | ranajukhadar114@gmail.com

B.A. English Literature, faculty of Arts, Damascus University. Rana has worked 10 years with SOS Children's Villages - Syria (an NGO headquartered in Austria) as Public Relations and Fundraising Coordinator. Later, upon moving to Sweden, she worked for two years as a Study Assistant for newcomer children in Ronneby at a program funded by the U.N. Before joining MSLS, she was working as a social and human rights activist, particularly for women and children rights. Joining MSLS has added a new commitment to the causes that she will be working for: Environment and sustainability principles, including social sustainability, are the areas that she will keep addressing and focusing on in her future career.

"What about us" - P!nk

Svenja Paege

Germany | svenja.paege@outlook.de

Svenja was born in Berlin, Germany, and lived there till she finished her school education. She moved together with her boyfriend to Bocholt, a small town in North Rhine Westphalia and studied 2 semesters history of Art at the Ruhr University in Bochum. After these two semesters, she decided to change the subject because she wanted to have an impact on changing the world in the future. She changed the subject into business studies with a focus on accounting and controlling and started to study at the small technical college in Bocholt. In March 2017 she had a three month internship at Siemens in one of their manufactories in Berlin in the Business Administration. In July 2017 she wrote her thesis about the new European CSR-Guideline in corporation with the sustainable management in the headquarters of Siemens in Munich. Since September 2017 she is enrolled the master's programme business and management in the technical school in Brandenburg, a town near to Berlin where the family of Svenja still lives. Besides the master's programme she continued her work for Siemens.
For Svenja MSLS is an incredible opportunity because she always wanted to focus more on the subject of sustainability. Since she knew that she got accepted for the programme, Svenja has the feeling her life has a purpose. Furthermore she wants to make her family, her boyfriend and herself proud by being a part of this amazing journey.

"Shine like the whole universe is yours"
- Rumi

Sophie Vrolijk

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Sophie Vrolijk (1988), (Sophie = Wisdom, Vrolijk = Happy), the eldest of four, grew up next to the sea in the Netherlands. She was raised by her parents who met and fell in love in Africa while being in service for the human needs for the organisation Doctors without Borders.

In her childhood she was surrounded by art, music, sport, city and nature activities. After graduating from a Waldorf education she traveled, worked as a volunteer in an orphanage, studied Pedagogical Science and Dance in Education in Amsterdam.

During and after her studies, Sophie has been working with different leadership/ educational organisations in Europe, India, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Brasil. (o.a. as a Program Coordinator for YIP (The International Youth Initiative Program, http://yip.se)

Sophie is passionate about the intelligence of our body. How can we be awake to this, nurture it and use it in our daily life? How may we have an holistic approach to integrate all our diverse natural intelligences in the complex systems we live?

During and after MSLS, Sophie is curious to explore how to combine and deepening her fields of interest in Health, Education, Art and Outdoor. To activate trust and empowerment in our diverse natural intelligences to step into being in service for ourselves, others and the world.

“It is an extraordinary act of courage to come to know a stranger's pain.“
- Steven Erikson

Rick Tol

Netherlands | ricktol@hotmail.com

Rick Tol is a student of the MSLS program 2019. He has a BSc in Industrial Engineering and Management from Fontys university in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. During this time he gained some experiences at a few different industrial organizations. The lack of focus on sustainability however was part of the reason however to decide to come to the MSLS program. Rick has some work experience in industrial organizations and municipalities where he has had a variety of jobs. His most recent experience regards implementing sustainability within a municipality. He tries to achieve a sustainable world through transforming businesses to adapt sustainability and more specifically Circular Economy. The MSLS program will definitely aid him in this quest.

"You are not a drop in the ocean, but the ocean in a drop" - Mooji

Sierra Flanigan

USA / Canada | sierra@coalesce.earth

Sierra is from the Rocky Mountains originally in Colorado USA, where she spent most of her upbringing outdoors. Her path meandered to Southern California, New York and Massachusetts for school. She now lives on the east coast in Cambridge Massachusetts, where she has been working to advance the field of campus sustainability for the better part of a decade in the US. Her career began when she planted an apple orchard on her college campus, which evolved into my own venture helping institutions incorporate sustainability as an organizing principle into curriculum, planning and operations within schools. Sierra loves bringing people together, facilitating collaboration and hosting gatherings for mission-driven innovators. Spirituality, yoga, health, travel and art are central parts of her life, and she is constantly working to fuse them all together. A couple years ago, she took time off to complete a yoga and meditation teacher training in Rishikesh, India. This experience changed her perspective on achieving a sustainable society, starting from the inside-out. She is also working to build the Love Economy in New York and Boston, a movement of mission and heart driven entrepreneurs who want to make love the bottom line in business and in life. Sierra decided on MSLS because she wants to scale her impact strategically (of course), plot her next steps and work creatively with business and elected leaders to meet the challenges we face globally in an integrated and loving way.

“The great leader is he who the people say, 'We did it ourselves“ - Lao Tzu

Sjaak Louwerse

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During his Bachelors thesis for his study Communication Science, he became obsessed by Wayne Visser's The Age of Responsibility. Related to new paradigms of CSR practices by businesses. After he worked for a bank, the Dutch government, a hospitality firm and followed a Social Entrepreneurship traineeship. In various roles, but always as an advocate for sustainability. His former colleagues call him an energetic person and critical thinker, who likes to connect people and come with creative ideas and analytical views. This let him to become a MSLS'er who wants to bring people together and facilitate them to make strategic sustainable decisions.

"The Most Powerful Weapon on Earth Is The Human Soul On Fire.“ - Ferdinand Foch

Tobias Wilbrink

Netherlands | mail@tobiaswilbrink.nl

Tobias grew up in the Netherlands and is best described as a passionate entrepreneur.

He has a background in marketing as the Head of Production for a commercial film production company. Working with big international brands he gained a clear understanding of how to market products, stories and ideas.

Tobias is thrilled to be a part of the MSLS program, hoping to broaden his horizons on issues of sustainability and understanding its complexity.

He wants to make the world better, starting with himself but also by inspiring others; not to preach but to practice, not to judge but to present viable alternatives, not to only recognize human hypocrisy, but engage with it honestly and reflect upon it.

He believes that through optimism and inspiration there are ways for humanity to be sustained on earth.

He wants to combine his film and marketing skills with his passion for social sustainability. In doing so, Tobias hopes to contribute to a system in which organizations, as well as individuals, consider sustainability in their decision making.

“Tell me, I’ll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand." - Chinese Proverb

Tuba Atabey

Turkey | tuba_atabey@yahoo.com

Tuba has a Bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Bogazici University in Turkey and holds a Postgraduate Certificate of Sustainable Value Chains, University of Cambridge, UK.

Having witnessed the city of Istanbul’s population increase from 5 million to 18 million in thirty years time which brought many environmental and social challenges for the citizens, she aimed to contribute to support Turkish companies to move towards sustainable business and founded SUSTAiNOVA Consulting Company. Tuba supported companies in the preparation of sustainability reports in accordance with the GRI sustainability reporting guidelines and answering CDP questionnaires. Two of the reports she supported were granted the Gold Awards. SUSTAiNOVA hosted the first Sustainability Reporting Conference in Turkey where 40 top listed companies in Istanbul Stock Exchange attended.

During her work, she noticed that the most of the sustainability business practices were focused to do less harm without a clear vision of the desired outcome. Through MSLS, Tuba wants to learn about the Framework of Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD) based on the systems thinking approach. Her future goal is to empower the society to make better choices and to live a sustainable lifestyle and help to create purpose-led organizations. She thinks that this Master’s Program will provide the opportunity to gain the required knowledge and skills to pursue this aim as well as to inspire and be inspired by the committed network of people. Tuba enjoys watching movies, eating healthy food and wants to practice yoga and dancing

"Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get" - Forest Gump's Mama

Viliana Dzhartova

Bulgaria | viliana.p.d@gmail.com

Viliana was born and raised in Bulgaria and she moved to the UK when she was 17, thanks to the HMC scholarship. She then obtained a BSc in International Business with French from the University of Birmingham and Grenoble Ecole de Management. She had the opportunity to work closely with Mohamed Yunus for a short period of time in Bangladesh which started her on the social entrepreneurship path.

Viliana has worked with social entrepreneurship and social innovation in the education space for 5 years. She has experience as Education Programme Manager at Ashoka where she led the creation and development of a global network of change-maker schools. Later, she worked at Teach First as Innovation Manager and led their incubator for early stage innovations in the state education system in the UK. She is an experienced facilitator and event organizer, also with interests in partnership development.

Personally, Viliana is passionate about discovering new cultures through traveling, learning languages, reading and discussions. She loves doing all sorts of craftwork!

“Don't try so hard, the best things come when you least expect them to.“ - unknown

Yanjun “Adrian” Zhou

People's Republic of China | 787471638@qq.com

Originally from Shanghai, Adrian holds a Bachelors degree in Mechanical & Mechatronic Engineering from Shanghai University. He first came to Karlskrona last year, then as an exchange student at BTH, and decided to stay for another year and join the MSLS program.

He wants to take the chance at MSLS to dive deeper into the field of Sustainability and in the future combine this with his engineering background. Back home in China, where development is going on rapidly, the risks and drawbacks of developing an economy at the expense of the environment are becoming ever clearer. It is becoming evident that both the environment and peoples health are paying the price for the industrial development that has been going on for many years, and Adrian wants to be part of reversing that trend. At MSLS, he hopes to broaden his horizons and foster leadership- and communication skills in order to be able to do so.

This biography book is a class project which involved the efforts of the whole MSLS 2019 cohort.
Special thanks goes to the people who arranged the Biography Book: Annie Rüdén, Arturo Heckathorn Vidal, Caroline de Filippis, Dan Ritchie, Jana Fälbl, Kim Edens.

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