

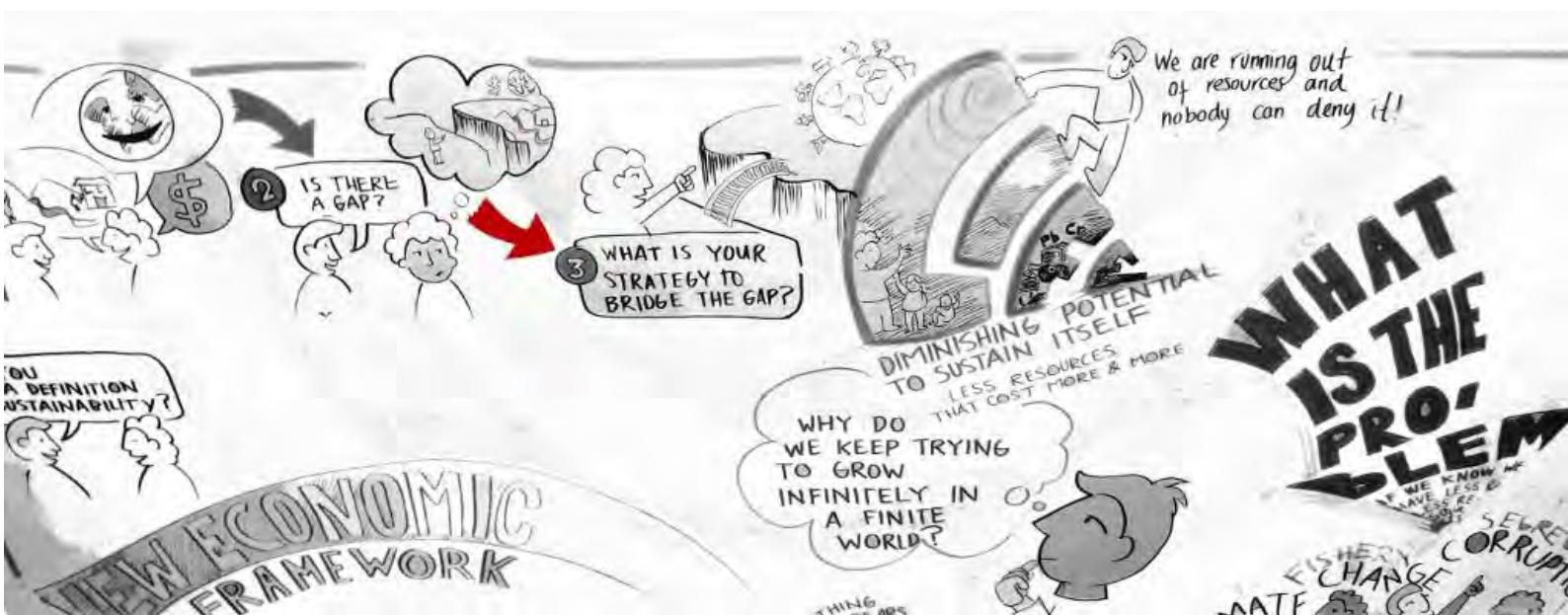
MSLS2014

Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability

"The question of reaching sustainability is not about if we will have enough energy, enough food, or other tangible resources - those we have. The question is:

will there be enough leaders in time?"

— Dr. Göran Broman and Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt, programme founders



"The MSLS programme is founded on the basic premise that to achieve a sustainable society within such a complex system as is society in the biosphere, we must first understand the basic functioning of the system and the principles for sustaining our life on Earth. Our chances of achieving what we want in the future are enhanced if we have a clear definition of where we are going and have a systematic and structured approach to planning and decision-making.

The MSLS programme revolves around two integrated themes: strategic sustainable development (SSD) - a science-based, strategic approach for planning towards sustainability; and organisational learning and leadership (OLL) – practicing leadership to effectively create change towards sustainability."

bth.se/msls

MSLS 2014 are the 10th generation of future Leaders taking this unique journey.



WE MAKE IT REAL
IN
26 COUNTRIES • 19 LANGUAGES • 45 WAYS

Adrianne Gilbride	Isabel Chender	Paul Valva
Ashkan Afshin Far	James Ayers	Pawel Porowski
Ana Timóteo	Jenny Bergman	Pheakavoin Vong
Ana Carolina Rodrigues	John Grunde	Raquel Luna Viggiani
Babila Fofuleng	Julius Piwowar	Robert Merl
Benjamin Agenyi	Joshua Cubista	Rowan Simonsen
Berivan Mine Ferhanoğlu	Kate Seely	Sérgio Alves
Christian Zavala Hernandez	Kwaku Bashir Ahmed	Shai Gilad
Christina Knudsen	Lamia Hatira	Simone Wenzel
Claude Tremblay	Lisa Apelman	Tony Li
Dana Gierke	Margot Husson	Vaiva Indilaite
Erica Bota	Marine Deplante	Viola Tschendel
Erica Scott	Maria Dzurik	Wiebke Fercho
Huiting Zhang	Mary Wygle	Zulma Sofía Patarroyo
Gabriel Melchert	Natalia Matuszak	



ADRIANNE GILBRIDE

CANADA

For the past 10 years Adrienne has been working as an Environmental Specialist and Project Manager. Her experience is in regulatory approvals, environmental assessment, and field monitoring working for government, consulting, and NGOs. She has conducted baseline assessments and remediated contaminated sites ranging from gas stations to dioxin contaminated airbases in Vietnam. She most recently was working as an independent consultant providing permitting and stakeholder consultation support for run-of-river hydro projects in British Columbia (BC). Adrienne holds a degree in Civil-Environmental Engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the province of BC.

A love to travel was instilled early and combined with her BA in Political Science sparked a deep interest in ecological sustainability and social inequities around the globe. Adrienne has an interest in community scale renewable energy solutions and strengthening the relationship between sustainability and sport. Adrienne sustains herself with a love of nature by hiking, biking, snowshoeing and growing and sharing her own food. Adrienne can be found most days on the trails in the mountains near her home in North Vancouver with her two favorite companions, her husband and her dog.

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ASHKAN AFSHINFAR

IRAN

Born in 1980 in Tehran, Iran, Ashkan studied his Bachelor in Accounting in Iran. After 5 years of gaining work experience in Iran, he moved to Sweden in 2008 to continue his studies in Master of Accounting and Management Control programme at Lund University. He aimed to start his own business in Sweden and he discovered vast business opportunities in Europe. He quickly learned that without relevant knowledge, it is challenging to achieve this goal and so chose to study a Master's of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Business Development at BTH to complement his first Master's. He ran his own business as the Recruitment Agent of BTH to recruit Iranian students. After 3 years of successful business he obtained rights with Linneaus University and UCS college agency as well.

The strong and highly ambitious team of the Master of Strategic Leadership Sustainability at BTH was always attractive to him and a course in Sustainability he previously completed further compelled him to join this program. He would like to complete research in the field of "Role of Performance Measurement System and Management Controls in Sustainable Organizational Growth." Ashkan hopes above all else to see a "GREEN DEPARTMENT" in all large and medium size companies.

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ANA TIMÓTEO

PORTUGAL

Ana joined MSLS to know how to fill a blank within for-profit organizations. She hopes to further her career and discover new horizons of leadership and sustainability, and make a difference in the businesses that are ready to embrace the sustainability challenge. Born and raised in Lisbon, Ana often recharges her energy at the beach, looking at the sea, and likes socializing around a table with food and wine.

She loves to travel and through doing so, discovers new perspectives that answer to her inquisitive personality. To satisfy her need for continuous learning, Ana is constantly searching for alternative ways of living and doing business. Experiencing other cultures encourages her curiosity. Learning to think globally allows her to better understand the world we live in. Ana started with a diploma in economics, progressed with a post-graduate degree in Business Management, and completed an executive program in Telecommunications. She enriched her career by working at well-known, top consulting companies in strategy and management in Portugal. In the last few years, she developed new business areas for business-to-business companies, oriented towards domestic and foreign markets.

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ANA CAROLINA RODRIGUES

BRAZIL

Ana Carolina Rodrigues was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, where 1.7 million people live in slums. Ever since childhood she felt touched and amazed by how, in a place of such misery, the diversity of experiences could create such a vibrant mosaic of life. She decided to study journalism, feeling compelled to affect change through exposing more people to this beauty. But after time spent working as a TV producer, she soon realized the powerful role that companies played in this issue. To understand this game better, she completed postgraduate studies in corporate communications and worked as marketing coordinator for BRMALLS' new products for the last five years. Still, she felt that most companies did not use their power to affect the positive change that we desperately need to move towards a more sustainable world. Consequently, she got involved with the TEDx community, engaged with passionate people with similar interests, and studied new models of business through a creative entrepreneurship course with Perestroika. She developed an urban farming business model and, in her heart, is aching to learn more and put this into practice and therefore play an important part in co-creating new types of business that really solve the most important challenges of sustainability.

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BABILA FOFULENG

CAMEROON

The MSLS program satisfies Babila's desire to build on his experience to create strategies for sustainable development in developing countries. He will love to be the change that he wants to see in the world. He wants to empower himself with a comprehensive knowledge about sustainability as well as develop his leadership skills required to engage and motivate others when working towards sustainability. His favourite quote is "The question of reaching sustainability is not about if we will have enough energy, enough food or tangible resources-those we have. The question is, will there be enough leaders in time?

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BENJAMIN AGENYI

NIGERIA

Agenyi has a love for economics (with much interest in development economics) and good governance. This, in addition to his desire to study in a multicultural environment led him to South Africa where he obtained a bachelor of commerce degree in economics from the University of South Africa (UNISA). While at UNISA, he was specially commended by the chair of the school of economics for his outstanding performance.

His quest to deepen his knowledge in development studies brought him to Sweden where he obtained his first master degree in industrial economics and management with focus on entrepreneurship which he believes is a catalyst for economic development. In the course of his studies, he discovered that economic development and good governance has a lot in common and until this interrelationship is understood by both individuals and policy makers, the society runs the risk of experiencing continuous problems.

His journey to MSLS was born out of his firm conviction that the current nature of development is unsustainable. He looks forward to becoming a sustainability strategist and to be a scholar in the field of strategic sustainable development where he would have the opportunity to educate tomorrow's leaders on issues pertaining to sustainability.

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BERIVAN MİNE FERHANOĞLU

TURKEY



Having a background in Business Administration, Berivan has worked in Corporate Social Responsibility, marketing communications, brand management and strategic planning for Koc Group, one of the largest business conglomerates in Turkey. She has experienced the magical spirit of social projects with hundreds of committed volunteers and thousands of students.

When Berivan discovered the term in a Global Compact training, she decided to contribute to "sustainable development". She has observed that urban societies are suffering from a disconnect with nature, of which they are still a part. She believes that humanity, having had the capacity to create the current complex system in such a short period of time, has the capacity to design self-sustaining, equitable and prosperous life for all. She has faith in dialogue, in the will to solve sustainability challenges, and in the ability to build partnerships as key factors in this design. Her desire to integrate the sustainability approach to all walks of life with adaptable, practical frameworks brought her to MSLS Program in Sweden. She loves nature and colours. She thinks that her role in life is simply to be an apple tree, sharing joy and love with others.

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CHRISTIAN ZAVALA HERNÁNDEZ

MÉXICO



Christian grew up in Mexico City and now lives in the west coast of his country in a small place called "La Paz". Growing up in the city, Christian realized how complicated and dynamic the world was and became aware of the serious environmental problem inherent of a big city. Looking for contact with nature, he moved out to a place near the ocean, where he finished his bachelor's in Marine Biology and soon after started working in the outdoor industry as a dive master, kayak guide and outdoor educator. Christian had spent most of his time in the last few years teaching environmental sciences and leadership in the great outdoors. His passion for teaching and personal curiosity forced him to come out of the woods for a further step in his formal education. Christian wanted to learn about sustainability issues and how he could collaborate in the solutions, sharing his experience and skills. In his knowledge quest, he found the MSLS program to be a perfect fit and did not hesitate to become part of the class of 2014. With the lessons learned from the program, he would like to contribute to a positive change in the world.

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CHRISTINA KNUDSEN

DENMARK



Christina was born and raised in a small town by the Oceanside in Denmark. When growing up she always loved to be in school, especially to learn about other countries, cultures, and languages, and when she was old enough she started to travel around the world. On her travels she got to know people from all over the world, and she got to know their stories. She saw that not all young people had the same opportunities in the world, and she decided to be part of the organization AIESEC to try and change that. Christina meanwhile also finished a Bachelor in International Business and Modern Languages, but in AIESEC her perception of what she wanted to do with her life changed, and she knew that she would only want a career if it would give her a purpose of positive change, but she had no idea how to. Eventually she found the Master's Degree MSLS where she would be able to combine her Bachelor's Degree, AIESEC experience and passion for change, and she knew that this would be the perfect next step for her in making her future dreams of a better world come true.

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CLAUDE TREMBLAY

CANADA

Claude grew up in a small town, 8 hours away north east of Montreal in Quebec, Canada. While finishing in BA in Business, he worked in restaurant to pay for his studies. A move that lead him to be in hospitality for more than 28 years, giving him freedom to enjoy his passion: travelling to discover new cultures and languages. Through all these years, he worked in England, New-Zealand and Australia for few months. Interested in food production, fisheries, and anything to do with the environment, he went back to school in 2011 and did an advanced diploma in Sustainable Business Leadership in Vancouver, which lead him here in Karlskrona for his masters. His goal is to be an active participant in the global issue of sustainability, to stop the big talk and do the big walk!

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DANA GIERKE

GERMANY

Dana grew up amidst fields, woods and lakes around Prenzlau in Germany. At the age of 19 she decided to move to Paris in order to experience a broader context. Acknowledging that the world is interconnected, Dana chose to study Social and Cultural Sciences at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) where she could dive into multiple fields such as power relations, violence, gender studies, history, management and marketing. For one semester she also studied Irish history and photography at Queen's University Belfast.

While enrolled in her undergraduate program, Dana engaged in several projects. Among them are her work for the European Theatre Network **Platform11+** and her involvement as coordinator of the project "**Local Jewish History – A Virtual Tour Through Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice**" in cooperation with her university and local partner organizations.

After her studies, Dana went to Sweden to volunteer for the **International Youth Initiative Program**. There she realized that her call in life was to stand up for a sustainable society. MSL offers her the learning community she seeks to flourish personally and professionally. In her spare time, in case she is not spending time with her beloved ones, you might hear Dana sing soul classics while strumming on her guitar.

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ERICA BOTA

CANADA

Erica spent the first 20 years of her life in Northern Ontario, Canada. In a community nearly devoid of native vegetation caused by decades of nickel smelting, she spent every moment she could outdoors. Running, camping, canoeing, and mountain biking along the rocky outcrops and winding, narrow trails were among her favorite childhood activities. These pastimes continue to shape the way in which Erica leads her life. Her understanding of the enormous impact that the mining industry had on her childhood surroundings and the desperation to preserve these valuable places has triggered her interest in questions of sustainability. As such, upon completing a degree in Human Kinetics, Erica attended a program in Sustainable Business Leadership in Vancouver, Canada. She gained insight into strategic corporate social responsibility through completing a thesis project with a bottled water company and participated in a Sustainability Champions Training program through The Natural Step. She is inspired by her recent work at a Neighbourhood House to pursue community-based outreach dealing with issues of homelessness, mental illness and isolation, and food security. Erica also has a dream to start a closed-loop, sustainable, hobby-farm complete with horses, chickens, bees, and worms that the community may learn from and enjoy.

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**ERICA SCOTT****ÅLAND, FINLAND**

With a passion for transformational growth and sustainable development, Erica has made a commitment to be at service and a catalyst for community change. With a recent degree in Public Health for Community Planning and her participation in the Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability she has created academic foundations on which to build her dream of contributing to and co-creating a sustainable society with a special focus on health and education. Her path of heart draws inspiration from a whole systems perspective honoring diversity and the uniqueness in each and every one. She thrives to see people grow and step into their highest potential and has therefore been active in the community by leading the process of creating a Waldorf kindergarten and school. As a politician she has experience from the city board, the board of the local health authority and as a chairman of a government committee developing a strategy for a sustainable Åland. Earlier academic studies include the East Asian studies programme with Chinese as a major, an education and work experience as a Waldorf kindergarten teacher, a leadership course for personal development through dance, relaxation techniques and meditation. She loves social events, cultural activities, dancing, knitting and gardening.

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**HUITING ZHANG****CHINA**

Born in 1986, Huiting studied Business Administration in Wuhan, China where she earned her bachelor's degree. Later on, in 2008 she was admitted to Kunming university of Science and Technology, where she was awarded a Master's Degree in Educational Economy and Management. In September 2009 she came to Sweden and she continued her academic studies in Master of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Business Development at BTH as an exchange student. During her studies at BTH, Huiting was totally attracted by the new educational model and knowledge, and she got the chance to take a course related to sustainability which finally led her to attend the vivifying Master's of Strategic Leadership Sustainability at BTH in 2013. She would like to apply herself in the new challenge and merge her study background with the new field in order to reach a higher academic level.

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**GABRIEL MELCHERT****BRAZIL**

Gabriel Melchert was born in São Paulo, Brazil's biggest city. Right after his birth, his parents decided to move to São Sebastião, a small coastal city. Tired of life in the big city, they chose to shift directions and raise him and his brother with fresh air and natural beauty, which was a risky decision at that time. The fact that Gabriel has been a passionate sailor and surfer since childhood and the knowledge that sports are dependent on nature conservation, Gabriel felt strongly compelled to become a sustainability practitioner. Gabriel hopes to integrate his two passions, both sustainable farming and beekeeping, into changing systems with the energy of youth and arts.

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ISABEL CHENDER

CANADA

A belief in the ability of collective insight to answer burning questions, coupled with new-found intrigue in sustainability as a personal and professional focus has inspired Isabel to immerse herself in the community of MSLS. Born in Nova Scotia, Canada to American parents with an Eastern European family lineage, Isabel feels most at home surrounded by natural beauty or alongside family, friends, and mentors.

Her passion for community work, Spanish language, and the incredible biodiversity and people of South America is cheerfully revealed if you ask her about her experiences volunteering, living, and working in Guyana, Chile, and most recently Ecuador. A background in political science, history, and economics under the umbrella of international development studies acts as the academic underpinning for her learnings as a health, English language, and environment educator.

Vegetarian cooking, physical activity, practicing Spanish, ogling over animals, and putting pen to paper is what you can find her doing if not getting lost in studies. However, at the core of all experiences: academic and personal; learned and felt; outward and inward, lie a calling to pursue authentic, strategic, and decisive action in order to serve the earth in the most meaningful way possible.

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JAMES AYERS

AUSTRALIA

James discovered sustainability by pure chance, not knowing anything about it, he slowly read the information presented to him about the problems and solutions that sustainability afforded and realised that the challenge presented to humans the opportunity to fulfil their true and perhaps ultimate potential.

There was a sense of humanism in sustainability that led him to Sweden, in order to understand the perspectives of other cultures, learn from other people and discover how he could best position himself in order to contribute to something he believed to be right, true and exciting.

Sustainability is the chance to create a legacy that lasts generations, that changes the direction of why and how we live without the sufferings of past ideals. It can be the most social of discoveries and because it is bounded by and considerate of nature perhaps the most complete of human choices. It is this motivation that lead him to study sustainability as deeply as possible.

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JENNY BERGMAN

SWEDEN

Jenny has a curious soul with a strong interest in understanding other people's perspectives. Her passion is to challenge her own and other people's thought structures and explore activities out of the ordinary.

After she graduated Swedish upper secondary school she has worked in Disneyland Paris, conducted field studies in India, studied political science in Belfast, moved to Germany, conducted fieldwork research in Georgia (the country), bicycled from Stockholm to Brussels and written a bachelor thesis in anthropology.

Being a part of the MSLS14, she intends to explore how to create sustainable change. Dreaming of a world in which ideas and solutions are valued higher than hierarchy, power and prestige, she wants to help others unleash their full potential through the means of facilitation and other participatory approaches.

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**JOHN GRUNDE****USA**

John Grunde was born in Chicago, IL USA. He attended his undergrad at Northland College located in northern Wisconsin where he recently received his bachelors of arts in Sustainable Community Development. He has done a semester aboard in Iceland where he studied community aspects in an eco-village and toured alternative energy facilities such as hydroelectric and geo-thermal plants.

He spent most of his summers as a child with his family at their cabin in northern Wisconsin, where he feels his love for nature and the natural world began. A recent passion that he has discovered is the joy of brewing beer which he hopes to turn into a career someday in the future (in a sustainable way of course). His reasons for attending the MSLS program are to further expand his knowledge of sustainability, improve his leadership skills, live and learn in one of the most beautiful and sustainable countries in the world, and to of course to make some new friends.

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**JULIUS PIWOWAR****GERMANY**

Julius graduated from the University of Münster in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Geography and Economics. He focused his undergraduate studies on socio-technological systems of innovation which included the spatial dimension of the development processes. For his bachelor thesis, he applied a conceptual framework to the diffusion processes and creation of different market structures for photovoltaic applications in Germany. Furthermore, he participated in a regional project where he received an idea of the practical dimension of sustainable development and the German "Energiewende". After graduation, he moved to Egypt to study his passion, the Arabic language, at the University of Alexandria. In 2013, he began his Master's in Sustainability Economics and Management at the University of Oldenburg. As a European exchange student, he made his way to Karlskrona to participate in an international community and is currently learning as much as he can from both the program and his fellow students. In addition, he is interested in sustainability strategies of the Swedish Government. After graduating from the MSLS program, he'd like to introduce the FSSD framework to his studies in Germany with a focus on sustainable energy systems and the Middle East Region.

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**JOSHUA CUBISTA****CANADA**

Joshua's mission is to support individuals, communities, & organizations to creatively re-imagine the present in order to create a future that reflects their highest potential, through taking authentic action now. With a passion for igniting & inspiring personal, cultural, & ecological positive action, he brings a deep knowledge of effective change methodology & a dynamic energy to the endeavors of social innovation & collaborative change.

Joshua holds a B.A. in Sustainable Community Development & Integral Psychology from Prescott College, & has lived, worked, & studied in twenty-two countries so far, including Eco-villages & Human Potential Education centers around the world. Drawing upon a background in Experiential Design & Facilitation, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, Behavior Physiology, Linguistics, & Wilderness Emerson Joshua is able to facilitate experiences that create tangible results, resiliency in the face of change, & passionate engagement in the world.

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KATE SEELY

USA

Kate was lucky enough to grow up in San Francisco in the home of a loving family, whose support enabled her to learn Spanish from an early age. The ability to speak another language fed her hunger for cross-cultural engagement and understanding and led her to travel throughout large parts of Latin America. Most recently she spent 5 years co-founding and co-directing the NGO Puente a la Salud Comunitaria (Bridge to Community Health) in Oaxaca, Mexico. Puente develops economic development and public health programs that promote the cultivation and consumption of amaranth, a native grain outlawed with the Spanish conquest.

Since moving back to the States, Kate has been working primarily in the leadership development field, with a special emphasis on creating opportunities for people to show up authentically, engage in important conversations around identity and social change, and thrive both personally and professionally. She has also consulted with regional food systems endeavors, as a big part of her personal and professional passions lie in seeing them flourish. Her favorite way to spend a free day is either by jumping deep in a mountain run-off river or eating oysters with friends on the northern California coast. Nature is her church and yoga is her center.

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KWAKU BASHIR AHMED

GHANA

Many are yet to understand the importance of selecting a prudent leader to man companies, industries, organisations and, even a nation. The successful or sluggish growth of such institutions largely depends on effective leadership and codified management. Therefore selecting confident leaders (and his team) is a critical decision for any institutional growth and increase in productivity. Although some of the leaders are born with this distinct intellect; others acquire it through their daily life experiences and impeccable leadership training. But I believe the best is the one who has both innate and acquired strategic leadership skills.

In many ways the MSLS class proves to be fertile grounds to channel such power ideas in solving the sustainability challenges of the planet. I believe that great change starts with individuals. Therefore through my creative thinking, ability to solve problems and to work in a team, I am confident that this 10th MSLS class will be the best. Being part of MSLS class is not just an opportunity but an honour.

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LAMIA HATIRA

TUNISIA/USA

Lamia Hatira was raised in Tunis, Tunisia by a Seattleite mother and a Tunisian father. From a very early age, she was exposed not only to her two very different cultures, but also to a love for travel and for people. She has since been committed to marrying these two passions and exploring the paths they lead to.

Throughout this journey, Lamia played the roles of international school student, communication studies university graduate, practitioner of the Spanish language, radio DJ, and Seattle Sounders teams mascot. A most recent role she played that led her to Karlskrona, Sweden, is that of sustainable business practices consultant sending her across the African continent, with layovers in Haiti and Brazil's Amazonia where she became acquainted with the development world and the many challenges and opportunities that exist within it. Lamia is also a member of the Global Shapers Tunis Hub, an initiative of the World Economic Forum that recognizes engaged youth throughout the world and is most interested in exploring the global community it offers.

Lamia is excited to see where this path will lead to and what roles it will have her play in the coming years, knowing they will have a focus on sustainable development and be guided by a love for travel and curiosity in people.

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LISA APELMAN

SWEDEN

Lisa, born and raised in Sweden with roots in Germany, has a great fascination for all that makes life worth living. Ecological and social sustainability has been a big part of Lisa's adult life ever since she fell in love with three bright yellow organic lemons. She has studied many aspects of human society like economy, cultural geography, pedagogy, social psychology and gardening and has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Science with a specialization in community planning. Lisa likes to explore human capabilities and facilitate prerequisites so that people can bring their best and learn in a safe environment. Ecological and social sustainability embody the core of prerequisites for a good human life and together with strategic leadership encompass all the subjects she previously studied.

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MARGOT HUSSON

FRANCE

Margot grew up on the wild coast of Britanny. She has a background in social sciences and holds a Master's Degree in Local Public Action through which she specialized in the French interpretations of Local Agenda 21 (transition processes for communities). Deeply convinced that change will most likely happen through local scale initiatives and networks, she did her thesis on the methods & tools used by different-size local governments in order to cooperate in their process towards sustainability. In 2011, she decided to move to Northern Sweden to work with Torbjörn Lahti. She got involved in various projects related to building bridges between the Swedish Eco-Municipality network and international sustainability initiatives. She was then offered the opportunity to further explore different interpretations of Local Agenda 21 by working in the environmental department of the Municipality of Santiago (Chile). Coming back to Sweden for the MSLS master program, she expects to learn more on the ways to « energize change » by empowering people, facilitating effective dialogue and creating collective spaces for ideas to emerge.

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MARINE DEPLANTE

FRANCE

Marine was born and raised in a small city in the French Alpes, and was always in contact with nature and animals. Since an early age, she spent most of her leisure time doing outdoors activities. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of International Business in Australia, she soon realized the world we live in needs to operate in a different way. Her initial experience in the field of sustainability was an internship with Greenpeace International in Amsterdam. Marine sees the MSLS program as a great opportunity to gain knowledge both in sustainable development and leadership, and she hopes to continue her educational journey with further knowledge in the waste management field.

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**MARIA DZURIK****USA**

Maria grew up in a small town in the Midwest USA, where her simple, but deep passion for the environment began. By completing her Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Environmental Science, she discovered that she had a natural skill with research. She desired to relate her scientific findings to inform others and improve the lives of the greater community. Her interests in ecology conservation, sustainable technology, communication & education, and improving the lives of future generations continues to spark new areas of interest and ideas for research. She enjoys learning about others' passions and bringing out the best in others to better the world. In her spare time, she enjoys running, biking, tennis, backpacking, playing piano, singing, and enjoying coffee and tea with friends and family. Maria continues to motivate and inspire those around her by instilling in them a deep appreciation for the environment. She hopes to learn ways to implement a change and a positive attitude toward sustainability in resistant communities, so that people feel they are working toward a collective, necessary, and beneficial goal.

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**MARY WYGLE****USA**

The first time Mary showed interest in sustainability was at the age of five when she would rush home from school to watch Captain Planet and the Planeteers-- a TV cartoon about a superhero and his human sidekicks who save the environment from polluting enemies. Since that time, Mary no longer watches Captain Planet but still shows enthusiasm for sustainability. Born and raised in the state of Louisiana, she attained her BA in Psychology and Sociology at a small liberal arts college in the small town of Shreveport, which sits on top of one the largest natural gas reserves in the country. Constantly confronted by the environmental issues in and out of her city and wanting to make sense of these problems, she spent a semester abroad attending sustainability classes at the American University in Cairo, Egypt (AUC). She spent the following summer interning at a sustainable development nonprofit where she worked on calculating the Carbon Footprint of the AUC campus. Mary concluded from this experience that though she has considerable passion, she wanted a complementary set of practical skills to further a career in the sustainability field, leading her to the beautiful city of Karlskrona and perhaps one day to becoming her own version of a Planeteer.

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**NATALIA MATUSZAK****POLAND**

Natalia was born and raised in an ancient Polish city of Krakow, saturated with history and air pollutants. Having witnessed the economic shock therapy, she firmly believes it is better to lead a transition than to let it happen to you. With background in anthropology, she put her intercultural business skills to test in Sri Lanka, along with the ability to endure lack of hot water. Her experience tells her that sustainable solutions are as diverse as people for whom they are created. During her work in Corporate Social Responsibility, she was often confronted with complex social and environmental problems. Her search for a practical tools to address them led her to FSSD and consequently to MSLS programme. Always eager to talk with people about what really matters to them and ready to be surprised, she pioneered use of Social Return on Investment in Poland, implementing it in unlikely contexts. She crossed the Baltic Sea hoping to learn how inspire people to shift their mindset and be enthusiastic participants in the global change.

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**PAUL VALVA****USA**

Paul was born and raised in Oakland, Ca, across the Bay from San Francisco. Paul has a B.A. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and an M.B.A. with an emphasis in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Paul is a partner at his family real estate company, where he has been selling real estate for almost 30 years. He also manages the company's property management subsidiary. In 2006 Paul was accepted to The Climate Project (now The Climate Reality Project), where he and his colleagues were personally trained by Al Gore to educate the general public about climate change. Paul subsequently served as District Manager for Northern California for The Climate Project, a position he held for four years. Paul's passion lies in the relationship between ecological health of the planet and the health of the people who live, breathe and increasingly become physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually sick on the planet.

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**PAWEL POROWSKI****CANADA/POLAND**

From eastern Canada, Pawel is a geographer and political scientist, whose love of the coast and passion for the study of human systems have brought to Karlskrona and the MSLS. His home since emigrating from native Poland at a young age, the Canadian landscape is a vivid affirmation of the cultural and natural values that he holds; its myriad fishing villages, forestry towns and urban agriculture communities exemplify the richness of stories that hold a nation together. It is also a diversity that has shaped Pawel's appreciation for the complexity of systems, for the conflict and uncertainty inherent in environmental change, and for the importance of engagement and authenticity when we as leaders tackle the sustainability challenge.

With a multidisciplinary background in resource governance and organizational change, Pawel seeks to contribute to new approaches that increase our capacity for restorative and collaborative policy and planning. The MSLS is part of his journey as agent of positive change, one who contributes to processes of deep reflection, insightful dialogue, and transformational praxis.

Pawel is loving son, proud brother, and unconditional friend to an incredible group of individuals, whose support and love bridge the gap that distance put between them.

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**PHEAKAVOIN VONG****CAMBODIA**

Pheakavoin Vong was born and grew up in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. He completed his studies in Computer Science and Development Management, and is nearing 10 years professional experience with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He specialized in ICT in Education (ICTE) and Community Development where he has contributed to the rehabilitation of his country.

He is particularly interested in the field of ICT for Development (ICTD), Organizational Learning , Public Policy, Governance /Administration and Politics. Vong believes in the power of education, has a deep faith in our ability for personal change, and potential change in society. Before he came to Sweden, he realized there was a gap in his capacity to effectively drive development initiatives that resulted in sustainable change. With this in mind, he traveled thousands of kilometers to Karlskrona for MSLS. By undertaking MSLS he believes the combination of knowledge, skills, tools of strategic sustainable development, leadership and networking that he will take away from BTH will give him deep expertise that will contribute to his ambition to be a highly regarded social change agent.

He is also passionate about nature and loves adventurous outdoor activities. His favorites include trekking, fishing and photographing.

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RAQUEL LUNA VIGGIANI

BRAZIL

Raquel Luna is always searching for new experiences. She joined MSLS in order to support her contribution to building sustainable communities. Raquel studied business management, but soon realised that working in the traditional business market wouldn't fulfil her higher purpose of having a positive impact on the planet. Searching for her path, she has now found herself working in the socio-environmental field: first with environmental education in a village in India and later in the centre for sustainability studies in her University. Her main professional influence, however, was developed in the Amazon, where she worked with forest conservation projects and participated in educational projects for isolated communities in inhabited protected areas of the Amazon region.

She loves working with indigenous and grassroots people, which are usually invisible in Brasil, and believes they have the answer to many of our modern society's questions. Raquel is passionate about people, and is enchanted by diversity and the wisdom we can find by opening our eyes and listening to others. Besides that, she loves waterfalls and friendship, dancing is her main meditation and nature is her religion.

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ROBERT MERL

AUSTRIA

Robert grew up in a small village near Salzburg in Austria. He has one older brother who is working in the advertising industry. His mother is a children's nurse and his father a manager in a company that sells couplings.

Since Robert was a little boy, he has done a lot of different sports and most of them in nature. His love to nature grew even bigger when Robert chose to do orienteering at the age of nine and stuck with it since then.

Beside the sport, also the studies and his future job play a big role in Robert's life. After school Robert did a Bachelor in Economics and then came to Karlskrona to visit his girlfriend. In Karlskrona he met a lot of MSLS students, who just had positive comments on the programme at BTH. Because Robert was not yet sure what to study after his bachelor and because MSLS sounded really interesting to him, he became a student of MSLS 2014.

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ROWAN SIMONSEN

DENMARK/COLOMBIA

Rowan grew up on a small farm in Denmark. Raised by an American mother and a Danish father, he learned from an early age to navigate different cultures. He has continued exploring the beauties and differences of the stories in the world. He now lives with his two daughters and his lovely wife in Colombia. Rowan is driven by a love for nature and for hosting spaces for conversation that really matter. He has worked with leadership development in all sectors and is now especially focussed on transforming the educational system to a more innovative, creative, and holistic system. A special passion of his is learning from nature in nature and he guides multi-day leadership solo experiences in the wild.

He has founded and directed Upstream Consulting since 2008 and is currently representing the Kaospilots in Colombia. He co-founded the "Academy for Heart, Body and Creativity" and the Biomimicry Network in Colombia, he is also a member of SOL Colombia and is a dedicated Art of Hosting practitioner.

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SÉRGIO ALVES

PORUGAL/SWEDEN

Sérgio was born and raised in Portugal but has lived for several years in Sweden. From his small hometown he brought a sense of social justice and eagerness to change the world. With a Bachelor's Degree in Management and a Master's in Entrepreneurship, Sérgio has worked mostly with business development both as a consultant and as an educator. He has also been engaged in different causes such as Omställning Sverige (the Swedish branch of the Transition Network) or the Red Cross.

Joining the Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability program came as a natural step in order to acquire the competences necessary to turn his efforts as a volunteer into a professional career. Main areas of interest include local economic transitions, fundamental human needs and the relationship between sustainability and personal development.

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SHAI GILAD

ISRAEL/SWITZERLAND

Shai grew up in the north of Israel, in a small village in the Galilee Hills. Educated in an alternative school based on principles of democracy and individualism, Shai always strived for ideals and their implementation in his life. During several years of travel, he encountered different expressions of this thirst for ideals, experiencing the anarchy movement in Europe, the international new-age community and finally the sustainability movement where he settled. Shai is enthusiastic about social movements including, non-violent direct action, community driven projects, the power of volunteering, grassroots activism and society's ability to create and utilize beauty when we dare to try.

Shai holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Science, has worked in various NGO's and hands-on projects such as community gardens & alternative buildings.

Shai is married to Liat, who constantly reminds him that to share love is the greatest fortune a person can have. He came to Sweden to attend the MSLS as an important step on the path of personal growth. He strives to understand how he can best contribute to the network of dedicated people acting to create a better world, with excellence, hard work, creativity and dedication.

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SIMONE WENZEL

GERMANY



Growing up on a small farm in Bavaria, Simone developed a strong connection to animals and nature. However, being driven by the inner question that there must be "more", she travelled the world for a year and was overwhelmed by the beauty of life, people, and possibilities. While pursuing these answers, Simone graduated in "Philosophy and Culture" at University of Witten/Herdecke. During a semester in Argentina studying "Corporate Social Responsibility", Simone discovered her passion for sustainability – trying to connect inner and outer meaning for herself and the world. Over the past two years she has been working at a consulting company for personal development called "Change International Ltd.". Being dedicated to sustainability, she additionally supported the "Global Marshall Plan Foundation", a small NGO called "Ideen3", and an environmental centre as a member and workshop facilitator. Furthermore, she completed outdoor and environmental education training. Having now realized that the answer can be found within relationships, she wants to support and encourage people to connect to nature, to others and to themselves – for which MSLS is the perfect platform for her to learn.

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TONY LI

CHINA

Born and raised in Shanghai, east of China, Tony came to Sweden as an exchange student in 2012. He likes sports, travelling, photography and making friends. After travelling around most of the European countries, he realized that China should pay more attention to the socio-ecological problems. So he wants to do something for his country. After completing bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Vehicle Engineering, he joined MSLS. Aside from his academic accomplishments, he is a mechanic and has loved car since he was born. Through MSLS, he wishes to acquire skills and knowledge which will help him create ideas about improving automobiles so that they are more sustainable with respect to nature and society. He likes walking in the forest, enjoying the nature, enjoying the peace.

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VAIVA INDILAITE

LITHUANIA

Vaiva is a passionate, curious and open-minded person. She was born in Klaipeda, the third largest port town in Lithuania. Her passions include doing water sports, going on adventures and being creative. Vaiva spent much of her youth travelling with her family and her goal was to eliminate social barriers. For this reason as well as to gain an understanding of governmental systems and the interactions between them, she studied political science around the world. Sustainability was always the first priority for Vaiva because she believes that only in a focus on sustainability can we make a change towards a better world. Vaiva has valuable and sophisticated knowledge in working with elections, governmental parties and various NGOs. She has practice in making decisions and prioritizing them. Studying sustainability helps Vaiva to combine two of her passions: her love of nature and her eagerness to contribute to societal change towards sustainability.

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VIOLA TSCHENDEL

GERMANY

As a Leisure and Tourism Management graduate and trained advocate for global education, Viola's constants of the last several years have been exploring new beliefs, making new friends, and being 'home' along the way. Working in tourism and hospitality throughout Europe, she discovered unacceptable waste of resources and working conditions opposed to her personal view of a good life. That inspired her to discuss the tourism shift towards collaborative, local solutions through the co-operation of agriculture and hospitality. Volunteering in Nicaragua in the sustainable management of nature reserves, she gained her first insights into community work. Destruction of nature, violence, and disease are things that hurt her deep inside. Combined with global learning and personal awareness, she is convinced that creating experiences to facilitate behavioral change and giving businesses a soul can change the world. Dealing passionately with these challenges, life restores her energy through nature, yoga, running, friends and healthy food. With the goal to turn her personal values into her profession, she places her bets on the super power created by people sharing feelings, stories, and knowledge in order to work towards the same goal.

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WIEBKE FERCHO

GERMANY

Wiebke's journey towards a greater understanding of sustainability has so far been a deep personal journey. At a very young age, she felt the desire to do something about the inequality in the world – be it ecological, economical, or social injustice issues. The desire to understand the world was also the motivation for her to do her Bachelor in Business Administration. Her work with several NGO's and her position as a working student at the organic-fair-trade coffee roasting plant UTAMTSI led her to gain a broader understanding of the challenges facing the world today and the interconnections between them.

However, she always had the feeling that her studies and her working life needed to be linked. Therefore she started her Master in "Sustainability Economics and Management" in Germany. Even so, she was never satisfied with the outcome and the more scientific discussion without taking real action. Since she had previously experienced learning in an international setting, she had the desire to integrate it once again into her studies. This led her to apply for the MSLS Program. Her spirit: "It always seem impossible until it's done!"

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ZULMA SOFÍA PATARROYO

DENMARK/COLOMBIA

In addition to a vast experience in pedagogics, multimedia and design, Zulma is a passionate facilitator and designer of group dialogues, innovation, and change processes. She is a Colombian kaospilot, a mother, and a traveller who loves learning, leadership, and people. Zulma is constantly searching for new ways of utilising her skills and knowledge to contribute to the generation positive changes in communities, groups, individuals, and herself. The areas that interest Zulma the most are: sustainability, social innovation, and entrepreneurship as well as multidisciplinary processes and processes of social change with stakeholders from diverse cultural or social backgrounds.

Founding member of SOL (Society of Organisational Learning) and HUB Colombia, Zulma is also the proud founder and director of www.pataleta.net, a graphic facilitation company where Zulma's creativity is often put on paper to help others understand complex information.

After the MSLS Masters, Zulma hopes to return back home with a lot of new knowledge, clarity in her mind and strength in her heart to follow her dream and use all the tools she has acquired in life to contribute to a more sustainable present and future.

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