# MSLS BIOBOOK 2025/26

# FOREWORD BY THE MSLS HOSTS

Their conscientious and kind way of being as well as their curious and critical engagement and the professionalism with which they show up gives me hope for the future. It is an honor and a joy to be on this learning path with them!- **Merlina**

It has been so lovely to kick off this journey together. Each one of you brings a unique perspective to the classroom, your willingness to step into the hard questions with us as staff gives me hope during a very challenging time. It is this willingness to be in the complexity of our times with those from widely different backgrounds and perspectives that creates the soil for change. I am so excited to see what blooms out of the soil we are creating together-**Elaine**

I find that you are a vibrant and diverse group of courageous humans who are all united by the desire to do meaningful work in the face of the polycrisis. I am honoured to be on this learning journey with each and everyone of you!-**Dana**

I don't think most people realize how unique each MSLS class can be and this class is genuinely distinct and diverse. This is what makes the journey rich for everybody, staff included, and why I am looking forward to what we will all learn along the way-**Pierre**

Lovely, kind, curious and caring. So far some wonderful questions emerging from the group-**James**

We are the MSLS 25/26 class, a group of 22 students from different parts of the world, united by a shared goal – to change the world for the better.With diverse backgrounds, experiences, and skills, our interactions are rich, inspiring, and full of learning. Every conversation, project, and collaboration becomes an opportunity to see the world through new perspectives and to co-create solutions for the complex challenges of sustainability.

## SIRO KOCH
## SWITZERLAND

**Background**
BSc Psychology and Sustainable Development (2025), Certified 2030 SDGs Game Facilitator (2024), Certified Playfight Facilitator (2022), Process Design and Social Entrepreneurship (Knowmads, Creative Business School Amsterdam, 2019)

**Why MSLS**
MSLS is the key to a mutually supportive global community and a lifelong learning journey that extends beyond our time here. We grow together in a transformative environment, and across professions, ages, and regions, we form bonds that last. Through our MSLS experience, we learn to cultivate such environments ourselves, enabling those who partner with us to evolve for the benefit of all involved.

**Interest**
Sparring Partner | Leadership Training | HR Strategy & Talent Acquisition | Organizational Development | Work Psychology | Leader Wellbeing

**Free Space**
If you feel the need for a break from Babylon, consider looking into Los Portales. This women-led community, nestled in the beautiful nature of southern Spain, helped me find balance through their Dream, Process, World Work (Mindell) exactly when I needed it most.

## KIM KRISTIN LUDWIG
## GERMANY

**Background**
I studied business administration in my bachelor and then i started my masters in Sustainability Economics and Management (SEM). I am doing the MSLS as a double degree with the SEM Master

**Why MSLS**
It was a dream to go to Sweden, and I wanted to get a broader understanding of Leadership in Sustainability. Therefore, it was a perfect match!

**Interest**
Sustainability Leadership

**Free Space**
I know how to ride roller skates because I participated in a youth group of the musical starlight Express

**LEIRE OLANO**
**BASQUE COUNTRY**
**SPAIN**

**Background**
BSc in Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation ", where I was focusing on educational project management, specially related to Forest Schools, food education, sustainability... And then I have been working on several projects such us being part of the pedagogy department in the field of school canteens, coordinating a sustainability program for young people, member of a program of citizen activation through SDG's... I am also a yoga instructor :)

**Why MSLS**
The need to better understand the complexity of current challenges and the motivation to investigate these issues further while sharing it with different people from the world

**Interest**
My journey toward sustainability began with the need to eat consciously to feel better with myself, and this led me to understand the importance of food systems in this complex system as the ecosocial challenge is.

**Free Space**
“Working with sustainable causes makes my insides move"

**ALEXANDER NORBERT**
**APOSTOLOS ESPENKOTT**
**GERMANY**

**Background**
I have a practical background in commoning, grassroots and community organizing. I studied Philosophy and Arts.

**Why MSLS**
I joined MSLS to deepen my facilitation, question-crafting and storytelling skills and capacities. I joined to meet engaged people from different cultures and backgrounds.

**Interest**
I am mostly engaged in social sustainability - connecting community organizing with sustainability & regeneration in the food sector: Community Kitchens everywhere!

**Free Space**
Change needs space. Space needs time. Time needs somebody to feel.

**PATRICIA MPUNDU KATONGO**
**ZAMBIA**

**Background**
Master of Science in Human Resouces Management. I have over 13 years experience in Human Capital Management with proven record of success in directing end to end HR functions.

**Why MSLS**
Wanted to learn more about sustainability especially leadership in complexity

**Interest**
Social Sustainability

**Free Space**
"Believe in yourself and learn something new everyday"

**ARIJANA SAHINOVIC**
**GERMANY AND BOSNIA**

**Background**
My background is in Education, English, and Political Science with a focus on Sustainability and Inclusion.

**Why MSLS**
My motivation is to leave a positive impact on the world by working in a sustainable field after graduation.

**Interest**
My interest is on how to make big players more sustainable.

**Free Space**
My favourite animals are sea mammals and I would love to work in nature preservation.

**FLORIAN BAARS**
**GERMANY**

**Background**
I studied 'Socio-Economics' for my bachelor's degree and I am currently studying 'Sustainability Economics and Management' for my master's degree

**Why MSLS**
MSLS combines my desire for a broad systems thinking approach to sustainability with the further development of my soft skills. This is essential for not only understanding change, but also initiating it and getting people motivated about it.

**Interest**
Post-growth, degrowth, climate change

**Free Space**
Penguins are my favourite animals and I used to have a large penguin collection. I also like seagulls because they are so clever.

**SALMA SAMEH**
**EGYPT**

**Background**
Environmental Engineering, Leadership Development, Community organizing and Project Management

**Why MSLS**
The intersectionality between Science, Leadership and Sustainability.. a sweet spot to be in!

**Interest**
Social and economic sustainability!

**Free Space**
No one is free until all of us are free!

**MAGNUS ROSBERG**
**SWEDEN**

**Background**
Sustainability strategist in transition. Recovering healthcare professional.

**Why MSLS**
I wanted to explore leadership and system thinking within the sustainability field

**Interest**
Everything sustainability-related is fun! Currently the relationship between sustainbility and percieved health is especially interesting.

**Free Space**
Sustainability is not only about the environment – it is about how we live, thrive and coexist

**ALEXANDER CRAWFORD**
**SWEDEN**

**Background**
I studied Economics long ago, and I've spent three decades working as an economist, a facilitator, and a designer and curator of international conferences. And I like to write.

**Why MSLS**
I was drawn to MSLS because it offers a rigorous, systems-based approach to sustainability that aligns with my long-standing work. I see it as both a way to deepen my own practice and a stepping stone toward future research and work on transformation and complex global challenges.

**Interest**
My focus is on sustainability leadership and the cultural and civilizational dimensions of transition, in particular how dialogue and community-building can enable deep shifts toward planetary stewardship.

**Free Space**
Please help me with the question "what should a 55+ man do with the rest of his life, in service of future generations, and of life?"

**CELINA STREMKUS**
**GERMANY**

**Background**
I completed a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Development and am now pursuing a double Master's degree in Sustainability Economics and Management as well as MSLS.

**Why MSLS**
I see the MSLS programme as the ideal step to strengthen my strategic and leadership skills in driving sustainable transformation.

**Interest**
Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence, Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Multi-stakeholder Initiatives

**Free Space**
I really enjoy the Swedish tradition of fika breaks.

**ANITA JOST**
**SWITZERLAND**

**Background**
I am a trained osteopath, specialized in pediatric and gynecological treatment. Last year, I mainly worked on a project about workshops concerning consent - exploring its different facets and ways to experiment with it.

**Why MSLS**
What I have missed in my work is the holistic perspective of the whole system. I am looking forward to get a bigger picture and many different perspectives.

**Interest**
My interest is in gaining a broader knowledge of the different sustainability challenges and diving deeper into possible solutions and approaches.

**Free Space**
Highlining (slacklining between a valley or two mountains) has taught me more about myself and life than anything else. So if you ever want to experience the delicate interface between great fear and total freedom, you are very welcome to join me!

**AMOS K NYEMA JR**
**LIBERIA**

**Background**
Experienced professional with a BSc in Accounting and 15+ years driving financial governance, operational strategy, and service optimization across banking, telecom, and public utilities.

**Why MSLS**
I was motivated by the need to address systemic inefficiencies and sustainability challenges within Liberia's utility sector, particularly at the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporations where I serve as General Service Coordinator. I pursued the MSLS program to gain strategic tools for designing resilient, inclusive solutions that elevate institutional performance and drive lasting impact.

**Interest**
Strategic Leadership, Social and Ecological Sustainability and Economic Development

**Free Space**
"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."

**ALEXANDER BRUINEN SERIO**
**SWEDEN**

**Background**
PhD, researcher

**Why MSLS**
Exploring more in depth the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development and meeting like-minded people.

**Interest**
Sustainability science, modelling, and reporting.

**Free Space**
"It is not despair, for despair is only for those who see the end beyond all doubt. We do not. It is wisdom to recognize necessity, when all other courses have been weighed, though as folly it may appear to those who cling to false hope." — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings | "Every established order tends to produce the naturalization of its own arbitrariness." - P. Bourdieu

**IKER EPELDE LABAYEN**
**BASQUE COUNTRY**
**NORTH OF SPAIN**

**Background**
I am a mechanical engineer with several years of professional experience as a mechanical designer. A few years ago, I completed a master's degree in Circular Economy, with the intention of combining engineering with sustainability. I have been working at the Bilibin consultancy for two years.

**Why MSLS**
Delve deeper into sustainability from a position of leadership in complexity and strategy, meet people who share your concerns and learn with them. And discover Sweden and its natural beauty!

**Interest**
I am motivated to combine sustainability with engineering and explore it further. I am currently developing this with the circular economy, but I am keen to expand! Food and energy are other areas that interest me.

**Free Space**
Live simply and Pura Vida!

**THEO FALK**
**SWEDEN**

**Background**
Bsc in Spatial Planning, and last year I served as president for the student union at BTH, a leadership journey that strengthened student influence and deepened my commitment to sustainable change

**Why MSLS**
What ultimately motivated me to choose MSLS was its unique focus on leadership and sustainability

**Interest**
My main sustainability interest is leadership, how leaders can inspire and mobilize people to drive lasting sustainable change

**Free Space**
I picked up running to stay healthy, and honestly, I want a refund

**KAREN ANDREA AREVALO GUALTEROS**
**COLOMBIA**

**Background**
Bachelor's Degree in International Public Accounting with professional experience in sustainability consulting

**Why MSLS**
I chose MSLS to strengthen my leadership and apply new strategic knowledge in sustainability to amplify my impact and contribution to society.

**Interest**
I'm interested in corporate sustainability, aiming to support organizations of all sizes and sectors in starting their sustainability journey and creating long-term value.

**Free Space**
Nature lover, dreamer, and optimist, looking for ways to create value and make a positive impact in the world.

**MATINA ROSENBERG**
**SWEDEN**

**Background**
Degree of Master of Science, Meteorology

**Why MSLS**
Learn more, grow more and find out more possible solutions for a sustainable future.

**Interest**
Leadership, circular economy and climate.

**Free Space**
Very focused on reaching goals, can climb mountains for that.

**ESTHER PRAH KOTI**
**GHANA**

**Background**
I have studied a Bsc in Business Administration, Accounting Major and an MSc in International Business. I worked with the University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project throughout my bachelor.

**Why MSLS**
My goal to be an active actor in creating a sustainable world and not passive!

**Interest**
I am interested in empowering businesses to become sustainable in all aspects.

**Free Space**
I have come to learn that - In the end, it truly gets better regardless of the outcome! Have faith and do your honest part!

**ANNIKA STEPPICH**
**GERMANY**

**Background**
In my Bachelor's I studied business administration and environmental management at Birkenfeld, the greenest campus in Germany. Then I started my Master studies in Sustainability Economics and Management at Oldenburg university. During my studies I worked in different companies and teams to implement an environmental management system. That way I experienced that sustainability is very transdisciplinary.

**Why MSLS**
BTH's focus on leadership, innovation management, and group-oriented projects resonates with my interests and future work aspirations. My goal is to work for an organisation where I can drive sustainable development and create a lasting positive impact.

**Interest**
I am very interested in social sustainability in reagrd to gender equality which includes the pay or care gap and glass ceiling.

**Free Space**
I prefer eating main dish and desert at the same time, so I can alternate sweet and salty taste. Try it :)

**DIEGO FICHE**
**BRAZIL**

**Background**
Education: International business - Professional: Global experiences in Leadership & team development, learning and development, coaching, marketing…

**Why MSLS**
I want to be part of leading the change in creating a more sustainable future for the next generations.

**Interest**
Leadership and the human side of transformation (adaptive capacity, behavior change, emotional intelligence, resilience).

**Free Space**
I believe conscious parents raise future leaders, and future leaders shape a better (sustainable) world. Fatherhood keeps me curious every day; it shows me that growth never stops, and that every moment is a chance to build the future we want to see.

**JAKOB ZIEHM**
**GERMANY**

**Background**
I hold a Bachelor's degree in Geography with political economics as a minor and gained professional experience in sustainability consulting, particularly in projects on the circular economy with large enterprises

**Why MSLS**
MSLS combines my interests in sustainability with leadership and systems thinking, offering a practical, international and diverse program that equips me to address complex global challenges. I was motivated especially to find common meaning with my peers, thereby creating a sense of purpose in my work life

**Interest**
My sustainability focus is on the circular economy and mitigating their rebound effects, but I'll admit I'm still exploring where exactly I want to specialize. Since my hobbies aren't exactly cheap, I'm motivated to find a path where I can make a good living without undermining the principles of strategic sustainable development.

**Free Space**
I'm the kind of person who can spend hours talking about sustainability, but probably twice as long about hockey, cycling, chess or pretty much any other sport. And yes, chess is a sport. I love traveling and collecting stories along the way. I absolutely adore my sisters. They'll tell you I'm way too competitive when it comes to board or card games though… which I strongly disagree with. They're just not trying hard enough.

# GALLERY

*Excursion to Skärva Farm*

*Scavenger hunt during the Welcome Week*

*Lunch in the sun*

*Spontaneous dinner at BTH*

# GALLERY

*A quick game of chess during the break*

*Trip to Wämöparken*

*Playing the weird game*

*Community time*

# GALLERY

*Scavenger hunt during the Welcome Week*

*Scavenger hunt during the Welcome Week*

*Visit to Aspö*

*Spontaneous dinner at BTH*

Together, we form not just a class, but a community – one that celebrates curiosity, resilience, and creativity. The MSLS program has brought us together in Karlskrona, but our impact will reach far beyond, as we carry forward the lessons, friendships, and visions we build here.This bio book is a glimpse into who we are – our journeys, our passions, and the dreams that brought us here. We hope it reflects the energy, diversity, and hope that define our class.

2026