



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM
STAFF COLLEGE

DECEMBER EVENT

**Nelson
Mandela
Project for
Social Change**

**TORINO, ITALY
3-4 DECEMBER, 2024**



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Introduction

The Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change aims to strengthen social capital for consensus building and to facilitate dialogue to promote participatory forms of governance at national and international levels. Against the backdrop of the UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda" Report, the project focuses on ways to build shared values and trust-based relations between people and institutions through the collection, dissemination and application of knowledge.

For purposes of the Nelson Mandela Project, **social change** is defined as a process of transforming patterns of thought, behaviour, social relations and institutions with the aim of more equitable, inclusive and peaceful societies.

Social change leadership is defined as action taken at the individual, institutional and societal level, aiming at inducing social transformation. Social change leadership is context driven, value-based and adaptive, taking into account influences and interests of different actors.

The founding partners of this project include the **UN System Staff College (UNSSC)** along with **five academic partners**. Since its creation, **two additional universities** have joined the initiative, bringing the **core member group** to **eight academic institutions**. Through building coalitions and strengthening capabilities for social change, the project will ultimately help to accelerate efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to build the basis for a more ambitious reform of the multilateral system.

Diagram 1. Reflection about Nelson Mandela and Social Change

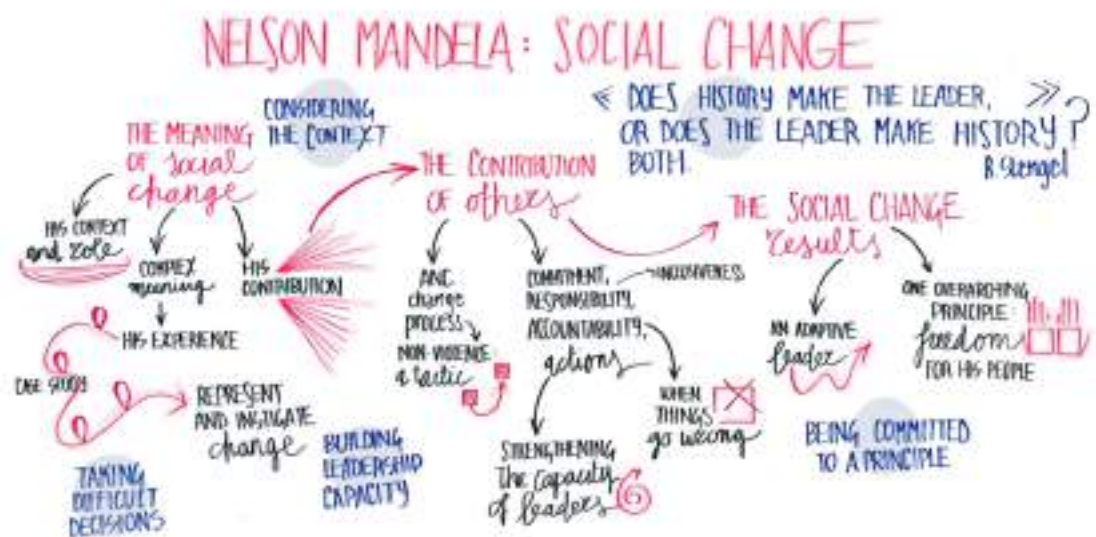


Diagram 2. Our Approaches to Social Change



Objectives

The overall aim of the Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change is to co-create learning journeys towards systems transformation by:

- **Strengthening Social Capital:** Enhance trust, networks, and shared values within and between communities to foster cooperation and collective action.
- **Promoting Consensus Building:** Develop frameworks and platforms that encourage dialogue and mutual understanding amongst diverse stakeholders.
- **Facilitating Participatory Governance:** Increase the capacity of communities and institutions to engage in participatory decision-making processes.
- **Fostering Social Change Leadership:** Promote leadership that drives social transformation, taking into account the influences and interests of various actors in different contexts

The Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change aspires to build a more cohesive, understanding, and participatory society by leveraging the power of social capital and dialogue. By fostering trust, promoting consensus building, and facilitating inclusive governance, this project aims to build a legacy of peace, development and cooperation that honours Nelson Mandela's enduring contributions to humanity.



PARTNERS



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is an institution of higher learning founded to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the people of the Middle East and beyond.

Chartered in New York State in 1863, the university bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. The university believes deeply in and encourages freedom of thought and expression and seeks to foster tolerance and respect for diversity and dialogue.

Graduates will be individuals committed to creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity, civic responsibility, and leadership.

Lina Abou-Habib

Lina Abou-Habib is the Director of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship. She is also the co-gender director of the AUB MEPI-TLS programme (Tomorrow's Leaders Gender Scholars Programme) and teaches undergraduate and graduate gender courses.

Abou-Habib currently serves on the boards of the Urgent Action Fund and the Doria Feminist Fund and is a member of the editorial committee of the Gender and Development Journal. She previously served as secretary and chair of the board of AWID and board member at Haven for Artists.

Tania Haddad

Tania Haddad is an associate professor of public administration at the American University of Beirut and the director of the Global Engagement Initiative. Her research focuses on civil society and social justice, nonprofit management, volunteering, disaster management, and e-government.

Tracy Sakr

Tracy Sakr is an advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Reform in Lebanon. She is also a Senior Research Assistant at the Asfari Institute for Civil Society & Citizenship. Tracy holds an MA in Public Administration from the American University of Beirut (AUB).





UNIVERSIDAD
AUSTRAL

Austral University is a higher education institution in Argentina, holding one of the top positions in the country according to The World University Ranking. The university is known for incorporating practices from both European and American traditions. This includes full-time faculty, research promotion, interdisciplinary work, active teaching methods, and engagement with society.

The School of Politics, Government and International Relations within the University focuses on providing education (undergraduate and graduate) and conducting research in the fields of international affairs, political sciences, and public policy.

Alfonso Santiago



Alfonso Santiago is the Director of the School of Politics, Government and International Relations. He has a Doctorate in Law from the University of Buenos Aires and 40 years of teaching experience in Constitutional Law. He is one of the founding professors of Austral University and has served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

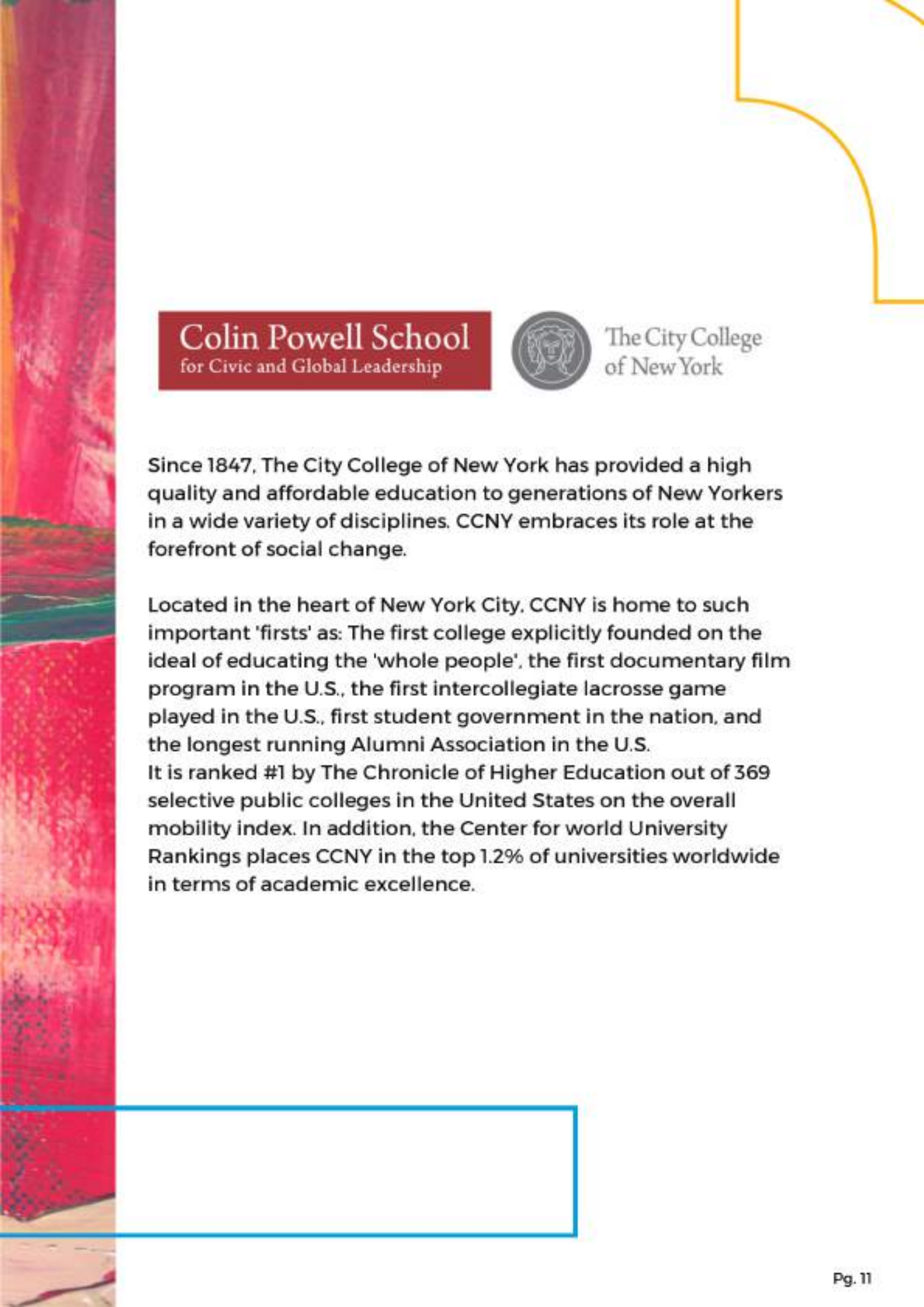
Alfonso is a member of the Buenos Aires Academy of Law and Social Sciences and the Royal Academy and Legislation of Spain. He has written 26 books on Constitutional Law and more than 150 scientific works.

Sofía del Carril



Sofía del Carril currently directs the Master's in International Relations program and oversees the International Relations area at Universidad Austral's School of Government.

Her career spans the public, private, consulting, and academic sectors across Argentina, the United States, and Colombia. She has collaborated with key organizations including the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Sustentar, CEVRO/NED, UN Human Rights Colombia, and the Buenos Aires Judiciary.



Colin Powell School

for Civic and Global Leadership



The City College
of New York

Since 1847, The City College of New York has provided a high quality and affordable education to generations of New Yorkers in a wide variety of disciplines. CCNY embraces its role at the forefront of social change.

Located in the heart of New York City, CCNY is home to such important 'firsts' as: The first college explicitly founded on the ideal of educating the 'whole people', the first documentary film program in the U.S., the first intercollegiate lacrosse game played in the U.S., first student government in the nation, and the longest running Alumni Association in the U.S.

It is ranked #1 by The Chronicle of Higher Education out of 369 selective public colleges in the United States on the overall mobility index. In addition, the Center for world University Rankings places CCNY in the top 1.2% of universities worldwide in terms of academic excellence.

Andrew Rich



Andrew Rich became Dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at The City College of New York in February 2019.

From 2011-2019, Rich was Executive Secretary & CEO of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, a federal agency that supports young people pursuing public service leadership across the United States.

Rich is Chair of the Board of Friends of the Truman Foundation. He previously taught political science at CCNY and Wake Forest University. He received his BA from the University of Richmond and his PhD in political science from Yale University.

Richard Stengel



Richard Stengel served under President Obama as Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs from 2013-16. Stengel led the department's counter-disinformation efforts. He led the creation of the Global Engagement Center, the United States' only public entity tasked with responding to disinformation.

Before the State Department, he was the Editor of Time Magazine for seven years, the CEO of the National Constitution Center, and is also the author of several books. He collaborated with Nelson Mandela on the South African's autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom." His new book "Information Wars" on the US fight against disinformation is out this fall.

Debbie Cheng



Debbie Cheng joined the Colin Powell School in October 2019. She directs five undergraduate fellowships and one graduate fellowship, as well as the Semester in DC program, all of which support students working toward public service careers. In addition, she oversees the Office of Student Success, launched in Spring 2022.

Prior to the Colin Powell School, Cheng was Program Officer of the Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, based at the Social Science Research Council. She has a PhD from UC Berkeley's Energy and Resources Group.

Bobby Derival



Bobby Derival is the Executive Director of the MPA Graduate Program at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. He manages the academic and administrative dimensions of a diverse program that prepares students for careers in public service and nonprofit management.

Drawing on his background as a public health practitioner and entrepreneur, he enhances educational programming and provides mentorship to students and faculty. A proud alumnus of the Coro Leadership New York fellowship, he is deeply connected to New York City's civic leadership landscape.



**SCHOOL OF
POLITICS,
ECONOMICS &
GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

We aim to shape a new generation of innovative and entrepreneurial leaders. With diverse and cutting-edge education that promotes a wide understanding of the challenges our planet confronts; we empower our students to drive change.

We leverage tech and the experience of a world-class faculty of practitioners to build a unique educational experience. We merge theory and practice in collaboration with the United Nations, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other organizations to provide practical and meaningful experiences.

Drawing on the research and resources of our network of centers, and direct access to government heads, policymakers, and leading sector figures, we bring the world to our campus and send our students out ready to change the world.

Borja Santos Porras

Borja Santos Porras currently serves as the Vice Dean, Professor, and Academic Coordinator of Sustainable Development and Management Skills at IE School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs. He is also the President of the Harvard Kennedy School Spain Alumni Network.

Borja holds a Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID) from the Harvard Kennedy School. He also holds a Master in International Relations and a combined BEng+MEng in Telecommunication Engineering, graduating cum laude for his final thesis from the University of Valladolid. Additionally, he completed professional piano studies at the Professional Music School of Valladolid.

Ángeles Figueroa-Alcorta Marin

Ángeles Figueroa-Alcorta Marin is Executive Director for Partnerships at IE School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs.

Ángeles has served as senior advisor on national security issues in the presidential cabinet of Argentina. She also led the department of international relations and was executive director of the master's in international relations at Universidad Austral in Buenos Aires from 2016 to 2020.

Alberto Cremonesi-Smitheman

Alberto has over 20 years of global experience in sustainability strategy design and implementation; social impact; impact measurement; ESG and innovation management.

He holds a Global Executive MBA degree from IE Business School and a MSc degree in Economics and International Relations from the Postgraduate Schools of Economics and International Affairs. Since 2018 he teaches on topics of sustainability; leadership; social impact; social entrepreneurship, system thinking and innovation at IE University as well as serving as Academic Director of International Development and Partnerships at IE University.





KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT)

Deemed to be University U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), a household name in the education sector, has become a sought-after destination in India for professional studies. It is admired all over for the quality of its academic courses, its community outreach work and as a university of compassion and humanitarianism. It has become a case study because no other educational institution in India has grown in its scope and scale as much as KIIT has in a short span of 25 years.

Today, KIIT offers professional education to around 40,000 students from across India. This includes 2000 international students from 65 countries. The alumni of KIIT, over a lakh of them, have made their mark in their respective careers in academics, corporate organizations, civil services and enterprise.

Debashis Bandyopadhyay

Debashis Bandyopadhyay has joined as the Pro-Vice Chancellor of KIIT Deemed University. Formerly he was the interim Vice Chancellor of Kazi Nazrul University, West Bengal and Professor of English at Rabindra Bharati University.

As a Fulbright Scholar, he taught and pursued research in California State University, USA and was engaged in Post-Doctoral Research in St Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK. He has been an International Visiting Professor in Mexico and Greece. His book, 'Locating the Anglo-Indian Self in Ruskin Bond: A Postcolonial Review', unveiled by Anthem Press, New York, has been shortlisted by the Washington Higher Education Chronicle..

Dwiti Vikramaditya

Mr. Dwiti Vikramaditya currently serving as Vice President of KIIT University and KISS University. Mr. Vikramaditya has actively engaged in policymaking, collaborating with state governments and stakeholders on vital areas such as Resettlement and Rehabilitation and State Youth Policy.

Mr. Vikramaditya boasts a diverse portfolio, having collaborated with renowned entities such as UNDP, UN Women, and Tata Steel in different capacities. His groundbreaking initiative, the Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual (MTB-MLE) program, designed to bridge language gaps and preserve indigenous dialects, was honored with the UNESCO International Literacy Prize in 2022.



Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy

The National University of Singapore (NUS) aspires to be a vital community of academics, researchers, staff, students and alumni working together in a spirit of innovation and enterprise for a better world.

As a part of NUS, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy educates and trains the next generation of Asian policymakers and leaders. Located in Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy is at the heart of one of the best public policy laboratories in the world.

Marina Kaneti



Marina Kaneti is an Assistant Professor at the LKY School of Public Policy, specializing in the geopolitics of global governance, with a focus on migration, climate change, and technology.

Her publications appear in peer-reviewed journals like *Citizenship Studies* and *Sustainable Development*, and she frequently contributes op-eds to *The Diplomat*.

Dr. Kaneti teaches courses such as "Geopolitics of Heritage" and "Century 21: Global (In)Securities" and has received the 2021 NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award. Previously, she worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and as an Equity Trader on Wall Street. Her expertise extends to public policy, AI ethics, capacity building, and social entrepreneurship.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

The University of Cape Town is one of the leading higher education institutions on the African continent and has a tradition of academic excellence that is respected worldwide.

The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, which forms a part of the Faculty of Commerce at the university, provides professional and academic training and forums for discussion for senior public officials and those engaged in public policy across Africa and the world. Its mission is to build inclusive, developmental, entrepreneurial, and effective democratic African public institutions.

Faizel Ismail

Faizel Ismail is the Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town. He has a PhD in politics from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, an master of philosophy in development studies from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, and bachelor of arts and bachelor of law degrees from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (Pietermaritzburg) in South Africa.

Penny Parenzee

Penny Parenzee is the Senior Programme Manager at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at University of Cape Town(UCT).She has a background in Law and Social Policy and has been involved in monitoring the implementation of various pieces of legislation and examined policy processes related to land, violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in South Africa, Southern African Development Community and East Africa.



UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

Since its inception in 2002, the UN System Staff College has continuously adapted to respond to the learning, training and knowledge management needs of UN staff and relevant partners.

Established as an inter-agency learning institution, we have become strategic partners to a wide planet-spanning network of stakeholders.

Each year we offer over 220 programmes to over 44,000 professionals. Either online, face-to-face, or a combination of both, our learning solutions deliver high-quality learning experiences that support professionals along their learning journeys.

Jafar Javan

Jafar Javan is leading the UN System Staff College(UNSSC).

He has worked in the UN system for over 35 years in a variety of positions and in various regions. Prior to joining the Staff College, Jafar was the Director of Policy for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional centre for Europe and the CIS based in Bratislava, Slovakia.

He earned his bachelor of arts and master of arts from the American University in Washington DC and a PhD in Psychology from the North Carolina State University in the U.S.

Simona Costanzo Sow

As Chief, Academic Partnerships at the United Nations Systems Staff College, Simona oversees relations with academic partners and creates spaces for a science-policy-society dialogue to develop capabilities to address today's complex challenges holistically. Previously, Simona designed and implemented learning and training formats for senior leaders in the UN System and beyond on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, related leadership approaches, systems thinking and policy coherence.

Simona has extensive experience in policy advocacy, partnership building and networking in the inter-governmental sphere, as well as in civil society, academia and the private sector. She has a track record in capacity-building, non-formal education, learning and training, as well as community empowerment and stakeholder engagement.



SPECIAL GUEST

Verne Harris



Verne Harris is an executive consultant at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. He was Mandela's archivist from 2004 to 2013, directed the Foundation's archives programme for 15 years, the dialogue and advocacy programme for 5 years, and was acting chief executive for 18 months in 2023-4. He is an adjunct professor at both the Nelson Mandela University and the University of Cape Town, served in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and is a former Deputy Director of the National Archives.

He has authored or co-authored six books, the most recent one being *Ghosts of Archive* (2021). He is the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Cordoba (Argentina 2014) and the University of Pretoria (South Africa 2023), held the Follet Chair at Dominican University (Chicago) in 2018-9, received archival publication awards from Australia, Canada and South Africa, and both his novels were short-listed for South Africa's M-Net Book Prize.

He was a selection panel member for Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity (2017-2022) and has served on the Boards of Archival Science, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, the Freedom of Expression Institute, the Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development and the South African History Archive.



our principles

COLLECTIVE FOCUS-
SOCIAL CHANGE

VALUES
BASED

SHARED DESIRE TO
CONTRIBUTE TO
POSITIVE SOCIAL
CHANGE AND MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

CO-CREATION AND
CO-AUTHORSHIP
AS EQUAL PARTNERS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
TO CO-LEAD
AND SUPPORT

MUTUAL
RECOGNITION
AND RESPECT

ITERATIVE, DYNAMIC
PROCESS BASED ON
CONSULTATIVE
COLLABORATION

REGIONAL
AND GLOBAL REACH

OPEN PROCESSES
AND MECHANISMS

CONSENSUS
BASED DECISION-MAKING

BE REAL

FACILITATORS

Meher Joseph

Meher is an Associate Learning Officer at the United Nations System Staff College.

She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, India, and her Master's Degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University, New York, USA. During her post-graduate studies, she had the opportunity to intern with the JPO Programme at UN DESA, which inculcated in her a keen appreciation for the transformative work of the United Nations.



Gabriele Segre

Gabriele Segre is an expert on issues of identity, coexistence and leadership. Since 2018, he has been the Director of the Vittorio Dan Segre Foundation, an international foundation dedicated to promoting a culture of identity coexistence.

Gabriele studied international relations and oriental studies at the Catholic University of Milan and the National University of Singapore. He continued his academic training with a master's degree in oriental studies and leadership from Columbia University in New York and a doctorate in leadership and public policy in Singapore.



Thanks to UNSSC's organizing team



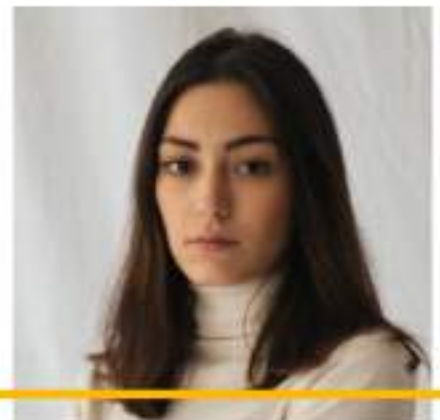
Alessandra Rangel Castillo,
Associate Fellow, Academic
Partnerships



Michelle Casanova,
Academic Fellow, Academic
Partnerships



Anka Rouissi, Intern,
Academic Partnerships



Shirin Rajaei Esfahani,
Intern, Academic
Partnerships



Allison Pizzolato,
Programme Assistant



***Vision without execution
is hallucination***

— John Peter Zenger



Notes:



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