

# Annual Report



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# REMEMBERING CHARLES 'CHUCK' FEENEY

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) community is deeply saddened by the passing of Charles 'Chuck' F. Feeney, the founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies, whose gift funded the establishment of the AFSEE Programme and our six sister programmes.<sup>1</sup> Chuck saw the establishment of the seven Atlantic Fellows programmes as one of his last big bets to produce significant, long-lasting solutions to reduce inequities and advance a fairer, healthier, more inclusive world.<sup>2</sup>

Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director of AFSEE, said that Chuck was an extraordinary individual whose incredible generosity not only touched but transformed the lives of so many people around the world. "In the spirit of 'giving while living', Chuck donated the bulk of his fortune to support education, health and equity and he did so quietly and humbly. Chuck Feeney has left behind an incredible legacy. We at AFSEE will never forget his generosity and vision. We are grateful for what he and everyone at Atlantic Philanthropies have enabled and set in motion," said Professor Ishkanian."

Dr Claire Gordon, Chair of the AFSEE Governing Board, said Chuck Feeney's visionary and generous legacy will live on through the global community of Atlantic Fellows programmes. "On behalf of the AFSEE Governing Board, I would like to thank Chuck Feeney for the inspirational and life-changing programme that his generosity has made possible at

LSE. His memory, values, and legacy live on through our thriving community of AFSEE Fellows," said Dr Gordon.

Chuck's vision for a more equitable world has so far supported over 800 Fellows across the seven programmes, including 116 AFSEE Fellows. "Chuck Feeney's transformative gift of the Atlantic Fellowship programmes embodies the call to action implicit in Nelson Mandela's words, 'As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest,'" said AFSEE Fellow Jane Sloane (2017-18 Cohort).

AFSEE Fellow Pedro Telles (2018-19 Cohort) said, "Philanthropy should be about helping build the conditions for philanthropists not to be needed anymore, but not many philanthropists approach it that way. By giving away all his fortune without seeking attention, Chuck Feeney walked the talk and led the way to philanthropic practices where impact is truly and solely the priority."

## HONOURING THE LEGACY OF CHUCK FEENEY AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

The AFSEE Programme hosted a special event at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) on Thursday 6 June 2024 to celebrate the life and legacy of Chuck Feeney. The event was attended by members of the AFSEE, LSE, and Atlantic Fellows communities, and Chuck's friends and family.

The special event included opening remarks from Dr Claire Gordon, Chair of the AFSEE Governing Board and a panel discussion with AFSEE Executive Director Professor Armine Ishkanian, President and CEO of the Atlantic Philanthropies, Christopher Oechsli; former chair of the Atlantic Philanthropies Board, Peter Smitham and AFSEE Fellow Kevin Liverpool (2021-22 Cohort). The panel discussed Chuck's vision for the Atlantic Fellowships and how his legacy can be seen through the work of AFSEE, AFSEE Fellows, and the wider Atlantic Fellows community. A highlights film was produced after the event for those who could not attend in person.<sup>3</sup>

The event also launched an AFSEE mini-exhibition showcasing Chuck's legacy through the incredible work that AFSEE Fellows are doing to tackle social and economic inequalities globally. The exhibition features 18 AFSEE Fellows working on the following six themes: climate justice, decolonisation, gender equity, human rights, fiscal justice, and youth empowerment. After the special event, the mini-exhibition was displayed in the Centre Building on LSE campus in London, UK.

<sup>1</sup> 'The Atlantic Philanthropies', Published on ATLANTICPHILANTHROPIES.ORG.

<sup>2</sup> 'Atlantic Fellows', Published on ATLANTICFELLOWS.ORG.

<sup>3</sup> 'Highlights: AFSEE special event celebrating Chuck Feeney'. Published on YOUTUBE.COM.





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

In the past year, new and ongoing conflicts, climate-related disasters and growing inequalities of wealth have created turmoil, violence and polarisation. In these uncertain times, we continue our work to advance social and economic equity. From our rigorous curriculum to our robust governance structures and innovative lifelong offerings, the AFSEE Programme continues to work with Fellows and colleagues across LSE, the Atlantic Fellows community, and beyond.



During this period of fragmentation and great tumult, AFSEE strives to remain an inclusive and welcoming space that fosters dialogue. Remaining true to our founding charter and principles, AFSEE, as a global fellowship programme, supports Fellows to 'bridge' across divides and "to engage in uncomfortable discussions, and have the compassion and courage to understand, be open to and be changed by others' perspectives and experiences."

To accomplish our mission, we have identified four strategic goals and areas of work. In accordance with the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, AFSEE is working to advance the four key goals and pillars of action:

- 1. Fellowship experience:** to design and deliver a rigorous, interconnected and innovative fellowship programme
- 2. Lifelong engagement:** to provide robust lifelong engagement opportunities for Senior Fellows
- 3. Fellow and programme impact:** to support and strengthen the impact of Fellows and to promote the visibility and reputation of the AFSEE Programme
- 4. Global networks and partnerships:** to strengthen the programme's global connections and impact

To achieve these goals, we have developed robust governance structures and have a strong operational team. Our work is informed and guided by the AFSEE Programme Charter. Below is a

summary of some of the key highlights from the 2023/24 academic year.

## OUR GOVERNANCE

I thank all the members of the AFSEE Governing Board for their time and support of AFSEE. I am particularly grateful to Dr Claire Gordon, the Chair of the Governing Board, for her superb and thoughtful leadership. Her support and guidance have been invaluable in this tumultuous year. The AFSEE Senior Fellow representative on the Board, Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam (2020-21 Cohort) continues in the role, and I am grateful to Anwar for his insightful contributions and dedication.

In addition to the Governing Board, AFSEE's work is also supported by the Programme Committee, which is a consultative body that provides knowledge and expertise to the programme around key areas including the curriculum, programming and outreach. The AFSEE Programme Committee is comprised of core team members, our learning partners and Senior Fellows. This year we were joined by Raquel Jesse from our partner organisation, the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, and Selam Bedada from our sister programme, the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity. I would like to thank the outgoing

[afsee.atlanticfellows.lse.ac.uk](https://afsee.atlanticfellows.lse.ac.uk)

 Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

 Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

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Senior Fellow members of the 2023/24 AFSEE Programme Committee for their hard work and service: Dr Fola Adeleke (2017-18 Cohort) and Salman Usmani (2022-23 Cohort).

## OUR PROGRAMME

The seventh cohort of AFSEE Fellows started their fellowship experience in September 2023. One of the ways that we embed the new Fellows into the wider AFSEE Community from the beginning is by inviting Senior Fellows to present in the AFSEE Modules. This year, Dr Tyehimba Salandy (2020-21 Cohort) gave an excellent lecture during Module 1 on his research in Trinidad and Tobago. We also welcomed back the following Senior Fellows to present in the Senior Fellows' roundtables:

- Module 1: Dr Fola Adeleke (2017-18 Cohort), Ruby Hembrom (2021-22 Cohort), and Dr Máximo Jaramillo Molina (2020-21 Cohort)
- Module 2: Aisha Abdulaziz (2021-22 Cohort), Danilo Ćurčić (2020-21 Cohort), and Hamidreza Vasheghanifarahani (2022-23 Cohort)
- Module 3: Allison Corkery (2018-19 Cohort), Zephania Repollo (2021-22 Cohort), and Pedro Telles (2018-19 Cohort)
- Module 4: Alon-Lee Green (2019-20 Cohort), Makmid Kamara (2021-22 Cohort), and Michaela Rafferty (2019-20 Cohort)

In March 2024, AFSEE completed the recruitment for its eighth cohort. On the back of the huge success of the first AFSEE Ambassador Programme, we recruited another group of Senior Fellows to support our outreach this year. Similar to last year, the ambassadors worked on identifying

and communicating with contacts in their regions and hosted a series of informational webinars.

The AFSEE Ambassadors in 2023/24 were:

- Caribbean: Kevin Liverpool (2021-22 Cohort)
- Central America: Gabriela Valencia (2022-23 Cohort)
- Europe: Kitti Baracsi (2020-21 Cohort)
- Middle East and North Africa: Hamidreza Vasheghanifarahani (2022-23 Cohort)
- South America: Amanda Segnini (2021-22 Cohort)
- Southeast Asia: Lily Jamaludin (2022-23 Cohort)
- South Asia: Priyanka Jain (2022-23 Cohort)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Craig Dube (2018-19 Cohort) and Oabona Sepora (2020-21 Cohort)

We thank the ambassadors for their great efforts, which contributed to the record number of applications received this year – 688 in total.

As our Senior Fellows community grows year on year, we are investing more resources in this area of work to support the development and implementation of various lifelong offerings to Senior Fellows. Some of the key highlights from this strand of work this year have been the series of academic-practitioner case studies written by Senior Fellows as part of the 'Exploring the potential of academic-practitioner collaborations for social change (AcPrac)' project, the great work produced by Senior Fellows as part of Stage 2 of the AFSEE Incubation Labs, not to mention the second round of the Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) research grants, to which we received a record number of applications from Senior Fellows

## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Chuck Feeney in October 2023, thanks to whose generosity and vision the AFSEE Programme exists. All of us at AFSEE are enormously grateful to Chuck and the Atlantic Philanthropies team, in particular President and CEO Chris Oechsli, for their support. AFSEE held an event to celebrate Chuck's life and legacy in June, attended by Chuck's family and friends, alongside LSE colleagues and members of the AFSEE Community.

This year, we bid farewell to two members of the AFSEE team: Dr Sara Camacho Felix and Adele Oliver. Sara has been at AFSEE for five years and has played a key role in shaping the fellowship experience by introducing pedagogical innovations and spearheading the accreditation of the non-residential track of the programme. We will miss Sara and thank her for her commitment to the programme and Fellows. We wish her well in her new job at King's College London. Adele, who has not been with AFSEE as long, but has played a key part in helping us define our knowledge exchange and impact work, is leaving LSE to begin a PhD at the University of Glasgow. We wish her much success in her studies.

We live in a world of great adversity, conflicts and inequalities, and having hope for a better future in such bleak times is not easy. Yet, if we acknowledge that inequality is not inevitable, in other words, that it is not some physical law of nature such as gravity, then we know that it can be tackled and that a fairer, healthier and more inclusive world is possible.



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD



As we reach the end of another successful year for the AFSEE Programme, I am delighted to share some reflections as Chair of the Governing Board. Across all four AFSEE strategic priorities, ambitious and exciting projects and activities are underway embedding the AFSEE vision and laying the foundations for lasting impact. This year has not been without its challenges, however. Global events have tested the resolve of our community to continue to live and learn according to the principles of equity, curiosity, gracious understanding, and generosity set out in our Programme Charter.

The AFSEE Governing Board met twice this academic year, once online in January 2024, and for the second time at LSE in July 2024 coinciding with the Board of Boards

meetings at the Atlantic Institute in Oxford, which brought together for the first-time Governing Board members from all the seven Atlantic Fellows Programmes. At AFSEE, we have sought to make our board meetings a space for active engagement combining authentic probing discussions on, at times, challenging issues as well as celebrating the many successes of AFSEE's work. Without this balance, we are not doing our job

We have also had some changes to the Governing Board this year. We said goodbye to Nicolette Naylor, who stepped down to become the Deputy Chair of the Atlantic Institute Governing Board, and Professor Gurminder Bhambra and Professor Stephan Chambers also reached the end of their terms. I would like to thank Nicolette, Gurminder and Stephan for being part of our AFSEE journey, for bringing their critical insights to the programme, and for their generosity of spirit and commitment through a period of change and consolidation. Though departures are always sad, they also make way for new arrivals. We are delighted to have welcomed two new board members from LSE; Professor Ernestina Coast (Department of International Development), who joined in January 2024 and more recently Professor Hakan Seckinelgin (Department of Social Policy).

The highlight of the year for me was undoubtedly the event in May 2024 to honour and celebrate the life and legacy of our benefactor Chuck Feeney. It was a profoundly personal moment as we remembered the man, his vision, and his commitment to giving while living and to building catalytic communities of global changemakers working to reduce social, economic and health inequities in the world. Thank you, Chuck.

It is a huge honour for me to be a member of the AFSEE Community and to be able to play a small role in upholding its values and principles. During my time at AFSEE, I have seen the programme go from strength to strength under the transformational and inspirational leadership of the programme's Executive Director, Professor Armine Ishkanian, to whom I extend enormous thanks. I would also like to thank Chris Oechsli, President and CEO of Atlantic Philanthropies and Chair of the Atlantic Institute Governing Board, for his continuing wise counsel and commitment to AFSEE, and his engagement with the programme over the past year.

**Dr Claire Gordon**  
Chair, AFSEE Governing Board

# WHO WE ARE

**The AFSEE programme, based at LSE International Inequalities Institute, is building a catalytic, values-led global community of people who are committed to using collective leadership to work towards social and economic justice for all. By drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies, and the Fellows' experience and expertise, the AFSEE Programme empowers a new generation of changemakers, including policymakers, activists, researchers, practitioners and campaigners, to work together across disciplines, backgrounds and borders.**

Established with a landmark gift from The Atlantic Philanthropies in 2016, over 20 years, the AFSEE Programme will support more than 400 Fellows from all over the world. Their active fellowship year centres on four key learning modules designed to support the Fellows' growth and development as leaders of social change. Residential Fellows undertake an MSc in Inequalities and Social Science at

LSE and participate in the AFSEE Modules, while Non-Residential Fellows remain in their home and professional environments and travel to attend the modules while carrying out project work. From the 2024/25 academic year onwards, Non-Residential Fellows will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Economic Equity upon successful completion of the active fellowship year.

AFSEE is one of seven Atlantic Fellow Programmes, which together create a global community to advance fairer, healthier and more inclusive societies. After finishing their active fellowship year, all Atlantic Fellows become part of a connected community of changemakers and receive ongoing support from the Atlantic Institute throughout their careers with opportunities to meet, learn from one another and connect with the global community. Based in Oxford at Rhodes Trust, the Atlantic Institute amplifies the impact of the Atlantic Fellows network and helps promote a lifelong community among Fellows. The Atlantic Philanthropies has invested over US\$600 million to support the work of this global network of thousands of Atlantic Fellows over the next two decades and beyond.

## OUR VALUES

*Fairness*

*Courage*

*Kindness*

*Curiosity*

*Commitment*



# IMPACT AND REACH

## IMPACT STORIES

**Anita Peña Saavedra** (2018-19 Cohort)

advises the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality at the Government of Chile on the intersectional factors that intervene in gender inequality as well as promotes policies for preventing and addressing gender-based violence across Latin America and the Caribbean. Recently, she has introduced technological innovation in the monitoring of cases of gender-based violence and created actions that mitigate the gaps and barriers that persist for LGBTIQ+ people in accessing gender violence services.



**Carlos Brown Solà** (2022-23 Cohort)

aims to make fiscal discussions and decisions accessible to everyone, rather than just a selected few. His Fellowship Project 'Revolución Fiscal' is a collective endeavour focusing on the concept of fiscal justice from a Global South perspective, aimed at demystifying common ideas around fiscal issues and tax justice. In the launch event for the project in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, community members, tax justice activists, and performers discussed and explored fiscal justice through creative approaches including board games and arts.



**Danilo Ćurčić** (2020-21 Cohort) is working to bring economic and social rights to the most vulnerable communities and individuals in Serbia through his work at the A11 Initiative. By challenging the system through legal support, strategic litigation and community building, Danilo is trying to remind people that inequality, poverty, exclusion and forced evictions are not their fault, but the consequence of deep-rooted inequalities. He is also trying to change the dominant narrative of housing as a commodity rather than a crucial human right important for human dignity.



**Jack Nissan** (2017-18 Cohort)

founded the Tinderbox Collective, a diverse community of young people, musicians and artists, to help young people build their confidence, creativity and imagination to achieve things they may never have thought possible. Recent initiatives include 'We Make Music Instrument Libraries', a campaign to get musical instruments into public libraries across Scotland so people can borrow them for free, and the Music Manifesto for Scotland, a successful campaign led by the Music Education Partnership Group in 2021 to make music tuition free in all schools across Scotland.



**Jite Phido** (2021-22 Cohort) is working on a book exploring alternative visions for decolonising philanthropic funding practice in Africa with fellow Africans within the Atlantic Fellows community and beyond. Through her equity and systems innovation work at Results for Development with the International Development Innovation Alliance, she has also been partnering up with equity champions from across Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean to challenge dominant norms of global philanthropy in innovation. This aims to mainstream equitable and inclusive funding practices that emphasise local voice, power and agency for leading systems transformation.



**Madhumitha Ardhanari** (2019-20

Cohort) has been working on sustainability and ecological action in Southeast Asia for over 10 years and the AFSEE Fellowship inspired her to particularly focus on the regional sand crisis. Sand is the world's most used solid material and is ecologically important, yet often neglected. Madhu is currently a doctoral candidate for a joint PhD programme between the Universities of Exeter and Queensland, where she is researching responsible and circular extraction of critical minerals and sand as part of a low-carbon transition, in the hopes of centring justice and art in rethinking extractivism.



## AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS



**Fredrick Ouko Alucheli** (2017-18 Cohort) was selected to take part in the #ShiftThePower Fellowship, organised by the Global Fund for Community Foundations.



**Jane Sloane** (2017-18 Cohort) was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Adelaide for her work in empowering individuals and organisations to make real change.



**Katy Rubin** (2023-24 Cohort) was selected as the 'Policy Change-Maker of the Year' in the Arts and Homelessness International Awards.



**Máximo Ernesto Jaramillo-Molina** (2020-21 Cohort) won the 2023 National Journalism Award in the category of 'Opinion Journalism and Analysis' for his piece for Nexos on the housing crisis in Mexico.



**Myriam Hernández Vázquez** (2021-22 Cohort) won the 'Best VR Experience' – award at the Pordenone Docs Fest with her film *GAWI*, co-created with the Rarámuri indigenous community in Mexico.



**Roseline Orwa** (2018-19 Cohort) won a Gender Equality Champion award from ForumCiv for her work in advocating for widows.



**Stephanie Akinwoya** (2022-23 Cohort) was named as one of the top 50 finalists for the Global Teacher Prize.

## AFSEE FELLOWS



116  
FELLOWS



53  
COUNTRIES

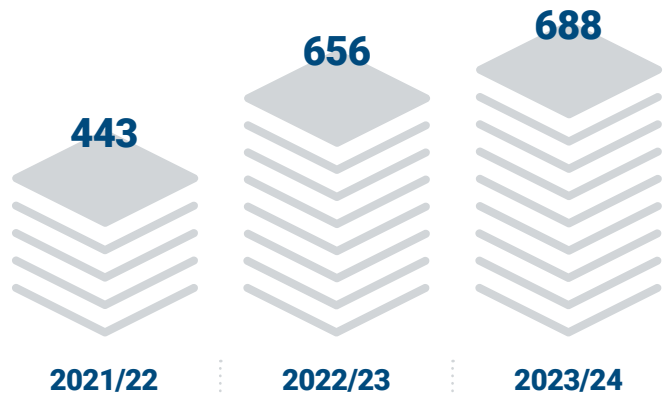


7  
COHORTS

### MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

1. Gender equity
2. Human rights
3. Climate justice and sustainability
4. Youth and education
5. Decolonisation
6. Fiscal and tax justice
7. Technology and digital rights

## AFSEE APPLICATIONS



OF ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WERE FROM APPLICANTS BASED IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 103 COUNTRIES.



# AFSEE'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

## OUR EDUCATIONAL VISION

The AFSEE Programme retains its educational vision centred on three pillars: 1) development of a research-rich education, 2) fostering a dialogic pedagogy, and 3) reflection on professional practice to create global solidarity. This pedagogy is informed by both the works of Brazilian educator and philosopher, Paulo Freire (1970) and American author, theorist and educator, bell hooks (1994) on challenging banking models of education and envisioning education as a site to transgress.

AFSEE achieves its educational vision by supporting researchers and practitioners in working towards the creation of a more socially and economically equitable world. This means engaging with meaningful research across contexts to understand the causes and consequences of inequalities and to act for justice. We do this by fostering dialogue with researchers and practitioners to allow for more holistic thinking and the sharing of ideas and perspectives. The aim is for research to become meaningful for practitioners and for them to be

able to conduct impactful research. This informs each of the four modules of the programme: 1) Foundations of Social and Economic Inequalities (in-person), 2) Policy for Equity (online), 3) Challenging and Transforming Inequality (in-person), and 4) a thematic module on a specific aspect of inequalities (in-person).

## ADAPTING THE CURRICULUM TO REFLECT THE CHANGING REALITIES OF INEQUALITIES

This year saw the continuation of the existing three main modules, with a few small adaptations to represent the changing realities of inequalities around intersecting issues.

In light of the ongoing climate emergency, and its intersections with issues of justice and equity, a session was added to Module 2 discussing how policy can both address and exacerbate issues of climate justice. Dr Muna Dajani led the session, drawing on her work in Palestine, and introducing Fellows to concepts like greenwashing and green colonialism.

Two changes were also made to Module 3. First, a session was added on the evening of the second day, where Dr George Kunnath led an interactive discussion with Fellows and panel speakers Professor Hazel Carby, Dr Maël Lavenaire, Dr Sara Camacho Felix, and Dr Shalini Grover on what it means to decolonise. The second change focused on AFSEE piloting a 'country case study' day, where concepts around bottom-up approaches were analysed through a country case study – South Africa. Dr Shauna Mottiar explained the history of social movements in South Africa, from the activism against Apartheid to the current era. Joined by Dr Vuyiseka Dubula-Majola and Thami Nkosi, she then had a lively dialogue with Fellows about the reality of organising movements and the need for coordination between civil society organisations and social movements in South Africa. The day ended with an interactive session with Mark Heywood, social activist, journalist and creator of a new political party. This session focused on his experiences in activist journalism and encouraged Fellows to consider how they use the media in their activism.



*The panel for the decolonising discussion at Module 3 in June 2024*



## MODULE 4: CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND JUSTICE

The thematic module for this academic year focused on conflict, violence and justice. With the rising number of wars, conflicts and violence around the world, including in Congo, Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and Sudan (to name a few), it seemed important to bring these issues into the classroom to understand how these conflicts, and violence more broadly, intersect with issues of global social and economic inequality.

Invited speakers for this module included: Professor Jenny Pearce, who provided an in-depth look at the, often hidden, violence of elites and the relations to inequalities focusing on Latin America; Professor Dina Matar, who spoke on media narratives in conflicts, drawing on her work in Palestine; Dr George Kunnath, who spoke about violence from below, especially in relation to his work with Maoist revolutionaries in India; and Brazilian journalist Leandro Demori who led a session on surveillance, intimidation and activist journalism.



2023-24 Cohort Fellows and AFSEE staff at Module 4 in June 2024

### POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

Starting in the 2024/25 academic year, AFSEE Non-Residential Fellows will now earn a Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Economic Equity, awarded by LSE. A postgraduate certificate is an internationally recognised academic certificate regulated by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. This is the first postgraduate certificate to be recognised and offered by LSE.

Non-Residential Fellows who complete all the required elements of the AFSEE Programme and submit their project will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate. With this comes academic recognition for the level of work that these Fellows produce, and should they wish to pursue further postgraduate study, this certificate and its transcripts would count towards those studies. This is a huge achievement for AFSEE and offers an opportunity for other institutes, centres and departments across the school to begin developing their own postgraduate certificates.

“

AFSEE achieves its educational vision by supporting researchers and practitioners in working towards the creation of a more socially and economically equitable world.”

# MY FELLOWSHIP YEAR: EMBRACING MY INVISIBLE DISABILITY

**I applied for the AFSEE Programme to learn more about the root cause of inequalities and most importantly to join a community of changemakers who are committed to learning from each other. It was the best decision that I have ever made, writes James Aung (2022-23 Cohort).**



While I am a person who enjoys working with people more than reading and writing, studying for an MSc in Inequalities and Social Science at LSE was one of the best journeys in my life.<sup>4</sup> Little did I imagine that in addition to my focus and learning about my interest area, my perception of my invisible disability would also change during my studies.

## MY INVISIBLE DISABILITY AND DISCOVERING LSE

Students with disabilities often have lower academic performance and graduation rates and those with invisible disabilities also face challenges due to unfair perceptions. Before I started my studies at LSE, one of my biggest

concerns was whether I could hear during lectures and seminars. While I look 'normal' and do not seem to have any issues, my hearing impairment poses significant challenges in various aspects of my life, especially communication and social interactions. It can be difficult for others to understand the extent of my disability since it is not immediately visible. I always have to ask people to repeat what they say (sometimes 3 to 4 times), which makes me feel like a burden or an inconvenience. As a result, I always avoid meeting people in noisy environments or crowded places where it becomes even more challenging for me to hear and understand conversations. I constantly struggle to fit in.

However, despite my initial concerns, I felt included and welcomed since the very beginning of the first AFSEE Module. The AFSEE Programme offered additional support, such as a live captioning service, which helped me catch up on information that I had missed during the lectures. Moreover, AFSEE connected me to LSE disability and wellbeing service (DWS) early on in my studies to ensure that I received the support that I needed during my studies.<sup>5</sup> After an assessment arranged by DWS to find out more about my needs, I was provided with a learning support plan (LSP) and some assistive devices to help my impaired hearing problem. This proactive approach gave me confidence that my needs as a student with an invisible disability would be prioritised and addressed throughout my academic journey. Additionally, I was convinced that the opportunity to connect with DWS early on would allow me to establish a strong support system, ensuring a smooth transition into university life.



*2022-23 Cohort Fellows at Module 3 in April 2023*

<sup>4</sup> LSE, MSc Inequalities and Social Science, Published on LSE.AC.UK.

<sup>5</sup> LSE, [LSE disability and wellbeing service](https://www.lse.ac.uk/Disability/Disability-and-wellbeing-service/), Published on INFO.LSE.AC.UK.

<sup>6</sup> Morina, Anabel (2016) [Inclusive education in higher education: challenges and opportunities](https://doi.org/10.1080/09656460.2016.1191111). European Journal of Special Needs Education.

## OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND LEARNING TO ADVOCATE FOR MYSELF

Despite the positive start to my studies, I still faced many challenges during the academic year. According to research, although most academic staff support inclusive education in theory, they lack practice implementing it.<sup>6</sup> They often either need help with their workload or lack university support to implement LSPs. This was also very evident during my studies, which was not only disheartening but also hindered my learning experience.

For example, my LSPs weren't fully implemented during the whole first term due to classroom technology issues and delays in receiving assistive equipment. As a result, I struggled throughout the term and could not follow the lectures. Participating in group discussions during seminars was also challenging, as I always missed important information or struggled to follow conversations, especially when everyone was talking simultaneously. The lack of proper implementation hindered my ability to actively engage in class discussions and fully comprehend the course material, therefore impacting my academic performance. It also negatively impacted my wellbeing, as I often missed out or felt left out in group settings, which further added to my feelings of frustration and isolation, especially as I was already navigating my way around the new environment at LSE.

However, things started improving after I reached out to individuals from AFSEE and LSE for support during the second term. I encountered many exceptional individuals who went above and



2022-23 Cohort Fellows at Module 3 in April 2023

beyond to create an inclusive environment. One professor, in particular, took the time to understand my needs and provided additional resources to ensure I could fully participate in class discussions. Not only did this professor offer extra resources, but they also encouraged and created a sense of inclusivity among my peers, enhancing the overall learning experience for everyone involved. Additionally, the professor also went on to advocate internally within LSE to ensure the necessary support systems were in place for future invisibly disabled students at LSE. Additionally, LSE's counselling services played a crucial role in helping me address my mental health struggles and regain my motivation after these setbacks.

My active fellowship year has ended up changing my own perception of disabilities. From the belief that I have had my whole life that something is wrong with me, which must be fixed for me to fit into society, to now believing that people become disabled because of the barriers that society sets on them, and therefore, that is something that society needs to fix. Through my experiences at AFSEE

and LSE, I have learned the importance of challenging societal norms and promoting inclusivity for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. Moreover, advocating for disability rights and raising awareness about invisible disabilities is crucial to dismantling the barriers that society has imposed on individuals like me.

Reflecting on my time at LSE, I now realise the importance of self-advocacy. I wish I had started advocating for myself earlier to create a more inclusive environment for everyone. I hope that my journey will be a lesson learned for other students facing similar challenges to embrace their own unique strengths and capabilities and never let society's limitations define their worth or potential. Our disabilities do not define us but rather add to the diverse range of experiences and perspectives that we bring to the table. Embracing our disability can empower us to become powerful advocates for change and contribute to creating a more inclusive society where everyone is valued and respected.



# LIFELONG FELLOWSHIP

## LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND OFFERINGS

The AFSEE Programme is a lifelong fellowship, which means that being an AFSEE Fellow does not end when the active fellowship year ends. A key strategic objective for AFSEE is to create lifelong engagement opportunities and offerings to amplify the impact of the fellowship over time, thereby allowing Fellows to continue to shape, grow and scale up their social change work.

The 2022/23 Cohort of Fellows joined the Senior Fellows community this academic year. As part of their onboarding to Senior Fellowship, the AFSEE team hosted two bespoke workshops focusing on transitions, one per each of the respective tracks, and a series of one-to-one conversations.

At the start of this academic year, AFSEE surveyed the Senior Fellows community to seek their feedback on current offerings and to hear more about what they would be interested in exploring in terms of continued learning and professional skills development. As a result of the feedback, we organised two professional skills development webinars for Senior Fellows, one focusing on career transitions, co-organised with LSE alumna Mujo Othol and one on coaching co-organised with Sarah Harvey.

Another key takeaway from the survey was an interest from Senior Fellows for more sessions created and led by them, which led to us piloting a series of Senior Fellows-led conversations. The first session in this series was called 'Fighting for justice – joys and

challenges' and it was led by AFSEE Senior Fellows Irene Wakarindi (2020-21 Cohort), Kevin Liverpool (2021-22 Cohort), and Clare MacGillivray (2021-22 Cohort). The second session, led by AFSEE Senior Fellow Rose Longhurst (2017-18 Cohort), was called 'Struggles in relation to careers and joblessness'.

This academic year we also worked on making the Senior Fellowship offering clearer to both internal and external audiences. This included starting a monthly newsletter to Senior Fellows as well as adding a new section on the AFSEE website dedicated to providing more information about AFSEE's lifelong engagement approach.<sup>7</sup> We also produced a new film on Senior Fellowship, in which Anjali Sarker (2018-19 Cohort), Claire MacGillivray (2021-22 Cohort), Masana Mulaudzi (2017-18 Cohort), Michaela Rafferty (2019-20 Cohort) and Pedro Telles (2018-19 Cohort) talk about their experiences as AFSEE Senior Fellows.<sup>8</sup>

We have also updated the individual funding opportunities available for Senior Fellows. Fellows are encouraged to apply to secure support to access technical equipment, connectivity, hardship, professional development and participation. These funds have been specifically designed to enhance Senior Fellows' skills development, access to continuous learning, building networks, and continued engagement with the AFSEE Programme.

## AFSEE REFLECTIVE LEARNING JOURNEY

A key highlight of this academic year was updating the AFSEE Theory of Change at the end of 2023. The AFSEE Programme also underwent an official tender process to select a partner to work with for the inaugural Reflective Learning Journey, an imperative assignment to complete as we approach the AFSEE Programme's tenth anniversary. The Reflective Learning Journey project is influenced by contribution analysis methodology and more specifically, an appreciative inquiry. Our partner on the project, Matter of Focus, organised an outcomes mapping workshop, as well as six workshops exclusively for AFSEE Senior Fellows so that we could hear directly from them about their journeys after the active fellowship year. The seven-month-long project focuses on capturing data insights from key stakeholders and will ultimately result in case studies, visual maps and a further refined Theory of Change.

## STRENGTHENING TIES WITH THE BROADER ATLANTIC FELLOWS COMMUNITY

In May 2024, ten AFSEE Senior Fellows from across the first five cohorts and three staff members participated in the Africa Regional Convening 'Transforming Africa for Collective Prosperity' in Nairobi, Kenya, organised by the Atlantic Institute. The Africa Regional Initiative (ARI) recognises and celebrates the diversity of peoples across the continent and draws on

<sup>7</sup> AFSEE, [Senior Fellowship](https://www.afsee.lse.ac.uk/senior-fellowship). Published on [AFSEE.ATLANTICFELLOWS.LSE.AC.UK](https://www.afsee.lse.ac.uk).

<sup>8</sup> AFSEE, [AFSEE Senior Fellowship: What does lifelong fellowship mean?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) Published on [YOUTUBE.COM](https://www.youtube.com).

their rich histories, Indigenous knowledge, and experiences to advance new solutions to address inequity while maintaining a global lens. The ARI supports Fellows based on the continent and leverages the Atlantic Fellows' proximity to catalyse collaboration and action and accelerate development. This dynamic and participatory convening included a range of panels and site visits focused on addressing inequalities. A key output of this convening was the development of a suggestion by AFSEE Senior Fellows called the 'Nairobi Commitment' suggesting ideas for further exploration over the next six months or so.

In July 2024, Fellows from the 2022-23 Cohort met in person at the Atlantic Institute's Senior Fellows convening in Oxford, UK. As always, this was a most welcome opportunity for AFSEE Fellows to reconnect within their cohort as well as to meet other Senior Fellows from the other seven Atlantic Fellows Programmes and to find out more information about the Atlantic Institute.

### STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR AFSEE SENIOR FELLOWS

In April 2024, AFSEE launched the new knowledge exchange officer role, born out of a desire to develop this part of the Senior Fellowship experience, which involves amplifying and integrating knowledge exchange activities between the AFSEE Programme, AFSEE Fellows, the III and LSE

communities, and wider non-academic communities. At AFSEE, knowledge exchange is a dynamic and fluid process, which incorporates distinct forms of knowledge from multiple sources, especially those who are not always seen as bearers of knowledge. The role is focused on strategy and innovation, building on existing work undertaken by AFSEE.

One of the focuses of our knowledge exchange work has been finding ways to better integrate AFSEE within the III and LSE as a whole. For example, the AFSEE team has been encouraging and enabling AFSEE Fellows to speak and participate in more III and LSE events, including public lectures and academic conferences and workshops.

As part of our knowledge exchange activities, we also collaborated with AFSEE Senior Fellow Roos Saalbrink (2022-23 Cohort) to

showcase her research at LSE Festival 2024 'Displays of power' exhibition.<sup>9</sup> The display showcased visual and written artwork from the artbook *SEEN*, which Roos, as part of the AFSEE Fellowship, created with five feminist artists to record global herstories that challenge the current global social-economic system of oppression and exploitation of women.<sup>10</sup>

During LSE Festival week, AFSEE also organised an interactive workshop led by Roos at the Feminist Library in Peckham, London, exploring feminist critiques of women's invisibilised labour through conversation, visual art, poetry and reflective exercise. This marked the first of many community-rooted knowledge exchange events under the new knowledge exchange agenda.



AFSEE Fellow Roos Saalbrink's workshop at the Feminist Library in June 2024

<sup>9</sup> LSE, 'Displays of power'. Published on LSE.AC.UK.

<sup>10</sup> LSE Festival exhibition, *SEEN*. Published on LINKTR.EE.

# MY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP: CONTINUING QUEST FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE

**“How can I leave this world a better, more equal place than how I found it? This question comes to my mind quite often, and despite how daunting it might seem, thanks to the AFSEE Fellowship and the values we cultivated throughout the active fellowship year and afterwards, it now feels wrong to not think about it and not act”, writes Anjali Sarker (2018-19 Cohort).**



It has been four years since I graduated from the AFSEE Programme and became a Senior Fellow. Our last fellowship meeting was quite an emotional experience; we didn't want the fellowship to end and wondered, what's next? However, that ending marked a new beginning – a much longer journey as a Senior Fellow. While the Senior Fellowship experience looks different for each individual, I wanted to share a few highlights from my own journey.

## BECOMING PART OF AN EVEN BIGGER, MORE GLOBAL FAMILY

One of the best parts of the active fellowship year was the strong sense of community among the AFSEE Fellows. We helped each other in many ways, both professionally and personally. When I became a Senior Fellow in 2019, I not only joined the AFSEE Senior Fellows community but also the broader Atlantic Fellows community, consisting of Fellows from all seven Atlantic Fellows Programmes.<sup>11</sup> When Fellows graduate from one of the programmes, they will get a chance to meet all the other Fellows graduating that year at a Fellows

convening hosted by the Atlantic Institute. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to wait until 2022 for our convening. As a result, our full integration into the global community of Atlantic Fellows was later than expected.

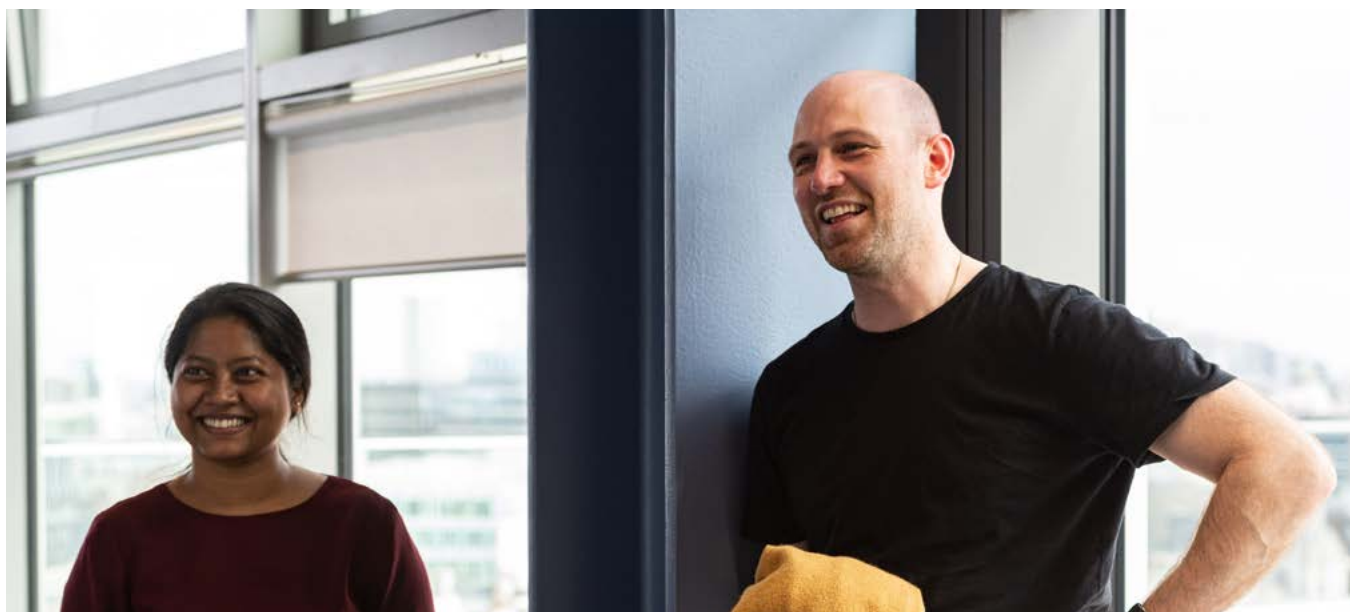
Nevertheless, when we finally met a few hundred Fellows from the other programmes, I truly felt the power of this community and realised how special it is to be a part of this global family. I had been looking forward to reconnecting with my cohort, but what I couldn't imagine was how wonderful it would feel to sit next to 'strangers' and immediately connect. After all, we are working to build a better world. Since then, I have been part of multiple cross-programme collaborative projects and have enjoyed connecting with Fellows from other programmes through the Atlantic Community Cafe. Even the various WhatsApp groups for Fellows, that I am part of, offer a continuous source of inspiration, hope and solidarity.



*AFSEE Senior Fellows at the Thailand Convening in July 2022*

<sup>11</sup> 'Atlantic Fellows', Published on ATLANTICFELLOWS.ORG.





*AFSEE Fellows Anjali Sarker and Jack Nissan at LSE in March 2022*

### **EMBRACING DIFFERENCES AND SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH A NEW LENS**

The AFSEE Fellowship welcomes changemakers from a wide range of backgrounds. We don't just look different and come from different countries – our beliefs and opinions vary greatly. During the short span of the programme, sometimes it was hard to make sense of things, especially those that did not conform to our understanding and lived experiences of inequalities. Still, the whole year was a practice in deep listening and trusting each other, which continued long after the programme. Rather than criticising and cancelling opinions that do not match mine, I learned to approach differences with curiosity and openness, even when it means sitting with discomfort.

Moreover, in the initial days of the fellowship, my instinct was to evaluate all the information through the lens of my area of interest and professional expertise – financial

inclusion. However, being exposed to a wide range of social, economic and political issues; listening to numerous stories of activism supporting causes that I didn't even know existed; and above all, just connecting with this exceptional group of Fellows has helped me to widen my horizon in a way that goes beyond professional interests and personal ambitions. Conversations with my peers opened my heart and made me feel for the people they work for, even if I have no connection to that community or the issue at hand.

Living in a world that is broken into too many parts comes with many dangers, one of which is closing our eyes to injustices that do not affect us and our own communities. However, being an Atlantic Fellow means I am always connected to the cause of equity, either directly or indirectly. It means that I look at the world through the lens of justice and feel the pain even if it isn't mine. The Senior Fellowship part of the experience means that the programme never ends for a Fellow;

the quest for justice and equity stays in our lives in different forms.

I would go as far as saying that this opportunity to carry the values of this fellowship beyond the active fellowship year truly shifts mindsets if we allow it to do so. For every aspiring changemaker who wants to build a more equal world and is ready to commit to this mission, this is a unique opportunity that should not be missed.

# RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

## Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)

With the first round of projects wrapping up in 2023, AFSEE launched a call for the second round of the Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) research grant in January 2024. In the second round, the AFSEE Programme again seeks to promote research collaborations between LSE academics and AFSEE Senior Fellows, as well as other partners where relevant, through projects that address fundamental questions related to socio-economic inequalities. AFSEE announced the four research projects that were awarded as part of AEQ 2024 in July 2024, with the projects commencing in Autumn 2024.

## The Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac)



The Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac) project was launched in December 2021. The project has two aims: 1) to develop a better understanding of academic-practitioner (AcPrac) collaborations and how these are shaped by knowledge inequalities and 2) to use this knowledge to help to inform the work of past, current and future cohorts of AFSEE Fellows on how to create and sustain research practice collaborations that can contribute to tackling inequalities through policy change and wider social transformation. The AcPrac project includes a sub-project led by Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson on funding policy and funders in academic-practitioner collaborations.

AFSEE Senior Fellows were commissioned to write case studies to shed light on the diverse range of collaborative initiatives undertaken by academics and practitioners in tackling inequalities. Nine case studies have been published so far:

- 'Colonising the 'home' in British Malaya/Malaysia: lessons for academic-practitioner collaborations' (Christopher Choong Weng Wai, 2020-21 Cohort)
- 'The impact of the Mugabe education revolution on academic-practitioner collaborations in Zimbabwe' (Maureen Sigauke, 2018-19 Cohort)
- 'Navigating the challenges of business funding for research' (Fola Adeleke, 2017-18 Cohort)
- 'What lies beyond participatory methodology: reflections on power, resources and knowledge-making among practitioners, researchers and funders' (Masana Mulaudzi, 2017-18 Cohort)
- 'Repertoires of resistance: the sympoiesis between women, the community and critical research' (Anita Peña Saavedra, 2018-19 Cohort and Alondra Castillo Delgado, Universidad de Valparaíso)
- 'From fights for land to mutualistic collaborations between academia and social agents' (Hobeth Martínez Carillo, 2019-20 Cohort and Berta Camprubí, *La Directa*)
- 'Facilitating social movement learning on human rights: what role for participatory action research?' (Allison Corkery, 2018-19 Cohort)
- 'The art and practice of academic-practitioner collaboration: lessons from Bangladesh' (Anjali Sarker, 2018-19 Cohort)
- 'Academic-practitioner collaborations: reflections from the Northern Irish context' (Nicola Browne, 2018-19 Cohort)

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Professor Armine Ishkanian**, Executive Director, AFSEE; **Barbara van Paassen**, AFSEE Fellow; **Dr Tahnee Ooms**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III; **Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson**, Policy Fellow, AFSEE; **Ishita Puri**, Research Assistant, AFSEE.

## Conflicted identities for social justice? Exploring female economic and political elites in Chile and the UK



Launched in 2022, this project funded through AFSEE's Network Innovation Fund aims to foster research and knowledge exchange collaboration between AFSEE and the Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion. The project examines female elites as 'insiders and outsiders' in both the political and economic fields in order to explore the extent to which these might be inclined to social justice, redistribution and social cohesion, and also compare this data with what the dominant literature has assumed as common practices and preferences.

During this academic year, the project has refined its methodological approach, focusing on qualitative interviews over quantitative data. Initial interviews in Chile have been conducted, and further data collection in the UK is underway, with plans to produce a working paper in Autumn 2024.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Dr Isabel Castillo**, Assistant Professor, Universidad de Chile; **Dr Katharina Hecht**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III; **Dr Rachel Theodore**, Assistant Professor, Mayor University in Chile; **Dr Chana Teeger**, Assistant Professor, LSE Department of Methodology; **Dr Catherine Reyes-Housholder**, Assistant Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica in Chile; **Dr Elisabeth Schimpfössl**, Assistant Professor, Aston University; **Felipe Bustos**, Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion; **Jennifer Willmott**, Research Officer, LSE; Matt Reynolds, Research Student, LSE Department of Sociology.

## Urban glory for the few: extreme urban inequality and its impacts on access to housing in Kinshasa (DRC)



Launched in 2024, this project funded through AFSEE's Network Innovation Fund aims to foster research and knowledge exchange collaboration between AFSEE and NYU's Center on International Cooperation. The project will deepen the understanding of how financialisation and state capture impact access to adequate housing across the income spectrum. Through an in-depth analysis of Kinshasa, the project will explore competing pressures, incentives, and trade-offs faced by policymakers and other relevant actors to provide housing in the context of extreme urban inequality, insecurity and climate breakdown.

As part of the project, a report titled 'Who will cities be for? Inequality, housing, and the future of African urbanization' was published in April 2024.<sup>12</sup> A roundtable event was also organised to present the work of AFSEE Fellows to the Pathfinders' network of partners working on housing and urban inequalities. The event convened experts in governance and housing, including representatives from civil society organisations, governments, academia and activism, to discuss critical issues in housing.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Fernando Marani**, Pathfinders Program Director, Center on International Cooperation; **Raquel Jesse**, Program Officer, Center on International Cooperation; **Dr Roshni Menon**, Senior Program Officer, Center on International Cooperation; **Paula Sevilla Núñez**, Non-Resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation.

<sup>12</sup> Núñez, Paula Sevilla (2024) *Who will cities be for? Inequality, housing, and the future of African urbanization*. PATHFINDERS: for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.



# RESEARCH AND PROJECTS CONTINUED

## AFSEE Incubation Labs

The AFSEE Incubation Labs is a pilot initiative developed by the AFSEE Programme as part of its lifelong engagement strategy. Launched at the AFSEE Leadership Summit in January 2023, the AFSEE Incubation Labs are designed around a two-stage process to foster and support impactful and innovative cross-cohort collaborative projects initiated, led and implemented by AFSEE Senior Fellows.

As part of Stage 1, 13 incubation labs were established in February 2023. Out of the then 84 Senior Fellows, 41 participated in at least one of the 13 incubation labs, and 27 Fellows were involved in more than one. In this stage, the labs organised a series of idea-generating meetings, followed by hosting either a roundtable discussion or a virtual networking event, accessible to both public and internal audiences.

At the end of Stage 1, the incubation labs had the opportunity to apply to Stage 2 to receive up to £10,000 funding per lab by submitting an application that implemented their learnings so far – 37 Senior Fellows are involved in the nine incubation labs that proceeded to Stage 2. Between October 2023 and September 2024, the incubation labs will engage in various activities, including workshops, peer-to-peer learning sessions and book writing.

Incubation labs taking part in Stage 2 are:

### 1. DECOLONISING FUNDING AND PHILANTHROPY IN AFRICA FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

This incubation lab aims to lead and catalyse knowledge building and exchange among African practitioners and academics to articulate a vision and path for decolonising African development funding. The lab will produce a written compendium titled 'Decolonising African development funding: exploring perspectives, challenges and solutions,' and they will also host an open virtual convening to discuss the concepts.

#### PROJECT TEAM:

**Caroline Kioko** (2021-22 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Jite Phido** (2021-22 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Makmid Kamara** (2021-22 Cohort), **Irene Wakarindi** (2020-21 Cohort), and **Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam** (2020-21 Cohort)

### 2. E-PARTICIPATION LAB

This incubation lab seeks to establish collaboration across South Africa, Chile, Mexico and the UK, to advance citizen participation through technology. The lab will develop a conceptual framework of the broad concepts of e-participation, policy change, digital literacy and the use of technological alternatives to create and exchange data and consolidate this knowledge into a policy paper discussing a shared agenda on e-participation for advancing equality.

#### PROJECT TEAM:

**Gabriella Razzano** (2018-19 Cohort, Lead), **Jenny McEaney** (2021-22 Cohort), **Myriam Hernandez** (2021-22 Cohort), and **Maria Carrasco** (2020-21 Cohort).

### 3. GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY

This incubation lab aims to establish a community of practice focused on the ethical use of virtual reality and explore its potential to promote gender-equitable behaviours among adolescent males. The lab conducted a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago, to help users recognise how behaviours they previously perceived as harmless or as part of masculinity may negatively impact their female peers and reinforce gender-inequitable forms of masculinity.

#### PROJECT TEAM:

**Kevin Liverpool** (2021-22 Cohort, Lead), **Jite Phido** (2021-22 Cohort), **Jack Nissan** (2017-18 Cohort), **Craig Dube** (2018-19 Cohort), and **Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero** (2021-22 Cohort).

### 4. EXPLORING NEW TYPES OF EMERGING LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

This incubation lab aims to create peer support and shared learning spaces for Atlantic Fellows and their networks in climate justice movements to provide a supportive and empowering space for leaders to come together, share experiences, collaborate and collectively address the challenges they face. The model aims to foster a sense of community, facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance leadership skills.

#### PROJECT TEAM:

**Lauren Burke** (2018-19 Cohort, Lead), **Sergio Chaparro Hernandez** (2021-22 Cohort), **Amanda Segnini** (2021-22 Cohort), **Maria Carrasco** (2020-21 Cohort), and **Madhuresh Kumar** (2021-22 Cohort).

## 5. COMMUNITY COLONIALISM NARRATIVES IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

This incubation lab aims to shift power and emphasis from polarising discourses around Irish, British and Scottish identities to more nuanced, participatory discussions that centre the diverse personal narratives and historical experiences of Irish and Scottish people bearing the brunt of inequality, injustice and lack of self-determination. The lab will be using oral history archiving to highlight the stories of Irish women immigrating to London during the 1950s to 1990s.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Jenny McEaney** (2021-22 Cohort, Lead), **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort), **Nicola Browne** (2018-19 Cohort), and **Clare MacGillivray** (2021-22 Cohort).

## 6. (RE)BUILDING SOLIDARITY

This incubation lab aims to explore what solidarity looks like at this moment in time by having conversations about understandings and experiences with receiving and practising solidarity. To deepen the communal understanding, these conversations will be recorded as a podcast for both internal and external audiences, and the discussion will also be captured and synthesised into blogs or articles for broader dissemination.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Barbara van Paassen** (2020-21 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Amanda Segnini** (2021-22 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Maureen Sigauke** (2018-19 Cohort), and **Ruby Hembrom** (2021-22 Cohort).

## 7. THE STATE (AND THE EFFECTS) OF RIGHTS IN FIGHTING INEQUALITIES

After successful peer-to-peer learning over community calls in Stage 1, this incubation lab decided to write an academic-practitioner book titled 'Reshaping rights in the age of inequality'. The book aims to offer diverse perspectives on how human rights can address global inequalities, incorporating voices from across the Atlantic Fellows Programmes to reshape the human rights discourse.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Fola Adeleke** (2017-18 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Allison Corkery** (2018-19 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Imogen Richmond-Bishop** (2020-21 Cohort), **Danilo Ćurčić** (2020-21 Cohort), and **Sergio Chaparro Hernandez** (2021-22 Cohort).

## 8. RIGHT TO HOUSING AND INEQUALITIES

This incubation lab aims to dismantle myths about housing and demonstrate how housing movements create resistance and drive policy change across different contexts. The lab has organised policy advocacy workshops in Lisbon, Belgrade, and Berlin. The lab will also produce a policy report advocating for inclusive housing policies, supported by data from field research and community consultations.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Kitti Baracsi** (2020-21 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Máximo Ernesto Jaramillo-Molina** (2020-21 Cohort, Co-Lead), **Danilo Ćurčić** (2020-21 Cohort), **Renata Ćuk** (2018-19 Cohort), and **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort).

## 9. CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES IN TACKLING INEQUALITIES

This incubation lab aims to deepen peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, networking and knowledge-sharing among its members who are working with children and young people in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Portugal, Germany and the UK. The lab conducted shadowing visits to learn from each other, experience the different contextual aspects of each other's work, exchange ideas and build stronger collaborations.

### PROJECT TEAM:

**Louis Oyaro** (2017-18 Cohort, Lead), **Jack Nissan** (2017-18 Cohort), **Roseline Orwa** (2018-18 Cohort), **Mirilove Tay Acquah-Hagan** (2020-21 Cohort), and **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort).

# POLITICS OF INEQUALITY

Led by Professor Armine Ishkanian and Professor Ellen Helsper



Photo credit: Adobe Stock

**The Politics of Inequality research programme takes an international, comparative, interdisciplinary and multi-method approach to explore the practices of resistance, mobilisation and contestation which constitute a politics of inequality from a bottom-up perspective. The research on this programme is linked to the work of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme, informs teaching on AFSEE modules and supports research by and participation of AFSEE Fellows.**

The programme has three goals:

- supporting and producing significant and robust research
- creating networking opportunities for those studying the politics of inequality
- supporting collaborations and knowledge exchange with AFSEE Fellows and other non-academic stakeholders

Here we highlight the work of core LSE programme affiliates: Professor Armine Ishkanian and Professor Ellen Helsper (Politics of Inequality programme leaders), and Co-PIs Dr Maël Lavenaire, Dr Fabricio Mendes Fialho, Dr George Kunnath and Dr Annalena Oppel.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

From 2023 to 2024 is the last academic year in which the Politics of Inequalities research programme runs, it will continue as a network from 2025. We focused on

exploring different pathways for continuation by publishing research on existing projects, winning grants to continue research and consolidating the network through activities involving various stakeholders.

The organisation of the Politics of Inequalities closing conference in November 2024 contributing to all three programme goals will take centre stage this year. The conference is a celebration of the work done by researchers and AFSEE Fellows and combines talks, a podcast and multimedia presentations alongside spaces for networking around future collaborations between different stakeholders. The conference proceedings will be published in a format combining traditional academic and alternative creative formats.

## POLITICS OF INEQUALITY PROGRAMME THEMES

The three main aims of the programme are worked through in five different themes: digital inequalities, movements and policy, conflict and peace, authoritarianism and populism, and racial inequalities. This section describes the important developments for each with further details in the highlights and publications sections.

### INEQUALITIES IN AN INCREASINGLY DIGITAL WORLD: REPRODUCTION AND RESISTANCE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Professor Helsper leads on two projects, 'From digital skills to tangible outcomes' (DiSTO) and 'Rethinking media literacy and digital skills' (REMEDIIS).

This year DiSTO established a network with researchers and practitioners from Colombia, India, Sudan and the UK to examine digital resilience and inequalities in areas experiencing conflict. Work on the Spanish and Dutch DiSTO projects also continued with publications around inequalities in online job searches and the unequal consequences of negative online experiences.

The REMEDIIS project published reports detailing the lessons learned from workshops and visits to intervention sites about barriers related to content design as well as





organisational hurdles. The project received an extension to run for one more year allowing for further co-development of tools and fieldwork.

A new project Resisting Inequalities through a Global Arts Network (RIGAN) with community organisations in Kenya, India and Scotland received funding from the Atlantic Equity Challenge.<sup>13</sup> It aims to improve the impact of global networks resisting inequalities through creative community arts-based initiatives, taking into account offline and online barriers, and improving access and participation.

Further funding through the 100x Impact Accelerator Research Grant by Marshall Institute for Dr Fialho's project 'A digital patient feedback platform in Tanzania: evaluating the pathways to impact' expands this work to public services.

### MOVEMENTS, POLICY AND THE POLITICS OF INEQUALITY<sup>14</sup>

Professor Ishkanian leads this theme and is the director of AFSEE. Through this collaboration, the programme integrates the research findings from this theme and others. The emphasis for this theme was on publishing and presenting this work in various forums as well as the organisation of the conference in November.

The publication of a blog and a research paper were highlights. Based on research around social movements, the blog discusses how inequality is not inevitable but is reinforced by political practice and social and cultural norms. However, the research shows that changing systems and structures

that perpetuate inequalities, while difficult, is not impossible.

The paper highlights that the agency of local civil society actors is influenced by the liberal peacebuilding paradigm of international actors and by hegemonic state and societal discourses about the conflict (Armine Ishkanian, Arpy Manusyan, Mariam Khalatyan, and Nvard Margaryan, 2023).

### INEQUALITIES, CONFLICT AND PEACE<sup>15</sup>

Dr Kunnath leads on two research projects in Colombia which produced various academic and non-academic outputs in the last year, including a documentary, a special issue, conferences and capacity building and knowledge exchange activities in Colombia. A top-up research grant by LSE's International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) was awarded, which enabled the project to develop knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) activities with De Mano en

Mano, a digital marketing platform run by the former Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) guerrillas in Colombia.

A new collaboration with the Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice research programme investigates the racial wealth divide among various ethnic groups in the UK. Work started on a co-authored chapter with Professor Mike Savage on the wealth divide among South Asian communities, examining the role of caste in wealth disparities. This chapter will be included in an edited volume on racial wealth divide to be published by the LSE Press.

### AUTHORITARIANISM AND POPULISM IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY<sup>16</sup>

Through publishing papers and blogs, Dr Fialho has brought together researchers to discuss authoritarianism and the reproduction and resistance to populist ideas, analysing worldwide opinion survey data to find explanations for the rise of



Maël Lavenaire presenting at an event at LSE in October 2023

13 Launched in September 2021, the Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) is funding four projects that examine inequalities on sites in Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

14 The III, 'Movements, policy and the politics of inequality'. Published on LSE.AC.UK.

15 The III, 'Inequalities, conflict and peace'. Published on LSE.AC.UK.

16 The III, 'Authoritarianism and populism in the twenty-first century'. Published on LSE.AC.UK.



authoritarianism and populism. The international press has paid attention to this pressing topic in a year of elections around the world.

Professor Helsper leads a project mapping geographic and network inequalities in relation to populism with Chilean partners. This focuses on the relationships between inequalities in digital literacy, online and offline social capital in different regions, and populist or anti-establishment voting by analysing existing industry and public data sets. This collaboration kicked off at a conference in Chile around misinformation co-organised with the Fundación Piensa and the US Embassy.<sup>17</sup>

### **HISTORICISING CONTEMPORARY RACIAL INEQUALITIES<sup>18</sup>**

Dr Lavenaire's work has advanced current research through investigations of historical archives. The 'Social change and racial inequalities in the post-slavery plantation societies' project offers a unique, previously unexplored,

understanding of the political, economic and cultural implications of slavery and plantations for global and local inequalities. Recent work has been to take a deep dive into the UK national archives exploring documentation coming from the Colonial Office in the UK. This work was combined with the knowledge developed from earlier research into the contemporary national archives in France. This exploration led the project to expand data collection from the French archives to include that dating back to the middle of the 19th century on the sites of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer (the national centre specialised in the documentation coming from colonial offices in France) and pieces found in the archives of Guadeloupe.

Dr Oppel's work explores different interpretations and institutionalisations of meritocracy, particularly in contexts of the Global South going beyond Western-centric discourses of success. This involved six months of fieldwork and

immersion in Brazil, setting up new collaborations, discussions and exchanges with academics and practitioners. The implications of histories of racial inequalities on current practices in relation to 'Black tax' are detailed in a forthcoming academic paper (Oppel, forthcoming). Similar work discussing 'The fiscal space of developing countries and its impact on poverty (SDG 1) and/or inequality (SDG 7) reduction' was also presented at the 'Confronting debt, climate change and poverty: global financial architecture reform and fiscal space of developing countries' event organised by the European Parliament.<sup>19</sup>



The Politics of Inequality research programme takes an international, comparative, interdisciplinary and multi-method approach to exploring the practices of resistance, mobilisation, and contestation which constitute a politics of inequality from a bottom-up perspective.”

17 Fundación Piensa. Published on FUNDACIONPIENSACL.

18 III, "Historicising contemporary racial inequalities" Published on LSE.AC.UK.

19 Center For Global Development, Confronting debt, climate change and poverty: global financial architecture reform and fiscal space of developing countries'. Published on CGDEV.ORG.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## DiSTO and REMEDIS

Funding acknowledgement: Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (convocatoria proyectos I+D 'Retos de la Sociedad' 2018) and Dutch Government Household Survey funding.

Funding acknowledgement: Co-fund programme, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, under grant agreement no 101004509 through the national research foundations – Flanders (FWO), Belgium; UK Research and Innovation, UK; Estonian Research Council, Estonia; Agencia Estatal de Investigación (state research agency), Spain; Academy of Finland, Finland; and Narodowe Centrum Nauki, Poland.

As part of the DiSTO projects, Professor Helsper presented new theoretical models around digital inclusion policymaking at the International Communication Association conference this year in Australia.

She also continued work on the Spanish project published papers on the compound effects of social and digital inequalities which mean that online job searches are less likely to lead to positive outcomes (for example, being noticed, invited to interviews or getting a job) and more likely to be associated with negative outcomes (such as burn out and low self-esteem) for those who are historically disadvantaged on the labour market (Stefano de Marco, Guillaume Dumont and Ellen Helsper, 2023, in press; Guillaume Dumont, Stefano de Marco and Ellen Helsper, 2023).

The Dutch project examined how negative online experiences influence disengagement in different ways for advantaged and disadvantaged adults, and found that for those who depend on online resources, there is no alternative but to go back to the same platforms that caused the negative experiences. However, for negative social experiences, which are more likely for those who have historically experienced discrimination, there tend to be offline alternatives that can retract from digital interactive spaces (Alexander Van Deursen, Ellen Helsper and Luc Schneider, forthcoming).

Highlights of events that presented work on these DiSTO projects are:

- Helsper, E.J., Wang, A., and Liu, S. (2024) *Four models of digital inclusion policymaking*. The 74th Annual ICA Conference, Gold Coast (Australia).



Photo credit: Christin Hume via Unsplash

- Helsper, E.J. (2024) Opportunity and inequity in interactive digital spaces. Feeling better: immersive technologies, experience design & wellbeing seminar. Guildhall School, London, UK.
- Helsper, E.J. (2024) Intersectional socio-digital inequalities and negative experiences. Gender Based Violence and Digital Technologies Seminar, University of Stavanger, Norway.

This has also been a very active year for the REMEDIS project. UK workshops were organised with Citizens Online, Good Things Foundation and CodeYourFuture to deliver training and informal learning to, among other groups, refugees, the long-term unemployed, vulnerable elderly and young people. The UK DiSTO team, under the lead of Research Fellow Diego Martinez was extensively involved in workshops and co-development meetings for the Spanish team working with Verificat and PantallasAmigas who work in formal education and initiatives with vulnerable young people in Spain.

Results from this work were written up in two publications which detailed the many lessons learned about not only the barriers related to content (focus on technical skill and not critical literacy, lack of clarity of learning goals) but in terms of organisational barriers (human resources and volunteer capabilities, funding structures, length of delivery of the intervention, and language issues) (Diego Martinez, Ellen Helsper and others, 2023a, 2023b). The project has received an extension to run until September 2025 in which tools will be co-developed with practitioners and more visits conducted to consolidate the findings and gather more data.

Work in progress on DiSTO and REMEDIS project has been presented at: Helsper, E.J. (2024) *Inequalities in digital literacy and citizenship*. Invited speaker seminar. University of Exeter, Exeter, UK.



**RESEARCH TEAM:**

Research Team Leader: **Professor Ellen Helsper**, Professor of Digital Inequalities, Department of Media and Communications, LSE; Co-Leader: **Dr Luc Schneider**, LSE Fellow, Department of Management, LSE.

**Diego Martinez Castro**, Research Fellow (postdoc), Department of Media and Communications, LSE; **Dr Guillaume Dumont**, Associate Professor, Emylon Business School; **Dr Stefano de Marco**, Assistant Professor, University of Salamanca; **Dr José Luís Martínez**, Autónoma de Madrid; **Professor Alexander van Deursen**, Professor of Digital Inequality and Director of the Centre for Digital Inclusion, University of Twente.

The former project explores the implementation of the gender commitments of the Colombian peace agreement of 2016, while the latter focuses on capacity building programmes and knowledge exchange activities with women affected by armed conflict in Colombia. This work has been published in a special issue (Márquez Montaña and George Kunnath, 2024).

This year a top-up research grant of £20,000 by the ISPF was awarded, which enabled the project to develop KEI activities with De Mano en Mano, a digital marketing platform run by the former FARC guerrillas in Colombia for the sale of agricultural products from their peace co-operatives.

Important in this theme is the co-production of research questions and materials and co-publication of research findings with those who are participating in research. This was achieved this year through the production of the documentary *No hay paz sin justicia social*, which was co-produced with the AEQ project team (2024).

The sharing of this work, which is grounded in collaborations with activists, citizens and with academics from around the world, is also very important as highlighted in the following presentations:

- Kunnath, G. (2023). *Caste and politics in South Asia*. Politics in South Asia, DPIR, University of Oxford.
- Kunnath, G. (2023). Peace and gender (in)equality: lessons from the Colombian peace agreement of 2016<sup>20</sup>.
- Kunnath, G. (2023). El Género en la Implementación del Acuerdo de Paz de 2016: balances y perspectivas. [Gender and the implementation of the Peace Agreement of 2016: balances and perspectives]. Icesi University conference, Cali.

## Gender and the Colombian Peace Agreement



Photo credit: Christoffer Wisberg via Shutterstock

Funding acknowledgement: Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) grant (2021) and LSE Knowledge Exchange and Impact (KEI) award (2023).

**RESEARCH TEAM:**

**Dr George Kunnath**, Associate Professor (Education) and Lifelong Engagement Lead, LSE III.

20 LSE available at: <https://www2.lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities/Research/Politics-of-Inequality/Peace-and-Gender-Inequality>

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Authoritarianism across continents and (digital) social capital and anti-establishment politics

The 'Authoritarianism across continents' project led by Dr Fialho consists of a cross-national analysis of the rise of authoritarianism in different continents. It examines attitudes, values and social cleavages underpinning the support for right-wing populism using cross-national survey data. The second project examines race-formation processes, group boundaries, and political attitudes and behaviour in Brazil, South Africa, and the US. A research seminar was organised by the ILL around the findings of this project, a series of papers and a blog on the topic, there has since been interest from international media in the findings.

- Fialho, F. M. and Almeida, Alberto C. (2024) [Plus ça change? Continuity and change in social attitudes and worldviews in 21st-century Brazil.](#)

The '(Digital) social capital and networks: homogeneity and heterogeneity as drivers of populism and anti-establishment thinking' project led by Professor Helsper has strong links to the authoritarianism across continents project. It has three goals:

- the development of global indicators to measure networks within communities through interactions among individuals with similar and/or diverse social and economic backgrounds
- creating global indicators for assessing both weak and strong connections through digital networks between communities
- understanding how different forms of social online and offline interactions relate to economic growth, mobility or political preferences, in particular to populism and anti-establishment ideas and behaviours



Photo credit: Christopher Wisberg via Shutterstock

The scientific impact of this project will be especially related to the third objective, covering a wide range of problems and involving experts from diverse disciplines. First, the goal is to delve into the relationship between social connections and economic growth in developing countries, seeking to clarify how networks between communities can boost economic mobility. Second, the project will examine the influence of different forms of social interactions on mobility and migration processes, analysing how these structures affect mobility and integration. Third, it aims to explore the relationship between social connectivity and the rise of anti-establishment, nationalist and populist attitudes, investigating how different types of networks can both challenge and reinforce these political ideas.





This project saw its kick off in Chile by presentations to stakeholders (policymakers, diplomats, journalists and student unions) during the following two events:

- Helsper, E.J. (2024) Socio-digital equity and critical digital competencies: consequences for (un)informed citizens. Empoderando la verdad (Empowering the truth) Conference on the World Press Freedom Day. Day one for stakeholders, day two with regional student representatives. Organised by Fundacion Piensa y the American Embassy, Vina del Mar.
- Helsper, E.J. (2024) Socio-digital inequalities and the consequences for (mis)informed citizenship. Invited lecture series. Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Valparaíso.

Another presentation relevant to this research project by programme members was: Ishkanian, A. (2024) 'Navigating the digital in a time of disinformation'. LSE event co-hosted by AFSEE, LSE Faith Centre and Facing History UK.

#### RESEARCH TEAM:

Research Team Leader: **Professor Ellen Helsper**, Research Leader for 'Authoritarianism across continents': **Dr Fabricio Mendes Fialho**, Research Fellow, AFSEE/LSE III.

Research Leader for 'Digital social capital and anti-establishment politics': **Professor Ellen Helsper**, Politics of Inequality Programme Co-Leader and Professor of Socio-Digital Inequalities, Department of Media and Communications, LSE.

**Pedro Fierro Zamora**, Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Media and Communications Department and Cañada- Blanch Centre, LSE, and Assistant Professor, Adolfo Ibañez University and Adjunct Researcher at the Millennium Nucleus for the Study of Politics, Public Opinion and Media in Chile.

**Professor Armine Ishkanian**, Executive Director, AFSEE, Politics of Inequality Research Programme Co-Leader, LSE III, and Professor in Social Policy, Department of Social Policy, LSE.



Photo credit: Joseph Chan via Unsplash



# MEMBERS

**Professor Ellen Helsper**, Politics of Inequality Programme Co-Leader and Professor of Digital Inequalities, Department of Media and Communications, LSE.

**Professor Armine Ishkanian**, Executive Director, AFSEE, Politics of Inequality Research Programme Co-Leader, III, and Professor in Social Policy, Department of Social Policy, LSE.

**Dr Akile Ahmet**, Head of Inclusive Education, LSE Eden Centre for Educational Enhancement, LSE.

**Dr Eileen Alexander**, LSE Fellow in Qualitative Methodology, Department of Methodology, LSE.

**Dr Paul Apostolidis**, Professor (Education) and School Academic Lead for Student Civic Engagement, Department of Government, LSE.

**Dr Sara Camacho Felix**, Assistant Professor (Education) and Programme Lead, LSE III.

**Professor John Chalcraft**, Professor of Middle East History and Politics, Department of Government, LSE.

**Dr Flora Cornish**, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Associate Professor in Research Methodology, Department of Methodology, LSE.

**Dr Dina Davaki**, MSc International Health Policy Placements Officer, Department of Health Policy, LSE.

**Dr Dena Freeman**, Senior Visiting Fellow, Department of Anthropology, LSE.

**Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan**, Associate Professor, Deputy Head of Department (Research), Department of Media and Communication, LSE.

**Dr Duncan Green**, Senior Strategic Adviser at Oxfam GB and Professor in Practice, International Development, LSE.

**Dr Shalini Grover**, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III.

**Dr Timothy Hildebrandt**, Associate Professor of Social Policy and Development, Department of Social Policy, LSE.

**Professor Jonathan Hopkin**, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Government, LSE.

**Professor Naila Kabeer**, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Gender and Development, Department of International Development, LSE.

**Dr George Kunnath**, Associate Professor (Education) and Lifelong Engagement Lead, LSE III.

**Dr Maël Lavenaire**, Research Fellow, AFSEE / LSE III.

**Professor Sumi Madhok**, Professor of Political Theory and Gender Studies and Head of Department, Department of Gender Studies, LSE.

**Dr Francesca Manzi**, Assistant Professor of Management, Department of Management, LSE.

**Dr Diego Martinez-Castro**, Research Fellow (postdoc), Department of Media and Communications, LSE.

**Dr Fabrício Mendes Fialho**, Research Fellow, AFSEE/LSE III.

**Dr Rishita Nandagiri**, LSE100 Fellow, LSE.

**Dr Tahnee Ooms**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III.

**Dr Annalena Oppel**, Research Fellow, AFSEE / LSE III.

**Dr Pedro Ramos Pinto**, Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III.

**Liz Sayce**, Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III.

**Dr Hakan Seckinelgin**, Associate Professor (Reader), Department of Social Policy, LSE.

**Professor Alpa Shah**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, LSE.

## AFSEE Affiliates

**Nicola Browne**, Founding Coordinator, Act Now Northern Ireland.

**Georgia Haddad Nicolau**, Co-Founder and Director, Instituto Procomum.

**Jenny McEneaney**, Senior Improvement Policy Advisor – Cyber, Digital and Technology, Local Government Association.

**Johnny Miller**, Photographer and Filmmaker.

**Foluke Ojelabi**, Strategic Planning Monitoring and Reporting Specialist, UNICEF.

**Anita Peña Saavedra**, Head of the International Affairs Department, Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, Government of Chile and Researcher and a doctoral candidate.

**Jite Phido**, Senior Program Manager – Innovation, Results For Development.

**Barbara van Paassen**, Feminist Economics and Climate Justice Advocate.

# PARTNERS

## OUR NODE PARTNERS



### Center on International Cooperation, New York University

The Center on International Cooperation (CIC) is a non-profit research centre housed at New York University (NYU). Its mission is to strengthen cooperative approaches among national governments, international organisations, and the wider policy community to advance peace, justice and inclusion. As part of the partnership, AFSEE Senior Fellows will have the opportunity to contribute to CIC's inequality solutions portal and participate in visiting fellowships at NYU. CIC and AFSEE are also working together on a research project 'Urban glory for the few: extreme urban inequality and its impacts on access to housing in Kinshasa (DRC)'.<sup>21</sup>



### Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion, Chile

The Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion (COES) is our programme's primary and longest-standing research and outreach partner in Latin America. It undertakes collaborative research on issues related to social conflict and cohesion in Chile through a multidisciplinary team drawn from the social sciences and humanities. Launched in 2022, COES and AFSEE are currently working together on a research project 'Conflicted identities for social justice? Exploring female economic and political elites in Chile and the UK'.

<sup>21</sup> AFSEE and LSE, *Urban glory for the few: extreme urban inequality and its impacts on access to housing in Kinshasa (DRC)*. Published on AFSEE. ATLANTICFELLOWS.LSE.AC.U

# HIGHLIGHTS

## AFSEE Partners with New York University's Center on International Cooperation



AFSEE Fellow Nicola Browne (second from left) with the CIC team during her Visiting Fellowship in July 2024

Partnering with organisations across the world is an important avenue for growing the AFSEE Community, providing diverse skills development opportunities for AFSEE Fellows, increasing the impact of the AFSEE Programme and AFSEE Fellows' work and through that advancing its overall mission to advance social and economic equity through collaboration and innovation.

In October 2023, AFSEE launched its most recent partnership with the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) based at the New York University (NYU).<sup>22</sup> CIC is a nonprofit research centre for applied policy that links politics, security, justice, development and humanitarian issues. AFSEE established the partnership with CIC due to its leading reputation, the applied policy expertise of its staff, and its ability to work with governments across the globe advocating for equality across a breadth of issues, from housing to peacebuilding and violence, echoing the same ethos of AFSEE, and its community.

As part of the new partnership, AFSEE Senior Fellows will have the opportunity to take part in Visiting Fellowships, which will allow them and CIC researchers to collaborate on an inequalities-related research project during a four-week stay at NYU. AFSEE-CIC Visiting Fellows benefit from the expertise within the CIC and wider NYU community, have opportunities to join events and meet with agencies local to CIC, as well as gain access to the wider NYU infrastructure including access to NYU's archives and libraries, while focusing their time on a project of importance to their work on reducing social and economic inequalities.

In July 2024, AFSEE Fellow Nicola Browne (2018-19 Cohort) became the first AFSEE-CIC Visiting Fellow. She collaborated with CIC's Inequality and Exclusion team on a project 'A shared struggle? Building solidarity narratives to address inequalities in post-conflict Northern Ireland', which explored the interrelationship of decisive narratives and their role in perpetuating inequalities. AFSEE Fellow Carlos Brown Solà (2022-23 Cohort) will take up the second AFSEE-CIC Visiting Fellowship in October 2024 with his project 'Make them pay: a roadmap to taxing the rich in Mexico'.

Another aspect of the partnership between AFSEE and CIC is establishing a new collaborative research project 'Urban glory for the few: extreme urban inequality and its impact on access to housing in Kinshasa (DRC)'. AFSEE Senior Fellows working on social housing were invited to speak at the roundtable 'Who will our cities be for? Governance and inclusive housing policies' organised by CIC in May 2024.

AFSEE has also committed to supporting the Inequality Solutions portal launched by CIC's Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies programme in July 2023.<sup>23 24</sup> The portal is an online repository showcasing innovative policies from around the world aimed at tackling inequality and exclusion. Drawing from the vast expertise and experience of the AFSEE Community, the portal includes contributions from AFSEE Fellows, who are working to address inequality through policy and action.

22 Center on International Cooperation and New York University, [Center on International Cooperation](#). Published on [CIC.NYU.EDU](#).

23 [Inequality Solutions portal](#), Published on [SDG16.PLUS](#).

24 CIC and NYU, [Pathfinders for Peace, Just and Inclusive Societies at NYU CIC](#). Published on [CIC.NYU.EDU](#).



# EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

## PUBLIC LECTURES

### The psychosis of whiteness

Co-hosted with LSE III.

Wednesday 25 October 2023. Online and in-person public event.

**Speaker:** Professor Kehinde Andrews, Professor of Black Studies, Birmingham City University.

**Discussant:** Dr Sara Camacho-Felix, Assistant Professor (Education), AFSEE.

**Chair:** Dr Maël Lavenaire, Research Fellow in Racial Inequality, AFSEE/LSE III.

### Not until then: a lecture by Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Co-hosted with LSE III and Oxfam GB.

Wednesday 6 December 2023. Online and in-person public event.

**Speakers:** Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Esther Phillips, Poet Laureate of Barbados.

**Moderator:** Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive, Oxfam GB.

**Chair:** Professor Eric Neumayer, Pro-Director (PVC) Planning and Resources, LSE.

### Solidarity economics: why mutuality and movements matter

Co-hosted with LSE III.

Tuesday 23 January 2024. Online and in-person public event.

**Speaker:** Professor Manuel Pastor, Professor of Sociology, University of Southern California

**Discussant:** T.O. Molefe, AFSEE Fellow.

**Chair:** Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director, AFSEE.

### Inequalities in South Asian Advicescapes

Co-hosted with LSE South Asia Centre

Wednesday 13 March 2024. Online public event.

**Speakers:** Professor David Lewis, Professor of Anthropology and Development, LSE; Anjali Sarker, AFSEE Fellow; Dr Rebecca Bowers, Visiting Fellow, Department of Anthropology, LSE; Dr Luke Heslop, Lecturer in Anthropology and Global Challenges, Brunel University; Tasmiah Rahman, Associate Director, BRAC; Anushka Wijesinha, Co-Founder and Director, Centre for a Smart Future.

**Chairs:** Professor Alnoor Bhimani, Director of LSE South Asia Centre; Professor Deborah James, Professor, Department of Anthropology, LSE.



Professor Manuel Pastor, T.O. Molefe, and Professor Armine Ishkanian



*Dr Maël Lavenaire*

## The search for democracy in the world's largest democracy

Co-hosted with LSE III, LSE Human Rights and LSE Department of Anthropology.

Tuesday 26 March 2024. Online and in-person public event.

**Speaker:** Professor Alpa Shah, Department of Anthropology, LSE.

**Discussants:** Professor Christophe Jaffrelot, Professor Avantha Chair, King's India Institute; Professor Tarun Khaitan, Professor (Chair of Public Law), LSE Law School; Priyanka Kotamraju, AFSEE Fellow.

**Chair:** Professor Deborah James, Professor, Department of Anthropology, LSE.

## End of peacekeeping

Co-hosted with LSE Department of Gender Studies.

Wednesday 1 May 2024. In-person public event.

**Speaker:** Professor Marsha Henry, Mitchell Institute, Queen's University, Belfast and Visiting Professor, Department of Gender Studies, LSE.

**Discussants:** Professor Clare Hemmings, Professor of Feminist Theory, Department of Gender Studies, LSE; Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director of AFSEE; Dr Denisa Kostovicova, Associate Professor of Global Politics and Director of LSEE – Research on South East Europe, European Institute at LSE.

**Chair:** Professor Sumi Madhok, Head, Department of Gender Studies, LSE

## Navigating the digital world in a time of misinformation

Co-hosted with LSE Faith Centre and Facing History. Tuesday 21 May 2024. In-person public event.

**Speakers:** Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director, AFSEE; Jenny McEneaney, AFSEE Fellow; Zahed Amanullah, Resident Senior Fellow, Networks and Outreach, Institute for Strategic Dialogue; Aneira Roose-McClew, Senior Curriculum Developer, Facing History & Ourselves.

**Chair:** Professor James Walters, LSE Faith Centre and Professor in Practice Department of International Relations.

## Climate equality: a planet for the 99%

Co-hosted with LSE III, Oxfam International and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Tuesday 4 June 2024. Online public event.

**Speakers:** Dr Fadhel Kaboub, Associate Professor of Economics, Denison University; Dr Sivan Kartha, Equitable Transitions Program Director, Stockholm Environment Institute US; Madhumitha Ardhanari, AFSEE Fellow.

**Chair:** Nafkote Dabi, Climate Change Policy Lead, Oxfam International.

## LSE Festival: power, politics, and belonging: the lasting impacts of colonialism

Saturday 15 June 2024. Online and in-person public event.

**Speakers:** Dr Maël Lavenaire, Research Fellow in Racial Inequality, AFSEE/LSE III; Professor Neil Cummins, LSE Department of Economic History; Leah Eryenyu, AFSEE Fellow.

**Chair:** Dr Fabrício Mendes Fialho, Research Fellow, AFSEE/LSE III.

## SPONSORED EVENTS

### LSE Africa Summit 2024

Gathering renowned scholars, leading politicians, changemakers, activists and forward-thinking entrepreneurs, the LSE Africa Summit is an annual student-led conference that showcases Africa's expertise and global contribution, promoting debate around the continent's contemporary challenges and opportunities. The LSE Africa Summit 2024 was themed 'African minds transforming futures: building resilient education systems,' and it sought to unravel the intricate web of challenges and opportunities that define the educational landscape on the continent. The 2024 Summit featured AFSEE Fellows Caroline Kioko (2021-22 Cohort), Stephanie Akinwoya (2022-23 Cohort) and Najma Mohamed (2023-24 Cohort).

### Kurdish Studies Conference

The second Kurdish Studies Conference was organised by the LSE Middle East Centre and the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield in April 2024. The interdisciplinary event, hosted at the University of Sheffield, built on the inaugural conference at LSE in 2023, and sought to promote, share and celebrate recent research across the field of Kurdish studies and encourage connections between scholars, students, professionals and members of the public.

### Symposium on Financial Systems of Secrecy

The symposium organised by LSE III and Open Ownership brought together academics and practitioners working on a cross-section of issues that relate to systems of financial secrecy to share recent and ongoing research and discuss relevant policy developments. The programme included speakers from across multiple disciplines and sectors with the aim of identifying and strengthening linkages between different approaches to research and practice on financial secrecy. The symposium featured AFSEE Fellows Louise Russell-Prywata (2017-18 Cohort) and Tyehimba Salandy (2020-21 Cohort)

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

### Digital Communications as of July 2024

 **289,806** WEBSITE VIEWS

The most popular pages this academic year have been the homepage (27% of all views), the apply page (14% of all views), and the Fellows' landing page (9% of all views). Google Analytics (GA) switched from Universal Analytics to GA4 at the beginning of 2024, updating not only what but how it measures website analytics, which means that we are unable to make comparisons between the website figures from this year (GA4) and last year (Universal Analytics).

 **6,065** NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

AFSEE sends out regular newsletters to its prospective applicants' mailing list, providing further information about the AFSEE Programme and its application process. A further 2,269 people have signed up to the mailing list this academic year, which means that the overall subscriber amount has increased by 79% in a year. The list currently has an average open rate of 59.6% and a 9.1% click rate (compared to the industry average of 37% and 5.5% respectively).

 **11,526** SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

AFSEE continues to build its reputation and increase its reach across a range of social media platforms including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. AFSEE's LinkedIn channel has seen the most growth, with followers increasing by 52% in the last year (from 2,859 to 4,334). This also means that LinkedIn has now taken over Facebook (3,401 followers) as AFSEE's biggest social media platform.



# OUR FELLOWS



## 2017/18

**Appu Suresh** (India)  
Founder and CEO, Pixstory

**Fola Adeleke** (Nigeria/  
Canada)  
Executive Director, Global  
Center on AI Governance

**Fredrick Ouko Alucheli**  
(Kenya)  
Co-Chief Executive and  
Transformation Officer, ADD  
International

**Hillary Vipond** (Canada/UK)  
PhD Candidate, LSE  
Department of Economic  
History

**Jack Nissan** (UK)  
Founder, Tinderbox Collective

**Jane Sloane** (Australia/USA)  
Senior Director on Women's  
Empowerment and Gender  
Equality, The Asia Foundation

**Joey Hasson** (Zimbabwe/UK)  
Senior Programme Officer for  
Human Rights, Sigrid Rausing  
Trust

**Johnny Miller** (USA/South  
Africa)  
Photographer and Founder,  
Unequal Scenes

**Louis Oyaro** (Uganda/  
Germany)  
Human Rights Consultant

**Louise Russell-Prywata** (UK)  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Open Ownership

**Masana Mulaudzi** (South  
Africa)  
Senior Campaigns Manager,  
Wikimedia Foundation

**Melanie Brown** (USA)  
Deputy Director of Global  
Policy and Advocacy, Bill &  
Melinda Gates Foundation

**Priyanka Kotamraju** (India/  
UK)  
PhD Candidate in Sociology,  
University of Cambridge

**Rania Tarazi** (Jordan)  
Gender and Development  
Professional

**Rose Longhurst** (UK/  
Germany)  
Head of Democratic  
Renewal Team, Open Society  
Foundations

**Saida Ali** (Kenya)  
Global Program Manager,  
Hivos Foundation

**Sebastian Bock** (Germany)  
Director for Germany,  
Transport and Environment

**Tracy Jooste** (South Africa)  
Associate Director of the  
Governance Action Hub,  
Results for Development

## 2018/19

**Allison Corkery** (Australia/  
South Africa)  
Director, Law Programme,  
Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing

**Anita Peña Saavedra** (Chile)  
Head of International Affairs  
at the Ministry of Women and  
Gender Equality, Government  
of Chile

**Anjali Sarker** (Bangladesh/UK)  
Programme Director of the  
Global Leadership Challenge,  
University of Oxford

**Craig Tinashe Dube**  
(Zimbabwe/Netherlands)  
Training Coordinator, No  
Means No Worldwide

**Elimane Haby Kane** (Senegal)  
Founder and Chairman, LEGS-  
Africa

**Gabriella Razzano** (South  
Africa)  
Executive Director, OpenUp

**James Muraguri** (Kenya)  
Founder and CEO, Institute of  
Public Finance

**Kripa Basnyat** (Nepal)  
National Project Coordinator,  
International Labor  
Organization

**Lauren Burke** (USA)  
Organising, Training and  
Strategy Consultant

**Maureen Sigauke** (Zimbabwe)  
Community Organiser and  
Activist

**Milanoi Koiyiet** (Kenya)  
Co-Founder, Center for  
Women's Rights Advocacy

**Milena Abrahamyan** (Armenia)  
Feminist Justice and Peace  
Activist

**Nicola Browne** (UK/Northern  
Ireland)  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Act Now

**Pedro Telles** (Brazil)  
Programme Director, D-Hub

**Renata Ćuk** (Croatia/UK)  
Director of Programmes,  
Ariadne Network

**Roseline Orwa** (Kenya)  
Founder and CEO, Rona  
Foundation

**Tanya Charles** (Zimbabwe/UK)  
Senior Program and Impact  
Lead, Atlantic Institute

**Taylor Downs** (USA/UK)  
Founder and CEO, OpenFn



## OUR FELLOWS CON'D



## 2019/20

**Alon-Lee Green** (Israel)  
National Co-Director, Standing Together

**Amanda Young** (Australia)  
Executive Director, Pollination

**Asha Kowtal** (India)  
Feminist Organiser and Activist

**Crystal Simeoni** (Kenya)  
Director, NAWI: Afrifem  
Macroeconomics Collective

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**Esther Mwema** (Zambia)  
Artist & Digital Inequalities Expert

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Department of Sociology

**Joan Jones** (USA)  
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– Washington State Council

**Leanne Sajor** (Philippines/  
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Labour Rights and Gender  
Justice Advocate

**Liz Nelson** (UK)  
Director of Advocacy and  
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**Michaela Rafferty** (Ireland)  
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**Sopheha Chrek** (Cambodia)  
Coordinator, Social Action for  
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## 2020/21

**Andrea Encalada García**  
(Chile)  
Regional Development  
Undersecretary's Advisor,  
Government of Chile

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**Christopher Choong Weng  
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Warwick

**Claire Godfrey** (UK)  
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Campaign Strategist

**Danilo Ćurčić** (Serbia)  
Programme Coordinator, A  
11– Initiative for Economic and  
Social Rights

**Georgia Haddad Nicolau**  
(Brazil)  
Co-Founder and Director,  
Instituto Procomum

**Imogen Richmond-Bishop**  
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Advisor on ESCR and Tech,  
Amnesty International

**Irene Wakarindi** (Kenya/UK)  
Program Officer on  
Resettlement and Integration,  
International Organization for  
Migration

**Kitti Baracsi** (Hungary/  
Portugal)  
Critical Educator and Curator  
of Community and Cultural  
Initiatives

**Maria Carrasco** (Chile)  
Co-Founder and Director,  
Entramada

**Máximo Ernesto Jaramillo-  
Molina** (Mexico)  
Co-Founder, Institute of Studies  
on Inequality

**Mauro Fernández** (Argentina)  
Founder and President,  
Sociedad y Naturaleza

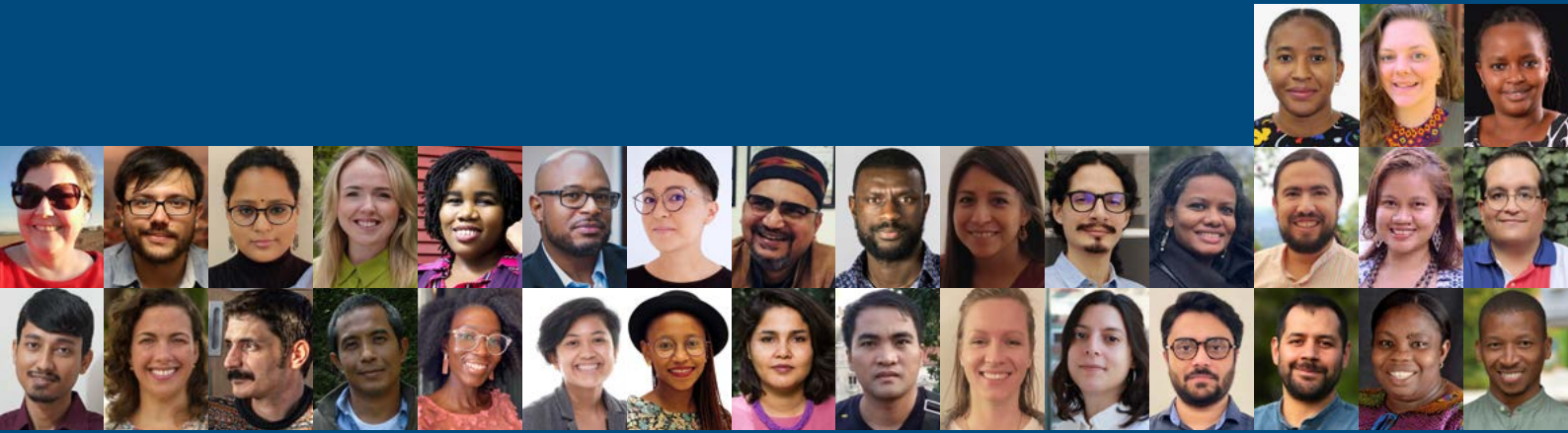
**Mirilove Tay Acquah-Hagan**  
(Ghana)  
Women and Youth Prosperity  
Advocate

**Mohammed-Anwar Sadat  
Adam** (Ghana)  
Programmes and Policy  
Influencing Lead, Oxfam in  
Ghana

**Oabona Sepora** (Botswana)  
Executive Director, Friends of  
Diversity

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and Tobago)  
Sociologist, University of the  
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**Viviana Osorio Perez**  
(Colombia)  
Economic and Social Rights  
Consultant



## 2021/22

**Aisha Abdulaziz** (Kenya/UK)  
Energy Access Specialist

**Amanda Segnini** (Brazil)  
Climate Justice Activist and Campaigner

**Caroline Kioko** (Kenya)  
Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Manager, Porticus Global

**Clare MacGillivray** (Scotland)  
Director, Making Rights Real

**Daniel Salazar Murillo** (Costa Rica/UK)  
Data Insight Analyst, Atlantic Institute

**Ishrat Jahan** (India)  
South Asia Lead for 1t.org, World Economic Forum

**Jenny McEaney** (Ireland)  
Senior Improvement Policy Adviser on Cyber, Digital and Technology, Local Government Association

**Jite Phido** (Nigeria/UK)  
Senior Program Manager for Innovation, Results for Development

**Kevin Liverpool** (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Gender Equality Advocate

**Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero** (Ecuador/Mexico)  
Co-Founder, Observatorio de Plataformas

**Madhuresh Kumar** (India/France)  
Climate Justice Activist and Researcher

**Makmid Kamara** (Sierra Leone/Ghana)  
Regional Director for Africa and Middle East, International Fund for Public Interest Media

**Myriam Hernández Vazquez** (Mexico/Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Education Inequalities Specialist and VR Producer

**Rafael Barrio de Mendoza Zevallos** (Peru/UK)  
PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge

**Ruby Hembrom** (India)  
Founder, Adivaani

**Sergio Chaparro Hernandez** (Colombia)  
International Policy and Advocacy Lead, Tax Justice Network

**Zephanie Repollo** (Philippines)  
Southeast Asia Director, Just Associates

## 2022/23

**Carlos Brown Solà** (Mexico)  
Director of Research and Fiscal Justice, Oxfam México

**Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique** (Bangladesh/UK)  
Activist and Civil Society Professional

**Gabriela Valencia** (Panama)  
Housing and Urban Development Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank

**Hamidreza Vasheghanifarahani** (Iran/UK)  
Researcher and Civil Society Professional

**James Aung** (Myanmar/UK)  
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Lead for Gender Just Economy Learning Community, Trust, Accountability and Inclusion Collaborative

**Lily Jamaludin** (Malaysia/UK)  
Campaign Manager, Small Axe

**Naledi Maite** (South Africa)  
Feminist Movement Builder and Civil Society Professional

**Priyanka Jain** (India)  
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## Rhomir Yanquiling

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## Salman Usmani

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## Stephanie Nwaoroni

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Coordinator, Collective Media Cooperative Limited





# OUR FELLOWS CON'D



## 2023/24

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**Diana Magdy** (Egypt)

Feminist Researcher and  
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**Eko Octavianus** (Indonesia)

Director, Sahabat Laut Lestari  
(SLL Fisheries)

**Henintsoa Daniel**

**Rakotoarison** (Madagascar)  
Child and Youth Care Specialist

**Josephine Chiname**

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Association

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Campaigner and Social Impact  
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**Saba Saeed** (Pakistan)

Research Analyst, Unbounded  
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# AFSEE STAFF



**Professor Armine Ishkanian**

Executive Director



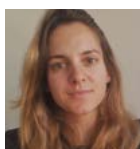
**Adele Oliver**

Project Support Officer for Knowledge Exchange



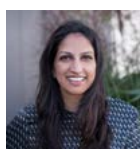
**Anastasia Nazaryan**

Projects Manager



**Dr Annalena Oppel**

Research Fellow



**Asmaa Akhtar**

Programme Manager for Global Engagement and Impact



**Dr Aygen Kurt Dickson**

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**Dr Fabrício Mendes Fialho**

Research Fellow



**Dr George Kunnath**

Lifelong Engagement Lead and Associate Professor for Education



**Grace Farrell-Twiney**

Partnerships Lead



**Julia Ryng**

Programme Officer for Fellowship Experience



**Dr Maël Lavenaire**

Research Fellow in Racial Inequality



**Saaga Leppänen**

Communications and Marketing Officer



**Dr Sara Camacho Felix**

Programme Lead and Assistant Professor for Education

## AFSEE GOVERNING BOARD

The AFSEE Governing Board provides operational and programmatic oversight and ensures fidelity to the programme's mission, vision, and principles. Its role is to nurture and support our programme's growth and development and to serve as a champion for the programme, both internally and externally.



**Dr Claire Gordon**

Board Chair



**Professor Ernestina Coast**

Board member



**Professor Francisco Ferreira**

Board member



**Professor Hakan Seckinelgin**

Board member



**Dr María-Luisa Mendez**

Board member



**Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam**

Board member (Senior Fellow Representative)



**Professor Naila Kabeer**

Board member



**Dr Phuong Nhan Le**

Board member



**Professor Susana Mourato**

Board member

**AFSEE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

The AFSEE Programme Committee, which is chaired by the Executive Director, is a consultative body that provides knowledge and expertise to the programme around key areas including curriculum, programming and outreach.



**Professor Armine Ishkanian**

Committee Chair



**Dr Fola Adeleke**

Committee member



**Dr George Kunnath**

Committee member



**Grace Farrell-Twiney**

Committee member



**Julia Ryng**

Committee member



**Raquel Jesse**

Committee member



**Salman Usmani**

Committee member



**Dr Sara Camacho Felix**

Committee member



**Selam Bedada**

Committee member



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