

Global Citizens Forum 2013

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

November 7 - 8, 2013

Juwaeriah Abdussamad

Juwaeriah Abdussamad is a Systems Engineer with a passion for social work. Her projects are directed towards technology befitting rural and international development. Her background is in the area of systems science engineering, project management and design thinking. She is passionate about promoting the application of systems engineering to solve social system issues. By understanding the root cause of an issue as a system and designing effective problem solving strategies, recurring social dependencies can be dealt with to bring about long term solutions. She is currently a part of a system thinking based start up called d9mix, which deals with issues pertaining to youth unemployment, quality of higher education, food security in low income societies and health system strengthening. Also, as a youth facilitator, you will find her actively contributing towards the youth engagement initiatives in Ottawa, such as the ongoing Youth portal development with the City of Ottawa. In the future, she aspires to successfully launch an online literacy and skill development service for youth and women in the developing countries.

Hasnat Ahsan

Hasnat Ahsan began her involvement with Oxfam as a campus group representative for McMaster University and went on to become Oxfam's first Youth and Campus Outreach Officer. In 2010, Hasnat joined Oxfam's Humanitarian Unit. Hasnat currently works in the Program Development Unit in Ottawa designing programs and providing support to Oxfam's Africa-based field staff in the administration, management and implementation of development projects focused on capacity building for women's rights. She has a BSc (Hon) in Microbial Genetics and a BA (Hon) in Psychology. She also has technical training in Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods (EFSL) in humanitarian crises as well as gender and social protection programming.

Mandy Bergman

Mandy Bergman is a member of the Catalyst Centre and a part-time instructor at George Brown College who has previously taught at York University as well as developed & facilitated workshops in education, community development & organizational management. Mandy is also a member of the Toronto Community Development Institute. Mandy has worked on community engagement and planning

projects ranging from the Community Responses to Crisis: City of Toronto Safety Secretariat project to multiple day training and community engagement workshop with the YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada.

Cari Bourrie

Cari Bourrie is the JGI Program Coordinator for Education and Youth Engagement. She joined the organization because she believes in JGI's holistic approach to conservation; addressing the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental issues, and is eager to empower youth with the tools to create positive change using this holistic approach. Before joining the JGI team, Cari worked for the YMCA where she developed a national Environmental Education Leadership Program. Cari has extensive experience facilitating youth leadership development programs and has completed extensive leadership training herself. Cari holds a joint degree in Biology and Environment & Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo where her thesis project involved organizing an Environmental Sustainability Leadership Conference for 120 students across Ontario.

Kelly Bowden

Kelly Bowden works as Oxfam Canada's youth engagement coordinator to build the capacity of young women and men across the country to be advocates for women's rights. Oxfam's sees young people as invaluable movement builders in civil society who have a critical role to play in challenging the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty, injustice and violence. Kelly coordinates Oxfam's CHANGE training program which builds the attitudes, skills and knowledge to build support for gender justice in communities across the country and around the world. Prior to joining Oxfam Kelly worked as an educator with the Otesha Project and CISV International bringing together diverse communities to explore issues of sustainability and human rights.

Shaunna Bruton

Shaunna Bruton is the Youth Engagement Specialist at Plan Canada. Her role is to activate, motivate, and support youth across Canada to become involved in positive social change. This includes delivering presentations and workshops to schools across

Canada, and supporting Plan Canada's Girl Speakers Bureau and Because I am a Girl Clubs. Prior to joining Plan Canada, Shaunna worked for organizations such as the YMCA, Plan International, and Ryerson University's Diversity Institute. She is a long time youth leadership facilitator, and has led workshops at McGill University, the Montreal Neurological Institute, and The Canadian Centre for Diversity. Her interests include engaging youth and communities with local and global issues and exploring socially innovative solutions, particularly as they relate to gender inequalities. Shaunna holds a BA in Psychology and a MA in Women's Studies.

Leigh Eagles

Leigh Eagles is Learning and Engagement Coordinator at Save the Children Canada (SCC), where she supports education and youth engagement activities for the Children Lead the Way (CLW) and Youth in Action (YIA) programs. Prior to joining SCC, Leigh worked with the Youth Learning Team at The MasterCard Foundation on the Global Scholars Program. Previous to this, Leigh was National Coordinator for the Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE), a coalition of civil society organizations working to enhance Canada's contribution to achieving the Education for All goals and the universal right to education. Leigh's passion in education and development stems from her experiences working in communities both at home and abroad in South Africa, Nunavut and Nepal. In 2009, Leigh returned from South Africa as CIDA Gender Equality Resource Specialist with the Centre for Rural Development (CRD) at Walter Sisulu University (WSU). Leigh has also worked in a number of consultant roles, delivering workshops on gender equality with rural agricultural Cooperatives in South Africa, and proposal development for Pueblito Canada. In 2010, Leigh completed a Masters of Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in Adult Education and Community Development (AECD), developing rights-based curriculum on the right to education, gender, disability, and Education for All. Leigh also has a degree in Sociology and Development Studies from Queen's University. During her studies at Queen's, Leigh worked extensively with Queen's Project on International Development (QPID), a student-run NGO in three positions as Nunavut Site Director, Summer Operations Director and Project Director. In her role as Nunavut Site Director, Leigh worked in partnership with the Kivalliq School Operations (KSO) executing a summer literacy program entitled "Books, Fun, and Sun!" a bilingual literacy program working towards literacy appreciation and the incorporation of Inuit culture and language.

Irwin Elman

An educator by training with a Masters in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Irwin brings an extensive background as a counsellor, youth worker, program manager, policy developer and child and youth advocate. In working with young people in our 'systems', he has carried out these roles with respect – borrowing from the courage and hope of the young people he served to create innovative approaches for youth in Ontario, Jamaica, the United States and Japan. For over 20 years, Irwin was the Manager of the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre in Toronto: a program of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto. More recently, he was the Director of Client Service at Central Toronto Youth Services: an innovative children's mental health centre. As the Provincial Advocate, Irwin is responsible for how the Office conducts its work. The Office is built upon a foundation rooted in the strength and wisdom of the children and youth it serves. The Office is driven through the efforts of talented and passionate staff who, every day, strive to improve the lives of children and youth in Ontario.

May El-Abdallah

May El-Abdallah is the Chair of the ArtReach Steering Committee and former member of the Grant Review Team (GRT). May has also been involved in other community-based initiatives and organizations such as the South Asian Legal Clinic's Forced Marriage Project, Maytree's DiverseCity Fellows program, the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic of Ontario, and AQSazine. May is currently a Toronto-based lawyer practicing in the area of civil litigation and credits ArtReach for having a positive impact on her journey to get there.

Zahra Esmail

Zahra Esmail is the General Manager of Eva's Phoenix, one of three shelters run by Eva's Initiatives. With a background in community development and microfinance, Zahra has worked with homeless and at-risk youth for many years. She has extensive experience with participatory development and community-led project design and implementation, and has lived and worked in Canada, Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. Zahra is passionate about sustainable development and finding innovative, long-term solutions to systemic issues that can be taken to scale. She is

keen on creating synergies between local and international programs. Prior to joining Eva's Initiatives, Zahra worked with Street Kids International, Haven Haiti, BRAC, Junior Achievement of British Columbia, and the YMCA of Greater Vancouver.

Roshelle Filart

As co-leader of the Toronto Volunteer Group of RESULTS Canada, Roshelle Filart has published numerous letters in major newspapers across Canada. She recruits and mentors RESULTS volunteers in the Greater Toronto Area and organizes monthly Education and Action meetings. Roshelle volunteered in Botswana with WUSC and Guinea-Bissau with VSO Canada before returning home to become a passionate champion of efforts to end global poverty. She is a member of the Toronto Volunteers 4 the World Committee of CUSO International and served on the editorial board of OCIC's iAM, vol. 4, online, multimedia journal of international cooperation and development. Roshelle currently works as a science demonstrator at the Ontario Science Centre.

Craig Frayne

With both private sector and non-profit organizations, I've led and contributed to various stages of projects related to organizational change, environmental protection, and social services. I'm currently involved in projects with OCIC member organizations S.H.A.R.E Agricultural Foundation and Horizons of Friendship. I like to approach development from an anti-oppression, human empowerment perspective and am interested in how emerging technologies can be used for this purpose.

Kate Gatto

Kate Gatto holds an M.Ed from Brock University, where she studied the social and cultural contexts of education, covering topics like equity and diversity in the classroom, as well as the effects of globalization on K-12 and higher education. Prior to joining L2L, Kate managed education programs at TakingITGlobal, supporting educators around the world to bring global citizenship education to their students.

Nadine Grant

Nadine Grant is a child rights advocate with over 25 years experience working in international development in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. As Director of Programs, Nadine leads Plan Canada's program and policy development with integrity and excellence. Before joining Plan, she has worked with the United Nations Development Fund, the World Bank, CARE, Save the Children and the Aga Khan Foundation. Nadine and her team offer high calibre technical expertise in such areas as maternal and child health, education, microfinance, gender and food security. Nadine is a mother of three and is based in Toronto.

Sara Hassan

With a passion for global education and youth development, Sara Hassan is an Education Program Officer at TakingITGlobal (TIG), the world's leading online community for young global citizens committed to changing their world. Since 2010, Sara has been coordinating DeforestACTION (deforestation.org), a global movement of youth and schools taking action to stop deforestation through collaborative learning and action using innovative online educational resources, social media and technology tools. More recently, Sara has been involved in developing and administering the teacher professional development e-course Empowering Student Voice in Education (pd.tiged.org), as well as facilitating the Sprout social entrepreneurship e-course for youth aged 18-30 globally (sproutecourse.org). She is currently also a B.Ed candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto, specializing in Primary/Junior and Aboriginal education.

Sara Hsiao

Sara has been working with JGI since 2009. She holds a Masters of Research in primatology, and has experience working with local communities in Uganda to evaluate practical and integrated strategies to address conservation and development issues. Before JGI, Sara interned at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC, where she focused on cross-border environmental issues between Canada and the United States. Through JGI's community-centred conservation and education programs, Sara strives to promote critical thinking and link every day, local action to global impacts.

Chizoba Imoka

Chizoba Imoka, is a 2nd Year Masters student in Educational Administration and Comparative International Development Education program at OISE. Her research is focused on African teenagers and how they can be mobilized and engaged through education to bring about sustainable development in Africa. Outside of OISE, she is the founder of Unveiling Africa Foundation (UVA) that provides a platform for African teenagers to contribute to social change through engagement in various academic, leadership and community development programs. Between 2010 - 2012, she spent time in Nigeria where through UVA, she worked with more than 2000 teenagers across Nigeria in nation building conferences, essay and innovation contests, social problem solving bootcamps, magazine publications, mentoring programs and teen led community service projects. All together, these programs have impacted more than 3000 people and counting. Based on her work in Nigeria, she was nominated for the popular Nigeria Future Awards in Advocacy and was recently awarded with the Selfless Hero Award for Africa. Currently, Chizoba is building on the results of her work in Nigeria and developing a program that will equip Nigerian teenagers with the capacity to run their own social change campaigns and mobilize and engage communities for greater social action. Chizoba is a Junior Fellow at Massey College in the University of Toronto. More information about her and Unveiling Africa Foundation can be found on www.chizobaimoka.com and www.unveilingafrica.org

Bob Isenberger

Bob Isenberger has spent over 30 years consulting and managing projects with organizations large & small, including the analysis of underlying requirements and co-designing of improved interactions and practices. He is a member of Catalyst Centre, and is a strong believer in dialogic and narrative processes; he strongly values the experience and knowledge base within organizations which can be leveraged to improve effectiveness and results. Bob has extensive experience designing and facilitating group interactions to include all voices, and to maximize the resulting group learning and generation of solutions.

Jo-Anne Liburd

Jo-Anne Liburd has over 18 years of experience in communications and marketing, having held senior positions at Canadian Living Magazine, Southam's Business Information Group, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Family Service Toronto. Today, she consults for Sherbourne Health Centre, VHA Home Healthcare, Crime Prevention Ottawa, Toronto Enterprise Fund, Call2Recycle and Toronto Symphony Orchestra. As a VSO Canada volunteer, she supported the communications team at Sewalanka Foundation in Sri Lanka for 16 months. Jo-Anne has a degree in English from the University of Western Ontario, a post-degree certificate in Public Relations from Humber College and completed continuing education courses in writing, French, and environmental studies.

Simon Malbogat

Simon Malbogat has been a key player in Canada's popular theatre scene for over 25 years now. He has studied with the greatest contemporary popular theatre practitioners (Augusto Boal, Jerzy Grotowski, Eugenio Barba, Yoshi Oida) and blended Forum Theatre with the Sweet Medicine Teachings (SMT) of the Deer Tribe Metis Medicine Society for an innovative theatre and teaching approach. Simon has directed and acted in over 50 new Canadian works, many of which many are now seen as important benchmarks in the development of Canadian theatre. He has played key roles in numerous plays by the Chalmer's award winner Rex Deverell; David Fennario's On The Job, Nothing to Lose, Banana Boots which won the Montreal Gazette's Best New Play and Joe Beef which won the Pauline Julienne Award; George Walker's Criminals in Love; and Michael Glassbourg's Bad Apples. Teaching credits include The University of Toronto, York University, Humber College, Queen's and Brock University.

Mica McCurdy

Mica is a University of Ottawa graduate, having studied social sciences looking at the intersection of politics, health, and gender. She spent the past year uniting fundraising champions across Canada with Engineers Without Borders Canada while learning how to write exciting e-mail marketing copy and witty, yet informative, tweets. What really gets Mica's creative juices flowing though is the opportunity to work on teams to create conferences that inspire and challenge individuals in the social justice community. With

this passion, she is pursuing future employment opportunities in leadership development, communications, and/or public relations.

Andrea McArthur

Andrea McArthur has been with the Canadian Red Cross as a volunteer and staff for over 10 years as a public speaker, workshop facilitator, and program coordinator. With the Canadian Red Cross, she has developed and facilitated numerous workshops about youth engagement and leadership, social justice and diversity, humanitarian issues and International Humanitarian Law. Andrea holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Brock University and obtained her Masters of Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2011 with course work focusing on community building, program management, group facilitation and research. She also completed a thesis towards her MSW about the impact of services provided by youth engaged in indirect volunteering in the Greater Toronto Area.

Novia McKay

Novia McKay has seven years of experience working with Jamaican and US based nonprofit organizations in vulnerable communities. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Macalester College, St Paul, Minnesota, as well as a Master of Arts in Communication for Social and Behaviour Change, from the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. While working as a Project Coordinator for the nonprofit RISE Life Management Services a CUSO-International partner, she coordinated seven youth centered projects and supported more than ten projects funded by international and local donors. These include the Tackle Child Labor Project and Community Upliftment and Human Rights Awareness projects, implemented in Kingston, Jamaica, funded by the European Union; as well as the HIV Prevention in Vulnerable Communities Project, funded by USAID. In these projects she helped build capacity, increase knowledge of and empower more than 250 children, youth and adults in the areas of parenting, conflict resolution, sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and gender-based violence.

Mai Ngo

Mai Ngo has 10 years experience working and volunteering with non-profit organizations and community development projects in Canada, Vietnam, Kenya and Bangladesh. She has worked as a project coordinator for Canada World Youth, Taking it Global and the Child Welfare League of Canada. In particular Mai has developed and delivered a range of anti-oppression materials including workshops. Mai graduated from her BA at Carleton University in Ottawa in 2005 before attaining a B.Ed from the University of Ottawa in 2006 and MA in Comparative and International Development from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto in 2012. Mai's work on "Education and Empowerment: HIV/AIDS Prevention among Street Based Sex Workers", has been published by Social Action (2007), she was a co-author of "Weaving a Movement: Creating Local Connections Canada", published by Taking it Global (2009), and a contributor to Canada's Children by CWLC (2010). Mai is also on the editorial board for the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and, in addition, she has presented her own research on Global Citizenship at international conferences such as at the Comparative International Education Society in New Orleans, 2013. Mai is particularly interested in working with new mothers and offers doula services in Ottawa, Ontario.

Janis Mosquera Benites

Janis Mosquera Benites joined the ACJ- YMCA of Medellin in 2006 as a participant in Preunycom13, the university preparation program, which prepared him to gain acceptance to the University of Antioquia. Since then, he has also become active in a number of other YMCA programs including Jugandhi – a program that uses cooperative games to teach non-violence to children and youth. He has been part of a group called Reciclarte Taller y Vida (Recycle Workshop and Life) where he learned and taught others how to make handmade paper with unused items and to create useful items such as notebooks and cards. Currently, he is part of a project called Semilleros Infantiles para la Participacion (Seed Children for Participation), which seeks to accompany groups of children from the different districts of Medellin to promote civic education and community participation. Janis also teaches dance classes, including bachata, salsa and merengue, to anyone who wants to learn.

Riaz Nathu

Riaz Nathu is a Program Officer with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada. He currently oversees the Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth (EELY) and Improving Rural Incomes through Savings-led Financial Services (IRIS) projects, which are on-going in Pakistan and Tajikistan, respectively. Riaz is also the lead on private sector investment and impact investing at AKFC. Previously, he was an International Microfinance and Microenterprise fellow working with a microfinance bank in Pemba, Mozambique focusing on business strategy, client outreach, and operations. Riaz has also worked in value-chain financing in parts of South America. Riaz has a Master's in Applied Environmental Studies in Local Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

Jeff Perera

Jeff Perera is a Community and Youth Engagement Manager for the White Ribbon Campaign, the world's largest effort to engage men and boys in re-imaging masculinity and helping end violence against women. Jeff speaks to grade school, high school, post-secondary students and people from all walks of life across Canada regarding ways that society's unattainable concepts of masculinity are effecting men and boys as well as impacting women and girls. Jeff also started Higher Unlearning, an online space to explore how ideas of gender and masculinity play out in everyday life. He also founded a chapter at Ryerson University working to further a gender-inclusive environment. He is the director of the annual discussion-focused 'What Makes a Man' White Ribbon Conference and was event director for the first TEDxWomen event in Toronto, Canada. Jeff was named to Racism Free Ontario's Top 100 Person of Colour list spotlighting anti-racism activists. Jeff also co-founded the Ryerson Black History Awareness Committee & annual Viola Desmond Day Awards Ceremony celebrating strong Black/African Canadian women.

Meaghan Reid

Meaghan Reid is the Director of Mental Health First Aid Canada. In her role, Meaghan is responsible for all strategic and operational decisions related to the MHFA program. Meaghan spends a great deal of time networking to generate interest, build credibility, establish rapport, and maintain communication with stakeholders from various sectors

and at multiple jurisdictional levels. Her current priorities include working with academics and advisory groups to develop adaptations of MHFA for northern peoples, Inuit, and seniors, as well as working with counterparts and colleagues in the Mental Health Commission of Canada to maximize the Commission's ability to have a positive impact on mental health in Canada. Prior to joining the Mental Health Commission, she had a highly successful career as the private sector partnerships advisor at CUSO-VSO, a civil society development agency that works through volunteers on collaborative development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Meaghon has experience working at the Senior Management and Executive level, and brokering partnerships with private sector companies using a multi-dimensional engagement approach.

Sjors Reijers

Sjors Reijers is the Manager, National Program Promotions and Business Development for Mental Health First Aid Canada. In his role, Sjors is responsible for working with companies, non-profit organizations, public and private groups to arrange MHFA courses. He also communicates regularly with the network of over 900 MHFA instructors across the country as well as represents MHFA at conferences and events. He also builds cross-promotional partnerships, prepares proposals for project funding, and reaches out to key stakeholders to ensure they are aware of MHFA. Prior to joining the Mental Health Commission, Sjors's career moved from international development to alumni relations in higher education. He has a background in adult education, communications, and fund development.

Evans Rubara

Evans is a social justice campaigner with expertise in policy engagement. He is passionate and focuses on sociopolitical and environmental justice issues related to multi/transnational resource extraction – the mining sector in east and Southern Africa and has extensive experience working with civil society organizations in the region, and internationally. Evans has played and continues to play an active role in the civil society movement in East and Southern Africa, and is engaged in efforts geared towards the creation of discursive platforms to address the impacts of neoliberal economic trends related to the mining sector. He is currently a graduate candidate in environmental studies at York University – Canada, specializing in International (critical) Development Studies and Policy.

Poonam Sandhu

Poonam Sandhu is the Youth Fellow for UNEP RONA and is overseeing the Tunza outreach across North American colleges and universities. Licensed as a Registered Nurse in Vancouver, Canada, and in Washington, DC she has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and recently completed a Master of Public Health at The George Washington University. Poonam has dedicated two decades of her life to [television](#), film, [dance](#), and entertainment for youth and young adults in English, Punjabi and Hindi. Poonam is delighted to help youth green-up their campuses and their cities. Watch Poonam and her sister speak at Pecha Kucha Night Vancouver: Walk the Talk Green Your City. Click [here](#) for more information.

Anna Smith

For six years, Anna has worked professionally and voluntarily to curate unique learning spaces and educational programs for non-profits. Rooted by a displeasure for our traditional models of – usually public – education, she has committed herself to understanding why we teach the way we do, and how we can move beyond that to accelerate the potential of each individual to know, care, lead, and make a difference in the world. Her biggest project at the moment is organizing the National Conference of Engineers Without Borders Canada; a space to rethink the way we develop leaders, invest in entrepreneurs, and foster partnerships for global development.

Natasha Walji

Natasha Walji is currently Head of Consumer Packaged Goods for Google Canada. Prior to Google, she was a (Senior) Engagement Manager with McKinsey & Company for ~4.5 years. Prior to McKinsey, she was a product developer for 3+ years. Natasha has a B.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Victoria (with distinction), an M.B.A. from Yale University and an M.St. in Sustainability Leadership from the University of Cambridge.