

Jeanne Sauvé Foundation Public Leadership Program

Sauvé Fellows

The mission of the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation is to connect, engage and empower a new generation of public leadership in Canada and around the world to address key global challenges.



Brijlal Chaudhari

Nepal



Brijlal is a social entrepreneur who is dedicated to enhance the standard of living of the marginalized and impoverished communities of rural Nepal. He is passionate about wealth creation by collaborating with community members.

Brijlal has five years of experience running a youth-based grassroots NGO called Sano Paila (A Little Step) in southern Nepal. He works as Chief Operation Officer and oversees eight different projects that are focused on providing justice to the marginalized population and integrating them into the life of the nation. He also runs Paurakhi Saving & Credit Co-operative Society Ltd. and provides access to financing for the rural population. In the future, Brijlal hopes to provide asset loans to farmers in his village and eventually scale up this idea. As a result of his strong interest in agriculture, he started Prakriti Krishi (Agriculture) Farm where he rears goats, fish and grows mangoes.

Brijlal is passionate about educating the marginalized youth populations (especially girls) by providing them with scholarships to attain higher education and by building libraries in the government schools in rural villages. At this time, he is already running two libraries and supporting ten students.

Moving forward, Brijlal aims to advocate for inclusive development. He seeks to represent the voice of developing countries on the global stage and encourage the world to open up markets for produce coming from developing countries. He wants to advocate for an inclusive path for all who are marginalized so that everyone can share the fruits of globalization.

As a teenager, Brijlal attended United World College schools in Hong Kong and Norway.



Costin Ciobanu

Romania



Costin strongly believes in nurturing and promoting public leaders in order to rejuvenate representative democracy and create a more equal and prosperous society. He is passionate about politics, philosophy, literature and meeting new, fascinating people.

Costin is a firm supporter of open politics. In the last seven years, Costin has been involved in local, parliamentary, Euro-parliamentary and presidential elections in Romania. He has also served as Communications and Policy Advisor to the President of the Romanian Senate and to the President of the Romanian Social-Democratic Party. His expertise in the public sector has been enhanced by working with the NGO "Institutul pentru Politici Publice" (The Institute for Public Policy) and with the Chancellery of the Romanian Prime Minister. Costin regularly writes political analyses for the Smart Politics platform. He believes that changing politics and government structures are fundamental to strengthening Romanian democracy.

Costin holds a Professional Master's in Political and Social Communication from the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, a B.A in Philosophy from the University of Bucharest, and a B.A. in Communication and PR from the National School for Political and Administrative Studies.



Maya Fennig

Israel



Maya is dedicated to designing and researching innovative, culturally appropriate initiatives that advance the well being of asylum seekers and minorities. She is particularly interested in the field of transcultural mental health and psychosocial support, with the goal of improving the access, equity and quality of mental health services for underserved ethnic and minority populations.

Maya believes that the most effective way to promote social change is by working within communities themselves. Maya has worked extensively in the psychosocial field in support of refugees and asylum seekers. She worked as the Development Officer and Coordinator of ERICE, an Italian-Palestinian-Israeli NGO working to promote the mental health of children and families.

From 2010 to 2012, Maya served as founder and executive manager of The Refugee Voice, the first media source in Israel authored by and for African refugees and asylum seekers living in Israel, one that expresses their voice and speaks for them in their own language. With the support of The UN Refugee Agency, Ha'artez and dozens of volunteers, the newspaper's printed and electronic editions have reached more than 150,000 readers in Israel and abroad, raising national and international awareness about refugee issues. Maya hopes to advance her most recent project, which aims to train refugee community health workers to deliver mental health psychosocial support within their communities.

Maya holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Washington University and a Bachelor's in Social Work from Tel Aviv University - both completed with honours.



Edison Huynh

United Kingdom

@Edison1d



Edison is passionate about cross-cultural education and being able to understand and be understood across differences. As a Sauvé Fellow, he hopes to question the definition of tolerance as a hallmark of a successful society and explore ways to enable all of us to re-engage with differing notions of individual as well as collective identity.

Edison is a born-and-bred Londoner and a teacher by profession. Throughout his childhood his parents, who had both escaped war-torn countries, strongly impressed upon Edison that education was the absolute key to social mobility. At the University of Oxford, Edison realized for himself just how many doors could be opened through education. Indeed it was university that enabled him to travel abroad – a love of travel belatedly started but that continues to this day. Such opportunities led to a strong desire to ensure that other young people, regardless of background, were given the same chances that were afforded to him.

Edison taught as an English teacher in China before returning to the UK to teach science in Lewisham. In 2013, Edison was elected to Participant President of Teach First, a charity responsible for mobilizing thousands of teachers in pursuit of wider societal change in the UK. Representing teachers to business leaders, policy makers and educators, Edison championed the causes of teacher wellbeing as well as mental health in young people and adults alike.

Education and a passion for travel has led Edison to teach and visit schools across the world – most recently in Australia and New Zealand as a Winston Churchill Fellow researching culturally intelligent leadership in schools.



Jaspreet Khangura

Canada

@JK_Khangura



Jaspreet is passionate about improving health outcomes for vulnerable and marginalized populations, and hopes to develop expertise in health, social policy as well as advocacy.

Jaspreet is a Royal College Emergency Medicine Resident at the University of Alberta. She is interested in evidence based health care and social determinants of health. Jaspreet received her MD from the University of British Columbia. While in Vancouver, she served on the UBC Senate and volunteered in the Downtown Eastside. She has also worked on health education projects in rural

Nicaragua and northern India.

Following medical school, Jaspreet completed an MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (EBHC) and an MSc in Neuroscience at the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar for two years. Her thesis looked at alternative models of delivering primary care in the emergency department. During her time at Oxford, Jaspreet was the Assistant Praefectus at Balliol College, Co-Executive Director of the 2012 Global Scholars Symposium, and an Oxford Blues hockey player.

Outside of her clinical duties in Edmonton, Jaspreet is currently serving as a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Elimination. She recently joined the YEG Global Shapers Team and is excited to be helping host and organize SHAPE North America 2015.

In the summer of 2000, Jaspreet participated in the Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership at Pearson College UWC.



Rachel MacNeill

Canada



Rachel is committed to grassroots community building towards a more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable society. She is passionate about empowering young people, traveling, community, and diversity.

Rachel's professional and academic experience centres on engaging communities through communications and media programming. She has worked in Northern Canada as well as East Africa, using communications planning and a community-building approach to engage and empower individuals.

Rachel grew up in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, which inspired her interest in community building, social justice and women's issues. She is the Co-Founder of V-Day North; through this initiative, she has worked towards raising awareness on women issues and more specifically, on violence against women. In addition to working on territorial communications campaigns with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Rachel has headed fund-and awareness-raising campaigns on the topic of violence against women and worked as a mentor with girls' programs. In 2012, she was selected as a CUSO International volunteer and moved to Zanzibar to work as an organizational advisor at the Stone Town Heritage Society, a grassroots NGO dedicated to local training and capacity building in the heritage sector.

Most recently, Rachel has been studying at Concordia University in Montreal, completing a Master of Arts in Media Studies focusing on a participatory media project with young Aboriginal women in the Northwest Territories. Through her research, she critically examined the role new and traditional media play in individual and community identity for northern Aboriginal girls.



Svjetlana Markovic

Bosnia Herzegovina



Svjetlana believes in a world in which men and women possess equal rights and equal starting positions, a world portraying society in which people are not divided by differences according to gender, economic status, religion, national identity and education level. She is passionate about leadership and meeting adventurous people whose work erases boundaries of divided societies.

Svjetlana coordinated the "Women citizens for constitutional reform" initiative, which advocates for the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to ensure human rights and freedoms, with a special focus on gender rights. She has worked with Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka, in the area of Woman in Politics, working and advocating for the empowerment of female politicians.

While in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Svjetlana worked on intercultural exchange programs that provided enriching learning experiences and promoted intercultural awareness, tolerance and communication. She's worked as a freelance trainer in the field of intercultural learning and integrated security for human rights activists, advising young politicians, facilitating and moderating different seminars and public debates.

Svjetlana finished her studies in Political sciences and as well as an MA in International studies at the University of Banja Luka. She has also enjoyed non-formal education, attending different seminars, particularly focused on leadership, human rights, political communication and intercultural understanding.



Jonathan McPhedran Waitzer

Canada



Jon is passionate about collaborative and inclusive decision-making. He firmly believes that the best way to make our diverse societies more just and inclusive is to increase the extent to which every person and community participates meaningfully in the decisions by which they are affected.

Jon worked as Director of Head & Hands, a Montreal youth empowerment organization that has operated since 1970 within a collective, consensus-based governance model.

For the past three years, he has also served on the Board of Directors for Montreal's Centre for Community Organizations, a group whose mission is to promote social justice, active citizenship, democracy, and just socio-economic development by supporting the development of healthy organizations and strong communities.

Before joining Head & Hands, Jon's professional background was in management consulting and international project management. He worked with McKinsey & Company in Montreal and Ashoka in Berlin, and advised clients from the public, private, and social sectors on strategy and organizational development.

In summer of 2000, Jon participated in the Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership at Pearson College UWC.



Charles Onu

Nigeria

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Charles is passionate about developing high impact technologies that address social challenges, especially in resource-poor settings. He considers himself a social innovator and his life's enthusiasm revolves around literature, music and science.

Charles is dedicated to applying technology to solving some of the toughest global challenges today. With a background in electronics and computer engineering, Charles found an early passion for social work and spent several years volunteering with and eventually leading the Enactus team at Federal University of Technology (in Owerri, where he studied). He also volunteered as a researcher for the Fisher Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa.

A Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS), Charles is the principal innovator of Ubenwa: software that applies artificial intelligence and mobile technology to enable timely diagnosis of birth asphyxia from a newborn cry. As a researcher in the humanitarian technology space, he has attended and presented at several international conferences including: UNESCO's Technologies for Development (Tech4DEv), Lausanne, Switzerland (2014) and Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) and Silicon Valley, USA (2014).



Sabrina Sassi

France

@RimSab



Sabrina strives to support advocacy and policy-making on the field by helping activists to benefit from the fruit of academic work. She is passionate about civic engagement, youth empowerment and having a positive impact on people's lives.

Sabrina studied in Canada for a semester with a grant from « Youth around the world ». While in Canada, she participated in an international communication challenge launched by Microsoft. Sabrina and her team were ranked among the world Top 8 Most Talented Students in international communications. As part of the “Compagnons du Monde” program, she decided to create an international network to build cultural and social links between St John's and Saint-Malo. It is with the support of this international network that she laid the foundation for her future intercultural projects.

Joining the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE) helped her keep up the efforts to promote intercultural dialogue with a special focus on youth from the African diaspora. She has moderated and facilitated various workshops and lectures on civic engagement, democratic participation, youth culture, social innovation and the social economy.

Sabrina is a PhD candidate in political communications at Université Laval. Her main research focus is on how political communication practices involve the use of “big data” to target certain parts of the population.



Syed QudratUllah

Pakistan



In 2010, Syed completed a Master in Business Administration (MBA) at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS).

After his MBA, he formed a youth-led organization: the Organization for the Development of Youth (ODY). For each ODY project, youth from the provinces were engaged in different activities like Youth Talent Hunt, Youth Conferences, Public Speaking, Capacity-Building, Negotiating Skills, Confidence-Building, Drama, Singing, Debate, Arts and other trainings. ODY has trained over five thousand youths from different districts of Balochistan.

In both his professional and social life, Syed is fully committed and determined. He has volunteered with multiple organizations, such as School of Leadership, The Citizen Foundation, and Y-PEER Pakistan. On the basis of his services to the community and his leadership skills, he was offered a Fellowship with the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) under the theme of “Young Leaders: NGOs and Civic Activism” by the U.S. State Department.



Rolando Jr. Villamero

Philippines

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Rolando Jr. values the importance of his family in everything he does. He loves working with people coming from diverse backgrounds, which is reflective of his inclination to diversity and inclusion.

Rolando Jr.'s passion for inclusive education started when he worked at GPRehab, an organization working with and for children with disabilities. It was there where he experienced the struggles of children with disabilities to be included in education systems. The children's stories of struggles and determination motivated him to strengthen inclusive education in the province through advocacy, parent's empowerment, teacher training, and curriculum changes.

Rolando Jr. believes that in order to bring inclusive education forward, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) themselves have to be empowered to fight for their own right to education. This inspired him to found The Outstanding Persons with Disabilities of Negros Oriental Alumni Community (TOPDAC) in 2010, a group of 35 PWD recognized for their personal excellence, leadership, and social responsibility. In 2012, he initiated a project to increase the capacities of student teachers to accommodate children with disabilities in the classroom. Rolando's contributions have been recognized internationally, such as by the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative Youth Advocacy Group (GEFI-YAG).

Rolando Jr. was selected by the Erasmus Mundus Program in Special and Inclusive Education to be a student scholar in 2013. The program provided him the opportunity to finish his Masters Degree at the University of Roehampton London, University of Oslo, and Charles University in Prague.



Gioel Gioacchino

Italy | 2012-13 Program Year

@gioelgio



Gioel is the executive director of Recrear, a Canadian charity working with a youth-to-youth approach to collect information on young people's perspectives utilizing participatory research projects. Gioel co-founded Recrear, a platform to support young people in launching their own initiatives, experimenting with innovative approaches to development and composed of a network of young professionals from around the world. Recrear's projects have taken Gioel to Palestine, the Dominican Republic, Canada and Bangladesh.

During her Sauvé Year, Gioel coordinated a strategic review of the organization and fine-tuned Recrear's model while building an advisory board. While in Montreal, she also delivered a TedX Youth Talk on the topic of youth engagement in creating community connections.

Gioel was an indispensable in the organization of very successful *Sauvé Encore!* programs which took place in November 2014 and May 2015. She then turned her organizational skills to the coordination of the launch of the Sauvé Alumni Collaboration Fund.

Gioel is a PhD Candidate at The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. Gioel holds a BA in International Studies from the University of New Orleans and an MPhil in Development Studies from Cambridge University.



Marie-Marguerite Sabongui

Canada | 2008-09 Program Year

@msabongui



Marie-Marguerite is recognized as a young emerging leader in sustainable development and public participation. She is Chief of Staff of Here Now, a strategic communications start-up leveraging peer-driven and mass participatory models to engage new audiences on climate change.

Marie-Marguerite has spent years working in international climate policy. She worked as a climate officer, creating an online sustainable development education program for civil society in the lead up to Rio +20, and organizing Canadian youth at the UNFCCC.

Raised in an Egyptian home in Montreal, she has travelled and worked in South Asia, South America, and the Caribbean to work with various local and international organizations, including Child Haven, UNEP and the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados.

During her Sauvé Year, Marie-Marguerite founded an environmental filmmaking consultancy and toured across Canada as one of the first Canadians trained by former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Al Gore as a Climate Reality Leader. She participated in the David Suzuki Foundation and Canadian Federation of Students for Sustainability Cross-Canada Tour to promote the greening of campuses.

Marie-Marguerite holds an MPA in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia and a First Class Honours BA in Cultural Studies and Development from McGill University. She serves on the board of Leadnow.ca, an independent advocacy organization that runs campaigns on the major issues of our time, engages people in participatory decision-making, and organizes in communities across Canada.



Jonathan Sas

Canada | 2012-13 Program Year

@jonathan_sas



Jonathan is currently Director of Policy and Research at the Broadbent Institute. He credits his incredible experience at Sauvé as a key stepping-stone on the path to his current role. Jonathan came to the Sauvé Program after serving as Editor-in-Chief of *The Mark News*, then one of Canada's leading political commentary news sites. It is there that Jonathan became preoccupied with the narrowness of the political discourse typical of Canada's traditional media landscape and interested in starting a project that could help to open up space for more progressive voices.

As a Sauvé Fellow, Jonathan divided his time between two projects related to this interest. He wrote a media criticism column for *The Tyee*, an award-winning online independent journalism outlet based out of Vancouver. His writing focused on the changing economic dynamics for legacy media outlets as print revenues decline and digital ads fail to fill the vacuum. His second project was an initiative to develop a progressive policy think tank that could work to challenge Conservative spin in the public sphere. As part of this project, he researched how Canada's right wing movement successfully built the robust infrastructure that now facilitates their command of the public imagination as well as their ample fundraising prowess.

In 2013, Jonathan became a member of the Board of Directors of the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation, where he represents the global community of 138 Jeanne Sauvé Fellows and helps to shape the Foundation's alumni network activities.

Jonathan received his honours B.A. in Political Science from the University of Toronto.