

Participant Profiles

Class of 2019

LSE **Cities** | Executive MSc in Cities



EXECUTIVE MSC IN CITIES

For the last decade, LSE Cities has brought together some of the world's leading urban thinkers and practitioners in its annual Urban Age programme in cities across the globe, from Mumbai to Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro and New York. Internationalism is at the core of our research and teaching.

Now in its fourth year, the Executive MSc in Cities will see 22 professionals from 19 cities convene at LSE for five teaching weeks to explore how they and their organisations can deliver effective change in their cities.

Representing diverse sectors including local government, urban design, planning, infrastructure, real estate, and architecture, the class of 2019 embodies the necessary sectoral diversity to deal with the cross cutting challenges and opportunities that today's cities are facing.

exec.lsecities@lse.ac.uk

Spatial distribution of the class of 2019



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Adam Thiel

Adam leads the Philadelphia Fire Department's ~3,000 members in protecting the 5th-largest US city from fires and emergencies arising from all hazards; he also directs the city's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). From 2014-2016, Adam was a Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia where he helped provide strategic direction, policy advice, and operational coordination for eleven state-wide agencies with an overall budget of more than \$3B and 30,000 employees.

*Fire Commissioner &
OEM Director*

City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, USA

His 27-year career spans five states (MD, NC, VA, AZ, and PA) as a chief fire officer, incident commander, company officer, fire and emergency services instructor, hazardous materials team leader, paramedic, technical rescuer, structural/wildland firefighter, swiftwater rescuer, and rescue SCUBA diver. He has directly participated in planning, response, and recovery efforts for multiple Presidentially-declared disasters and National Special Security Events (NSSEs), including the 9/11 tragedy, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, an earthquake, major blizzards, international sporting competitions, and political gatherings. Beyond public service, Adam co-founded two successful consulting practices advising a wide range of clients on crisis management, resilience, leadership, organizational development, risk analysis, and strategy. He is a 2018 Eisenhower USA Fellow, published author, adjunct faculty member, and has presented around the globe.



Arief Sanjaya

Arief is the Director of Finance and Business Service of PT Jakarta Industrial Estate, a developer owned by Government of the Republic of Indonesia and Provincial Government of Jakarta. In this role, he is starting an initiative to transform an industrial estate into an integrated development zone, as an integral part of Jakarta's Urban Regeneration Plan.

*Director of Finance and
Business Service*

*PT Jakarta Industrial
Estate*

Jakarta, Indonesia

Arief originally joined the Ministry of Finance in 2000. During his tenure in the ministry, he played roles in various assignments on modernization of administration system. Following his fruitful career at Ministry of Finance, started 2008 Arief broadening his mindset with contributed in several Indonesian reformation programs funded by multi-donor international agency. He also has been very fortunate to serve as an expert staff for Presidential Office's National Economic and Industrial Committee, House of Representative's Committee on State Budget Accountability and Supreme Court assistance team on court modernization.

Arief is a chartered accountant and Magister in Business Law from University of Indonesia School of Law, read economic policy to pursue Master in Public Administration at the National University of Singapore.



Gergely Boszormenyi-Nagy

Gergely is co-founder and majority partner of CreaCity, a Budapest based consultancy specialized in human centred urban development. CreaCity is working with small and mid-size cities on their most pressing leadership challenges, from renewing their development practices and adapting to climate change, to regulating the sharing economy and retaining their home-grown entrepreneurial talent. CreaCity frequently uses Design Thinking methods such as 'Customer Journey Mapping' and '360° Empathy' to bring the most out of its network of internationally renowned experts, as well to make local liveability the core aspect of urban development.

Co-founder

CreaCity

Budapest, Hungary

Gergely studied International Relations at Corvinus University of Budapest. He pursued a Master of Business Administration at Central European University and participated in the Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship of Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is also founder of Brain Bar, the largest European festival on the future, and head of Design Terminal, a leading innovation agency in Central Europe.



Jan Liu

Jan has over ten years of experience in real estate investment and finance. The formative years of Jan's career were spent at JPMorgan underwriting real estate loans, following construction lending, real estate Private Banking at Wells Fargo and commercial lending thereafter. Most recently Jan worked for a private equity firm in real estate acquisitions covering gateway cities: London, Paris, Frankfurt, New York, Boston and Washington D.C.

Investment Manager

Private Equity Real Estate

London, UK

Throughout his career Jan was an active advocate with steady interest in sustainable development and Green buildings. In the past few years, Jan's Green initiative led to direct investments in the buildings that are LEED (US Green Building Council) certified and/or uphold BREEAM (UK) standards.



João Paulo Kleinubing

João is a parliamentary advisor at the Brazilian Federal Senate and has been in public service for eighteen years in various positions. He has served as a Member of the Brazilian National Congress (2015-2019); Mayor of Blumenau/SC (2005-2012), the third-largest city in the Santa Catarina State; Member of the Santa Catarina State Legislative Assembly (2003-2004), Santa Catarina State Secretary for Health (2015-2016), CEO of the Santa Catarina Development Bank (2013-2014) and CEO of the Southern Brazil Electrical Power Transmission Company (2001-2002).

Parliamentary Advisor

Brazilian Federal Senate

Brasilia, Brazil

He holds a BA in History (Federal University of Santa Catarina) and a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration (Santa Catarina State University).



Joey Radovan

Joey is a corporate real estate veteran with twenty-four years of experience in the Philippines. He is currently Vice Chairman and Head of Occupier Services & Commercial Agency for Knight Frank in the Philippines. He engages in major tenant and landlord representation assignments, strategic consulting on development, acquisition, disposition, and investments for Global Fortune 500 companies and select private client groups. He also advises clients on selecting the right labour markets and developing workplace strategies. Prior to joining Knight Frank, he worked for CBRE and Colliers International. He started his career with a local developer gaining extensive experience in residential project investment sales.

*Vice Chairman & Head,
Occupier Services &
Commercial Agency*

Santos Knight Frank

Manila, Philippines

Joey is currently the Philippines Chapter Chair for CoreNet Global, a non-profit organization headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, USA promoting the corporate real estate profession around the globe. He holds academic qualifications in Business Administration (University of Santos Tomas - Philippines), Real Estate Management (De La Salle - College of St. Benilde - Philippines) and recently completed an executive certificate in Real Estate Finance (National University of Singapore).



Justyna Glusman

Justyna is Head Coordinator for Sustainable Development & Green Areas in city of Warsaw Mayor's office. Previously, she was a candidate for the post of the President of Warsaw, representing a coalition of twelve urban movements in local elections of 2018.

She graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics with MA and the LSE, where she obtained a PhD in political economy of European integration. Justyna started her professional career at the Office of the Main Negotiator of the Accession Treaty with the European Union, trainee at the European Commission Budget DG. For two years she coordinated the work of a group of policy experts in the Chancellery of the President of Poland.

Justyna is an expert in public affairs, territorial self-governments, regional policy design and implementation, including mechanisms of EU funds distribution. She has also published numerous articles and co-authored books in this field of expertise. She has been an activist for more than 10 years, involved in a local social movement fighting for better environmental policies and public space in one of the City of Warsaw's districts.

*Head Coordinator,
Sustainable
Development & Green
Areas*

City of Warsaw

Warsaw, Poland



Khaled Hamze Sinno

Khaled is CEO and Founder of Karma Lebanon SAL, the leading packer and exporter of fresh Lebanese produce. A consumer-centric advocate, he innovated several processes to optimise farm to consumer cycle and extend produce shelf life in transit. He is active in the agriculture domain and has led several national initiatives to develop and modernise the sector. He is also Chairman of the External Advisory Board at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science at The American University of Beirut and Secretary General of Harvard Business School Alumni Club of Lebanon.

Khaled is currently interested in creating national awareness about the importance of agriculture and its role in promoting democracy and alleviating poverty, mainly through education and developing a favourable eco-system for private sector intervention in the sector.

CEO

Karma Lebanon SAL

Beirut, Lebanon



Langdon Morris

Langdon is Senior Partner of InnovationLabs LLC, one of the world's leading innovation consultancies. He works with a global clientele including major corporations, small firms, and governments, to help develop and implement successful innovation programs and projects. He is author, co-author, or editor of 15 books in the fields of innovation and strategy. Some of his works are used as university textbooks worldwide, and he has taught and lectured on six continents.

He is a partner of FutureLab, a technology incubator working at leading edge of blockchain and quantum technologies, and a board member of the International Association of Innovation Professionals and chair of its annual conference, Innova-Con. He is also Co-Chair of the Innovation Council at RedTeam Engineering, and a Member of the USA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for ISO 56000, the new global standard for innovation management now under development.

Previously, Langdon was Associate Editor of the International Journal of Innovation Science, and Senior Practice Scholar, Ackoff Center, University of Pennsylvania. He was originally trained in architecture, and worked for many years as an apprentice to renowned architect and urbanist Paolo Soleri on the Arcosanti project in Arizona, USA

CEO

InnovationLabs LLC

Boston, USA



Lior Levin

Lior currently works as the advisor to the Mayor of Rahat, a city in the south of Israel. The city of Rahat was built by the government in the 70s for the Bedouin nomad community. Lior deals there with strategic planning, project managing, planning annual work plans and assisting the mayor with high priority tasks.

He has a BA in Business and Politics and a Master's in Public Policy. Lior participated in an excellence program conducted by the government that aims to train tomorrow's local government leaders in Israel. He has profound knowledge and field experience in development of unserved communities in Israel.

Mayoral Advisor

Rahat Municipality

Rahat, Israel



Louis Yu

Louis was formerly the Executive Director, Performing Arts of the Hong Kong West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD). He left the position in June 2019 and is now having a career break.

Louis joined WKCD in June 2010 and was responsible for steering the planning and development of the performing arts facilities in the District, and for overseeing the strategies and operating models for these facilities. He played a pivotal role in leading the design and construction of the performing arts facilities, including the Xiqu Centre, Freespace and the Lyric Theatre Complex. He has also overseen a series of public, talent-nurturing and cultural exchange programmes for dance, drama and theatre arts, music and xiqu.

He has over thirty years of experience in arts administration and management. His former roles include Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Independent

Hong Kong, China



Magali Thomson

Magali is currently working at The Children's Trust charity in Surrey, looking at their future vision and strategy, and how their estate development can support these. She will also be working from September as a Public Practice associate at Great Ormond Street Hospital. She will be Project Lead for Place Making, leading the public realm around the hospital's new Children's Cancer Centre.

Previously, Magali worked for fourteen years at Marks Barfield Architects where she was a director. Specialising in education projects, she led a successful education team there through the BSF years. She worked on many award-winning schools, and more recently on a number of community led projects, including a potential Centre for Cycling Excellence in Surrey, and an award-winning primary school in Cambridge.

Magali is on the Design South East, Sutton and Brighton design review panels, providing design support to local authorities, developers and communities in the South East. She has also acted as a judge for the Architects Journal. She holds academic qualifications in Architecture (Oxford Brookes University and Architectural Association - UK).

Project Lead for Place Making

Great Ormond Street Hospital

London, UK



Manuel Barreiro

Manuel is the founder and president of Aston Group, a private equity firm based in Central Mexico with a strong focus on Real Estate investment and development. To date, the Aston Group has invested over \$1B USD in projects throughout Mexico, North America and Europe. In this role, he provides the leading strategy and is responsible for new business and development functions that cover a wide variety of sectors such as real estate, technology, natural resources, education, and financial services. Manuel has over twenty years of experience in developing retail, industrial, residential and mix-use projects.

Founder and President

Aston Group

Queretaro, Mexico

Prior to founding Aston Group, Manuel had a ten-year career with Hines Interests. His main role was to participate and lead emerging market fund projects, aimed at investing into emerging markets. The target was to achieve a higher return on investment while significantly improving the construction standards in the respective country.

Manuel holds academic qualifications in International Business (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)) and a Master of Business Administration (University of Texas).



Marion Fulker

Marion is the inaugural CEO of the Committee for Perth Ltd, a role she has held for the past thirteen years. She is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and holds an MBA from Curtin Graduate School of Business.

The Committee for Perth is a private sector funded think tank. Its focus is on the Perth region's growth from its current population of 2 million people to 3.5 million expected around 2050 and the challenges and opportunities this will bring. The purpose of the Committee is to inform and advocate for change that improves the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and world-class amenities of Perth, the capital of Western Australia. To deliver on its purpose, the Committee takes an evidenced-based and solutions-focused approach and over the past decade has released over one hundred pieces of research. Its outputs are trusted sources of truth for public policy makers and the media.

CEO

Committee for Perth Ltd.

Perth, Australia

Marion has led projects 'by Perth, for Perth' on transport and congestion, gender equality, economic diversity, governance and brand reputation. Her on-the-ground research covers almost forty cities across the developed world in order to evaluate what Perth can learn from elsewhere.



Mei Ghee Chong

Mei Ghee is Senior Manager with Capital Project and Infrastructure (CP&I) team, Mainland China and Hong Kong-based PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In this role, Mei Ghee is responsible for financial advisory for the development of infrastructure projects, mostly in the planning or pre-financing green-field stages. In her current role, she is involved in many different types of deals, namely public private partnership (PPP) structuring, international public bidding, unsolicited bidding exercises with negotiations with local authorities, feasibility studies to form investment decisions, amongst others. She has completed a number of transactions in power and transportation sectors. Mei Ghee has deal experience across all continents, with a concentration in Africa and Asia.

Senior Manager

PricewaterhouseCoopers

*Beijing & Hong Kong,
China*

Before joining PwC, Mei Ghee worked in rating agency and debt capital market (DCM), raising capital for corporates as well as infrastructure projects.



Melody Benavidez

Melody is an Urban Resilience Consultant working at the intersection of climate change adaptation and sustainable, inclusive development. In her work, Melody focuses on small islands states with a regional emphasis on the Caribbean. She specializes in disaster risk management and risk reduction for greater resilience to a changing climate that is expected to bring more frequent and intense disaster impacts. She also supports post-disaster economic recovery efforts with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). At the World Bank she works with the Building Regulation for Resilience Program and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to strengthen regulatory processes for the built environment in Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through EDA, she has supported the economic development and recovery of the US Virgin Islands and Nebraska after significant disasters events had pronounced impacts on economic activities.

*Urban Resilience
Consultant*

World Bank

Washington DC, USA

Prior to this, Melody helped advance socially responsible finance practices at the Royal Bank of Scotland in London, Sustainalytics in Boston, and Arabella Advisors in Washington, DC. She holds a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.



Michael Nolan

Michael leads land use and infrastructure regeneration projects in Melbourne Australia. In his current role he leads a cross and intergovernmental team preparing a transport and land use framework for a large part of the inner city. He is also managing structure planning processes for several major urban renewal and social housing regeneration opportunities.

Previously, Michael worked for large property developers, consultants, and State and local governments in urban development and economic development roles. This included working for a publicly listed company on large master planned communities, housing and mixed-use projects from inception to completion and preparing an innovation district strategy for the Bays Precinct in Sydney. Michael has qualifications in urban planning, sustainable design and business administration.

Project Lead

Victorian Planning Authority

Melbourne, Australia



Musaad Al Saleh

Musaad is currently the Partnerships Manager at the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) in Dubai, seconded from Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). In this role, he is responsible for membership discussions on the establishment of a new type of a multi-stakeholder institution with treaty foundation to support countries with their transition to a green economy. In addition, he is responsible for the development and implementation of high-impact bankable projects pipeline focused on smart green cities and sustainable infrastructure projects.

Previously, Musaad served as the Senior Policy Associate for MENA region at GGGI Abu Dhabi office where he was responsible for knowledge sharing programs and regional partnership outreach activities related to planning and implementing green growth policies. Prior to joining GGGI, Musaad was a Programme Analyst for Energy, Environment and Climate Change at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Subregional Office. Musaad played a pivotal role in strategically mapping renewable energy opportunities and initiatives with Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects by identifying needs and gaps within the Eastern Caribbean SIDS.

Partnerships Manager

*World Green Economy
Organization*

Dubai, UAE



Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström

Nayoka is Senior Program Manager and Thematic Coordinator for Urban Development at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). She is a development cooperation practitioner with 20 years of experience from the government sector, as well as from bilateral and multilateral financing systems.

In her current position at Sida, Nayoka is responsible for preparing financing decisions and monitoring and analysing the results from Sida's global urban portfolio which consists of long-term funding to various UN and multilateral agencies, universities, think tanks and international NGOs. She also provides advice to policy and strategic planning processes of the Swedish government and of external partners, and represents Sida in international advisory committees of relevant urban initiatives.

Previously, Nayoka worked as Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was responsible for designing and setting up UN-Habitat's Global Program on Public Space. Nayoka began her professional career in the Philippines working with various development-financed programs and projects.

*Senior Program Manager
& Thematic Coordinator,
Urban Development*

*Swedish International
Development
Cooperation Agency*

Stockholm, Sweden



Rohin Malhotra

Rohin currently manages two organisations, Fixing Dad and Boofel Enterprises, their primary focus being upon the media, healthcare and tech environments. Fixing Dad is based in the UK and is currently in the process expanding to nine countries with a vision to create a smart solution that can help empower citizens to tackle, reverse and prevent a range of conditions including diabetes, obesity, heart failure/cardio-vascular disease, mental illness, respiratory illness and some forms of cancer.

Rohin has over twenty years of experience across media, tech/digital and gaming, having led companies globally and been responsible for leading growth, overcoming complex challenges and international expansion for numerous organisations and franchises. To date, he has helped lead five start-ups, five exits, six turnarounds, four global media corporations, one IPO and production/distribution of over three hundred hours of content to one hundred and forty countries.

Rohin graduated in Law from King's College London and has previously served as CEO for World Poker Tour and Bookie Mania and served as Managing Director/COO/GM roles with appScatter, Active Research, Fox Kids Europe, Lightstream Animation Studios, digital-first inc and in senior exec positions with Nickelodeon Asia-Pacific, Fox Sports USA, PartyGaming and Chiligaming.

Managing Director

Fixing Dad Ltd.

London, UK



Silvia Amorós

Silvia is an Architect and Urban Planner. Throughout her eighteen years of experience, she has actively participated in the definition and management of major processes of urban transformation in Barcelona's Metropolitan Area, focused mainly on the city of Viladecans (Barcelona).

The last three years she was in charge of an Urban Development Office in Viladecans City Council (Barcelona), she managed multidisciplinary teams to approach the Master Plan to regenerate an Industrial area with a broad strategic vision incorporating 'smart concepts' to configure an innovative district. She also worked as a link between politicians and citizens coordinating participatory processes to achieve agreements in complex environments.

Previously, as a Senior Coordinator (2007-2015) and as a Senior Architect (2003-2007) in Viladecans City Council (Barcelona), she worked on different types of projects, from large-scale urban planning, through urban landscape design to detailed architectural projects. She designed the projects and managed the budget and construction of these works. It is important to highlight that she is always driven by a sustainable approach. Sílvia has recently moved to London due to a desire for international experience. Her aim is to keep building more competitive, sustainable and inclusive buildings and territories.

Architect

London, UK



Stefan Meissner

Stefan is a Registered Architect and Urban Designer. He is an Associate Director at Ethos Urban, a newly created Australian urban consultancy firm with offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Since 2016 Stefan has been involved in establishing a design practice within Ethos Urban. He co-leads the Sydney design team which works alongside town and strategic planners, social strategists, economists and engagement specialist on small to large urban transformation projects for government as well as the private sector. He is also a design studio leader in the Master of Architecture course at the University of New South Wales. His studio focuses on large-scale, multi-use structures and precinct and explores the program, performance and architecture of buildings at a city scale.

His fascination with cities started in his home town of Dresden in Germany which, growing up, was still heavily marked by the impacts of World War II as well as current socialist rule but then swiftly and fundamentally transformed after the collapse of the communism in Eastern Europe. Stefan holds a degree in architecture and urban design from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany but has spent all his working life in Australia.

Associate Director

Ethos Urban

Sydney, Australia

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science that carries out research, conferences, graduate and executive education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Its mission is to study how people and cities interact in a rapidly urbanising world, focusing on how the physical form and design of cities impacts on society, culture and the environment. Extending LSE's century-old commitment to the understanding of urban society, LSE Cities investigates how complex urban systems are responding to the pressures of growth, change and globalisation with new infrastructures of design and governance that both complement and threaten social and environmental equity.

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