

Participant Profiles

Class of 2021

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 sixth year, the Executive MSc in Cities will see 24 professionals from 20 cities convene for five teaching modules to explore how they and their organisations can deliver effective change in their cities.

Representing diverse sectors including government, urban design, planning, social development, infrastructure, finance, and architecture, the class of 2021 embodies the necessary sectoral diversity to deal with the cross cutting challenges and opportunities that today's cities are facing.

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Spatial distribution of the class of 2021



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Aaron T Seybert

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Aaron is managing director of the Social Investment Practice at The Kresge Foundation where he oversees a team of eight and a portfolio of over \$350 million in high impact investments. He previously served as a social investment officer supporting the American Cities and Detroit Programs at Kresge. He joined the foundation in 2016. Prior to Kresge, he served as executive director at JPMorgan Chase Bank, where he was involved with community development banking focused on New Markets Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credit investing.

Managing Director

The Kresge Foundation

Detroit

He started his career in impact investing at Cinnaire (formerly the Great Lakes Capital Fund) addressing affordable housing, and previously worked with Legal Aid of Central Michigan. He has served on the board of directors for the Michigan Magnet Fund, Lake Trust Credit Union and the Core Cities Strategic Fund advisory board.

A native of Michigan, Aaron earned a bachelor in business administration in corporate finance and accounting from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctorate from the Michigan State University College of Law.



Adair Mosley

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Adair is the president and CEO of Pillsbury United Communities, a pioneering community impact agency.

Adair's bold strategic framework for Pillsbury United, adopted in 2019, moved the agency's focus upstream to building infrastructure and collaborations that address multi-dimensional social issues at the population level. That led to a \$1M community-health partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and a \$1M investment from the Kresge Foundation in support of policy change initiatives. In 2020, he launched Justice Built Communities, an equitable economic development corporation that prioritizes wealth creation in black and brown communities.

President and CEO

*Pillsbury United
Communities*

Minneapolis

Previously as Pillsbury's Chief Innovation Officer, Adair led a \$7 million dollar capital campaign to build North Market, a first-of-its-kind grocery store and wellness centre that's transforming food access, community health, and economic vitality in North Minneapolis.

He is a sought-after public speaker on topics including health equity, leadership, innovation, and disruptive system design. In 2019, Adair was selected to represent the Twin Cities region at Harvard Business School's Young American Leaders Program focused on U.S. Competitiveness. He was an American Express Leadership Fellow and earned a certificate in Human-Centered Design at Stanford's d.school.



Andrew Charney

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Andrew is the Director of Operations, British Columbia, for CAPREIT, Canada's largest publicly traded residential landlord. Based in Vancouver, Andrew oversees the asset and property management of roughly 5000 residential rental units across the province. He has lived and worked in several urban markets across Canada.

Prior to Vancouver, he was stationed in Amsterdam, where he oversaw CAPREIT's entry into the Dutch residential market as their Senior Operations Manager. He recently founded Third Beach Corp, which is both a vehicle used to invest in residential properties, and as a consulting service to assist investors in pivoting into the Canadian residential market.

Andrew volunteers for several local organizations, including Jewish Family Services Senior Outreach and Food Services, UBC Farms harvest, and previously with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Toronto. He holds a BA from the University of Guelph, with a major in European Studies, focusing on Commerce, and a minor in Spanish.

Director, Operations

CAPREIT

Vancouver



Anthea Stephens

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Anthea has spent two decades designing and delivering innovative and collaborative solutions that address priorities at the interface of development and environment challenges. She is currently responsible for the Climate and Sustainability Component of the Cities Support Programme at the National Treasury. She was previously Director of the National Grasslands Programme at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and Acting Country Director and Programme Manager for IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in South Africa.

Anthea has an MSc in Environmental and Geographical Science from the University of Cape Town and has held positions on the board of directors for PhytoTrade Africa, the Southern African National Products Trade Association and on the advisory panel of Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa. She is currently a member of the Scientific Committee for the AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Awards.

Lead: Climate and Sustainability, Cities Support Programme

National Treasury

Johannesburg



Emmanuel Baisie

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*Municipal Coordinating
Director*

*Korle Klottey Municipal
Assembly*

Accra

Emmanuel is the Municipal Coordinating Director (City Manager) for Korle Klottey Municipal Assembly, a Local Government Authority in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, Ghana. In his role as a City Manager, he is responsible for the coordination, harmonization, organization and implementation of the policies and programmes of the Assembly. He also ensures effective and efficient management of the resources of the Assembly. He is the Chief Policy Advisor to the Municipal Chief Executive (Mayor). He is an Administrator and a Local Economic Development (LED) practitioner. He has worked with six local government authorities in different administrative regions in Ghana. He worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as Local Economic Development Adviser. He was also a part time lecturer at the Institute of Local Government Studies, Madina, Legon.

Emmanuel holds a Master's degree in Development Studies with Specialization in Local and Regional Development from International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in the The Hague, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with History from University of Ghana, Legon. He is the author of the book *Meso Institutions and Endogenous Development* in Ghana Published by Lap Lambert Academic Publishing based in Germany. He has a strong passion for urban governance, local economic development and green economy issues.



Frazer Baggaley

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Frazer is a landscape architect and Senior Principal at Boffa Miskell, Hamilton, New Zealand. He has 15 years' experience across a variety of urban environments in New Zealand, China, the Middle East and UK. His expertise covers a wide spectrum of urban design and landscape architecture disciplines.

Frazer's project experience extends from providing high level urban design and landscape frameworks, strategic input into the design of major infrastructure projects to stadium, school and university campus design, master planning and town centre design and public realm revitalisation projects.

*Senior Landscape
Architect - Senior
Principal*

Boffa Miskell Ltd

Hamilton



Gabriel Sousa Marques de Azevedo

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Gabriel is a Councilman at Belo Horizonte City Council, Brazil. He graduated in Law, with a Masters in Constitutional Law and is a professor and bachelor in Advertising and Journalism. He was Undersecretary of Youth in the Minas Gerais government during Antonio Anastasia's administration. He is also currently an advisor at Jusbrasil and a professor at RenovaBR.

Gabriel started his second term as Councilman in 2021 after receiving 13,088 votes. His goal for the next four years is to make Belo Horizonte a more open, democratic, and participatory city. The proposal covers five axes: mobility, economic development, social development, education, and regionalization of the mandate.

Councilman

*Belo Horizonte City
Council*

Belo Horizonte



Irene M García

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Irene is Mayor's Office Advisor at the Municipality of Curridabat. She is an advisor in Urbanism, Wellbeing, Biophilia, Innovation & Place Branding. As an urbanist, Irene envisions an enjoyable city, with thriving public spaces where biodiversity reclaims its role within the urban landscape and where people may rethink how they commute.

Irene is a Biotech Engineer with an MBA in Marketing from ITCR, the leading tech university in Costa Rica, and has a Sustainability Management degree from INCAE Business School. She currently works as the Mayor's advisor and has developed as an holistic advisor for her own company for more than 10 years.

Imbuing the Sweet City vision with a wellbeing approach which embraces state-of-the-art science, Irene has transformed the traditional notion of what a city can be. She has represented the Municipality of Curridabat as Chief Innovation Officer at the City Lab, Aspen Institute and Bloomberg Foundation on four consecutive occasions. The Sweet City Vision has been recognized for Innovative Practices by UN-HABITAT's New Urban Agenda Award (Colombia 2016), for Urban Innovation by the Guangzhou International Award (China 2016) and by the Le Monde Smart Cities Global Innovation Award (Singapore 2017) amongst others.

Mayor's office advisor

Municipality of Curridabat

Curridabat



Jake Elder

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Jake is Senior Lead, Sustainability in the Bloomberg Associates (BA) Sustainability Practice, where he advises mayors and senior city officials on sustainability projects that spur local investment, improve quality of life, and drive greenhouse gas reductions. In his work, he helps cities leverage data analysis and stakeholder engagement to navigate the transition to clean energy, build new infrastructure that improves quality of life for residents, and implement policies that mitigate the impacts of climate change. He is a recognized expert on urban sustainability and infrastructure issues; having co-authored several white papers and served on multiple city advisory boards. He also supports selected Bloomberg Philanthropies initiatives including the American Cities Climate Challenge and U.S. Virgin Islands hurricane recovery efforts.

Jake has developed deep expertise in global public policy development and implementation, having advised over 50 public sector clients in Europe, North America and Latin America. Before he joined BA, Jake was a member of Accenture's Public Service Strategy Practice, where he worked with leaders of state and local governments, higher education institutions, and non-profit organizations.

*Senior Lead,
Sustainability*

Bloomberg Associates

Atlanta



Jonathan Weaver

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Jonathan is a Senior Urban Planner with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). He has been responsible for managing a portfolio of projects across Asia, the Middle East and Africa. His focus has been on working with cities and municipalities to identify opportunities to better integrate displaced populations and climate resilient solutions within their urban plans and policies through data-driven spatial analysis and participatory planning. This includes developing sustainable development strategies for protracted refugee settlements in Kenya, and a secondment to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to work with field teams in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to coordinate robust infrastructure interventions across the Rohingya Camps.

Urban Planner

Urbanlogic

Hong Kong

Originally trained as an architect in the UK, he started his professional career in architecture in London before taking an opportunity with Tsinghua University Design Institute in Beijing. This led to a transition of his practice into more urban scale work. Following an internship with the European Union Delegation to China focusing on Sustainable Urbanisation Policy, he went on to work for Atkins Asia Pacific in Beijing as an Urban Designer. In that role, he worked on Low Carbon oriented urban projects for Chinese Cities and urban regeneration and industrial upgrading projects across South-east Asia.

Jonathan is now focusing on developing a small consulting business in Hong Kong and remains a consultant to UN-Habitat.



Juliana Ossa

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Juliana leads strategic planning projects for the private and government sectors in URBANA, a Colombian urban consultancy firm, which works alongside major construction companies, as well as local and national government organisations in Colombia.

Currently, she is leading the strategic planning for four municipalities located in the northeast of Bogotá, in order to strengthen their role in the metropolitan region from an economic, social, and environmental perspective. Juliana is also involved in the creation of an online decision-making tool for government agencies, which will contain updated information on education infrastructure on a national scale. The aim of the platform is to support better investment policies in educational infrastructure in rural and urban areas of Colombia.

*Sustainable Development
and Planning Consultant*

URBANA SAS

Bogotá

From 2016 to 2020 she was involved in several high-profile projects with the local planning department to update Bogotá's master plan, which is the long-term urban development strategy for the city. Also, she worked with Bogotá's Urban Development and Renovation Company, supporting the renewal of opportunity areas and development of expansion zones.

Juliana holds an MSc in Sustainable Urbanism with Distinction from The Bartlett School of Planning -London UCL as well as a Bachelors Degree (Honours) in Architecture from The Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.



Kai Liu

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Kai is Design Director at CRCC Real Estate Group. He was trained as an architect in China and started his professional career in Florence Italy for award winning practice of Studio Archea and Design Magazine AREA. After completing his MRes at the London Consortium, University of London, Kai extended his career in the UK as a magazine editor and reporter at Chinese Weekly, focusing on urbanism and design.

Kai further pursued his design practice and research regarding cities and the built environment after returning to his homeland. In 2015, he was made visiting scholar to the Bauhaus Foundation in Dessau Germany, with a research grant from the institution. He now serves as the Design Director of the China Railway Construction (CRCC) Real Estate Group's Chongqing office, regarded as one of the major property developers in the country.

Design Director

CRCC Real Estate Group

Chongqing



Kate Stapleton

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Kate is an experienced urban and regional planner, who has spent much of her career working for the State Government of Victoria. Kate has a passion for land use planning reform and has contributed to a number of new policy and planning initiatives.

In the past 3 years, Kate has had a lead role in the planning and delivery of transport at the Department of Transport. Kate's strengths included innovative and lateral thinking on complex policy problems and project management.

*Director, Planning
Practice*

Department of Transport

Melbourne



Khalil F Shaat

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Khalil has been a senior policy advisor at GIZ (German International Cooperation) for 18 years, the Cairo Governor's advisor since 2006, and a senior contract administrator. During his 30 years of professional experience, he negotiated and drafted several contracts in different businesses' discipline and participated in several Dispute Resolutions Boards, Mediations as well as institutional and Ad-hoc Arbitration cases. He is a Certified Mediator and Trainer by CEDR (Centre for Effective Dispute Resolutions – London).

Senior Policy Advisor

GIZ

Cairo

Khalil is a key person in outlining the current vision for the development of the informal areas within Cairo governorate as well as he is currently involved in many mega projects in Cairo to reshape and upgrade the Urban Fabrics and upgrade major informal areas with proper community participation and a defined business model. He is active in community participation related to development works and involved with local youth groups and NGOs for efficient role in the development activities to integrate within the local administration. He is a member of many professionals' associations in UK, USA and Egypt.



Landiwe J Mahlangu

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Landiwe is currently the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) and the Director Amazwe Holdings. He is a development economist and strategist with extensive experience in local governance, development finance and infrastructure development.

He previously worked for the Development Bank of Southern Africa where he held various Executive and Specialist positions and is a former full-time Chairperson of the Municipal Demarcation Board.

Chairperson

*Sekhukhune
Development Agency*

Johannesburg

He is serving as an Economic Advisor to the South African United Business Confederation, Member of the Emfuleni Planning Appeals Authority and an a member of Inter-Ministerial Advisory Panel on Electricity Distribution and Reticulation. He has served on the Board InterWaste Holdings and Seakay Holdings (both Johannesburg Stock Exchange Listed Companies) amongst others.



Leila McKenna

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Leila is an independent consultant, with 25 years of experience of working in urban development and urban management. She started off in the NGO sector and then in government in 1994. She was appointed Executive of Planning, LED, Housing, and Environment in a sub-structure of the City of Johannesburg and later as the metro co-ordinator for strategic projects and restructuring of the planning function. In addition, she established Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) and was appointed CEO in 2000. JPC was the first municipality in South Africa to ring-fence its portfolio to manage it with the purpose of maximising value.

Independent Consultant

Johannesburg

Following JPC, Leila was part of establishing a development management company that managed several large-scale urban projects and drafting property strategies for large public landholders. She was then employed by Kagiso Urban Management (part of Kagiso Property Holdings) responsible for CID and urban management plans and strategies for municipalities. She was also involved in property evaluations for KPH.

Most recently, Leila has worked as an independent consultant across the various disciplines of housing, planning, urban management, and property, and has drafted several papers on spatial integration, public properties, housing, and planning. She is currently involved with Urban Real Estate Research Unit based at UCT.



Moti Elmaliach

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Moti is the Chairman & Founder of Wise City LTD, a consulting firm that provides strategic consulting services to municipalities and local councils and helps lead processes of formulating urban vision and strategic innovation & rejuvenation programs. Moti serves as consultant to corporations & NGOs, is an environmental activist and a former journalist. His present and previous clients include The Israel Land Authority, the city of Bnei Brak, Jerusalem City Council members, the Venture Capital Fund JVP, the Israeli medical emergency organizations United Hatzalah & The Association of Private Ambulances and more.

Chairman & Founder

Wise City LTD

Tel Aviv

Moti is the Chairman and founder at the “Neighbors of the Yarkon” association in Tel Aviv, Israel, which aims to stop pollution in the Yarkon River. He is Founder and Member of the Board of Directors at the Israeli Heart Association, an organization that aims to support heart patients in Israel. He is also Member of the command team, spokesperson, and medic at The IsraeLife Foundation Task Force to disaster areas in the world and was a member of the search and rescue Israeli delegations to help Nepal earthquake victims in 2015 and the victims of Hurricane Irma in the Florida Keys in the US in 2017.



Nicolas Fontaine

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Nicolas is General Manager of the Mobility Department for the Region Grand Est (Strasbourg, Metz, Nancy, Reims), in charge of the regional train network (180,000 daily passengers). He was educated at Ecole Polytechnique, Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris) and University Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona). He has held various managing positions in the mobility field for the French state and French local authorities.

Prior to his current role, Nicolas was General Manager of the Mobility Department for the Bordeaux Metropolitan area, in charge of all the infrastructure development programs, among which a 1 billion-investment plan to extend the tramway network by 27 km.

*General Manager in
charge of the Mobility
Department*

Région Grand Est

Strasbourg



Rabih Kashouh

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Rabih is the Managing Member of Urbia, a property development & consulting company located in Liberia, West Africa. Rabih helped acquire and develop multiple properties in the city of Monrovia and is currently developing the Four Points by Sheraton due to open in 2023.

Rabih has extensive knowledge of the zoning and building regulation in the city of Monrovia and holds academic qualifications in International Business (Lebanese American University) and a mas-ter's in business administration & finance (University of New Haven-US).

Managing Owner

Urbia, LLC.

Monrovia



Reid Wodicka

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Reid presently serves as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Lynchburg, Virginia. In this role, he oversees and provides strategic leadership to a variety of municipal functions such as city planning and development, public safety, economic development, public works, and transportation. Over the past 15 years, he has served cities and towns in leadership roles throughout Virginia, creating a cul-ture of innovation and equity in public service.

Reid has a PhD in Public Policy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Master's and undergraduate degree from James Madison University in Virginia. In his spare time, Reid enjoys flying airplanes throughout the eastern United States, kayaking Virginia's scenic rivers and serving the arts community in various volunteer roles.

Deputy City Manager

City Lynchburg, Virginia

Lynchburg



Waleed Mansour

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Waleed is Program Manager on Climate and Energy at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - Egypt office. His role entails program design and delivery on climate and energy with local partners with the aim of creating policy dialogue, building capacities of local institutions and creating platforms for local actors to interact.

His work's keyword is socioecological transformation, the ambition is to steer dialogue between the government, academics, experts and the independent actors on sustainable urbanization, climate action, Eco-tourism, and sustainable mobility.

*Program Manager -
Climate and Energy*

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Cairo



Yasmin Coovadia

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Yasmin is a principal planner at Zutari, engineering consultants and trusted advisors in Africa and the Middle East. In her role, she is responsible for providing urban planning advisory services to Zutari clients. Yasmin is a town and regional planner in South Africa with a master's degree in Town & Regional Planning.

She has approximately thirty years' knowledge and experience of urban development in respect of national and sub-national legislation, policies, and systems. Seven of the thirty years of this experience was gained in housing development as a member of senior management in the South African government between 1996 and 2003; another nineteen years' experience was gained working in the private sector in companies that provided niche financial and urban development services to government; and four years' experience was gained during the pre-democratic years working at community level.

In the last ten years, Yasmin was contracted to the National Treasury of South Africa to work on various projects in the Cities Support Programme, identifying and analysing key urban challenges and designing improved responses from government to these urban challenges. One of her key projects focused on designing a more outcomes-led approach to urban planning, budgeting and reporting.

Principal Planner

Zutari

Johannesburg



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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