

Session at UN General Assembly Science Summit (SSUNGA77)

The Future of Global Governance Series: Driving Living Labs Adoption Globally
Briefing for Part 2 led by the Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

Center for Global Agenda

 Unbuilt Labs



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Date: 29 September 2022

Organizers:

- European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)
- Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

Part 1 (ENoLL):

9:00am – 12:10pm Eastern Time (Hybrid in New York)

Part 2 (CGA):

Virtual Programming on **Zoom**, 12:30pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time (New York)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82830245136?pwd=M1NPZXZOWkRKYnhPbHJoQW9qMG5Zdz09>

In-Person Evening Meeting in London, 8:00pm – 9:00pm London Time

Wolfpack, 53 Lonsdale Rd, London NW6 6RA (5 mins walk from London's Queen's Park station)

Sign up: <https://sched.co/17Dwr>

Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is directly related to the ability of local and global ecosystems to efficiently face complex challenges. We need bold, innovative, and inclusive solutions to address the crises ahead.

Living labs are user-centred open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic approach of co-creation with users of such solution. How do we integrate research, innovation, and decision-making processes? What research infrastructures do we need to support evidence-based and science-based decision-making processes, and research the SDGs in time? How can we benefit & learn from knowledge exchange among living labs organized in networks?

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Overview

During Part I of the workshop led by the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), we will showcase the state of the art of living labs from different Continents and discuss how they contribute to the SDGs.

During Part II of the workshop led by the Center for Global Governance (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs, we will explore the overarching questions further, and invite everyone to co-create guidelines with us to drive living labs adoption globally, as part of the Recommended UN Action Plan to Close the Compliance Gap, a publication at UNITAR.

We hope you will join us in developing actionable recommendations and answers to these pivotal questions. We look forward to guiding living labs development together and furthering its role in advancing the SDGs.

Part 1 (ENoLL): Showcase

The European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) is bringing together public actors, researchers, technologists, as well as innovative service developers and practitioners from living labs globally. The showcase will demonstrate how living labs can contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals speedily and efficiently with an emphasis on three themes: open science, science diplomacy, and climate action. The showcase will also show how living labs can be implemented effectively.

Hybrid Event: Flanders House 620 8th Ave. New York, NY 10018
9am – 12:10pm Eastern Time

Speakers:

- Declan Kirrane, Iscintielligence
- Evdokimos Kostantinins. Chiar at ENoLL; ThessALL
- Martina Desole. Director ENoLL
- Marvin Cheung, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs
- Marguerite Van Cook, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs
- Valentino Piana. HES-SO – Lantern Project
- Georgia Ayfantopoulou. Research Director. Center of Research & Technology; Hellas Coordinator of Thessaloniki Smart Mobility Living Lab
- François Chrétien, Associate Director, Living Labs, Science and Technology Branch Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Government of Canada
- Yasin Kartoğlu, Mayor of Başakşehir Municipality and Chairman of Başakşehir Living Lab
- Suus van Rooijen, Municipality Eindhoven
- Deirdre de Bhailís, Dingle Hub
- Gareth Priday, ALLIN Australian Network of LL
- Fernando Vilariño, Computer Vision Center
- Eveliina Asikainen, Tampere University Of Applied Sciences Ltd
- Rosa Almeida, INTRAS Foundation – MINDLab
- Eva Kehayia, RehabMaLL, McGill University

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Part 2 (CGA): Forum

A compliance gap appears when deeds lag behind words or when compliance falls short of commitment. The proposed framework to close the compliance gap, which is undergoing a global stakeholder consultation process at CGA, is rooted in the theory and practice of global diplomacy. Living labs have been identified as Theme 9 under Area 2: Science Diplomacy. We will co-create guidelines to advance the global adoption of living labs. We will also explore different themes across Area 2: Science Diplomacy, and Area 3: Preventive Diplomacy. We hope to gather participants from different continents and all walks of life. We strongly recommend historically underrepresented individuals and communities to participate in the process.

Agenda for Virtual Programming (1.5 hours)

Contact: Marvin Cheung, CGA Co-Director, Marvin@UnbuiltLabs.com

Time (New York)	Time (London)	Topic	Presenters and Panelists
12:30 – 12:40pm	5:30 – 5:40pm	<p><i>Center for Global Agenda (CGA)</i></p> <p>The Future of Global Governance Series at Unbuilt Labs</p> <p>Recommended UN Action Plan to Close the Compliance Gap, a publication at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>Announcing CGA High Level Recommendations and Global Strategy</p> <p>CGA Public Forum on SDG16 Hub, a portal hosted by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre: https://www.sdg16hub.org/group/center-global-agenda-recommended-un-action-plan-close-compliance-gap-ccg/stream</p>	<p>Marvin Cheung Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p> <p>Marguerite Van Cook Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p>
12:40 – 1:00pm	5:40 – 6:00 pm	<p><i>Venture Strategy Group (VSG)</i></p> <p>Announcing our Innovators in Residence (IIR) program for executives creating breakthrough change and supporting CGA’s High Level Recommendations and Global Strategy</p> <p>IIR Presentation 1 by Dennis Larsen: Initiative for Global Sustainable Economies (IGSE)</p>	<p>Dennis Larsen Co-Founder and Director, Initiative for Global Sustainable Economies (IGSE); University Lecturer, BI Norwegian Business School</p> <p>Shady El Damaty, Ph.D. President, OpSci; Co-Founder, Holonym</p>

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		IIR Presentation 2 by Shady El Dematy: Infrastructure for Distributed Research Coordination	
1:00 – 1:20pm	6:00 – 6:20 pm	<p><i>Panel Discussion: Health Policy, Research Infrastructure, and Health for All</i></p> <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Privacy 2. Engagement with Civil Society 3. Future of Clinical Research <p>We recommend reading publications and materials from panelists prior to the event:</p> <p>Steve was a co-lead on the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere 2020 – 2022, and a lead author of the 2020 System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics. See Addendum 1 for the statement <i>A Global Data Convention</i> submitted to the Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs.</p> <p>Rachele was a co-author of FDA User Fee Reauthorization and the Value of Real-World Evidence, as well as a moderator and presenter at the 2022 Duke-Margolis Convening on the State of Real-World Evidence Policy.</p> <p>Ivy was featured at the recent Whitney Biennale: Activism for Global Pandemic Equity, she was also interviewed by the National Aids Memorial: Ivy Kwan Arce - Women and AIDS - Surviving Voices, and a Research in Action Award (RIAA) Honoree.</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>Marvin Cheung, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p> <p>Marguerite Van Cook, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p>	<p>Ivy Kwan Arce Board Member, Treatment Action Group (TAG); Research in Action Award (RIAA) Honoree</p> <p>Rachele Hendricks-Sturupp, DHSc, MSc, MA Research Director, Real World Evidence at Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy</p> <p>Steve MacFeely Director of Data and Analytics, World Health Organization (WHO)</p>

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1:20 – 1:30pm	6:20 – 6:30pm	<i>Intermission</i>	
1:30 – 1:40pm	6:30 – 6:40 pm	<p><i>Global Consortium for Systems Research (GCSR)</i></p> <p>Announcing GCSR 2022-2023 10th Anniversary Strategic Plan</p> <p>Keynote presentation by Jim Hall, FREng: Systems Science</p>	<p>Marvin Cheung Chair, Global Consortium for Systems Research (GCSR)</p> <p>Jim Hall, FREng Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks; Director of Research, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford</p>
1:40 – 2:00pm	6:40 – 7:00pm	<p><i>Panel Discussion: Engaging Young Leaders – Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Literacy, and Education</i></p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>Marvin Cheung, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p> <p>Marguerite Van Cook, Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs</p>	<p>Inez Harker-Schuch, Ph.D. Co-founder, The Planet Academy; Researcher and Environmental Scientist</p> <p>Lowell Clare, MA, MLA Independent Researcher, Unbuilt Labs Alumni</p> <p>Samuel Kamau Founder, Ridhika; Founder, The Africa Digital Service; Unbuilt Labs Alumni</p>

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In-person Programming (1 hour)

Wolfpack, 53 Lonsdale Rd, London NW6 6RA (5 mins walk from London’s Queen’s Park station)

We extend an open invitation to living lab experts and anyone who is interested in discussing topics related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the UN General Assembly Science Summit, including topics such as science, science diplomacy, open and inclusive science, and research infrastructure to join our discussions in an informal setting.

Contact: Marvin Cheung, CGA Co-Director, Marvin@UnbuiltLabs.com

Time (NY)	Time (Ldn)	Topic	People
Open Discussion and Socials (1 hour)			
This in-person event is not broadcasted	8:00 – 9:00pm	Open Discussion and Socials	Marvin Cheung Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

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About the Organizers:

European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)

Founded in 2006 under the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, ENoLL is globally active to support and certify Living Labs. The role of living labs in advancing has been formally recognized by the IPCC, the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, in their 2022 Climate Change Report: Global adoption of living lab methods can drive co-created solutions to existing problems by integrating scientific and expert knowledge with local knowledge and common values. The report has also formally recognized ENoLL's model of open and citizen-centric innovation for policy-making globally.

Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

Dedicated to the study of global governance and global agenda setting for non-state actors, CGA is currently hosting the Recommended UN Action Plan to Close the Compliance Gap (CCG), a publication at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). We will be recommending on the methods non-state actors can employ to accelerate sustainable development, protect global commons, provide global public goods, offer checks and balances, and deliver Health for All.

About the Future of Global Governance Series at Unbuilt Labs

This workshop is part of the Future of Global Governance Series at the Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs. CGA is leading the global stakeholder consultation process for the Recommended UN Action Plan to Close the Compliance Gap (CCG), a publication at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). We are pleased to co-host a series of public-access workshops with organizations that have consultative status with CGA and co-create guidelines for the publication. All participants will receive a Post-Workshop Summary as part of The Future of Global Governance Series Proceedings published by CGA. Written materials such as those in the Public Forum or public statements submitted to CGA may be quoted in the Summary. We are delighted to support Act4SDGs by the UN Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign through this Series. Highlights of our initiatives are available on our Act4SDG profile. We invite everyone to participate, study, reimagine, and co-create the future of global governance with us.

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Addendum 1

Statement by Steve MacFeely, Director of Data and Analytics, World Health Organization (WHO)

A Global Data Convention

Data. The single word that defines our age. Easily shared, duplicated and traded, the glue that binds and drives the digital economy, the cloud, blockchain, the Internet-of-Things, and even our politics. They offer promise but also peril – they are a tool for liberation, but also potentially a weapon for exploitation.

Data transcend borders, challenge national sovereignty and are increasingly being thought of as a new form of capital. While some countries and regions have begun to try and tackle the challenge of how to regulate the collection and use of data, such a piecemeal, fragmented approach risks creating barriers to production, trade, innovation and cooperation.

Given the importance of data for the modern digital economy, for surveillance, for AI, there will be few more important geopolitical issues in the coming years. Hence the chief statisticians of the international statistical system are calling for a **Global Data Compact**.

A **Global Data Compact** would constitute an integrated set of data principles and standards that unite national governments, public institutions, private sector, civil society organizations and academia. These would include elements such as: privacy of personal data; data accessibility; data exchange; data interoperability; and transparency, to name a few.

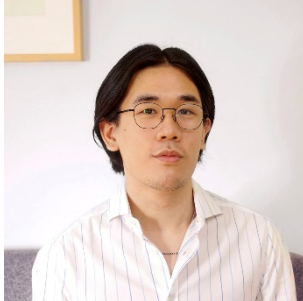
A **Global Data Compact** would help avoid a fragmentation where each country or region adopts their own solution by promoting common objectives. This would give individuals and enterprises confidence that data relevant to them carries similar protections and obligations no matter where they are collected or used.

Building upon the existing canon of international human rights and other conventions, laws and treaties that set out useful principles and compliance mechanisms and build upon them, a **Global Data Convention** could move beyond establishing ethical principles and create a global architecture that also includes standards and incentives for compliance. Such an architecture could be the foundation for rethinking the data economy, promoting open data, encouraging data exchange, and facilitating trade mechanisms.

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Speaker Biographies



Marvin Cheung
Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

Marvin Cheung is a global governance scholar and a business executive. He co-directs the Center for Global Agenda (CGA) and directs the Venture Strategy Group (VSG) at Unbuilt Labs. Bringing together his research interests, including the future of global governance, research organizations, and technology, he regularly advises on the ideas, methods, and movements that have the potential to change global dynamics. He chairs the Global Consortium for Systems Research (GCSR), and is a Global Diplomacy Fellow at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as well as a UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab Expert on SDGs and Strategic Planning. As a Board Member at Unbuilt Labs, he is also a member of the Asian Leaders Alliance, the Institute of Director's Policy Voice, and Chairman's Network, where he regularly presents research to private and public Board of Directors. He studied at the University of Hong Kong, the Parsons School of Design, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



Marguerite Van Cook
Co-Director, Center for Global Agenda (CGA) at Unbuilt Labs

Marguerite examines the interactions between culture, politics, and the arts. Prior to pursuing a Ph.D. on the History of Political Economics and French, she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University. She has extensive experience in political relations and campaigning for change. She specializes in reframing narratives and public engagement. A prolific artist as well, she toured as opening act for The Clash, and became a New York Times bestselling author. Her artwork is in many public collections, including the MOMA, the Whitney Museum and Harvard. She is currently, Board President at Visual AIDS, the organization that brought us the Red Ribbon AIDS awareness symbol as well as A Day Without Art. She is the President Emeritus of Howl Arts!

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Dennis Larsen
Co-Founder and Director, Initiative for Global Sustainable Economies (IGSE); University Lecturer, BI Norwegian Business School

Managing Partner ReputationInc, Dennis is recognized as a thoughtful and trusted advisor to leaders and organisations world-wide. His specialisms include strategy, sustainability, reputation risk, organizational change and learning & development.

With dual MSc degrees in Economics and Corporate Communication, Dennis takes a keen interest in enabling more sustainable systems through the intersection of economic thinking and strong communicative practice.

He is on the board of the European Association of Communication Directors, Practice Fellow at the Nordic Alliance for Communication & Management and visiting scholar at BI Norwegian School of Management and Rotterdam School of Management.



Shady El Damaty, Ph.D.
President, OpSci; Co-Founder, Holonym

Neuroscientist trained in multimodal neuroimaging (EEG/ECOG/MRI), behavioral science, and machine learning techniques. Intellectual interests include the development of mechanistic biophysical models of decision-making derived from empirical neural dynamics recorded from perception to action.

Currently exploring software development challenges in decentralized data marketplaces to support open science, humanitarian engineering, and asymmetrical social impact.

Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Georgetown University
Principal investigator on Community Life and Adolescent Development Study
Founder of OpScientia

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Ivy Kwan Arce
Board Member, Treatment Action Group (TAG); Research in
Action Award (RIAA) Honoree

Ivy Kwan Arce is the mother of two sons, 21-year-old Atom and 17-year-old Ahimsa, both born HIV-negative because Ivy was on HIV medication during her pregnancies to prevent mother-to-child transmission. As a first-generation Chinese American straight woman, she embodies the fact that HIV affects all communities. She is an AIDS survivor who has been living with HIV for three decades. Diagnosed in 1990, she ended up in ACT UP. As a patient of Dr. Joseph Sonnabend, who co-founded the PWA (People With AIDS) Health Group, Ivy became part of its Women's Treatment Group and Pediatric Working Group, where they mobilized women with AIDS to demand access to medication and clinical trials. She was part of the grassroots of what became essential HIV/AIDS organizations such as Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA) and God's Love We Deliver.

Ivy has a degree from Art Center College of Design and has designed campaign materials for all the HIV/AIDS organizations of which she has been a part. From 1995 until 1999, she was a voting member of the HIV and AIDS Planning Council as an independent affected HIV positive person. Her role was to manage the distribution of the Ryan White Title I funds, which provided critical services to HIV/AIDS patients.

In 2012, she recommitted to the fight to end AIDS by getting involved with Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), specifically focusing on access for women. In 2019, The Performance Space of New York honored her for three decades of activism. Her ongoing commitment to ending HIV/AIDS remains rooted in the devastating losses of the early days of the epidemic.



Rachele Hendricks-Sturup, DHSc, MSc, MA
Research Director of Real-World Evidence (RWE), Duke-Margolis
Center for Health Policy

Dr. Rachele Hendricks-Sturup is the Research Director of Real-World Evidence (RWE) at the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy in Washington, DC, strategically leading and managing the Center's RWE Collaborative. As an engagement expert, researcher, bioethicist, and policy practitioner, her work centers on addressing implementation and ethical, legal, and social implications issues at the intersection of health policy and innovation. She also partners with Duke University faculty, scholars, students, and external health experts to advance the Center's biomedical innovation work. She is presently adjunct faculty at rural Ohio University, teaching

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graduate courses in the Department of Interdisciplinary Health Science's Health Policy Certificate program, and has taught graduate courses within the Masters of Health Care Innovation program at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.

Prior to joining Duke-Margolis, Dr. Hendricks-Sturup was Health Policy Counsel and Lead at the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF), leading the organization's health and genetic data initiatives and workgroup. Prior to FPF, she served in several administrative and scientific roles at various industry, health care, and academic institutions. To date, she has published several commentaries and original research papers in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Hendricks-Sturup is also an accomplished health and science journalist, having completed a comparative effectiveness research fellowship with the Association of Health Care Journalists in 2017.

Dr. Hendricks-Sturup received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Chicago State University, her Master's in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Michigan State University, her Master's in Legal Studies from the University of Illinois, and her Doctor of Health Science from Nova Southeastern University. She completed a predoctoral internship with the National Health Service in London, UK, and postdoctoral research training within the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute and Harvard Medical School.



Steve MacFeely
Director of Data and Analytics, World Health Organization (WHO)

Steve MacFeely is the Director of Data and Analytics at the World Health Organization, based in Geneva, Switzerland and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Policy Studies at University College Cork in Ireland.

He is co-chair of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN) and of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), chairs the Advisory Boards of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, and of the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP), and is a member of the statistical advisory panels to both the UNDP Human Development Index and UNCTAD's Productive Capacity Index.

Steve is an elected member of the International Statistics Institute and a member of the IAOS Executive Committee.

He was a co-lead on the *Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere 2020 – 2022*, and a lead author of

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the 2020 System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics.

Before joining WHO, Steve was the Head of Statistics and Information at UNCTAD. Prior to joining the UN, he was the Deputy Director-General at the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Ireland and Programme Director of the joint CSO - Institute of Public Administration 'Professional Diploma in Official Statistics & Policy Evaluation'



Jim Hall, FEng
Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks; Director of Research, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford

Jim Hall FEng is Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks in the University of Oxford and Director of Research in the School of Geography and the Environment. Before joining the University of Oxford in 2011 to become Director of the University's Environmental Change Institute, Prof Hall held academic positions in the Newcastle University and the University of Bristol. Prof Hall is internationally recognised for his research on risk analysis and decision making under uncertainty for water resource systems, flood and coastal risk management, infrastructure systems and adaptation to climate change. Professor Hall is a member of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology and is Expert Advisor to the National Infrastructure Commission. He is Chair of the Science Advisory Committee of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He was a member of the UK independent Committee on Climate Change Adaptation from 2009 to 2019.

Prof Hall's group in the University of Oxford is at the forefront of risk analysis of climatic extremes and their impacts on infrastructure networks and economic systems, from local to global scales. He led the development of the National Infrastructure Systems Model (NISMOD), which was used for the UK's first National Infrastructure Assessment and for analysis of the resilience of energy, transport, digital and water networks in Great Britain. His group developed the first national water resource systems simulation model for England and Wales. Prof Hall conceived of, and now chairs, the UK's Data and Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure (DAFNI). His systems analysis methods have been applied worldwide, including in Argentina, China, Curacao, St Lucia, Tanzania and Vietnam. He has published four books, including, *The Future of National Infrastructure: A System-of-Systems Approach*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016.

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Amongst various distinctions, Prof Hall was awarded the George Stephenson Medal from the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2001 and the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water in 2018. Prof Hall was a Contributing Author to the Nobel Prize-winning Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In 2010 Prof Hall was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering "for his contribution to the development of methods for flood risk analysis, which underpin approaches for flood risk management in the UK and internationally". He has published more than 160 articles in peer reviewed journals, which have been cited more than 15,000 times, and is editor of the journal Water Resources Research.



Inez Harker-Schuch, Ph.D.

Co-founder, The Planet Academy; Researcher and Environmental Scientist

Inez Harker-Schuch is an agronomist and environmental science researcher and educator specialising in the use of new media for improving climate literacy. Her research includes the use of visualisations and animations for climate literacy, the influence of physiological development on climate attitudes, the development of climate education frameworks across diverse age groups and cultures, pedagogy and curriculum development, and the role of education on worldview and opinion development. As an extension of her doctoral work, she has recently produced five 3D interactive digital climate science 'serious educational games' (SEGs; i.e., games designed for education) which are currently used in schools and university for improving climate literacy.

In addition to her research, she lectures at the University of Copenhagen in climate science, sustainability, behavioural theory, and climate communication and is director of Earth's people, a not-for-profit environmental science education organisation. She also consults for industry and business on sustainability, adaptation, and the new European Green Deal. Holding a double MSc in agriculture and environmental science, she dabbles in plant science in her free time.

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Lowell Clare, MA, MLA
Independent Researcher; Unbuilt Labs Alumni

Lowell Clare's prior work has centered on the relevance of discrepancies between actual and perceived urban histories to strategic development. Prior research includes: visualizations of the National Mall 20, 50 and 100 years into the future and the ways architectural preservation of London's historic pubs glosses over their histories. She has continued to develop those skills in the disciplines of urbanism, adaptive reuse and landscape architecture. At Unbuilt Labs, she constructed flood scenarios and examined the vulnerabilities of New York City's existing buildings in the face of the climate crises. Moving forward she would like to bring her expertise to the business of the strategic design of resilient cities, as well as the role of images in engaging the general public and inspiring climate action. She earned an M.L.A. in Landscape Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design an M.A. in Historical and Sustainable Architecture from New York University (NYU) and English Heritage, and a B.A. from Bard College in Art History.



Samuel Kamau
Founder, Ridhika; Founder, The Africa Digital Service;
Unbuilt Labs Alumni

Sam Kamau is an engineer, scholar and emerging professional. Sam has lived, worked, studied, and delivered on projects in Kenya, US, the UK and China. He builds breakthrough technologies that bridge structural gaps and reimagine the future of developing economies. His approach to technology design is informed by reflections from quiet town living in Central Kenya and the urban bustle of Nairobi's cultural metropolis. Sam has helped make clean water and healthcare more accessible to Africans by building products at FluxWater and Antara Health. He focuses on meeting the technology needs of local communities and building infrastructure for public and enterprise platforms. His research interests are in Big Data for Economic mobility and development, Distributed Systems, and Machine Learning. For his Computer Science capstone project, Sam built Panthera: a decentralized rewards system accessible to university students, faculty and staff. He then led the technical development of UNicoins, an internal ERC-20 token (cryptocurrency) and Decentralized Autonomous Organization at the UN to facilitate cross-UN collaboration.

Sam is passionate about creating accessible education resources and founded Ridhika, a non-profit focused on creating and nurturing the next generation of African innovators. He is Director

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and Chariman of the Board at the Africa Digital Service, a nonprofit organization leveraging technology to help governments, nonprofits, and other public sector entities to adopt more efficient and inclusive processes.

Sam also spends time in enterprise building products at Qualtrics. He has conducted research at the Harvard Business School, brought products from zero to one at startups and is an Unbuilt Labs alumni. Sam was recognized as a member of the Clinton Global Initiative University and was a Social Entrepreneurship Fellow at Middlebury College's Innovation Hub. He was featured on Promazo's 2020 list of 40 Most Interesting Students. Sam studied Economics and Computer Science at Middlebury College and has completed programs in the UK and China.