

Case for Space: Our Global Young Researchers

Brabim Kumar K.C. is a social activist, a youth leader and a communication person from Nepal. He is currently serving as President of Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON) - a national umbrella network of youth organizations in Nepal. He has worked as youth radio program producer for Equal Access Nepal and UNICEF and as Public Information and Outreach Officer in UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. He is co-founder of Nepal Policy Center – a youth-led think-tank. He is also a poet and an opinion maker whose works have been published in various national and regional magazines. He tweets at @brabimkumar



Naim Keruvala is anchoring the 'Urban Governance' department at Janwani since April, 2012. He has been working towards promoting and facilitating citizen engagement in budgeting & governance of Indian cities. He is also a visiting lecturer at Symbiosis School of Economics, Associate fellow of The Royal Commonwealth Society and a member of the Global Shapers Community. Naim has a Masters degree in Economics and he has worked with international agencies such as UNESCO, GIZ, Yuva Unstoppable, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Planning & Resources on Urban Development Affairs and AIESEC. He enjoys coffee, listening to a diverse genre of music and exploring good food, in his spare time.



Martti Martinson, the Australianised Estonian, has been working in the youth sector both in Australia and Europe where he has been a youth leader and advocate, contributing to legislating youth participation and developing youth policies. Martti's main focus area is youth participation in decision-making processes, particularly within participatory structures. He is currently working and undertaking postgraduate research in Melbourne and also teaching undergraduate youth work students as well as advising local council on youth participation and international cooperation matters. Martti is also a strong advocate for human rights based youth work concept.

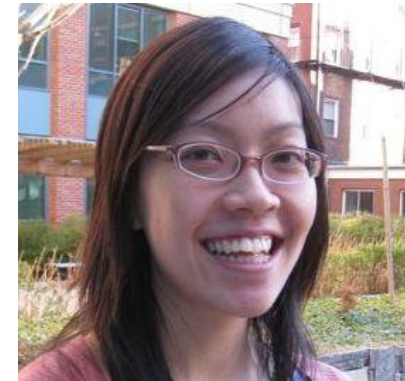


Jake Soriano is a journalist from the Philippines, Jake reports in-depth on peace and conflict, the environment, and social protection for persons with disabilities including youth and children. He loves world cinema, poems about strange animals, and tennis matches on TV. He has covered a human trafficking rescue operation, a typhoid outbreak, and bogus nonprofits defrauding the government of billions in public funds. He panics when told to smile for a photo. He contributes to media outfit [VERA Files](#), and has freelanced for Global Post, BBC and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.



Amy Cheung

Amy is a doctoral student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was raised in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. Drawing from her own experiences as the daughter of Chinese immigrants, Amy's research interests focus on the intersection of immigrant experiences and civic engagement, particularly with respect to Asian American adolescents. Previously, Amy was a youth worker and program director with community based organizations in Boston's (Massachusetts, USA) Chinatown. Amy holds a BA in Sociology from Amherst College and an MEd in International Education Development from Boston University. Amy also loves coffee, French films, and ballet.



Brian Kanaahe Mwebaze Bilal

Brian Kanaahe Mwebaze Bilal is currently with the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he's helping out in Mainstreaming Youth work in African Union Mission on Ebola Outbreak. In Uganda, he is affiliated to International Red Cross Movement & Red Crescent Youth Programmes. He is also a Lecturer, researcher and Youth ambassador for road safety. He has previously undertaken assignments with UNAIDS-Ndola, Zambia, UNAIDS-Geneva, & WHO-Kinshasa. Brian holds a Bsc, EMT, MPH and is doing his PhD. When not looking for evidence to help governments, international agencies, academia and youth organisations to knit with a pattern in public health practice, Brian does nutmegs, flipflaps and related Brianinho soccer moves. Twitter: @BrianBilalK1



Yan Liu also known as Michael is a youth researcher and youth advocator in Asia and the Pacific region. After receiving his bachelor degree in Northeastern University of China in 2010, he then involved himself in a local non-government organization in northeast China as a full-time staff. After 5 years working experience on people living with HIV, LGBT and sex workers (including male-to-male and transgender sex workers), he's now a community-based researcher, facilitator on community capacity building trainings and workshops, sexual orientation and gender identity trainer, youth advocator for LGBT, sex worker and HIV+. In 2014, he was the first director that shot a documentary on trans sex workers in China, and his work was screening in Sex Worker Film & Arts Festival in San Francisco, Boston LGBT Film Festival, and Bangalore Queer Film Festival in India in the year of 2015. In his spare time, he loves swimming, cooking and watching comic films. Now he is one member of core working group in Youth Voices Count (Collective Voices of Young MSM and TG Communities for AIDS) and serves more young people in Asia and Pacific Region.



Felipe Blanco is an Economist with a Master's in Public Policy. His professional experience includes work in academia as a researcher and graduate professor, and in the public sector as Policy Advisor for the Mexican Institute for Youth. His research interests include youth policy, performance evaluation systems and violence prevention. He is also a nationally recognized hip-hop artist and social activist or "raptivist" known as Elemsiburrón. He has performed in various music festivals and on radio and TV shows in Mexico and the U.S. He is currently working on a book about the history of hip-hop in Mexico.



Lawrence Muli is a Public Policy Analyst and Environmental Sustainability Expert. He manages and coordinates Policy and Programmes work of The African Observatory for Policy Practice and Youth Studies. A policy think tank that enhances evidence based policy making and programing in Africa in partnership with intergovernmental institutions. Prior to this for 3 years, Mr. Ndambuki worked as a Policy Advocate in the Youth Division of the African Union Commission and has also consulted with the UN Economic Commission for Africa on issues of youth population and development.

Mr. Ndambuki has a Masters in Public Policy & Management from the University of London with an Environmental Science and Climate Change undergraduate background from Kenyatta University in his country Kenya. He enjoys traveling and experiencing new cultures and is a musician too playing guitar and piano :-)



Gioel Gioacchino is a researcher and youth engagement consultant. She works to integrate youth's experience and voice as part of international development logics. She is passionate about exploring innovative ways to improve cross cultural and cross sector collaboration. As the director of Recrear, she is really into action research projects- she thinks research should be fun, engaging, and transformative. Gioel holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and she is a PhD candidate at the Institute of International Studies at the University of Sussex. Researching development NGOs, Gioel is exploring the links between NGOs' funding mechanisms, organizational culture, and participatory approaches to community development.



Roli Mahajan is freelancing as a photojournalist and blogger. She was a social media fellow at the World Conference of Youth, 2014. She documented stories about leaders from the poorest states of India for a DFID-funded project. She has attended Rio+20 as a journalist with Adopt a Negotiator, co-authored and designed a report on youth activities at UNFCCC in Durban, and worked as an editor in her previous avatars. She has volunteered for TakingITGlobal and the Major Group for Children and Youth. She has made short video stories too. "Rowing her way through the river of life" was selected to be showcased at the 4th Samsung Women's International Film Festival. She enjoys knitting stories (which are never penned down), observing people and day-dreaming.



Tavarrie Smith was born and raised in The Bahamas and became a youth advocate during his early teenage years. After completing high school, he was awarded a scholarship to pursue his dream of helping people. He currently holds an Associate's degree in Law & Criminal Justice, a Law degree from the University of The West Indies and a post graduate Certificate of Legal Education from the Eugene Dupuch Law School. He is noted both locally and internationally as a Youth Policy and Juvenile Justice Specialist, with over 15 years experience in the field. He currently serves The Bahamas Government as a Youth Policy Advisor and Consultant and in 2011 was appointed Chairman of The Bahamas National Youth Policy Team. He is the current Director of Research & Policy for The Caribbean Youth Policy Institute and the co-chair of the Global Network of Youth Rights Experts.



Nathalia Sarmiento is a Colombian human rights researcher. She holds an MSc in Social Research, and currently she is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her current research explores former child soldiers' narratives in Colombia as a way to explore how these narratives can contribute to the understanding of childhood during war. She has more than ten years of practice in journalism, research and fieldwork. She is a member of Consejo de Redacción, Colombian network of investigative journalists, and is one of the co-creators of the project Voices of Post-Conflict in Edinburgh.

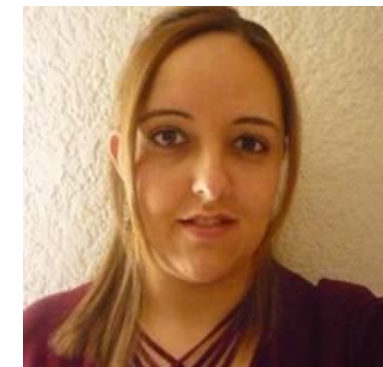


Salim Salama

Born in 1989, is a Syrian Palestinian who resides in Sweden as a political refugee since 2013 following the Syrian revolution and the violence it generated. He studied Law at Damascus University between 2007-2011 and currently studying B.A in International Migration and Ethnic Relations in Malmo University – Sweden. Since March 2015, Salim heads Palestinian League for Human Rights – Syria, a grassroots group established in Syria in 2012. A regular writer and blogger in English and Arabic media. His research interest lies in the intersectional relation between youth, displacement, migration and access to education with a bit of human rights.



Rocío González Ramírez is a consultant at the Youth's Research Seminar of National University of Mexico (UNAM) since 2014, where she focuses on public policy's related projects. She has a BA in Sociology and a MA in Urban Studies. Rocío has worked at the Mexican Office of Housing and at El Colegio de México. Academically, she is interested in public space, housing and transitions into adulthood research. Born and raised in Mexico City, therefore she enjoys walking around big cities and the urban atmosphere



Hilary Ewang Ngide is a dynamic Cameroonian youth leading one of the most reputable youth led development non profit organization; Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon), an NGO in special consultative status with the United Nations. Hilary Ewang Ngide has over nine years of development work experience with tested proficiency in the mobilizations of communities, partnerships and the planning, monitoring and evaluation of simple and complex projects and programs. Hilary Ngide holds a MS.c degree in environment and development studies, PGC in project management and BS.c degree in Geography and Regional planning. Hilary Ngide loves to be part of a team and is very competent in working independently also.



Ani Hao is from New York but based in Rio de Janeiro. Her background is in anthropology and the politics of development and gender, and she is a youth advocate with the International Youth Council. Her own ethnographical research focuses on social movements tied to reproductive rights in Latin America, and I work with reproductive rights organizations in Brazil such as Ações Afirmativas em Direitos e Saude. She will be covering South America for this project.



Soha Mohamed Osman is a researcher in the international development field through her work with UNDP as well as a number of other local and international NGOs. Her research addresses the dynamics of collective action and urban governance in the Arab region. She holds two Master degrees in international relations and international development from University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne and University of Montréal, respectively. Outside of professional interests, she enjoys volunteering in remote areas, traveling and exploring different cultures.



Fayyaz Bhidal is a development practitioner with six years of experience in the nonprofit sector. He is an Atlas Corps and Think Tank LINKS Fellow and Accountability Lab's Accountability Ambassador to Pakistan. Fayyaz holds a Masters degree in Economics and an M. Phil in International Development Studies completed under IDRC funded fellowship in governance, security, and justice. Throughout his career, he has gained diverse experience by working in remote areas of Pakistan in different fields such as education, health, voice and accountability, women's participation in political process, violence against women, child labor, and conflict resolution. Fayyaz has previously worked with Atlantic Council USA, and SDPI Pakistan.

