APRU SDG Education for Global Citizenship

APRU SDG4GC

Shaping the Future of Health & Wellbeing

Mentors and Social Innovation Program Designers
Dr. Ronnakorn Vaiyavuth

Social Innovation Program Lead Designer, Lead Mentor
Lecturer, School of Integrated Innovation, Chulalongkorn University

Ronnakorn Vaiyavuth (Ronnie) is an innovation evangelist and energy expert with a full passion on crafting innovation ecosystem. He is currently a full-time faculty member at Chulalongkorn School of Integrated Innovation, as a head of on the Innovation Project Seed and Sustainability Development specializations. Previously, he was responsible for managing the incubator and accelerator programs and innovation activities in the CU Innovation Hub at Chulalongkorn University as the Director of Innovation. He has been involved with various innovation programs, both at international and domestic levels, from ideation stage to commercialization stage.

Prior to working in Thailand, Ronnie had served as a senior consultant and practice leader for energy and climate change in a global consulting firm. During his career, he has managed several large-scale projects for UNDP, World Bank, Hong Kong Government, South Africa Government and Thailand Government. He was a Policy Officer for the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) in Australia during 2007-2008, where Ronnie worked on reviewing energy policy, and establishing a framework for energy modelling in Australia.

Ronnie holds a BA in Chemical Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, an MA in Energy Planning and Policy from University of Technology (Australia) and a PhD in Innovation Management from Telecom Ecole de Management (France).
Paola Ardiles Gamboa is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Canada. She is a multidisciplinary practitioner scholar who has been recognized for her innovative, collaborative and inter-sectoral approaches in health promotion policy, practice, research and education. Since 2015, she has been developing participatory and community-based experiential courses founded on equity centered design. Her educational research spans from studies aimed to strengthen democratic practices in higher education and community engaged teaching and learning, to studies assessing educational innovations of experiential and community-academic partnerships she has co-designed such as the Health Change Lab and the Surrey CityLab, working alongside diverse community partners in the city of Surrey. She holds a PhD from Torrens University (Australia), an MBA from Simon Fraser University, and a MHSc and BSc from the University of Toronto.
Mr. Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah

Social Innovation Program Co-designer

Head of the Subregional Office for South-East Asia, UN ESCAP

Mr. Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah is the Head of the Subregional Office for South-East Asia at UN ESCAP. He initiates work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among the South-east Asian member States, in partnership with governments, international institutions, civil society, and private sector entities. He leads the cooperation of the UN with ASEAN in the economic and social-cultural areas under framework of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action. Prior to UN ESCAP, he managed economic development programmes and delivered technical assistance in the ASEAN and the Pacific regions. He is an Indonesian national and received degrees from the University of Oregon and the University of Missouri.
Mr. Savinda Ranathunga

Lead Mentor
Regional Youth Project Manager, UNDP Asia and the Pacific

Savinda is the project manager for regional youth project of UNDP Asia-Pacific – Youth Co:Lab, which empower youth to create SDG solutions through social innovation and entrepreneurship. He is also the manager for Regional Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), bringing youth, ecosystem partners and governments together for urgent climate action. He was born in Sri Lanka and now reside in Bangkok, Thailand. Savinda is a Civil Engineering graduate from Moratuwa University Sri Lanka, he also possesses charted qualifications in Management and Marketing and a Diploma in Buddhism.

He worked as an Environmental Engineer at Brandix Ltd. And as a lecturer at Achievers and Wizma Business Schools. He has engaged in the development sector over a decade through his engagement with AIESEC, ADB, UNICEF, UNEP, UNV, UNESCAP and UNDP. Savinda also initiated five start-ups on diverse fields and his passion is to support start up ecosystem in Asia Pacific Region.
Dr. Elsie Tsui

Lead Mentor

Head of Social Innovation, Office of Knowledge Transfer Services, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dr. Elsie Tsui has extensive experience as a corporate executive and a management consultant. She has worked for the Asia office of !What If? Innovation Partner, a leading innovation consultancy based in Shanghai. Specialising in innovation management, innovation capability building through design thinking, and organisation transformation strategy, she has led many high impact training workshops for leaders from Fortune 500 companies across Europe and Asia. She has conducted training sessions in design thinking for corporate clients and the non-profit sector in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Before starting her consulting career, Dr. Tsui worked for Coca-Cola China as the deputy head of Public Affairs & Communications. She was involved in Coca-Cola’s global Olympics activations and setting up an in-house training and mentoring unit.

Dr. Tsui is currently Head of Social Innovation at the Office of Knowledge Transfer Services of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), She also teaches part time at CUHK Business School.

Dr. Tsui majored in Sociology and minored in Journalism & Communications at CUHK and graduated with first-class honours. She holds an MBA from the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. and has a Doctor of Business Administration from Grenoble School of Management. Dr. Tsui was born in Thailand and grew up in Hong Kong. She has worked in Hong Kong, Shanghai and London, and speaks fluent English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Thai.
Dr. Yung-Pin Lu

Lead Mentor

Assistant Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs; Vice-Director of Third-Sector Study Center; Research Fellow, Institute for Philanthropy Development, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Dr. Yung-Pin Lu is an Assistant Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs and a Vice-Director of Third-Sector Study Center as well as a research fellow of Institute for Philanthropy Development from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Dr. Lu plays a Responsible Editor for one of NGO-NPO academic Journal (Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index) in China, “Research on the third sector in China. He also has worked on formulation of NGO-NPO policies, laws and regulations in China over 8 years. His publications include academic journal articles, books, and many chapters of “National Blue Books”. He was a visiting Scholar form Zurich University of Applied Psychology and India Business Academy, as well as has 4 years teaching experiences in USA. He has taught “Leadership Science and Art”, “Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development”, “NGO-NPO Management”, “Social Organization Development in China”, “Intercultural Communication and Collaboration”. As a researcher, advisor, educator, facilitator, volunteer, consultant, and one of board committee, he works for social organizations, social enterprises, charitable foundation, commercial enterprises, and social entrepreneurs for more than a decade to support those organization and people to make a better society coming.

His research focuses on social organization/NGO-NPO, social enterprise/entrepreneurship, volunteering, giving/donation, Social impact investment/evaluation, leadership study, social governance, collaborative governance.
Dr. Jaime Jayapalan

Lead Mentor

Department of Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya

Dr. Jaime Jayapalan is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (UM). She obtained her Ph.D. in Cancer Proteomics and later, an MBA from Universiti Malaya in 2015 and 2021, respectively. She actively pursues her research interest in the application of lectin and proteomics technologies in cancer and/or disease biomarker discovery. Dr. Jayapalan’s active participation and commitment to research are highly reflected by having more than thirty Web of Science-indexed publications (H-index: 13) and having obtained several national and international grants (e.g., FRGS, AUA) in the capacity of a principal investigator as well as a co-researcher. She has presented several papers at international conferences and earned several awards in recognition of her outstanding professional and research contributions to the University and society. Dr. Jayapalan is a life member of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Malaysian Proteomics Society, and the Golden Key International Honor Society. She serves as an Editorial Review Board Member for Technology in Cancer Research & Treatment and Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine. She is currently mentoring several undergraduate and postgraduate students, and actively collaborating with several international institutes (e.g., India, Sri Lanka, Thailand).
Dr. Kun Qian

Lead Mentor

Associate Professor and Research Futures Coordinator at the Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies, Kyushu University

Kun Qian is currently an Associate Professor and Research Futures Coordinator at the Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies, Kyushu University. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from Kyushu University in 2012. He worked as a consultant at the Financial Management & Control (FMC) sector of Abeam Consulting Ltd. (Tokyo) from 2012-2014, as an assistant professor at the Institute of Decision Science for a Sustainable Society, Kyushu University from 2014-2021, as a lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, Fukuoka University from 2021-2022, and arrived at his present post in April of 2022. His academic background is in cognitive, experimental, and cultural psychology. He is now conducting research on the psychology and behavior related to several topics of SDGs, such as food issues, the COVID-19 pandemic, happiness and well-being, and cultural diversity, by using online or fieldwork-based methods in ASEAN, Finland, Japan, China, etc. He is an International Committee member of the Japanese Psychological Association, and a member of the Chinese Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association. His undergraduate degree was in communication and advertising, and now he is a freelance graphic designer. He is also a director at Kyushu Open University, a general incorporated association based in Fukuoka, Japan.
Ms. Ilhan Abdullahi

Lead Mentor
Manager, Health Promotion Lab, Simon Fraser University

Ilhan (she/her) is a dynamic and experienced Community Engagement Worker and faculty member, and she has been the Health Promotion Lab Manager on RADIUS’ Social Innovation Lab team overseeing cohorts of three of the biggest Venture and Ideation programs (Trampoline, Slingshot, and Reimagine Health) for the last 3 years. Ilhan sits on the board of directors for Bridge for Health which is a Vancouver-based volunteer network that fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and action to promote citizen engagement in health. She brings extensive experience in working with youth outreach, research and evaluation, and advocating for the reduction of health and social inequities.

Ilhan holds a Bachelor’s degree in Health from the University of Simon Fraser and a Master’s degree in Public Health from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health specializing in Global Health. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid and serves as a Professor at both Sheridan College and Simon Fraser University. Ilhan is furthering her research, advocacy, and expertise in health equity as a Simon Fraser University Doctoral Student in the Faculty of Sciences beginning September 2022. Ilhan's research area is at the intersection of systems change, Equity Centred Design, and Health equity. As a Somali Canadian, Ilhan also founded Star & Sky Productions which is a company that centres the storytelling of the African Diaspora.
Mr. David Galipeau

Lead Mentor
Founder, SDGx

Canadian, 35 yr global career in finance, publishing, and technology as a corporate finance executive, dotcom entrepreneur, and social business innovator.

After his two EU-based Internet start-ups were acquired, David joined the United Nations in Geneva in 2005. In 2010, UNDP invited David to design and initiate programs focusing on Social Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Impact Investment, and Frontier Technologies across Asia-Pacific countries. These programs have now been scaled globally across the UN system.

David left the United Nations in 2019 to become Co-founder and Managing Partner of the SDGx Group (Singapore, Berlin, Sydney) with a mandate to research and invest in the next generation of tech startups.

To maintain his keen interest in the impact of deep technology on society, David also retains many supporting positions: Lecturer at the Chulalongkorn University School of Integrated Innovation, United Nations System Staff College, the Asian Institute of Technology, and Director of SDGx Near Future Lab - a non-profit research ecosystem.

In 2023, David will publish two separate chapters on “The IR4.0 Impact on the Future of Work” and “Sustainable Innovation” and when time allows, David mentors founders and executives through several accelerator programs.
Ms. Elodie Jacquet

Global Citizenship Program Co-designer, Lecturer

Knowledge Manager, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University

Elodie Jacquet is the Manager of Knowledge and Practice at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University. She has been working with the Centre and other clients from all levels of government on a variety of dialogue and civic engagement processes for the past 15 years. She has developed and refined her convening and facilitation skills in a wide variety of dialogues, including Canada’s World, Citizens’ Dialogue on Canada’s Energy Future and the community guided dialogues for the National inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. She was a lead investigator for the Government of Canada on Inclusion in Open Government and a peer-reviewer for the Government of Canada’s 4th Open Government Plan. She was the project lead for the Centre’s work on Equity in Public Engagement and has won the International Association of Public Participation Research Project of the Year award in 2021 for the Beyond Inclusion: Equity in Public Engagement report. She delivers trainings on the value of engagement, best practices for effective and collaborative engagement and on equity in public engagement. She currently leads the Centre’s work on climate engagement, and is an official UNFCCC Research and Independent Non-governmental Organisation observer at the COP. She holds a Masters on Global Climate and Energy Policy from SOAS, University of London and degrees in behavioural biology from Université Paris XIII Nord.
Prof. Dr. Natalie Konomi

Global Citizenship Program Co-designer, Lecturer
Professor & Manager, Global Strategy Office, Kyushu University

Natalie Konomi is a Professor and Manager at the Global Strategies Office at Kyushu University. Natalie previously worked at the International Education Support Center for Engineering at Kyushu University. She obtained her master’s degree in Economics and Business Administration at Augsburg University, Germany. After working for Japan Airlines, she received a MEXT scholarship to study at Nagoya University (Japan), where she earned her doctorate degree in Economics.

Natalie was Vice Director of the Nagoya University Center for Business Litigation and the Nagoya University European Center. Prior to joining Kyushu University, she served as Director of the International Center and Advisor to the President for International Affairs at Kitami Institute of Technology (Hokkaido).

Her research interests include organizational management, strategic alliances and intercultural communication. Natalie has long advocated for the internationalization of Japanese universities and local communities. Her work in a JICA-funded health project between Kitami city (Japan) and Ulaanbaatar city (Mongolia) earned her the Hokkaido Social Contribution Award.