



THE
GATES
CAMBRIDGE
YEARBOOK 2015



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

PATRONS



In 2012, Bill and Melinda Gates generously agreed to become patrons of the Gates Cambridge Trust. The Trust is delighted to reinforce a direct link between the Gates Cambridge Scholarships and the Gates family and the Foundation.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Gates Cambridge Scholarships are one of the most prestigious international scholarships in the world. The programme was established in October 2000 by a donation of US\$210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge; this is the largest ever single donation to a UK university.

Scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge.

Scholars are selected on the basis of their outstanding intellectual ability, leadership potential, commitment to improving the lives of others, and a good fit between their qualifications and aspirations and the postgraduate programme at Cambridge for which they are applying.

The Gates Cambridge Trust administers all aspects of the programme, including supporting the important work of the Scholars' Council and Alumni Association.

The first class of Scholars came in to residence in October 2001; since then the Trust has awarded 1,424 scholarships to citizens of 101 countries. During the 2014/15 academic year there will be over 200 Scholars from 44 countries studying and researching a wide range of subjects in Cambridge.

The class of 2015/16 consists of 92 outstanding Scholars from 28 countries who will be widely distributed amongst Cambridge's Colleges and Departments. The following pages highlight their achievements, activities and aspirations.

Full details about the Gates Cambridge Scholarships are available from www.gatescambridge.org.

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FOREWORD



Many congratulations on the exceptional achievement of having been awarded an extraordinarily competitive Gates Cambridge Scholarship. You have arrived in Cambridge to begin what I hope will be a highly successful and fulfilling period of postgraduate study and research.

You have not only joined the vibrant community of Gates Cambridge Scholars, but also your University Departments, Faculties, Institutes or Research groups where you will conduct the majority of your studies. You are also members of thriving graduate communities (Middle Combination Rooms, or MCRs) in your Colleges and this, I suspect, will be the most difficult to understand aspect of your lives here. There is much to learn about the complex nature of Cambridge.

The staff of the Trust, as well as current Scholars, will do everything possible to help you make the most of the hard won opportunity to be a graduate student member of the University of Cambridge.

The Gates Cambridge Scholars' Handbook will provide you with much of the information you will need to guide you through your arrival here and will help to answer some of your administrative and financial questions. Do not hesitate to contact the staff of the Trust if you have any specific queries that are not addressed in the booklet.

You will attend many events during the year, some organised by the Trust, many organised by the Scholars, some focused on your professional development and an increasing number that will bring you into contact with Gates Scholar Alumni and the Alumni Association. While you should always place your academic research and study at the top of the list of your priorities, not least since the qualification you will gain in Cambridge is the passport to the next phase of your careers, you will also be able to take full advantage of these other opportunities and this, I am sure, will enrich your time in Cambridge.

The wonderful generosity of the gift to the University from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided you with a unique opportunity to study in Cambridge. Eventually and all too quickly, you the Gates Cambridge Scholars of 2015 will graduate and join a growing and ambitious global network of leaders, having the responsibility and privilege to shape the future and fulfill your commitment to improving the lives of others. I wish you every success in doing so and welcome warmly welcome you to Cambridge.

Professor Barry Everitt FRS
Provost

TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND STAFF

TRUSTEES



Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, FRS

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Chair of the Gates Cambridge Trust



Dr Mimi Gardner Gates

Former Director, Seattle Art Museum and Yale University Art Gallery



Dr Andrew Robertson

UC Berkeley School of Law, and Gates Cambridge Scholar 2001



Professor Susan Smith, FBA

Mistress of Girton College and Honorary Professor of Social and Economic Geography, Cambridge



Ross Reason

Honorary Treasurer (Gates Cambridge) and Bursar of Robinson College, Cambridge



Martha Choe

Chief Administrative Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Professor Mary Sue Coleman

President, University of Michigan



Dame Barbara Stocking DBE

President, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge



Dr David Runciman

Reader in Political Thought at Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge



Dr Jonathan Nicholls (Secretary)

Registry of the University of Cambridge

OFFICERS



Professor Barry Everitt FRS (Provost)



Jim Smith (Programme Director)



Ruth Bennett (Director of Finance)



Francesca Seery (Programme Assistant)



Lucy Milazzo (Programme Administrator)



Mandy Garner (Communications Officer)



Usha Virdee (Accounts Assistant)



Fiona Beeming (Alumni Relations Officer)

GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS' COUNCIL 2014–2015

The Gates Cambridge Scholars Council supports the aims of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship to create a network of responsible global leaders. Please refer to the Scholars' Handbook for further information.



Rebekah Scheuerle

President & Chair; The President/Chair of the Scholars' Council oversees its activities and liaises with the Trust on behalf of Scholars.



Paul Bergen

Vice President & Secretary; The Vice President/Secretary works with the President to coordinate the Council's activities and to liaise with the Trust.



Albert Arhin

Communications Officer; The Communications Officer is the conduit for assembling and distributing information to and about the scholar community.



Talia Da Silva

Internal Officer; The Internal Officer oversees the Scholars' Common Room and organises Internal Symposia each term.



Victoria Herrmann

Alumni Officer; The Alumni Officer works closely with the Gates Cambridge Alumni Association to connect the scholar and alumni communities.



Bo Shiun Lai

Editor-in-Chief; The EIC is responsible for internal and external publication of scholar articles and other content.



William Marks

Technology Officer; The Technology Officer is responsible for maintaining the electronic hardware and software in the Scholars' Common Room.



Victor Roy

Professional Development Officer; Learning for purpose officers lead and organise a curriculum and series of workshops aimed at skills development for scholars.



Michelle Teplensky

Social Officer; The Social Officers plan a variety of events in Cambridge and trips further afield throughout the year.



Frantisek Vasa

School Engagement Officer; Aims to develop a partnership with nearby secondary schools, to provide pupils with inspiration, motivation and career ideas.



Andrea Cabrero Vilatela

Professional Development Officer; Learning for purpose officers lead and organise a curriculum and series of workshops aimed at skills development for scholars.



Chiara Avancini

Social Officer; The Social Officers plan a variety of events in Cambridge and trips further afield throughout the year.



Stefano Martiniani

Treasurer; The Treasurer oversees the finances of the Council and assists new scholars with setting up their bank accounts upon arrival.



Afrodita Nikolova

External Officer; The External Officer's role is to maintain good relationships between Scholars and members of the wider academic community.



Casey Rimland

Community Officer; The Community Officer solicits ongoing feedback from Scholars and coordinates community service programming.



Mohammad Usman

Communications Officer; The Communications Officer is the conduit for assembling and distributing information to and about the scholar community.

GATES CAMBRIDGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (GCAA)

The Gates Cambridge Alumni Association (GCAA) aims to develop an international network of Gates Cambridge Scholars, to promote the Gates Cambridge Scholarship and to engage alumni through the exchange of knowledge, academic ideas, and professional development. Please refer to the Scholars' Handbook for further information.



Nathan George (2003)
Co-Chair



Mamta Thangaraj (2003)
Co-Chair



David Bard (2003)
Director of Professional Development
and Public Interest



Usha Chilukuri (2009)
Director of Media Relations



Michael Duyzend (2008)
Treasurer



Andrew Gruen (2008)
Secretary



Emily Rose Jordan (2009)
Director of Annual Events



Samir Khan (2007)
Director of Programming



Stella Nordhagen (2008)
Director of Membership (Europe /
Africa / Middle East)



Robert Rivers (2003)
Director of Membership
(North America / South America)



Rebecca Saunderson (2012)
Director of Membership (Asia / Southeast
Asia / Australia)



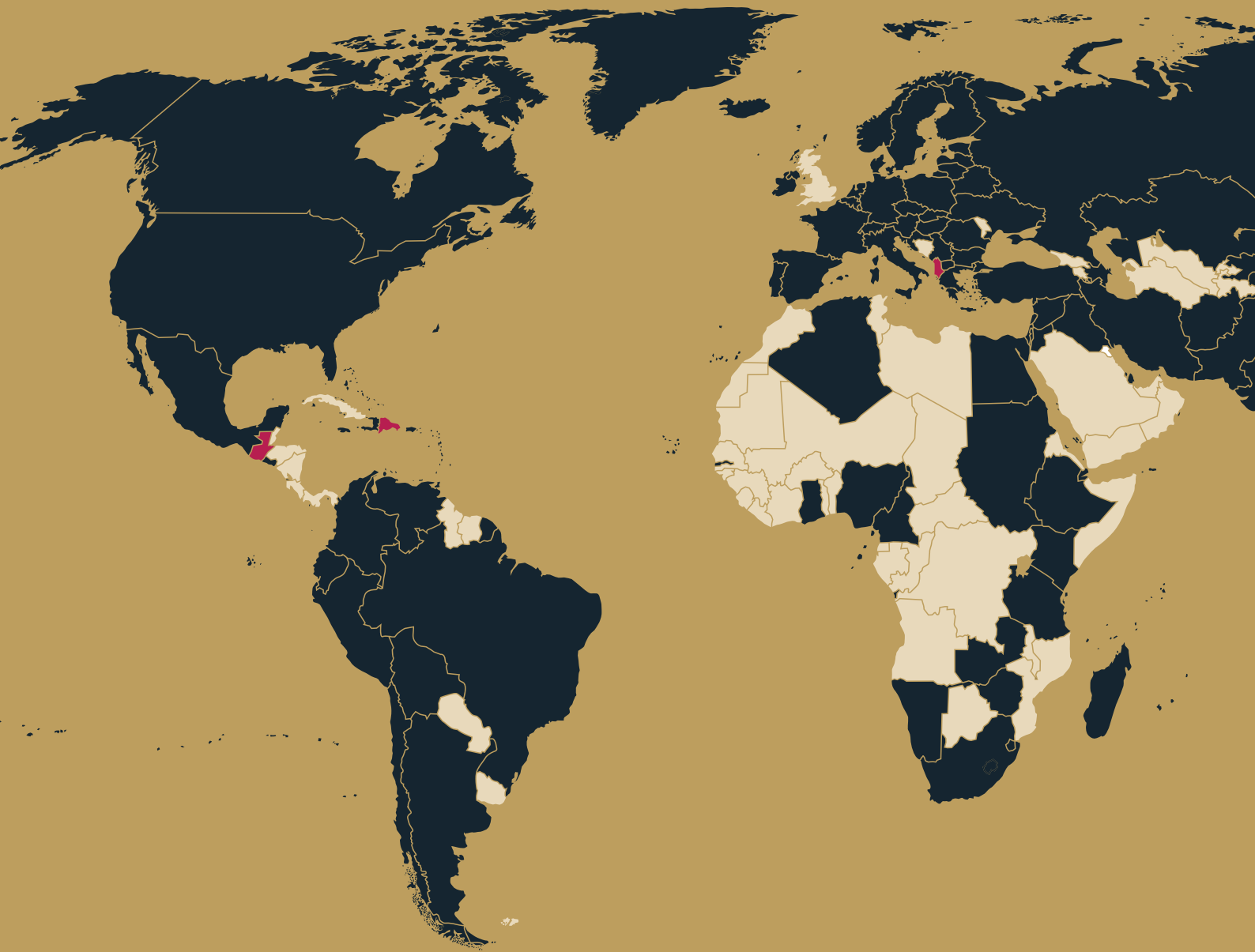
Samuel Sudar (2009)
Director of Technology



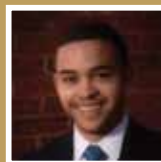
Lauren Zeitels (2006)
Director of Operations

BUILDING A GLOBAL NETWORK

This year we welcome 3 new Scholars from Dominican Republic, Albania, and Guatemala – countries which have not previously represented our ever expanding Gates Cambridge global network, which now totals 104 countries



KEY  2001–2015 Countries represented  Countries not yet represented  New countries represented in 2015

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Carlos Gonzalez

Latin American Studies, Darwin College

I feel honored to be the first citizen of the Dominican Republic to join the community of Gates Cambridge scholars. It is a great honor coupled, however, with an even greater sense of social responsibility. The Dominican Republic possesses great intellectual capacity in its youth, but much is never developed due to massive deficiencies in its public school system. I am committed to utilizing the knowledge and skills I will acquire at Cambridge to open doors of opportunities for younger students in the Dominican Republic to ensure many others are able to follow in my footsteps.

**ALBANIA**

Andi Reci

Chemical Engineering, Trinity College

Albanian people have an immense desire for knowledge. However, being outside the European Union, it would be almost financially impossible for anyone to come and study at the top universities in the UK, if it were not for the generosity of scholarships like Gates Scholarships. I feel honoured to be the first one chosen by the selection committee and I will work hard to spread the word for the foundation.

**GUATEMALA**

Alejandro Rivera Rivera

Engineering for Sustainable Development, Clare College

I feel proud and excited to be adding Guatemala to the map of countries with Gates Cambridge Scholars. Although rather small in geographical size, Guatemala is a multi-ethnic, multilingual and culturally diverse country, with the largest economy and highest population in Central America. I hope that my experience will pave the way for more Guatemalans to be part of this exceptional and vibrant community of scholars.

Hanna Ajer

Norway

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Linguistics, Trinity Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



I have always been fascinated by everything to do with languages, and this fascination grew during my undergraduate studies in Arabic and Linguistics at School of Oriental and African Studies. As part of my degree, I spent an amazing year in Egypt, which really showed me how many doors learning a new language can open for you. Unfortunately, a lot of our linguistic diversity is about to be lost. Of the approximately 7000 languages spoken in the world, a majority is endangered. This is not only sad for language enthusiasts like me, but might also be very detrimental to the respective communities. It is normally the most marginalised communities which are in danger of losing their languages, and I want to do my part to rectify this injustice. Doing an MPhil in Cambridge has expanded my knowledge of the different fields of linguistics, and I am now excited to embark on my PhD. My research will focus on Lule Sami, an endangered Uralic language spoken in Northern Norway and Sweden.

INTERESTS: Playing ice hockey and football, going cross-country skiing, hiking, singing, dancing, listening to reggae and dancehall, going to the theatre.

Helen Alderson

New Zealand

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Archaeology,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Otago



Globalisation and colonialism are topical in the Pacific. As an archaeologist and New Zealander, I am interested in how Pacific island chiefs used ideology to maintain and develop their traditional power in an increasingly globalised world. Kosrae, an island in Micronesia, offers the opportunity to study this process in a microcosm. My PhD will examine how elites materialised their ideology post European contact through objects, monumental architecture, and ritual. My MA thesis examined the political economy of the monumental site Nan Madol, in Pohnpei, Micronesia. Subsequently, I acted as a visiting researcher at Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Most recently, I worked providing emergency heritage assessments in earthquake-damaged Christchurch, New Zealand. I have conducted research in Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia, but Micronesia captivates me as the most under-studied region. My aim is to continue working with local communities to make Oceanic archaeology relevant and accessible.

INTERESTS: Literature, playing music (oboe, baroque recorder), public speaking, writing, travelling, yoga, and walking.

Yusef Al-Jarani

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Development Studies,
Christ's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Chicago



My father immigrated from Libya in 1967 so that my siblings and I could be given the chance to achieve the American dream – to rise from my family's humble beginnings and succeed. As a Gates Cambridge Scholar, I am one step closer to achieving that dream. I hope to use the education I have been afforded by the United States and Gates Cambridge Trust to give back and help others in the world find what my father sought when he left home: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

INTERESTS: I enjoy writing and recording music, playing pick-up basketball, and exploring new cities.

Megan Ansbro

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Pharmacology, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of California, Irvine



Born and raised in Conneaut, Ohio, I attended college at Denison University. During my undergraduate studies, I performed research in cellular biology and quickly became intrigued by the ways in which genetic changes can cause and promote disease, specifically cancer. My passion for research and medicine led me to pursue a combined MD/PhD degree. I have just completed my second year of medical school at the University of California, Irvine and will begin my PhD in the Department of Pharmacology at Cambridge and the National Institutes of Health in the National Cancer Institute. My PhD work will analyze the role of multi-drug transporters in the development of cancer cell resistance to chemotherapeutic treatments. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to study as a Gates Scholar and NIH Cambridge Scholar. The integrative nature of my PhD studies at Cambridge will provide the optimal foundation from which I can continue to evolve as a student, researcher, and physician.

INTERESTS: Music (especially Broadway and opera), cycling, triathlons, hiking, traveling, and languages (in particular, Austrian dialects).

Aliya Bagewadi

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Land Economy,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Chicago



After studying Political Science at the University of Chicago, I worked to create microcredit services for farming families throughout Myanmar. At Cambridge, I will further study how Myanmar, a country joining the global market after a half century of isolation, can build financial foundations to sustain growth capable of improving the earning potential of its vast rural populations. For my MPhil in Land Economy, I will explore the money habits of rural families, capital formation, and the future of farming in Myanmar with the aim of advancing the development of its rural economy. I am deeply honored to be joining the Gates Cambridge community and look forward to learning from fellow scholars around the world.

INTERESTS: Music, old Hindi films, sketching, international relations, dancing, personal narratives.

Daniel Barcia

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil International Relations and Politics,
Sidney Sussex College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Harvard University



Originally from Miami, Florida, I am currently a senior at Harvard University concentrating in history. For the past year, I have been working on a senior thesis on Florida's fugitive slave community and the largest slave uprising in American history. At Harvard, I also founded and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard College Human Rights Review. I spent my undergraduate summers working in different areas of government and public policy, in then-Senator John Kerry's office, at the Center for American Progress, at the U.S. Department of State, and for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. At Cambridge, I will be pursuing an M.Phil. in International Relations and Politics focusing on economic development and U.S. foreign policy. I am looking forward to joining the Gates Cambridge community.

Karin Bashir

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Public Policy,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Michigan



My journey truly began in my first year of university when I enrolled in Arabic language courses. The study of the language ultimately led me to travel to the Middle East in order to gain fluency and through the experience I developed my interest in Middle East politics and regional issues. I was specifically drawn to the narrative of migrants and refugees which led me to pursue a Fulbright research and English teaching grant in Bahrain where I had the opportunity to delve into the experiences of South Asian male migrant workers and female domestic workers. Most recently I continued pursuing my interest by working with Syrian refugees in Istanbul and border cities of Turkey. At Cambridge I will be pursuing an MPhil in Public Policy and aspire to focus on development policy. I hope to use the skills and understanding gained at Cambridge to continue working with refugees and migrant populations in the Middle East.

INTERESTS: I am very interested in the issues of migrants, refugees, human rights, and statelessness. I love languages and travel and have been learning Arabic, Urdu, and Spanish.

Anisha Bhat

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil World History,
Downing College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Pomona College



Born in India, but raised in Chicago, I have always felt caught at the crossroads of cultures. Thus, as an undergraduate studying History at Pomona College, narratives of cross-cultural interaction and diaspora in the Indian Ocean world naturally captivated me. I curated an exhibit entitled "Navigating Culture: Islam and Encounter in the Indian Ocean World" that highlighted the historical role of Islam in exchanges between Africa and Asia. My undergraduate thesis, which I will further develop during my MPhil in World History at Cambridge, is on the Siddi people, or the African diaspora in India. My research examines the Siddi's cultural entanglements with Europeans, Marathas, and Mughals in the period immediately preceding the colonial era. I am motivated to study the Siddi because I believe that the representation of marginalized groups in history is directly linked to the worldviews that govern their welfare today. Therefore, it is my goal to locate the voices of marginalized diasporas within the historical record, and to illustrate their often crucial role in shaping global events.

COMPLEX IDENTITIES IN HISTORY

ANISHA BHAT

Anisha Bhat is interested in questions of identity and in showing that identity for many people is often complex and multilayered.

Having been born in India and growing up in the US, she has her own personal reasons for that interest and this has fuelled her academic fascination with identity and in particular the interconnections between regions such as the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

Her senior thesis at Pomona College was on the history of the Siddi people, the African diaspora in India, which she will take forward for her MPhil in World History at Cambridge this autumn.

She has also been able to convey her academic interest in multiple identities to a wider audience. She and a fellow student curated an exhibition in the library at Pomona College on Islam and the Indian Ocean. One of her professors suggested she apply because of the research area of her senior thesis. The exhibition, which ran from October to December last year, highlighted the circulation of ideas, goods and people in the region of the Indian Ocean.

Anisha has also created an online version of the exhibition to get the knowledge she has curated out to a wider audience.

Anisha was born in Bombay and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when she was three. A year later her family moved again to Illinois.

Early on she wanted to be a vet due to her love of animals, a passion that has continued. She has been working with an animal welfare project which sends people into elementary schools to teach them about cruelty to animals, how they can care for animals and how they can protect animals from abuse. After she left high school she was involved with an animal charity that rehabilitates animals that have been used as evidence in court cases of abuse or neglect who would otherwise be put down.

Despite her early ambitions to be a vet, she leant towards the humanities at school and took part in a national history competition called National History Day which involved making historical documentaries.

She was keen to further her studies in the humanities and chose to major in International Relations at Pomona College, supported by a full scholarship from the Posse Foundation, which included an eight-month leadership training programme before she started university. She gradually gravitated towards history.

“Despite her early ambitions to be a vet, she leant towards the humanities at school and took part in a national history competition called National History Day which involved making historical documentaries.”

Anisha was drawn to classes on history in Africa, Asia and the Middle East in the early modern period. She says part of the reason was “self understanding” because of her family’s origins. She became more and more interested in social history and particularly in marginalised groups, such as women. She read through the imperial chronicles for references to women and she tried to piece their stories together.

Coming to Cambridge is not Anisha’s first visit to the UK. For her senior thesis, she got a grant to do archival research in the British Library and an archive in France. For her MPhil she will study Siddi people in the pre-colonial period, but she says she is also interested in the transition to the colonial period. She has found documents of court cases in the colonial period where Siddi have been on trial and are defending themselves.

“For me that is gold. They are speaking with their own words,” says Anisha. She is taking Arabic classes and wants to take Persian as part of her MPhil. That way she can delve into the Persian sources. “It will give a different perspective to European sources,” she says. “At the moment I am lifting the Siddis’ voices from European documents. It is still filtered, though. It is not in their own words.”



Theodora Bowering

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Architecture, Newnham College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



My time at the University of Cambridge began with an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies interrogating cities and their civic spaces through the lens of the elderly, research that the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is now supporting me to develop within a PhD. This work looks at how medicine, social sciences, philosophy, architecture and urbanism intersect with ageing at the scale of the body, the home, the institution and the city, revealing the need for age to be recognised as an arena of contestation and marginalisation, and for practices and forces to be explored as a rising source of social conflict and inequality in cities. My interest in these themes, in part, comes out of my architectural training at the University of Sydney and over six years of practice in Sydney and London working on residential, heritage and public buildings, developing skills from concept and detail design through to contract administration and office management.

Michael Calzadilla

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Astronomy, Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of South Florida



As the first member of my family to ever attend college, it is with immense honor and gratitude that I've made it so far as to join the ranks of the Gates Scholar community. During my undergraduate career at the University of South Florida, I became enthralled with doing research on the universe's most powerful supermassive black holes. In Cambridge, I'll pursue an MPhil under the direction of Drs. Andrew Fabian and Vasily Belokurov, with whom I'll continue studying active galactic nuclei (AGN). Over their lifetimes, radio-loud AGN will switch from a radiatively bright phase to a more inefficient radio phase, where most of their output is in the form of relativistic outbursts. The transition between these two phases is not well-understood, however, and I plan to find intermediate-redshift AGN in Planck-selected galaxy clusters to increase our sample size and understanding of transitioning AGN. This research has important implications for questions on jet formation and galaxy evolution.

INTERESTS: Black holes, quantum mechanics, astrophotography, programming, anime, boxing, reading, running, American football, violin, piano, guitar, dancing (bachata, merengue, tango), working out, new languages, classics, cooking, wine, cheese, and chocolate.

Eric Cervini

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD History, Emmanuel College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Originally from Austin, Texas, I became interested in politics and public policy early; before Harvard, I worked on the election campaigns of several Texas politicians and at the Texas headquarters during the first Obama presidential campaign. I spent college summers interning at the Democratic Governors Association, the Clinton Foundation, and researching at Cambridge. In addition to leading a seminar for local high school students in Shanghai and acting as the editor-in-chief of the Harvard Undergraduate Law Review, I joined Harvard Model Congress as a freshman, and in my senior year, I was HMC's co-president and CEO. I taught high school students at HMC conferences in Boston, Singapore, Brussels, Madrid, San Francisco and Hong Kong, and I founded and led HMC Dubai, the first government simulation in the Middle East. For my MPhil, I attended Emmanuel College, Cambridge as the Harvard Scholar, and my PhD dissertation will investigate the American homophile movement in the 1960s. Above all, I'm grateful and excited to join the Gates Cambridge family!

Thandeka Cochrane

South Africa

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Social Anthropology,
Magdalene College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Amsterdam



Born in Cape Town to a South African father and a German mother, I have always been deeply aware of how culture affects the way in which we value knowledge. My interest lies in exploring the ways in which knowledge is deeply implicated in relations of power and the impact this has on questions of social injustice. In 2013, after completing an MPhil at Cambridge in Intellectual History, I decided to shift my focus from history to anthropology, doing an MSc at the University of Amsterdam. I conducted three months fieldwork in Malawi, studying the asymmetrical power/knowledge relations in ECD centres in rural villages. During my PhD at Cambridge I hope to further explore the ways in which unequal power/knowledge relations are embedded in 'development' focused literacy projects, by examining the import of children's fantasy and fairytale literature into rural communities and the asymmetrical relations of power/knowledge and conflicting epistemologies accompanying this.

INTERESTS: Ballroom dancing, rock climbing, rowing, reading, mountains, outreach, activism, travel, education, Model United Nations, horse riding, theatre, teaching, adventure, magic.

Marcus Colla

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD History, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Tasmania



Growing up in Tasmania, I was always fascinated by history and the ways in which people understand it. In my studies, I have been concerned with historical legacies and memory. This has led to my PhD project, which will focus upon the legacy of Prussia in postwar Germany. In particular, I am investigating the degree to which Prussia had 'positive' and 'negative' political legacies, and why perceptions of it changed over time. I am incredibly excited about joining the Gates community!

INTERESTS: Music, Australian football, cricket, art, architecture, comedy.

Margaret Comer

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Archaeology, Jesus College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Born in Maryland, I grew up in and around Baltimore. As a child of archaeologists, I was surrounded by material culture and immaterial pasts, but I was also fascinated by politics. While pursuing my MPhil, I was drawn to the heritage of repression, especially as such traumatic legacies are publicly and privately expressed or silenced before and after major regime changes. My dissertation focused on changing interpretations of repression before and after 1991 in the Solovetsky Islands, Russia, the site of the gulag system's first labor camp. In my doctoral research, I hope to study patterns of change over time in interpretation and expression of memory at a wider array of sites related to Soviet-era repression and, further, connect these patterns of change in memorialization and commemoration to concurrent changes in political regimes and wider attitudes towards identity and civil or human rights.

INTERESTS: Dark heritage, dissonant pasts, museums, the ethics of display and interpretation, Slavic languages, walking, wandering, the ocean, the Olympics, pubs, adorable small animals.

Sarah Cooley

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Polar Studies, St Edmund's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



During my undergraduate studies in geophysics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I developed a fascination with glaciers and the Arctic, a passion that has taken me to Alaska, British Columbia, Greenland and Iceland. My research has focused on glaciology and Arctic hydrology, including studying surface strain rates on the Taku Glacier in Alaska and building an algorithm to detect the timing of Arctic river ice breakup using satellite imagery. After visiting the Greenland Ice Sheet, I became especially interested in studying the dramatic retreat of Greenland's large outlet glaciers and the complex processes that govern their flow. At Cambridge, I will pursue my MPhil in Polar Studies at the Scott Polar Research Institute, where I will research feedbacks between glacier hydrology and flow in Greenland. Through modeling and remote sensing, I seek to better understand how Greenland's glaciers are responding to climate warming and improve sea level rise predictions.

INTERESTS: Long runs, off trail adventures, backpacking, cross-country skiing, polar exploration, piano, historical nonfiction and a good cup of coffee.

Laura Cooper

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Veterinary Science, Homerton College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Princeton University



At Princeton I majored in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, focusing on infectious disease dynamics and global health. My senior thesis explored the nature of heterogeneous mosquito biting patterns and their effects on malaria transmission. I am excited to join Dr. Caroline Trotter's group in the Veterinary Sciences department, where I will explore the potential for serogroup replacement following meningococcal serogroup A vaccination in the African meningitis belt. I look forward to learning from and collaborating with the rich community of infectious disease researchers at Cambridge. Ultimately, I hope to work as a physician scientist specializing in infectious disease control and prevention, integrating clinical knowledge and disease ecology to advance the field of infectious disease epidemiology and improve global public health.

FROM UNDOCUMENTED STATUS TO ADVOCACY

Carlos Adolfo Gonzalez Sierra

Carlos Adolfo Gonzalez Sierra understands many of the issues faced by Dominican immigrants to the US because he has lived them.



The first Gates Cambridge Scholar from the Dominican Republic, he was born in Santo Domingo. His family had a privileged lifestyle compared to the majority of people in the country until his father suddenly died when Carlos was eight. His mother, who had not been working, found it difficult to get a job and decided to move the family instead to the US where they have relatives in Pennsylvania.

Carlos describes the experience of starting a new school in a different country where he didn't know the language as daunting. However, he was determined to make the most of his situation, having seen how hard his mother had worked to get the family to the US.

The family had come to the US on tourist visas, which soon expired. After that they were undocumented which made access to things like work, healthcare and higher education difficult.

Carlos felt the only way he could make it to university was to be one of the top students at his school. He pushed himself, taking the most difficult classes and participating in several extracurricular activities. He was president of the Student Council and numerous other student organisations, volunteered in the community and wrestled on the school team. With the support of one of his teachers, he applied to universities taking part in a programme aimed at preparing high-achieving, low-income students gain admission and full scholarships to top-tier colleges.

He was rejected from all eight. No reason was given, but he believes it was because he was undocumented. "That was a very dark period for me," he says. "I had sacrificed so much to learn English and catch up with my peers. I performed better than the vast majority my classmates in high school. I contributed to my school and my community. Yet society was

telling me that all that effort didn't matter because I didn't have a 9-digit number? I felt betrayed."

His mentor recommended that he go to a local community college and helped him get a place, but he had to pay twice as much tuition because he was treated as an international student. He managed to gain multiple scholarships from his school and his grandmother and mother contributed some money. He also had a job working in a store where he was paid \$6 an hour for effectively running the store.

Despite working hard during his two years at community college, Carlos also got heavily involved in student life. He was head of the Student Government Association Executive Council, representing 25,000 students, reactivated the Latino student organisation and interned for Pennsylvania's Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino affairs, the state's leading advocacy organisation for its Latino residents.

After his first year he applied to transfer to Amherst College which considered students on a need-blind basis for financial aid. He majored in Political Science and Interdisciplinary US Latino Studies, but also found time to chair La Causa, an organisation which brings Latino students together to celebrate and debate their culture and provides advocacy and support.

His undergraduate thesis detailed the prevalence of electoral clientelism – the exchange of goods and services for political support – by Dominican expatriates participating in Dominican national politics within the United States. He will take this forward in his MPhil in Latin American Studies at Cambridge.

Since graduating, Carlos has been involved in organising and engaging voters in immigrant and low-income communities in Chicago, working on the Raise the Wage campaign in Illinois which targeted low-income workers.

After seeing things from a grassroots perspective, he worked for six months as a legislative assistant in the Office of Congressman Michael Honda in Washington DC focusing on legislation around immigration and Latin American issues and as an Employment Specialist at Church World Service, working with Cubans arriving in the US.

He says: "Ultimately, I want to use my education and experience to help reduce poverty in the region and create opportunities for hard working people like my mother."

Merve Fejzula

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD History, Trinity Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



In my PhD thesis, I hope to explore an intellectual history of black and Third World intellectuals in and out of Paris from 1945–1975. This builds upon my graduate work in Cambridge as an MPhil student in Historical Studies, and also my undergraduate study at Rutgers University, where I graduated in 2011 as a double major in English and history, with a minor in philosophy. Before embarking upon postgraduate study at Cambridge, I served as program coordinator of the Diversity Research Center, whose aim was to expand the public understanding of diversity in higher education. As an immigrant to the USA from Macedonia, I have long been concerned with increasing access to higher education and hope to maintain my outreach to underprivileged communities in my career as a scholar.

INTERESTS: Reading, travel, music, movies, theatre.

Zachary Fitzpatrick

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Clinical Science (Rare Diseases), Clare College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Université Pierre et Marie Curie



Early in my educational path, as a phlebotomist and medical assistant to a chronic pain clinician, I had the opportunity to witness the profound impact that adequate health care can confer to the individual and to a society, but also to the confining challenges in treating complex disease. An interdisciplinary array of undergraduate experiences in medicine, science and public health have fueled my aspirations in serving underrepresented patient communities with unmet medical need, particularly in the rare diseases sector. I've investigated genetic therapy development for various hereditary deficits, including hemophilia and neurofibromatosis, at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and at The Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, as well as cancer immunology and genetics at The Pasteur Institute in France. I am eager and honored to begin my scientific journey at Cambridge, exploring lysosomal storage disorders under the mentorship of Professor Timothy Cox.

INTERESTS: Traveling, hiking, cycling, philosophy, music, French linguistics, ethical debates, brainstorming and exploring new cultures by way of food and conversation.

Carlos Gonzalez Sierra

Dominican Republic

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Latin American Studies, Darwin College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Amherst College



I am originally from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, but grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the United States. My experience growing up undocumented shaped my political consciousness and sparked my interest in studying the links between social inequality, political participation and representative governance. I completed my B.A. in Political Science and U.S. Latino Studies from Amherst College in 2014, having also studied sustainable development in Brazil and human rights in The Netherlands. I will be pursuing an MPhil in Latin American Studies. My research studies the implications of politically empowered diasporas for Latin American democracies. I hope to become a more effective advocate and policymaker by gaining a more nuanced understanding of the root causes of inequality in the region and the motivations for transnational political involvement. Though I am proud to be the first scholar from the Dominican Republic, I am determined to make sure I am not the last.

Ana Maria Guay

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Classics, Newnham College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Michigan



Born in Asunción, Paraguay and raised in Brooklyn, New York, I found my undergraduate work in Classical Languages and Literatures and Translation Studies fostered a lifelong interest in marginalized and overlooked texts. At the University of Michigan I assisted in researching papyrus fragments from Herculaneum, taught a class on paratexts and marginalia, and wrote my senior thesis on the understudied Catalogue of Ships in Homer's Iliad, arguing that it introduces to the epic poem the potential for poetic memory to fail. During the MPhil in Classics, I hope to extend my research to post-Homeric catalogues and, more generally, to moments in ancient literature where the integrity of poetic memory threatens to break down; I am especially interested in how these moments capture communities' attempts to process collective loss or trauma.

INTERESTS: Creative writing (especially poetry), education and teaching, watching soccer, translation studies, theatre.

Jodi Gustafson

Canada

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Conservation Leadership, Robinson College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of British Columbia



Growing up in Canada's sub-Arctic instilled within me a passion for circumpolar environments, and an unwavering motivation to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of fragile northern resources. My BSc degree in Global Resource Systems focused on circumpolar regions, and included exchanges to the University of Lapland's Arctic Studies Program in Rovaniemi, Finland and the University of Canterbury's Gateway Antarctica Research Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand. As part of my undergraduate research, I produced my first documentary <https://vimeo.com/73013007> highlighting the impacts of climate change on Inuvialuit communities in Canada's Western Arctic and emphasising the importance of conservation of circumpolar regions. Since graduating, I have been working for the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs Secretariat, which has provided me exposure to a level of international cooperation unseen in any other location on earth.

Fazal Hadi

Pakistan

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Pharmacology, Magdalene College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Università di Camerino



I was born and brought up in Swat Pakistan where I did my schooling. I then moved to Italy to study Biotechnology at the University of Camerino. During my undergraduates I developed a keen interest in cancer and carried out a six-month placement in the lab of Dr Walid Khaled at Pharmacology Department of Cambridge University. I worked towards the characterization of BCL11A, a novel breast cancer oncogene identified by Dr Khaled's lab. Then I spent 3 months at Institut Curie Research Center Paris where I worked on modeling of mutational pathways in cancer. Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in women accounting for about 32 deaths every day. My PhD project aims at discerning the role of BCL11A in Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) which represents about 15% of breast cancer cases and shows poor prognosis. Through this PhD training, I seek to contribute to a better understanding of TNBC with the aim to pinpoint molecular targets for the development of more effective therapeutics.

INTERESTS: Walking, Listening to music, Reading, Travelling.

Gabriella Heller

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Chemistry, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



My research focuses on a class of biological molecules called disordered proteins. Unlike most well-studied proteins, like those responsible for immune responses, vision, and cell replication, disordered proteins have no rigid three-dimensional structure and are instead highly dynamic. Despite their high prevalence in diseases such as Alzheimer's and diabetes, the behaviour of these proteins is poorly understood, likely a result of how difficult they are to study experimentally. During my PhD, I hope to combine existing experimental methods with high-powered modelling techniques to understand these proteins and their relation to disease. Originally from Chicago, I attended Pomona College where I studied chemistry and math. My interest in combining these fields led me to begin working with Professor Michele Vendruscolo at the University of Cambridge as a Churchill Scholar for my MPhil degree. I am very excited and honoured to remain here as a member of the Gates Cambridge community.

INTERESTS: Food chemistry, science education reform, travel, reading, hiking, playing squash.

Cassi Henderson

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Chemical Engineering, Queens' College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Pennsylvania



From my early days of riding along with my mom on veterinary calls in rural Pennsylvania with a stethoscope in hand, healthcare technology has captivated my attention. With a degree in biomedical engineering from UPenn and having worked in medical device development, this captivation has developed into a passion for exploring ways to harness advancements in technology for the improvement of health. My doctoral research will be an investigation into the fabrication of diagnostic kits through additive manufacturing techniques. Defining a platform for linking chemistry needs with ease of manufacture could ultimately enable affordable, rapid, and point-of-care detection of diseases. This will help ensure that patients get the right care, especially in resource-limited settings. I am incredibly honored to be supported in the pursuit of my PhD and look forward to joining the vibrant Gates Cambridge community.

INTERESTS: Good food, good coffee, and good company. Running, cycling, squash, or anything that gets me up and moving. And all with a heavy dose of laughter.

TRAINING AFRICA'S SCIENTISTS

CAROL IBE

African governments and international NGOs need to invest more in research and development to enable African scientists to come up with solutions to poverty and food insecurity, says Carol Ibe.



She is not only starting a PhD in Plant Science at Cambridge in the autumn, but will do her research at the same time as running her own company which provides hands-on biotechnology laboratory training courses to research students and scientists, mainly in Africa.

Carol set up JR Biotek two years ago, but the idea for the biotechnology education company came to her earlier while she was doing her first masters at Georgetown University in the US. At the time she felt she needed more training so it was not until 2013 that she registered her company in the US and Nigeria. With the support of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria, she launched her first training programme in biotechnology and biomedicine for students and laboratory scientists in Africa last year.

She faced a lot of challenges setting up the programme, but in September 2014 she launched the first annual biotechnology laboratory training workshop in Nigeria.

She realised by setting up the company that she needed to get her PhD so she applied to the University of Cambridge and tailored her research proposal to the work she is doing with her company. It will focus on rice, the staple food of a large part of the world, and how to produce quality rice in places where there are poor soil and climate conditions.

Carol grew up in Nigeria and did her undergraduate degree there, but was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in the US. When she was two and a half, Carol's family moved back to Nigeria. She took her degree at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture in Umuahia in Abia State. In her fourth year she was introduced to molecular biology and biotechnology and its applications and she developed a strong interest in it. She decided to do her masters in the US due to a lack of resources and teaching staff with more than a limited knowledge of molecular biology in Nigeria at the time. She applied to Georgetown University to do a masters in molecular biology and biochemistry, specialising in biotechnology. By the end of her first semester, she had won the highly competitive National Institutes of Health intramural research training award (IRTA), which enabled her to do an eight-week internship in an NIH laboratory.

“She faced a lot of challenges setting up the programme, but in September 2014 she launched the first annual biotechnology laboratory training workshop in Nigeria.”

After she graduated, she got a job as a molecular biologist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC and worked in a multi-disciplinary team, developing bio-sensors which could rapidly detect bio-warfare agents, for instance, in the event of a terrorist attack.

She worked in the laboratory for two and a half years and then started research on assisted reproductive technologies on Oxford University's new clinical embryology masters programme. After the masters, she got a job as a research biologist at NIH and as part of her research she was generating multi-potential neural progenitor cells from developing human brain tissues, which her research group used for research on PML – Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, a rare but serious demyelinating disease of the brain, often resulting in severe disability or death.

She is keen to both be a researcher and to support other researchers. She says: “We need to start getting governments in Africa and international NGOs to pay attention to research and development, especially in the areas of agriculture and healthcare because that's how innovation, which we so desperately need in Africa, can come about.”

Sophie Hermanns

Germany

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Politics, Girton College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Humboldt University



My PhD will look at the logic by which different global health actors operate, allocate resources and conceptualise rights and duties. On the other hand, combining work on justice, cosmopolitanism and public health ethics, I am also interested in what an account of global health justice could look like and what implications such an account would have on global health policy. What, for example, do citizens and governments of rich countries owe to the health of citizens of poorer countries – and how can they most effectively improve health outcomes in other countries?

INTERESTS: Effective altruism, cooking, travelling, photography.

Connie Hsueh

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Physics, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

California Institute of Technology



I completed my B.S. in physics at the California Institute of Technology, where I was involved with a number of fascinating research projects including developing a new molecule for HIV diagnostics and understanding the dynamics of lithium-ion battery discharge. What drew me to physics as a young student was the general idea that, if we can first understand the underlying physical principles of how and why matter interacts, we can then scale it up to understand how life, the universe, and everything work. A rather optimistic undertaking, but – start small, think big. At Cambridge, my research will involve atomic-level simulations to predict the structure and properties of materials. This kind of technique can be utilized to design, for example, novel energy storage materials and other applications. I am also passionate about science education and policy, and I hope to be a role model and mentor for women in the physical sciences.

INTERESTS: Water polo, volleyball, eating, romantic comedies, aeronautics.

Karen Hong

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Public Health, St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Stanford University



I am a first generation Chinese-American medical student interested in preventative eye screening and treatment in underserved Asian countries. Previous work includes research and education in sexual and reproductive health in rural China, Beijing, and Hong Kong. I worked for one year with Prevent Blindness Northern California as an Albert Schweitzer fellow helping screen preschoolers for pediatric eye diseases. My goal is to become a clinician-researcher. During my time at the University of Cambridge, I hope to learn epidemiological analysis, research design, and some British slang.

INTERESTS: Outside of medicine, I enjoy museums, lap swimming, running, squash, sketching, and baking.

Ruoyun Hui

China

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Genetics, Peterhouse

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitat Munchen



I was born and raised in the small city of Puyang in central China. I believe that an understanding of the past is essential to interpret what we observe today; as a student of biology, the idea naturally transforms into a fascination with evolutionary history. I am going to pursue a PhD in Genetics under the supervision of Dr. Aylwyn Scally to study the evolution of great apes and other primates. We aim to use whole-genome sequence data to reconstruct demographic and phylogenetic histories. Not only interesting on its own, such knowledge also sets the background for detecting signatures of natural selection in the genome, thus shedding light on human evolution. The methods we develop might be applied to analyze other study systems, addressing various questions in epidemiology, agriculture, cancer progression and so on. Beyond my own research, I also wish to be connected to more people's lives, and to help them realize their courage within. I am constantly seeking ways to integrate my scientific enthusiasm with social responsibility. Hopefully I can explore further along this path with the prestigious community at Gates Cambridge.

INTERESTS: Hiking, museums of history, science fiction, traditional markets, rural education, peer counseling, people watching.

Carol Ibe

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Plant Sciences,
Newnham College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Georgetown University



I was born in the United States but grew up in Nigeria, where I completed a BS in microbiology. In pursuit of a better education and career, I returned to the US and did a Masters in molecular biology and biochemistry with a specialization in biotechnology from the Georgetown University, and subsequently, a Masters in clinical embryology from the University of Oxford. During my studies at Georgetown, I became inspired to start JR Biotech, a life science education company that provides quality biotechnology and life science education, training and laboratory capacity building programs to students, educators and scientists in Africa. My vision is to help build a powerful workforce that can advance scientific research and innovation in Africa, especially within the field of agriculture. I am also very passionate about developing more effective and practical solutions to food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa, and this influenced my decision to study plant science. My PhD research will aim to determine the commonalities and differences during intracellular rice root colonization by both beneficial and detrimental fungi, and how these associations may be enhanced for practical agricultural applications.

Chiedozie Ibekwe

Nigeria

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Public Policy, Sidney Sussex College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania State University



While many African countries, including my home country of Nigeria, may be experiencing significant economic growth, the challenge is ensuring inclusive growth. In 2013, I had a rewarding experience in Nigeria working on a project to develop the local supply base for General Electric in preparation for a new manufacturing plant. I learned to appreciate the multiplier effect of manufacturing in regards to job creation – the major stimulant of inclusive growth. My career goal is to use manufacturing, with localized supply chains, to drive sustainable development in Africa. After studying public policy at Cambridge, I will utilize my manufacturing and supply chain management expertise to help government agencies and ministries to craft and execute effective industrial policies to boost manufacturing and diversify African economies. Manufacturing has been the most reliable driver of development. With Africa's median age of 19, manufacturing is critical to meet the demand for jobs.

INTERESTS: Soccer (goalkeeper), biographies.

Asiya Islam

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Sociology,
Christ's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

London School of Economics



I grew up in the small city of Aligarh in India and studied at Aligarh Muslim University where I became politically involved in issues of gender equality. My interest in the area led me to a Master's in Gender, Media and Culture at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Since completing my Master's in 2010, I have been working as Equality and Diversity Adviser at the London School of Economics and Political Science. I have also been writing about gender and race issues as a freelance journalist. At the Department of Sociology, Cambridge, I will be researching the experiences of women who migrate from small towns to the increasingly globalised city of New Delhi, focussing on how they negotiate their mobility within the context of the heightened discourse on sexual violence in the city. Through my research, I hope to develop a sophisticated understanding of sexual violence in India which may influence policy responses to the issue in the country and more widely.

INTERESTS: Crafts like knitting, crochet, screen printing, pottery; reading; food; long walks; yoga.

Sridhar Jagannathan

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Psychology, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Technical University of Eindhoven



What differentiates the truly great people from the rest? I believe it is standing tall in the face of adversity. Growing up in one of the biggest cities (Chennai) in India, I saw the struggle my parents faced to provide a quality education to me. Despite never having been to a university, they strived hard to provide for my university education. To say it in the words of my mom "As humans we don't live forever, why don't we make something that lasts forever". This is my motivation for research. My quest took me from India to the Netherlands and then to UK. Here at Cambridge, I would be working on the entanglement between consciousness and attention. During my PhD, I would like to combine my expertise in clinical, cognitive neuroscience along with my knowledge in mathematical methods to provide a holistic approach to the problem in question. I'm truly humbled at this award and would like to thank my friends, family and my teachers for supporting me.

INTERESTS: Public debating; Thought experiment; Spiritual Boxing; Quizzing; pranking my friends.

UNDERSTANDING GLIOBLASTOMA

JOSEPH MCABEE

Glioblastoma is the most common brain tumour occurring in adults and the most malignant. About 2,500 cases are diagnosed in the UK every year. Less than 14% of patients diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour are alive at 10 years.

Joseph McAbee's PhD will focus on understanding the genetic make-up of this form of cancer and developing the targeted therapies which will be most effective in treating the many varieties found in different patients.

It will build on the research he has been doing as a medical student at Wake Forest School of Medicine in the US where he worked for a summer on the paediatric oncology education programme at St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

He says that experience was instrumental in his decision to do a PhD and has led to him and St Jude colleagues publishing several papers for peer-review journals on subjects ranging from burnout in neurosurgery to cervicomedullary tumours and neurosurgery for children with hydrocephalus.

In 2013, he spoke at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons about treatment regimens for cervicomedullary tumours, a type of cancer with which St Jude has a great deal of experience.

Joseph knew he wanted to be a doctor from an early age. He was born and grew up in the small town of Woodruff in South Carolina. An only child, education was an important influence at home and Joseph was very studious from an early age.

At around the age of 12, he started doing mission trips with his church. As he got older and became more fascinated by the medical profession he started reading books by doctors.



One summer he went on a National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at Emory University in Atlanta which only confirmed his interest in medicine.

Joseph became interested in neuroscience so when he began his degree at Wofford College he took classes in neuroscience as well as majoring in biology.

His first experience with research was in the summer after his second year. He won the Pauletta and Denzel Washington Gifted Scholars in Neuroscience Award to go to Cedar Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles where he worked in the department of neurosurgery on vaccinations for glioblastoma.

The following summer he won a scholarship to do neuroscience research at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute.

His undergraduate course was four years long and during that time he became increasingly involved in research projects. He worked on a project looking at how an NMDA receptor antagonist (D-AP5) affects the feeding and foraging behaviour of rats. He was also involved in cognitive and behavioural neuroscience experiments in the psychology department.

After graduating, he went straight to Wake Forest School of Medicine and was soon working in clinics with patients. He spent a lot of his spare time working at Wake Forest's Delivering Equal Access to Care (DEAC) Clinic which provides care for the most disadvantaged members of the local community. He volunteered in his first year, was floor manager helping with check-in, triage, and pharmacy in his second year and was clinic operations co-director in his third year, implementing new programmes aimed at delivering more efficient healthcare, and was the student leader in charge of all aspects of the clinic as executive co-director.

His PhD, which he will do in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, will involve sequencing tumour samples. He will specifically focus on the clonal dynamics of glioblastoma treatment resistance and progression. He hopes that after completing his medical training he will be able to keep one foot in research and one in patient care.

Tercia Jansen van Vuuren

South Africa

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Engineering for Sustainable Development, Jesus College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Pretoria



Following graduation as a civil engineer, I worked as a consulting engineer in the structural and construction sectors. My interest in sustainability stems from my enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world as I have always enjoyed camping, hiking and the outdoors in general. This led to a concern for the environment and preserving it for future generations, so that they may enjoy and learn from it as I have. As an engineer, I am intrinsically involved in the effect that human activities have on the environment. This has increased my desire to study the principles of sustainable development and how they can be implemented practically in the engineering industry. I want to learn how to develop solutions that benefit communities and the environment in the long term, but remain financially feasible. The consideration of the sustainability of our engineering activities is especially important in Africa, where many people have limited access to resources, funding and skills.

INTERESTS: Adventure, camping, scuba-diving, cycling, water-skiing, travelling and exploring new places, baking.

Vincentius Aji Jatikusumo

Indonesia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Biochemistry, Peterhouse

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Newcastle University



I was born in Surabaya, spent my childhood in Madiun, grew up in Batam, completed my high school in Singapore, and received my undergraduate degree in Newcastle. Along the way, my curiosity for many things has been growing, ever since my parents encouraged me to read a lot. One of my strongest interests is to study molecular biology, because I am fascinated about how cells conduct a tightly-knitted 'orchestra' to perform many essential functions. For my PhD, I will work on elucidating the structure of DNA replication and repair machinery, which is important for our genomic duplication and stability. Such knowledge is much-needed, because faulty DNA replication is a major predisposing cause for cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. In the future, my biggest objective is to inspire and to contribute as much as possible to my community and home nation Indonesia in terms of medical research development. This will not happen without the opportunity offered by Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

INTERESTS: Jazz music (especially the works of Pat Metheny and Keith Jarrett), football, delicious food, The Economist magazine, and mathematics.

Matthew Johnson

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Psychology, Clare College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



My research explores the processes underlying moral reasoning and behavior, using experimental methods of social and cognitive psychology; I am particularly interested in the implications that such empirical findings have for applied ethics and metaethics. My PhD project will build upon work I did as an MPhil student at Cambridge, and will explore how the types of moral characteristics that comprise our self-concept affect our perception of the minds of others and our own moral behavior. I did my undergraduate work at Yale University, where I majored in Cognitive Science, working on various research projects in moral psychology, experimental philosophy, and bioethics, and was also a researcher and contributing scholar at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, developing resources and programs to promote adolescent flourishing. I am also a cellist, trained at the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris.

INTERESTS: I enjoy playing chamber music; wushu/kung fu; and reading and discussing moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, and philosophical theology.

Jonathan Kanen

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Psychology, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University



My curiosity about how people think and behave evolved into a desire to study the brain, which I explored as an undergraduate. Fascinated by the prospect of beginning to understand the neural basis of psychiatric disorders, I explored the field at New York University, following my bachelor's. I obtained a compelling sense of how animal studies can be translated into human neuroscience to uncover the roots of mental illness, and became inspired to pursue a career as a psychiatrist and researcher. I have completed half of my MD degree in the United States, which I will finish after Cambridge, before pursuing specialization in psychiatry. During my PhD I hope to integrate pharmacological and neuroimaging methods to examine the influence of the neurochemical serotonin on emotional and behavioral flexibility. Serotonergic drugs are among the most common medications I will prescribe yet the precise role of serotonin in mental illness and its remediation is not completely understood. Music is a big part of my life. I am a saxophonist and jazz lover, baseball fan and former player.

INTERESTS: I enjoy jogging, reading, and wish I played more tennis.

Drasko Kascelan

Montenegro

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Theoretical and Applied Linguistics,
Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Oxford



After obtaining a degree in English Language and Literature at the University of Montenegro, I continued my studies at the University of Oxford, where I pursued my interest in autism and applied linguistics. While doing research at Oxford, I came across many unexplored aspects of autism, especially in connection to bilingualism. Therefore, my PhD research will be an investigation of certain aspects of pragmatics and cognition in bilingual children with autism, with the aim to discover the effects that bilingualism truly has on their language and cognitive development. I hope that my research will clarify the above issue and offer evidence that will affect the upbringing of children with autism, especially in the multilingual communities. Ultimately, I aim to work in academia, where I could continue research in autism and second language learning/acquisition.

INTERESTS: Harry Potter books/films, foreign languages (obviously), teaching, music (although I'm a terrible singer), Ellen DeGeneres, did I say Harry Potter, making Friends references with actual friends.

Shraddha Kaur

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Biological Science @ MRC Cognition
and Brain Sciences Unit, Christ's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Oxford



I have spent half a decade (!) as a psychology and neuroscience student – first in Delhi, with an exchange year in Singapore, and then in Oxford. I was, and remain, perplexed and fascinated by the brain; questions about the neural basis of cognition and consciousness particularly captivate me. During this time, I spent a lot of time in close proximity with elderly people in my family, hospitals and nursing homes. While sharing stories, warmth and laughter, I also witnessed a decline in the ability of many elderly people to remember, recognize and reason. This made me want to apply my academic curiosity to improving the mental health of elderly people and bring cognitive decline under the neuroscience lens at Cambridge. In my PhD (and after), I hope to build a repertoire of 'preventive exercises' that could be undertaken to offer as much independence to the elderly as possible, for as long as possible.

INTERESTS: Photography, board-gaming, travelling, eating and (sometimes) baking, reading fiction/adventure/fantasy, following the 'Welcome to Night Vale' podcast, and web-series like 'The Outs', and (watching) football.

Aliya Khalid

Pakistan

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD in Education, Newnham College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Peshawar



Peshawar, Pakistan, once known as 'The City of Flowers' has lost its distinguishing character of hospitality and patience as extremism and intolerance have spilled over across the borders. A girl here has no identity. She is supposed to be voiceless and faceless. This mindset ensures there are fewer opportunities for education and employment for them. Being from an enlightened family I was able to work my way up the education ladder to The Institute of Management Sciences where I graduated with a Masters in Public Administration. I have extensive experience volunteering in the social and development sectors. I have worked with women bound in court cases, female convicts in jails, conflict victims, internally displaced persons, flood victims, youth leadership development, managing an education system and being part of the Institute for Policy Reforms, a Pakistani think tank. My terror stricken countrymen need peace and prosperity. My region suffers from orthodoxy which affects the lives of women and minorities. States, in addition to focusing on traditional national security measures, must look at human security aspects of the population through good governance to ensure comprehensive security and foremost amongst it is education.

Samuel Kim

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Chemistry,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Princeton University



My experience with undergraduate research have shown me the extent to which chemical tools with atomic level precision can be applied to complex biological systems. Specifically, epigenetic systems that are constantly showing the interplay between nature and nurture at the individual level present an appropriate platform for utilizing peptide chemistry to help elucidate the complex language. I am excited to have this opportunity to continue this work in Cambridge in Professor Jason Chin's lab to incorporate other groundbreaking technologies to help decode the epigenetic language. In the long term, I hope to become a physician-scientist developing medically relevant technologies to support patients in need.

INTERESTS: Traveling, eating random/great foods, movies, and addictive television series.

THE CLASSICAL ORIGINS OF GENDER

NIKOLAS OKTABA

On starting his undergraduate degree in Classics, Nikolas Oktaba became increasingly interested in the formative impact of classics on gender.



His professors suggested various texts to read, such as Craig Williams' *Roman Homosexuality* which explored Roman ideas of masculinity. In the footnotes was the word transgender. It led Nikolas to further explore the subject. Gradually he began to realise that the books he was reading about transgender issues might apply to him.

The realisation led to a deep period of solitary meditation on his identity which continued for a year until he met another LGBT student. By way of introducing himself to the LGBT community, he posted an 1,800-word essay on Facebook on the Greek version of the New Testament and homosexuality. He describes the reception he received as "wildly enthusiastic" and adds that he soon got a reputation for being "the scholarly LGBT on campus".

Nikolas starts an MPhil in Classics at Cambridge this autumn and currently describes himself as gender fluid.

He was born in the very Catholic community of Greenpoint, Brooklyn and had not heard about LGBT issues until he started university. Nikolas was brought up by his mother who used to own an art gallery in the old part of Warsaw before she came to the US. She had been an active member of the Solidarity movement under the Communist regime and had to flee. In the US, she has been working as a housekeeper. It was after going with her to cleaning jobs after school that Nikolas was taken to the library and developed a voracious appetite for classical texts from an early age.

He came upon Classics by accident after reading about late antiquity and Julius Caesar and getting hold of a bad edition of

Suetonius' *The Twelve Caesars*. It was full of graphic black and white images of emperors such as Nero and Tiberius. He was seven at the time. For some reason, he became fascinated. He thought the emperors could not possibly be as bad as the depictions.

Nikolas had a reputation as a book worm at school and was called *The Niktionary* at both elementary and middle school. He attended Bronx High School of Science which was a two-hour commute away which left little time for extra-curricular activities.

"I want to join a growing movement of Classicists in opening investigative inquiries into sometimes painful issues of identity."

He said he always knew he wanted a PhD and to be a professor, writing books. In kindergarten, he read books on dinosaurs and would sign some of his homework *Sir Nikolas Owen*, styling himself as a descendant of the renowned palaeontologist *Sir Richard Owen*.

His first Latin teacher had got her degree from Fordham University and interested him in applying and recommended books for him to read. He found a book in the school library about *Quintus Aurelius Symmachus* by a Fordham lecturer who later became his supervisor. It helped spur him to apply. He now works as her research assistant.

He began his degree in Classics in 2011, starting Greek around the same time. In addition to his growing academic interest in transgender issues, Nikolas started to apply what he was reading about to politics on campus. He became a voice on campus for the trans community as well as a Diversity Peer Leader for LGBT for the Office of Multicultural Affairs. He also gave guest lectures at the graduate centre on transgender.

In his sophomore year he gave a two-hour lecture on various sexual practices and imagery, citing Sappho's poetry and ending with the Church fathers.

Last year he won the Beinecke Scholarship for graduates in the Arts as well as the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. He says: "I want to join a growing movement of Classicists in opening investigative inquiries into sometimes painful issues of identity."

Allison Kindig

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Engineering for Sustainable Development, Trinity Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Iowa



The intellectual and personal connections I've made within and between my disciplines of industrial engineering, global health, and business at the University of Iowa have intensified my passion to help people and the environment thrive. My research on alternative cooking technologies and policy for community development in India and Cameroon, as well as my experiences working as an engineer in the public and private sectors, has made me both more aware of the challenges and complexity of sustainable development AND eager to strengthen my own understanding of the scientific, political, and economic forces which shape it. I am pursuing the MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development to learn how I can integrate the principles and practices of sustainable development to help communities achieve food and energy security. I am thankful to be a Gates Cambridge Scholar, and look forward to learning from and exploring with fellow scholars.

INTERESTS: Triathlons, travel, abstract art, boating, singing, outdoor adventures, inventions, coffee shops, flea markets, hand-built bicycles.

Adeline Klotz

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Chemical Engineering, Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Western Australia



During my thesis as an undergraduate, I first began exploiting various aspects of magnetic resonance (MR) to develop a multiphase flow meter. Through this project, I came to realise the potential of MR and the lack of it in the engineering sector, even though it is used quite heavily in other fields. While undertaking my doctorate at Cambridge, I will be harnessing the power of MR to develop a tool in the engineering sector. This tool aims to understand how catalysts behave on a local level, during reactions, with real operating conditions. To date, reactors containing catalysts are designed in an inefficient manner due to this lack of understanding. Such research will ensure our current resources will be used efficiently, but will also ensure catalysts can be designed and operated effectively to handle the challenging feedstocks we will be encountering in the future. It is a truly great honour to be joining the Gates Cambridge community, working with other scholars to help solve some of these global issues we are facing.

INTERESTS: Bush-walking, cycling, cooking (especially the science behind it!), reading, playing the flute and self-sustainable living.

Emma Knowles

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, Corpus Christi College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Having studied English at the University of Sydney, I undertook an MPhil in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. In my upcoming PhD I will focus on representations of the natural world as a means of enforcing justice in Old English literature, and will use an ecocritical perspective to question underlying attitudes and assumptions about nature. I hope that my work will highlight how medieval scholarship can engage with critical frameworks created by contemporary environmental issues, while also enabling me to encourage others to engage with education. This desire was inspired by two overseas service trips to Fiji and Cambodia during my high schooling, where the disparity between the resources that I had for my own education and the limited resources of others was very evident. These experiences gave me a passion for recognising education as a privilege and responsibility, and wanting to work to promote better access to education.

INTERESTS: Reading, playing field and ice hockey, rugby and cricket spectating, procrastibaking and traveling to new places.

Ananthanarayanan Kumar

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Biological Science, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Nagoya



I was born and brought up in Madras – a booming metropolis in South India. Coming from a city where scientists like Sir C. V. Raman and G. N. Ramachandran worked, I was not surprised to find myself being attracted towards seeking a career in Science. Structural studies of molecular machines and their assembly are my primary research interest. Ever since my stay at the Mancini lab at STRUBI, Oxford University last summer, I have started getting interested in the structural dissection of pathways associated with gene regulation such as Chromatin remodelling and mRNA processing. Having had research experience across diverse fields (at labs in India, Japan and the UK), I hope to pursue interesting problems that bridge the traditional boundaries between different fields of Science. I look forward to begin my PhD research at the Passmore lab at the LMB, where I will try to gain structural and functional insights into how the Cleavage and Polyadenylation Factor works.

Cameron Langford

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Political Thought and Intellectual History, Christ's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Princeton University



How do political ideas come to life? As an MPhil student in Political Thought and Intellectual History, I hope to explore the contexts in which particular political philosophies unfolded, as well as the ways in which those philosophies influenced history by empowering people to act. In particular, I hope to investigate the increasing professionalization of science in the early twentieth century, with the aim of understanding how science came to be seen as inaccessible to the common man. As a former intern in the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence and on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, I have seen firsthand how framing ideas in new ways can lead to a more informed and engaged citizenry. I ultimately hope to use these academic and policy experiences to serve as a communicator between scientists and citizens, using the power of narrative and my background as both historian and creative writer to close the gap between citizens, scientists, and their government.

INTERESTS: Long-form journalism, short fiction, and strong coffee.

Edward Lee-Six

Belgium

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD English, Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Ecole Normale Supérieure



I was born in Paris and grew up in Brussels and London, where I went to secondary school (St Paul's). As an undergraduate, I read English at Trinity College, Cambridge; after graduating, I moved to Paris where I have been studying at the École normale supérieure (rue d'Ulm), for the last three years. In the autumn of 2015, I will be beginning a Ph.D. at Cambridge on Samuel Beckett's poetry, under the supervision of Anne Stillman.

Michael Li

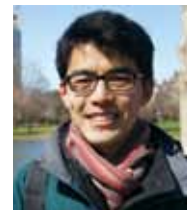
Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Engineering for Sustainable Development, Clare College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Melbourne



I have a passion for creating change in the way governments and private organisations undergo development in the built environment by reducing the impact of buildings and infrastructure on climate change. Growing up in Australia, where we are often exposed to extreme weather events such as heat waves and droughts, I have always had an interest in resource efficiency and our relationship with our varying climate and environment. I've been fortunate enough to spend the last three years in the Sustainability team at AECOM, working with clients to create solutions for green buildings and developing climate change mitigation strategies for local governments. I hope through my experience at Cambridge to apply world's best practice to help Australia build a more sustainable future.

INTERESTS: Violin, folk music, casual bike rides, food and cooking.

Ryan Limbocker

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Chemistry, St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Kansas



I was born in Kansas City and graduated from the University of Kansas with a BS in Chemistry in 2015. As an undergraduate, my research utilized electrochemical methods to monitor neuronal release dynamics on a physiologically relevant timescale in rodent models of Huntington's disease and Post-Chemotherapy Cognitive Impairment. As a Gates Cambridge Scholar, I will be pursuing a PhD in Chemistry with Professor Christopher Dobson's research group. During this time, I will investigate the fundamental causes of amyloid beta aggregation with emphasis on modes of inhibition. The misfolding process leading to aggregation is pivotal in the pathogenesis of several diseases, including Alzheimer's and Type II Diabetes. I believe this experience will prepare me extremely well to devote my career and passion to understanding how these diseases may be better understood and mitigated.

INTERESTS: In my free time, I stay very active, like to cook, and enjoy teaching and volunteering. Running, hiking, cycling, baseball, basketball, guitar, teaching, cooking, and music.

A ROLE MODEL FOR HER COMMUNITY

NATALIE REBEYEV

Natalie Rebeyev is not only the first person to go to university in her family, but, as a Bukharian, she is one of very few women to study outside her local community.

She is keen to use her own experience to open up the possibilities for other women in her community – a Jewish community originating in Central Asia – and has been talking to high school students as part of a health professions programme she coordinated earlier this year, about not only the different roles within the health professions, but trying to communicate to girls her passion for higher education.

She is determined to start up her own non-profit organisation to give career guidance to young Bukharian girls.

Natalie was born in Queens, New York. Her parents' families are from Uzbekistan, where Bukharians originate. They met in Israel, but moved to New York for economic reasons just before Natalie was born.

Natalie, who has two brothers, knew from an early age that she loved biology and learning about different diseases. At the age of 11, she developed a growth of nerve cells on her tongue, known as a schwannoma, which got her interested in understanding how the body works and how it responds to ailments. Before entering high school, she was accepted on an advanced science programme and set her heart on a career that combined medical and rigorous academic training.

She tried her hand at research and did internships in local hospitals through a Bukharian organisation, the JCCA's Bukharian Teen Lounge. She also did three internships at Beth Israel Medical Centre in Manhattan.

Natalie applied to Syracuse University and attended as a Coronat Scholar where she was a dual Biology and Judaic Studies major. Her mother was extremely supportive of her decision to apply. She had had to give up her nursing career and advanced training to move to the US. She did have to persuade her father a little, but the fact that she got a full scholarship helped.

Early on in her first year she attended a lecture by the Nobel Laureate Dr Aaron Ciechanover on intracellular protein degradation and was fascinated by what he had to say about breakthroughs in oncology.

She shadowed a doctor who was a radiation oncologist and got a research position at the Cancer Research Institute at Upstate Medical University shortly after hearing that seminar. There she worked on a project on nanotechnology and anti-cancer



drug delivery. She also wrote to Dr Ciechanover and asked to do an internship at his laboratory at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology over the summer of her second year. She was assigned to one of his colleagues who works on fruit fly immunity and its relation to colon cancer. Upon her return, she obtained another position at Upstate Medical University in Dr Richard Wokcikiewicz's laboratory, where she studied the role played by a protein [erlin2] in intracellular degradation of the IP3 receptor on which she wrote her undergraduate thesis.

The research sparked her desire to do a PhD in Immunology. She will work with Dr Paul Lehner to identify the genes linked to cystic fibrosis through a novel approach known as CRISPR-mediated genetic screening and she will also learn more about viral pathogenesis.

She says her parents are very proud that she has won the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. "My first year at Syracuse University was a bit strange for all of us, but my parents are used to it now and consider this such a rare opportunity and quite an honour," she says.

Had she not gone to Syracuse University to study, she feels her opportunities would have been much more limited. She would probably have ended up in primary care and would not have the chance to do the kind of research she has done at Syracuse, which instilled in her the desire to obtain a PhD. "That research has been so vital to what I want to do in the future," she says.

Rebecca Love

Canada

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Medical Science @ MRC
Epidemiology Unit, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Oxford



After completing my Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's University, I spent two years working in health and education development in the Caribbean region as a Pathy Family Foundation Fellow. Working in partnership with local organizations and governmental ministries stimulated my interest in intervention and policy development and motivated me to pursue an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at the University of Oxford. At Cambridge I will pursue a PhD in Medical Science at the MRC Epidemiology Unit examining how equity differences affect patterns and mechanisms of behaviour change in children and adolescents. Based at the Centre for Diet and Physical Activity Research (CEDAR), my research will investigate how determinants of physical activity in children differ by social class and ethnicity with the aim of informing the development of interventions that reduce inequalities in physical activity behaviour and chronic disease.

INTERESTS: Hiking, rowing, skiing, cooking and a good cup of tea.

Yuntong Ma

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Sociology,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Columbia University



I graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in Neuroscience and Behavior and am currently a medical student at Washington University in St. Louis. An early study abroad experience in Beijing piqued my interest in the narrative life courses of rural-to-urban migrants. I then spent time in Malaysia working on a project examining the behavioral determinants of HPV infection to inform the implementation of a national HPV screening program. My research interests lie at the intersection of society and illness, specifically in relation to reproductive decision-making and fertility patterns. At Cambridge, I will study for an MPhil in Sociology, focusing on the experience of infertility and assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) in migrant communities. I look forward to contributing to the dialogue between medicine and sociology to formulate strategies for the equitable implementation of emerging reproductive technologies.

INTERESTS: Literature, creative writing, hiking and camping, art museums, foreign cinema, darkroom photography.

Joseph McAbee

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Clinical Neurosciences,
St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Wake Forest School of Medicine



After growing up in Woodruff, South Carolina, I attended Wofford College and obtained a degree in biology with a neuroscience concentration. At Wofford, I developed a passion for studying the brain and diseases that plague it. This passion has grown during three years as a medical student at Wake Forest School of Medicine. After participating in the Pediatric Oncology Education program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, I developed a strong interest in neuro-oncology. As a Gates Cambridge Scholar and NIH Cambridge Scholar, I will study the genomics of glioblastoma in an effort to develop better treatment strategies for this most malignant form of brain cancer. Upon completion of my PhD, I will return to Wake Forest for my final year of medical school to establish a career as a physician-scientist in pediatric neurology/neurosurgery. I am humbled and honored to be joining a dynamic group of scholars committed to harnessing research for social good.

INTERESTS: Tennis, biking, music (piano, French horn, saxophone, guitar), movies, traveling, and medical service projects.

Manus McCaffery

Ecuador

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Public Policy,
St Edmund's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Stanford University



I graduated from Stanford with a focus on energy and environmental policy. Afterwards, I moved to Mongolia to work with a professor of mine who had become the Ambassador at Large of Mongolia. For three years I worked on shaping regional energy and environmental policies alongside numerous ministers, parliament members, and policy experts. My focus was on nuclear energy, in particular, how to sustainably mine uranium and increase international security and cooperation. In this position, I was a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo (Todai) Department of Nuclear Engineering, as well as a visiting lecturer to PhD students for a Seoul National University and Todai summer school on multilateral energy cooperation. I was in Japan when the Fukushima Daiichi disaster struck, and in the ensuing instability became deeply involved in nuclear education as well as in multi-country policy talks. Today, I am based in my mother's home country of Ecuador and work in environmental risk management and biodiversity conservation efforts for USAID and USAID-funded projects.

Aleksandr Montelli

Russia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Polar Studies, Darwin College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Texas



Born and raised in Saint Petersburg, Russia, I attended Saint Petersburg State University, where I have developed a strong interest in polar geophysical research. I continued my academic career at the University of Texas at Austin as a Fulbright scholar, where I applied marine geophysical techniques to study the history of past glaciations preserved within continental margins of Alaska and East Antarctica. I find studying complex interactions between ice, ocean, climate and tectonics on different temporal and spatial scales to be fascinating. More importantly, these studies hold the key to a better understanding of the long-term history of the global climate. At Cambridge, I hope to continue exploring polar regions in order to better understand the past of the cryosphere with implications for better projecting its future.

INTERESTS: Adventures, nature, people, cultures, art, football, sculpting.

Chioma Ngonadi

Nigeria

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Archaeology, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Dar Es Salaam



I was born and raised in Anambra State, southeastern Nigeria and bagged a First Class Honors in Archaeology from University of Nigeria, Nsukka. In 2010, I completed my MA in Archaeology from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania funded by SIDA/SAREC through African Archaeology Network. My MA research was on a comparative study of the pottery from sites in coastal Tanzania. I focused on Mwangia pottery, a variant of Early Iron Working pottery (EIW) and compared it to the subsequent Triangular Incised Wares (TIW) tradition. Analysis of pottery showed that TIW has closer cultural affinities to Mwangia than the preceding traditions (Limbo and Kwale). My love for archaeology has taken me to Comoros Island, Uganda and Tanzania. At Cambridge, my PhD thesis seeks to examine the origin and development of farming over the longue duree in Lejja, southeastern Nigeria. Through ethnography, survey and excavation, my study will establish and outline a cultural sequence with focus on the last 3,000 years and thus analyze broad scale changes in agricultural practices of these communities over this period.

Jeania Ree Moore

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Theology and Religious Studies, Peterhouse

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Emory University



Born and raised in Pasadena, California, I completed a BA in Humanities at Yale University, where I developed a strong interest in religion, culture, and the arts, examining national monuments and memorials as sacred space for American civil religion. As an MDiv student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, I took my interest in religion, culture, and the arts to Christian theology, where I used the discourse of theological aesthetics to re-conceptualize the doctrine of personhood in African American women's experience. As an MPhil student in Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge, I will further my focus on theological aesthetics by turning to music to examine how the phenomenon of beauty sheds light on justice in the doctrine of Creation. In this research, I will engage classical and feminist theology with insights from other fields where music and the language of beauty pervade, such as mathematics and evolutionary science. I seek to illuminate the integral relation of beauty to justice and the import of the aesthetic in comprehending the whole of life.

Japinder Nijjer

Canada

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Toronto



Born and raised in the suburbs of Toronto, I am currently a senior studying Engineering Science at the University of Toronto who is passionate about sustainable energy and climate change. Over the past year, I have been studying how hydrocarbons flow in nanochannels to assess the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. In addition, I have spent my undergraduate summers performing research in various labs around the world including nanoengineering at the National University of Singapore, solar cell design at the University of Toronto, and theoretical geophysics at the University of Cambridge. With growing concerns of global climate change, carbon capture and storage (CCS) is going to play a key role in our efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. Bearing this in mind, I plan to pursue a PhD in Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics focusing on the fluid dynamics of carbon dioxide sequestration in deep saline aquifers. Specifically, I will be looking at the effects of spatial heterogeneities on the long-term safety and storage of carbon dioxide underground. I am very excited to be entering the rich and diverse community of Gates scholars this coming fall.

FROM TIRANA VIA LONDON

ANDI RECI

Andi Recı has always understood the importance of education. That understanding led him to come to the UK at the age of 18 and do an extra two years at a school in England to get British qualifications. The gamble appears to have paid off because this autumn he will become the first Gates Cambridge Scholar from Albania.

He will study for a PhD in Chemical Engineering, working with a world-leading research group investigating the use of MRI in improving the efficiency of oil extraction.

Born in a very small town in the north of Albania, Andi's parents moved to Tirana when he was 15 because they wanted the best education for their three sons.

Andi excelled at maths. He took part in the maths Olympiad from the age of 13 and by the age of 15 he was representing Albania, travelling across Europe and to Vietnam.

Although he applied to do medicine at the University of Albania, he knew he didn't really want to be a doctor. Despite not having any funding, he investigated the possibility of doing a degree in the UK, but thought that most UK universities would not accept an Albanian high school diploma. He had cousins in London so he decided to take a risk and go to London to do his A levels after completing his diploma.

He enrolled online in maths, chemistry and physics at a state secondary school in east London, which he says was the nearest good school from where his cousins lived. He had been studying English since he was 10 so had no problems with the language, but he did have trouble adjusting to life in London. He had to travel one and a half hours to get to school.

After his first year he got a call to say his visa had been rejected because he was not allowed to study at a state school. He had to return to Albania. He was determined not to give up on his plan and managed to secure another visa after explaining that he had not known that he could not study at a state school.

Through an Albanian friend he was introduced to the headteacher of an independent school in Essex and managed to win a scholarship to the school due to his maths ability. This covered his tuition fees. He could finally see a path emerging for his future as many of the other students at the school were applying to top-ranking universities.

He applied to Trinity College Cambridge, which gives scholarships to some international students and managed to win one of these to study engineering, starting in 2011. He spent several of his summer vacations working as a waiter in restaurants in Essex, but also managed to acquire industry

"Andi excelled at maths. He took part in the maths Olympiad from the age of 13 and by the age of 15 he was representing Albania, travelling across Europe and to Vietnam."

experience, for instance, working at a commodity firm trading chemicals and at an oil and gas company in Norway.

Andi studied general engineering in his first year then switched to chemical engineering. He figured that there would be good international job opportunities in chemical engineering after he graduated. Moreover, having a degree from a foreign university would help him with jobs in Albania.

For his masters, Andi did a research project on the physics of granular material like soil. He felt he needed to challenge himself by learning something new and picked up best poster and presentation for his year for the project.

Last year he applied for a PhD to do chemical engineering. Having been top of his department in one of his undergraduate years and second for another, he was hopeful that he might win a scholarship. His academic prowess and his leadership roles as student representative for the Engineering Alumni Association and coordinator of a university project on an instant coffee production plant combined to win him a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.



Cillian O' Fathaigh

Ireland

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD French, St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



I grew up in the Burren, County Clare, in the west of Ireland. Its balance of beauty and isolation encouraged – or perhaps mandated – an interest in books. I was a Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin where I studied English Literature. While there, I also took a distance learning degree in Politics and International Relations with the University of London. This has allowed me to develop an inter-disciplinary approach combining cultural, political, social, and ethical issues. I pursued this particular approach for my M. Phil in European Literature, where I was a Gates Cambridge scholar. Outside of that, education is a particular interest for me. I've featured in all main Irish media discussing education, including writing a monthly column for The Irish Times. I retain a strong interest in the media. My research considers the relationship between contemporary continental philosophy, especially the work of Jacques Derrida, and politics. Often this particular approach is seen as lacking in political agency and practice; my focus is to test, bring out and articulate the political potential of this philosophy. My PhD will consider conceptions of asylum, refugees, and borders from this perspective, especially as it relates to Europe. I also have a strong research interest in applying this philosophical approach to contemporary Irish culture and Northern Ireland.

Nikolas Oktaba

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Classics, Sidney Sussex College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Fordham University



Growing up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, I spent much of my youth in the public library finding books to read so I could entertain myself when accompanying my mother while she cleaned apartments. Since that time, I have had a great fascination with Antiquity and with the representation and history of sexuality in particular. I have found that Classical texts provide important reflection on current debates on gender. Not only is this material close to me as a scholar, but I believe that its careful study will also act as an invitation for the transgender community to push beyond the boundaries of established scholarship. As such, my scholarly interests and social action join a larger movement to rethink the paradigms and limits of gender and sexuality, showing the utility of not only the Classics, but the Humanities as a whole, to act as a valuable analytical and intellectual toolkit that students can use to grapple with the sometimes painful questions of identity that resonate with them.

INTERESTS: Foxes, Eastern European literature, Welcome to Night Vale, cheerful music, rambling around the city – or country-side, exploring.

Uzoma Orchingwa

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Criminology, Magdalene College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Colby College



I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but grew up in Aba, Nigeria. I returned to the United States at the age of eight and have lived here since. At Cambridge, I hope to complete an MPhil in Criminology, with a focus on domestic and international criminal justice systems, prison, and the role of economics on penal policy. I am passionate about the law, and plan to have a career both as a legal scholar and an active lawyer. All philosophy is biography, and by this I mean that we currently live in a world where the circumstances a person is born into almost guarantee the kind of future they will have. It is imperative that we as a society devote ourselves to limiting the determinacy of chance and birth, by reforming the vital institutions that we all depend on. Guided by this vision I hope to help reform domestic and international legal systems. I am humbled and excited to be joining this community of scholars.

INTERESTS: Politics, moral philosophy, law, filmmaking, music, art.

Ian Ostericher

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Archaeology, St John's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Washington



I'm a geoarchaeologist interested in complex human-environmental relationships. My academic interests within archaeology are broad and include landscapes, land use, monumentality, subsistence, waste management and cosmology. My current work is based in the forest-steppe region of northern Mongolia and focuses on landscape change in relation to pastoralism and agriculture. I love being outdoors and having my camera on-hand. I grew up skiing, hiking and biking (and taking pictures!) in the Pacific Northwest of the USA, and so I'm most comfortable in the mountains or near the sea.

Gustavo Paez Salamanca

Colombia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Economics, Selwyn College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Most of the people have no choice about being poor, this decision comes with the cradle. Due to my life experience I consider that it is my duty to work for them, so that they can have the same opportunities in life, independently of the birth conditions. I am an economist and an industrial engineer. With them I have been able to work in diverse projects (in the health area) that promote this equality. Yet, each time I found more differences between the assumptions in which economic theory is made and the developing world. In my MPhil I worked to understand better the statistical tools so that now, in the PhD, I can build theory, based on network models, to understand how the development of a region cannot be studied alone, but it should be embedded within its geographical context. In this way, with my study, I want to help in the construction of better public policies.

Jocelyn Perry

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil International Relations and Politics, Corpus Christi College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Pennsylvania



Growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, I developed a passion for travel, languages, and the exploration of unfamiliar places. I pursued these interests at the University of Pennsylvania, where I studied International Relations, Hispanic Studies, and African Studies, and had the opportunity to travel and work throughout Asia and South America. My research focused on conflict-related sexual violence and whether the manipulation of ethnic identity influenced the prevalence of sexual violence in conflict zones. At Cambridge, I will study post-conflict reconstruction with a focus on Africa's Great Lakes region. I am fascinated by the intersection of universal and local concepts of justice and by the impact of civil society's actions on peacebuilding and developing governance arrangements. I hope to learn about the construction of inclusive systems of governance, particularly in post-conflict societies, and to apply this knowledge to advocate for the rights of marginalized populations.

INTERESTS: Cooking, photography, politics and public policy, good coffee, used bookstores, and getting lost.

Veselina Petrova

Bulgaria

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Clinical Neurosciences, Hughes Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Edinburgh



I was born and grew up in an industrial city in Bulgaria where people were engulfed in their everyday lives and had no big dreams. When I first found out that I was awarded an HMC scholarship to study at a UK boarding school, I immediately saw this as an opportunity to explore new cultures, to learn new skills and most importantly to make a change to the world I was brought up in. Now, six years later having graduated from Edinburgh University with BSc in Neuroscience, I look forward to starting my PhD in Prof. Fawcett's laboratory in Cambridge where I will be exploring what goes wrong inside nerve cells upon spinal cord injury. My ultimate aim is to enhance the understanding of neurodegenerative and regenerative processes in the brain and to provide improvements to the diagnosis, treatment and quality of life of the affected individuals and their families. I hope that as a Gates scholar, I will be able to reach out to communities and bridge the gap between scientists and the public.

INTERESTS: Volleyball, Badminton, Hiking, Writing, Editing, Charity, Languages.

Arazi Pinhas

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Astronomy, Hughes Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Powerful is the feeling of the essentiality to meaningfully impact others' lives through learning. In a world so interdependent, the astrophysical scientific community transcends national contours, religions and ethnicities, and promotes for the intellectual and moral solidarity of all peoples. By steadily improving scientific knowledge of the origin, functions, and evolution of galaxies and the Universe – and so of life itself – we provide ourselves with practical approaches that profoundly influence our conduct and prospects. It is in this way useful. But as important, it changes our understanding of Reality. The immediate opportunities are clear and I am fortunate to engage with the most passionately curious in the field. Theoretical exoplanetary inquiries are of extreme excitement to me. The field is at a comparable state of the very early twentieth century quantum mechanics, in which the pace of advance crescendoed. Consequently, new ideas and realities await unveiling and harvest.

INTERESTS: Far Eastern philosophy, Celtic music, medieval British music, observing Nature, football, and any new adventures.

TOWARDS A GREENER GUATEMALA

ALEJANDRO RIVERA RIVERA

For the first time in its history, there are now more people living in cities in Guatemala than in rural areas and by 2050 it is projected that 85% of the population in Latin America will live in cities. Alejandro Rivera Rivera believes it is vital for countries like Guatemala to focus on how to make those cities better and more sustainable.

However, the construction industry is one of the least sustainable in the country and has a terrible record on greenhouse gas emissions. Alejandro, though, sees this as an opportunity for change rather than a drawback.

Not only has he been working to promote green buildings, but he has co-founded the Guatemalan Network for Sustainable Cities which engages members of the public in projects and brainstorming on how to create better cities.

He will be doing an MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge.

Alejandro was born in Mixco, a suburb of Guatemala City. At 17, he applied successfully to the United World Colleges and spent two years at a UWC school in Norway with 200 students from more than 85 different countries being taught in English. It opened up his horizons, instilled in him an interest in the environment and gave him the confidence to apply to an Ivy League university in the US and then to Cambridge.

He applied to do a four-year degree course in Engineering at Brown. In his third year he did a semester abroad at the University of Melbourne in Australia. He found Melbourne an inspiring city and took classes in engineering and philosophy, which he says helped to make him think about the natural world in a different way. By the time he returned to Brown he had decided to specialise in civil engineering. He did a research project on sustainable buildings and at the end of his third year he did a three-month internship in Guatemala at the newly created Guatemala Green Building Council.

Alejandro worked with the council to develop its business plan as an emerging member of the World Green Building Council. Once back at Brown, he attended Greenbuild, the US' biggest expo and conference on green building and sustainability. After graduating, he returned to Guatemala and joined the architectural firm Studio Domus, who had designed and built the first two Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] buildings in Guatemala. LEED is an internationally respected green building rating system and professional credential. At the time there were only two LEED associated



professionals in Guatemala, compared to hundreds in the US and they had to be hired for every LEED project in the country. Alejandro studied for the qualification in his spare time and by October 2012 was a LEED AP, the third and youngest in his country. He has since got a further LEED credential and has been a LEED consultant on six of the 11 certified LEED projects in Guatemala.

Alejandro and some colleagues also set up the Guatemalan Network for Sustainable Cities, which provides a citizens' platform for improving cities. "It aims to inspire people and to share information which can empower them to make better choices and have an impact on public policy," says Alejandro. The Network was admitted to the Latin American Network for Sustainable Cities at the end of 2014. "It started as a Facebook page," says Alejandro, who is the Network's Director of Research. "We now have a team of 13 volunteers and a lot of different projects like City by Foot where we do a freewalking tour of cities every Sunday and share ideas and how the city is growing, what can be improved and what we are getting right," he says.

Lauren Power

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Multidisciplinary Gender Studies,
Clare Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Western Australia



I was born in Perth, Western Australia, where I studied Bachelor degrees in history and economics at the University of Western Australia. I have worked in social policy at the Australian Treasury and as a research director at a think tank exploring development and security issues. I am passionate about gender equality and ways to generate cultural change. At Cambridge, my thesis will explore the potential of online feminist activism to affect genuine cultural change. The internet is the world's largest ever networked space for cultural production and dissemination. I believe this makes it a critical platform on which to challenge everyday discrimination and institutionalised gender bias. By examining how the emerging techniques of online activism can be deployed most effectively, I want to deepen our understanding of how individual and collective action can generate social change in a networked age.

INTERESTS: Reading, yoga, good food (and wine), travel, being outdoors, hiking, living in new places and understanding cultural change.

Christopher Rae

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Biological Science @ MRC Laboratory
of Molecular Biology, Robinson College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania State University



After growing up in the small town of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, I graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology. During my undergraduate career I became increasingly interested in the problem of antibiotic resistance, leading to my undergraduate research on novel antibiotics for the treatment of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). This experience inspired me to pursue research in the field of structural biology which focuses on determining the molecular structures that underlie the living world. I am fascinated by the powerful techniques of this field and how they can be used to understand fundamental biological processes. I hope to one day use the knowledge and skills that I learn at Cambridge to answer important questions about the mechanisms of antibiotic resistance.

INTERESTS: Mountain biking, rock climbing, playing guitar, riding motorcycles.

Fahad Rahman

Pakistan

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Social Anthropology,
St Edmund's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Columbia University Teachers College



I have grown up in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi but spent most of my childhood moving around to different cities and countries. These experiences heightened my awareness of how identity markers shift in salience and function in different socio-cultural contexts. I explored these issues with a broad liberal arts bachelor degree at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), and then received the Fulbright Masters scholarship to pursue further studies in psychology at Columbia University. I continued exploring the interplay of culture, identity and intergroup relations by researching about these topics in my courses; by becoming a resident of International House; and by interning at the UN with the American Psychological Association. Over the last three years, I have been teaching undergraduates in Lahore at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) and LUMS. I've taught, researched, presented on, and discussed with students and colleagues the complex interaction of Pakistani identities and intergroup conflict. I am honoured and excited by this opportunity provided by the prestigious Gates scholarship to research how our identities interact with interpersonal and socio-political events and conflicts.

Stine Ravnå

Norway

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Education, Trinity Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



Since growing up in Bergen, Norway, studies and work have taken me to places ranging from St. Donats in Wales and Guayaquil in Ecuador to London and San Francisco. My academic background is in comparative politics and political economy, but a strong interest in educational issues, fuelled by my teaching experience and a long-standing involvement in the United World Colleges (UWC) movement, led me to pursue an MPhil degree in Education at Cambridge. I am delighted to return to Cambridge for doctoral studies this autumn, where I intend to continue my research on the experiences of early school leavers and measures attempting to re-engage young people in education. I hope this work will offer insight into how education can be changed for the better for those who are struggling to find their place within the confines of the contemporary education system.

INTERESTS: Skiing, hiking, travelling, literature, trivia quizzes, Norwegian language history, and alternative models of education.

Natalie Rebeyev

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Medical Science, Hughes Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Syracuse University



During college, I conducted research in the fields of cell biology and oncology. At Cambridge, I will be pursuing a PhD in Medical Science by examining how viruses evade the immune system through novel genetic approaches. This will be applied to the study of viral latency which is a major setback to the eradication of a variety of unrelated viruses including herpesvirus and HIV infection. To find a cure for these infections, it is important to have an improved understanding of the molecular mechanisms of latency. By using genetic approaches to identify novel genes required for Herpesvirus silencing, candidate genes can be validated in more representative herpes model systems and biochemically characterized to elucidate the mechanisms of silencing. After earning my PhD, I plan to attend medical school and pursue the field of viral oncology, while still conducting research.

INTERESTS: Reading, cooking, traveling, running, and spending time with family and friends.

Andi Reci

Albania

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Chemical Engineering, Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



As the first scholar from Albania, it gives me great honor to be able to place my country in an ever larger map of Gates Scholars. I will help make Gates Scholarship more known in Albania and I hope many more students will apply for it. In the coming three years, my work will focus in developing better Magnetic Resonance Imaging techniques which could eventually reduce resource and energy intensity through its immense applications in the chemical industry. I plan to be actively involved in the university and college life.

INTERESTS: Rowing, football, snooker, business.

Tomer Reiter

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

Mast Pure Mathematics,
Gonville and Caius College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Carnegie Mellon University



Born in Israel, I moved to the United States when I was four and grew up mainly in Boston. Attending the Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists (PROMYS) in Boston was a pivotal point in my life. PROMYS is a summer program where high school students learn mathematics, specifically number theory. Later summers I returned as a counselor and eventually served as head counselor. Through this I realized how excited I am to learn, mentor, teach and do mathematics. At Carnegie Mellon University, I majored in mathematics and minored in computer science, further fueling my interest in mathematics and mentoring. I'm excited to attend Cambridge and take Part III of the Mathematical Tripos where I'll delve into number theory, an area I'm deeply interested in. After my time at Cambridge, I plan to attend a Ph.D. program in the United States and hope to eventually become a professor. All the while, I hope to make contributions through teaching and mentoring just as PROMYS made an impact on me.

INTERESTS: Tennis, listening to music, good food, and video games.

Alejandro Rivera Rivera

Guatemala

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Engineering for Sustainable
Development, Clare College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Brown University



It is a true honour and privilege to be the first Gates Scholar from Guatemala and I look forward to sharing a bit about my country and culture with this network of outstanding individuals. Likewise, I hope to use this unparalleled experience, and the knowledge acquired at my course at Cambridge, to make a positive impact on my home country and society at large. I join the MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development with the conviction that it will enable me to tackle the ever more complex problems that engineers face in the process of finding sustainable solutions. My goal is to foster and accelerate the green building movement, therefore contributing to the creation of more sustainable and liveable cities in Guatemala.

INTERESTS: Cities and their people; travelling to new places; watching and playing football; delicious food; dancing to the beat; effective altruism; systems thinking and integrated design; learning.

FROM DOCTOR TO DOCTORATE

ADITI VEDI

An 11-year-old patient was the motivation for Aditi Vedi to specialise in paediatric oncology. "Everyone loved her. She was always smiling, despite being covered in bruises because her bone marrow wasn't working. No matter what adversity threw at her she kept smiling."

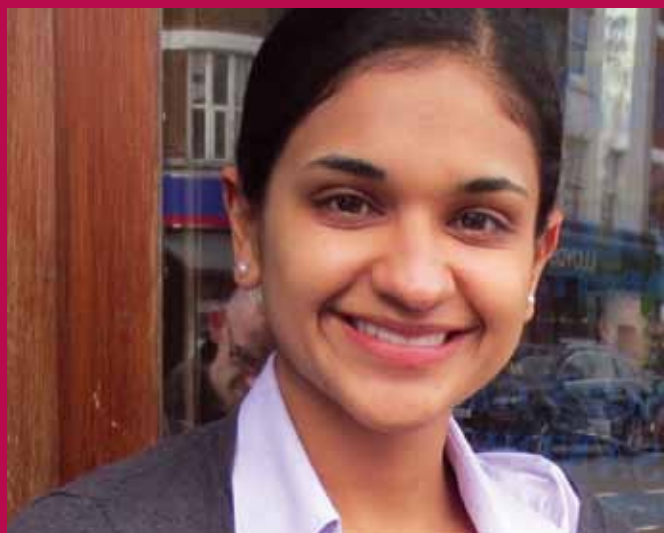
"She had acute myeloid leukaemia, but she didn't respond to several lines of chemotherapy and that meant her chances of survival were small. I will never forget how vibrant she was. We tried to the very last day to fight her disease. She was very inspirational."

She adds: "Every child touches your heart and you do not forget any of them."

Aditi will begin a PhD in Medical Science next Easter and will be studying normal blood stem cells and their behaviour under normal and stress conditions. She will then apply this knowledge to leukaemia stem cells, to study the genetic drivers and transcription factors involved in their evolution to disease, with the aim of targeting these factors to prevent progression of the disease.

Aditi was born in India, but moved to Australia when she was 10 because her parents wanted to give her and her younger sister better education opportunities. She initially attended her local primary school until a teacher suggested she be put forward for a high school which selected on academic ability. Aditi did extra studies after school and excelled at sciences. She was also a strong swimmer and competed in national championships.

She went on to study medicine at the University of New South Wales and finished her degree in 2007. She then did two years in general medicine, but spent most of her last year doing rotations



in paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology. She already knew she wanted to do paediatrics. She loved working with children and in her second and third year of university she had worked as a swimming teacher for pre-school children. In 2010 she began her specialist training in paediatrics and after three years started to further sub-specialise in paediatric oncology.

Aditi met her husband, Brent O'Carrigan, in the third year of her medical degree and the two motivated each other throughout medical school, supported each other through their junior doctor years and encouraged each other to excel in their medical specialist training and examinations. Brent was awarded the Royal Australian College of Physicians medal for the highest achievement throughout Australia and New Zealand in these specialist examinations. Without the support of each other, Aditi says neither would have achieved their current level of academic success.

Aditi was initially drawn to paediatric oncology in part due to the fast pace of research in the field.

Over the next few years she developed a passion for this area of medicine.

She describes the atmosphere in the oncology ward as bursting with life. "It is like any other children's playroom. There is so much fun. Although the children have many signs that they are being treated for cancer, if you spend time with them you can easily forget this because they are still vibrant, playful and inspiring little people. These children have a lot to teach us," she says.

Aditi's husband, also a doctor, is an Irish citizen and suggested the couple apply to universities outside of Australia to continue their studies and gain experience from world class universities which they could bring back to their home country.

Aditi applied to the Royal Marsden Hospital in London initially for a year, so she could settle in the UK before she started her studies. She is working on early phase trials, testing new drugs that have not been trialled in children before.

Aditi admits it is a big step returning to student life after several years of clinical salary. Her ultimate aim is to return to Australia with her husband and set up her own research group, with a balanced clinical workload alongside.

Rachel Robertson

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Philosophy, Trinity Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



I am so thankful to receive the Gates Scholarship to pursue a PhD in Philosophy. Whilst doing the MPhil in Cambridge, also as a Gates scholar, I became fascinated by the work of Kant. I now hope to use resources from his writings to defend a view of the self as a living, social mind-body couple. I am also keen to keep exploring the intersection between Kant's anthropology and his theory of biology, which in turn has practical application to diverse issues such as evolutionary theory and conservation legislation. I am thankful for the privilege of having grown up surrounded by people from many backgrounds – my mother is from Malaysia, and my father is from Australia, but I was born in Singapore and grew up mostly in Hong Kong. So, I am excited to be able to serve with and learn from the vibrant and inspiring Gates community – especially when I dabble in other people's specialities, like biology!

INTERESTS: reading, painting, long walks, music (playing and listening), cooking for friends, and time with friends and family.

George Saba

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil International Relations and Politics, Corpus Christi College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Stanford University



My interest in improving the lives of others comes from recognizing that had I been born a few generations earlier, I would have been preparing for a hard day's labor instead of classes and baseball practice at Stanford University. My great-grandfather, an immigrant from the Azores Islands, was a gardener at Stanford; he barely spoke English and worked endless hours to support a family living in poverty. I achieved my goals at Stanford because of their sacrifices. To learn how I can help ensure such opportunities exist for others, I have taught hardworking, underprivileged students about their role in a democracy. At Stanford, my academic research focused on the US national security adviser and foreign policy decisions. At Cambridge, I hope to study how prime ministers utilize their advisors to improve the policy making process and uncover avoidable errors that profoundly affect us all.

INTERESTS: Reading non-fiction, meditating daily, practicing the "slow-carb" and "paleo" diets, playing baseball, singing in the church choir, playing chess, Olympic powerlifting.

Isabel Salovaara

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Social Anthropology, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Harvard University



Narratives of broken education systems thrive in the public discourses of both the United States, where I am from, and India, where I have been working in the education field for the past three years. Yet the discussion of solutions remains fragmented and contentious. My current research examines stakeholders' perceptions private tuitions, which I use as a lens to examine understandings of value within the schooling system. By considering the influence of cultural and historical context on education systems, I hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of value creation in the education sector and challenge policymakers and other key players to rethink the meaning of a "good education."

INTERESTS: Bollywood music and dance, Kurt Vonnegut novels, public transit systems, knitting.

Paulo Savaget Nascimento

Brazil

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Engineering, Hughes Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro



I grew up in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and I've long been committed to unravelling pathways for a more socially inclusive and environmentally resilient world. I hold an MSc in Science and Technology Policy from the University of Sussex; an MPhil in Public Policies from UFRJ; and a B.A in Economics from UFMG. I've worked as a lecturer of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and as a consultant on different topics related to innovation and sustainability. I received the Green Talents Award 2013, the Oldham Award 2012, the Chevening Scholarship in 2011–2012, and I'm a member of the Global Shapers Hub in Belo Horizonte. I'm beyond excited and feeling very privileged to join the Gates Community. At Cambridge I'll be focusing on studying complex systems of sustainability transitions, combining analysis of policy actions (and inactions) and industrial strategies to assess the role that governments can play in these transitions by fostering science, technology and innovation.

INTERESTS: I enjoy traveling and getting out in nature, learning different cultures, meeting new people, cooking and trying new food, running, biking, as well as appreciating good beers, coffee, pastries, jazz and literature.

Juan Serrano

Peru

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Chemistry,
Downing College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Florida



Born in Lima, Peru, I immigrated to the US in 2001. My interest in drug design arose from studying the synthesis of small molecules in my organic chemistry courses. Thereafter, I conducted research in the lab of the late Prof Alan R Katritzky, which focused on developing derivatives of antibiotics and antimalarials. I also interned at the Broad Institute of Harvard & MIT, where I optimized a methodology for arriving at sulfamidate fragments, which will be used in fragment based drug design efforts. As a Gates Cambridge Scholar, I will pursue an MPhil in Chemistry under Prof Steven V Ley. My research will focus on developing a new methodology for designing stapled peptides, which will target an important biological factor in cancer. After my MPhil at Cambridge, I will be matriculating in the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine to pursue an M.D.-Ph.D. to train as a physician scientist and continue to incorporate chemistry into developing novel therapeutics.

INTERESTS: Cooking, basketball, backpacking, adventuring, comic books, running, tennis, cinema.

Saba Sharma

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Geography,
Hughes Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven



As a researcher at a think tank in New Delhi, I developed an interest in how research can feed into policy discourse. My PhD focuses on studying the state in Assam, in Northeast India, from the perspective of recurring violence. In particular, I will look at how everyday practices of governance influence the way conflict unfolds in the Bodoland region of Assam, where violence has been a persistent phenomenon for several decades. At the undergraduate level, I studied Economics, before moving on to studying Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Masters level. During this period, I developed an interest in field-based research, which I was able to pursue further as a policy researcher. For this project, I plan to employ an interdisciplinary approach towards the study of the state and conflict, using primarily ethnographic methods, and considering factors of contested resources, territoriality and political economy as well. I'm excited to be undertaking this research at Cambridge.

INTERESTS: Reading, writing, travel, music, Scrabble.

Shruti Sharma

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Nanotechnology, Pembroke College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Shruti Sharma received a Bachelors of Science in Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At MIT, she conducted research on the use of three dimensional printing for prosthetic prototyping and production. Her award-winning research has been published in peer-review journals and she received a scholarship from the National Science Foundation. She is also involved in improving the accessibility of innovative medical devices in low-resource countries through her work as a contributing author to the World Health Organization Medical Device Innovation technical series. Ms. Sharma has presented her work as a member of the WHO-GATE Initiative, the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and the UN Human Rights Council. Ms. Sharma served as the elected President of the MIT student body, member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and founder of the Girls Leadership and Mentorship (GLAM) program.

INTERESTS: I am interested in applying structures found in nature to inform engineering design, and work on novel technologies that allow for interesting fabrication. I also enjoy playing lawn tennis and hope to continue while in Cambridge.

Sneha Shashidhara

India

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Biological Science @ MRC Cognition
and Brain Sciences Unit, Clare College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Universität Göttingen



Born to academicians, I started pursuing my academic interests right from school days. I studied in Vidyananya High School (Hyderabad) Rishi Valley School (Madanapalle), both in India. Their emphasis on holistic education gave me an opportunity to pursue not only scientific ideas, but I was able to actively participate in lively discussions on philosophy and literature. The exposure to primary school teaching during my school days, led to my passion for education, especially in the context of rural India. Over time, I have developed special interests in understanding the neural basis of cognition. With the increased understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the brain, it is clear that any breakthrough in this field comes only when all disciplines of science and humanities are integrated. With this in mind, I studied Physics and Mathematics during my Bachelors degree (at Fergusson College, Pune, India). I then went to Göttingen, Germany for a Master's in Neuroscience. This program provided me with hands-on experience on diverse aspects of neuroscience.

OPENING UP MUSEUM SPACES

ELIZABETH ANN WALSH

Elizabeth Ann Walsh grew up with an interest in different ways of being in the world and this has fed her interest in exploring how museums can open up spaces for source communities to share their stories and cultures.



She has spent much of her time since her teenage years at New York's American Museum of Natural History and it was the source of her senior thesis at Columbia. It explored the relationship between the museum and a group of Native Americans over the repatriation of a large iron meteorite which represents a spiritual being for them. A legal case regarding the repatriation was settled in 2000 with a settlement allowing the meteorite to stay in the museum but also enabling members of the group to visit it and hold a private ceremony around it. An internship programme was also set up for young Native Americans interested in developing a career in museums.

For her MPhil in Social Anthropology, Elizabeth will explore the potential of digital technologies to democratise the relationship between museums and source communities through efforts taking place along these lines at Cambridge's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Elizabeth has long had a fascination for how ideas can be communicated in different ways. Her twin brother is autistic and this meant she was used to being around someone who communicated differently. Part of the reason she became interested in anthropology was, she says, because she wanted to explore different ways of being in the world.

When she was six or seven Elizabeth visited the American Museum of Natural History [AMNH] for the first time and it made quite an impact.

As a teenager she was homeschooled at her family's small farm and she visited museums as part of her studies. As a result of her interest in museums, she was chosen to take part in an art project

devised by Tino Sehgal which involved conversing with museum goers as they moved through the Guggenheim Museum.

Halfway through high school Elizabeth started taking college classes at Passaic County Community College, which once again gave her a different perspective on the whole experience of learning.

The college gave her the freedom to manage her own time and a non-traditional education.

It also gave her the flexibility to take part in equestrian competitions with her horses around her studies. At the time, she was studying English and in 2010 she started writing a column on horses for Barrel Horse News.

The year she graduated from the college Elizabeth started volunteering at the AMNH and applied to Columbia, which she commuted to daily so she could be at home to do chores on the farm and be with her brother.

Initially, she was interested in English, but as she did more volunteering at the museum, working with school groups in the education department, she discovered a love of anthropology and started taking anthropology classes.

In 2013 Elizabeth took a role as a teaching assistant in the museum's education department and assisted with educational camps and workshops at weekends or after school. She continued this after she graduated in 2014 and also interned at the Paley Center for Media which looks at the impact of the media on society and has a lot of digitised material on old tv programmes.

She decided she wanted to pursue her studies in social anthropology and applied to Cambridge as she was interested in work being done there on collaborative programming with social communities and because the masters programme allowed her to deepen her knowledge of anthropology while doing more practical work. Her focus is on the role of curators in opening up collaborative spaces. I think that spaces need to be made for source communities to have an opportunity to share their stories and cultures. There's a lot of interesting work being done on collaboration. It's social anthropology writ large," she says.

Dakota Spear

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Zoology, Churchill College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Pomona College



As an undergraduate studying biology at Pomona College, I developed a particular interest in the interaction between human development and adjacent ecosystems, and the ways that human society both benefits from and impacts these ecosystems. My research has focused on the effects of urban development on biodiversity and ecosystem function, and how we can use citizen science as a tool for both biological research and community engagement and education. At Cambridge, I will study the impact of understory management practices on spider diversity and pest control potential in oil palm plantations of Indonesia. My goal is to illuminate the benefits we receive by maintaining biodiversity in large-scale agricultural systems, and practical methods we can use to do so. I believe in the value of using scientific research as a tool for education and sustainable development, through a better understanding of the ecosystems we build around us, and how to maintain the services they provide.

INTERESTS: Gardening, hiking, backpacking, cooking, running, yoga, graphic novels, literature, cinema, travel.

Peter Sutoris

Slovakia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Education (Thematic route),
Clare Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Dartmouth College



Peter graduated with a degree in History from Dartmouth College in 2012. Originally from Slovakia, he has lived and worked in South Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and in the Balkans. He is the author of 'Visions of Development,' an upcoming monograph on the portrayal of themes of development in documentary films made by the Government of India, as well as 'The Undiscovered Country,' a documentary film on challenges to public education in the Marshall Islands. He has worked with Youth Bridge Global, an organization aiming to bridge ethnic divides in Bosnia and Herzegovina through theater, The Learning Center of Kathmandu, a grassroots NGO in Nepal, and PharmaSecure, a public health social enterprise in New Delhi. Much of Peter's research and professional work revolves around the link between education and international development, and he is excited to join Cambridge's Faculty of Education to pursue this interest further.

Dina Tahboub

Palestine

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Pharmacology, Peterhouse

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



I am currently on the MB PhD course aspiring to become a Physician-Scientist. Studying medicine at Cambridge and doing my part II in pharmacology allowed to discover my passion for the science that medicine is built on, especially the science of cellular signalling. My PhD would be about the interactions between calcium signals and cAMP signals in vascular smooth muscle cells mediated by the inflammatory mediators Histamine and Prostaglandin E2 respectively. The topic especially appeals to me because it has implications both for further understanding of vascular biology/pathology and also for further understanding of calcium and cAMP interactions, which are crucially important for many physiological processes. On completion of the MB PhD course, I hope to return to Palestine and help in the development of the field of medical research there, and I hope that my contributions into medical research will one day cause major advancements in clinical practice. As a physician scientist, I also hope to have a role in the field of health policy in my country.

Nicolette Taku

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Medical Science (Oncology),
Murray Edwards College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Perelman School of Medicine at the
University of Pennsylvania



My first hands-on exposure to international health was as an undergraduate student researching Lassa fever in Sierra Leone. However, it was after I completed a Master of Public Health and began working with a non-governmental organization in Colombia that I became fully aware of the high incidence of cancer in regions also affected by infectious diseases. At Cambridge I will be studying for an MPhil in Medical Science with a focus on oncology. In the future I aim to be involved in the development of cancer prevention and treatment infrastructures in low and middle income countries.

INTERESTS: Live music, travel, documentaries, track and field.

Blake Thomson

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Epidemiology, Darwin College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Arizona State University



After two years learning from a variety of projects as a research fellow at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, I can't wait to continue this hands-on education at Cambridge. My work has ranged from estimating the prevalence of non-communicable diseases globally to determining the health needs of communities in their local contexts. The most significant lesson I've learned is that the epidemiological profile of the developing world is rapidly shifting towards non-communicable diseases, and neither the science nor the funding has caught up with this transition. At Cambridge, I will focus on further establishing the needs of those living in resource-limited settings and determining where the gaps in care remain for those living with chronic conditions. Global health is a necessarily interdisciplinary and international field, and I'm eager to collaborate with the other researchers and Scholars at Cambridge already at the forefront of this increasingly pressing research.

INTERESTS: Health policy and metrics, street food, 19th and early 20th century literature, reading in coffee shops, hiking, Romance languages.

Bohdan Tokarskyj

Ukraine

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Slavonic Studies, Clare Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Cambridge



As far back as I can remember, I have been captivated by poetry. As a child, I was enthralled by its otherworldly images and charming prosody. This passion, which is the ultimate definition of freedom for me, has been with me ever since. I was born and raised in Kyiv where I studied international law at Kyiv Institute of International Relations. Studying and practising law proved to be a unique experience that has significantly broadened my intellectual horizons, enabled me to develop my reasoning skills and made me aware of the possibility to directly improve the lives of others. Having gained this invaluable experience, I made up my mind to pursue my innermost passion for poetry and, more broadly, for culture and its potential to change society in the long run. The Revolution of Dignity has further ignited my determination to work on Ukrainian literature and culture. For my MPhil in European Literature and Culture at Cambridge, I have been working on twentieth century Ukrainian poetry. I am truly honoured to continue my research at Cambridge as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr Rory Finin.

INTERESTS: Field Hockey, snowboarding, baking (anything that has chocolate), ice hockey, and learning languages.

Selen Uman

Turkey

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Clinical Science (Experimental Medicine), Lucy Cavendish College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Yale University



I was born and raised in a small town in the Black Sea region of Turkey but I completed my B.S. in Biomedical Engineering at Yale University. As an undergraduate, I became interested in the formation and progression of aortic aneurysms and focused my thesis on the mechanical and histological analysis of the aortic wall in a genetically modified mouse model. As an MD/PhD applicant hoping to conduct clinical research in the future, I believe that strengthening early detection and timely treatment is a multi-disciplinary problem that requires a comprehensive approach from the perspectives of medicine, engineering, and epidemiology. Through MPhil in Clinical Science at Cambridge, I hope to be at the intersection of these problems and understand the practical aspects of clinical research and drug development, preparing me with a better and larger perspective for future medical training and translational research. I am looking forward to becoming a part of the Gates Cambridge community!

INTERESTS: Spending my summers at the Aegean coast of Turkey with my family, traveling, hunting for Chagall and Schiele paintings wherever I go, making espresso drinks.

Aditi Vedi

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Medicine, Trinity College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of New South Wales



Children have an innate ability to bring joy to and captivate those around them with their vitality and innocence. My passion for paediatrics stems from their resilience and eternal optimism – improving the lives of children is my core belief and central motivation for pursuing a career in paediatric oncology. My research in Cambridge will focus on childhood leukaemia, and explore the role quiescent cancer stem cells play in refractory and relapsed disease. My greater goal is to continue paediatric stem cell research in Australia as a clinician scientist.

INTERESTS: Combining my love for the arts and a passion for travel, I have thoroughly enjoyed Renaissance tours throughout Europe. I also love swimming, pilates, film and antipodean wine.

Aya Waller-Bey

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Education (Thematic route), Clare Hall

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Georgetown University



Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, I always recognized the value of a quality education. My experience as a first generation college student at a highly selective university, ignited my passion to increase educational access for low-income, first generation college students as well as students of color. Recognizing the power of music and Hip-Hop in today's society, I submitted a thesis to Georgetown's Department of Sociology that aimed to evaluate the frequency in which students integrated elements of Hip-Hop in the classroom. My findings prompted me to continue research on the ways Hip-Hop can be used to increase the pedagogical opportunities in education, in hopes of facilitating more access for underrepresented communities in the classroom. At Cambridge, I will further my understanding on this topic through the Arts, Creativity, Education and Culture route in the Faculty of Education. By challenging traditional views of what is worthy of study in the academy, we increase opportunities for cultural exchange and allow marginalized voices and communities to be heard in the classroom.

Elizabeth Walsh

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

MPhil Social Anthropology, King's College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Columbia University



I fell in love with museums as a young girl. Growing up on a small farm just outside New York City, I was able to visit them frequently, including my favorite, the American Museum of Natural History. I began volunteering there as a teenager, and I have continued to work as a member of the museum's Education Department for the past four years. My interest in the presentation of cultural materials in educational settings also led me to intern at WNET/Thirteen and at the Paley Center for Media. At Columbia, I developed a more critical outlook on the historically asymmetrical relationship between ethnographic museums and source communities. For my senior thesis, I examined a repatriation claim made by one community for the return of a meteorite. At Cambridge, I hope to continue my research on museum/source community relations. I am particularly interested in exploring the potential of digital technologies and other media to democratize access to collections and better enable collaboration.

INTERESTS: Horseback riding, crochet, chasing rabbits out of my garden, dragging friends and family to museums, campy sci-fi.

Anjalene Whittier

USA

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Psychiatry, Robinson College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

Universitat de Barcelona



My research interests have been very diverse over the past few years, but the main threads have been stigma and ostracism, minority mental health, and access to high-quality care for those with intellectual disabilities. I'm hoping to combine these through my work at Cambridge, which will focus on an understudied topic: the junction between psychosis and intellectual disability. My interests have been largely informed by my background, as I grew up with a younger sister who has Down syndrome in the inner city of Rochester, NY. I hope to bring a higher standard of mental health and disability care to communities like mine as well as abroad, particularly to underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries. So far, I've assisted with projects spanning the US, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Ethiopia, and plan to continue this line of work after my time at Cambridge. I am incredibly excited and honored to begin my doctoral degree as a part of the Gates Cambridge community.

INTERESTS: Human rights, urban communities, music, drawing, painting, travel, baking, and the Oxford comma.

Alexander Wood

Australia

COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

PhD Medicine, Emmanuel College

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY

University of Western Australia



Ever since I was teeny-tiny, I have had a strong desire to practice medicine. I am incredibly fortunate to have been provided with the opportunities and support to achieve that goal. I feel a key responsibility for the medical profession is to practice with insight and constantly work toward improving the care delivered to our patients. I also enjoy the pursuit of knowledge and the challenge of linking cellular dysfunction with patient illness. To this end I completed an Honours year during medical school, which introduced me to research. I enjoyed some success and was able to communicate my work nationally and internationally. During that year I developed an interest in intensive care, anaesthesia and general medicine, where a detailed knowledge of physiology combined with compassion and care can provide solutions to complex problems. One particular problem encountered in intensive care is the immune dysfunction affecting many patients with critical illness. Through my PhD I will compare T-cell/neutrophil relationships in patients and healthy controls. The project will be based in the Department of Anaesthesia at the School of Clinical Medicine, where I will be supervised by Dr Andrew Conway Morris and Professor David Menon.



CLASS OF 2015/16 BY COUNTRY

Albania	1	Germany	1	Peru	1
Australia	9	Guatemala	1	Republic of Montenegro	1
Belgium	1	India	6	Russia	1
Brazil	1	Indonesia	1	Slovakia	1
Bulgaria	1	Ireland	1	South Africa	2
Canada	3	New Zealand	2	Turkey	1
China	1	Nigeria	2	Ukraine	1
Colombia	1	Norway	2	USA	44
Dominican Republic	1	Pakistan	3		
Ecuador	1	Palestine	1		

Total countries: 28

CLASS OF 2015/16 BY COLLEGE

Christ's College	4	Girton College	1	Robinson College	3
Churchill College	6	Gonville & Caius College	1	Selwyn College	1
Clare College	5	Homerton College	1	Sidney Sussex College	3
Clare Hall	3	Magdalene College	3	St Edmund's College	3
Corpus Christi College	3	Newnham College	4	St John's College	11
Darwin College	3	Pembroke College	1	Trinity College	6
Downing College	2	Peterhouse	4	Trinity Hall	5
Emmanuel College	2	Queens' College	1		

Total Colleges: 23

CLASS OF 2015/16

BY DEPARTMENT

Centre of Latin American Studies	1	Department of Psychology	3
Centre of Politics & International Studies	7	Department of Public Health and Primary Care	1
Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	1	Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics	1
Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics	1	Department of Slavonic Studies	1
Department of Archaeology	4	Department of Social Anthropology	4
Department of Architecture	1	Department of Sociology	2
Department of Biochemistry	1	Department of Veterinary Medicine	1
Department of Chemical Engineering	3	Department of Zoology	1
Department of Chemistry	4	Development Studies Committee	1
Department of Clinical Neurosciences	2	Faculty of Classics	2
Department of Education	4	Faculty of Divinity	1
Department of Engineering	5	Faculty of Economics	1
Department of French	1	Faculty of English	1
Department of Genetics	1	Faculty of History	5
Department of Geography	3	Faculty of Philosophy	1
Department of Land Economy	1	Institute of Astronomy	2
Department of Linguistics	2	Institute of Criminology	1
Department of Medicine	5	Institute of Public Health	1
Department of Oncology	1	MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit	2
Department of Pharmacology	3	MRC Epidemiology Unit	1
Department of Physics	2	MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology	2
Department of Plant Sciences	1	Scott Polar Research Institute	2
Department of Psychiatry	1		

Total Departments: 45



T 44 (0) 1223 338467
F 44 (0) 1223 577004
E info@gates.scholarships.cam.ac.uk

Ground Floor, 33 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UW
United Kingdom
www.gatescambridge.org

Patrons: Bill and Melinda Gates