



POLICY LEADER FELLOWS

2024-25





Gilbert A. Ang'ana

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Gilbert Angana, CEO/Founder of Accent Leadership Group, is an expert in leadership, policy, and research. With a robust background in financial services in East Africa, Gilbert has a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Pan Africa Christian (PAC) University, Kenya.

His scholarly pursuits, encompassing research in leadership, governance, sustainable development goals (SDG), and transnational policy, reflect his profound expertise and commitment to these critical areas. He has won numerous global and continental recognitions for his professional contribution to his field.

As a Policy Leader Fellow at the Florence School of Transnational Governance (STG), Gilbert is focusing on the potential of collaborative leadership to enhance the autonomy and mutual dependence of the arms of government in Africa. This focus aims to foster sustainable peace, justice, and robust institutions, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. His vision is to see a harmonious relationship between the Presidency (Executive), the Legislature (Parliament), and the Judiciary to promote peace, effective and ethical judicial systems, and resilient, interdependent institutions in African nations.



Valentina Bacchin

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Valentina Bacchin has worked across multiple countries affected by conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies for the past 17 years. Her work experience includes expert and leadership positions with UN agencies, international and national NGOs and civil society organisations. Her work has dealt with disaster and post-conflict response and recovery programming and policy development, with a more specific focus on the protection of civilians in conflict, rights of forcibly displaced people and migrants, and solutions to international and internal displacement.

Valentina obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Trieste, Italy, and holds an MA in Humanitarian Action from the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she is interested in exploring the topics of correlations and linkages between responses to internal and international displacement, migration, perspectives of affected people and funding frameworks to respond to humanitarian and displacement crises.



Bruno Capuzzi

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Bruno Capuzzi is a trade economist with 14 years of experience in public policies and stakeholder engagement across various facets of international trade. His expertise lies in WTO law and trade-affecting legislation, with recent representation of the Brazilian Trade Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil) in Brussels. Previously, Bruno served in governmental relations in São Paulo and Brasília, and at UNCTAD's New York office.

With a keen geopolitical awareness, Bruno links key developments in Brazil and the EU to forecast scenarios and policy needs. He collaborates with ECIPE – European Centre for International Political Economy.

As a Fellow at the Florence School of Transnational Governance, Bruno's current project delves into analysing Brazil's proposal for an emissions trading system vis-à-vis global practices. This initiative aims to formulate policy recommendations crucial for the effective regulation of Brazil's industries and its engagement in international voluntary carbon markets.



Denis Cenușa

Fellowship period: 1 February 2025 – 30 June 2025

Denis Cenușa is an Associate Expert at the Center for Eastern European Studies (Lithuania) and Think Tank "Expert Group" (Moldova), where he covers research and projects related to the geopolitics of the Eastern Partnership region and Russia. He has more than 15 years of work experience in the think tank community.

He is based in Germany, where he is pursuing his doctoral studies at the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen. He holds an MA in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe (2013). Denis successfully graduated in specialised EU affairs from the Riga Law School (Latvia, 2014).

Denis is the author of more than 300 analytical articles, policy briefs, scholarly articles, and reports. Between 2015 and 2022, he co-edited five books with Michael Emerson, Senior Research Associate at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and wrote book chapters related to critical infrastructure and energy.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, he will investigate the interplay between the EU enlargement process, EU external governance in the energy sector, and the repercussions of the Russian war on the energy resilience development of Ukraine and Moldova. His research is twofold: (1) he intends to analyse the EU's ability of a crisis manager in the energy sector within its immediate neighbourhood during wartime; (2) he will also assess the potential of the EU membership to build energy resilience of Ukraine and Moldova against Russian energy pressure.



Tuhina Chatterjee

Fellowship period: 1 February 2025 – 30 June 2025

Tuhina Chatterjee is a public policy and program professional with over 15 years of experience working across different levels of government, nonprofit organisations in Canada and India.

She currently serves as the Senior Regional Advisor with Invest Ontario, working to build strategic partnerships across different levels of government, academic institutions and other ecosystem enablers for investment attraction. Some of her past engagements include developing a strategy for diaspora engagement, implementation of the National Skills Qualifications Framework and the India- European Union Skills Development project in India. While in Canada, she worked on intervenor skills strategy, multi-ministry supportive housing initiative and transit-oriented communities.

Tuhina holds a BA (Hons) in Political Science and an MA in International Relations from Jadavpur University, India, and an MA in Public Policy & Administration from Ryerson University, Canada.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she aims to showcase the interrelation between skills and investment attraction through a jurisdiction scan of labour market systems across geographies and its engagement with investment promotion agencies and training providers. She also wants to gather early lessons learned from the adoption of AI into the existing labour market information systems. Post-fellowship she aims to build a case for an integrated skills platform that captures multiple streams of demand and supply data along with AI adoption.



Ela Evliyaoglu

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Ela Serpil Evliyaoğlu is a human rights activist with 10 years of experience, and a clinical psychologist for 5 years in Türkiye. She holds master's degrees in clinical psychology and in political science. Previously, she worked for non-governmental organisations to enhance women's rights and.

Since 2018, has been working at the Youth Organizations Forum, an umbrella organisation of 57 youth organisations and producing youth policies in diverse fields. She is also representative of the organisation to the European Youth Forum.

Ela Serpil is the co-founder of The Network of Psychosocial Support in Civil Society and gives speeches on how politics and policies affect the wellbeing of individuals and social groups.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she aims to contribute to climate and migration policies by evaluating the current policies of selected countries by adding a mental health dimension to them.



Tomas Gonzalez Olavarria

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Tomás González Olavarría is the founder of Tribu, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to advancing innovations and institutional reforms to modernise democracy. Some of his most notable achievements include running the first deliberative democracy process in Latin America with a nationwide representative civic lottery and providing technical assistance to all the local governments of Chile that are part of the Open Government Partnership.

He holds a degree in economics and his career has centred on public policy, innovation and the impact of new technologies on business and society. Recently, he led the formulation of an economic development strategy for Chile's decarbonisation and just transition agenda. He has also consulted on local procurement and contributed to the technology roadmap commissioned by the President of Chile for the mining industry. He has conceptual and practical understanding of blockchain networks, having served as an independent node operator. He also has experience in both business and social entrepreneurship and has lived in various Latin American countries.

Tomás has been recognised with the World Summit Youth Award, the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US State Department, the Academic Excellence Scholarship of Chile, the UNASUR Scholarship by CAF and as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum.

He serves on the advisory council to the Governor of Santiago and was part of the Summit for Democracy's working group on deliberative democracy.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, he will focus on the institutionalisation of deliberative democracy mechanisms.



Maria Groeneveld

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Maria Groeneveld is a practitioner and researcher in conflict resolution, crisis prevention and democratisation. She has over 15 years of experience working in conflict-affected areas, including for the European Union Delegations in South Asia and the Horn of Africa.

Maria has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Tartu, Estonia, with a focus on international relations, peace process mediation, and the impact of domestic identities on foreign policy decisions. She also holds an MA in International Relations and European Studies from the Central European University in Vienna.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, Maria's work centres on the intersections of democratisation, conflict, peace processes, and the diplomatic and development response strategies that operate within this nexus. She will focus on examining the impact of conflict and security narratives on democratisation efforts, supporting democratisation through a peacebuilding lens, and on the resilience of democratic systems.



Huda Ismail

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

Huda Ismail is a seasoned financial analyst with over 12 years of experience at the Central Bank of Egypt, specialising in money laundering and terrorist financing investigations. She supervises the conduct of investigations related to Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs)/Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and provides crucial cross-functional support to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), foreign competent authorities, and international bodies. Her role involves extensive communication and coordination with external and internal stakeholders.

Actively engaged in global initiatives, Huda has collaborated with esteemed organisations such as the OECD and UNODC, participating in programmes focused on combating financial crimes, particularly in crypto asset investigations. She is recognised as an expert speaker and trainer in blockchain, cryptocurrency, and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), adept at making complex financial concepts accessible to diverse audiences.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, Huda will focus on the "Regulation of emerging digital payments to combat Financial Crimes in the Middle East." Her project aims to assess the regulatory challenges facing central bank digital currency (CBDCs), Decentralised Finance (DeFi), and the broader blockchain industry in the Middle East and globally. Huda will explore how regulatory frameworks are evolving to address these challenges effectively and promote compliance within the dynamic landscape of digital finance.



Guo Jing (Catherine)

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Guo Jing is a policy advocacy specialist. She has a multidisciplinary background in international development, promotes EU-China cooperation on carbon neutrality, and advances women's leadership in manufacturing and public-private partnerships. She has more than 13 years of working experience in public service and international NGOs.

In 2023, she was invited to visit Brussels as a young Chinese leader and opinion former to participate in roundtable meetings with interlocutors from the European Union Commission, European Parliament and many other institutions involved in EU-China relations and business cooperation.

Jing currently serves as a regional General Manager of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, a business NGO with a mission of advocating for a level playing field for EU businesses operating in China. Since 2019, she has been closely working with plenty of European leading enterprises including BASF, Airbus, Volkswagen, Novo Nordisk, etc. for China's energy transition policy advocacy and their localisation and implementation of the global decarbonisation strategies in China.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she will focus on a project themed 'Responsible Negotiation on EU-China Climate Action Collaboration'. Her project aims to increase negotiating capacity for climate action by developing a skills-based training programme for young and mid-career climate action advocates, in particular, frontline climate professionals in NGOs, non-profit institutions, carbon market, renewable energy industry and world leading corporate leaders engaged in fields related to the EU-China climate action collaboration. In addition, the project works to establish a worldwide professional community for frontline climate action negotiators with global governance capacity and global responsibility.



Syed Mafiz Kamal

Fellowship period: 1 February 2025 – 30 June 2025

Syed Mafiz Kamal, a policy analyst and political economist, has a career spanning international organisations and public policy think tanks. Specialising in political communications, policy analysis, and youth-centric program design, he is a seasoned professional in strategising progressive agendas and policy advocacy.

His research and professional interests lie in agronomics, fiscal policy, energy, youth opportunities, economic cooperation/diplomacy, and market research. Syed collaborates closely with thought-leaders, decision-makers and politicians to influence policies and public opinions.

With an expansive experience in the think tank industry, Syed has developed a multisectoral understanding of Bangladesh and South Asia. Previously he worked in the UN system in New York, and undertook internships, volunteering and self-designed projects in Spain, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Hong Kong, and Iraq.

He is the founding managing editor of the influential Bangladeshi policy magazine, the *WhiteBoard*, and occupies the lead role in a prominent progressive think tank that works on various national policies, including youth issues. He was instrumental in contributing to Bangladesh's long-term policy documents and tax reform agenda. He authored works on refugee integration, energy, policy responses and youth jobs.

Syed has been in leading positions at policy periodicals in US and Bangladesh. He is a StartingBloc fellow, Bucerius Summer School fellows and Davis Scholar. As a Policy Leader Fellow, he is exploring the impact online disinformation has on youth lives. He pursued his masters focusing on political economy from New York University.



Antara Mascarenhas

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Antara Mascarenhas has extensive experience in energy policy and regulatory reform, across policy development, policy advocacy, regulatory change and reform implementation. Antara has built and led many cross-functional teams to deliver national policy and strategic priorities in Australia's energy sector.

Antara has worked for the Australian Federal Government and held a breadth of roles at Australia's national energy system and market operator (the Australian Energy Market Operator), including Chief of Staff to the CEO, GM Stakeholder Engagement and GM Entity Establishment (to establish AEMO's first subsidiary to deliver the state of New South Wales' \$32 billion renewable energy policy).

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she is exploring the policy role that governments should play in facilitating an effective transformation to net zero, with particular focus on electric vehicles as a case study.

Antara holds an MPhil in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge, on a Commonwealth Scholarship, and Honours (BA) in Political Science from the University of Melbourne. Antara has previously been a Visiting Fellow at the MIT Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy Research.



Masutane Modjadji

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

Masutane Modjadji is a seasoned communications specialist and journalist. She started her career in journalism and transitioned into a communications specialist within the civil society sector. She currently holds the position of a Communications Manager for a non-profit shareholder activism movement.

Masutane previously worked for the oldest think tank in Africa as a Digital Communications Manager, overseeing the communications department. She has crafted and executed communications strategies for various pan-African non-profit organisations leaving a legacy of well-functioning communications departments. Notably, she successfully managed a team of award-winning citizen journalists. She also co-developed a comprehensive guide for citizen journalists to equip local activists and community members to better report on public health issues in their areas. Her educational achievements include qualifications in journalism, culminating in a master's degree attained from the University of Johannesburg.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she aspires to address crucial societal concerns encompassing inequality and technological transformation while also combating the proliferation of misinformation. Her project aims to put forward strategies to mitigate inequality exacerbated by technological advancements and the proposal of effective solutions to counteract the spread of misinformation within the digital realm in South Africa.



Sushila Pandit

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Sushila Pandit is a climate and resilience professional with over 14 years of experience in climate adaptation, disaster risk management, and building resilience through leading and delivering transformative climate resilience projects and programmes. She works at the interface of policy, practice, and research in and around locally-led adaptation, climate policy and governance. Her work experience includes expert and leadership positions with national and international non-governmental organisations, UN agency, Alliances and Consulting companies focusing on policy and advocacy, providing technical assistance and programme management.

Currently, she is associated with PlanAdapt and IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) on locally-led adaptation. She is the founding president and a life member of Together for Human and Environment in Nepal, a charity that works on environmental and human security issues. She was awarded a national award by the government of Nepal in 2013, 'International Climate Champion' by the British Council in 2009, and CARE Climate Champion in 2020. Sushila holds an MSc in Environmental Sciences from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she will explore, document and advocate for financing Locally Led Adaptation. The main goal of the fellowship is to build evidence-based policy recommendations for locally led adaptation, which involves shifting the power to the lowest appropriate level with respect to financing and decision-making. As a fellow she will focus on understanding the climate financing scenario, building a knowledge platform to advocate and transfer learning and best practices of local action on adaptation.



Bruno Queiroz Cunha

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

Bruno Queiroz Cunha is a policy manager and applied researcher with 20 years of experience in regulatory policy and governance, public sector innovation, and evidence-based public policy. He has led critical projects in these areas in the Brazilian Federal Government, helping to shape public policy and governance in practice.

Between 2020 and 2021, he stepped out of his position in government to consult for international organisations, a period in which he also worked with several Latin American countries on regulatory and policy projects.

He holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and an MSc. in Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, he focuses on unpacking the challenges and opportunities that Latin American regulatory agencies face when they seek to adopt recommendations from different and possibly competing regulatory policy trends designed at the international level. His goal is to propose ideas on how to leverage these trends, building regulatory resilience and innovative capacity among Latin American regulators.



Deepthi Ravula

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

Deepthi Ravula is a Hardware Engineer and Policy Researcher specialising in Inclusive Economics, Employment Generation by nano, small, and medium businesses (SMBs), and creating sustainable business models. With over 20 years of experience across Government, Corporate, Academia & Research, Deepthi's work focuses on building financially viable, state led programs that leverage public-private partnerships to empower marginalised communities, fostering self reliant, sustainable futures through technology while addressing social, economic, geographic, and gender disparities.

During her time as Joint Director for Electronics for Telangana, she established strategic global partnerships across Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America, positioning Telangana as a leader in electronics manufacturing and technology innovation. As the founding CEO of WE Hub, India's first state-led incubator for women entrepreneurs, Deepthi has pioneered transformative policy frameworks and pilot programs that deliver measurable outcomes in women's participation and business inclusion.

Her 14 years as an RF Engineer in Silicon Valley, specialising in applications Engineering and Manufacturing, have given her a unique blend of technological expertise and policy acumen, enabling her to influence both local and global economic trends.

Deepthi holds an MSc in Innovation & Entrepreneurship from HEC Paris, Diploma in International Politics, Research & Leadership from St Cross College, University of Oxford, Graduate school at California State University, San Diego and had a Bachelor Degree in Engineering from JNTU,

Hyderabad. She is a Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellow of the Aspen Institute (India), an Eisenhower Fellow of the Eisenhower Institute (USA), a CyberPolicy Fellow at ANU, Canberra (Australia), and a Gurukul Fellow of the Chevening Fellowship (UK).

As part of her Florence STG Fellowship, she is focusing on developing a technology platform to support and scale SMBs and researching the geographic replicability of inclusive business policies across the EU, Southeast Asia, and North America.



Nina Shengelia

Fellowship period: 1 February 2025 – 30 June 2025

Gegham Tovmasyan is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in public policy and administration. Since July 2019, he has been leading the Regulatory Impact Assessment Department at the Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia. His role involves coordinating Regulatory Impact Assessments as an oversight body.

Previously, Gegham served as Head of Analysis and Investor Relations at Converse Bank CJSC. His experience also includes working as project manager at the IDeA Foundation, and Chief Specialist at the Ministry of Economy of Armenia.

Gegham holds an executive master diploma in Development Policies and Practices from the Graduate Institute Geneva, a postgraduate advanced certificate in Public Policy and Administration from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Yerevan State University.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, his project will concentrate on regulatory impact assessment as an international standard for better policymaking in Armenia.



Gegham Tovmasyan

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

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As a Policy Leader Fellow, his project will concentrate on regulatory impact assessment as an international standard for better policymaking in Armenia.



Sofía Veliz

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025

Sofía Veliz is an Argentinian lawyer with a Master in Governance and Human Rights from the Autonomous University of Madrid with 12 years of experience in public policies. She played a vital role in HR, focusing initially on truth and justice policies during the trial of Argentine dictators and investigating child abductions. She later contributed to a civil society organisation for access to justice and served as Director of Care Politics at the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity. There, she drafted parental leave reform and spearheaded the first federal campaign on care equality. Beyond her career, she co-founded CHANA, aiding victims of gender-based violence.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she aims to address gender economic gaps through public care policies, particularly for single-mother households, crucial in poverty alleviation and gender-focused development.



Cristina Vilhena Costa Correia Dos Santos

Fellowship period: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2025

Cristina Santos is a development worker, passionate about social innovation and change, with more than 15 years of experience in three continents. She has worked with UNICEF, the World Food Program (WFP), and international nongovernmental organisations (INGOs) in social protection projects, piloting new models and supporting policy development.

Cristina enjoys working collaboratively and engaging with different partners with the potential to bring sustainable change into society, particularly regarding the fulfilment of rights, such as the access of children and their families to social protection.

As a Policy Leader Fellow, she will focus on analysing the investment of the EU development cooperation instruments in promoting strengthening social protection systems in partner countries.



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