



# Global Ideas Institute FINAL SYMPOSIUM 2019

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GLOBAL IDEAS INSTITUTE

# GII PARTNERS

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FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

I-THINK 

**World Vision** 

# GUEST SPEAKERS

## **John Robinson**

Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, School of the Environment

## **Kris Hornburg**

Manager, Program & Strategic Initiatives, Solid Waste Management Services, City of Toronto

## **Garima Tilokani**

Graduate Student, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

## **Hannah Rundle**

Graduate Student, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

## **Juliana Forner**

Graduate Student, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

## **Joshua Folkema**

Business Development Manager, Canada World Vision

## **Joseph Wong**

Founder, Global Ideas Institute

## **Benjamin Scott**

Technology Manager, GreenMantra Technologies

## **Asif Raza**

Manager of Engineering, GreenMantra Technologies

## **Dilip Solman**

Canada Research Chair in Behavioral Science and Economics, Rotman School of Management

# Welcome to the GLOBAL IDEAS INSTITUTE

In our global economy, it is becoming increasingly important for students to learn about the world and to think in a global context. This cutting-edge program provides students with the tools, knowledge, and guidance to develop innovative solutions to complex world issues. Over the course of the year, students gain exposure to leading global experts, develop complex problem-solving skills, and deliver pitches to a panel of distinguished experts. Students receive guidance from University of Toronto experts, community and graduate-level mentors during this year long learning process.

Now entering its ninth year, the Global Ideas Institute (GII) is an initiative of the Munk School of Global Affairs. The GII was conceived by Professor Joseph Wong and Professor Janice Stein to provide intensive research and learning opportunities for secondary students. Starting this year, the Global Ideas Institute is an ongoing collaborative program between the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto Schools, Rotman School of Management's Integrative Thinking, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and World Vision Canada.

This year the Global Ideas Institute (GII) challenge focuses on the issue of global plastic waste management. The growth of plastics production in the past 65 years has outpaced that of almost every other manufactured material<sup>1</sup>. Much of the plastic produced is designed for single-use, such that it is disposed of immediately following its initial use. As a result, plastic packaging accounts for about 50% of plastic waste globally. Although most of this waste is generated in Asia, America, Japan and the European Union are the world's largest producers

of plastic packaging waste per capita. The many benefits of plastic are undeniable. The material is cheap, lightweight, easy to make, and versatile, with innumerable applications. These same properties have led to a boom in the production of plastic over the past century, a trend that is projected to skyrocket over the next 10 to 15 years. However, due to the durability of the material and because most plastic do not biodegrade, it makes it impossible for nature to assimilate. With billions of metric tons of plastic being produced and accumulated globally, we need to rethink the way plastic is manufactured, used and disposed of. As one of the most critical environmental burdens of our time, this challenge requires concerted actions from “governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act”.

This symposium brings together and showcases the work the remarkable Global Ideas Institute students have produced in just a few short months. The work students did is fully integrated across the many fields and disciplines involved in such a complex problem. They read and grappled with everything from academic research papers to news clippings, from sophisticated demographic materials to personal stories of those working in the field. They struggled with real -world problems through a multidisciplinary lens. They, along with their U of T mentors, receive no credit for their work, other than the gratification of studying a pressing problem yet to be resolved, and generating solutions that can potentially better the lives of hundreds of millions.

# FINAL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

## Final Symposium Agenda

8:00AM	Breakfast & Registration	University of Toronto Schools (UTS)
9:00AM	Opening Keynote	UTS Auditorium
9:30AM	Transition to Breakouts	Breakout Rooms (see below)
10:00AM	Session I: Student Pitches	Breakout Rooms
11:50AM	Lunch & Poster Session	1 Devonshire Place
1:15PM	Transition to Breakouts	Breakout Rooms
1:30PM	Session II: Student Pitches	Breakout Rooms
2:10PM	Coffee Break	Breakout Rooms
2:30PM	Expert Debrief	Breakout Rooms
3:30PM	Transition to Plenary	UTS Auditorium
3:40PM	Closing Remarks	UTS Auditorium
4:00PM	End	

## Breakout Room Locations

### CAMPBELL CONFERENCE FACILITY

1 Devonshire Place  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 1V6

### UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOOLS

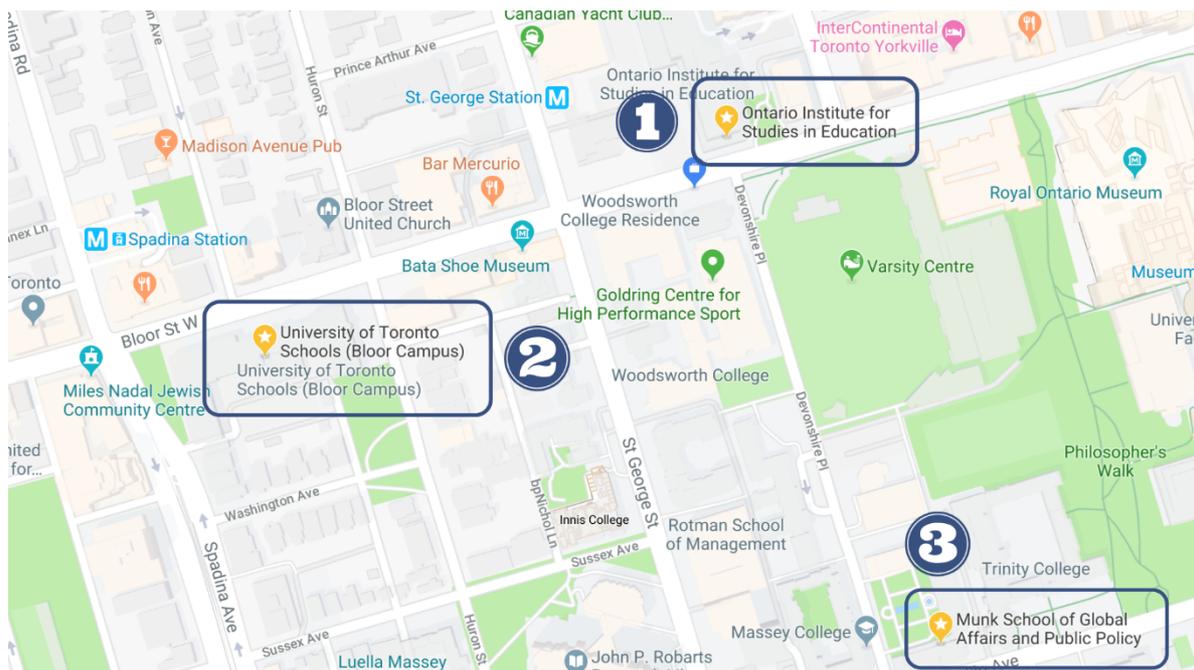
Room 135  
371 Bloor St W  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2R7

### OISE NEXUS LOUNGE

Nexus Lounge (Floor 12)  
252 Bloor St W  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 1V6

# LOCATIONS

UTS Auditorium (1)	Nexus Lounge (2)	CCF (3)
Bayview Glen School	Upper Canada College	St. Clement's School
North Park Secondary School	University of Toronto Schools	Sandalwood Heights Secondary School
LAWS - Harbord Collegiate Institute	Branksome Hall	Malvern Collegiate Institute
East York Collegiate Institute	Bishop Marrocco Thomas Merton CSS	Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute
Lunch Break		
Pickering High School	Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute	Havergal College
Bloor Collegiate Institute	Pickering College	Don Mills Collegiate Institute
	Northern Secondary School	The York School



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

## **Bayview Glen**

*Presentation Title: Rumah Roof - Building a future for you and the Earth*

## **Bishop Marrocco Thomas Merton**

*Presentation Title: REC-MODE*

## **Bloor Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: Fuel The Future*

## **Branksome Hall**

*Presentation Title: Addressing Plastic Waste Accumulation in Iloilo, Philippines*

## **Don Mills Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: Plastic Waste in Toronto*

## **East York Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: Plastic Reduction in the Philippines*

## **Havergal College**

*Presentation Title: EcoSystems Inc.*

## **Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: Upcycling in Guangzhou*

## **LAWS - Harbord Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: PACE (Plastic Accumulation Circular Economy)*

## **Malvern Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: EcoCloset - Keeping the Great Lakes Great*

## **Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute**

*Presentation Title: ORU - Biodegradable single-use packaging*

## **North Park Secondary School**

*Presentation Title: Bag the Bag - A Solution to Excessive Plastic Bag Usage*

## **Northern Secondary School**

*Presentation Title: Aquaponic Systems - A Solution for Food Security in Arviat, Nunavut*

## **Pickering College**

*Presentation Title: Purā: Microplastic Pollution in Farmed Produce*

## **Pickering High School**

*Presentation Title: Pollution Solution in Iloilo*

## **Sandalwood Heights Secondary School**

*Presentation Title: Plastic Waste Management*

## **St Clements School**

*Presentation Title: Global Ideas Institute 2019 Proposal*

## **The York School**

*Presentation Title: The Home Press*

## **University of Toronto Schools**

*Presentation Title: Social Enterprise Solution to Plastics in Tamil Nadu*

## **Upper Canada College**

*Presentation Title: greenplaNET - Treating the microplastic epidemic one filter at a time*

# EXPERT BIOS



**Paul Cadario** joined the World Bank in 1975 and played a number of diverse roles world- wide, including nearly two decades with the World Bank's frontline development programs in Western Africa and China and then with public sector management throughout Asia. After his retirement from the World Bank in 2012, Cadario was appointed Distinguished Fellow in Global Innovation at the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering and the Munk School of Global Affairs. In addition to working with faculty and students in the MGA program and PhD candidates at CGEN, he co-teaches a Civil Engineering capstone design course, Sustainable Global Communities.



**Joshua Folkema** is a Business Development Manager at World Vision Canada. World Vision Canada (WVC) is a Christian development, relief and advocacy charity working with communities, families and children around the world to overcome poverty and injustice.



**Susan Debreceni** studied Zoology at the University of Guelph and holds a diploma in Ecosystem Management through Fleming College. She has spent the last 10+ years with the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup's Toronto office, connecting citizens across Canada to shorelines in need. She is passionate about connecting individuals with meaningful opportunities to become more active in their local community and is thrilled to lend her experience and insight with others.



**Paula Gallo** manages Evergreen's Professional Learning for Educators, working collaboratively with educators and organizations across Canada to explore innovative approaches to experiential learning with children and youth. Paula works with a team of Evergreen facilitators, landscape architects, teachers and community engagement experts to lead workshops and engagement opportunities, exploring Nature Play, Community Connections and Child Led Participatory Design. Her work is designed to enrich our understanding of how to create sustainable, inclusive and participatory communities for children and young people. She has worked with UNICEF Canada and Save the Children Sweden, designing programs and delivering professional learning opportunities for educators across Canada and internationally. Previously, she worked in British Columbia as the Metro Vancouver Sustainability Education Manager, and was a secondary teacher in Scarborough for 10 years, engaging her students in the outdoors and building in opportunities for meaningful community connections. She is currently based in Toronto, goes for long walks in the Don Valley with her dog and her family, and loves to work in her pollinator garden, complete with beehives!



**Kris Hornburg** is currently the Manager of Program and Strategic Initiatives for the City's Solid Waste Management Services divisions. He previously worked as a Project Lead for the City, working on resource utilization and green revenue opportunities. Kris first started his career with the City as part of the Toronto Urban Fellows Program, and prior to that he worked for the Drive Clean Office with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Kris holds a Master of Arts (M.A) in Legal studies from Carleton University, as well as a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Queen's School of Policy Studies



**Pam Miller** is presently the EcoSchools Instructional Leader with the Toronto District School Board and has over 28 years of experience working in education as an outdoor and environmental educator and a classroom teacher. In her current role, she works with a wide variety of education professionals and youth, supporting them as they engage in environmental programs and actions that contribute to a healthier, greener, more sustainable future. She is most passionate about cultivating practices at schools that foster deep relationships with nature, place and communities and helping champion issues that matter to students.



**Sam Gawron** is a graduate of the Environment, Sustainability & Society and International Development programs at Dalhousie University and the University of King's College. Since 2015, she has been working as a Project Coordinator at Learning for a Sustainable Future, a Canadian charity whose goal is to integrate the practices and principles of sustainable development into the education system. She is interested in food and agriculture issues, as well as education, community development, global health, and social justice.



**Nandita Bajaj** is the Head of Admissions at University of Toronto Schools. She was a teacher of physics and math at Northview Heights Secondary School, where she taught for seven years. During that time, she was also the coordinator of the school's Honours Math, Science, and Technology program, a specialty program that offers an accelerated curriculum to students in these subject areas. She was also the staff supervisor for Northview's GII team for three years. With a strong background and work experience in engineering and environmentalism, she is passionate about inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, and engineering with a focus on sustainability. She will be starting her M.Ed in Humane Education through the Institute of Humane Education which focuses on how to effect systemic change by learning about the interconnected issues of environmental ethics, animal protection, and human rights.



**Dr. Tara Etherington** is the Program Manager for International Scholarships at the University of Toronto. She has worked in the UK and Canada at three international institutions in the fields of academia, student employability, and global learning initiatives. She specialized in cultural studies and contemporary theory during her academic training and is passionate about global programs that support student growth and innovation. At the University of Exeter, she coached a team of students in the first Grand Challenges program, which sought to tackle real-world global challenges concentrating on problem solving and pragmatism. Dr. Etherington joined the University of Toronto in 2017 and currently supports students awarded the Lester B. Pearson Scholars Enrichment Program, the Laidlaw Scholars Programme and the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Program that all promote innovation, global learning and personal development.

# OPENING KEYNOTE



**Zoë David-Delves** was the Valedictorian of UBC's Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, Class of 2015 and the winner of the University of Toronto's Janice Stein Student Leadership Award, Class of 2018. Her lived experience as a queer Black woman, as well as her education and professional experience, has allowed her insight into the social justice and advocacy fields both in Canada and abroad. Zoë is a Program Assistant at Taking IT Global, an NGO that supports youth-led projects across Canada. She also works at Sherbourne Health as a Black Queer Youth Leader designing mentorship programming for Black queer youth across the GTA.



**Joseph Wong** is the Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation at the Munk School of Global Affairs, Professor of Political Science, and Canada Research Chair in Health, Democracy and Development. He was the Director of the Asian Institute at the Munk School from 2005 to 2014. Professor Wong has been a visiting scholar at institutions in the US (Harvard), Taiwan, Korea, and the UK (Oxford); has worked extensively with the World Bank and the UN; and has advised governments on matters of public policy in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Professor Wong teaches courses in the department of Political Science, the Munk One program and the Munk School of Global Affairs. Professor Wong's current research focuses on poverty and innovation. Professor Wong is also the founder of the Global Ideas Institute.

# CLOSING PANEL



## **Warsan Hagiyusuf, Somali Youth Support Initiative**

When applying for university I noticed my Somali peers were struggling with the application process. Many Somali students in my community come from households where they would be the first one in their family to attend a postsecondary institution. Due to the of lack of resources and experience many of them were not applying for schools because they did not understand the application process. I also had a similar issue when applying for schools but I was able to get answers from my mother, who completed postsecondary education after immigrating to Canada. However, many of my classmates were not as lucky and really struggled with the process and lacked the support they needed. This issue inspired me to create the Somali Youth Support initiative (SYS). Working alongside my mother the SYS program works on providing support to Somali youth that are transitioning from high school to postsecondary. This initiative helps Somali youth in the community receive support and guidance when applying to college and university. By organizing workshops at local spaces; we have received lots of support from the community and we are working towards creating more events to service our community. Once accepted to a program, the Somali Youth Support initiative connects the student to a Somali professional in the field that they want to pursue. This support is vital as the student will have a mentor in their community to share their concerns about entering a new environment and receive adequate support. Although, I began this program with my mother; I am actively involved in the process and have my own mentor to help me pursue a career in social work. This initiative has made a positive change in my neighbourhood giving my peers the opportunity to have access to education and receive support from members in their community. In the future, my goal for the Somali Youth Support program is to extend the resources and support to other communities in the GTA. I am very passionate about this initiative because I believe that education is a human right and should be accessible for individuals everywhere.



## **Winnie Lin, Paint for the Planet**

Paint for the Planet is an environment-focused art workshop that seeks to promote youth involvement in environmental discourse. We will direct participants to explore their creativity by painting their visions of our future community while learning about the human impacts on our planet. We decided to incorporate an artistic component to our event because it helps reduce the stress many high school students face in their daily lives. We believe this event will not only allow youths to express their ideas through various forms of art but will also encourage them to acknowledge and think critically about fundamental environmental issues in their community and around the world. It is our hope for this event to be a night of fun, learning, relaxation, and creativity.

CONGRATULATIONS &  
THANK YOU FOR A  
WONDERFUL YEAR

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[www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/gii](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/gii)