



SALZBURG  
GLOBAL  
SEMINAR

IMPACT REPORT

574

# The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play

PARKS FOR THE PLANET FORUM

Salzburg Global Seminar would like to thank **the International Union for the Conservation of Nature–IUCN** for its generous support of the Parks for the Planet Forum.

Salzburg Global Seminar would also like to thank program sponsors **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** and the **Huffington Foundation**; program contributors, **Parks Canada** and the **Korea National Parks Service**; and scholarship providers, the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy**, the **Korea Foundation**, the **McKnight Foundation**, the **Nippon Foundation**, the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**, **Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan** and the **Winthrop Family Fellowship** for their support of Session 574 and all participants for donating their time and expertise to this Session.

---

## Session 574

March 18 to 22, 2017

Salzburg, Austria

PARKS FOR THE PLANET FORUM

# The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play

IMPACT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2017

Editor:  
**Louise Hallman**

Contributors:  
**Clare Shine,**  
**Tomás De La Rosa,**  
**Chúk Odenigbo**  
and  
**Mirva Villa**

Photos:  
**Ela Grieshaber**

Cover image:  
**William Murphy**



---

## Table of Contents

<b>5</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Background on the Forum</b> Sessions of the Parks for the Planet Forum
<b>10</b>	<b>Overview of the 2017 Session</b> Key Questions Program Agenda
<b>15</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Tools for Impact</b> Making a Statement The Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play Tracking the Statement
<b>23</b>	<b>Impact on Individuals</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Impact on Institutions</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Impact on Ideas</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>LOOKING FORWARD</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>2018 and Beyond for the Forum</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Supporting Salzburg Global Programs</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>APPENDIX</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Session Co-Chairs</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Session Participants</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Session Staff</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>The Salzburg Statement on Quality Early Childhood Development and Education for all Girls and Boys</b>
<b>56</b>	<b>The Salzburg Challenge for Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation</b>

# INTRODUCTION

Since 1947, Salzburg Global Seminar has challenged current and future leaders to shape a better world. Our multi-year programs aim to bridge divides, transform systems and expand collaboration to tackle the critical issues of our time.

Environmental degradation and climate change are a defining global challenge for the 21st century. Millions of people are already suffering the consequences of extreme weather events, acute air pollution, water insecurity and other threats. In combination with other factors, these are flashpoints for future instability, displacement and conflict. The planet is also urbanizing at a rate unprecedented in history, with around 75 percent of the global population expected to live in cities and urban settlements by 2050. This opens up dynamic opportunities but risks disconnecting new urban generations from nature and the outdoors – particularly the poorest in society who are already worst off in terms of housing, transport, health and recreational facilities.

At the same time, however, we see growing awareness and investments in nature-based “green” solutions to help tackle global challenges in a resource-efficient and adaptable way, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, desertification, and disease and conflict risks. Taken to scale, new forms of collaboration and innovation

have the potential to put human wellbeing and ecological balance at the heart of our societies and economies.

Salzburg Global Seminar’s decision to launch the ten-year *Parks for the Planet Forum* with IUCN–International Union for Conservation of Nature marks a major commitment to help shape a better future. We recognize that transformative leadership and action across sectors and scales will be needed to meet these challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by countries worldwide in 2015. The Forum seeks to connect influencers and outstanding talents who together can drive impact – at the level of individuals, institutions and ideas.

The Forum is just three years old, but has already forged new networks and partnerships and help to advance a new policy agenda at local to global levels. You can read about some of the outcomes from our session in this report, which we hope will spark new ideas for future collaborations.

We thank everyone who has helped make the Forum’s work possible and greatly appreciate our engagement with current and potential partners to co-create future activities and priorities. All suggestions and questions are welcome, and we wish you happy reading.

## Background on the Forum

To address the interconnected issues of urbanization, loss of natural environment and connections to nature, declining public health, and rising resource conflict risks, Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN launched the *Parks for the Planet Forum* in 2015. Developed with an expanding range of partners, this ten-year collaborative platform aims to position nature – including urban green spaces and protected and conserved areas – at the very heart of human health and wellbeing, security and prosperity.

Awareness of the importance of nature for human health and wellbeing has grown substantially in the past decade. Arguably, this started with the inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress in 2010. Bridging planning, community development, climate change, health, education, conservation and tourism sectors, the Congress explored the many ways that protected areas contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. A key outcome was to place the Healthy Parks Healthy People approach firmly on the radar for government, education and business sectors.

This pivot was furthered by *The Promise of Sydney*, adopted by over 6000 participants at the IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014, which set an agenda for change based on the affirmation that “nature is the ultimate foundation of life, our economy and our aspirations, and underpins our human existence, cultural identity, health and prosperity.”

A year later, the UN-led 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development laid out a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have now been endorsed by 193 countries. Achieving many of these global goals will be served by improving people’s relationship with and access to nature and by investing in nature-based solutions to shared challenges. Examples include SDGs 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 which respectively call on all countries and stakeholders to collaborate for health, water, energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate change, biodiversity on land and at sea, and peace-building.

To help deliver these global commitments, the *Parks for the Planet Forum* connects key sectors and stakeholders who too often work in separate spheres. It combines an annual meeting to inspire new thinking and action on emerging “nexus” topics with an evolving work program to share pioneering approaches at local and international levels. The Forum was founded with three overarching goals:

1. Catalyze intergenerational leadership for cost-effective, nature-based solutions to shared challenges, emphasizing the multiple benefits that conservation can provide;
2. Engage business and development stakeholders in investments to protect, connect and restore natural systems in rural and urban settings as an efficient long-term strategy for sustainability, innovation, and shared prosperity;

The Promise of Sydney:  
[www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/promise-sydney](http://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/promise-sydney)

3. Raise awareness of the value and importance of nature to urban populations, helping reconnect society to nature to fulfil human aspirations and wellbeing.

Since its founding in 2015, the *Parks for the Planet Forum* has held three high-level meetings (called “sessions”) at Schloss Leopoldskron, home of Salzburg Global Seminar. Priority themes have been flexibly co-created with partners, taking account of opportunities for impact in the external landscape (e.g. major global policy meetings). Sessions in 2015 and 2017 focused on the intersections between urbanization, health and wellbeing, while the 2016 session examined a different strand of the Forum, focusing on the role nature, specifically transboundary protected areas, can play in ensuring regional peace and security.

## Sessions of the Parks for the Planet Forum

### NATURE, HEALTH AND A NEW URBAN GENERATION

The inaugural session of the Forum took place in Salzburg, Austria, in 2015, marking the first anniversary of the IUCN World Parks Congress and the adoption of *The Promise of Sydney*.

The session set out to re-evaluate the role of nature in an increasingly urbanized world. Participants explored the need and potential to reconnect growing urban populations with nature to achieve co-benefits for health and wellbeing, while reducing vulnerability to climate-related and environmental challenges.

Participants co-wrote the *Salzburg Challenge for Nature, Health and an Urban Generation*, highlighting the importance of nature, the actions needed to improve the relationship between humans and the natural environment, and the resultant health benefits. The Challenge provides **10 recommendations** for action and called on specific groups to take action in order for these nature-based solutions to take hold in society and become rooted in legislation and culture.

The Salzburg Challenge:

[www.salzburgglobal.org/go/parkschallenge](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/parkschallenge)

The report from the inaugural session of the Forum:

[www.salzburgglobal.org/go/557/report](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/557/report)

### THE NEXT FRONTIER: TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEACE

In 2016, the second session of the Forum explored the potential to scale up the cross-sector benefits of transboundary conservation areas around the world, with a particular focus on vulnerable communities, fragile regions and contested natural resources. It asked what can be done not only to safeguard and support such areas but also to enhance and augment their value for peace and security.

The 37 participants identified the most promising approaches, pilot projects and practical tools in order to catalyze collaboration and deliver benefits for inclusive and sustainable development, regional economic growth, cohesion and peace-building. Together they wrote the *Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, which identified **15 catalytic actions** to “elevate the role and impact of transboundary conservation.”

The Salzburg Statement:

[www.salzburgglobal.org/go/statements/transboundarycooperation](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/statements/transboundarycooperation)

The report from the second session of the Forum:

[www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571/report](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571/report)

## THE CHILD IN THE CITY: HEALTH, PARKS AND PLAY

In 2017, the third session of the Forum took forward outcomes from the inaugural session, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*. It focused squarely on the needs of the very youngest in our societies, taking account of the broad agenda laid down by the Sustainable Development Goals.

The session built directly upon Salzburg Global's strategic 2014 session on *Early Childhood Development & Education*, which led to the adoption of the *Salzburg Statement on Quality Early Childhood Development and Education for All Girls and Boys*. This Statement called for public-private coordination on poverty reduction, maternal and child health, education, social protection, gender equality, workforce policies, water, sanitation, energy and housing (see PAGES 53–55).

Recognizing that countries and communities can only flourish long-term if their children are healthy, safe

and curious, the session explored the intersect of play, nature and outdoor experiences around the world. Making the links between poverty relief, food security, health, education, urban design and planning, education and culture, Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN convened an interdisciplinary group of early child development experts and educators, health workers, urban planners, and activists.

Participants adopted the *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, which calls for all children to have the “right to a safe and healthy city” where they can play, explore, and experience nature and the outdoors. The Statement sets a cross-sector agenda for healthier child-friendly design and development, highlighting the multiple benefits of urban parks, public green spaces and nature-based infrastructure for the development of human capital and genuinely sustainable communities.

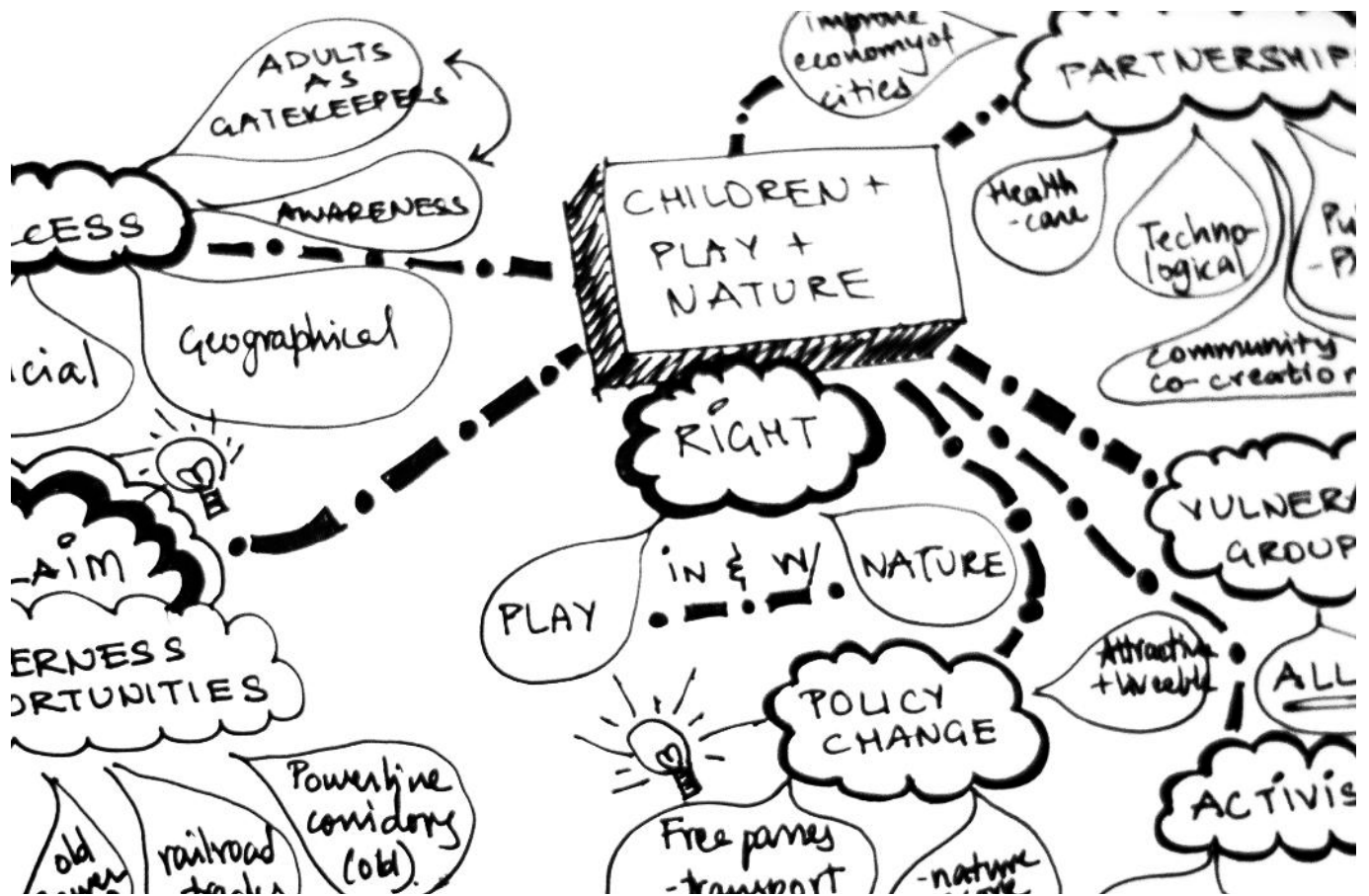
The Statement on the Child in the City can be read in full on PAGES 17–18.

Alongside these sessions, Salzburg Global has worked closely with partners and participants to propel this agenda forward and disseminate the Salzburg recommendations. A series of resolutions and motions on the importance of nature's connection to health and wellbeing have now been adopted at key international fora:

- IUCN World Conversation Congress (Hawai'i, USA, September 2016);
- UN Biodiversity Convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Cancun, Mexico, December 2016);
- 15th World Congress on Public Health held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2017 (see PAGE 28).

In parallel, new international campaigns are gathering momentum. The #NatureForAll campaign, led by IUCN, now has hundreds of partners spanning governments, multilateral agencies, public institutions and non-governmental organizations on six continents. As its website explains: **“At its core is a very simple idea: the more people experience, connect with, and share their love of nature, the more support there will be for its conservation.”**





Similarly, the UN's annual World Environment Day theme for 2017 was "Connecting people to nature." The UN has also adopted a "New Urban Agenda" and updated the UNICEF Strategic Plan, both of which incorporate elements of this agenda.

Salzburg Global Seminar is also embedding the work and recommendations of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* across its program portfolio. By way of example, our 2016 session, *Hooked on Health Care: Designing Strategies for Better Health* aimed to re-set the agenda for health by forging cross-sector collaborations to maintain and promote health and wellbeing rather than simply investing in health care. More details of future work are given in the final chapter of this report, *Looking Forward*.

This report presents the Salzburg Statement adopted by participants at the latest session of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* and the immediate practical impact tracked during the first six months following the session, *The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*.

## Overview of the 2017 Session

### The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play

The world is becoming increasingly, rapidly, urbanized, with nearly 70 percent of the world's population expected to live in urban centers by 2050. Over one billion children already live in cities, where new births are increasingly concentrated. While cities are exciting centers of innovation and learning, cultural stimulation and diversity, too many children are exposed to the downside - pollution and obesogenic conditions, poor housing, danger on the streets, and lack of access to nature and safe public places to play. These challenges impact most on vulnerable, marginalized and underserved populations, and have long-term costs for families, communities and sustainable societies.

However, the huge resources, talent and momentum associated with modern urbanization could unlock critical opportunities. Reimagining cities through the eyes of – and needs of – the young child makes sense not only for health, education and early childhood specialists but also for planners, developers, financial stakeholders and governments. Smart investments and nature-based solutions could put human-centered design at the heart of urban transformation around the world, with significant cross-sector, environmental and fiscal benefits.

Urban parks and public green spaces have practical and symbolic value for healthy and inclusive cities. Parks function as “agora” or open spaces with an equalizing function, where individuals from different backgrounds can have fun and build bonds across generations and cultures. Nature promotes physical, mental and spiritual health and wellbeing, not just through better air quality but by encouraging movement, discovery, and calm amidst urban chaos. Children can play freely, whatever their home situations, strengthening self-confidence and curiosity for success in later life. A growing body of evidence suggests that personal experience of nature in childhood is essential to generate a lifelong sense of connectivity and stewardship for the world's environment and resources. Urban parks and green spaces also play a critical role in promoting climate resilience – a role that will be increasingly important as cities continue to expand.

Healthy place-making is a powerful lever for healthy and creative communities. Child-friendly design, infrastructure and investments will not only help young children thrive in cities but also benefit families, carers and business. Access and safety are fundamental to this end. People need viable walking and public transportation options to reach nature, urban parks and other green spaces. Holistic strategies can revitalize cities, children, and health by prioritizing, designing, planning and investing in natural and cultural public spaces as the building blocks for cohesive communities.



In March 2017, 52 experts in urban planning, childhood development, conservation, environmental policy and health convened at Schloss Leopoldskron, home of Salzburg Global Seminar, to consider how green spaces could better meet the needs of, and be accessible for, children.

## Key Questions

- How can parks and protected areas better meet the needs of, and be accessible for, all children – including the most vulnerable, marginalized and underserved – enabling and encouraging them to play, create and find joy in nature?
- How might parks and protected areas be more effectively designed to create understanding and a sense of community among diverse populations, with different cultures, languages and experiences, to promote democracy, equality, and social resiliency?
- How can the benefits of public green spaces be maximized for the physical, mental and social health and wellbeing of children and, by extension, families and community?
- How should the need to extend the built environment as population growth increases be balanced against the need to preserve the natural environment, for all the benefits it extends including climate resilience?
- What are the implications for urban planning, design and management if the needs of children are placed at the center, especially related to accessing and enjoying nature, improving health and development?
- What changes are required in education (formal and informal) to ensure children can spend time in nature and build on the resulting benefits in the classroom and experiential education?
- How can the long-term economic benefits of improved child health and development through access to nature be more clearly calculated and communicated to inform strategic investments?
- How can the health and environment sectors work together to better and more widely integrate health and biodiversity linkages in relevant national and international policies?
- What allies and leaders are needed to help move an agenda to prioritize the “child in the city” and access to parks and play in city planning and policies?

## Program Agenda

### DAY 1

*Participant Arrivals*

#### 15:00 Welcome and Setting the Scene

**Clare Shine**, *Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Global Seminar*

#### 15:20 Program Goals and Priorities

**Kathy MacKinnon**, *Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas*

**David Anthony**, *Director of Policy and Analytics, UNICEF*

#### 17:00 Keynote: Children & Nature

**Richard Louv (via Skype)**, *Author, Journalist and Co-Founder, Children & Nature Network*

Followed by questions and discussion

18:30 *Tour of the Schloss*

19:30 *Dinner*

### DAY 2

#### 09:00 Review/Looking Ahead

#### 09:15 Human Implications of Our Urbanizing World

Exploring the implications of urbanization on the lives of children, with attention to alienation from nature. What risks are increasing, related to health, pollution, climate change, personal security, social discord, etc., and what opportunities arise to (re)engage and reinvent urban settings that meet the needs of young and vulnerable children? Plenary discussion will follow brief presentations.

**Beth Jacob**, *(Moderator)*

*Project Director, CityHealth*

**Matteo Giusti**, *Ph.D. Student, Sustainability Science, Stockholm Resilience Center*

**Juana Marino**, *Architect, Lecturer; Member, IPBES Expert Group*

**Amanda O'Rourke**, *Director of Strategic Planning, 8 80 Cities*

**Ken Worpole**, *Emeritus Professor, Cities Institute London Metropolitan University*

#### 11:00 Through the eyes of the Child: What would change?

Examining what we know about what children need not just to survive, but thrive. What would we do differently if we prioritized their needs? Following brief presentations we will have small table conversations to surface distinctions and similarities, as well as additional models, from diverse contexts and cultures, before moving into plenary discussion.

**David Anthony**, *(Moderator)*

*Director of Policy and Analytics, UNICEF*

**Charlee Alexander**, *Associate Program Officer, National Academy of Medicine*

**Daniella Ben-Attar**, *Israel Representative, Bernard van Leer Foundation*

**Yolanda Corona**, *Research Professor, Department of Education, Autonomous Metropolitan University-Campus Xochimilco*

**Haemoon Phyen**, *Designer, Miracle Playground*

12:30 *Lunch*

#### 14:00 Nature-based Solutions: What works in urban settings?

The session will begin with table discussions among participants considering and sharing their knowledge about nature-based solutions meeting the needs of children in urban settings, including

research and evidence related to various models and interventions. Following those discussions, panelists will share from their own work as well as what arose during table conversations.

**Karen Keenleyside**, *(Moderator) National Science Advisor, Parks Canada*

**Wonsuk Cho**, *Program Officer, Partnership Department, Korea National Park Service (KNPS)*

**Jonanathan Hughes**, *CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust*

**David Major**, *Executive Director, Visitor Engagement and Conservation, Parks Victoria*

**Robert Zarr**, *Pediatrician, Unity Health Care*

#### 16:00 Designing Differently: The Role of (Playful) Parks, Public Spaces and Protected Areas

Exploring innovative approaches to public spaces, protected areas and parks and ensuring access to same. Panelists will reflect on meeting the diverse needs of young and vulnerable children. Plenary discussion will follow brief presentations by panelists.

**Rob Prosper**, *(Moderator)*

*Vice President, Parks Canada*

**Dima Boulad**, *Designer and Co-Founder, Beirut Green Project*

**Leticia Lozano**, *Head of Playful City, Lab for the City*

**Xanele Puren**, *Director/Co-Founder, See Saw Do*

**Agus Utomo**, *World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Regional Vice Chair, Southeast Asia*

### **17:30 Open Space Knowledge Exchange/Model Sharing**

Opportunity to share information and find collaborators. Participants post questions or discussions they want to have with others. People self-organize into small groups around the topics they are most interested in. You are highly encouraged to take your conversations outside – wander the park or walk around the lake.

19:00 Dinner

## **DAY 3**

### **09:00 Review/Looking Ahead**

### **09:15 Educating Differently: (Re)Designing Approaches with Parks and Play**

The session will begin with table discussions among participants regarding ways that education systems need to be, and are, adapting to integrate “parks and play” through policy as well as practice. Following those discussions, panelists will share from their own work as well as what arose during table conversations.

**Dominic Regester, (Moderator)**

*Program Director, Salzburg Global Seminar*

**Tracey Burns, Senior Analyst, OECD**

**Sook in Cho, Associate Research Fellow Korea Institute of Child Care and Education**

**Martha Darling, Board Chair, National**

*Wildlife Federation Action Fund; Education policy consultant*

**Hellen Kimathi, Senior Assistant**

*Director, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development*

**Jaime Zaplatosch, Director,**

*Green Schoolyards for Healthy Communities for the Children & Nature Network*

### **11:15 Working Groups**

Participants break into small groups to look more specifically at the needs of vulnerable children/communities to tease out the benefits of parks/public/protected areas and strategize on how to make them accessible and available for diverse parts of the population. What would be required in terms of design, transportation, investments, etc., and what is “the case” for making those changes?

13:00 Lunch

### **14:30 Pooling Knowledge and Ideas**

Working groups report out briefly. Plenary discussion to begin identifying strategic priorities.

### **16:00 From Incremental Change to Transformation**

Panelists will explore what is required to achieve transformation – combining evidence, data, and the larger “story” to create alliances and build critical cross-sector support to implement deep change. Plenary discussion will follow brief presentations.

**Lynn Ross, (Moderator)**

*Founder and Principal, Spirit for Change Consulting, LLC*

**Penny Low, President & Founder,**

*Social Innovation Park Ltd*

**Rachel MacCleery, Senior Vice**

*President, Urban Land Institute*

**Daniel Raven-Ellison, Guerilla**

*Geographer, Greater London National Park City Initiative,*

**Sean Southey, Chief Executive Officer,**

*PCI Media Impact & Chair, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)*

### **17:30 Open Space Knowledge Exchange/Model Sharing**

19:00 Dinner

## **DAY 4**

### **09:00 Review/Looking Ahead**

### **09:15 Working Groups**

Participants break into small groups to strategize for transformation. Who are key decision-makers and key allies? How do we reach them? How do we communicate with them and find/create shared understanding and common cause? How do we promote active collaboration? Focus on policies, programs and investments for urban transformation that meets the needs of young/vulnerable children and produce multi-layered benefits for health, climate resilience, and community at scale.

12:00 Lunch

### **13:00 Working Group Reports**

Working groups report out briefly on strategies, which will be “mapped” to identify the most compelling and crucial actions.

Table work: participants work with people from other groups in reviewing what has emerged and identifying what will form the basis of a call to action and impact-oriented recommendations for a group statement.

### **15:00 Agree recommendations and strategies**

### **15:30 Taking the Work Forward**

Personal Commitments and Next Steps

### **16:00 Close**

Free time to explore the city!

18:30 Reception

19:00 Classical Concert

20:00 Farewell Banquet

## **DAY 5**

11:00 Participants check-out and Departures



# IMPACT

The impact of Salzburg Global Seminar can be said to be felt at three different levels: impact on the individuals who come to our sessions, impact on the institutions to which they return, and impact on ideas – how the global conversation is driven forward and shaped by discussions held in Salzburg.

The main tool generated at the third session of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* to drive impact on all three of these levels was the *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*. This Statement has now been shared across the world through various media – be those specialist blogs and social media pages or huge international congresses (see PAGE 16).

On the individual level, Fellows spoke of leaving Schloss Leopoldskron, home of Salzburg Global Seminar, the leading partner

of the *Parks for the Planet Forum*, feeling revitalized, inspired and determined to make positive change in their organizations and communities (see PAGE 23).

On the institutional level, participation in the Forum sparked collaborations and new projects (see PAGE 26).

And on the ideas level, Salzburg Global Seminar and its Fellows have been participating and driving forward global discussions around the importance of healthy nature for human health and wellbeing, leveraging the existing network, expanding it further and engaging with governments, public institutions, non-governmental organizations and international agencies in multiple fora (see PAGE 28).

## Tools for Impact

### *Making a Statement*

Galvanized by four intense days of panel-led discussions and in-depth working groups, participants at the end of the session, *Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, entrusted a small and representative group to draft a statement that would include principles and recommendations on how to move forward.

On the final day, Salzburg Global Vice President Clare Shine challenged participants to see how far they could take the work forward and to come up with something shareable on different platforms. During that discussion, participants considered how parks and protected areas could better meet the needs, and be accessible for, children. They also asked themselves how the benefits of these spaces can be maximized, and what difference it would make if children were part of the planning process in urban environments.

In response, participants broke off into smaller working groups for the final time. This action allowed participants to focus on areas such as potential frameworks, principles, and the overall vision. Following the dedicated working groups' presentations, the ad hoc drafting committee agreed to collaborate on a draft statement, liaising with the wider group of Fellows for further input and clarifications.

The Statement was published in June 2017.







SALZBURG  
GLOBAL  
SEMINAR



# The Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City *Health, Parks and Play*

## A CALL TO ACTION

The *Promise of Sydney* affirms that “nature is the ultimate foundation of life, our economy and our aspirations, and underpins our human existence, cultural identity, health and prosperity.” It positions protected and conserved areas – including urban green space – as critical investments for climate resilience and human wellbeing.

**In 2009, for the first time ever, the world’s population became more urban than rural. By 2050, around two-thirds of all people will live in cities and urban populations will grow by more than two billion people.**

Too often, cities value and invest in the built environment and pay little attention to our need for, and dependence on, nature. This has enormous health and environmental risks, particularly for young children.

Many cities are not child-friendly and do not prioritize children’s needs. There is an urgent need to create cities that sustain and enhance the lives of children, prioritizing their health and mental, physical and social-emotional development. All children should have the “right to a safe and healthy city”\* where they can safely play, explore, and experience nature and the outdoors. These are fundamentals for lifelong health and wellbeing.

In 2017, 52 experts in urban planning, childhood development, conservation, environmental policy, and health gathered for the Parks for the Planet Forum’s meeting on *The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, to assess the evidence and accelerate action for nature and health to benefit children in a rapidly urbanizing world.

**All children should be able to benefit from nature – wherever they live, learn and play.** Inspired by *The Promise of Sydney*, the participants at the Parks for the Planet Forum convened by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN propose a new agenda to prioritize children’s needs for their optimal health and development.

People across the world share a responsibility to create livable cities that enhance children’s wellbeing and integrate nature. We have great opportunities to set a new course within continuing urbanization trends to create a healthy future for all children and our planet – provided that we act quickly together. Comprehensive actions can expand the role nature plays in children’s health, learning and development, and lay foundations for resilient communities in nature-rich cities. Outdoor play is a social activity where children learn how to get along with other children and in doing so they learn about citizenship.

**We therefore call on leaders and stakeholders to ensure that all children enjoy the right to safe, free play in a nature-rich space within a ten-minute walk of where they live.**

**To achieve this, we need policies, practices and investments which recognize that:**

- Cities depend on surrounding landscapes and protected areas to provide critical ecosystem services for inhabitants, like clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.
- Nature experiences provide benefits for physical and mental health and wellbeing at all ages.
- Nature experiences promote children’s short and long-term cognitive and physical development.
- Nature experiences teach children to respect, care for, and become stewards of the natural world.
- Personalizing nature through culture, stories, and art can build and support identity, pride of place, family and community wellbeing, and social cohesion.
- Parks, playgrounds and public green spaces play a crucial role in healthy and inclusive cities, providing ready access to nature and also serving as urban gateways to wider nature experiences and neighboring protected areas.
- Nature-based solutions are cost-effective, high return investments that provide direct benefits for public health and education, improve living conditions, and build resilience to climate and environmental change.

*A full list of recommendations is included overleaf.*

The **Parks for the Planet Forum** is a collaborative platform for transformative leadership and action, launched by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN in 2015. The Forum combines an annual high level meeting for catalytic leadership, investment and innovation with an evolving multi-year work program to share pioneering approaches at local and international level. It aims to position nature at the very heart of human health and wellbeing, security and prosperity across the planet. The 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress explicitly endorsed the *Salzburg Challenge on Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*, which was adopted by participants at the Forum's first meeting in November 2015.

The Salzburg Statement will be accompanied by a full session report. For more information, see: [www.salzburgglobal.org/go/574](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/574)

**Salzburg Global Seminar** is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1947, with the mission to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern: [www.SalzburgGlobal.org](http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org)

**IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature**, founded in 1948, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

*The views expressed in this statement reflect consensus among participants and should not be taken to represent those of all participants or of any organization with which they are affiliated.*

*\* Consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals.*

## **Eight actions can transform cities for children:**


1. Ensure children of all ages, backgrounds, income, and abilities have equitable access to nature and play regularly and in meaningful ways to promote good health and wellbeing.
2. Embed nature in everyday places used by children, such as schools, backyards, parks, playgrounds and city streets, to make the city into a natural outdoor classroom.
3. Involve children in designing and planning natural spaces for recreation, education, inspiration and health, to give them ownership and pride in their local communities, schools and parks.
4. Build curiosity, wonder, and care for nature in children (for example, by greening school grounds and involving children with community gardens).
5. Protect natural features across cityscapes and create an equitably distributed network of accessible green and nature-rich spaces that all generations can reach on foot.
6. Connect cities with the broader ecosystems in which they are embedded, creating corridors for people, plants and animals to move safely across the city and into its surroundings.
7. Establish more urban conservation areas to increase access to nature and connect cities to the broader protected area network.
8. Work together through cross sectoral and multi-level partnerships to build an inclusive culture of health in cities.


## Tracking the Statement

Since being published in June, the *Salzburg Statement on The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play* has been widely shared by the Fellows involved in its drafting – and it has garnered attention from other organizations, too. From website mentions in the US and the UK, blogs in Sweden and Ireland, conference presentations in Australia and Hungary, to saving a local park in Peru – the *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, is making an impact around the world.

While originally issued in English, Fellows volunteered to translate the Statement into a further five different languages – Arabic, Japanese, Korean, Italian and Spanish – to further its global reach, which now spans over 22 countries on six continents (see MAP).

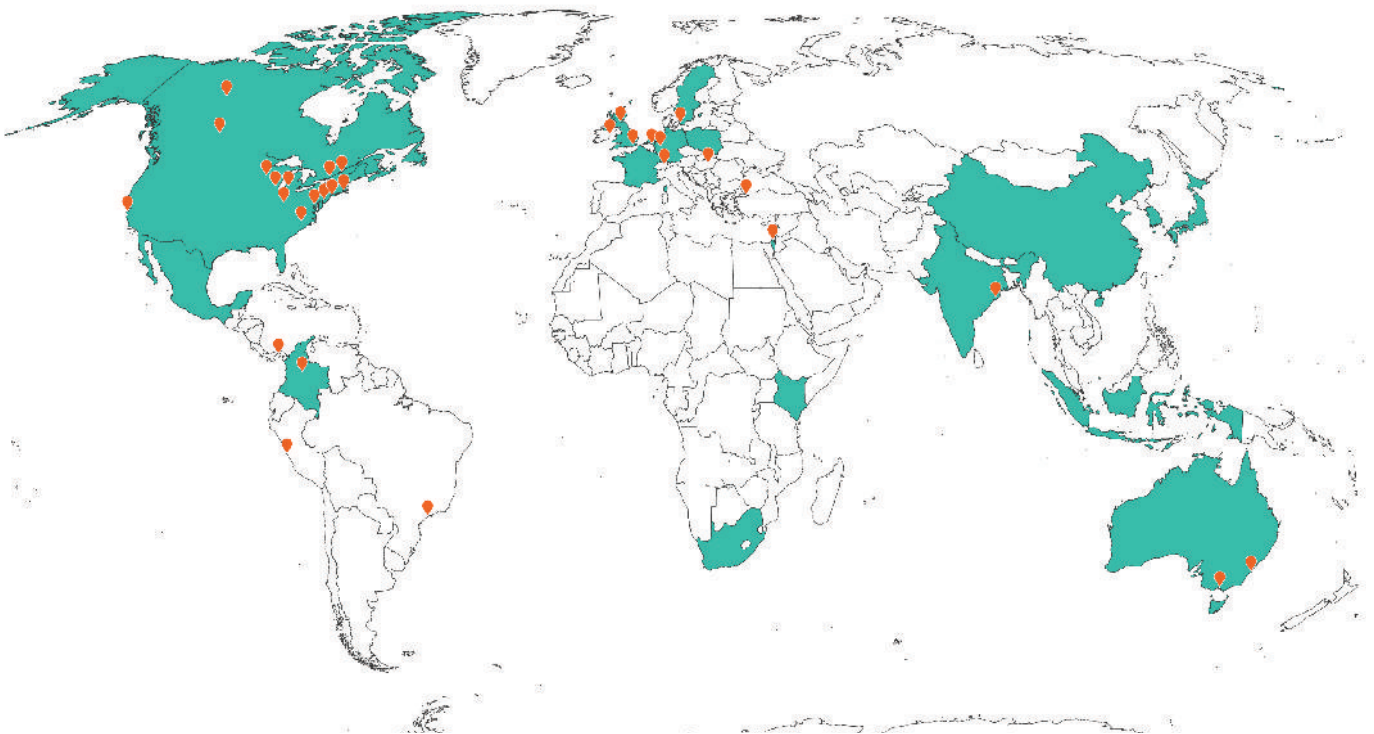
### Map Legend

 Session Fellows' countries of origin / operation

 Places where the Statement has been published / presented / directly shared

Do you have another pin for our map? Email Dominic Regester, Program Director:

[dregester@salzburgglobal.org](mailto:dregester@salzburgglobal.org)



### Fellows' vow

Kids in Parks Director Jason Urroz wrote about his experience at Salzburg Global Seminar prior to the release of the Statement, saying “Participants left re-energized, and vowed to continue to work together, form partnerships, and enhance each other’s work.” Fulfilling that vow, many Fellows have since used the Statement to inform their work and promote the Statement further on their own organizations’ websites.



Children and Nature Network, based in Minneapolis, USA, shared the Statement on their website, highlighting its goal to advance the implementation of *The Promise of Sydney* and the Sustainable Development Goals. Jaime Zaplatosch, director of “Green Schoolyards for Healthy Communities” at the Children and Nature Network took part in the Forum.

Another Minneapolis-based Fellow, Tom Evers of Minneapolis Park Foundation, wrote about the “rare opportunity” of attending the Forum, affirming that “the advanced cities of the 21st century are places where children thrive.”

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) in Washington DC, published the Statement following participation of their senior vice president of content, Rachel MacCleery, in the Forum.

The Statement has also been shared by institutions such as World Urban Parks in Edmonton, Canada, which has supported the *Parks for Planet Forum* since 2015. Amanda O’Rourke, Director of Strategic Planning at 8-80 Cities and co-chair of the Children and Nature Committee for World Urban Parks participated in the third session.

Outside of large institutions, many Fellows have taken it upon themselves to share the Statement with their own personal networks, many of whom who have then gone on to share the Statement further still. For example, thanks to the personal network of independent Parks Canada contractor and three-time Forum attendee Chúk Odenigbo, the Statement has reached a broad age range of Canadians across the vast country, from school children in the Northwestern Territories to university students in Quebec.

Most internationally, #NatureForAll, the IUCN-led international campaign, published the Statement launch on their website and social media channels. The movement has been gaining global momentum, inspiring nature conservation projects and people's love for wildlife since its launch in 2016.

### **Further afield**

The Statement has also been shared in social media posts and blogs as far afield as Australia and Ireland, and most notably it was used by a Facebook action group in Lima, Peru, to support their stand against the redevelopment of a local park. En Defensa Del Parque Elías Aguirre En Lince fought plans that would see a parking lot being built underneath their park. The park was saved, temporarily, but the group is now amidst a new fight as the contractor appealed the decision. "We firmly believe that children must have healthy spaces for their development, which is why we protect our park. The Salzburg Statement echoed this idea, so we fully agree with it," explained a representative of the Peruvian group.

The statement was also noted at Movium, an urban development think tank based in the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Alnarp, Sweden. In his blog post, Petter Åkerblom, a senior lecturer at the Department of Urban and Rural Development at SLU said (translated): "We know, basically, how important it is to give children and young people opportunities for adventurous play and to find their boundaries (...) An equally interesting statement is the *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City Health, Parks and Play* which, among other things, establishes children's right to contact with nature and meaningful play to promote health and wellbeing."

### **Conference engagements**

Beyond the digital realm, the Statement has been and continues to be presented at international conferences. Salzburg Global Vice President Clare Shine presented the Statement as part of her panel at the 15th World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne, Australia, in April 2017 (see PAGE 28 for more details). She will also share and promote the Statement at other public engagements such as the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017.

The European Network of Child Friendly Cities – which promoted the Statement through their "Child in the City" newsletter and website – invited Salzburg Global Program Director Dominic Regester to speak at their Child in the City International Seminar. Regester will hold a plenary discussion at the event to be

held in London in November 2017. The seminar will bring together experts and policymakers to discuss the theme of children's play in the urban environment, arguing that in the modern environment it is growing harder for children and young people to find suitable places to make and meet friends. The seminar will delve into the impact on children of austerity measures leading to the closure of playgrounds and the dominance of traffic and commerce in the shared urban space. Regester's plenary talks will focus on the value of greening cities to support children's play.

Again, as a result of the interest generated by the Salzburg Statement, Regester has also been invited to speak on the health benefits of nature for children at the European Urban Green Infrastructure Conference (EUGIC) in Budapest, Hungary. Following the success of EUGIC 2015 in Vienna, the conference will see a range of talks, workshops and group session on urban green infrastructures, debating the issues of climate change, urban planning and the future of green cities.

### **Earlier Statements**

The *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play* is the third such statement of the *Parks for the Planet Forum*. The earlier Statements also garnered international attention, for example in foreign-language publications and at large global meetings.

The first statement of the Forum – the *Salzburg Challenge for Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation* – was published in 2015 and laid the groundwork for the Forum's work on the nexus of population and environmental health. Salzburg Global Fellow, Maria Schewenius, project manager within urban research and research communication at Stockholm Resilience Centre, promoted the Statement in the Spanish-language publication, *ECOfronteras*. You can read the Salzburg Challenge in full on PAGES 56–57.

The second statement – the *Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace* – was presented by Trevor Sandwith, Salzburg Global Fellow and director of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.



## Impact on Individuals

Participants of Salzburg Global Seminar’s sessions often describe their experiences at Schloss Leopoldskron as “exceptional,” “enriching” and “inspiring and thought-provoking” and this session, *The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, was no different – in fact those are all words that participants used in their personal evaluations of the session.

How these Fellows (as participants are known after taking part in a Salzburg Global Seminar session) then go on to make use of their experiences varies from person to person, with some acting immediately and others taking time to further formulate ideas for later implementation. Some of those individuals who have sprung into action since March include two-time Salzburg Global Fellow Juana Mariño. Mariño first participated in the *Parks for the Planet Forum* in 2015 and has since made it a personal mission to promote the Forum. As an architect and head of private consultancy firm GUT in Colombia, Mariño has adapted the session’s teachings to be core parts of her lectures to architecture students in Colombia and Panama. She has travelled across Latin America showcasing projects based on the discussions of the first and third sessions of the *Parks for the Planet Forum*. This included presenting to the Planning Departments of Bogotá and Panama City, as well as giving a speech at the International Environmental Meeting at Bogotá’s Externado University.

As well as spreading learnings from the session, after the first session, Mariño was inspired to set up her own project: Outdoor Grannies, which encourages all generations to go outside and enjoy nature together. Mariño says: “My



participation in two of the sessions of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* have been life changing; they gave a new focus and sense to my professional and personal life. Because of the work I have done with Salzburg Global, many people in Colombia now know me as ‘The Outdoor Granny,’ which is why everything I do now carries the organization’s seal.”

The session also had an impact on an academic level, with Sruthi Atmakur of Children Environments Research Group conducting her Ph.D. research on young children’s play in urban high-rise settings as a result of the discussions in Salzburg. Based on the early findings of her dissertation, she argues: “There is evidence that play spaces for children are designed by adults that have only fabricated play in high-rise housing environments. This has resulted in a surplus of manufactured play equipment in play areas that remove child-driven ‘risk-taking’ during play and the inability to manipulate materials during play.”

Inspired by the session, Atmakur has also founded a voluntary program called “Play-Wheel,” which aims to focus on free and self-directed play close to schools and home environments.

Yolanda Corona, professor at Mexico’s Autonomous Metropolitan University, has also been influenced by the session, saying it helped her “organize a consultation about the obstacles children have to access and play in natural places.” She also adds that attending the Forum helped her broaden her research on the relationship between communities and nature, especially that of small rural and indigenous populations.

For Tom Evers, executive director of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the session was eye-opening, as he says, “I learned we are incredibly fortunate in Minneapolis in comparison to other parts of the world. We have a system that



was developed from the beginning so we could all share the natural assets of our region. However, children in less-affluent countries or under-developed regions of the world are not so lucky; their access to green space and parks is cut off by major highways and environmental and social barriers.”

Other attendees say they benefitted from the session by expanding the scope of their thought-processes and perspectives on projects. Jennifer Mahar, senior director of civic initiatives for the Fairmount Park Conservancy, says, “The experience from Salzburg Global Seminar and the mission of the statement has really pushed me to think about embedding nature and play into our projects and programs in new and different ways.” Describing what she plans to do following the session, Mahar explained: “My goal is to bring the learning from Reimagining the Civic Commons and the spirit of Salzburg Global Seminar to work, and to the next thing, and to everything after—connecting, learning, and unifying our approach to urban challenges in service to the child of the future city.”

The work done at the session has also been influential in the creation of community-oriented projects, such as an experimental design for nature playgrounds being tested in underserved areas in Philadelphia. Meg Wise, the executive director of Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse in Philadelphia, and Studio Ludo’s Meghan Talarowski argue: “The statement helped us set the project’s goal of testing this typology, perhaps then moving the playground around to different recreation centers and parks in the city to expose residents to this type of play, and, hopefully, create advocates.”

While most of the projects influenced by the session are currently in development or planning stages, it is clear that, in the long term, the discussions held in Salzburg will have had a positive impact on improving the lives of children worldwide by making cities more beneficial for their health and development through play and public parks.





## Impact on Institutions

Organizations and institutions such as IUCN and World Urban Parks have been major driving forces behind the *Parks for the Planet Forum* since its inception in 2015, providing sponsorship and support. At the third session of the Forum, *The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play*, participation of representatives of institutions from over 16 countries was crucial for the discussions and the session's success in producing the Salzburg Statement. Since the end of the session, many participating institutions have adopted several of the Statement's eight actions and further recommendations discussed in Salzburg.

For Jonathan Hughes, CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, "The lessons from Session 574 and the Salzburg Statement are powerful and practical calls to action from experts across six continents. The Scottish Wildlife Trust is already using them to make the case for better policy decisions in Scotland. In the coming year we will also be promoting the eight actions to transform cities for children through our social media activity."

Through the influence of the Trust, and the lessons from the Salzburg session, other projects in Scotland have flourished. This includes Cumbernauld Living Landscape in central Scotland, a young people's initiative, which has produced a visual story map about how young people in Cumbernauld are connecting with nature and their community. Hughes says the importance of this initiative lies

in the organization's belief that "Every child should have meaningful first-hand experience of the natural environment as part of their daily lives, as it benefits physical and mental health, and allows them to make vital early connections with wildlife."

Further city living landscaping programs have also been influenced, with urban restoration projects such as Edinburgh Living Landscape in the Scottish capital helping to reinforce and reconnect their city's green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Participating in the Forum benefitted Daniella Ben-Atar, as well. Working for the Bernard van Leer Foundation's Urban95 initiative, she said: "The experience in Salzburg and the Statement definitely helped us emphasize the 'green' part of our public space approach to Urban95 in cities around the world."

The Urban95 is a strategy which promotes the inclusion of children's perspectives in the planning and management of cities, with the goal of supporting safer and healthier neighborhoods in which children can grow up. Alongside Salzburg Global Seminar, the Foundation will also have representatives at the Child in the City international seminar in London at the beginning of November 2017.

The March 2017 session also fostered co-operation between organizations, with the National League of Cities and Children & Nature Network co-releasing four new resources influenced by the conversations held at the *Parks for the Planet Forum*. Amongst these are a Resource Hub containing project planning and sustainability tools for initiatives and startup projects. According to Andrew O. Moore, National League of Cities' Director of Youth & Young Adult Connections, who participated in the session: "The hub aims to provide cities, schools, organizations, and individuals with help to answer the same questions we grappled with in Salzburg such as 'how to get started' and 'how to keep going once started.'" Other projects include a metrics toolkit and a short video "that captures the early excitement building in seven US cities, reflecting the question we grappled with about 'how to build public will and interest.'"

For other organizations, the session served as a tool to share their experience in the topic with their peers, as it "helped brainstorm ways in which societies around the world can re-engage children, and all people, with the natural world through the built environment," according to Kids in the Park's Jason Urroz. He adds that this was done by "discussing the accomplishments we have made with our partners to get kids and families living in cities, and in rural regions, reconnected with nature for both their health and that of our parks and public lands."

Salzburg Global looks forward to seeing how these and other projects grow in the future, and we hope that they have substantial positive impacts in their local communities and society.

## Impact on Ideas

Evidence demonstrates that nature provides many benefits to human health and wellbeing. The case for innovative nature-based health care strategies is compelling, given the escalating costs and impacts worldwide of non-communicable diseases alongside the steady decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services in an urbanizing world. We need to make persuasive arguments and communicate more assertively to build long-term partnerships that unlock the values of parks and protected areas for health and wellbeing while conserving biodiversity. Salzburg Global, through its own programs and staff members' participation in other international fora, seeks to be at the forefront of these discussions.

The third session of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* set out from its inception to drive a new change agenda to promote access to nature, health and development for vulnerable children and communities in growing urban centers and cities, and to agree on strategic recommendations that could be shared at leading international forums, the first of which would be the 15th World Congress on Public Health, held in Melbourne, Australia a mere matter of weeks after the Salzburg session, in April 2017.

The Melbourne Congress provided a great range of opportunities for policymakers, practitioners and academics from both Australia and around the world to build these partnerships and discuss the health benefits of nature, including in urban contexts.

Salzburg Global joined forces with Parks Victoria, the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure high visibility for the Healthy Parks Healthy People movement at the Congress under the message of "Nature is Good Medicine." A World Leadership Dialogue and a dedicated Workshop brought together top leaders from both the environment and public health sectors to discuss and identify opportunities for improved cross-sector collaboration and investment to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life through access to and time in nature.

Salzburg Global was represented at the Congress by Vice President and Chief Program Officer Clare Shine, who facilitated the World Leadership Dialogue on the topic "Nature is Good Medicine: cross sector strategies to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life." The Dialogue featured a distinguished line-up of local and international experts who explored how nature and green space can benefit both community and human health and how change-makers can work together across sectors to leverage new policies, programs and funding. Keynote addresses from IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng and Maria Neira, Director for Public Health and Environment at the World Health Organisation (WHO)



marked the first time the IUCN and WHO had addressed a public health audience on the health benefits of nature.

In his keynote address, President Zhang noted that conservationists and scientists need to better connect with people and communicate the essential services of nature for humankind. He highlighted that while the primary goal of the IUCN is nature conservation, there is a rapidly increasing understanding that human wellbeing is dependent on healthy ecosystems. With increasing urbanization, the IUCN now has a growing priority to re-connect urban populations with nature.

In her powerful address, Maria Neira noted that WHO research shows that 12.6 million deaths globally each year are attributable to environmental risk factors such as air and water pollution. She emphasised that a strong evidence base already existed and that we needed to build more ministerial alliances in environment and health and create more opportunities for action.

A landmark development at the Congress was the release of a joint memorandum on health and nature by Victoria's Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, and Minister for Health, The Hon. Jill Hennessy. Minister D'Ambrosio who addressed delegates at a plenary session also released the state's Biodiversity Plan – Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, which highlights the interdependency of healthy natural assets and the connection of the community to nature.

Salzburg Global will now continue to help drive this agenda forward through its future programming of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* and through staff participation in events such as the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany; the Child in the City International Seminar in London, UK; and the European Urban Green Infrastructure Conference in Budapest, Hungary.

Handwritten notes on a pink sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

KIDS ARE NOT ON THEIR OWN  
→ TIME & SPACES FOR CHILDREN & COMPANIONS!

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

No private car ownership

ALL SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE PLAYGROUND WITH...

② THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN "ADVENTURE" & "RISK"; BETWEEN WATCH & CONTROL.

③ "COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC SPACE"  
→ RELATION BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACE.

④ THE "MUST"  
- Playgrounds w/ slides  
- GREEN SPACE  
→ 1st level?

Main BARRIER:  
"FEAR FACTOR"  
[Real? Perception?]

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

TRANSPORTATION AS BARRIER  
SCHOOL BUDGETS NOT ALSO

CONVENIENT ACCESS PARKS & OUTDOOR

MAKE PLAY GREAT AGAIN

SUPPORT PARENTS & SCHOOLS

THINK OF INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND...

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.

# LOOKING FORWARD

In all our work, we seek to bridge divides, transform systems and expand collaborations. We are also committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through our program portfolio and our network's activities around the world. This is reflected in the work and design of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* and indeed many of our other interlinking programs.

As we take stock of the first three years of the Forum, Salzburg Global Seminar's Vice

President and Chief Program Officer Clare Shine offers insights for the upcoming session in 2018 and the future of the Forum in the years to come.

She also examines how the Forum will be further strengthened by Salzburg Global's work across its programs, and how the Forum has in turn strengthen other programs in several different areas, including health and health care, culture and the arts, and governance for sustainability.



## 2018 and Beyond for the Forum

As Salzburg Global Seminar marks its 70th anniversary, we are committed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through our program portfolio and our network activities around the world. This forward-looking agenda is closely reflected in the work and design of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* and in related programs.

Looking forward, we aim to strengthen the Forum's focus on children, nature and play, drawing on Salzburg Global's track record in education, health and early childhood development. A growing body of global research shows that access to nature and green space provides children with many developmental, emotional, and physical benefits. These include increased focus and concentration, improved cognitive abilities and academic performance, reduced stress and aggression, and reduced risk of obesity and other non-communicable diseases. Outdoor play is an incredibly economical and effective way to help children thrive, build bonds with nature, and build healthier and more cohesive communities.

Despite this, children on all continents face shrinking opportunities for safe outdoor play. By 2050, over 70 percent of the world's population is expected to live



in urban areas, yet the vast majority of cities lack policies that actively promote ways for children to get out and connect with nature. Many other factors also impact opportunities for real play, in and beyond urban settings and inside as well as outdoors. These include family and community constraints, educational and curricular policies, economic pressures, and technological transformations. Current trends carry long-term consequences for billions of children and for families, societies, and economies. They impact on human and social capital, and undermine the conservation ethos that comes from access to and experience of nature.

Dynamic strategies for children's access to nature and play could therefore have far-reaching benefits for healthier and more innovative societies that understand and support the importance of nature and nature-based solutions in global development.

With this objective, the Forum will explore ways to better assess the influence that technology, city planning, climate change, education, the media and parental perceptions of safety have in determining how much time children spend outdoors and what the consequences and costs of this might be for the future. Its aim would be to support policy transformation in favor of children's play and access to nature worldwide by leveraging existing research to reshape mainstream practices, reach key audiences and influencers, and build durable public backing for new approaches.





## Supporting Salzburg Global Programs

### *Informing and Informed by the Forum*

Salzburg Global Seminar's programming rarely happens in silos – sessions from across various multi-year series and Forums feed off and feed into each other, sharing outcomes, informing discussions and driving mutually advantageous agendas forward. This is most certainly the case for the *Parks for the Planet Forum*, which has linkages to our work in other areas such as culture and the arts, governance for sustainability, and health and health care.

Salzburg Global Seminar will be represented at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the organizers of the Bonn conference have already been engaged with Salzburg Global in 2017 through the Salzburg Global session, *The Art of Resilience: Creativity, Courage, and Renewal* in February. Since that session, the UNFCCC has been shining a weekly spotlight on role of arts and culture in climate action, building on collaborations started in Salzburg.

In November, Salzburg Global will hold the inaugural session of the new three-year series *The Asia We Want: Building Community Through Regional Cooperation*, which will focus this year on the topic, *A Clean and Green Asia*. Learnings from the first three years of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* will inform these regionally-focussed discussions.

In parallel to the development of the fourth session of the Parks for the Planet Forum, 2018 will see three major programs relevant to priority Forum themes. Each will provide opportunities to consider the recommendations of the *Salzburg Statement on the Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play* and generate new ideas to expand the Forum's work and alliances.

As part of our partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Salzburg Global is launching a new multi-year series on transforming health systems for healthy societies.

In April 2018, the focus will be on *Inclusive Place-making for Healthy Communities*. This will analyze factors that reduce the chances of living healthy lives throughout the life course (including land use, food systems, the primacy of cars, intergenerational inequity and marginalization of certain communities). Participants will assess available evidence and explore new approaches to engagement with citizens and communities to re-fashion their environments to support health from the ground up.

In November 2018, the topic will be *Healthy Children, Healthy Weight*. Poor health, particularly from pre-natal stages through early childhood, can widen racial, social and economic gaps and exacerbate the underlying conditions and causes of poverty and inequality. For these reasons, children's health and wellbeing is inextricably linked to the health and wellbeing of their families and is a critical element of building a culture of health. The program will not only look at better integrated health and social services, but also examine ways in which schools can be a powerful point of intervention to achieve improvements in child health and wellbeing and build outreach to and trust with families.

In December 2018, our multi-year series on *Education for Tomorrow's World* will hold a synthesis session on evidence and best practices related to social and emotional learning and testing of such skills. The discussion will draw on regional meetings across the world and include a focus on the importance of creativity, curiosity and play in fulfilling human potential and developing human and social capital.



Children geographies: The child and the city

Aim(s):

- Children participate, Children as citizens
- Importance of learning in the city
- Going from the way to go

Sustainability

Justice

# APPENDIX

---

## Session Co-Chairs

*(Positions, organizations and bios correct at time of session – March 2017)*

---



**Kathy MacKinnon** *UK*

Kathy MacKinnon is currently the chair of the IUCN/World Commission on Protected Areas which is promoting protected areas for both biodiversity conservation and the benefits that they can provide to human wellbeing and livelihoods. She helped to organize the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014 where a key objective was to demonstrate the relevance of parks to human welfare and development sectors including the health sector. As follow up to *The Promise of Sydney*, she is keen to explore the nexus between nature conservation, human health, and engaging and inspiring a new generation of conservation supporters including urban communities and youth. Ms. MacKinnon has spent most of her life working on conservation projects around the world. She served as lead biodiversity specialist at the World Bank for 16 years where she focused on mainstreaming conservation into development programs, including promoting protected areas as natural solutions to help people cope with climate change and other global challenges. She trained as a zoologist at Oxford University. She is a Fellow of several Salzburg Global programs, who most recently attended Session 571, *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, in 2016.

---



**David Anthony** *USA*

David Anthony is chief of sustainability and policy action, at UNICEF HQ, leading a team that examines the impact of climate and environment, urbanization, migration and demographics on children. In addition, he also leads the organization's work on policy advocacy. An economist by training, prior to joining UNICEF, Mr. Anthony worked for a decade for the Economist Group, leading a team of analysts on global political and economic risks and country analysis. He has also worked for the European Union as a political scientist early in his career, and has been a lecturer, journalist and editor. Mr. Anthony earned an M.Sc. from the University of London in the UK.

---

## Session Participants

*(Positions, organizations and bios correct at time of session – March 2017)*

---



**Charlee Alexander** *USA*

Charlee Alexander is an associate program officer at the National Academy of Medicine in the US. She is co-director of the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally (iYCG Forum) at the National Academies. The iYCG Forum is comprised of 45 global members from multiple disciplines and sectors who have traveled to 9 countries to highlight the importance of connecting an integrative science to investments in the world's children, and raise issues to the top of policy agendas, both globally and nationally. In addition to this work, Ms. Alexander is leading an effort to promote evidence-based, multidisciplinary solutions to improve the wellbeing of clinicians, and to reduce health disparities in the US. Ms. Alexander graduated from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in political science and is completing coursework for a Master's degree in public health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

---

**Ryuta Aoki***Japan*

Ryuta Aoki is the founder and CEO of VOLOCITEE Inc., a design firm that supports communities in creating innovative products, services and systems. When Mr. Aoki was 20 years old, he launched a startup with his friends, and pursued a career as a programmer for 14 years. In 2009, he applied to TEDxTokyo as a volunteer and has been involved ever since, working on over 30 TEDx events, including events overseas. Mr. Aoki founded the first TEDxKids (TEDxKids@Tokyo) event in Japan in October 2011, and a new TEDx community organizing TEDxKids (TEDxKids@Chiyoda) in 2012. Furthermore, Mr. Aoki founded a laboratory called “3331 alpha”, exploring new forms of art for communities with 3331 ARTS CYD in 2014.



---

**Ashley Atkinson***USA*

Ashley Atkinson is the co-director at Keep Growing Detroit and she has worked in the field of community gardening, urban greening, and vacant land reuse for 20 years. Her career began in her hometown, Flint, Michigan, where she co-founded the Flint Urban Gardening and Land Use Corporation and developed the Clean and Green program for the Genesee County Land Bank. In 2001, she moved to the city of Detroit to work with Detroit Summer, a program of the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership, and with the Detroit Agriculture Network to develop urban agriculture opportunities for Detroiters of all ages. In 2003, she helped design and launch Detroit’s Garden Resource Program. Ms. Atkinson is a graduate of both Michigan State University and The University of Michigan, where she studied international development, community organization, and environmental/land use planning.



---

**Sruthi Atmakur***USA and India*

Sruthi Atmakur is currently a research associate at the Children’s Environments Research Group (CERG) and a doctoral candidate in environmental psychology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her dissertation research focuses on evaluating play opportunities available for young children from middle-class families living in urban high-rise buildings in fast-growing cities of urban India. Under the guidance of Dr. Pamela Wridt and Dr. Roger Hart, Ms. Atmakur has co-developed, tested, and directed projects related to participatory intergenerational community development tools - Child Friendly Places and Young Citizens’ Score Cards - in New York City, Haiti, Kampala, Mumbai, New Delhi, Benin, and Cairo. She holds a Bachelor’s of architecture from J.N.T.U. India and a Master’s of landscape architecture from Virginia Polytechnic & State University.



---

**Daniella Ben-Attar***Israel*

Daniella Ben-Attar is the Israel country representative for the Bernard van Leer Foundation. She has over 20 years of experience developing and managing international development programs. Her areas of expertise include youth participation, urban governance, municipal capacity building, city-to-city cooperation, peacebuilding and ICT for development. As part of her current role, she is applying her global experience working at the intersection between children and youth and urban development to implement the foundation’s Urban95 strategy in Israel and contribute to its strategic development globally. Prior to joining the foundation, she worked as an independent consultant for the World Bank, UN-HABITAT, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), corporations and NGOs worldwide. Throughout her career, she has focused on the critical role that young people can play in developing their communities. Ms. Ben-Attar holds a B.A. in government and international



relations from Clark University, USA and an M.A. in political science and international relations from Tel-Aviv University.



**Katherine Boe** *China*

Katherine Boe is a program manager at the Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy (JUCCCE). As a nutrition professional who has lived and worked in Shanghai for the past three years, she has developed a unique food and nutrition education program that will change the way China eats to benefit personal and planetary health. Ms. Boe's expertise in nutrition, health, and the modern Chinese consumer combine to form a unique position to understand changing Chinese consumption patterns and behavior habits that will impact global supply chains and the environment. The program utilizes top gamification techniques and multimedia approaches to entice and engage Chinese children in fun, easy, and healthy ways to build lifelong habits that are better for them and for the environment.



**Dima Boulad** *Lebanon*

Dima Boulad is currently living in Beirut where she is a practicing multidisciplinary designer. She has a passion for art, multimedia and positive social change. She co-founded Beirut Green Project, a grassroots movement that was born from the need to raise awareness on the importance of having public green spaces in Beirut. The collective participated in campaigns to push for the opening of one of the biggest parks in Beirut and designed a visual map of all the gardens in the city through the Beirut Green Guide. She studied graphic design at the American University of Beirut and earned her Master's degree in multimedia from IESA in Paris.



**Tracey Burns** *France*

Tracey Burns is a senior analyst and the head of a portfolio of projects in the OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation: Innovative Teaching for Effective Learning, 21st Century Children, and Trends Shaping Education. Until recently, she was also responsible for their work on governing complex education systems. Previous to her time at the OECD, she worked on social determinants of health and wellbeing. As a post-doctoral Fellow at The University of British Columbia, Ms. Burns led a research team investigating newborn infants' responses to language, and was an award-winning lecturer on infant and child development. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including The University of British Columbia Post-Doctoral Fellowship and the American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award. Ms. Burns holds a B.A. from McGill University, Canada, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in psychology from Northeastern University, USA.



**Katherine Chesson** *USA*

Katherine Chesson is the director of grants and programs at the National Park Foundation in Washington, DC. Previously, she served as a mayor's fellow for the Parks and Recreation department of Seattle, Washington and a program coordinator for the YMCA of Greater Seattle. Ms. Chesson received her B.A. in history and a minor in social and economic justice from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her M.P.A. in environmental policy and management from the University of Washington.



---

**Sook In Cho***South Korea*

Sook In Cho is an associate research Fellow at Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE). She is a child development researcher whose work is anchored in theories articulating the transactional and contextual processes, particularly in family and early childhood school settings, which promote young children's development. Currently, she is working on a project for children's right to play at KICCE and focusing on children's diverse environments (e.g., family interactions, community environments such as playgrounds and parks, etc.) which influence their play, and policies which support children's play in early childhood.



---

**Wonsuk Cho***South Korea*

Wonsuk Cho is a program officer of partnership department at the Korea National Park Service. He is in charge of international conferences. He previously worked at Bukhansan National Park of Korea in Seoul as a park ranger and a program coordinator of health improvement camps for children and local communities. He majored in business administration and obtained his Master's degree in world heritage and cultural projects for development of ITC-ILO from University of Turin and Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy.



---

**Yolanda Corona***Mexico*

Yolanda Corona is a professor and researcher at the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico where she directs a National Education Project on Children's Rights and Opportunities. She is also a founding member of the Childhood Program. This program integrates research, teaching and social service and supports the enrichment of academic knowledge through information generated by people in NGOs working directly with children in vulnerable situations. Ms. Corona has done research about the role of play and art in the socialization of children. Her research currently focuses on how free play in parks, green areas and public space is at risk in modern urban culture. She is very interested in cultural diversity, and is also involved in research about childhood in Bali, where children are growing up in an environment deeply steeped in art and culture. She has edited several books and journals focused on children's participation, play and culture. She holds a B.A. in educational psychology and a Ph.D. in anthropology and history.



---

**Savita Custead***UK*

Savita Custead is the chief executive for the Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC), which is a collaboration of 14 partners from policy, academia, media and conservation. She managed BNHC's transition to charitable status in 2008, and continues to grow the impact and reach of the projects locally and nationally. The key projects are Festival of Nature (a major public event), Communicate (bringing together environmental communicators), and BioBlitz (citizen science for biological recording). Externally, key programs include co-founding the UK Science Festivals' Network, advising on National Science Foundation grants in the US, and chairing Defra's People Engagement Group to advise the government in England on implementing Biodiversity 2020. Ms. Custead traveled to Brussels to take part in Bristol's presentation to win European Green Capital in 2013, and in 2014 and 2015 was seconded part time as the director of education and engagement for Bristol 2015.





**Martha A. Darling** *USA*

Martha A. Darling has consulted on education policy issues nationally for the National Academy of Sciences and other nonprofits and has held volunteer leadership roles in Michigan and internationally. She recently retired as a senior manager at The Boeing Company in Seattle. Previously, she was vice president for strategic planning at Seattle-First National Bank and then executive director of the Washington Business Roundtable’s Education Study. Earlier, she was a White House Fellow and executive assistant to secretary of the treasury W. Michael Blumenthal and then a senior legislative aide to U.S. Senator Bill Bradley. Ms. Darling serves on a variety of boards, among them the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars; the National Wildlife Federation Action Fund (as chair); and, the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. She is a founding co-chair of Washtenaw County’s Success by Six early childhood initiative. In 2016 the National Wildlife Federation named her its Conservationist of the Year. Ms. Darling is a graduate of Reed College and of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She was a Salzburg Fellow in 1974, served on the faculty in 1980, and attended the early childhood session in 2014. She currently serves on Salzburg Global Seminar’s board.



**Neftali Duran** *USA*

Neftali Duran leads the Nuestra Comida Project at Nuestras Raices, a grassroots urban agriculture organization that creates healthy environments and more equitable food systems in New England by facilitating community leadership, education, food access and policy change at the local, state and national levels. Mr. Duran’s work is informed by his own experience as a migrant worker and 18 years in the restaurant industry as chef, baker, and small business owner. He also educates community around indigenous culinary traditions, the effects of migration on people and food, and synchronistic food styles that draw on Oaxacan roots. He is interested in documenting the culinary traditions of the different regions of Oaxaca, Mexico as well as reclaiming the roots and culture of the original peoples of the Americas.



**Maria de Kruijf** *Netherlands*

Maria de Kruijf is an associate at the De Verre Bergen Foundation. De Verre Bergen Foundation is a philanthropic organization dedicated to building a stronger and better Rotterdam since 2011. Ms. de Kruijf focuses on the education and development of young people, analyzing potential applications, and research and development. She earned her B.Sc. in sociology from the University of Utrecht, and her M.A. in religion in society and culture from the University of Tilburg, and a Master’s of Education from the University of Leiden.



**Tom Evers** *USA*

Tom Evers is the executive director of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, a nonprofit committed to transforming human life through parks and public space. He has focused his career on strategically guiding organizations dedicated to parks, land conservation, and youth development. Prior to joining the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, he served as the founding executive director of Playworks Minnesota, part of a national non-profit dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of children by creating opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play. Mr. Evers served for more than a decade with the Trust for Public Land, where he supported efforts to fund and create new parks and natural areas throughout the Upper Midwest. Before this, Mr. Evers worked in Vermont as a park ranger and with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. He has a Master’s of Public Affairs

from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and is a graduate of St. John's University.

---

**Matteo Giusti** *Sweden*

Matteo Giusti is currently a Ph.D. student working on his thesis, preliminarily titled “Nature Routines: From sustainable cities to sustainable human habitats”, at the Stockholm Resistance Center in Sweden. He researches how psychological, social, and environment qualities of nature experiences nurture human- nature connections in children. The goal of his research is to unveil the set of relationships between physical environment and mind that motivates personal and social investment in biosphere stewardship. Mr. Giusti has been involved in several collaborations with private architecture firms to apply his knowledge in socio-ecological urbanizm to the definitions of new forms of sustainable urban design and he is associated with the urban theme at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Mr. Giusti holds a Ph.Lic in sustainability science.



---

**Michael J. Gorman** *Germany*

Michael J. Gorman is the founding director of BIOTOPIA Naturkundemuseum Bayern, a new museum linking life sciences, art and design in development at Schloss Nymphenburg in Munich, and university professor (chair) in life sciences in society at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. Previously, Mr. Gorman was founding director of the Science Gallery at Trinity College Dublin, dedicated to igniting creativity and discovery where science and art collided. In 2012, he founded Science Gallery International with the goal of bringing Science Gallery experiences to a global audience, with support from Google and the Wellcome Trust. Prior to founding Science Gallery, Mr. Gorman was a lecturer in science technology and society at Stanford University and has held postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University, Stanford University, and MIT. He received his B.A. in physics and philosophy from Oxford University in the UK and his Ph.D. in history from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.



---

**Jonathan (Jonny) Hughes** *UK*

Jonny Hughes is the CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scotland's leading environmental charity. Before being appointed chief executive, Mr. Hughes was the trust's director of conservation and deputy CEO. He is also an elected global councilor of IUCN, the world's oldest and largest conservation organization. In 2013, Mr. Hughes co-founded the World Forum on Natural Capital, a global initiative led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program, IUCN, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Natural Capital Coalition. Previously, he served as a board member of the government agency Architecture and Design Scotland and scientific advisor to the European Outdoor Conservation Association.



---

**Beth Jacob** *USA*

Beth Jacob is the director of CityHealth, a project of the de Beaumont Foundation that uses policy as a lever to improve people's health and wellbeing—and helps cities thrive. She has spent over 20 years advocating for smart policies on behalf of children and families. With CityHealth, decision-makers have the first-ever assessment of how the United States' 40 largest cities fare when it comes to policies that can make real, lasting impacts in people's quality of life. CityHealth's policy package takes a broad view of policies that support health, tackling issues such as access to high-quality, universal pre-



kindergarten education, complete streets, and smoke-free air. Ms. Jacob previously held elected office on the Dane County Board of Supervisors; she graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor's degree in creative writing and literature from Dartmouth College and holds a Master's degree in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



**Karen Keenleyside** *Canada*

Karen Keenleyside is senior science advisor with Parks Canada's Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation Directorate. An ecologist by training, Ms. Keenleyside's work focuses on bridging natural and social-scientific disciplines to identify solutions in Canada and internationally for building constituencies of support for conservation and protected areas into the future. She is currently vice chair for nature and people of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and co-chair of IUCN's #NatureForAll Task Force. Over the course of her career, which has included time in the private sector as well as government, Ms. Keenleyside has developed knowledge-based strategic guidance on issues such as environmental management, ecological restoration, climate change, and connecting people with nature. She holds an M.Sc. in zoology from the University of Toronto.



**Jaegab Kim** *South Korea*

Jaegab Kim is a general manager of Jirisan Eco-Learning Institute which specializes in education not only for visitors but also for children based on eco-tourism. As a park ranger, he worked at Jirisan National Park, the first and the most famous national park of Korea and other several national parks. Mr. Kim majored in public administration.



**Hellen Kimathi** *Kenya*

Hellen Kimathi is a senior assistant director at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. Her career objective is to enhance children's play and learning in a conducive environment. She coordinates early childhood curriculum development and implementation in Kenya. She has a wide experience in initiating research studies in early childhood; designing and developing curriculum for learners, teachers and teacher trainers; developing curriculum support materials; orientating/in-servicing ECD personnel on modern trends in ECD; providing professional guidance to early childhood education personnel throughout the country; monitoring implementation of various ECD programs and giving feedback; developing parental and community educational programs; and, developing ECD policy and policy guidelines as well as carrying out consultancy services. Ms. Kimathi has also been consulted widely in the area of teacher development. Her research interests are children's play, children's reading, health & nutrition, safety and learning standards in ECD.



**Kristin LoVerde** *USA*

Kristin LoVerde is the education manager of Openlands. She manages Openlands' education programs at over sixty Chicago public schools. In addition to her work on the ground at schools, she focuses on partnerships, project management, and community engagement. Ms. LoVerde has been working in the environmental field for over twenty years throughout the state of Illinois. Before joining the Openlands team, she worked for Southern Illinois University as the program coordinator at Touch of Nature Environmental Center. Ms. LoVerde has a B.S. in natural resources and environmental science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently, she is enrolled in the Master of Education Program through Quincy University in Quincy, IL.

---

**Penny Low***Singapore*

Penny Low is the president and founder of Social Innovation Park Ltd in Singapore, a non-profit organization promoting thought leadership and social entrepreneurship. She is a pioneer and serial entrepreneur in various fields, from wealth management to social enterprises to global movements. Her career and experience span the private, public, people, academic and media sectors in local and international arenas. As a veteran Singapore member of parliament, she developed the award-winning first eco-town in the tropics, reputed with high social capital and on its way to becoming the largest township in Singapore. She chaired and sat on many government parliamentary committees, oversaw the ministries of finance, trade and industry, national development, education, environment and water resource, communication and the arts, community development and youth.



---

**Richard Louv***USA (Via Skype)*

Richard Louv is a journalist and author of nine books, including *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*; *The Nature Principle*; and, *Vitamin N*. He is also chairman emeritus and co-founder of the nonprofit Children & Nature Network. Translated and published in 24 countries, his books have helped launch an international movement to connect families and communities to nature. In 2008, he was awarded the Audubon Medal, presented by the National Audubon Society. Prior recipients included Rachel Carson, E. O. Wilson and President Jimmy Carter. Among other awards, Mr. Louv is the recipient of the Cox Award for 2007, Clemson University's highest honor, for "sustained achievement in public service." He speaks frequently around the world, including keynote addresses at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, the first White House Summit on Environmental Education, the Congress for the New Urbanism, and the Friends of Nature Conference in Beijing, China.



---

**Leticia Lozano***Mexico*

Leticia Lozano is head of Playful City at Lab for the City in Mexico City. Playful City is a research and experimentation area that focuses on play and children's participation as tools for urban development and planning. Ms. Lozano is passionate about designing innovative and immersive experiences and is always interested in exploring the dialogue between people and space within different cultures. Before working at the Lab, she was an associate lecturer at UDLAP and UNARTE for B.Arch. and M.A. Interior Architecture programs, respectively. She holds a B.Arch. from UDLAP in Puebla, Mexico, and an M.A. in narrative environments from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London, UK.



---

**Rachel MacCleery***USA*

Rachel MacCleery is senior vice president at the Urban Land Institute (ULI), where she leads the organization's Building Healthy Places Initiative and other programs. Under Building Healthy Places, Ms. MacCleery is spearheading ULI's efforts to leverage the power of its global networks to shape projects and places in ways that improve the health of people and communities. The initiative is working to advance understanding of, and action on, connections between the built environment and health. Ms. MacCleery has extensive knowledge of land use, environment and sustainability, social equity, and infrastructure policy and practice issues. She speaks Mandarin Chinese and lives in Washington, DC. Ms. MacCleery has a Master's degree in public administration and urban and regional planning from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.



**Jennifer Mahar***USA*

Jennifer Mahar is senior director of civic initiatives for the Fairmount Park Conservancy, a non-profit champion of Philadelphia's 10,500 park system which she joined in 2012. Ms. Mahar helps oversee the 'Reimagining the Civic Commons' project – an innovative, collaborative network of public space organizations in Philadelphia. Together, the collective demonstrates ways that civic assets can be connected as an integrated system and how they can be developed to foster talent, opportunity and engagement. In addition, the Fairmount Conservancy is partnering with leading researchers to experiment with programmatic and design interventions that will help inform how citizens access civic assets. She oversees the Neighborhood Parks Stewardship Program, a unique partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and a network of 100 volunteer park friend groups. Together they organize, resource and celebrate the wonderful city parks and the volunteers who advocate for them. Ms. Mahar is also part of the Natural Lands Team which oversees forestry and ecosystem management for the city.

**David Major***Australia*

David Major is the executive director of visitor engagement and conservation for Parks Victoria. He is an Indigenous Australian from south eastern New South Wales and has been working in land and heritage management for more than twenty years. Mr. Major's portfolio with Parks Victoria includes environment and heritage conservation, land management planning, community engagement and activation, marketing and nature based tourism, traditional owner partnerships, and national and international strategy. He has worked across both federal and state government as well as operating his own consultancy business, and has been a lifelong champion of the healthy parks, healthy people approach.

**Juana Mariño de Posada** *Colombia*

Juana Mariño de Posada is the owner and head of GUT, a private consultancy firm, as well as lecturer in several universities in Colombia and Panamá. She is an architect, urban planner, and environmental expert with extensive professional experience in the public and private sectors and academia. She has been sub-director of Bogotá's Planning Department, director of population and land planning at Colombia's Environment Ministry, director of policy legislation and decision making at the Humboldt Research Institute on Biological Resources, and consultant for public and private sector clients, NGOs and multilateral organizations. She has shared and enriched her professional experience at multiple national and international forums and initiatives. She is part of two expert groups appointed by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Ms. Mariño de Posada has launched the "Outdoor Grannies" Initiative. She is a Fellow of Session 557, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*, in 2015.

**Julie Mentor***South Africa*

Julie Mentor is the project leader for Cape Town Embrace, an innovative social justice movement seeking to galvanize inter-sectoral and citizen 'social networked' support for children in the first 1000 days of their lives. Cape Town Embrace is currently incubated within the DG Murray Trust. Previously, she worked with PropertyEngine in communications and client services, as a project manager for the Little Village Literacy Campaign, and as the marketing and communications coordinator for the Centre for Early Childhood Development. Ms. Mentor is also an adoption

advocate, public speaker and a registered safe care “kangaroo” parent, previously providing care to at-risk babies awaiting adoption placements.

---

**Andrew Moore** *USA*

Andrew Moore is the director of youth and young adult connections at the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (NLCI), a foundation-funded “action tank” that helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. In this capacity, he leads the Young Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative, and has also published extensively in the policy fields of school-leaver reengagement as well as jail and juvenile justice reform. Earlier, Mr. Moore spent 15 years building the nationwide network of service and conservation corps, and has consulted on strategic program development with numerous clients in the youth development field in the United States and UK. He currently resides in Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the USA. Mr. Moore holds degrees from Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.



---

**Chukwudum (Chúk) Odenigbo** *Canada / Nigeria*

SESSION RAPPORTEUR

Chúk Odenigbo is currently a regulatory analyst with an innovative Montréal start-up called Nimonik, where they have released an app that alerts companies to their environmental due diligence and best practices depending on the sector they work in, jurisdiction and the activity they are about to undertake. He comes from an eclectic background, having worked as an environmental scientist in the Canadian oil and gas industry, an operations manager for fashion retailer Club Monaco focusing on incorporating nature and sustainability into the shopping experience, and a consultant with the Canadian Parks Council working on reconnecting young and new Canadians with nature. Mr. Odenigbo holds degrees in environmental science and chemistry from Queen’s University in Canada and is currently undertaking a Master’s of environmental and occupational health, specializing in toxicology, at the University of Montréal. He is a Fellow of several Salzburg Global programs, who most recently attended Session 571, *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, in 2016.



---

**Amanda O’Rourke** *Canada*

Amanda O’Rourke is director of strategic planning at 8 80 Cities. Since 2007, she has been instrumental in the development and growth of 8 80 Cities into the successful international non-profit organization it is today. Ms. O’Rourke has worked on numerous projects related to parks, public spaces, and sustainable transportation in North America, Central America, Europe, and Australia. She now works mostly on strategy, partnership development, and board relations. She is also a senior advisor for Gil Penalosa & Associates, and co-chair of the Children and Nature Committee for World Urban Parks. Ms. O’Rourke holds a Bachelor’s of Science in environmental biology from Queen’s University and a Master’s of Science in planning from the University of Toronto.



---

**Ibuki Ozawa** *Japan*

Ibuki Ozawa is the chairman and founder of NPO PIECES, an organization which focuses on protecting the rights and dignities of children who are in crisis, like poverty or abuse, and supporting their healthy growth and development by creating resilient ecosystems where diversity coexists and divisions are connected. Ms. Ozawa also works as a child psychiatrist, both in hospitals and



administrations, engaging in preventive medicine of child health care and mental health care. In addition, she is a researcher at Tokyo University looking at the effects on the development of children growing up in healthy and diverse communities.



**Haemoon Phyen** *South Korea*

Haemoon Phyen is a playground advocate and designer of the Miracle Playground project in Suncheon, South Korea. He regards himself as a movement advocate voicing that ‘children have the right to play.’ He has been working on photography of Children and Play in Asia and the Middle East for over 10 years. In recent years, Mr. Phyen has been working with the Miracle Playground project to change Korea’s uniform playgrounds by creating a new style. The project tries to exclude artificial facilities and equipment, and aims for a playground in a natural setting. Mr. Phyen’s future goal is to create a participatory playground where children, citizens, and local administration collaborate. The motto of this playground is “Learn to look after yourself and play hard!” He holds a Master’s degree in folklore from Andong National University and is in the process of completing a Ph.D. in early childhood education at Pusan National University.



**Rob Prosper** *Canada*

Rob Prosper is vice-president for Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation, Parks Canada, a directorate responsible for the establishment of national parks and national marine conservation areas, the management of law enforcement, and overall Parks Canada guidance with regards to natural resource conservation and ecosystem science. He has worked with Parks Canada for 37 years, initially in the areas of natural resource conservation and in national park management. After 22 years of working in the field, he took on senior management roles in park operations, managing Canada’s 12 arctic national parks, and he has been instrumental in advancing the agency’s priorities related to strengthening relationships with Aboriginal peoples. He holds two degrees in biology from Carleton University. He is a Fellow of Session 557, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*, in 2015.



**Xanelé Purén** *South Africa*

Xanelé Purén is the co-founder of See Saw Do, which she founded in 2010 with her husband, Jeremy. See Saw Do is a spatial and interactive design studio, with a strong focus on children. She currently resides in Cape Town, South Africa. Outside of See Saw Do, she enjoys cycling, roller derby, and her cat Bob. She graduated from Stellenbosch with a degree in visual communication in 2010.



**Daniel Raven-Ellison** *UK*

Daniel Raven-Ellison is a guerrilla geographer, *National Geographic* emerging explorer, and is leading an initiative to make London a National Park City. Bringing together politicians from across the political spectrum, big and small businesses, community groups and charities, Mr. Raven-Ellison is positively disrupting people’s notions of national parks and cities to create something new. As an explorer, he uses creative adventures as a way of engaging communities with social and environmental issues. Most recently, working with Cisco and *National Geographic*, he walked 1,700km across all the UK’s national parks and cities wearing a headset that recorded his emotions. He is a Fellow of Session 557, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*, in 2015.



---

**Lynn Ross***USA*

Lynn Ross is the founder and principal of Spirit for Change Consulting, LLC, a boutique consulting firm dedicated to creative solutions for people and places working to serve the common good. She brings over 15 years of experience and passion for housing affordability, city and regional planning, community development, evidence-based policy making and organizational change. Most recently, Ms. Ross directed the \$40M Community and National Initiatives program at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. She also served in the Obama Administration as deputy assistant secretary for policy development at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Past roles include leadership positions at the ULI Terwilliger Center for Housing, National Housing Conference/Center for Housing Policy and the American Planning Association. Ms. Ross earned a Bachelor's of Science in community and regional planning from Iowa State University and Master's of regional planning from Cornell University.



---

**Slawomir Sendzielski***Poland*

Slawomir Sendzielski is an inspector for the Green Space Management Office in the City of Warsaw. An economist and project manager, he is a passionate gardener working with various non-governmental organizations engaged in gardening activities with local communities. In 2015, he was the head gardener of the *MiastoiOgród* project. Since 2015, Mr. Sendzielski was a project coordinator of 'Restoration of flood-meadows in Special Protection Area Natura 2000 Middle part of Vistula Valley (PLB 140004)' project. At present, he is responsible for creating a cohesive cooperation program for the City of Warsaw and community gardening leaders and allotment gardens in Warsaw. He completed postgraduate studies in project management and knowledge of herbs under the supervision of Łukasz Łuczaj at the University of Rzeszow.



---

**Sean Southey***USA*

Sean Southey is the chief executive officer of PCI Media Impact and chair of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). As chair of the CEC and CEO of PCI Media Impact, Mr. Southey works to build the capacity of local partners around the world to use creative communications, behavior change approaches and storytelling to effect powerful social change. With a multi-sector background, he spent 12 years with the United Nations Development Program, five years with the Canadian government and three years working with other international non-government organizations such as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and Rare. He holds an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in the UK and a B.A. in economics from University of British Columbia in Canada.



---

**Martin Spray***UK*

Martin Spray is chief executive of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the leading wetland conservation organization in the UK, operating around the world. WWT places people at the center of its work for environmental conservation. Furthermore, WWT created and runs the internationally respected London Wetland Centre, bringing wildlife to the people of the capital city. Its work includes designing sustainable drainage systems, natural water treatment systems and wetland centers in urban and rural environments. Additionally, the "Inspiring Generations" program gives pupils from more deprived city areas a personal experience of nature. Mr. Spray's career has spanned the government, business and non-governmental sectors. He was awarded the CBE by H.M. The Queen in 2003 for his services to nature conservation. He holds a B.Sc. from the University of Swansea and an honorary



D.Sc. from the University of Roehampton. He is a Fellow of Session 557, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*, in 2015.



**Ted Trzyna** *USA*

Ted Trzyna is the co-founder and chair of the Urban Conservation Strategies Specialist Group for IUCN. He has worked in the public-interest, policy-research, diplomatic, and academic worlds. In the 1960s, Mr. Trzyna was a career U.S. Foreign Service officer in Africa and at the State Department in Washington. In 1969, he founded the California Institute of Public Affairs, renamed InterEnvironment Institute in 2010. Through the Institute, which is an affiliate of Claremont Graduate University, he and his colleagues have organized numerous projects aimed at improving policy-making on complex issues. He is a senior research fellow in CGU’s School of Politics and Economics. He is a fellow and former board member of the World Academy of Art and Science, and serves on the advisory boards of several organizations and projects. Mr. Trzyna received a Bachelor’s degree from the School of International Relations of the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in government from Claremont Graduate University.



**Jason Urroz** *USA*

Jason Urroz serves as the director of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation’s Kids in Parks program, creating a network of hiking trails throughout the United States that link various types of public land management agencies together through the common mission to get kids and families active outdoors and reconnected to nature for their health. Due to the success of Kids in Parks, Mr. Urroz and the program have been recognized by the National Park Service, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of Partners for Public Lands, and the former White House administration’s Let’s Move! program. Mr. Urroz serves on the National ParkRx Steering Committee, the North Carolina Children and Nature Network leadership team, and other boards and committees across the US, helping lead the movement to get children reconnected with nature. A former interpretive ranger in Yosemite National Park, Mr. Urroz holds a B.Sc. from Humboldt State University in natural resource interpretation.



**Agus Utomo** *Indonesia*

Agus Utomo is the regional vice chair for South East Asia of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). He is currently also the executive director of Burung Indonesia – the BirdLife partner in Indonesia. He is a forester by training. From 2006 to 2008, he was part of the team in Burung Indonesia advocating a new way to manage and conserve degraded tropical forests in Indonesia, which resulted in the establishment of the first ecosystem restoration concession in Sumatra. In 2014, Mr. Utomo and two other colleagues from Burung Indonesia received the Kenton Miller Award for developing an innovative approach to protected area management.



**Jacob Virden** *USA*

Jacob Virden is a writer, performance artist and popular educator focused on the intersections of race, class, culture and ecology. He is an organizer with Hope Community’s Parks and Power Campaign. Mr. Virden has worked as a facilitator with Sustainable Progress Engaging Active Citizens (S.P.E.A.C.), and facilitates trainings on racial justice and European American resistance to white supremacy.

---

**Qi Wang***China*

Qi Wang is the Sichuan field department director of Protect Area Friendly System. He has a background in conservation and long-term field experience of wildlife protection. He has also served at the Wildlife Conservation Society in Guatemala and at the Panthera Foundation in Honduras. Currently, he is working in China to build a bridge between the city and the rural community. With conservation based eco-tourism and organic food projects, he encourages more people to participate in community conservation activities. His work is based on the Giant Panda habitat and its surrounding community.



---

**Ken Worpole***UK*

Ken Worpole is emeritus professor at Cities Institute London Metropolitan University, and has served on the UK government's Urban Green Spaces Task Force, on the Expert Panel of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and as an advisor to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. He is a writer and social historian, whose work includes many books on architecture, landscape and public policy. He is married to photographer Lorraine Worpole with whom he has collaborated on book projects internationally, as well as in Hackney, London, where they have lived and worked since 1969. His principal interests concern the planning and design of new landscapes and public institutions, whether parks, playgrounds, or libraries - as well as in townscape renewal and new urban green networks - and learning the lessons of 20th century urban democracy and the rise of the environmental movement.



---

**Jaime Zaplatosch***USA*

Jaime Zaplatosch is the director of Green Schoolyards for Healthy Communities for the Children & Nature Network. She is a strategic thinker, partnership builder, program developer, fundraiser and conservationist who is thrilled to help make green schoolyards the norm. She is the former vice president of community engagement and education at Openlands in Chicago, where she grew the organization's school-based programs to include a substantial school garden and teacher training program for elementary and high school students, and launched its green schoolyard program, Space to Grow. She holds a B.A. in environmental education from Prescott College and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from DePaul University.



---

**Robert Zarr***USA*

Robert Zarr is a pediatrician at Unity Health Care, located in Washington, DC, where he cares for low-income and immigrant populations. He is founder and director of DC Park Rx ([www.dcparkrx.org](http://www.dcparkrx.org)), a community health initiative to prescribe nature to patients and families to prevent and treat chronic disease and promote wellness. He also serves as the Park Rx advisor to the National Park Service in his national advocacy to connect people to parks ([www.parkrx.org](http://www.parkrx.org)). Previously, he has served as president of the American Academy of Pediatrics D.C. Chapter. Dr. Zarr received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and completed his pediatric residency at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. He also has a Master's degree in public health, specializing in international health, from the University of Texas School of Public Health.



---

## Session Staff

---



**Clare Shine**

*Vice President and Chief Program Officer*

Clare Shine was appointed Vice President and Chief Program Officer of Salzburg Global Seminar in 2012. She is responsible for multi-year program strategy, design, partnerships and implementation in Salzburg and around the world; next-generation leadership development; communications and marketing; and the Salzburg Global Fellowship which straddles nearly 170 countries. Prior to joining Salzburg Global, Clare worked from 1990-2011 as an independent environmental lawyer and policy expert for intergovernmental organizations, national governments, the private sector and NGOs. Her work and publications focused on biodiversity and sustainable development, climate change, international trade, global and cross-border governance and cooperation, coastal and oceans policy, and conflict transformation. She has played an influential role in global biosecurity and biodiversity policy development, working as legal adviser to the World Bank, European Union, Council of Europe and African governments, and led environmental capacity-building projects across four continents. Clare is a UK-qualified barrister, an Associate of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and a bilingual French speaker and professional facilitator. She began her career in industry, working in the media and publishing sector with responsibility for marketing and new ventures. Clare is also a professional journalist who was the Financial Times' theater critic in France from 2001-2011. She holds an M.A. in English literature from Oxford University, UK and post-graduate degrees from London University and the Sorbonne University, Paris, France.



**Dominic Regester**

*Program Director*

Dominic Regester joined Salzburg Global Seminar as a Program Director in March 2017. He is responsible for designing, developing and implementing programs on education, sustainability and innovation. Prior to this he worked for the British Council for 14 years, initially on programs promoting education co-operation between the UK and China, Russia and Japan and then on school partnership programs. He lived in Bangladesh from 2008 to 2013 leading the British Council's school sector programs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He was then posted to Jakarta where he was Deputy Director for Education across the East Asia region. He returned to London in 2015 to become a senior schools adviser, responsible for global program development, partnerships and research, all with a particular focus on 21st century skills. He has an M.A. in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and an M.A. in Education and International Development from University College London Institute of Education.



**Antonio Riolino**

*Program Associate*

Antonio Riolino joined Salzburg Global Seminar as a Program Associate in June 2016. Prior to joining the organization, he worked as a freelance translator in Tolmezzo, Italy, his hometown, and as an assistant to the Courthouse in Udine, the provincial capital. In Udine and at the detention facility in Tolmezzo, he provided assistance and translation services to defendants and courthouse staff. Antonio is a graduate in foreign languages from the University of Udine, with B.A. and M.A. degrees. His M.A. dissertation was on the translation of indigenous folktales. He has also studied at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria where he continued his study of foreign languages (German and English) over several summers.



# The Salzburg Statement

## Quality Early Childhood Development and Education for all Girls and Boys

### A CALL TO ACTION

**All children deserve the best start in life. Without commitment to human development, there can be no sustainable development.**

Investing in young children is critical for communities to flourish and nations to prosper. This calls for political will, public demand, adequate funding, and the active engagement of families, communities, business and government.

Children's ability to survive and thrive depends on the wellbeing and competence of those who care for them. Holistic frameworks for the period of development from prenatal to eight years of age require public-private coordination on poverty reduction, maternal and child health, education, social protection, gender equality, workforce policies, water, sanitation, energy and housing.

We, the participants at Salzburg Global's strategy session on *Designing a Social Compact for the 21st Century: Early Childhood Development and Education* (ECDE) (April 15-18, 2015), therefore urge the international community to address the needs of young children and families across the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and commit to coordinated planning between sectors and adequate financing. Building on the health and nutrition goals, we call for adoption of the proposed Learning Goal target:

*“By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.”*

## Principles and Recommendations to Accelerate Progress for Children

Studies from neuroscience, psychology and economics show the lifelong benefits of ECDE investments for individual wellbeing, realized potential, and society as a whole. Yet hundreds of millions of children worldwide still have no access to early childhood services. Disparities exist within and between countries, with the most disadvantaged least likely to access critical health, nutrition and education supports. Although global enrolment of pre-primary (3-5 years) rose from 33% in 1999 to 54% by 2013, rates for low-income countries average below 20%.

We need to pay special attention to children whose development is at risk. These include the extreme poor, migrants, refugees, those in conflict zones, children with disabilities, and vulnerable populations like the Roma.

Quality matters as much as access. A coherent framework for early childhood and family support services is needed for children from prenatal to 3 years, continuing through pre-primary and early primary years. Research underpinning the economic case for high-quality ECDE shows that access to quality services is essential to maximize return on investment: access without quality often compounds marginalization.

Perceptions of early childhood needs should go beyond health and nutrition to recognize the importance of early brain development and learning even before birth. Quality frameworks should ensure a focus on play throughout childhood and promote activities to foster positive development across key domains. These include social and emotional development, language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge (including early mathematics and early scientific development), approaches toward learning (including through the arts), physical wellbeing and motor development, including adaptive skills.

### Guidance for designing and implementing quality ECDE systems 2015-2030

We applaud the efforts of international agencies, regional and national initiatives to bring forward a collective definition of quality ECDE.

This can guide the design and implementation of systems adapted to national and subnational contexts, with priority actions determined by local stakeholders. It is critical to ensure that we finance quality services and systems in order to assure country-level implementation, especially in least developed and fragile environments.

**To accelerate progress for all children following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations, we urge consideration of the following recommendations:**

## **LEADERSHIP & COORDINATED GOVERNANCE**

- Designate leadership to develop coordinated ECDE governance and accountability across sectors, and guide processes of ECDE policy and program development;
- Build political and public demand for high-quality ECDE through campaigns adapted to the local context, supported by an evidence- and rights-based agenda;
- Develop and fund SDG country implementation plans to address the needs of young children and families across relevant Goals and targets;
- Build strategic partnerships, and leverage formal and informal networks for coordination and delivery;
- Define a common understanding of “quality programs” and “children on the margins” in national contexts.

## **QUALITY**

- Ensure that all early childhood services (pre-natal to 8 years old) are of high quality by:
  - providing adequate funding (see **FINANCE**);
  - sufficiently training qualified, diverse and representative staff (see **WORKFORCE**);
  - establishing and monitoring quality standards (see **DATA AND MEASUREMENT**);
  - developing early learning guidelines that support all areas of development including physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language, and approaches to learning or executive function;
  - affirming family engagement as a core part of quality provision (see **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**);
- Examine the role of culture and language in national settings to reach a common, context-specific understanding of children at risk and develop information systems at national and local levels to identify regions, population groups, and individuals excluded from ECDE services;
- Design interventions that prioritize the early years including prenatal and infancy (0 to 3 years old);
- Promote a seamless continuum of care, development, and education across ECDE programs (daycare, kindergartens, early primary grades) by ensuring that their curricula and pedagogy are culturally, developmentally and contextually appropriate;
- Give equal weight to reducing disparities in ECDE access and quality within each country (urban-rural, rich-poor, majority-minority ethnicity, etc.) as well as to improving the national average.

## **FINANCE**

- Increase and sustain national, bilateral and multilateral funding to support early childhood and family services and meet SDG indicators across education, health, nutrition, and poverty reduction;
- Prioritize funding for those children and families most at risk, recognizing their diverse needs and the importance of assuring quality;
- Mobilize a cadre of influential leaders across sectors to underscore the reason for investment in early childhood health, nutrition and education as an economic and social imperative in both the short and longer term.

*The views expressed in this Statement are those of session participants individually and should not be taken to represent those of any organizations to which they are affiliated.*

## **DATA AND MEASUREMENT**

- Support ongoing research to identify the key components of successful interventions;
- Develop and employ child development measures to track development at national, regional and international levels as well as measures to evaluate, scale-up and improve quality and practice at both macro and micro level;
- Design and implement system- and program-level measurements and indicators that are specific to components of quality;
- Promote use of open-source data approaches and tools to optimize access to quality evaluation across the international community, ensuring that data are transparent, accessible and relevant to end-users;
- Design and implement developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate child-level measurements that can be used with all children, including children with disabilities;
- Create data systems that track progress of children across programs and throughout their development, and which incorporate indicators from other sectors such as health, social support, gender, childcare and education health, to understand full effects of interventions.

## **WORKFORCE**

- Build a well-qualified early childhood workforce by defining competencies, strengthening capacity in higher education, requiring decent working conditions and compensation, and ensuring parity with other teaching positions;
- Develop support systems that include on-site, in-classroom mentoring and professional development; expertise in public agencies responsible for programming; streamlined linkages to health and family services; and user-friendly data systems, standards and monitoring;
- Raise the status of the caregiver within and outside formal settings by recognizing the skills required for their work, including practice-based competencies, and making available relevant and accessible training and information, and opportunities for professional advancement if desired;
- Ensure that early childhood staff are diverse and representative of the communities they serve by examining, within national contexts, the role of gender, race and/or ethnicity in the ECDE workforce, including common under-representation of males in the profession.

## **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

- Affirm family engagement and wellbeing as a fundamental component of quality ECDE provision;
- Recognize the diverse nature, contexts, and needs of families, with special attention to vulnerable populations, and develop ECDE programs that leverage family resources and positive practices;
- Promote strategic community partnerships and networks to coordinate ECDE service delivery and practical collaboration across relevant SDGs;
- Design interventions to address the psycho-social vulnerabilities of primary caregivers, especially those of children at risk.



SALZBURG  
GLOBAL  
SEMINAR



# The Salzburg Challenge for Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation

## A CALL TO ACTION

**By 2050, over three in four people – at least 6 billion – will live in towns and cities, with the fastest urban growth across Asia and Africa.**

Urbanization has many benefits but we see a growing disconnect between people and nature which affects our physical, mental and spiritual health. Given the soaring cost of non-communicable diseases (diabetes, cancers, respiratory and heart disease), depressive disorders and obesity, it is urgent to put human needs for nature, healthy lifestyles and safe outdoor activity at the heart of planning and investments for an urban planet.

**The Promise of Sydney** is a 10-year road map adopted by 6000 participants from 160 countries at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. Affirming that *“nature is the ultimate foundation of life, our economy and our aspirations, and underpins our human existence, cultural identity, health and prosperity,”* it positions protected and conserved areas – including urban green space – as critical investments for climate resilience and human wellbeing.

The **Parks for the Planet Forum** is a collaborative platform for transformative leadership and action, launched by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN in 2015. The inaugural session on *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation* (November 8 to 11, 2015) was supported by Conservation International, Parks Canada and Korea National Parks Service, in collaboration with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, World Health Organization (WHO) and World Urban Parks.

Inspired by *The Promise of Sydney*, participants convened by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN take up the global challenge and emerging opportunities to connect nature and health for the benefit of new urban generations in more livable cities.

**We will catalyze and nurture new ways of working together to secure the right for all people to experience and be excited by nature and gain lifelong benefits for health and wellbeing from outdoor activities in varied and stimulating environments. We will seek to foster new leadership to conserve nature as the foundation for sustainability in an era of rapid global change.**

### Why act and why now?

We already have enough evidence to lead change as we know that:

- Access to safe natural settings has a positive influence on physical and mental health and wellbeing, increases the likelihood of physical activity, fosters social connections, and reduces stress and illness;
- Direct experiences of nature are the foundation for stewardship and active care for the environment, vital to shape community and protect a resilient and life-sustaining planet now and in the future;
- Investing in urban parks and green infrastructure, and connecting these with the surrounding rural areas, helps reduce air pollution, disaster risk and climate change impacts, improve clean water supplies, and secure co-benefits for health;
- Cities and local governments provide an exceptional opportunity for leadership on sustainability, cooperation across sectors, intergenerational partnerships, mobilization of communities for action on the ground, and measurement of progress.

**We call on all sectors and stakeholders to accelerate regional and global action for nature-based solutions that help communities and cities flourish and advance health and dignity for all people.**

*A full list of recommendations is included overleaf.*



## What needs to be done?

1. Build a partnership between IUCN, WHO, Stockholm Resilience Centre, ICLEI, World Urban Parks and leading cities, in conjunction with the Salzburg Parks for the Planet Forum, to accelerate efforts to increase awareness and use of nature-based solutions in urban development and public health;
2. Collect and share success stories that demonstrate good practices;
3. Make the case for investment, using available evidence of the economic benefits of closer synergies between key sectors of health, social care, urban planning, finance and nature conservation;
4. Influence public policy and decision-making at local to regional scales;
5. Create alliances between public, private and community organizations;
6. Mobilize new audiences and champions, especially young, diverse urban populations;
7. Include health information and experiences of nature throughout schooling, from early childhood to university and professional programs;
8. Encourage senior urban citizens to share activities and positive attitudes towards health and nature to inspire younger generations;
9. Address mobility and health barriers for vulnerable citizens to access green spaces, with a special focus on the poor and disabled;
10. Promote knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral research between key sectors, in cooperation with conservation and public health agencies, urban policymakers and planners.

## Who needs to act?

We, the Fellows of Salzburg Global Seminar, commit to maintaining this momentum through multi-year collaboration. We invite all sectors and stakeholders to combine their efforts to address this Challenge including but not limited to:

- City mayors, planners and investors;
- Public health agencies and organizations;
- Nature conservation agencies and urban park managers;
- Business and media;
- Research and educational institutions;
- Non-governmental organizations and activists;
- Neighborhood and youth organizations, religious leaders and indigenous communities.

The **Parks for the Planet Forum** is a 10-year initiative embedded in the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme and convened by Salzburg Global Seminar. The Forum will combine an annual high-level meeting for catalytic leadership, investment and innovation with an evolving multi-year work program to share pioneering approaches at local and international levels. Over the next decade, the Forum aims to position nature at the very heart of human health and wellbeing, security and prosperity across the planet.

The **Salzburg Challenge** will be accompanied by a full report from this session covering all discussions and key recommendations.

More information is available online: [www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/557](http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/557)

**Salzburg Global Seminar** is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1947, with the mission to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern: [www.SalzburgGlobal.org](http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org)

**IUCN** – International Union for Conservation of Nature, founded in 1948, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

*The views expressed in this statement reflect consensus among participants and should not be taken to represent those of all participants or of any organization with which they are affiliated.*

## Salzburg Global Seminar Staff

### Senior Management

**Stephen L. SALYER**, *President & Chief Executive Officer*  
**Benjamin W. GLAHN**, *Vice President, Development and Operations*  
**Clare SHINE**, *Vice President & Chief Program Officer*  
**Daniel SZELENYI**, *General Manager – Hotel Schloss Leopoldskron*  
**Pia VALDIVIA**, *Vice President & Chief Financial Officer*

### Program and Administrative Staff

**Thomas Biebl**, *Director, Marketing and Communications*  
**Ian Brown**, *European Development Director*  
**Elizabeth Cowan**, *Davidson Impact Fellow*  
**Michelle Dai Zotti**, *Development Associate*  
**Jennifer Dunn**, *Program and Development Assistant*  
**Charles E. Ehrlich**, *Program Director*  
**Marty Gecek**, *Chair – Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association (SSASA)*  
**David Goldman**, *Program Consultant – Mellon-Global Citizenship Program (M-GCP)*  
**Michaela Goldman**, *Internship Program Manager*  
**Barbara Grodecka-Poprawska**, *Program Associate (on leave)*  
**Louise Hallman**, *Editor*  
**Jan Heinecke**, *Fellowship Manager*  
**Andrew Ho**, *US Development Director*  
**Faye Hobson**, *Program Associate*  
**Lisa Karl**, *Assistant Director Finance, Salzburg*  
**Danielle Karnoff**, *Development Associate*  
**Allison Kingery**, *Senior Manager, Individual Giving & Campaign Planning*

**Astrid Koblmüller**, *Health Program Manager*  
**Brigitte Kraibacher**, *Assistant, Admissions Office*  
**Tatsiana Lintouskaya**, *Program Director*  
**John Lotherington**, *Program Director*  
**Sharon Marcoux**, *Senior Finance Manager, US*  
**Paul Mihailidis**, *Program Director – Salzburg Academy for Media and Global Change*  
**Klaus Mueller**, *Program Consultant – Salzburg Global LGBT Forum*  
**Beth Pertiller**, *Director of Operations*  
**Bernadette Prasser**, *Program and Admissions Officer*  
**Michi Radanovic**, *Controller Finance Salzburg*  
**Ursula Reichl**, *Assistant Director Finance, Salzburg*  
**Manuela Resch-Trampitsch**, *Director Finance, Salzburg*  
**Antonio Riolino**, *Program Associate*  
**Susanna Seidl-Fox**, *Program Director, Culture and the Arts*  
**Sarah Sexton**, *Special Assistant to the President*  
**Nancy Smith**, *Program Consultant – M-GCP*  
**Oscar Tollast**, *Communications Associate*  
**Molly Walker**, *Development Associate*

### Hotel Schloss Leopoldskron Staff

**Richard Aigner**, *Hotel Operations Manager*  
**Jürgen Chum**, *Executive Chef*  
**Karin Maurer**, *Reservations and Revenue Supervisor*

**Matthias Rinnerthaler**, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
**Karin Schiller**, *Sales and Marketing Manager*  
**Marisa Todorovic**, *Executive Housekeeper*

### Interns (at time of program)

**Andrea Abellan**, *Communications*  
**Seulgy Kim**, *Program*  
**Yongjae Kim**, *Program*  
**Jonathan Lewis**, *Development – Washington, DC*

**Denise Macalino**, *Communications*  
**Peter Murray**, *Library*  
**Kelly Ulrich**, *Program*  
**Dirk Jan van Egmond**, *Development – Salzburg*

**For more information contact:**

**Clare Shine**

*Vice President &*

*Chief Program Officer*

[cshine@SalzburgGlobal.org](mailto:cshine@SalzburgGlobal.org)

**Dominic Regester**

*Program Director*

[name@SalzburgGlobal.org](mailto:name@SalzburgGlobal.org)

**Louise Hallman**

*Editor*

[lhallman@SalzburgGlobal.org](mailto:lhallman@SalzburgGlobal.org)

**For more information visit:**

[www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/574](http://www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/574)

