Semíramis Albuquerque BIASOLI - São Sebastião, Brazil
General Secretary
FunBEA

Semíramis has a degree in law from Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas and she passed the Brazilian Bar, in 2002, with a focus on Environmental Law. She also earned an advanced degree (2003) in Environmental Education from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP). In 2015, Semíramis received a PhD in Applied Ecology from Luiz de Queiroz Higher School of Agriculture where she focused on Public Policies of Environmental Education.

Semíramis spent several years working as the interface between the State of São Paulo and the Department of Environmental Education of the National Ministry of the Environment. In this role, she was instrumental in advocating for the State and shaping the National Environmental Education Policy.

She is General Secretary of the Brazilian Environmental Education Fund (FunBEA), an organization she helped co-found and has led since 2010. Under her leadership, FunBEA joined the Comuá Network of Philanthropy and Social Justice in 2020.

As part of the Senior International Fellows Program, Semíramis hopes to build knowledge that will help support her pursuit of socio-environmental justice in Brazil. Semíramis is excited to improve the philanthropic eco-system of Brazil through collaboration and knowledge exchange with this year cohort of Fellows. Semíramis’ research will center upon the best practices of successful international giving circles with a focus on socio-environmental movements and education.
Taulant completed a BA in Political Sciences at Universum College in Pristina, Kosovo where he focused on public administration. He speaks Albanian, English, Serbian, and Croatian. Taulant has been working as a civil society activist for nearly two decades and has published widely in the field of civil society development.

Taulant joined the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCFS) in 2007 and has been working as the Executive Director since 2018. His work focuses on creating legal frameworks for civil society, collaboration with policymakers, creating dialogue with government officials concerning civil society, internal governance of CSOs and funding for civil society. As a result of this work, Taulant serves as the Chair of the Board of CivKos Platform, the largest network of CSOs in Kosovo composed of more than 250 member organizations; he is also Deputy Chair of the Board of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), the largest network of civil society development CSOs in the Balkans.

Taulant joins the Senior International Fellows Program to identify best practices and successful models of community-based philanthropy relevant to the Kosovo context. Taulant is eager to share best practices developed over twenty years in the field, while gaining valuable insights through collaboration with the other fellows. Taulant’s research will explore how national grantmaking organizations can partner with both local donors (public and private) and diaspora communities to diversify resources dedicated to co-create solutions to local problems and promote social justice.
Rufai obtained a B.A. in Administration and M.Phil. in Industrial Sociology from the University of Ghana. He earned his PhD in 2017 from Lulea Technology University in Sweden. He has taught courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. His research interests include Organizational Gender Perspectives, Policy Analysis, Gender & Technology, and Creative Entrepreneurship.

Rufai’s research is shared via journal publications, conferences, and workshops. He is the current editorial secretary at the Journal of Business and Professional Studies and writes reviews for several international academic journals. His recent scholarly contributions have drawn collective attention to women miners who are crossing barriers and building bridges, creating a shift in the historically masculine cultures in Ghanaian mines. Rufai is currently a DANIDA Post-Doctoral Fellow collaborating with the University of Ghana Business School, Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, and Loughborough University in UK.

Rufai belongs to a wide range of professional networks, both locally and internationally, including Women in Power Organizations, Ghana; Gender Contact Point (Sweden); Feminist Technoscience Europe; Women in Technology & Engineering Certain (WiTEC) Europe; Women in Mining Ghana, (WiMGhana); Gender & Social Inclusion Energy Working Group, Ghana; Pure Trust Social Investors Foundation, Ghana; and North Gonja Community Foundation.

His role as board member with both Pure Trust Social Investors Foundation and North Gonja Community Foundation reflects his new interest in philanthropy and community foundations. This work spurs his research on the culture of giving among youth to build leadership and mobilize funds for community needs, issues he will explore as a Senior International Fellow.
Francesca MERETA - Milan, Italy
Programs and Communications Officer
Assifero

Francesca received her Bachelors degree in Economics and Social Sciences and a Masters degree in Economics in Management Arts, Culture, Media and Entertainment from Bocconi University. Since then, she has worked in PR and media relations, and as a project consultant for community foundations. As a communications professional, Francesca is interested in the importance of communications strategies for both community foundations and philanthropy support organizations.

Currently, Francesca has been working at Assifero and with other international networks to develop programs, communications strategies and campaigns to strengthen the Italian philanthropic system. Francesca has applied her insight to a range of issues: climate philanthropy; effective philanthropy; the role of governance; endowment management; collaborative approaches; SDGs integration; data philanthropy; gender lens integration; impactful communications; and fundraising campaigns.

Francesca’s recent published articles include From SDGs talk to action - How community foundations across Europe are embracing the SDGs through a whole-of-organization approach (2021).

As part of the Senior International Fellows Program, Francesca wishes to focus on the narrative of the community foundations movement and how it is perceived in Italy and globally. She looks to examine how support organizations can use communications to identify the added value of community foundations, with the goal of strengthening the potential of the community foundation movement at a national level.
Daniele MESSINA - Siena, Italy
Head of Programs & Director of Operations
Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena

Daniele holds a degree in Law (2000) from the University of Siena and was admitted to the Italian Bar in 2003 through the Florentine Court of Appeals. In 2006, he completed a BA in Political Science from the University of Siena. Daniele began his career as a lawyer and a lecturer with a focus on Private Law, Legal Medicine, and Insurance Rights.

Daniele was the Legal and Corporate Governance officer for Siena Biotech for two years. In 2015, he contributed as an activist to the development of laws governing food waste in Italy.

Currently, Daniele is the Head of Programs of Fondazione Monte Paschi Siena, a philanthropic institution operating under private law which pursues sustainable community development with an annual budget of 10 million Euros. Daniele manages grant-making activities in three areas: Art and Culture, Welfare, and Research and Sustainable Development.

Daniele, through the Senior International Fellows Program, seeks to explore his theory of Bold Philanthropy – the notion that philanthropy, consistent with a renovated interpretation of the subsidiarity principle, should bring together all key players in the community and unite them with a vision for change thereby stimulating the community to raise the level of that vision. Always with an eye toward future generations and regenerating public spaces, Daniele hopes to conduct a deep rethinking of old functions in light of new paradigms and to promote the transformation of our material culture into a spiritual one, to turn individualism into a collective gesture. With a focus on cemeteries and public spaces, Daniele’s research seeks to analyze and validate how Bold Philanthropy can promote, inspire, stimulate, support, and accelerate local processes of rethinking functions through community involvement in co-designing new solutions.
A Canadian-Haitian living in Mexico, Corinne earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the Université du Québec à Montreal. She also has a Masters in Emotional Intelligence from the Casa Luz, Centro de Inteligencia Emocional, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. In 2021, Corinne earned a Diploma in Social Management and Direction for Civil Society Organizations from the Universidad ORT México-Fundación Merced.

As Director of Amigos de San Cristóbal, Corinne promotes conditions of equity in the region of the Highlands of Chiapas by procuring, managing, and channeling philanthropic resources to civil society organizations working in the areas of education, the environment and health through community philanthropy strategies.

She is a board member of Comunalia, an alliance of Mexican community foundations that works with local and national actors to promote sustainable development and social transformation.

Corinne is one of the founding members of Crisalium Educación Naturaleza y Transición AC, a collective of diverse families that inhabit the forest of Encuentro in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, exploring practices to regenerate relationships through the ethical principles of permaculture: caring for the earth, caring for people, and sharing with equity.

As part of the Senior International Fellows Program, Corinne seeks opportunities to strengthen her knowledge of community foundations, local philanthropy, and grant-making practices. She hopes to bolster her abilities in asset and community development through exposure to best practices from successful community philanthropies. Through a comparison of organizations from different geographic and cultural contexts with a diversity of local assets, Corinne’s research will explore replicable strategies for community-based actors to mobilize local donors in the Highlands of Chiapas to invest in the development of their community.
Daria holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Heat and Power Engineering from the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, Ukraine’s national technical university. In 2018-2019, Daria was a recipient of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation’s Sur-Place Stipend for excellence in academic performance and society. As of 2022, Daria is a fellow of the German Marshall Fund’s Leadership Lab which empowers civically active youth from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine with leadership training.

In 2016, Daria began volunteering at the International Association of Students in Economics and Business (AIESEC) and rose, by 2018, to Vice President of Talent Management responsible for public organization strategy, risk management, and operational planning. She has international grant-writing and contract management experience in commercial solar power and social media companies.

Currently, as Executive Director of the National Network for Local Philanthropy Development (a community foundations support organization), Daria is responsible for strategic planning, grant-writing, fundraising, and international relationship development.

In the Senior International Fellows Program, Daria seeks theoretical knowledge in the areas of community building and grant-making to improve practical approaches to local philanthropy in Ukraine. She is excited to collaborate with leaders from other community foundations who can share best practices for connecting local, government, activist, business, and volunteers to international philanthropic organizations. Her research will explore ways to provide better service and support for community foundations in Ukraine through the cultivation of donor networks.
Rouguiétou has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Public Law from Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal where she also attained a Master’s in International Relations. She is currently finishing a second Master’s in Project management from the École Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée in Dakar. A lawyer specializing in International Law, Rouguiétou has many years of experience in nonprofit organizations, diplomacy, foreign relations, international security, international migration, and project management.

Rouguiétou has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Senegal and with AIESEC, a global youth network helping to promote leadership development. As a Philanthropy consultant for the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, she co-authored the 2022 edition of the Global Philanthropy Environment Index focus on Senegal.

Currently, as Program Officer at TrustAfrica, Rouguiétou leads projects in the African Philanthropy Programme, with responsibilities for all aspects of program development, including financial and strategic management and logistical planning.

As a Senior International Fellow, Rouguiétou plans to improve her leadership skills through knowledge exchange with thought-leaders in community philanthropy, fellow researchers, and academics. She views the program as an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of existing indigenous and vertical modern-day philanthropic initiatives at the community level. Rouguiétou’s research will explore potential of religious and traditional forms of giving in Senegal and how to harness their business models to influence the vertical expression of modern-day philanthropy.