

MEET THE 2022 COHORT



SUMMER PROGRAM ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEE STUDIES HARVARD UNIVERSITY & NKUA



FXB Center
for Health & Human Rights
at Harvard University



HELENIC REPUBLIC
**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**
EST. 1837



Center for Hellenic
Studies in Greece
Harvard University



CENTER FOR
HELLENIC STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Majeda Al Zaydan

Majeda graduated with a Bachelor of pharmacy from Dubai pharmacy college in 2019. Alongside a pharmacy degree, she had trained in community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, and industrial. Marjory of her experiences came from participation in different activities and taking on different student union positions such as secretary, vice president, and event coordinator, and volunteering in the community in Dubai through the Dubai women association. Currently, she is a member in the international pharmaceutical federation FIP and serves as Facebook manager for FIP young pharmacy group. She is interested in working in the middle east as it is the region that she is from and grew up in. Her goal is to focus on the health of populations in the global context, aiming to improve health and achieve equity in health for all people worldwide, including mental health, reduction of disparities, and protection against global threats that disregard national borders. She is also interested in Humanitarian crises and access to medicine and health care across different socioeconomic levels. After her master's degree, she is planning to do a Ph.D.



Mamdouh Alqudsi

Mamdouh Alqudsi is a certified social integration counselor from ELTE university with eight years of experience in social inclusion and social development. While carrying on initiatives for aiding international students to cope with integration barriers, Mamdouh served as the international students' ambassador in France as well as in Hungary. Prior to that, Mamdouh focused on launching programs aiming at integrating internally displaced persons and war casualties. Mamdouh is currently working on addressing invisible integration and social inclusion obstacles for refugees and asylum seekers. Finally, he obtained degrees in Business, management sciences, political sciences, and social integration.



Efpraxia Anagnostopoulou

Efpraxia (Fay) Anagnostopoulou is a Greek student at the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Having particular interest in the field of Public International Law, she aspires to pursue a diplomatic career and work in international organizations. Fay has been participating in Public-Speaking competitions (Model UN and Debate) since Junior High School with her proudest moment being the participation of her debate-team in the World Scholars Cup 2017 Tournament of Champions, at Yale University. For the past year she has been coaching the Model UN Club of Ekpedeftiki Anagennisi High School. She is fluent in English and she holds the C1 Diploma in German.



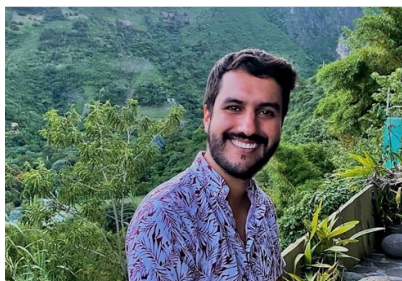
Dhwani Babla

Dhwani is a global health consultant who has lived and worked in unique health systems around the world. Over the course of her career, she has developed a deep interest in NCDs leading and a desire to learn more about innovative approaches to complex public health challenges. Dhwani received her Master of Public Health from Columbia University and BSc with a major scholarship from Simon Fraser University. She also currently sits on the Canadian Women in Global Health Steering Committee Board. Outside of work, you will find Dhwani boxing, spending time with family, taking courses, or planning her next adventure.



Natalie Ball

Natalie Ball is from Chicago, IL. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Natalie is a Family Nurse Practitioner passionate about refugee/migrant health, health as a human right, and health policy. Prior to HKS, Natalie worked full time in a federally qualified, community health center with vulnerable/high-risk patient populations. She also served as a volunteer in the Montefiore Emergency Department in the Bronx, NY and several other testing/vaccination sites during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure health access to marginalized communities. Natalie has also spent time working in Nicaragua with a holistic community development non-profit. She enjoys learning about new peoples and cultures and strives to deliver sensitive, empathetic and high quality care to every individual. Natalie is excited to focus on larger public health/systems initiatives, considering the impacts of the social determinants of health. She is so excited to gain experience in the humanitarian field and learn more about refugee health as it has always been a goal of hers.



Francisco Biber

Francisco is a first year Master in Public Administration student at Harvard Kennedy School. Born and raised in Peru, he spent the past 6 years working with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), most recently as the regional Child Rights and Business officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. In this capacity, he supported 24 UNICEF country offices to co-create programs and initiatives with the private sector to promote adolescent empowerment, family friendly workplace policies, and protection of migrant and refugee families. With Save the Children International, he spent three months researching the livelihoods experiences of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Colombia and Peru at the height of the 2019 crisis. Francisco is interested in expanding socio-economic opportunities for migrants and refugees and on the interaction between employers, employees and policymakers to achieve this.



Noah Carton-Rossen

My name is Noah Carton-Rossen. I am 26 years old and I am starting my second year as a Health Policy student in the Harvard Master of Public Health program. I grew up in Massachusetts and went to college at Elon University in North Carolina. I worked for a year doing Anthropology research in New Haven, Connecticut before moving to New York City to do trauma and burns research at Weill Cornell Medicine. I have been working there for two and a half years. My passion for this area of policy, research, and public health work stems from my academic background in anthropology and from my personal experiences with child refugees in New Haven Youth Sports. In undergrad I had the pleasure of working with an anthropologist/lactation specialist who was working on maternal and child health in refugee camps in Greece. This work involved advocacy, education, and organizing with public health officials on the ground to make sure there were culturally sensitive spaces and medically necessary resources for refugee mothers to nurse. Seeing this type of application of academia to global health inspired me to seek out more applicable approaches to my studies and a career in public health that could find an intersection between policy, aid, and cultural studies. I am a big soccer fan and I have been playing for my whole life. I also enjoy music, food, reading, exploring, snowboarding and more.



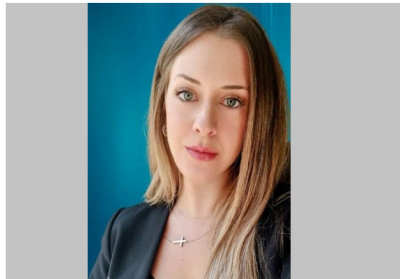
Athanasios Christou

Athanasios is currently graduating with an LLB with Honours from the University of Athens. He participated in the 8th European Human Rights Moot Court Competition (2019-2020) receiving the Best Orator award in the Göttingen Regional Round while the team placed 3rd in the Final Oral Round. Subsequently, he was a co-coach of the team from the University of Athens in the two following editions of the Competition (currently renamed to Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition). He has also attended various Greek and International seminars and conferences pertaining to topical issues of Public International Law and Human Rights.



Constantine Geroulakos

I just graduated from my undergrad in International Relations at the American College of Greece. My family background is all Greek however I had the privilege to grow up in London and Pittsburgh, PA and have been living in Greece for the past 4 years finishing my degree. Seeing stark divisions in our society and the world, I am interested in how it is possible to bridge divides. I believe migrants and host countries can benefit from each other and hope to see greater cooperation! I am also a big fan of playing and making music, as well as skating!



Aikaterini Gkouni

Aikaterini was born in Chios, Greece in 1992 - Lawyer and Legal Advisor to the Secretary General for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality - Member of the Athens Bar Association and the Hellenic Society of Criminology - Graduated from the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (scholar) - Completed postgraduate studies in “Criminology and Criminal Policy” - National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (scholar - commendation of excellence) - Worked for the Ilias Anagnostopoulos law firm - Specializes in Criminal and Media Law - Great-granddaughter of refugees from Smyrna in Asia Minor - Sailing athlete – fluent in Greek, English - speaks French.



Mahdia Hossaini

I am Mahdia Hossaini. On the 6th of March of 2016, a NATO ship rescued us from drowning at sea after 5 hours of drifting in the water on a damaged inflatable raft. While drifting in the sea we had to throw out everything we had brought with us in order to keep the raft afloat, including our documents, diplomas, anything we considered important enough to carry with us. Soon after our rescue we were transferred to Mytilene, where me and my family spent four days in Moria before we got registered at Camp Schisto (Athens) on March 10, 2016. The first step I took to integrate into society was to implement the idea of a newspaper. The newspaper initially helped me to familiarize myself with the small community of the camp because as a woman it was very difficult to integrate into that specific community. After the publication of our first few issues, we slowly left behind the closed space of the camp. This newfound project was a way to enter the local community. We were invited to many different schools and universities as a result. Personally, I was invited as a guest student at Padio University for a short time, where I attended an English media public speaking class. I was able to make friends, volunteer in NGOs, pursued my interest in learning history, participated in local community events and worked with colleagues from Greece and different nationalities all of which helped me profoundly to integrate a little easier. Learning the Greek language was quite of an adventure since the opportunities you get as an asylum seeker are minimal. You must wait on unending lists and the classes offered are elementary. However, I did obtain my A1 certificate in Greek and learned even more through friends and colleagues. Now, as a recently recognized refugee, I have more opportunities to learn the language properly. At this point I have to say that my choice of wearing a hijab has made the process of integration in the local society difficult for me and I had to work harder for it. I still am. Education was one of the main reasons I migrated since I was not allowed to go to university as an Afghan refugee in Iran, my country of birth. I have applied many times to continue my studies, but unfortunately, lacking the documents that would allow me easier access is an enormous obstacle. Now, I have passed the entrance exam for the General Education Development (GED) course in an institution called “Youth Connections”, and I am waiting for the classes to start.



Mayank Kumar

Mayank Kumar (he/him) is a first year Master of Theological Studies in Religion, Ethics, Politics student at Harvard Divinity School. Having grown up in Calcutta, India he earned his bachelor's in Religion and Political Science from a liberal arts college in the Midwest. His primary research interests include religion and democratic values, religion and political conflict, and religious nationalism. He is a lover of dogs, fiction novels, and old cinema.



Stephanie Loo

Stephanie Loo is a PhD candidate in Health Services Research at Boston University School of Public Health. She received her BS in Anthropology and Human Biology from Emory University and MSc in Global Health and Population from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Stephanie's research interests focus on the intersection of clinical informatics and social determinants of health. Her dissertation work applies mixed methods to examine the impact of social risk screenings on mental health in the United States' adult safety net. She works closely with the Immigrant and Refugee Health Center at Boston Medical Center. During her Masters training, she was a RA at the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and an Albert Schweitzer Fellow implementing a program focused on socio-communal health and leadership development of young women in the Somali Bantu refugee community.



Chinyere Nwamuo

Chinyere Nwamuo is a 1st year P.h.D student within the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her research interests include implementation science and multi-level intervention design, implementation, and evaluation within the context of early childhood adversity, trauma, and resilience. Prior to starting her Ph.D. program, she directed the Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences, Data to Action grant in Georgia, and led the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program. Her early career work in injury and violence prevention addressed focus areas in child abuse and neglect, traumatic brain injury, child passenger safety, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and sexual violence.



Rachel Pak

Rachel Pak is a Master in Public Policy candidate at the Harvard Kennedy School, whose policy interests lie at the intersection of migration and gender equity. She previously led press outreach at the Tahirih Justice Center, where she leveraged the power of storytelling to advocate for immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in the U.S. Rachel also lived and worked in Guatemala as a Princeton in Latin America fellow to strengthen healthcare access in rural communities. Rachel is committed to improving access to safety for immigrant communities within the U.S. and globally.



Anastasia Pikouli

My name is Anastasia Pikouli and I am a postgraduate student of the School of Medicine, University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria and of the MSc "Global Health - Disaster Medicine", School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. I have also been licensed with USMLE Step 1 and Step 2CK. My specific interests are in the field of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, especially of refugees and migrants after the enormous flows that came in Greece the last years. Also, the recent war in Ukraine provokes a new wave of refugees that have been protected in the host countries. From the medical side, it is interesting to know a lot about the epidemiology of those populations and I would like to learn more about how we could alleviate their physical and psychosocial wounds and heal their trauma in order to succeed the integration. During my studies, I have a lot of research experience in medicine and in the field of social sciences. I have participated in the organising committee of many conferences and seminars and I am keep on being always taught in different subjects that concern the human.



Raffi Pontes

Raffi is very excited to be participating in the Intensive Course on Migration and Refugee Studies this summer! Currently, Raffi is pursuing a Master of Public Health in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H Chan School, with concentrations in Maternal and Child Health and Humanitarian Studies. Prior to starting her Master's degree, Raffi worked as a Registered Nurse at Fenway Community Health Center and was an AmeriCorps Fellow serving in Boston. Raffi is passionate about learning how we can better implement systems to help refugee children and families obtain improved primary healthcare and educational services, and she is looking forward to learning more about these topics in the course. In her free time, Raffi enjoys teaching dance, hiking, and traveling to new places.



Elizabeth Poulos

Elizabeth (Liz) Poulos (she/her) is a second-year M.T.S student with a focus in religion, ethics, and politics. Born and raised in a vibrant Greek-Orthodox community in Cleveland, Ohio, Liz moved east for her undergraduate education at Williams College, where she specialized in History and French. As a college student, Liz supported the work of several justice-oriented organizations including the Literacy Cooperative and the Center for Community Change. She organized digitally for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement throughout her senior year at the height of the family separation crisis of 2018. Upon graduating from Williams in 2019, Liz moved to Paris where she served as an English Teaching Fellow for the French Ministry of Education. As teaching fellow, Liz taught English courses at two schools in the banlieue of Paris and coordinated Serve the City Paris' "Refugee Help" Program efforts in her free time. At Harvard, Liz has served in the leadership for the Responsible Organization Initiative and instructed courses for the Harvard Bridge Program. Most recently, Liz digitally organized with fellow advocates for migrant justice and immigration reform at Promise Arizona as a 2021 Harvard Presential Public Service Fellow. Upon graduating from Harvard Divinity, Liz intends to pursue a JD so that she can continue to fight for migrant justice and refugee rights through the law.





Rahul Singh

Rahul Singh is an active-duty Army officer in the United States military with over 11 years of experience leading teams at various levels to work with U.S. allies on counterterrorism operations and building partner capacity initiatives. Rahul has combat experience in Afghanistan and has worked throughout Asia with experience in South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines. After the devastating Battle of Marawi in 2017 in the southern Philippines, Rahul led a team to partner with senior Filipino defense officials to advise, assist, and implement programs to rebuild the Armed Forces of the Philippine's (AFP) defense capabilities. Most notably, Rahul assisted in establishing the first behavioral health program in the AFP to assist soldiers suffering from traumatic experiences from their fight with ISIS inspired terrorists. Currently, Rahul is a student at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a 2023 candidate for a Master's in Public Administration. He is also a General Wayne A. Downing Scholar with the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point Military Academy. Upon completion of his graduate degree, Rahul will return to the operational Army to work on national security problem sets in the Indo-Pacific theater of operation. Rahul earned his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was a member of the NCAA Division 1 swim team. He is a native of Freeport, Illinois.



Tiaji Sio

Tiaji Sio is currently pursuing the Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School as a McCloy Fellow. In 2018, she graduated from the German Foreign Service Academy and has since held different positions in Shanghai, Berlin, Dakar, Maputo, and Hanoi. Driven by the urge to give back, she founded the network "Diplomats of Color" as well as the inter-ministerial diversity organization "DIVERSITRY" to encourage members of marginalized communities to apply for positions in the Federal Administration. As a pioneer in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in public policy, she was selected to serve as an Ambassador for the Beyond Gender Agenda campaign and was recognized on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list and Capital Magazine's 40 Under 40.



Gabriella Vavala

Gabriella is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health in Health and Social Behavior with a concentration in Humanitarian Studies at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Before Harvard, Gabriella worked on two HIV research projects at the University of California, Los Angeles where she focused on the nexus between violence and poor health outcomes. For the Summer of 2022, in addition to participating in this course, Gabriella will work with the Program on Gender, Rights, and Resilience at the Harvard Humanitarian Institute to explore various gender-based violence risk mitigation strategies in the context of conflicts and crises. Gabriella is excited to join the Intensive Course on Migration and Refugee Studies!



Feifei Zeng

Feifei Zeng is a first-year Master in Public Policy candidate at Harvard Kennedy School. Born in China, raised in Italy, and educated in the U.S., Feifei is a global citizen passionate about empowering immigrant youth and young women. Prior to attending Harvard, Feifei was a Project Manager at CET Platform Italy, a small NGO, where she wrote grant proposals to the European Union's Erasmus Plus Programme. Feifei also managed projects to help young immigrants and refugees integrate into new societies. Feifei graduated with honors from Mississippi State University in 2018 where she obtained a BA in Foreign Languages and a BBA in Marketing with a concentration in International Business. Feifei was a 2017 Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow at Princeton University and a 2018 Andi Leadership Institute Fellow in Washington, DC.