



**SESSION #6:  
PRACTICES AND APPROACHES ON QUALITY EDUCATION  
TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE.**



**1) Prof. L S Shashidhara** is a Professor at IISER Pune and at Ashoka University. He specialises in Genetics, Molecular Biology and Evolutionary biology. His group has identified key mechanisms that specify organ development and regulate growth control in *Drosophila*. They have also expanded their study to examine the status of these evolutionarily conserved mechanisms in epithelial cancers in human.

Prof Shashidhara has served as Vice-President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in the past and is currently Secretary General of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and is steering an international project on Climate Change Education. Recently, Prof Shashidhara was elected as Associate member of European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), an international recognition for excellence in research in life sciences. He has served/is serving as Chair/co-chair/member of various apex committees of Government of India and S&T organizations, particularly those dealing with education, basic/applied/translational research, innovation, policy, international relations and outreach.

Prof Shashidhara has facilitated training of more than 10,000 school and undergraduate teachers in adopting inquiry-based teaching methods. In addition, he has organized several alternate career workshops for scientists, particularly women scientists, in science journalism, science policy, administration and management that have benefited more than 300 scientists from across the country.



**2) Dr. Lucilla Spini** is a bio-anthropologist with expertise in sustainable development, science/policy bridging, capacity-building, and gender mainstreaming. Prior to joining the International Science Council (ISC) where she leads, *inter alia*, the activities of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, she held several positions in the United Nations System, including Associate Expert at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Executive Officer for Global Environmental Change and Human Health at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH); as well as Programme Officer at the UNESCO TWAS-The World Academy of Sciences for advancement of science in developing countries. Dr. Spini holds a B.A. (Hons.) in anthropology from New York University, as well as an M.Sc. in human biology and D.Phil. in biological anthropology, both awarded from the University of Oxford. She has also served as Adjunct Assistant Professor in Anthropology at the University of Waterloo and Adjunct



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Professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University. Dr. Spini is also an alumna of the Harvard Kennedy School's Sustainability Science Program and of the European University Institute's Policy Leaders Fellowship Programme of the School of Transnational Governance, as well as an Old Member of Linacre College (Oxford). She is from Firenze, Italy.



**3) Dr. Boram Lee** is Senior Scientific Officer of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Her responsibilities include leading the planning and coordination of the WCRP core projects as well as supporting the coordination of WCRP's regional activities in close collaboration with relevant national, regional and international research communities. Boram's responsibility extends to the development of WCRP initiatives on urban climate; monitoring and supporting the implementation of WCRP Grand Science Challenges on Weather and Climate Extremes and on Water for Food Baskets of the World; and supporting/enhancing partnerships with early career scientists.

Before joining WCRP in 2014, Boram worked for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), responsible for international coordination of marine meteorological affairs including coastal risk forecasting and warning, through the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). Boram's experience comprises intergovernmental science policy, as well as the development and management of research & development projects in marine meteorology and coastal disaster risk reduction; she has led the development and coordination of the WMO Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP).

Boram worked at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO from 2003 to 2011 as a Programme Specialist, at the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences of Japan in 2002 as visiting scientist, and at the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) from 1995 to 2001 as a research scientist. Since 2010, she serves as an adjunct professor in the College of Ocean Science, Jeju National University, Republic of Korea. Boram holds a PhD in climatology from the Université Paris VI, France, Masters and Bachelors degrees in atmospheric science from Seoul National University in Korea.



**4) Ms. Aparna Joshi** is working as a Research Associate for the Trans-disciplinary Research Oriented Pedagogy for Improving Climate Studies and Understanding (TROP ICSU) project. Her responsibilities include scientific and technical aspects of project management, development of teaching resources for educators, conducting global workshops for educators and dissemination of the educational resources via different platforms. She works as a visiting faculty for SP Pune University, India. Aparna represented ISC



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via TROP ICSU for the United Nations Science and Technology Forum (UN STI Forum) at UNHQ NY in May 2019.

Before the TROP ICSU project, Aparna has worked in the international project of Virtual Observatory at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India; International Grid Computing Project and the first Indian Moon Mission project *Chandrayaan-I*. Her expertise includes science project management, science project coordination, and development of software tools and services for scientific computing. Her likings include writing science popularization articles for various digital and print platforms.

Aparna holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Dr BA Marathwada University, India and has done her Post-graduate studies in Mathematical Modeling and Simulation from SP Pune University, India.



**5) Ms. Cristina Contreras** Cristina Contreras is currently a Research Associate in the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard University, where she focuses on promoting sustainable practices in infrastructure projects on a global scale, examining and exploring the challenges and opportunities that sustainability can provide to countries and industry. During her time at Harvard, Cristina has lead several multi-year research projects aimed at introducing sustainable infrastructure practices into emerging economies, especially in the Latin America region. Cristina has also participated in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health in the Healthy Cities for China initiative and the Business Case for Sustainable Infrastructure. In her efforts to promote sustainable infrastructure, she also consults as an independent expert consultant for international organizations such as the Inter American Development Bank, Brookings Institute in Washington D.C, and GIZ in Germany, among others.

Cristina holds a Bachelor degree in Technical Architecture and Building Engineering, both from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM), and a Masters Degree in Sustainability and Environmental Management from Harvard University as well as two Professional Graduate Certificates in Corporate Sustainability and Innovation, and Strategic Management from Harvard University.

Cristina is a member of several working groups in infrastructure sustainability including the "United Nations Environment Programme's Expert Working Group on integrated approaches to sustainable infrastructure" and American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE), "Sustainable Infrastructure Standards Committee - Leadership Writing Group" and the "Planning Committee on Global Sustainability."



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**6) Ms. Judith I. Rodríguez** is a Research Associate and Program Administrator at Harvard University Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure. She focuses on key questions surrounding the sustainability and resilience of infrastructure, landscape, and cities. Her experience in sustainability and resilience includes Envision assessments of large-scale infrastructure, flood resilience best practices for cities, and mapping vulnerabilities to climate change. As Zofnass Program Administrator, Judith has experience planning workshops that bring together global infrastructure industry leaders, experts, academics, and public officials. Judith co-founded the Climate Adaptive Just Urbanism (CAJU) initiative to articulate community-based urban resilience with replicable and accessible design strategies for climate change adaptation. The pilot project "Refresca Sao Paulo" was voted top 3 Best Climate Practice from the International Center for Climate Governance. CAJU was granted a competitive fund, the Sustainable Urban Initiatives Prize from the Brasilia Secretary of the Environment to develop a project on adaptation to extreme heat in a public school in Brasilia. Judith holds dual Master's degrees in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design from Harvard University GSD, and a Master in Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) accredited by the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure, a LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) by the U.S. Green Building Council, and a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) provider certified by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In addition, she speaks fluent Portuguese, as well as Spanish (native), German, and French.



**7) Dr. Michael Cronin** is the main representative to the UN-NY from the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and an Associate Professor at the Monmouth University School of Social Work in West Long Branch, NJ in the USA. His main area of work at the UN is on ageing and family. In addition to teaching, he coordinates the Global and Community Practice Concentration of the Master's in Social Work (MSW) program at Monmouth. Dr. Cronin serves in a leadership capacity on the Executive Committee of CIF International and has volunteered as a disaster mental health leader with the American Red Cross in Greater New York since 1996. He is the Chapter's representative for international disaster mental health collaboration and is Roster Member of the International Psychosocial Support Team for the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies. His research interests and publications are in international social work, health care and social policy, disaster management, social gerontology, humanitarian law, cultural competence, and diversity.



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**8) Priska Fleischlin, M.S.**, is the IFSW UN Commissioner. In her work at the UN-Vienna. In her work at the Un-Vienna she focuses mainly on ageing because of her working experience with elderly people for more than ten years. Those over the age of 60 are the world's fastest-growing age-group, mostly in developing countries. Worldwide, Social Workers view the elderly as a heterogeneous group: they range from those with great agility and independence to the very vulnerable with high-maintenance needs.



**9) Elaine Congress MSSW, DSW** is Professor and Associate Dean at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service and a representative to the UN from IFSW. At the UN she is Recording Secretary and member of the Executive Committee for the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health, and a member of the NGO Committee on Migration and NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Dr. Congress has presented and published widely in the area of cultural diversity, immigrants and refugees, ethics, and social work education. She is currently working on the fourth edition of her book *Multicultural Perspectives in Working with Families* and a new book on the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals.



**10) Anne C. Deepak, PhD**, is an Associate Professor at Monmouth University School of Social Work in West Long Branch, NJ in the USA and a representative to the UN from IFSW. She teaches in the Global and Community Practice concentration of the MSW program. Her scholarly work has been focused on developing and applying a postcolonial feminist social work perspective to global social issues such as food security, human trafficking, humanitarian initiatives for women's economic empowerment, social work practice with refugees and immigrants, and sustainability and population growth. Her other scholarly work and interests are focused on diversity and anti-racism in social work education and in exploring globalization and international partnerships through research on the experiences and impact of international volunteers. Dr. Deepak has served the Council on Social Work Education in a leadership capacity through her involvement in the Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education.



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**11) Robin Sakina Mama, PhD**, is Dean of the School of Social Work at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey and a representative to the UN from IFSW. A full Professor at Monmouth, Dr. Mama teaches in the Global and Community Practice concentration of the MSW program. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce. Recently, Dr. Mama has been appointed to serve on the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women advocating and making policy recommendations for women of all races and creeds.