

# Testimonials

## MONSOON SCHOOL

LEIBNIZ RESEARCH NETWORK KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; LFN SUSTAIN

LEIBNIZ CENTRE FOR TROPICAL MARINE RESEARCH (ZMT)



**Transdisciplinary**

**Joint Visions**

**Collaboration**

**MEANINGFUL**

## Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)

Tropical coastal ecosystems are highly productive habitats with high ecological and economic importance. The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), established in 1991, is dedicated to these ecosystems, and the understanding of the influences which alter and threaten them. Through its activities in research, training and consulting, ZMT aims to contribute towards their protection and sustainable use.

### **GENERATING IMPACT in complex natural resource contexts: co-design and development of transdisciplinary research projects in a Global North/South perspective**

This 1.5 week course targeted early career scientists, from doctoral candidates in their final phase to post-docs, working in the context of natural resources and in collaborative projects among the Global North and South who are interested in transdisciplinary approaches, co-design of research, and achieving or increasing societal impact of their work. Organized in the frame of the Leibniz Research Network “Knowledge for Sustainable Development”, the course involved international experts from academia and practice as lecturers, and allowed participants to develop a thorough understanding of theoretical concepts, methods, and practical application, while directly applying the material in case studies of their own choice. The course covered the basic concepts, rationales, challenges and methods to address them, ranging from transdisciplinarity and project co-design to

the complexities of agreeing on goals and joint visions in the context of collaborations among a range of stakeholders and actors from diverse backgrounds, equitable research collaborations in a Global South setting and between actors of the Global North and Global South, strategically planning for achieving societal impact, and generating outputs that are meaningful to a range of stakeholders. The latter part included an overview of different measures of quality and impact in a transdisciplinary context and training in effective science communication to non-academic audiences.



# Contributors

# Contributors

Amar Maruf



Arya Dennison Bindulekha



Baker Matovu



Evelyne Schnittger



Gergino Chounna



Humayain Kabir



Ivy Ganadillo



The benefits of this course are multifold for me in my role as a university lecturer and community organizer. Cultivating impact literacy and understanding how to clearly communicate science to policy has dramatically enhanced my ability to translate research into practical outcomes.

*Amar Maruf*



The road to transdisciplinary science can be messy, overwhelming, and challenging, and having the right tools to navigate it is essential to ensure the expected outcome of the transdisciplinary project, avoid unwanted results and or consequences for the communities, and the fulfillment of the transdisciplinary researchers.

*Xochitl Édua Elías Ilosvay*





Through Monsoon School, participants gained a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding microplastic pollution and the urgent need for transdisciplinary solutions. The school's structured approach, emphasizing research, data collection, and community engagement, fostered a holistic perspective on the issue. It facilitated meaningful interactions between diverse stakeholders, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences. This hands-on experience enabled us to comprehend the real-life implications of plastic pollution on marine environments and empowered us to devise innovative and sustainable strategies for mitigation. Overall, the Monsoon School significantly contributed to enhancing our knowledge, skills, and commitment to addressing environmental challenges effectively.

*Sally Salaah Eldin*



Jegede Oluwaseyi



Johanès Heriniaina  
Tsilavonarivo



Karina Higa



Lovasoa Rina Raharinaivo



Merlyn Maria Antony



Rashmi Sri



Sally Salaah Eldin

**Sampath Wijethunga**



**Samuel Ukpong Okon**



**Soheil Bahrebar**



**Solaiman Hossain**



**Xochitl Édua Elías Ilosvay**



**Sebastian Ferse**  
Achim Schlüter  
Rebecca Lahl



**Cornelia Krönert**



**Lana Wesemann**



# Amar Maruf

Amar Maruf is a committed socio-environmentalist with over ten years of experience in community organizing. Recognized for his leadership in driving positive change, Amar Maruf has focused his work on creating systemic change to address the root causes of inequality and environmental degradation. His passion for regenerative community development has led him to believe that this approach holds great potential for transforming communities and creating a more just and sustainable future.

Explore the transformative journey of the Bajau Fishing Community with our initiative that celebrates its rich cultural legacy. This endeavor features two innovative components: #Bajau Virtual Tourism & Beyond and the Online Game titled 'Bajau: The Marine Savior.' Both ventures spotlight the Bajau people's distinctive cultural heritage and traditional ecological wisdom, emphasizing educational enrichment and conservation efforts.

Through digital engagement and broad accessibility, these activities unlock new revenue channels, including virtual tour admissions, subscription services, advertising partnerships, sponsorships, in-app transactions, merchandise offerings, avenues for donations, crowdfunding, educational collaborations, and access to grants and governmental support. Moreover, this project paves the way for fresh employment prospects within the local community. These platforms will foster a global appreciation for Bajau's roles in sustaining our food networks and marine ecosystems' vitality while inviting audiences to revel in the splendor of marine biodiversity and the authentic Bajau lifestyle.



**DIVERSE TOPICS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY BROADENED MY PERSPECTIVE**



# Amar Maruf

**AFTER ATTENDING THE “GENERATING IMPACT IN COMPLEX COASTAL AND MARINE CONTEXTS: CO-DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS” SUMMER SCHOOL, I DEEPLY REFLECTED ON THE COURSE. THE DIVERSE TOPICS COVERED IN THE PROGRAM HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY BROADENED MY PERSPECTIVE, PARTICULARLY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSDISCIPLINARITY IN ADDRESSING OCEANIC AND COASTAL ISSUES. THE CURRICULUM EMPHASIZED THE INTRICACIES OF CO-DESIGNING AND MANAGING GROUP WORK, EQUIPPING ME WITH INVALUABLE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS. THE LECTURES FROM EXPERTS LIKE A. SCHLÜTER AND M. REED HAVE LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION, PARTICULARLY THEIR INSIGHTS INTO THE TRADE-OFFS AMONG DIFFERENT GOALS AND DEVELOPING A THEORY OF CHANGE. DELIBERATING ON THE ‘DARK SIDE’ OF HETEROGENEOUS PROJECTS WITH J.-E. ROUGIER AND G. CANNIGLIA WAS EYE-OPENING, TEACHING ME TO NAVIGATE VARYING WORLDVIEWS AND ONTOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT WAS FOSTERING IMPACT LITERACY AND ARTICULATING IMPACTFUL PATHWAYS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM B. DOUTHWAITE, WHICH FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED MY APPROACH TO FUTURE PROJECTS. MANAGING GROUPS AND CONFLICTS, A CRITICAL ASPECT COVERED BY INGRID VAN PUTTEN AND M. GLASER, HAS MAINLY PREPARED ME FOR LEADING MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS. A SIGNIFICANT TAKE-HOME WAS THE NECESSITY OF EQUITY IN RESEARCH, A PRINCIPLE I PLAN TO UPHOLD IN MY DUAL ROLES AT THE UNIVERSITY AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE CURRICULUM EMPHASIZED AVOIDING HELICOPTER RESEARCH AND ENSURING MEANINGFUL SOCIETAL OUTPUTS, RESONATING WITH MY RESPONSIBLE AND IMPACTFUL SCHOLARSHIP MISSION. THE PROGRAM HAS ARMED ME WITH TOOLS TO INTEGRATE TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES INTO MY SYLLABI, FOSTERING A MORE ROBUST LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR MY STUDENTS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, AS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, THE SKILLS IN MANAGING GROUP DYNAMICS AND CONFLICT WILL PROVE INDISPENSABLE IN ORCHESTRATING PRACTICAL, PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS THAT RESPECT AND ELEVATE LOCAL VOICES, ULTIMATELY CONTRIBUTING TO MORE RESILIENT COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS.**

# Benefits

# Arya Dennison Bindulekha

## Arya Dennison Bindulekha



Arya Dennison Bindulekha is a Research scholar from the University of Kerala and a native of India. After getting awarded the KSCSTE Research Fellowship, she joined for Ph.D. on the topic “Diversity and Abundance of Benthic Communities in the Intertidal Environment of the Southwest Coast of Kerala”. She did her Masters in Environmental Sciences at the University of Kerala.

Her research interests include Benthic diversity studies of coastal environments, Microplastic Analysis, Anaerobic microbial ecology, and biogeochemical analysis of aquatic ecosystems. She has knowledge of statistical analysis (SPSS 20, Primer 6, PAST, R, and R studio software) and has five publications, including research articles and book chapters.

# Benefits

**AS A STUDENT FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, IT WAS A GREAT PLATFORM FOR ME. THIS MONSOON SCHOOL PROVIDED ME WITH A UNIQUE PLATFORM FOR ENGAGING IN DEEP DISCUSSIONS WITH EXPERTS WORKING WITH OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND GAVE ME A CRITICAL INSIGHT INTO TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO SOLVING PROBLEMS. THE MOST EXCITING PART WAS THE GROUP PROJECT RELATED TO TACKLING MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION IN VARIOUS COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS OF THAILAND, INDIA, AND MADAGASCAR. THE PROJECT WAS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO MY RESEARCH AS I HAVE WORKED WITH MICROPLASTICS IN BEACH SEDIMENT, AND THROUGH THIS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT, I AM NOW CAPABLE OF IDENTIFYING VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS AND STRATEGIES TO TACKLE BEACH POLLUTION. BESIDES THESE BENEFITS, I COULD MEET PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE CULTURES AND FORM FRIENDSHIPS OVER THE COURSE OF EIGHT DAYS. THE MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY FROM THIS MONSOON SCHOOL IS THE KNOWLEDGE I GAINED ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUSTAINABLE MARINE DEVELOPMENT IN A TROPICAL SETTING. I APPRECIATE THE ORGANIZERS OF IOI & ZMT, ESPECIALLY DR. SEBASTIAN FERSE, PROF. DR. ACHIM SCHLÜTER, AND DR. ANNETTE BRECKWOLDT FOR CONDUCTING SUCH AN EXCELLENT TRAINING PROGRAM.**

# Baker Matovu

Baker Matovu is a PhD researcher on the Blue Economy and Women's Empowerment: The missing link to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in rural coastal India, CWEGE, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala, India.

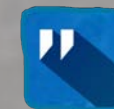
This project focuses on identifying vulnerabilities of marginalized communities; especially women in coastal zones and developing synergies that promote holistic empowerment and sustainable welfare advancement and inclusion of women in the Blue Economy sectors; especially marine fishing and tourism. Through this project, I hope to develop a framework to guide decision-making related to the socioeconomic and political inclusion of women as well as use systems analysis, modeling, and mapping to identify externalities and synergies in the coastal human-environmental system that can be used to promote resilience to environment-anthropogenic stressors and shocks and develop sustainable solutions to reduce such vulnerabilities.

The focus of this research is the global South; especially coastal India in Kerala. This specific case has been chosen since myriad literature increasingly anecdote that ecosystems functions, goods, and services in coastal India are increasingly being threatened in the Anthropocene era-catastrophically affecting human-ecosystems interactions and feedback mechanisms that if not urgently addressed will affect sustainable livelihoods, development, and environmental resources availability. For instance, climate change effects are threatening coastal fishing and populations; yet global frameworks to address environmental refugees are non-existent. In the fisheries sector, IUU fishing and local imbalances in fisheries access is increasingly leading to loss of livelihoods and natural resource conflicts irrespective of the numerous fisheries policies; all of which require the sharing of situational and specific area-based data, information, mapping, and designing of new community engagement, resilience and adaptation pathways, and experiences to create participatory and feasible innovations and leverage points for both human and ecosystem welfare.

# Baker Matovu

## Benefits

**ONE OF THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS THAT I GAINED FROM THE SCHOOL WAS THE ABILITY TO INTEGRATE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND METHODS INTO LOCAL SCENARIOS; ESPECIALLY THOSE FACING ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE. I OBTAINED THIS INSIGHT THROUGH THE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS BROUGHT TO THE FORE BY THE VARIOUS SPEAKERS AND THE INTERACTIVE SESSIONS THAT WE CONDUCTED DURING GROUP DISCUSSIONS. THIS SIGNIFICANTLY RHYMES WITH MY RESEARCH FOCUS AND PLAN WHERE I HOPE TO INTEGRATE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH SERVICES AND SCHOLARLY LITERATURE FROM SECONDARY SOURCES TO IDENTIFY VULNERABILITIES IN THE BLUE ECONOMY THAT PERPETUATE DISEMPOWERMENT. THIS WILL HELP ME IN THE MAPPING OF SYSTEM DYNAMICS AND IDENTIFYING OF SUSTAINABLE SCENARIOS FOR EMPOWERMENT.**



**THIS WILL HELP ME.**





# Evelyne Schnittger

## Evelyne Schnittger

In her professional life, Evelyne Schnittger has been a lawyer for many decades specialising in international environmental law. In addition to her traditional company work, she and eleven colleagues built a non-profit organisation which supported children and young people in scientific and social activities of their own choosing.

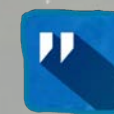
Today, her research is on conditions for success and obstacles to scientific monitoring, co-creation and cooperation in modern environmental planning procedures at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg and Hamburg University. In Germany most prominently the modern Site Selection Act – by law - requires scientific cooperation and monitoring for the storage of highly radioactive waste without the law being able to describe requirements of scientific cooperation and monitoring. Therefore Evelyne established a series of experiments that analyse the conditions for success and obstacles in trans- and interdisciplinary, international and intergenerational collaboration.

As a Monsoon School alumna, she accompanies the 2023 cohort and a group of interested international scientists of various ages and levels of education in and outside of Academia, who get to know each other via a blog, via email and messenger and in conversations on Zoom and Skype.

The storage and protection of dangerous substances for an indefinite period of time to protect future generations is particularly urgently dependent on scientific support in interdisciplinary collaboration. Highly complex technical and social questions remain unexplored and unsolved. Researchers in German-speaking countries need exchange and collaboration with colleagues from the international field and of all ages. The acceptance of scientific solutions and their political implementation require the early involvement of the population. Participation in the Monsoon School offers practical training for interdisciplinary and international scientific contacts and a space for reflection for transdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration. She is particularly grateful to the Monsoon School for this unique field of work.

## Benefits

**THE MONSOON SCHOOL UNIQUELY ASSEMBLES HIGHLY MOTIVATED, IDEALISTIC YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. HERE THEY CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER AND LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER`S FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE. THEY LISTEN TO EACH OTHER REPORTING ON EACH OTHER`S CHALLENGING RESEARCH TOPICS ON THE BASIS OF TRAINING SESSIONS CAREFULLY PREPARED FOR THEM BY EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES OF ALL AGES. FOR MOST YOUNG SCIENTISTS, WORKING ON A DOCTORAL THESIS MEANS A PERIOD OF MAXIMUM SPECIALIZATION AND SOLITARY, SECLUDED WORK. THEY REACH FEW OTHER SPECIALISTS TO REFLECT ON SOPHISTICATED PUBLICATIONS. DURING MONSOON SCHOOL, PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL RESEARCH: THEY EXPERIENCE LIVELY INTERNATIONALITY.**



**EXPERIENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL RESEARCH**



# Gergino Chounna

## Gergino Chounna

Gergino is a young and passionate Environmental Engineer and Scientist interested in Research for Development to promote sustainable development with a focus on land subsidence and coastal hazards. He is currently undertaking my PhD studies on the vulnerability of coastal cities and mangroves to the combined effects of land subsidence and relative sea-level rise at the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering, University of Padova, Italy.

His Master's research focused on the use of rock-water interactions (hydrogeochemical approach) to explain agricultural low yields by investigating essential nutrient (nutrients to plants) generation, mobility, and availability at soil horizons and nutrient depletion within sedimentary and igneous watersheds. The outcome of this research was published as a scientific paper and since then, he is a co-author of four peer review papers and contributor to the UNESCO-2020 Extended Abstract Volume Youth and Water Security in Africa: Impacts of Human Activities on Urban Lake in West Cameroon and the Case of Dschang Municipal Lake. Gergino is passionate about research, teaching, and being able to communicate science to non-scientists and participate in conferences, environmental education, workshops, and online programs for young scientists. In addition, he is interested in interdisciplinary and or trans-disciplinary environmental research and related.

Since 2015, I have joined numerous youth and professional organizations with the aim of meeting, networking, and collaborating with experts from other parts of the world who share the same goals of tackling environmental and developmental challenges. In this regard, he is a member of the following organisations:

Member: Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) ; American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES); American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) & Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) of ASCE ; UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network (GWYN); Esri's Young Professional Network (YPN); World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW); Community Surface Dynamics Modelling System (CSDMS); Rural Water Supply Network for young professionals (RWSN); Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD); Global Ambassadors of Sustainability (GAoS).

# Benefits

**AS A PHD STUDENT WORKING ON LAND SUBSIDENCE AND RELATED COASTAL HAZARDS, THE MOONSOON SCHOOL WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO DEAL BETTER WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH. I NEEDED THIS KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE RESEARCH ON LAND SUBSIDENCE AND DELTA SYSTEM IS INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH THAT CONNECTS THE FIELDS OF GEOMORPHOLOGY, GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY, GEOTECHNICS, GEOMECHANICAL ENGINEERING, AND REMOTE SENSING. THEREFORE, THIS PROGRAM WIDENS MY SCOPE OF UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO MEASURE IMPACTS, HOW TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEW OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, FOSTER COLLABORATIONS AND ALSO ON HOW CONSIDER ALL THE BENEFITS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IF DEALING WITH A COMMUNITY PROBLEM.**



**GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE**



# Humayain Kabir

## Humayain Kabir

Md Humayain Kabir has 12+ years of experience in academic research and teaching with a strong engagement of relevant stakeholders and has been contributing to solving climate change-induced problems in Bangladesh, Thailand, UK, and Austria.

His research activities include climate change risk management, climate change impact assessment and adaptation, environmental management, integrated coastal management, water resources management, disaster risk management, attribution of weather and climate extremes, and sustainability. Md. Humayain Kabir is a PhD candidate (final year and expecting Doctorate degree by 2023) and pre-doctoral scientist at the Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz. Mr. Kabir was a visiting researcher at the Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford. He is also an Associate Professor (on leave) of Environmental Science at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong (IFESCU), Bangladesh. Apart from teaching and research, he is a mentor of the climate reality project, mentor of MIT Solve, a fellow of Anant Fellowship for Climate Action, Fellow of Environmental Leadership Program (University of California, Berkeley), and Ambassador of Island Innovation.

His project was on developing and co-designing an integrated management plan for conflict medication in Saint Martin Island- the only coral reef island in Bangladesh. The main background of the project was the poor understanding of system thinking, resource usage conflict between tourism and nature conservation, maintenance of the carrying capacity of the island, horizontal and vertical integration of the power structure among the stakeholders. This Td project considers several steps to mediate the conflict among the actors and users. These are understanding of case context, problem identification and structuring, knowledge production and integration. The expected outcomes of the project include better natural resources management, improved communication chain, livelihood security of the local communities, and knowledge sharing between actors.

# Benefits

**AS A PARTICIPANT OF MONSOON SCHOOL, HE WAS IMMENSELY BENEFITED FROM THE MONSOON SCHOOL BY IMPROVING MY SKILLS IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH/CO-DESIGN, STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS, STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE TYPES AND STAKEHOLDERS, AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY. IN ADDITION, HE GETS HANDS-ON EXERCISE IN IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS OF THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND METHODS TO DEAL WITH THOSE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.**



**HANDS-ON EXERCISE**



# Ivy Ganadillo

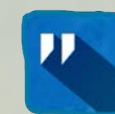
# Ivy Ganadillo

Ivy Ganadillo is advancing her studies in International Relations as a Ph.D. candidate at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, building on her academic background, which includes a Master of Arts in Asian Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the Philippines. Her academic career includes lecturing at Ateneo de Manila University and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Beyond academia, Ivy has enriched her profile through practical experience, serving as a consultant and defense analyst for the Philippine Navy's Office of Naval Strategic Studies. She also contributed significantly as a research associate and extension specialist at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. Ivy is deeply engaged in research concerning maritime security, Philippines-China security relations, and the larger security dynamics of East Asia.

Ivy works on the Joint Protection of Coral Reef in the South China Sea project. The South China Sea's coral reefs once thrived, supporting diverse marine life AND local economies through tourism and fishing, BUT harmful practices like overfishing, illegal clam harvesting, and artificial island building compounded by ongoing maritime disputes and effects of climate change, have led to severe environmental degradation, THEREFORE, it's imperative that nations involved put aside their differences and collaborate on enforcing sustainable practices and protecting these critical ecosystems.

# Benefits

**THE MONSOON SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY CONVENED SCHOLARS AND PARTICIPANTS FROM DIVERSE GLOBAL BACKGROUNDS AND DISCIPLINES, ALL UNITED BY A COMMON OBJECTIVE: TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS. THIS GATHERING WAS IMMENSELY VALUABLE, MARKED BY A RICH EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND COLLABORATIVE BRAINSTORMING ON PROJECTS. IT PROVIDED A REFLECTIVE SPACE WHERE WE COULD GAIN INSIGHTS INTO THE SITUATIONS FACED BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES, LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER'S EXPERIENCES. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT SUCH BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS WILL BE SUSTAINED AND CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE.**



**IMMENSELY VALUABLE**



# Jegede Oluwaseyi

Jegede Oluwaseyi is a PhD student at the Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology at the University of the North West, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa. His activities as a research assistant concentrate in the fields of environmental radioactivity within the Southern African region, radioecology and nuclear forensics.

He was trained on ISO 17025 (competency of the entity to carry out tests and/or calibrations and sampling) by the South African National Accredited System, attended the Summer school with iTHEMBA LABS at Cape Town and the IAEA Training Workshop on the Advanced Use of Neutron Imaging for Research and Applications hosted by Nuclear Energy Company of South Africa (NECSA). Because of this qualifications and his many years of experience in his field, he is now at the top of his peers' ranks.

He is currently a member of the South African Institute of Physics and works on a project on Radiological risk assessment of natural radionuclides of aquatic organism.

The maritime environment is one of the most essential sources of life on Earth, serving a variety of critical environmental roles for human and other creatures' lives and livelihoods. Marine contamination has been a long-standing global issue, hence the need to monitor and assess the pollution risk. Assessing water quality for different water use purposes, such as domestic use, irrigation, conservation and industrial usage, are an important strategy for food safety and human health especially with the increasing impact of human activities like mining polluting these waterbodies through it effluent.

In many countries, various studies dealing with radiological risk due to naturally occurring radionuclides in terrestrial (mine tailings) and waterbodies focus on the exposure to humans, in this regard detailed studies on natural radionuclides contamination in different sources of water from different locations of the world have been reported. While exposure to aquatic biota is not covered, this study will benchmark current levels and also ascertain any changes that might arise in the future.

Estimating the effects of radiation on these species is very difficult, as it is impossible to take into account all the animals and plants that are located in aquatic bodies. Moreover, group of organisms representing the ecosystem will be selected, called reference organisms, for which models will be built to help in calculating dose rates for them.

This study aimed to assess the radiological risk of natural radionuclides ( $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ , and  $^{40}\text{K}$ ) to Marine ecosystem biota and to assess the possible health risks associated. The data generated in this study will be useful in carrying out any environmental health surveillance in the area. The derived result will serve as a working baseline data for ascertaining any changes due to natural and human activities in the radioactivity level of the drinking water.

# Benefits

**THE 1.5-WEEK MONSOON SUMMER SCHOOL, HELP TO DEVELOP A TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECT PLAN WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SOCIETAL IMPACT SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT COMMON IN MY FIELD. THROUGH A DIVERSE COHORT, EXCHANGED WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVERAL ACADEMIC BACKGROUND AND CULTURE WAS POSSIBLE. THE ABOVE EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED, WILL HELP ME WITH KNOWLEDGE ON CONDUCTING QUALITY RESEARCH IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT AND GENERATING IMPACTFUL OUTCOMES, BELIEVING THESE TRAININGS ARE KEY IN HARNESSING IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. I EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE OF SUCH TRAININGS. THANK YOU.**



**IMPACTFUL OUTCOMES**



# Johanès H. Tsilavonarivo

## Johanès Heriniaina Tsilavonarivo



**SINCERELY GRATEFUL**



Tsilavonarivo Heriniaina Johanès is specializing in Coral Reef Ecology. He obtained his Master's degree from the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IH.SM) at the University of Toliara, Southwest Madagascar, in 2023, following his Bachelor's degree in 2018.

Currently, he serves as the Programme Manager for Marine Affairs at Conservation Centre on the Community (C3) Madagascar. Alongside his responsibilities, he is deeply engaged in ongoing research, focusing on the welfare of coral reef fishes in Northern Madagascar's Key Biodiversity Area. His aim is to study how marine pollution and small-scale fisheries impact fish stress, helping to understand their responses to environmental disturbances and proposing potential mitigation solutions. This research involves assessing habitat quality, analyzing mucus bacteria in coral fishes to understand diseases, evaluating stress levels, and interconnecting these aspects to comprehend their relationships. Securing funding for this critical research is essential for sustaining biodiversity and marine resources.

This training has further solidified his dedication to employing transdisciplinary approaches in his research. He firmly believes that this approach offers increased accuracy, sustainability, and adaptability in addressing real-world challenges.

# Benefits

**I AM SINCERELY GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRAINING PROGRAM. IT HAS PROVIDED ME WITH FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PRINCIPLES AND METHODOLOGIES, SIGNIFICANTLY ENRICHING MY RESEARCH PURSUITS. ATTENDING THIS TRAINING SOLIDIFIED THE URGENCY OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRESSURES ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. I'VE GRASPED THE VITAL NEED FOR INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION AMONG RESEARCHERS IN CRAFTING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS—A CORE ASPECT OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH. IT NOTABLY SHARPENED MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH DIVERSE PROFESSIONALS, OFFERING INSIGHTS BEYOND MY RESEARCH AND POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT. AS A COMMUNITY LEADER, I AIM TO SHARE THESE LEARNINGS FOR COLLECTIVE GROWTH. THIS OPPORTUNITY WAS A PRIVILEGE, BROADENING MY KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTING ME WITH GLOBAL RESEARCHERS. UNDOUBTEDLY, THIS TRAINING MARKS A RESOUNDING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS, SHAPING MY COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING PRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.**

## Karina Higa

Karina Higa is a marine Ethnobiologist, Educator and Blue economy expert. She works for private sector, and advocates for young professionals under the UN Ocean Decade. In addition, she leads projects related to Ocean literacy, communicating and elevating people's voice especially from under representative regions. In this endeavour she works on a multicultural, interdisciplinary environment leading teams from different sector of society.

# Benefits



**INCLUSIVITY, TRANSDISCIPLINARITY,  
RESPECT OF DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE  
SYSTEMS, SELF REFLECTION AS A  
PROFESSIONAL**



MONSOON SCHOOL WAS A SPACE WHERE I LEARNED MORE ABOUT APPROACHES BASED ON VALUES THAT I PROFOUND BELIEVE: INCLUSIVITY, TRANSDISCIPLINARITY, RESPECT OF DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, SELF REFLECTION AS A PROFESSIONAL AND HOW IMPORTANT PEOPLE ARE IN SCIENCES AS LIFE IS MORE COMPLEX THAN THE SCIENCE CAN PICTURE IT.

# Lovasoa Rina Raharinaivo

## Lovasoa Rina Raharinaivo

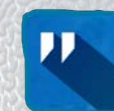
Lovasoa Rina Raharinaivo is a PhD student within the Algoplast or “Bioplastic and village seaweed farming” Research and Development Project, thanks to the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IH.SM) at the University of Toliara and the University of Mons (UMONS) collaboration, and financed by ARES-CCD. She is a marine biologist who graduated from the IH.SM.

The Algoplast project aims to evaluate and test, on the scale of a pilot unit in Madagascar, the economic, social and environmental potential of an innovative activity involving the manufacture of bioplastics, in particular biodegradable films, made from the two seaweeds. This activity would enable her team to value seaweeds and contribute to reduce plastic pollution, which is a global concern. Hence, the PhD research by Lovasoa Rina Raharinaivo is focusing on the plastic pollution in marine environment of Madagascar.

She had recognized the importance of collaborative project, especially in research. She is aware that this kind of project could offer various advantages for project stakeholders, may contribute for sustainable development and seems more interesting for funders. In her case for example, being involved in collaborative projects (through her research and work), she had gained financial and/or technical support to conduct her research; expanded her networking and perspective; and discovered other countries as well as different cultures.

## Benefits

**I WAS DELIGHTED TO PARTICIPATE TO THE SUMMER SCHOOL-PROGRAM “GENERATING IMPACT IN COMPLEX COASTAL AND MARINE CONTEXTS: CO-DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS” FROM 1-10 NOVEMBER 2023. I HAD LEARNED ABOUT TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT AND HAS RECOGNIZED THE COMPLEXITY OF APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENTING THIS KIND OF PROJECT WHEN EACH STAKEHOLDER HAS DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS OR DEMANDS. I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED HOW THE TRAINING INTEGRATED PRACTICAL ELEMENTS THROUGH REAL PROJECTS. WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY OUR KNOWLEDGE IN PROJECT CASE (FOR MY GROUP, OUR WORK WAS ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION), STRENGTHENING OUR UNDERSTANDING ON COLLABORATIVE PROBLEMS. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH COLLEAGUES FROM DIVERSE ACADEMIC BACKGROUNDS AND FROM ANOTHER STATES. THIS PROGRAM ENCOURAGED ME TO CONSIDER NETWORKING NOT ONLY AS A MEANS OF EXCHANGE, BUT AS A PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT IN THE FUTURE. IT PROVIDED ME WITH ESSENTIAL TOOLS EVEN IN THE COMMUNICATING SCIENCE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR HAVING HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY, AND I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS TRAINING TO ANYONE LOOKING TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS.**



**PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**





# Merlyn Maria Antony

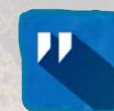
## Merlyn Maria Antony

Merlyn is a nouveau marine ecologist at the School of Human Ecology, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, with disciplinary training in Mathematics and Development Studies. Although he did not study to be an ecologist, the “retentions and protentions” that have followed since spending days in the Andaman seascape (of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India) have led him to marine ecology. In working with the fishing communities of the island, his attention drew to the precarity of their lives and species they depend upon for conducting their livelihood. This is what he aims to address in his research.

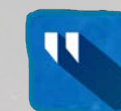
Anthropogenic activities have led to increased occurrences of ocean eutrophication, acidification, pollution, coral bleaching, and introduction of invasive. All of which by affecting the species abundance, richness and genetic composition have had a detrimental effect on the life below water. To contain which, historically efforts have been made for management of fisheries by imposing seasonal bans, no take marine protection area zones, regulating gear size and catch among others. But these strategies have fallen short of sustaining the fisheries, predominantly because of the inconsonance between market, ecology and law that underlines these policies. Therefore, in his research he hopes to address this disjunct, by first, mapping the anthropogenic impact of fishing (albeit not always, but taken to be a function of the market) on the marine species, followed by tracing the marine food web in the tropical waters of Andaman island, to understand the impact of perturbations on the stability of the web. To then juxtapose the two together to understand the effect of humans as a “super generalist omnivore”, on the ecological integrity of the marine ecosystem. And therein foreground the issue of governance (at the level of the local, national and global) to put forward measures that conserve the marine tropical waters, lives within and lives dependent.

## Benefits

**THE MONSOON SCHOOL PROVIDED ME WITH A PLATFORM TO INTERACT WITH FELLOW PRACTITIONERS AND RESEARCHERS. THE DESIGN OF THE SCHOOL, WITH THE PARTICIPANTS COMING TOGETHER TO WORK ON A PROJECT AND PUT LEARNINGS FROM THE LECTURES TO USE, WAS TRULY A FULFILLING EXERCISE. THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON USING A TRANS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MPA IMPLEMENTATION IN SAINT MARTIN ISLAND, BANGLADESH, PROVED BENEFICIAL TO ME, AS IN MY OWN RESEARCH I LOOK AT THE GOVERNANCE OF FISHERIES IN AN INDIAN ISLAND. ADDITIONALLY THE LECTURES ON POSITIONALITY AND REFLEXIVITY IN MY RESEARCH ADDED TO MY KNOWLEDGE WHICH I HOPE TO CALL UPON WHILST THEORISING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE FISHERS IN CONDUCTING THEIR LIVELIHOOD.**



**TRULY A FULFILLING EXERCISE**



# Rashmi Sri

# Rashmi Sri



## ANCHOR ON MY ACADEMIC SAILINGBOAT



Embarking on a sustainability odyssey, Rashmi is a spirited explorer with a passion for unraveling the secrets of the ocean spaces. With a compass in one hand and Life Sciences, International Environmental Law, and Environment Management degree coupled with some years of professional experiences in the other; she dives into marine research and governance where every ripple tells a story. Her journey so far is a fusion of cross-disciplines curiosity and sustainability pathways for ocean stewardship.

Currently also donning the hat of a research scholar of blue economy at the Indira Gandhi National Open University in India, Rashmi is crafting her scholarly voyage to weave together academia and indigenous knowledge. Beyond the laboratory, she has engaged with coastal communities, policy makers, and other actors so as to blend technical knowledge with local wisdom, and translate it into sustainable actions. As she navigates the uncharted waters of academia and research, she is trying to strive a delicate balance between economic development and the preservation of invaluable mangrove habitats. It delves into the synergies and connectivity of the Blue Economy relevant to the mangrove ecosystem, which is a deltaic complex at the apex of the Bay of Bengal. Rashmi is aiming to contribute both, to academic discourse and practical conservation efforts to conserve the region's ecological richness.

# Benefits

**AS IT SEEMS RELATIVELY EASY TO WRITE MY RESEARCH OBJECTIVES THAN TO HOLISTICALLY CARRY-OUT STUDY, THE MONSOON SCHOOL ON 'GENERATING IMPACT IN COMPLEX COASTAL AND MARINE CONTEXTS: CO-DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN A GLOBAL NORTH/SOUTH PERSPECTIVE' HOSTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE GERMANY (IOI) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEIBNIZ-CENTRE FOR TROPICAL MARINE RESEARCH (ZMT) AND SUPPORTED BY FUTURE EARTH COASTS (FEC), WAS AN ANCHOR ON MY ACADEMIC SAILING BOAT. AS WE BECOME MORE AND MORE CONNECTED TODAY, THE EXPERIENCES FROM THIS PLATFORM REINFORCED TO ME HOW WE HAVE NATURAL SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES. COLLABORATING WITH DIVERSE MINDS FROM THE GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH, I WITNESSED THE STRENGTHS OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY CO-DESIGN, MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE, FINDING PERSPECTIVES, FRAME ENQUIRY, DILUTING SILOS, EXTENDING THE REACH, BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, AND COLLECTIVELY SHAPING RESEARCH PROJECTS. FROM CROSS-CULTURAL NUANCES TO CO-CREATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, THE JOURNEY FOR ME WAS TRANSFORMATIVE AND KALEIDOSCOPIIC THAT ECHOES THE PROFOUND CONNECTION BETWEEN RESEARCH, GOVERNANCE, AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**

# Sampath Wijethunga

## Sampath Wijethunga

Sampath Wijethunga (B.Sc (Hons)(UWU), MSc (Peradeniya)) is a Marine Environment Officer and works as a Marine Environment Protection Authority in Sri Lanka.

He is engaging in the “Empowering Coastal Community of Gampaha District in Sri Lanka” project. Considering recent challenges, project, “Empowering Coastal Community of Gampaha District in Sri Lanka,” emerges as a crucial initiative, seeking to address the pressing issues exacerbated by the recent X-press Pearl ship accident. Aligned with the International Ocean Institute’s Monsoon School theme, my multifaceted approach aims to mitigate the impacts faced by coastal communities along the North Indian Ocean. Focused on selected locations like Sarakkuwa Beach, Dungalpitiya Beach, and Negambo Beach, the project underscores the necessity of empowering these communities. The recent ship accident has not only highlighted the vulnerability of marine resources but has also emphasized the importance of a positive image for the IOI center. Through comprehensive awareness programs, sustainable practices advocacy, and collaborative resource management, our project envisions not only a safeguarding of marine resources but also the empowerment of coastal communities for a resilient and sustainable future. This initiative is poised to create a positive narrative, showcasing the IOI center’s commitment to fostering environmental stewardship and community well-being.

# Benefits

**PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE’S MONSOON SCHOOL HOLDS IMMENSE PERSONAL BENEFITS FOR ME. AS A MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER AND LEGAL INSPECTOR, THIS PROGRAM ALIGNS SEAMLESSLY WITH MY DIVERSE BACKGROUND, PROMISING TO DEEPEN MY EXPERTISE IN COMPLEX COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. THE EMPHASIS ON TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES DOVETAILS WITH MY MULTIFACETED ROLES, FOSTERING A HOLISTIC MINDSET. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE WILL ENRICH MY CONNECTIONS, WHILE THE PROGRAM’S FOCUS ON APPLIED LEARNING AND EXPOSURE TO MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO MY COMMITMENT TO PRACTICAL, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS. THIS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE WILL AMPLIFY MY CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS, MAKING THIS PROGRAM A PIVOTAL STEP IN ADVANCING MY MISSION OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.**



**PIVOTAL STEP IN ADVANCING MY MISSION**



# Samuel Ukpogong Okon

## Samuel Ukpogong Okon



**I GAINED SO MUCH**



Dr. Samuel Ukpogong Okon studied Marine Biology at an undergraduate level and obtained his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Calabar in Nigeria. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Physical Oceanography from Bangor University in the United Kingdom in 2016 and obtained a Doctorate Degree in Ocean Engineering from Zhejiang University in China in 2022. He is currently a lecturer/researcher at Akwa Ibom State University in Nigeria, where he has garnered years of lecturing and research experience.

Dr. Sam has published in several reputable SCI journals, serves as a reviewer for several journals, and belongs to several professional organizations. He has received several fellowships, including the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, the Marine Scholarship of China, and the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation Fellowship. Dr. Sam is currently on a postdoctoral researcher at Zhejiang University, where he is studying the interaction between Density Current and the Foundation Structure of Offshore Wind turbines using an Artificial intelligence (IA) Algorithm. He is also researching the Interaction between High-density Submarine Turbidity Current and Suspended Pipelines, among other funded projects.

## Benefits

**THE JUST-CONCLUDED ONLINE MONSOON SCHOOL 2023 ON 'GENERATING IMPACT IN COMPLEX NATURAL RESOURCE CONTEXTS: CO-DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN A GLOBAL NORTH/SOUTH PERSPECTIVE' WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. THE RESOURCE PERSONS WERE WELL-SELECTED, AND THE COURSES WERE WELL-TAUGHT. I GAINED SO MUCH FROM THE EXCHANGE WITH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA, PRACTITIONERS, AND EXPERTS IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND COMMUNICATION AT THE SCIENCE/POLICY INTERFACE, WHICH HAS BENEFITTED MY CAREER GOALS. THE GROUP PROJECTS WERE WELL COLLABORATED ON, AND THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH MY GROUP MEMBERS. PERMIT ME TO SAY 'THANK YOU' AND 'KUDOS' TO DR. SEBASTIAN AND THE ENTIRE ORGANIZING TEAM.**

# Soheil Bahrebar

## Soheil Bahrebar



**GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS**



Soheil Bahrebar is a marine scientist with a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Ecology. His expertise includes marine benthic invertebrates, macrobenthos, and ecosystem assessment. He has extensive research experience in the Caspian Sea, Indian Ocean, and coastal areas.

With a passion for aquariums, he has authored books on fish biology and holds four US patents.

# Benefits

**MONSOON SCHOOL OFFERS A PLATFORM FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING AND NETWORKING. IT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE WITH EXPERTS FROM DIVERSE FIELDS AND GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO MARINE RESEARCH. TO IMPROVE, I SUGGEST ORGANIZING MORE WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS.**

## Solaiman Hossain



**GAINED TRANSDISCIPLINARY SKILLS**



# Benefits

**I GAINED TRANSDISCIPLINARY SKILLS BUT SUGGEST PRIORITIZING HANDS-ON RESEARCH AND MAINTAINING LECTURE ORDER.**

Md. Solaiman Hossain, currently a faculty member at the Oceanography Department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, is a Bangladeshi PhD candidate at Chulalongkorn University, with a primary research focus on microplastic pollution and its mitigation strategies.

# Xochitl Edua Elías Ilosvay

Xochitl Elías comes from El Salvador and has a Bachelor's in Biology and Master's in Marine Biology. As a passionate nature and ocean lover, she was drawn to protecting the environment from a very early age. For this reason, she focused her studies on marine ecology and conservation. As she dug deeper into the topic, she realized that managing the mangrove forests, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows was not enough but that it was necessary to understand and transform human behavior. Currently, she is doing her Ph.D. at Future Oceans Lab at the University of Vigo in Spain where she uses the social-ecological and resilience lens to understand small-scale fishers' responses to ongoing climate change impacts.

One of the case studies she is working on in her thesis is the small-scale fisheries (SSF) on the Pacific coast of Nayarit, México. Located in the Southern Gulf of California, the fishers in Nayarit are located in a so-called climate change hotspot, meaning that they are currently experiencing the effects of climate change at a faster pace than most regions in the world.

Most local fishers in Nayarit completely depend on fishing for their livelihood. However, they are currently struggling to maintain this livelihood due to a drastic reduction in their catch volumes in the last decade. The current complex economic and social problems arising from this appear to be exacerbated by the present fisheries management regime that heightens fish catch misinformation, stark power relations, inequality, and marginalization.

During her two visits in August-November 2021 and June 2022, Xochitl Elías and her team identified the adaptations and adaptive capacity domains driving and/or preventing climate change adaptations through observations, informal conversations, semi-structured surveys, and workshops. They are conducting this project in cooperation with the national fisheries research institute (INAPESCA) and fisheries cooperatives/leaders. In addition to the current adaptive measures conducted by the fishers, new suggestions were generated together with the local fishers that could help them cope with the current and future threats of climate change. The goal is to generate inclusive and participative adaptation pathways that ensure the livelihood of the coastal communities in a climate-resilient and sustainable way.

**FIRSTLY, THE MONSOON SCHOOL PROVIDED ME WITH A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES AND KNOWLEDGE USED IN THIS KIND OF RESEARCH. IT HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ROLE OF THE RESEARCHER VARIES AMONG DIFFERENT PROJECTS AND EVEN ALONG THE STAGES OF A SINGLE TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT. DURING THE MONSOON SCHOOL, WE ALSO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH DIVERSE TOOLS AND APPROACHES THAT ALLOWED ME TO SEE A SEQUENCE OF STEPS AND CRUCIAL ELEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT. ONE OF THE MOST SURPRISING THINGS I BECAME AWARE OF WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUTCOMES AND THE IMPACT OF A PROJECT AND HOW THEY CAN BE EMBEDDED IN THE RESEARCHERS' INTRINSIC MOTIVATION. THAT WAY I LEARNED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT ALSO LARGELY INVOLVES CRITICAL SELF-REFLECTION AND DEVELOPMENT AND HOW THIS IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE SOCIETAL IMPACT THAT RESEARCHERS AIM AT HAVING. ADDITIONALLY, COMING FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH, I HIGHLY APPRECIATED HOW THE MONSOON SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING EQUITY, POWER RELATIONS, AND INCLUSION IN THESE TYPES OF PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY IN PROJECTS INCLUDING PARTIES BELONGING TO THE GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH. OVERALL, THE MONSOON SCHOOL FACILITATED A SPACE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING AMONG PEOPLE ACROSS DIFFERENT REGIONS, CULTURES, AND GENERATIONS. IT ALLOWED ME, AS AN EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER, TO BUILD MORE CONFIDENCE TO CONDUCT AND DEVELOP TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS AND TO BUILD A REPERTOIRE OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS I CAN ACCESS WHEN IN NEED. BY THE END, THE MONSOON SCHOOL ALSO ALLOWED ME TO BUILD STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, THUS, BUILDING UP A NETWORK OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCHERS WORLDWIDE.**

## Cornelia Krönert

Born in Hamburg, Cornelia started studying art history and archeology at the University of Hamburg, then switched to design and developed under August Ohm, Klaus Frank, Marianne Weingärtner and Dirk von Bodisco. She graduated as a qualified designer in 1980 and since then she works as a freelance graphic designer alongside being mother to three children. Since 1990 she offers painting courses for children and adults and works as a freelance artist. From 1994-1998 Cornelia learned spiritual training and is now also a REIKI teacher. Since 2004 she owns a studio in Ammersbek, Germany.

### The picture

# The picture

**KEEPER OF THE SEAS. WEIGHTLESS GLIDING IN THE ENDLESS OCEAN. SAFETY IN THE DEPTHS OF THE BLUE. TRUSTING APPEARANCE IN THE PLASTIC GARBAGE. GENTLE EYE. POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE. FLAPPING OF THE CAUDAL FIN. ASTONISHMENT AT THE INDIFFERENCE. MOURNING UNTIL DEATH.**



Hüter der Meere - Acryl auf Leinwand 120x160 cm - © Cornelia Krönert



## Lana Wesemann

### Layout

Lana is self employed and sometimes an employee in the media industry. Furthermore she is a student and an animal fanatic. She likes to change careers often, just like Mattel's Barbie or the typical millennial.



**The capacity to learn is a gift.  
The ability to learn is a skill.  
The willingness to learn is a choice.**



Brian Herbert

## Layout

**THIS IS THE FIRST JOB AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO A CHILD. I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO CREATE SOMETHING CREATIVE FOR A GOOD PURPOSE AND GETTING PAYED FAIR FOR DOING SO. IT MAKES THE START BACK TO A WORKLIFE EASIER. WORKING IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRIE OFTEN COMES WITH THE LOSS OF THE OWN MORALITY AND GETTING PAYED BADLY. IT IS HARD TO FIND A JOB IN WHICH MORALITY AND THE PAYED PRICE ARE IN A WELL BALANCED SITUATION.**

Our thanks extends to the organisers Dr. Sebastian Ferse, Prof. Dr. Achim Schlüter, Rebecca Lahl, the many lecturers and the supporting organisations of the monsoon school.

