



# Yidan Prize

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Creating an equitable future  
through education

**A conference highlighting the challenges to education  
in the context of disruption and showcasing research  
and practice in taking on these challenges, with a  
focus on girls' education**

Thursday 7 October 2021



# Conference Programme:

## Creating an equitable future through education

### Thursday 7 October 2021

West Court, Jesus College, Cambridge

**9:00** Registration and coffee

**9:30** Welcome

- **Dr Charles Chen Yidan**, Founder of the Yidan Prize Foundation
- **Sonita Alleyne OBE**, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge
- **Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**, former Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge and Director, Yidan Prize Foundation
- **Dr Julian Huppert (Moderator)**, Director of the Intellectual Forum, Jesus College, Cambridge

**10:00** *Keynote & Laureate conversation: A focus on girls' education globally*

- **The Honourable Julia Gillard AC**, 27<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Australia and former Chair of the Global Partnership for Education
- **Conversation with Lucy Lake OBE and Angeline Murimirwa**, Co-Executives of CAMFED and 2020 laureates of the Yidan Prize for Education Development

**10:45** *Panel discussion: Inclusive education in the context of disruption*

- **Professor Pauline Rose**, Director of the REAL Centre, University of Cambridge
- **Fiona Mavhinga**, Executive Advisor, CAMFED
- **Alicia Herbert OBE**, Director of Education, Gender and Equality Directorate, FCDO and Special Envoy for Gender Equality
- **Andrew Jack (Chair)**, Global Education Editor, Financial Times

**11:30** Refreshment break

**12:00** *Panel discussion: Education and mental health in challenging times*

- **Professor Usha Goswami CBE**, Director of the Centre for Neuroscience in Education, University of Cambridge
- **Dr Erum Mariam**, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Educational Development
- **Professor Paul Ramchandani**, Director of the PEDAL Centre, University of Cambridge
- **Dr Amy Jo Dowd (Discussant)**, Head of Evidence, LEGO Foundation
- **Professor Nidhi Singal (Chair)**, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

**13:00** Lunch

**14:00** *Panel discussion: Cross-sectoral and financial support for global education*

- **Professor Anna Vignoles CBE**, Director, Leverhulme Trust
- **Lord Jo Johnson**, Chair of Tes Global and former Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research & Innovation
- **Gargee Ghosh**, President of Global Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Dr Laura Savage**, Executive Director, International Education Funders Group
- **Andrew Jack (Chair)**, Global Education Editor, Financial Times

**15:15** Refreshment break

**15:30** *Keynote*

- **Princess Laurentien**, UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy and Development and Director, Yidan Prize Foundation
- **Keynote speech and responses from young people**

**16:00** *Final Remarks*

- **Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**, former Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge and Director, Yidan Prize Foundation
- **Announcement of partnership – REAL Centre & CAMFED**

**16:15** Close of conference



### **Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**

Leszek Borysiewicz is a Welsh immunologist and scientific administrator. Sir Leszek was appointed as a Trustee to Cancer Research UK in July 2016 and as Chairman in November 2016. He served as the 345th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge for a maximum of seven years term of office starting in October 2010.

Following a distinguished academic and clinical research career and prior to his appointment as Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cambridge, Sir Leszek's roles included Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council from 2007 and Deputy Rector of Imperial College London from 2001 to 2007.

Sir Leszek was also a founding Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and a fellow of the Royal Society. His work in vaccines included Europe's first trial of a vaccine for human papillomavirus to treat cervical cancer and research conducted at the University of Cardiff.

Sir Leszek was knighted in the 2001 New Year's Honours List for his contribution to medical education and research into developing vaccines, including pioneering work towards a vaccine to combat cervical cancer.



### **Dr Charles Chen Yidan**

Charles Chen Yidan established the Yidan Prize Foundation in 2016 with a mission to create a better world through education.

Dr Chen is recognized as the Father of Internet Philanthropy. In 1998, Dr Chen co-founded Tencent and was its Chief Administrative Officer. In 2007, led by Dr Chen, Tencent launched the Tencent Charity Foundation, the very first charity foundation in China's Internet industry.

After leaving office in 2013, he served as the Lifetime Honorary Consultant of Tencent and the Honorary Chairman of Tencent Charity Foundation.

Apart from his charity work with the Tencent network, Dr Chen undertakes other education philanthropy. Dr Chen has dedicated himself to setting up Wuhan College, a pioneer of non-profit private universities in China. He was the top philanthropist in 2017 Forbes China Philanthropist list. In 2018, Dr Chen donated his Tencent shares to set up a charitable trust, focusing on furthering the development of education.

Dr Chen obtained a bachelor's degree in Applied Chemistry from Shenzhen University in 1993, a master's degree in Economic Law from Nanjing University in 1996 and a doctor of business

administration degree from the Singapore Management University in 2019. He served as a visiting scholar of Stanford Law School in 2014 and was conferred the degree of Doctor of Humanities (honoris causa) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2017.



### **Sonita Alleyne OBE**

Sonita Alleyne is the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge. Born in Bridgetown, Barbados, and brought up in Leytonstone, East London, Sonita attended a comprehensive school before going to Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge. A career in radio followed, and she founded production company Somethin' Else which she led as Chief Executive from 1991 until 2009.

Sonita also worked as a journalist and broadcaster, hosting and contributing to weekly shows for Greater London Radio, BBC Four and BBC Five.

Sonita has worked extensively as a non-executive Director in both the private and public sector. She founded The Yes Programme, a unique online service helping primary pupils connect what they learn in the classroom with jobs in the real world. She is Patron of the Red Hen Project, a Cambridge charity helping children to thrive at home and in school.



### **The Honourable Julia Gillard AC**

Julia Gillard was the 27<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Australia. She currently serves as the Chair of Beyond Blue, one of Australia's leading mental health awareness bodies; is the inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, which through research, practice and advocacy, is addressing women's under-representation in leadership. She was recently appointed as the Chair of Wellcome, a global charitable foundation which supports science to solve urgent health

challenges. Her second book 'Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons' which is co-authored by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, was released in 2020. Julia was Chair of the Global Partnership for Education, 2014-2021.



### **Lucy Lake OBE**

Lucy Lake is Chief Executive of CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education), dedicated to supporting girls' education and women's leadership, with a focus in sub-Saharan Africa. Since joining CAMFED in 1994, Lucy has led the development of its programme to become a transformative model for girls' education, benefiting over seven million young people and culminating in a new generation of 178,000 women leaders in the CAMFED Association. Lucy is a

founding member and former Co-Chair of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, and on the High-Level Steering Committee of the Education Commission's Workforce Initiative. Under Lucy's tenure, CAMFED has been recognised by the OECD for best practice in taking development innovation to scale. Alongside Angeline Murimirwa, Lucy was awarded the 2020 Yidan Prize for Education Development.



### **Angeline Murimirwa**

Angeline Murimirwa, one of the first young women supported by CAMFED to go to school in Zimbabwe, is a founding member of the CAMFED Association—the pan-African network of 178,000 women leaders educated with CAMFED support, working to secure every girl's right to quality education. As CAMFED Executive Director—Africa, Angie brings the expertise of young women once excluded from education to inform policy and strategy at every level.

Angeline has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential women by the BBC. Awarded the 2020 Yidan Prize for Education Development together with her Co-Executive Lucy Lake, she is a member of the Council of Luminaries, bringing together the brightest minds to build a better world through education.



### **Professor Pauline Rose**

Pauline Rose is Professor of International Education and Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre in the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. Prior to joining Cambridge, Pauline was Director of UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Pauline has worked on large collaborative research programmes with teams in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia examining issues on educational policy and practice, including in relation to inequality in relation to gender and poverty, financing and

governance.



### **Fiona Mavhinga**

Fiona Mavhinga, one of the first young women to complete her education with CAMFED support in Zimbabwe, is a lawyer, and heads up the strategic development of the CAMFED Association, the powerful pan-African network of women leading action on the big challenges their countries face — from child marriage, and girls' exclusion from education, to climate change. Having experienced first-hand the continued vulnerability of young women who manage

to complete secondary school in rural Africa, but lack access to resources, skills training and opportunities, Fiona became a key founder of the Association, and is now leading on ways to grow and replicate this powerful model for systemic change.



### **Alicia Herbert OBE**

Alicia Herbert is Director of Education, Gender and Equality Directorate, at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She is also the FCDO's Special Envoy for Gender Equality and Head of Abercrombie House, FCDO's joint headquarters in East Kilbride, Scotland. Alicia is a Senior Race Sponsor.

Alicia has over 20 years of experience in international development. Prior to joining the Department for International Development now the FCDO, in 1999, she worked with a range of organisations including the World Bank and the Policy Studies Institute. Alicia was previously Head of DFID Mozambique and has extensive experience in the field, working in Sub Saharan Africa and Asia including in fragile countries. Alicia holds a degree in economics and a postgraduate degree in social policy and planning in developing countries.



### Andrew Jack

Andrew Jack is global education editor at the Financial Times, overseeing its education coverage and its free schools access programme. He has been a journalist at the FT since 1990, including as Paris correspondent, Moscow bureau chief, pharmaceuticals correspondent and head of curation. He is author of the books *Inside Putin's Russia* and *The French Exception*. He received an MA (Hons) from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, was the Joseph Hodges

Choate Memorial Fellow at Harvard, and a Visiting Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford.



### Professor Usha Goswami CBE

Usha Goswami is a world-leading researcher in the fields of literacy, neuroscience and education.

She is Professor of Cognitive Developmental Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John's College Cambridge. Professor Goswami founded and serves as Director of the world's first Centre for Neuroscience in Education.

Her research has identified the importance of children's awareness of linguistic rhythm patterns for their reading acquisition, and has also revealed the brain basis of rhythm perception, showing how this neural process is impaired in developmental dyslexia. These discoveries are enabling transformative educational interventions that have the potential to benefit millions of children worldwide.

Professor Goswami was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2013, a Fellow of the German National Academy in 2020, a Fellow of the Royal Society London in 2021, and was also made a Commander of the British Empire in the Queen's New Years Honours in 2021. She has won a range of international prizes for her research. She has given talks on neuroscience and learning in numerous countries' governments and organizations, has published 8 books and over 180 research papers, and has written widely for educators and for the public.



### Professor Paul Ramchandani

Paul Ramchandani is LEGO Professor of Play in Education, Development and Learning at the University of Cambridge. He also works as a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the UK National Health Service.

Paul trained as a doctor before further study in Public Health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health. He is Director of the PEDAL Research Centre at Cambridge, which has a focus on play, learning and child

development.

Paul is a trustee of the Early Intervention Foundation and the practitioner review editor for the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.



### Dr Erum Mariam

Erum Mariam is the Executive Director of BRAC IED (Institute of Educational Development) BRAC University, in Bangladesh. Mariam completed her PhD in Education from Cambridge University in 2008. She has extensive experience of scaling up education interventions both nationally and globally, and was involved in the expansion of the unique BRAC run Non-Formal Primary (NFP) Schools in the 1990s. Since 2008, Mariam has promoted BRAC IED's vision of contributing to the improvement of quality, equity, and efficiency in

the education system in partnership with the public sector. The globally recognized Play Labs and Humanitarian Play Labs have been developed under her leadership, focusing on early stimulation and children's wellbeing in diverse settings.



### Dr Amy Jo Dowd

Amy Jo Dowd is the Head of Evidence at the LEGO Foundation overseeing the generation of evidence about the critical role of learning through play for children's development, creativity, and lifelong learning. A graduate of Stanford (MA) and Harvard's (MEd, EdD) Graduate Schools of Education, she joined the Leadership Team to apply her passion for using rigorous research to improve practice in education and child development policy and programs, driving for

systemic change that ensures quality education for all. Previously, she built and led the Save the Children/US research team with similar goals of ensuring learning and equity.





### **Professor Nidhi Singal**

Nidhi Singal is Professor of Disability and Inclusive Education at the Faculty of Education, and Vice President of Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge. Her research addresses issues of educational inequity among marginalised groups in Southern contexts. She has worked extensively with persons with disabilities in South Asia and Africa. Another important dimension of her research has been the development of ethical and culturally sensitive approaches, especially

when engaging with marginalised communities. Nidhi also works closely with international donor and bilateral agencies assisting them in developing research projects, undertaking programme evaluations and providing evidence-based policy advice on a wide range of issues aimed at fulfilling commitments towards inclusive education.



### **Lord Jo Johnson**

Jo Johnson is a President's Professorial Fellow at King's College London and a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is Chairman of education software group Tes Global, Chairman of Access Creative, the largest independent provider of further education and specialist training for the creative industries, and Chairman International of ApplyBoard, the world's leading platform for international student recruitment. He is a Member of the Council of the Dyson Institute

for Engineering and Technology and a Fellow of Birkbeck College, University of London. A member of Parliament between 2010-2019, Jo held prominent positions in Government under three Prime Ministers, including Head of the No10 Downing Street Policy Unit and Minister of State, attending Cabinet, for Universities, Science & Innovation. Before entering Parliament, he worked at the Financial Times for 13 years, in a variety of roles, including as Associate Editor, Head of Lex, and South Asia Bureau Chief.



### **Professor Anna Vignoles CBE**

Anna Vignoles is Director of the Leverhulme Trust: one of the largest, all-subject providers of research funding in the UK. She was previously a Professor of Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. Professor Vignoles' research has focused on issues of equity and value in education – in particular the relationship between educational achievement and social mobility and the role played by education

and skills attainment in the economy and society. She has advised numerous government departments, including the Department for Education, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, and HM Treasury. Professor Vignoles was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2017 and awarded a CBE in 2019 for services to social sciences.

### **Gargee Ghosh**



Gargee Ghosh is President, Global Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She oversees government affairs, economic policy, advocacy, and philanthropic partnerships in support of the foundation's goals around the world. She is also responsible for the foundation's regional offices and strategic presence in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Her previous positions at the foundation included director of the Development Policy & Finance team and director of the Program Advocacy & Communications team. In those roles, she worked

with international finance and economic decision-makers and led the development and implementation of the foundation's issue advocacy and communications strategies.

Gargee previously held senior positions at McKinsey & Company, Google, and the Center for Global Development, and she served on the board of CAMFED USA and on President Barack Obama's Global Development Council.

She holds graduate degrees in development economics from the University of Oxford and in international relations (MSFS) from Georgetown University, and she has an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Victoria in Canada.



## **Dr Laura Savage**

Laura Savage is the new Executive Director of the International Education Funders Group (IEFG), an affinity network of foundations and donor-advised funds that support basic education in the Global South. She is known for her thinking on the topics of education systems, foundational learning and the politics of aid. She was until recently a Senior Education Adviser at the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, where she co-led efforts to

generate more rigorous, policy-relevant education research, to influence national education policy and donor country programmes, and to advocate an evidence-based approach to action within a wide network of education thought leaders. Previously, Laura worked in Bangladesh leading on Australia's support to government education planning, and in Malawi where she worked within the Ministry of Education to support the development of their five-year education plan. Laura's approach to her work is captured in her PhD (Cambridge University), on the politics of aid and government decision-making in the education sector in Malawi.



## **Princess Laurentien**

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands is a social entrepreneur, writer, strategist and dialogue facilitator. Her work revolves around social innovation and intergenerational dialogue on sustainability as well as socio-economic issues. She is a passionate advocate of systemic change through human-designed solutions and emancipation of 'unexpected experts'.

Princess Laurentien has been UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy and Development since 2009. In 2004, she founded the Reading and Writing Foundation, which has developed over time into a team of 100 professionals working to prevent and reduce illiteracy. In 2009, she founded Missing Chapter Foundation, which facilitates dialogue between children and leaders, engages in advocacy about the practical implementation of Art. 12 of the UN Convention of the Right of the Child. In 2017 she founded Number 5 Foundation, an independent space of thought and action around complex societal issues, by building alliances and coalitions of diverse stakeholders and empowering them to achieve goals. Princess Laurentien holds a range of honorary functions in the fields of literacy, European culture and conservation. She wrote several (children's) books, including the Mr Finney-series. She and her husband Prince Constantijn have three children.