The Asia Global Institute at The University of Hong Kong welcomes its inaugural cohort to the AsiaGlobal Fellows Program. The Program, which runs from August 27 to November 24, 2017, is an interdisciplinary and intensive global leadership development initiative designed for mid-career professionals from around the world.

The 16 selected Fellows have already demonstrated strong leadership potential and are up-and-coming influencers in politics, policy-making, business or civil society. They share a common career interest in a range of global issues viewed from Asian perspectives and in Asia-related policy matters. The Program's goal is to prepare a continually expanding network of promising future leaders for a further globalized world through intensive learning and interaction.

Recent events in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere have reignited a worldwide debate on the future of globalization, free markets and capitalism. Peace and prosperity in the digital age depend more – not less – on openness, understanding and interaction between peoples and across borders. The future of the world calls for more leadership and better appreciation of the issues facing humanity.

The first of its kind in Asia, the AsiaGlobal Fellows Program draws participants to the region at a time when the economic center of gravity is shifting to this part of the world. The fully-funded, residential program is primarily based in Hong Kong, a global hub for finance and ideas. Fellows will have full access to HKU's world-class educational resources, and benefit through mentorship, topical lectures, seminars and leadership skills workshops. Training sessions will be offered to improve the AsiaGlobal Fellows' public speaking, media interviewing, writing and other leadership skills. Fellows will also take part in study trips to different Asian capitals and manufacturing centers, as part of the Program's mission to create international thinkers, future leaders and influencers with a deeper understanding of global issues from Asian perspectives.

The AsiaGlobal Fellows Program is carried out under the overall supervision of Professor Zhifu Chen, Director of the Asia Global Institute and Victor and William Fung Professor in Economics at HKU. The Program Director is Dr Patrick Low, Visiting Professor at the Business and Economics Faculty at HKU, and former Chief Economist of the World Trade Organization.
AsiaGlobal Fellows 2017

Rahimah Abdulrahim (Indonesia)
Executive Director
The Habibia Center

Adolfo Arguelles Vives (Mexico)
Evaluation Officer of the
Mexican Evaluation Academy

Cristina Bizzi (Italy)
Commercial Deputy Director
Ministry of Justice, U.K. Government
Head for Shared Services, Youth Justice and Arm’s
Length Bodies, seconded from the Cabinet Office

Carlos Timo Brito (Brazil)
Head of the Research Unit
Brazilian Institute of Defence Studies

Gary Chan (Singapore)
APAC Channel Marketing Director
Microsoft

Florencia Daud (Argentina)
Lawyer for the Interdisciplinary Ethics
Committee
Eva Peron Hospital

Sarker Omar Faroque (Bangladesh)
Additional Superintendent of Police
Bangladesh Police
Deputy Director
Police Staff College Bangladesh

Velvet Johnson (U.S.)
Cybersecurity Lead Adviser
Phase One Consulting Group

Benedictus Hari Juliawan (Indonesia)
Secretary/Coordinator of Social Ministries
Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific

Marc Levitt (U.S.)
Principal
Zeitgeist Strategies, LLC

Bin Liu (Hong Kong, China)
Chairman
New Success Group
Vice Chairman
Hua Jing Society

Ryan Manuel (Australia)
Post-Doctoral Fellow and Asian Century Fellow
Australian National University
Director, China Practice
Glenloch Advisory

Akshay Mathur (India)
Director of Research
Gateway House: Indian Council on
Global Relations

Layla McCoy (U.K.)
Director
Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health

Maria Pérez Esteve (Spain)
Counsellor
World Trade Organization

Reggie Ramos (Philippines)
Legal Advisor
Oriental Consultants Global Co. Ltd.
Rahimah Abdulrahim (Indonesia)

Executive Director
The Habibie Center

As the Executive Director of the Habibie Center—one of Indonesia's leading think tanks focusing on democracy and human rights, Ms Abdulrahim advocates for peace policy and the strengthening of democracy in Indonesia. She works to enhance relations between Indonesia and other countries. She speaks regularly in Indonesia and internationally on affairs concerning Indonesia and ASEAN—in particular the role of civil society in democracy, global governance and democratization in the region. She was selected as a 2015 Yale World Fellow, joining a network of more than 250 Yale World Fellows from 84 countries. In 2001 she was awarded the APSA Congressional Fellowship from The Asia Foundation to work for one year in the U.S. Congress.

In 2010 she completed a fellowship with IDEAS Indonesia, an Executive Program through the Sloan School of Management at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ms Abdulrahim earned her Bachelors degree in Political Science and Islamic Studies from the International Islamic University Malaysia. She holds an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Her research as an AsiaGlobal Fellow will look at the progress of democracy in majority Muslim countries, focusing on the issue of democratic development in pluralistic societies, and in particular the role of social and digital media in cultivating Muslim democrats that embrace a spirit of inclusion, trust, tolerance, understanding and pluralism.

Adolfo Arguello Vives (Mexico)

Evaluation Officer of the Mexican Evaluation Academy

Mr Arguello plays a variety of roles in project management. He coordinates the preparation of public projects, cost-benefit evaluations and financial structuring. At present he is leading a consortium designing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the south of Mexico. He is also participating in the design of Public Private Partnerships at the National Office of Airports. In his work Mr Arguello draws on considerable experience as a consultant for large infrastructure projects, with a particular focus on development effectiveness and fostering competitiveness. He has also served as the Chief Planning Officer at the Ministry of Tourism in Chiapas, Mexico. Mr Arguello holds a Master’s Degree in Development From Sciences Po and in Public Policy from King’s College London.

The research he will undertake seeks to draw lessons from Asian experience with SEZs, and in particular China’s state-owned enterprise model of SEZs.
Cristina Bizzi (Italy)

Commercial Deputy Director
Ministry of Justice, U.K. Government
Head for Shared Services, Youth Justice and
Arm’s Length Bodies, seconded from the Cabinet Office

Prior to her current assignment with the Ministry of Justice, Ms Bizzi began her career in the U.K. Civil Service in 2014 as a Commercial Innovation Director at the Cabinet Office. Before joining the U.K. Government, she worked for 15 years in the private sector in banking (CitiBank, Barclays Bank), oil & gas (EniGroup/Agip) and manufacturing (Casappa). Ms Bizzi is a fully-qualified engineer and a member of the Engineering Chartered Institute of Italy. She holds a First Class Master’s degree in industrial management from the Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia in Italy.

Her research topic looks at how governments can monitor and predict market innovation and support its implementation in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Her previous work in this field while in U.K. Government service revealed many barriers and lack of organizational readiness for proper implementation.

Carlos Timo Brito (Brazil)

Head of the Research Unit
Brazilian Institute of Defence Studies

As Chief Research Officer at the Brazilian Institute for Defence Studies – a think tank under Brazil’s Ministry of Defence – Dr Brito advises and assists his superiors in the design and monitoring of research programs. Additionally, he acts as the Ministry’s representative at meetings and as a resource person in contacts with other government agencies, embassies and universities.

He has been a career policy specialist with the Brazilian Federal Government since 2000 and a part-time International Relations Professor at a local university since 2002. Before joining the Ministry of Defense in 2015, he worked at the Ministries of Justice and Finance. In 2007 he was granted a leave of absence and a full scholarship to carry out doctoral studies abroad. He was awarded a PhD degree by the University of Westminster (U.K.) in 2011.

His research as an AsiaGlobal Fellow will explore the new discourse about South-South Cooperation and the emergence of new international coalitions such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and IBRA Trilateral (India, Brazil and South Africa). More specifically, he intends to examine policy transfers within these blocs, with focus in the areas of security and defense.
Gary Chan (Singapore)

APAC Channel Marketing Director
Microsoft

In addition to his role as Channel Marketing Director, Microsoft Asia Pacific, Mr Chan is the Chairperson of the Free Community Church, Singapore, and Director, Amplify Conference, Singapore. From 2015 to 2017 he was head of retail services and partner marketing for Asia Pacific at Microsoft Consumer & Device Sales group. For eight years prior to that, he was head of consumer marketing and developer experience for Pan Asia at Nokia and Microsoft Mobile Device Sales. From 2004 to 2007 he worked as product manager for 3G services at StarHub and before that he was Director and CTO at Dreamtap Holdings involved in five B2B Internet start-ups (1998-2004). In 2003 he co-founded and has been Chairperson since, of the Free Community Church, Singapore. In 2009 he co-founded and became Director of Amplify Conference, a non-profit justice conference and ministry platform. Mr Chan holds a Master’s degree in Theology and Ministry, King’s College London, and a BSc in Business and Information Technology, University of Westminster (U.K.).

His research will be on the impact that corporate social responsibility (CSR) and diversity and inclusion (D&I) initiatives have had on businesses and will also question the dichotomy between spirituality and secular business by applying Christian theology and using the transformation that businesses like Microsoft are undergoing as a case study.

Florenecia Daud (Argentina)

Lawyer for the Interdisciplinary Ethics Committee
Eva Peron Hospital

Ms Daud applies her expertise in bioethics at the Eva Peron Hospital in Buenos Aires to raise awareness of ethical issues in medicine, ensuring compliance with regulations on patients’ rights, recommending policies and conducting case reviews. She helps to inform patients and families in order to better enable them to make difficult decisions. She reviews hospital procedures to reduce the potential for litigation against the institution. Ms Daud previously worked as a legal assistant to a member of Argentina’s National Congress. She has also interned at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Ms Daud holds a Master’s degree from Bologna University (Italy) and was awarded a Chevening scholarship to participate in a postgraduate program in International Public Policy at the London School of Economics.

Her research is on how bioethical issues are approached in different Asian countries as part of a broader consideration of the impact of technological medical innovations on society.
Sarker Omar Faroque (Bangladesh)

Additional Superintendent of Police, Bangladesh Police
Deputy Director, Police Staff College Bangladesh

Mr Faroque works as a Deputy Director (Training, Research & Publication) at the Police Staff College Bangladesh which is an apex training institute of the Bangladesh Police. His responsibilities include coordinating training programs and research, editing and compiling research reports, and supervising all publications, among them the Annual Report, Newsletter and Journal. He has worked as a National Training Consultant at the Police Reform Program of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mr Faroque holds BA (Honors) and MA degrees in English from the University of Dhaka. He also has a MA in Applied Human Rights from the University of York (U.K.), which was made possible through the award of a Chevening Scholarship from the British Government. He was also awarded the Australian Award Fellowship on Violent Extremism Professional Development Program at Macquarie University, Australia.

His research will focus on policy issues and operational implications for the Bangladesh Police of promoting environmental justice and combating green crime.

Velvet Johnson (U.S.)

Cybersecurity Lead Adviser
Phase One Consulting Group

Ms Johnson is an attorney and the founder and president of Cyber Strategic Solutions (CSS), a full-service technology solutions firm that assists organizations in developing and implementing cybersecurity, crisis management and business resiliency strategies. Previously, she served as an Obama Administration appointee at the U.S. Department of Defense where she developed national policies and programs in support of cybersecurity and critical infrastructure. In addition, Ms Johnson has held several senior leadership posts on Capitol Hill, and from 2008 to 2014 she served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. There, she provided legal advice and counsel on all aspects of homeland security and assisted in the development of the general political strategy for the Committee. Ms Johnson is a Commissioner with the Maryland Commission for Women, an advisory panel that takes policy positions on a myriad of issues affecting the daily lives of women and their families. She was also named a Monfred Warner Fellow in 2016, the flagship leadership development program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Ms Johnson graduated cum laude from the University of Richmond with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. She received her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law and holds a certification in cybersecurity strategy from Georgetown University.

Ms Johnson’s research will focus on cybersecurity threats and trends facing the global financial sector and regulatory and technological strategies that can be used to minimize the number of successful attacks against financial systems. The work will leverage her previous experience in effectively establishing public-private partnerships and developing legal and regulatory frameworks in support of data protection and privacy initiatives.
Benedictus Hari Juliawan (Indonesia)

Secretary/Coordinator of Social Ministries
Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific

Dr Juliawan is a Jesuit priest from Indonesia who works as a lecturer in the Graduate Programme of Religious and Cultural Studies, Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta. In 2013 he moved to Jakarta to assume the role of coordinator of Jesuit social centers in the Asia Pacific. In this role he is responsible for supervising the work of the centers, organizing events such as seminars and workshops, conducting annual meetings and helping to develop programs. He will return to his teaching duties at Sanata Dharma University in 2018. He holds a PhD in development studies from Oxford University. His main research interests are in labor movements, migrant workers, identity politics and the informal economy.

Marc Levitt (U.S.)

Principal
Zeitgeist Strategies, LLC

As an independent political consultant, Mr Levitt advises a roster of candidates and groups on messaging and organizational strategy. He played key roles building presidential campaigns for President Barack Obama and, most recently, as senior staff to Senator Bernie Sanders. He also worked as a policy adviser at the U.S. Department of Energy during President Obama’s first Administration. In between campaigns, he received his Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center and practiced for several years as a white collar defense and investigations attorney. He also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and German Studies from Brown University.

His research will focus on the adapatability and applicability of U.S. electioneering techniques in East Asia, using Hong Kong as a case study. A key rationale is to assess whether techniques that stimulate higher voter turnout in U.S. elections can also increase electoral participation in Hong Kong and generate dividends for Hong Kong’s pursuit of democratization. A second rationale is to foster a mutual understanding of electioneering practices in culturally and geographically disparate contexts.

For the AsiaGlobal Fellows program, Dr Juliawan will conduct research on the rise of migrant workers’ political agency in Hong Kong. Despite their lowly backgrounds and precarious working conditions, migrant workers have emerged as a significant force in Hong Kong’s vibrant civil society, appropriating a sense of citizenship in a foreign land.
Bin Liu (Hong Kong, China)

Chairman
New Success Group
Vice Chairman
Hua Jing Society

As Chairman of the New Success Group, Dr. Liu plays an entrepreneurial role in the technology sector. As Vice Chairman of the Hua Jing Society – one of the most influential youth associations in Hong Kong – he is a civil community organizer. He previously worked in the investment banking and asset management industry. He was selected as one of the ‘2016 Asia 21 Young Leaders’ by the Asia Society and as one of the 2016 “Ten Outstanding New Hong Kong Young Persons” by Gang Piao Quan and Brightway. Dr. Liu holds a PhD in economics from Renmin University (China), a Master’s degree in applied finance from Macquarie University (Australia), and a Bachelor’s degree in economics from Wuhan University (China). He has also undertaken Postdoctoral research at the Hong Kong Institute for Monetary Research.

Dr. Liu’s research during the AsiaGlobal Fellows Program will draw on his career as a banker, entrepreneur and civil community organizer to write about the impact of technology (mostly life science and artificial intelligence) on business and civil society, and China’s experiences in dealing with it.

Ryan Manuel (Australia)

Post-Doctoral Fellow and Asian Century Fellow
Australian National University
Director, China Practice
Glenloch Advisory

Dr. Manuel’s most recent work is a book called How to Rule China, which created large databases of Chinese government and Party documentation and other primary source material in order to analyze how rules are made and followed in various parts of the Chinese political system. He was previously a Senior China Analyst with the Australian government (where he wrote for the Prime Minister and the National Security Committee) and a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group. He holds a doctorate from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He plans to use his AsiaGlobal fellowship to examine how the Chinese leadership uses official media to signal preferences regarding economic growth.
Akshay Mathur (India)

Director of Research
Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations

Mr. Mathur’s research at Gateway House focuses on the architecture of international business, finance and trade, and its impact on geopolitics. Before joining Gateway House, he worked as a Principal Architect with Fidelity Investments in Boston in the advanced research, strategy formulation, and business architecture groups. Mr. Mathur is the co-founder of an NGO called Aasar Gramin Vikas Sanathan and of a social enterprise called Khushi Farms, both based in Ajmer, Rajasthan. He has an MBA from Boston University’s Questrom School of Business with concentration in Finance and Business Analysis, and his research focused on transnational business and global macroeconomics. He also holds a BS in Computer Science from the School of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and is an alumnus of Mayo College, Ajmer.

Mr. Mathur’s research will focus on the rise of the new multilateral financial institutions and forums. This work is part of a book in the making on “The Alternate Financial Architecture.”

Layla McCay (U.K.)

Director
Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health

Dr. McCay is a British medical doctor, global public health specialist, and Adjunct Professor of International Health. She is Director of a global health think tank, the Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health. She has worked for the British Government’s Department of Health, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and several international NGOs, and was named the U.K.’s top young professional woman for her impact on health. Dr. McCay has a Bachelor’s Degree and Medical Degree from the University of Glasgow and a Master’s degree in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She now holds academic positions in international health at Georgetown University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (Japan). She is Managing Editor of the Journal of Urban Design and Mental Health. Dr. McCay has expertise in intersectoral collaboration to advance global public health innovation.

Her AsiaGlobal Fellows research will examine how Hong Kong leverages the built environment to promote better population mental health towards achieving a resilient, thriving and sustainable city.
Maria Pérez Esteve (Spain)

Counsellor
World Trade Organization

Ms Pérez Esteve has been a Counsellor in the Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division at the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2012. The Council and TNC Division provides assistance and all related services to the WTO’s key governing bodies: the Ministerial Conference; the General Council; the Trade Negotiations Committee and the Dispute Settlement Body. The Division also carries out technical cooperation activities and regularly assists the Office of the Director-General. Previously she served in the Information and External Relations Division (2006-2012), as the coordinator of the WTO Annual Public Forum, and as Economic Affairs Officer in the Agriculture and Commodities Division (2002-2006). Ms Pérez Esteve has been involved in international trade matters since 1999. Before joining the WTO she worked as Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) where she dealt with trade, environment and development issues. She holds a BA in Political Science and French Literature from the University of Illinois (U.S.) and a Master’s Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

Her research will examine efforts to achieve regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region, and assess the European Union as a potential model for further Asia-Pacific integration.

Reggie Ramos (Philippines)

Legal Advisor
Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.

Ms Ramos is a legal advisor/consultant focusing on national infrastructure projects. In 2016 she completed her term as Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at the Philippines Department of Transportation, where she was part of a team that determined national transport policies and represented government in regional and international fora. Her area of special interest is sustainable transport and environmental issues, and she was one of the Philippines’ lead negotiators for what is now the Paris Agreement of 2015. Ms Ramos graduated in 2003 with a Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila University, School of Law, and her early professional life was devoted to honing her skills as a litigator.

Her research will focus on systemic transportation problems, the paradigms against which these problems are identified, and a deconstruction of how current “solutions” are reached.