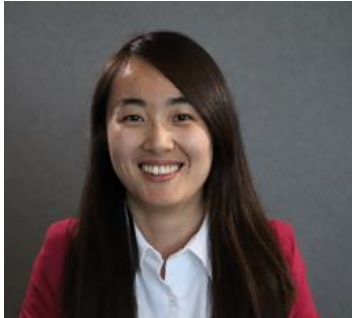


## MEET YOUR MENTORS!

Virtual Speed Mentoring for Careers in Comparative and International Education  
CIES Conference 2021 | Hosted by the New Scholars Committee

### YIFAN BAI

Researcher, American Institutes for Research



**I am a(n)...** Quantitative researcher at a major research institute.

**Ask me about...** Navigating the job market as an international student, conducting research in a research institute, and working in a multicultural setting with people from diverse backgrounds.

**Speed bio:** I am a researcher at the American Institutes for Research. I received my dual-title Ph.D. degree in Education policy and Comparative and International Education from the Pennsylvania State university. I work on research projects analyzing national and international large-scale datasets. My research interests focus on educational inequality in the United States and other countries.

### KYUNGAH KRISTY BANG

Programme Officer, UNESCO Bangkok office

**I am a(n)...** International development professional

**Ask me about...** Living abroad, getting a position with a UN

**Speed bio:** Kristy is a programme officer responsible for UNESCO Bangkok's regional programmes on early childhood care and education and inclusive education. She is also the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group (MLE WG). She holds a M.Sc. from the National University of Singapore and a Hon. B.A. from the University of Toronto.



### ADRIENNE BARNES

Research Faculty, Florida State University



**I am a(n)...** Training and Materials Development Expert, Subject Matter Expert.

**Ask me about...** Understanding the demands of travel and field work, obtaining a position in a university setting.

**Speed bio:** Dr. Barnes is a Literacy and Pedagogy Specialist at Florida State University. She has more than 19 years of experience in education, ranging from elementary education to teacher professional development and training. She supports international education research and development projects across multiple languages to integrate evidence-based practices into curriculum and policy.

## LUIS A. BENVENISTE

Human Development Regional Director, Latin America and Caribbean, The World Bank



**I am a(n)...** International development professional.

**Ask me about...** Education projects in developing country contexts.

**Speed bio:** Luis has worked on a wide variety of World Bank education projects in Africa, Latin America and East Asia and Pacific. His research interests focus on education financing, teacher policies and student assessment practices. He was also a co-author of the World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development.

## OLIVIA BYLER

Early Grade Learning Director, USAID-funded All Children Reading-Cambodia project, RTI (Research Triangle Institute International)

**I am a(n)...** International education professional and literacy specialist.

**Ask me about...** The intersection between theory and practice; implementing educational best practices on the ground; program implementation grounded in reality; diplomatically working with Ministries of Education and making strategic compromises; taking programs to scale; being a woman in a predominantly male-dominated world, especially in the contexts where development takes place; living and working overseas, especially with small children (and delivering abroad).

**Speed bio:** I am a passionate educator and practitioner. My career has offered me opportunities to work in both domestic education, with refugee and immigrant populations, as well as with international literacy projects in more than 10 countries. I now manage early grade learning programming for a USAID-funded project in Cambodia.



## BIDEMI CARROL

Sr. Education Research Analyst, RTI International



**I am a(n)...** International education professional.

**Ask me about...** Personal/life circumstance (living abroad, and transitioning back, balancing career and family, being a black/African woman in this development field). I've also worked with several types of organizations (e.g. World Bank, RTI) and I have been an independent consultant as well.

**Speed bio:** International education specialist with experience in policy research, systems strengthening, and management of complex education programs. Provides technical assistance and policy support to governments and programs, most recently in Malawi and Sierra Leone. Master's in economics and Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University.

## KATE LAPHAM

Deputy Director, Education Support Program, Open Society Foundations



**I am a(n)...** Foundation representative, advocate, and grant maker.

**Ask me about...** Work in philanthropy and other non-academic career paths, research or project implementation and safety, and combining academic work with a non-academic job. Living abroad, balancing career and caregiving goals (especially for single women).

**Speed bio:** My career began in international development, specifically working on civil society development and professional exchange programs in Russia. As I grew into positions that required management of teams and organizations, I studied for a Master of Public Administration at Columbia University and then continued to work on international development projects transitioning into education and early childhood. A transition into philanthropy and a PhD program in CIE followed. My current position combines management functions with contributions to strategy and some grant making.

## ILHAM NASSER

Senior Researcher and Director of Human Development Program, International Institute of Islamic Thought.

**I am a(n)...** Academic Researcher at an international NGO. Previously an Associate Professor with 16 years of experience in higher education and international training.

**Ask me about...** Designing, implementing, and managing multisite research: navigating education research diplomacy.

**Speed bio:** An educator and researcher in child development and teacher education. She completed a Ph.D. in human development and child study at the university of Maryland. Her research includes studies on teaching and learning as well as curriculum development in sociocultural and political contexts and ways these influence children's outcomes through adolescence.



## CARINA OMOEVA

Director for Research & Evaluation at Global Education, Employment and Engagement Unit, FHI 360



**I am a(n)...** International education researcher, managing and leading teams for successful completion of research studies, evaluations, and other data analysis efforts.

**Ask me about...** Any topics that participants feel are important but would be most comfortable talking about research careers outside of academia.

**Speed bio:** Carina has more than 10 years of experience in international development. She oversees the research and evaluation components within FHI 360's programs in global education, youth, workforce transition, livelihoods, and civil society and media. Before joining FHI 360, Omoeva carried out research for the Early College project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented by the Teachers College, Columbia University; and served in the economic development and education teams for USAID in Central Asia. Omoeva has a master's degree in International Education Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a doctorate degree in Comparative and International Education from the Teachers College of Columbia University.