

# 2020 PPIA Student Roster



## Mohammed Abbas

Hello, my name is Mohammed Abbas and I am majoring in Political Science at UC Berkeley with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice. My parents immigrated from Sudan; I was born and raised in the Bay Area. I am particularly interested in international relations and poverty alleviation. My interests stem from my travels to Sudan, Egypt, Turkey, and China. I was in Sudan during South Sudan's secession and in Egypt during the aftermath of the Arab Spring. I am excited to work with such a diverse cohort, looking forward to meeting you all.



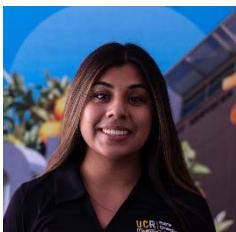
## Sara Abou Rashed

My name is Sara Abou Rashed and I am a student at Denison University, majoring in Creative Writing and International Studies with a MENA concentration. I'm originally from Haifa, Palestine, but was born and raised in Damascus, Syria. I speak English, Arabic, and French. My policy interests are many. I have personally worked on the intersection between politics and arts by creating a one-woman show on immigration and war, but I am also interested in foreign diplomacy with the Middle East, human rights, representation and social equality. Fun fact: I'm a poet and used to play soccer!



## Caroline Albacete

My name is Caroline Albacete; I'm an International Studies major at Fordham University. My parents immigrated to the U.S. from Argentina, and I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. My policy interests are pretty broad, but primarily lie in human rights, immigration, education, and environmental action; I have a regional focus on Central and South America. Fun fact: I decided what languages I would study in high school and college based on the literature I wanted to read in that language—I took Latin in high school to be able to read The Aeneid in its original language (it only kind of worked) and chose to study French in college to someday be able to read Les Misérables and The Count of Monte Cristo.



## Alexia Carrillo Villalobos

My name is Alexia Carrillo and I am a first generation college student studying Sociology at the University of California, Riverside. I am originally from Sonoma, California where I was born and raised. My interests in policy include social policy where they concentrate in education, family, immigration, and inequality, ect. I am very passionate about higher education and public policy because I believe policy is an important aspect in our everyday lives. There are policies that are in place that affect the majority of the people in the U.S, including our students. I hope I can be an advocate for those who do not have a voice in our country.



## Kamalpreet Cheema

My name is Kam Cheema and I am studying Political Science/Data Analytics at UC San Diego. I am originally from San Jose, California, and I have lived in the Bay Area my entire life. My policy interests include social policies regarding human rights and basic human needs, specifically in minority/marginalized groups. My main research interest is in the political participation and representation of people of color in low-income communities. A fun fact about me is that I love going to stand-up comedy shows.

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## Jessica Cobain

Hello everyone, I'm Jessica and I'm a political science major at Princeton. I'm obtaining my teaching certification as well, for my interests revolve around education policy and reform. As someone who comes from an immigrant family and is an English Language Learner, I had to overcome obstacles and jump over hurdles to get to college. If I hadn't been for some key players and luck, I would have easily not gone to college or heavily In debt—my potential unfulfilled. These experiences have fueled my passion to not allow future student's potential to go unfulfilled based on circumstance. I'm originally from southern Oregon and have a cat named socks.

## Joaquin Escalante

My name is Joaquin Escalante and I double major in political science and sociology at UCLA. I'm from Palmdale, California, a small town sixty miles north of Westwood. I'm the eldest out of a batch of six kids which has really shaped me into who I am today (it's also the source of a lot of interruptions during zoom calls). Social welfare, climate change, and the role of Super PACs are my primary policy interests.



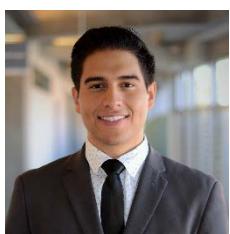
## Maim Hoque

My name is Maim and I currently attend Queens College where I am majoring in Political and Sociology with a minor in data analytics. I am from New York City where I currently reside. Growing up in the city's less affluent neighborhoods exposed me to the stark differences that are present between socio-economic lines. As a result, it has made me more resolute in finding solutions that will bring greater equity for all. In my free time I am a competitive debater on the college circuit, and I work on political campaigns.



## Jonathan Huang

My name is Jonathan Huang. I go to the University of Richmond. My major is Biology. I am from Portland, Oregon. I am interested in health policy and health economics. I am a triplet.



## Nicholas Ibarra

- 1) Nicholas Ibarra
- 2) University of California, Berkeley
- 3) Political Science and Legal Studies
- 4) Los Angeles, CA
- 5) International trade, Public Policy, Contract Law
- 6) I hope to attend a top 10 law school and practice law (I like both contract and constitutional). My current goal is to work as a trade negotiator for the US government and later enter US politics at the state or federal level. I am currently toying with the idea of earning a master's degree in business analytics and/or public administration. On a personal level, I enjoy reading, mediation, swimming, and film.

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## Gabriele Josephs

I am Gabe Josephs, a political science major and history minor at the University of Richmond in Virginia. I was born in Florida but raised in The Bahamas. I'm interested in studying social policy, specifically socioeconomic inequality and the problems associated with it. I'm excited to get to know the other fellows in the PPIA program!

## Ni Ling



## Abryana Marks

I am Abryana Marks, a junior Political Science major with a concentration in Legal Studies and minor in English at Jackson State University; hailing from the beautiful city of Little Rock, Arkansas. My policy interests include prison reform, education policy, and social welfare policy. Fun fact: I have maintained on the Dean's List since my freshman fall semester.



## Wendolyn Martinez

My name is Wendolyn Martinez and I am a Political Science and International Affairs major at Eastern Washington University. I'm from a military family and have lived in various places but we have always called Los Angeles home. I am a Ronald E. McNair Scholar with research interest in U.S-Russian relations. In the Summer of 2019, I researched parallels between American and Russian propaganda related to public works projects during the interwar period. During the Fall Semester of 2019 I studied abroad at Moscow State University in Moscow, Russia with the help of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.



## Bianca Navia

My name is Bianca Navia. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas as the oldest sister in a big Cuban-Italian family. I'm a rising senior at Arizona State University pursuing a dual degree in Political Science and Global Studies with minors in Italian and German. I am most passionate about diplomacy, foreign policy, Middle Eastern politics, foreign language study, and education, and I hope to one day serve in the U.S. Foreign Service. I speak German, Italian, and Spanish at an advanced level, and I will be traveling to Amman, Jordan during the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year to study Arabic as a Boren Scholar.

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## **Anthony-Tosin Olokungbemi**

My name is Tosin Olokungbemi and I am a rising senior at Rutgers University, where I am pursuing a Business Economics major and double minor in Africana Studies as well as International/Global Studies. I am first generation Nigerian-American currently living in Northern New Jersey. I am most interested in policy regarding economic development for third world countries and under-performing economies. While I am not 100% sure where I will be ten years from now I hope to be working in a capacity that allows me to improve the standard of living in places that need it the most!



## **Edson Orozco**

My name is Edson Orozco. I currently attend the University of California, Irvine where I am double majoring in Sociology and International Studies. I am from Boyle Heights, California. My policy interest are in various areas, but I am most interested in education policy and social welfare. Something I would like to share with the group is that I love to travel, meet new people, learn about new cultures, and trying new foods.



## **Samuel Owusu**

My name is Samuel Owusu and I am from Chicago. I am International Relations & Education Studies major at Davidson College. I am interested in both higher education & international education policy. My policy interests include policies that promote cultural exchange/diplomacy across higher education institutions worldwide. Something that other PPIA fellows should know about me is that I enjoy collaborative work with multiple perspectives. Perspectives inform quality policy measures, especially within our education system and abroad. I am eager to learn about other fellows' backgrounds and how everyone's life & educational experiences inform their opinions on salient policy issues.



## **Alvaro Padilla**

My name is Alvaro Padilla. I am a Criminology, Law & Society, and Sociology double major. I am from Riverside, California. Public policy interests that I have are criminal law enforcement, decriminalization, and racial bias. Something I want PPIAers to know about me is that I enjoy cooking.



## **Noah Rofagha**

PPIA fellows, my name is Noah Javan Rofagha and I am originally from Burbank, California. I attend the University of California Berkeley where I am majoring in Political Science and minoring in Public Policy. My interest is in strategizing and problem solving to address social issues such as gun control and protection of human rights. I also have an interest in foreign affairs due to my Persian background. I have had internship experience at the local and federal levels that have enhanced my thought process in regard to effective leadership. I am eager to learn from all of you this summer.

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## Kayla Smith

My name is Kayla Smith, and I am a third-year International Studies major with a concentration in diplomacy attending Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. As an Atlanta native, my passion for art and cultural exchanges was cultivated at a young age, which shaped my trajectory as an interdisciplinary intellectual. As an artist and arts advocate, I wanted to put my interests-- in writing, the performing arts, social justice, and global studies--in conversation for shifting public policy domestically and internationally. Before attending Spelman, I lived abroad in Antigua and Barbuda in Spring 2016, for six months, in which I discovered my passion for gaining proximity to truths through an arts lens rooted in research, writing, and civic engagement. Now, as an Honors student and a Social Justice Fellow at Spelman, I continue to put the arts in conversation with diplomacy through my research endeavors. Currently, my research analyzes and acknowledges how Afro-Cuban artists impacted U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba during the 1950s-1980s. With policy interests in human rights and foreign affairs, I aspire to serve as a U.S. Ambassador to Cuba (or another Caribbean nation), or an international journalist/ commentator on NPR. During my free time, I love to read, write, listen to podcasts, dance, and travel. A fun fact about me is that I am the founder and director of Spelman College's first podcast, "The Blue Record".



## Tseganesh Tadele

My name is Tseganesh Tadele. I attend American University. I am majoring in International Studies. My family is originally from Ethiopia. I live in Washington, D.C. My policy interests are: education policy, international development/human rights, social welfare/inequality, and environmental policy. I am a first generation college student.



## Lily Tang

Hello, my name is Lily and I am a student at UMass Amherst. I am a Political Science and Asian American Studies major. I grew up in Philadelphia and later moved to Massachusetts. My policy interests include social policy and urban development. Additionally, I am interested in studying US-China relations and the impact of globalization on East Asian countries. I am passionate about advocating for the Asian American community and pushing for diverse political representation. I strongly believe in the importance of grassroots organizing and community engagement.



## Cierra Wornum

Hey, everyone, my name is Cierra Wornum. I am from Rhode Island and I currently attend the University of Rhode Island. My majors are Political Science and Journalism. I am currently interested in Economic Development, Education Policy, and Social Welfare. I think something interesting that I would want people to know about me is that I interned for Senator Jack Reed over the summer. It was the experience of a lifetime and it really helped me decide and want a career in policy.