

## Reimagining Humanitarianism in the Age of Global Solidarity Speaker Biographies

### Human Rights Panel: 12.10 – 13.10 (GMT+1)

#### Dr Su-Ming Khoo, [National University of Ireland, Galway](#)



Dr Su-Ming Khoo is a lecturer at NUI Galway's [School of Political Science & Sociology](#). Her research and teaching promote knowledge and enquiry concerning different meanings of globalization and development and the contestation of those meanings along North/South lines. It addresses the challenge of development after 'post-development' and from the perspective of human rights. Her research and course material engages with development theory and political economy of development, with an emphasis on alternative approaches including human development, human rights and sustainable development.

Dr Khoo has a strong research interest in, and commitment, to public scholarship, critical higher education studies, higher education for development and global educational ethics. From 2019-2022, she is a Principal Investigator on IRC-COALESCE BCAUSE project: Building Collaborative Approaches to University Strategies against Exclusion in Ireland and Africa: pedagogies for quality Higher Education and inclusive global citizenship. From 2005-2009, she was the Project Leader of the Development Education and Research Network, which worked to sustainably mainstream development education in higher education through professional disciplines such as nursing, medicine, engineering, and human rights.

As Vice-Dean for Internationalization in the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, she seeks to advance research-informed responsible or ethical internationalization and engagement with international development and human rights, and the promotion of academic and educational values.

#### Bulelani Mfaco, Spokesperson, [MASI - Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland](#)



Growing up in the apartheid ghetto of Khayelitsha in Cape Town, Bulelani Mfaco became involved at an early age in protests for adequate housing & access to land with Abahlali BaseMjondolo, health care in the Khayelitsha Health Forum, and improved policing in neighbourhood watches. In 2017 he claimed asylum, seeking protection from violence and targeted killings of LGBT+ people.

He is one of the Spokespersons at MASI – the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland where he is campaigning for the right to work for all asylum seekers, and to end Direct

Provision. Bulelani is also on the board of directors of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and is part of Equinox, a coalition of anti-racist campaigners in the EU.

### Saher Rashid Baig, [UNFCCC YOUNGO](#)



Saher Rashid Baig is a Youth advocate for climate, ocean, gender and Human Rights, Global SDG facilitator, growth enthusiast and a UN-live Markmaker.

A former contact point of the Human Rights working group at the Official Children and Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); YOUNGO, she now serves as the Contact Point of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Working Group and Global Liaison for United Nations Climate Change virtual Conference of Youth (vCOY). YOUNGO is a vibrant, global network of children and youth activists (up to 35 years) as well as youth NGOs, who

contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies and strive to empower youth to formally bring their voices to the UNFCCC processes.

Saher is a self-driven YOUTH leader who believes in the youth and is advocating for a transition from meaningful youth engagement to meaningful youth leadership which is inclusive of the vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous communities of young people.

***Hear Dr. Khoo, Bulelani Mfaco and Saher Rashid Baig discuss what global solidarity means to them at the Human Rights session from 12.10 – 1.10pm (GMT+1)***

### **Multilateralism: 14.00 – 15.00 (GMT+1)**

#### **Dr Margot Tudor, [University of Exeter](#)**



Dr. Margot Tudor is a historian of international interventions, decolonisation, and sovereignty, focusing on post-colonial state formation and colonial continuities in international security practices during the mid-20th century at the University of Exeter's College of Social Sciences and International Studies.

In 2020, she finished my ESRC-funded thesis, 'Blue Helmet Bureaucrats: UN Peacekeeping Missions and the Formation of the Post-Colonial International Order, 1956-1971' at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, based at the University of Manchester. Her PhD was a history of United Nations peacekeeping missions during the height of decolonisation (1956-1971). It highlighted the colonial continuities and lineages of peacekeeping practices in the field by taking a comparative

approach to the first four armed UN missions: UNEF (Sinai and Gaza), ONUC (Congo), UNTEA (West Papua), and UNFICYP (Cyprus). During her time at the University of Manchester, Dr. Tudor won the Faculty of Humanities Award for Distinguished Achievement.

In June 2021, Dr. Tudor's PhD thesis was awarded the BISA Michael Nicholson Thesis Prize 2021. From January 2021-2023, she will be a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the

Leverhulme-funded project, 'Warnings from the Archive: A Century of British Intervention in the Middle East', working alongside Dr Owen Thomas (Pol) and Professor Catriona Pennell (Hist). Her project is linked to the Centre for Histories of Violence and Conflict.

Dr. Tudor is currently working on a manuscript, building on her PhD research, that focuses on tracing how mid-level UN peacekeepers shaped the post-colonial international order and remade sovereignty from 1948-1971. Her post-PhD project focuses on UN peacekeeping, gender, and recreational activities, exploring the construction of a cosmopolitan, international force through field-based masculine pursuits, such as competitive sport, drinking, and watching dancers perform. This project uses the UNEF and UNFICYP missions to question how far the 'UN peacekeeper' identity - or distinct peacekeeping culture(s) - was shaped by these experiences of male camaraderie. Military masculinities were compounded with humanitarian rhetoric and pronouncements of joining a 'moral force' for world peace. By examining peacekeeper-compiled sources, this project will explore how these activities enabled the transnational troops to gel and work better together, thus stabilising troop morale and producing a more authentic military.

**Sonja Hyland, Political Director, [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)**



Sonja Hyland has been a career diplomat since 1996. Currently Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) overseeing Ireland's political relations including Ireland's seat as a non-permanent member of the United National Security Council for the term 2021-2022. She was formerly Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, the African Union and Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) from 2017 - 2019 and Ambassador to Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela and Peru from 2013 - 2017. Other posts have included Director

for Trade Promotion and Economic Messaging at DFAT, Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs at DFAT, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassies of Ireland in Stockholm and Madrid and Ireland's Representative to the Political Military Group at the Perm Rep in Brussels.

**Réiseal Ní Chéillachair, Head of International Advocacy, [Concern Worldwide](#)**



Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair works on humanitarian and development programming, of which 16 years abroad in management and advisory roles in Europe and Africa with Save the Children US and UK, University College Cork and Concern Worldwide. With Concern Somalia, she was seconded to the Somalia NGO Consortium as Focal Point/Director from 2004 – 2009 and led the restructuring of the Consortium to an independent representation body for the entire NGO community.

Returning to Ireland, Réiseal worked with Caritas Internationalis/Trocaire as Humanitarian Policy Adviser before returning to Concern in 2018.

She represented the Dóchas Irish Humanitarian Aid Working Group as a member of the Steering Committee for Ireland's engagement in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS);

served as one of two INGO government appointees on Ireland's Oversight Group for Women, Peace and Security, 2015-18; and served as a board member of the Interact Programme, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University, 2014-17. She also represented INGOs on the Global Pooled Fund Working Group at UNOCHA, 2017-18 on behalf of ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies). Currently, Réiseal represents Concern on the Department of Foreign Affairs Human Rights Committee, and has been recently elected to the board of ICVA (2021-23).

***Hear Dr. Margot Tudor, Sonja Hyland and Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair discuss what global solidarity means to them at the Multilateralism session from 2 – 3pm on Thursday 8 July.***

### **Climate Crisis: 15.15 – 16.15PM (GMT+1)**

**Dr. Christopher O' Connell, [Dublin City University](#)**



Dr Chris O'Connell is a Postdoctoral CAROLINE Fellow with Dublin City University and Anti-Slavery International in London. His current research focuses on the relationship between climate change and contemporary forms of slavery in Peru and Bolivia. In particular, this project examines the response by both the state and civil society to these issues, and the influence of the prevailing political economy on the nature of the response. This research has received funding from the Irish Research Council and from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 713279.

Chris's research interests centre on alternative and sustainable models of development, and their political realisation. Chris holds a PhD in Political Science from Dublin City University, wherein he analysed the influence of civil society on policy switching by leftist presidents in Latin America. His doctoral research examined socio-environmental conflicts and policy implementation relating to resource extraction and food production, topics on which Chris has published. Other research interests include the political economy of development in Latin America and the politics of 'post-neoliberalism', human and environmental rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030.

Chris has delivered modules on Latin American politics at DCU, along with sessions on international relations and human rights. He is an experienced development education facilitator, and he has also published on this topic. He believes in active, participant-centred learning to promote critical engagement with accepted global wisdoms.

Prior to his doctoral studies, Chris spent a decade as an international educator at third-level, much of it in Latin America. Chris has also worked in the NGO sector, and holds a Masters in Development from DCU. He holds a degree in Law from University College Cork, and practiced for a number of years as a litigation solicitor.



**Nishanie Jayamaha, [International Council of Voluntary Agencies \(ICVA\)](#)**



Nishanie Jayamaha is the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)'s Learning and Programme Coordinator and she leads ICVA's work on climate and environment action, civil society space and protection and learning.

She has over 20 years of experience of working with the United Nations, Government institutions, the NGO and private sectors in conflict, natural and complex emergency contexts at country and HQ levels.

**Eric Damien, Youth Climate Activist, [Fridays for Future Kenya](#) & International Affairs Coordinator, [Kenya Environmental Action Network \(KEAN\)](#)**



Eric Damien is a youth climate activist from Fridays for future Kenya, MAPA and the international community. Having faced and experienced the impacts of the climate crisis in his local community he took it upon himself to hold world leaders accountable and push them to take radical climate action while also supporting climate adaptation efforts. He works alongside other youth climate activists from all over the world in mobilising people to take part in strikes and educate their communities on climate change. He is also the international affairs coordinator at KEAN where he works to facilitate meaningful engagement with Youth climate activists in Kenya with international organisations.

***Hear Dr. O' Connell, Nishanie Jayamaha and Eric Damien discuss what global solidarity means to them at the Climate Crisis session from 3.15 – 4.15pm on Thursday 8 July.***

**Concluding Session: 16.30 – 17.30**

**Dr. Hugo Slim, Humanitarian Policy Advisor & Senior Research Fellow, [University of Oxford](#)**



Hugo Slim specializes in the study of ethics, war and humanitarian aid and is leading ELAC's Red Cross funded research on the 21st century battlefield and humanitarian response. This is his second fellowship at ELAC where he previously led research on humanitarian ethics from 2012-2015 and was also part of the team working on the Individualisation of Warfare funded by the European Research Council.

Hugo's career has combined academia, frontline humanitarian operations and policymaking. From 2015 and 2020, he was Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, where he led humanitarian policymaking and diplomacy, and also coordinated the ICRC's delegation to the United Nations in New York.

Hugo did his BA in Theology at St John's College, Oxford. He then worked with Save the Children for five years and with the United Nations before joining Oxford Brookes University to co-lead their award-winning MSc in Development and Humanitarian Practice between 1994 and 2003. He received his PhD by Published Work from Oxford Brookes. He was then Chief Scholar at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva from 2003 and 2007 and has also been on the Boards of Oxfam GB and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

Hugo has published 30 refereed journal papers and 17 book chapters in ethics, humanitarianism and war studies. His latest books are Humanitarian Ethics: A Guide to the Morality of Aid in War and Disasters in 2015, which thinks through the applied ethics of humanitarian action, and Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War in 2007, which analyses the causes and ethics of civilian suffering in war.

**Tara Rao, Founder, [ourGroundworks](#)**



Tara Rao is a social activist and founder of ourGroundworks. She initially became an architect, quite intuitively, and later moved on to working with international development, then on to environment and climate change work and human rights. She works with governments, civil society organisations, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organisations in the areas of social development and environment issues, covering climate resilient development, corporate social responsibility, organisational development, and social infrastructure design through strategy and campaigns, advocacy, and impact assessment. She has lived and worked around the world including Bhutan, Nepal, Denmark, Vietnam & the UK.

After over 30 years, Tara now works independently with Our Ground Works and is active on various projects close to her heart including the RINGO Project (Reimagining the INGO) – convening a system change lab, and; the Gigatonne Challenge with Complexity University – a bold bottom up climate action project. Tara enjoys designing for collaborative change-making, combining complexity, systems thinking, design thinking, with action research. She is a stage in her life where she sees and seeks convergence of the various strands she has worked on over the years. “Creating that convergence stimulates me!”

**Noreen Gumbo, Head of Humanitarian Programmes, [Trócaire](#)**



Noreen Gumbo is the Head of Humanitarian Programmes for Trócaire and has served in this role since 2014. Noreen has an MSc Agric (Rural Development) from UCD and a Diploma in Development Management from the Open University. Noreen has over 25 years' experience working in both humanitarian and development programming, and lived and worked in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa) for over 20 years. In her role as Head of Humanitarian Programmes with Trócaire, Noreen is responsible for providing strategic direction to Trócaire's

humanitarian work through development of strong organisational policy and strategy and robust guidelines and strong technical support. She manages a team of ten staff members who together provide support to humanitarian responses in over 20 countries, ensuring Trócaire delivers humanitarian interventions to a high-quality standard and in line with international best practise in the sector. Trócaire's particular niche area within humanitarian response is protection of women and girls in emergencies.

Noreen also serves on the board of the Start Network, a network of over 50 humanitarian agencies aiming to transform humanitarian action through innovation, fast funding, early action, and localisation.

***Hear Dr. Slim, Tara Rao and Noreen Gumbo discuss what global solidarity means to them at the Concluding session from 4.30 – 5.30pm (GMT+1) on Thursday 8 July.***