

ST.GALLEN SYMPOSIUM

52nd St. Gallen Symposium

Leaders of Tomorrow

The St. Gallen Symposium is proud to present a selection of this years' Leaders of Tomorrow. These young talents from all around the globe are carefully chosen based on their outstanding profiles, their unique impact on their individual environment or an outstanding contribution to the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition.



Rena Mototani (JP)
Student at Tokyo Medical and Dental University

Rena Mototani is currently pursuing her Doctor in Medicine from Tokyo Medical and Dental University, and has qualified through the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition. She has worked at the Harvard School of Public Health, at the Team WADA, is the Japanese delegate for the Maureen Mansfield's Women's Trilateral Youth Empowerment Program, and was a Youth 7 delegate for Japan.



Benedict Kurz (DE)
CEO and Co-Founder of Knowunity

Benedict Kurz is the Co-Founder & CEO of Knowunity. Knowunity is an EdTech app which serves as a learning platform for students. Knowunity is already present in seven European countries and is currently expanding into the US. Benedict co-founded Knowunity while still in high school.



Constantin Prox (DE)
Student at INSEAD

Constantin Prox is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy at INSEAD, and has qualified through the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition for the second time after 2019. He has numerous experiences in consulting and research for global institutions. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Humboldt-University in Berlin, a Master of Science from Stockholm School of Economics, and a Master in International Management from HEC Paris.



Ines Palacios (AR)
Founder of Chaka

Ines Palacios has more than five years of experience in public policies, with a strong focus on gender inequality and social dilemmas regarding inequality towards the indigenous community in Argentina. She is currently working in the Buenos Aires City Government and holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University Torcuato Di Tella in Buenos Aires. She attended the Columbia University as an Obama Scholar student.



Manas Chawla (IN)
Student at University of Oxford

Manas Chawla is currently pursuing his Master of Science from the University of Oxford, and has qualified through the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition. Besides his broad work experience, he founded and currently serves as the CEO of London Politica, the world's first student-led political risk advisory. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the London School of Economics.



Ruvimbo Samanga (ZW)
Space Policy Analyst

Ruvimbo Samanga is an analyst at Access Partnership focusing on regulatory market compliance in the space and satellite industry. She held several positions as research fellow, assistant lecturer and tutor in the past. She is an International Astronautical Federation Young Space Leader, a Mandela Washington Fellow alumna, and a graduate from the University of Pretoria.



Michael Nelson (US)
Student at Harvard University

Michael Nelson is currently pursuing his MBA at the Wharton School and MPA at Harvard Kennedy School, and has qualified through the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition. He worked in several different roles as analyst, associate, and senior consultant with Deloitte, and as a Graduate Intern at the White House. He is a graduate of Hamilton College.



Ida Johansson
Founder and CEO of Hyred

Ida Johansson is the founder and CEO of Hyred. Hyred is a job platform that makes job matches based on actual facts with the help of AI. She founded Hyred when she was 18 years old. Additionally, she serves as a board member at Företagarna and Ung Företagsamhet, and is a member of the advisory board at Varbergs Sparbank.



Guneet Khatri (GB)
Student at London School of Economics

Guneet Khatri is currently pursuing her Master of Science at London School of Economics, and has qualified through the St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition. She has a broad range of experience in different sectors and has recently been selected to participate in the Women Techmakers Ambassadors programme. She obtained her Bachelor in Biomedical Science at the University of Warwick.



Jamal Hill (US)
Professional Swimmer

Jamal Hill is a professional swimmer for Team USA, author, and philanthropist. Next to winning the national championship ten times as well as a Tokyo 2020 Paralympic medal, he founded the Swim Up Hill foundation. Swim Up Hill is dedicated to teaching swimming to marginalized communities with a mission to win the war on drowning.



Harald Zierfuß (AT)
Member of Vienna's state parliament

Harald Zierfuß is a politician from Austria and a representative of the ÖVP (Austrian People's Party). In his youth he served as a federal school speaker, representing all 1.1 million students in Austria. He is currently the youngest representative in Vienna's state parliament and municipal council.



Petter Reistad (NO)
CEO of Celsia

Petter Reistad is the CEO of Celsia. Celsia is a Norwegian SaaS company simplifying the use of data to increase sustainability. Petter has worked at DNB, Media Digital AS, and Cognite, and is currently a Board Member at Energy Valley. He is a graduate from the University of Colorado Boulder.



Abdul Aziz Muhamat (SD)
Research Assistant
Global Detention Project

Muhamat Abdul Aziz is a research assistant at the Global Detention Project, a leading research centre for documenting the use of immigration detention. He is an active human rights advocate and holder of the Martin Ennals Award. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva.



Toby Thorpe (AU)
Deputy Mayor of Huon Valley Council

Toby Thorpe is Tasmania's youngest Deputy Mayor. He is involved in various initiatives across Tasmania, Australia and the world. He is currently a community engagement manager at RE-Alliance and Circle of Youth member at Youthtopia. He was selected as the 2021 Young Australian of the Year and as the 2020 Premiers Young Achiever of the Year.



Elizabeth Oda (US)
Researcher at Women in Science Japan

Elizabeth Oda is the co-founder of Women in Science Japan and currently a researcher for Braid. Prior to that she worked as an AI engineer at Arithmer, was a director of research at Tokyo Academics, and worked in different roles for Syngenta. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Master's degree from the University of Hawaii.



Siyabulela Mandela (ZA)
Journalist for Human Rights

Siyabulela Mandela is an independent consultant on international development, conflict resolution, and international relations. He has been working for Journalists for Human Rights across Africa as a regional project manager. He was a lecturer at the Nelson Mandela University, and worked for several years at the Nelson Mandela Museum. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations and Conflict Management from Nelson Mandela University.



Julian Willner (DE)
Co-Founder and CEO of Purpose

Julian Willner is the Co-Founder and CEO of Purpose GmbH. Purpose GmbH use public mobilisation and storytelling to help leading organisations, activists, businesses, and philanthropies to create campaigning labs and new initiatives that can shift policies and change public narratives. He currently also serves as a founding partner of hatch, a digital product and venture studio. He has been the founder and initiator of various further companies and initiatives, and is a Sigma Squared Fellow.



Humberto Martinez Barron (MX)
Co-Founder of Nerit'e

Humberto Martinez Barron is the Co-Founder of Nerit'e. Nerit'e promotes the efficient use of farming technology for small farmers around the globe. He has worked as a business intern at Google in Mexico City and as a software engineer at Expertos en Sistemas. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.



Devi Sahny (BE)
Founder and CEO of Ascend Now

Devi Sahny is the founder and CEO of Ascend Now, an ed-tech company focused on normalising entrepreneurship for students aged 6 to 18. Ascend Now works with over 9,000 students, over 100 IB examiners and learning designers, and over 20 institutions. Prior to founding Ascend Now, Devi was an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs in the M&A Group in New York City, and graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Economics.



Michael Kowatschew (AT)
President of Sigma Squared

Michael Kowatschew is the president at Sigma Squared. Sigma Squared is a non-profit organization that unites and empowers the world's boldest, smartest, and most forward-thinking entrepreneurs under 26. He was the managing partner in Austria for something creative and the co-founder & managing director of The Pixel Beat. He holds a Bachelor in Science in Economics from Vienna University.



Ivan Fernandez Lucas (ES)
Founding Partner of Enzo Ventures

Ivan Fernandez Lucas is a founding partner at Enzo Ventures. Enzo Ventures is a Madrid based venture company focusing on early stage investments. He is an investor and board observer at Harbiz, a Fellow at Sigma Squared Society and worked for Swapcard. He studied at ESSEC Business School and the University of Barcelona.



Gyri Reiersen (NO)
Co-Founder and CPO of Tanso

Gyri Reiersen is the co-founder and CPO at Tanso. Using data and machine learning, Tanso supports industrial manufacturing companies in their transition to a lower carbon economy. She has a broad range of experience in academia and business. She holds a Master of Science from the Technical University of Munich in Robotics, Cognition and Intelligence.



Rahmon Agbaje (GB)
Co-Founder of Loud Parade

Rahmon Agbaje is a co-founder of Loud Parade, a branding and creative agency targeting Gen Z. He is a business development advisor at Raffl, advisory board member at OneTech, and a founding member of Extend Ventures. He has worked with CNN, Business Reporter and the BBC, and studied at the University of Warwick.



Momoko Nojo
Founder of No Youth No Japan

Momoko Nojo is the founder of No Youth No Japan, which educates and empowers young voters in Japan. She is one of Japan's most widely cited advocates for youth political participation. She is a graduate of Keio University.

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Simon Mathis (AT)
Student at University of
Cambridge

Simon Valentin Mathis is a consultant at Visium SA, focusing on building the future through data strategy, architecture, cloud engineering, analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science at the University of Cambridge. He holds a Master of Science in Physics from ETH Zurich.