

2018–19 Government of British Columbia fellows' biographies

Amandeep Bassi, University of the Fraser Valley*Hosted by the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General*

Amandeep Bassi first became interested in psychology while at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree. She has a PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Ottawa. Her research and evaluation interests are in the field of community psychology, and her doctoral research focused on experiences of community integration among vulnerably housed women who have a history of homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues.

Amandeep has worked with the community through evaluation projects in Ottawa and taught psychology at the University of the Fraser Valley and Kwantlen Polytechnic University. As well, she has worked as a research associate at the Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre, which allowed her to work directly with the homeless population in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

**Felicitas Egunyu, University of Saskatchewan***Hosted by Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development*

Felicitas Egunyu has a PhD in environment and sustainability and is a research associate at the University of Saskatchewan. With extensive research experience in both the natural and social sciences, she has worked in the academic, corporate, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

Her research is driven by an interest in natural resource management, particularly in how under-represented groups become engaged in social learning for natural resource management. She has researched in Canada, Chile, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya, including participating in a joint research project between the University of Saskatchewan and Chile's Natural Forest Corporation that investigated protected area management and community resilience. As a doctoral student, she investigated forest management in British Columbia and Uganda and obtained funding from the IDRC, SSHRC, and the University of Saskatchewan.



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Liese Coulter, Griffith University***Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture***

Liese Coulter is a lecturer in science, technology and society and received her PhD from Griffith University in Australia. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Canberra in environmental design and a Master of Science Communication from the Australian National University. Her research focuses on how climate knowledge is used to envision, communicate, and manage environmental and social issues associated with climate change adaptation, especially related to engagement in future thinking by decision makers.

Previously, Liese was communication manager for the CSIRO Climate Change Adaptation Flagship, and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). She has consulted with government departments and universities on climate change adaptation and knowledge exchange and was awarded a Future Earth travel grant by the Max Planck Institute. She has volunteered with the Australian Red Cross to manage evacuation centres, and before moving to Australia, Liese (née Chapman) was a practicing glass artist in Vancouver.

**Lisi Feng, University of British Columbia*****Hosted by the Ministry of Children & Family Development***

Lisi Feng has a PhD in urban planning from the University of British Columbia and expertise in community planning, migrant settlement and integration, housing and land use development, and governance. Her master's degree in sociology is also from UBC, and she has a BA in English language and literature with a minor in business administration from Southeast University in China.

Lisi's work has been a research associate at the Institute of Asian Research, a doctoral researcher and instructor in the School of Community and Regional Planning, all at UBC, and a community engagement facilitator for the Vancouver Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council. She has also been a study tour guide and interpreter in the Vancouver area.



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Mehdi Bagheri, University of Victoria*Hosted by the Ministry of Finance*

Mehdi Bagheri is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Victoria, working on various aspects of green economic development. His research interests include economic modeling, big data analytics and statistics, multiple-criteria decision analysis, and evidence-based policy-making, in addition to his research on several fundamental and applied aspects of environmental engineering and economics.

Mehdi received his PhD in environmental engineering with a focus on ecological economics from the University of British Columbia and attended an online microeconomics program from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has over six years of consulting experience in government, the private sector, and academia. During his work for the City of Vancouver (Greenest City 2020 plan), RES'EAU, and Naftoon Arya, he participated in and managed multidisciplinary projects in areas such as dynamic microeconomic models, big data analytics and statistical measures, analyzing firm-level data, and using state-of-the-art statistical analysis software.

**Noushin Nabavi, University of British Columbia***Hosted by the Ministry of Jobs, Trade & Technology*

Noushin Nabavi graduated from the University of Toronto with a PhD in cellular and molecular biology, where she specialized in bone health-related research. She has held postdoctoral fellowships in three academic institutions across California and British Columbia and gained extensive analytical experience conducting literature reviews in diverse disease specialties and influencing research directions and decision making.

Her roles have included analysis and integration of next-generation sequencing datasets, as well as drafting technical, strategic, and operating protocols and reports based on those findings. She has engaged in successful grant applications and peer-reviewed scientific publications and presented posters and oral presentations of her work in national and international conferences.



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Orly Salama-Alber, University of Victoria*Hosted by the Ministry of Health*

Orly Salama-Alber is a biochemist with 15 years of research experience in academic research projects and industry collaboration. Her research career includes 10 publication contributions in 10 years, consistent educational funding through fellowship grants and awards, and teamwork experience in diverse academic research environments. As a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the University of Victoria, she also collaborated with a company to study carbohydrate degradation using enzymes originated from marine bacteria, among other research.

Orly's skills include molecular biology, biochemistry, and structural biology, with emphasis on structural characterization of multi-protein complexes. She has a PhD and MSc in biological chemistry from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, and a BSc in biotechnology engineering from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

**Zaheera Jinnah, University of Alberta***Hosted by the Ministry of Children & Family Development*

Zaheera Jinnah is an interdisciplinary scholar in the social sciences with a strong interest and experience in policy-oriented research. She holds a PhD in anthropology, an MA in development studies, and a BA in social work. She is an instructor and visiting researcher in the Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, where she is working on a multi-country, three-year research study on families, violence, and resilience.

Zaheera has diverse work experience in research, program development, and social services. She began her career as a social worker, worked for two years as a program officer for a Swedish development organization, and, after her doctorate at Wits University in Johannesburg, stayed on to work on applied research and policy projects relating to social justice and human rights. These included consulting with the United Nations to undertake program reviews, impact assessment, and policy development. She has an extensive academic publication record, including having co-edited a forthcoming book. She has also served the community by providing essential social services at local not-for-profit organizations.

