



Oxford Seed Fund Team Bios

2021-2022

Emily Mellor- Managing Director



Emily brings experience in investing through her role as an investment associate at Tripple, a private investment company in Australia, which focuses on using capital for good. Emily evaluated venture capital opportunities which could deliver social and economic change with purpose. Emily is driven to solve impactful challenges with new technologies by creating scalable and sustainable business models.

Prior to her role at Tripple, Emily worked as a Management Consultant at Accenture, where her work included researching emerging technology trends, leading a formal innovation program and working on a range of large-scale projects. In 2019 she was selected to join Startmate, a leading Australian accelerator program, as part of a Fellowship program involving intensive training and working with start-up founders and VCs.

Emily graduated with a major in International Studies from Monash University, Australia. She is currently completing her MBA at the University of Oxford as a Saïd Foundation Scholar.

Alongside her professional roles, Emily has held non-executive director roles at the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club and has worked as a beach life guard at some of Australia's most treacherous ocean beaches. In her spare time, you can find Emily outdoors, surfing, swimming, running or searching for good coffee.

Claire Mongeau – Deputy Directory of Due Diligence and Portfolio Management



As an entrepreneur and strategist, Claire is curious about how innovation in business, investment, and technology can open new opportunities for growth in untapped markets.

Before joining the MBA program at Saïd Business School, Claire was the CEO and Co-founder of M-Shule, a Nairobi-based personalised knowledge-building platform that combines artificial intelligence with channels like SMS to transform education access for low-income and offline communities. Claire began her career with four years working at the nexus of education and business, in India with affordable private schools through Gray Matters Capital; in the US with youth

empowerment nonprofit Design for Change; and in Kenya with Bridge International Academies, one of the largest chains of low-cost private schools in the world. She then launched M-Shule in 2017 and scaled the business to reach thousands of learners of all ages, improve educational outcomes and livelihoods, make collecting outcomes data easier, and improve access for even the most remote learners.

Originally from Rochester, New York, USA, Claire graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and French. At SBS, she is the recipient of the Skoll Scholarship and acts as the Deputy Managing Director of Portfolio Management and Due Diligence at Oxford Seed Fund, as well Co-Chair of the Oxford MIINT Committee. In her spare time, she enjoys musicals, family vacations, and Monty Python reruns.

Mario Rojas - Deputy Director of Sourcing



Mario is an investment professional and venture capital specialist with over 6 years of experience in Latin American markets working with startups and SME's, and a passionate of the startup and venture capital ecosystem around the world. Mario had the opportunity to work as an Investment Manager for Axon Partners Group's Latin-American VC fund getting deal end to end experience in the investment process from sourcing to portfolio management, including company screening, due diligence, and contract negotiation. Mario also worked as COO of Equity Advisors, a financial consulting firm, managing a team of +15 analysts and +60 active clients.

Mario grew up in Colombia and earned a BS in Industrial Engineering and Economics, as well as a Masters in Corporate Finance, and is currently an MBA candidate at the University of Oxford Said School of Business.

As a sports enthusiast, in his free time he is usually playing football, tennis, biking, or running.

Tanvi Singla - Deputy Director of Marketing and Events



Tanvi is the co-founder of Supreme Incubator, a virtual early-stage startup incubator in India, designed to enable founders to build strong and scalable ventures through hyper-personalised mentoring and on-ground support.

A graduate in business from Shri Ram College of Commerce, she is also a member of the New Delhi hub of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, where she led a project on access to sustainable menstruation products.

Shortly after graduating, she joined her family business to work on a digital forex marketplace. When the venture didn't achieve the scale planned, she realised the need for

expert mentorship for founders in their early stages, especially those from Tier 3/Tier 4 parts of the country, who traditionally don't have easy access to the startup ecosystem in India. In the last two years, Supreme Incubator has scaled from 102 applications in the first cohort, to more than 565 in the fourth, with a community of 30 graduated startups so far.

Her deepest passions are in art, design and social impact. In the long term, she hopes to use these passions to create a borderless platform that fuels mentorship and investment into ventures from around the world.

Dominic Deane



For the last 8 years Dominic has been founding and scaling up start-ups, specialising in emerging technologies including virtual reality, augmented reality, and machine learning. He gets most excited about bringing new ideas to life, be they through his own ventures or while mentoring others.

It was while studying an undergraduate degree in Classics that Dominic first got a taste for building businesses as he founded Chronicles VR during his second year. The virtual and augmented reality studio went on to work on projects across the culture and heritage sector including for the, Victoria and Albert Museum, English Heritage and British Museum. Since then, he has continued to follow his passion for new business by raising capital for his own ventures but also mentoring others on their journeys to create new products. In his most recent role as COO of a 75-person scale-up he led the company's transformation from an analogue training provider to having a wholly digital product line. This new suite of products now enables thousands of teams around the world to collaborate in their own virtual environments.

Returning from the virtual world, Dominic is a current MBA candidate at the University of Oxford Said School of Business where, when not studying, you will find him on the rugby pitch, at the theatre or up a climbing wall.

Ania Johnson



Ania Johnson is an Investment and Relationship Management professional with over 6 years of experience in the asset management industry with an expertise in relationship management, sales strategy and business development. She is passionate about leveraging the power of global capital to affect change in some of the world's most socio-economically challenged environments.

Previously, Ania served as a Vice President within BlackRock's Institutional Client Business where she focused on the firm's most strategic clients to develop and maintain relationships with institutional investors (public and corporate pension plans,

foundations, & endowments). Prior to her last role, she served as a Relationship Manager Associate on BlackRock's US Wealth Advisory National Accounts team supporting business development and relationship management with strategic home office clients across Wirehouse & Independent broker dealers. Ania began her career as a member of BlackRock's Defined Contribution (DC) Marketing Team.

Ania grew up in Atlanta, GA and earned her B.S. degree from New York University, Leonard N. Stern School of Business where she majored in Marketing & International Business with a minor in East Asian studies for Mandarin.

Ania is currently an MBA candidate at the University of Oxford Saïd School of Business. She is an active alumnus for NYU Stern having served on the Alumni Committee and is a career mentor for South Bronx United. She is an avid traveller and enjoys surfing in her free time.

Belen Martinez Gil



Western Union.

For the past 5+ years, Belen has worked in the tech startup space, divided between Dublin, Ireland and her hometown Mexico City, Mexico. While returning to Mexico, she was attracted by the surge of Fintech ventures and the growing interest from national and international funds to invest in this sector, with a common general objective for financial inclusion and improving the offering of financial services in the LATAM region. Convinced by the opportunity that Fintech opens, she worked for 2 years in a Neobank launch, and later moved to work for a SaaS fintech, focused on payments and serving major Financial Service players such as PayPal, Facebook's Novi,

Belen graduated as a Marketing Merit Scholar in Mexico with a Bachelors in Communications and is now part of the SBS Scholar Foundation. She is happiest when doing outdoor sport activities, like hiking, surfing and currently as a novice rower at Oxford.

Noi Omaboe



Noi is passionate about innovation and strategy in Africa and in particular start-ups seeking to reshape embedded systems in the continent via the use of technology.

Through Insight Venture Partner's portfolio recruiting program, Noi began his career at Conga, a SaaS-based platform that offers document generation and management solutions to myriad sectors. Before joining the MBA cohort Noi was in his family business, The O3 Group. The Group was founded some 47 years ago as a management consultancy firm in Ghana with expertise in business, investments and economic consulting. Over the years, it has expanded

into a versatile organization providing private equity, venture capital and international business partnerships. Noi was responsible for the appraisal of all new investment opportunities and projects and worked closely with the Executive team to ensure the company played a pivotal role in facilitating foreign direct investment into Ghana as an anchor and domestic partner for international firms.

Noi graduated from Duke University with an Economics Degree and an Innovation & Entrepreneurship certificate. He is a committee member of the Oxford Africa Business Alliance, serving as the Co-Director of the 2022 Oxford Africa Business Forum. Outside of work, you will likely find Noi playing football, rugby or more recently, trying his hand at mixed martial arts.

Youmna Sirgi



Youmna has spent the last three years working as a technology consultant in the United States public sector, with a specific focus on cloud modernization for federal health agencies.

She is passionate about how technology can be used as a tool to create more transparency and financial inclusivity across industries. Prior to her role as a consultant, Youmna worked for a social entrepreneurship incubator. Youmna also serves as a Board Member for an adult-English learning non-profit in Washington D.C.

As a first generation Lebanese-American, Youmna published a cookbook to raise money for humanitarian relief after the 2020 Beirut explosion.

She holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University. In her free time, she's either cooking a meal with friends, on a bike ride, or planning her next trip with her family.

Leslie Small



Leslie is an optometrist and clinical researcher in the United States. She was most recently at the University of California, San Francisco where, in addition to clinical care, she performed research involving multimodal retinal imaging and AI algorithms for diabetic retinopathy detection.

During her time with patients, she saw the vast impact technology can have on access to healthcare and improved health outcomes. She also saw opportunities for technology to be supportive rather than deleterious to the patient-physician relationship that she found as a pinnacle in delivering effective care.

Leslie graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.S. in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and a minor in Natural Sciences. She completed her post graduate degree as a Doctor of Optometry from the University of California, Berkeley and pursued her ocular disease residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami.

Leslie is a current MBA candidate at the University of Oxford Said School of Business where she co-chairs the Technology Oxford Business Network. In her spare time, you can catch her running through port meadow or attempting to row on the River Thames.

Jeffrey Wai



Jeff is passionate about innovation, building impactful products, and solving complex technological problems.

Jeff has 7 years of experience working in financial technology in New York. He started his career as a software engineer and later became a business analyst at Goldman Sachs, building technology solutions and onboarding the firm to the latest cloud technology. Prior to coming to Oxford for his MBA, Jeff was a product owner at Blackstone, digitalizing processes for finance, the investment teams, and many other stakeholders across the firm. During the pandemic, Jeff also volunteered for Gift Card Bank, where he was a product manager and rolled out internal systems, which helped the startup scale and match hundreds of gift cards to families in need.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from Cornell University. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys traveling, playing the piano, mentoring, beatboxing and rowing.