

Portfolio of Summer School Participants

ARIN-ASH Summer School 2021

Decolonising Sustainability Research Methods



Female



Male



In-person



Virtual

Adriana Moreno Cely



Institution: Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Colombia

Motivation/Bio

As Latin-American, I am interested in learning from African experiences in decolonizing methodologies and sustainability. I am also interested in building new research networks and sharing our experiences from Latin America.



Lorrain Charbonnier



Institution: UNSSC as a practitioner; King's College London as a PhD student; T.wai as a research fellow

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Italy

Motivation/Bio

As I have recently embarked in my PhD research project, I believe challenging my own knowledge, practice and culture would deeply enrich my journey and help me grow into a more rounded and sophisticated researcher. In addition to that, the very focus of my PhD research – broadly, the politics surrounding the so-called ‘farmer-herder conflicts’ in West Africa – calls for decoloniality of methods and concepts. This is so, not just due to the geographical scope of the research, but also, and importantly, because academic and grey literature on farmer-herder conflicts often tend to offer crude and reductionist representations that mirror ‘Western’ conceptual categories, development priorities and security concerns. As I am committed to challenging (or at the very least questioning) the mainstream narrative and trying to ‘re-politicise’ pastoralists’ subordinate position towards dominant security and development discourses, I would greatly relish the opportunity to join this Summer School as I believe it holds all the necessary qualities to help me sharpen my critical thinking and methodological skills. Having worked for the better part of five years now in the field of capacity building, knowledge management at the UN, I have always strived to bridge the world of practitioners with that of scholars in order to contribute to translating available research into transformative thinking and emancipatory practices (especially as regards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Sustaining Peace resolutions). I have been nurturing this double outlook as a core value and a key feature of my professional identity, which I believe is in line with the focus, objective and approach of both ARIN and the STEPS Centre. Given the chance, I can guarantee I hold the necessary skills, mindset and commitment to continue to be as probing and exploring as I have been over the past years, and it would be an honour for me to do so as part of a group of passionate ARIN Fellows. At a more pragmatic level, my current PhD research fits nicely with some of the projects that ARIN and the STEPS Centre are currently undertaking (e.g. PASTRES). I am therefore eager to offer my research and project management skills, as well as my network and insights to contribute to the success and impact of these initiatives (also considering that ‘pastoralism’ is climbing the policy agendas of countries and international organisations alike).

Olg Ustyuzhantseva

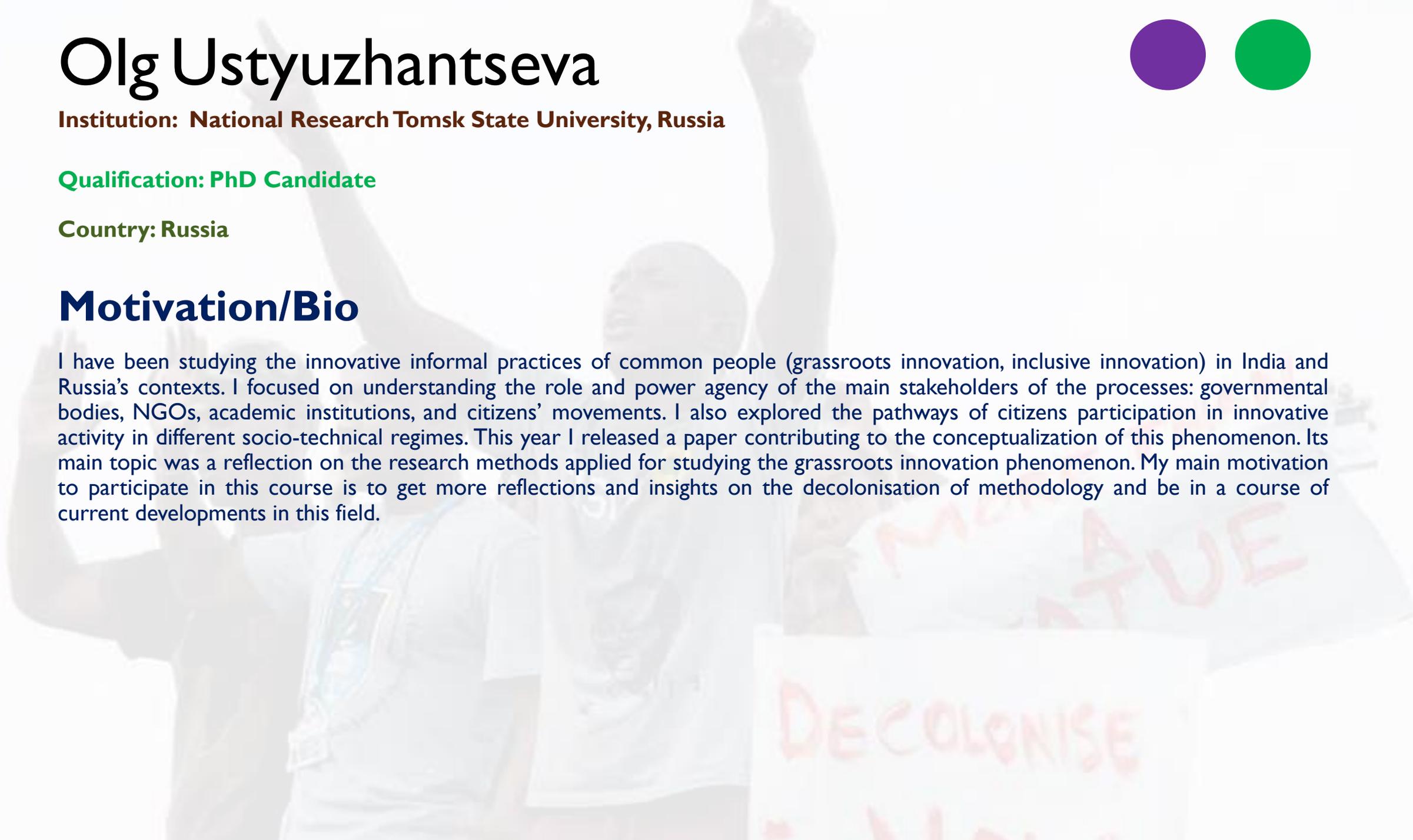
Institution: National Research Tomsk State University, Russia

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Russia

Motivation/Bio

I have been studying the innovative informal practices of common people (grassroots innovation, inclusive innovation) in India and Russia's contexts. I focused on understanding the role and power agency of the main stakeholders of the processes: governmental bodies, NGOs, academic institutions, and citizens' movements. I also explored the pathways of citizens participation in innovative activity in different socio-technical regimes. This year I released a paper contributing to the conceptualization of this phenomenon. Its main topic was a reflection on the research methods applied for studying the grassroots innovation phenomenon. My main motivation to participate in this course is to get more reflections and insights on the decolonisation of methodology and be in a course of current developments in this field.



Estrella Jazmin Chevez



Institution: UNAM and Instituto de Ecología

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Mexico

Motivation/Bio

I would like to be part of the summer program to improve my professional skills to pursue bigger efforts on policy and science research with a regard on how to apply methods in a more equitable, context-dependent, and emancipatory perspective. Since I study my bachelor's degree in biology, I have always been interested in how to best inform and communicate scientific knowledge to those that best need it. During my master and as an independent professional I have applied participatory methodologies to engage with adults and school children, especially in public activities and environmental programs. As a PhD candidate in a Sustainable program, I have designed workshops and a tool to research on debates concerning landscape management. These activities are done to facilitate dialogue and reflect on the connections between bee management and land use with the local producers, as well as how agricultural and cattle raising practices have affected the health of the natural ecosystem and bee management. This has led me to interact with political practitioners and local producers' representatives that are interested to understand the complex socioecological links. Therefore, there is a growing need to integrate the experience and debate that I have studied into formal and informal rules that can contribute to policies more social and environmentally just. I am especially interested to learn and develop decolonizing tools and methodologies for children and teen public to include it into environmental citizenship activities and programs.

Samuel Olajuyigbe

Institution: University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Qualification: PhD

Country: Nigeria

Motivation/Bio

As an academic, I received my training based on concepts, theories and practices that were developed in the global north and used to develop curriculum for the global south. However, my experience with research and teaching over the years, have shown the gaps that exist in some of the methodologies, definitions and practices. These have made it difficult for me and many colleagues in our efforts to localize methods during research. Furthermore, the level of acceptance of homegrown methods and techniques for solving scientific problems is very low in the international arena. Even though, it is a known fact that not all methods or policies are applicable when attending to problems or challenges. Hence, there is an urgent need for the decolonization of methods in the science and policy space in the global south. For Africa to maximize its full potential and actualize sustainable development; she requires researchers that have capacity to develop methods for facing the continent's challenges. My participation in the summer school will expose me to modern ways of decolonizing research methods and would build my capacity as an academic and researcher. I would be better positioned in my quest to collaborate with other ARIN fellows from diverse fields. I would become a stronger participant in the implementation of ARIN's goals and objectives. As a forest scientist, I have a strong background in applied science research with very limited expertise in social science and multidisciplinary research. This summer school would be pivoted to my growth as a well-grounded scientist able to demystify the various misconceptions that exist in social science research. It would enhance my ability to train students and change mindsets, thus encouraging innovation in science and technology. ARIN can help build a group of experts with strong capacity and technical know-how to drive the process of decolonization of methods in scientific research. I would like to be a major player and the summer school offers a veritable platform for me to become engaged in the process.



Obed Nyangena

Institution: Kenya School of Government

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

That Africa stands to benefit more from homegrown solutions to challenges facing the continent is the conviction that drives my motivation to join the Summer School. I believe that home grown solutions, especially indigenous knowledge, if well harnessed, can be impactful in responding to local pressing challenges. While the solutions needed differ across local communities, mapping and documentation, adoption and diffusion can be useful in understanding risks and challenges at local levels, thereby defining fitting remedies and attenuate risk severity. I look forward to contribute as an ARIN Fellow at time when the world has been struck by a wind of a dreadful virus that has consumed the world with rage, narrowing household incomes, widening unemployment and pushing more people into dependency. Tersely, the this has resulted to the conveyor belt that drove economies along development pathways grind ever slowly. For many, it has resulted to hopelessness. Worse still, climate change is adversely impacting lives, augmenting pain that has been brought about by the raging spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARs-COV-2) and its attendant variants. While adjusting to normalcy will take time, 'decolonising' approaches to research and policy is imperative in providing insights on intelligent ways of understanding, documenting and sharing sharing crisis knowledge information. New approaches to research and policy are important; recognizing and nurturing these mechanisms is a clear way to creating a wealth of approaches on going about research and policy in the global south, something that I look forward with great enthusiasm to learn and contribute to, if granted this scholarship.



DECOLONISE



Verrah Otiende

Institution: USIU-Africa

Qualification: PhD

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

I am interested in collaboratively exploring the diverse research methods used to create impact to the diverse societies/ economies and that can be used to inform or even transform policy decisions. Specifically I'll be interested to learn and contribute towards the integration (or need for integration) of these methods. Being part of a team will also be an opportunity to network and explore other emerging issues on decolonizing sustainability research.



Paul Osogo

Institution: ARIN

Qualification: MSc

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

ARIN is one of the leading young research platforms and it is my belief that joining such a unit will open my research intellectual knowledge to greater heights. At ARIN I can help contribute in two thematic areas mainly pathways to innovative climate governance I am willing to learn at ARIN and willing to look at Climate governance and diplomacy at the local, national and international level; as well as cross cutting issues/ areas of which answers can be sorted to address the questions of climate governance framework can include PVDs. I do look forward to joining the ARIN summer school, so as to demonstrate and elaborate the above and give a road map on ways to achieve them.





Tom Randa

Institution: African Centre for Technology Studies

Qualification: MSc

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

As an Early Career Researcher, I have the opportunity to influence policy and practice for the current and upcoming generation and the summer school will strategically expose me to the knowledge space of how methods have been and is used to inform, develop and transform policies and economies. I will gain practical experience on the methods landscape and position myself for much more impactful research in the future. I look forward to learn and join the STEP Centre methods alumni network of influence and transformation.





Mirriam Mule

Institution: National Environment Trust Fund

Qualification: MSc

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

hh



Carlos Makhandia

Institution: African Researchers Consortium

Qualification: MSc

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

Through my experience, I have acquired expertise in formulating project goals, communicating deadlines, developing research methods, analyzing variables and test parameters, analyzing data, and writing detailed reports, proposals, policy briefs and factsheets while training and overseeing high-performing research teams. Furthermore, I excel at integrating superior organization and communication skills across all levels of research, enabling me to thrive in both independent and team-oriented environments and effectively lead staff and volunteers. I have Spearheaded project planning, evaluation, monitoring, auditing, and reporting for Mumias Sugar Company and SAIPEH, African Researchers Consortium, and Ugunja Community Resource Centre Projects for the past 6 years; produced and distributed policy briefs, proposals and M&E reports to management and donors; Played a pivotal role in developing Project's annual work plan and budget through keen data analysis and stakeholder input - digging into complex data sets and producing insightful, data-driven strategic recommendations and reports; Organizing, analysing, and managing large data sets to drive research project success while directing research teams to ensure optimal productivity and efficiency. Besides, competitively earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Statistics with Computing and Master's degree in Business Administration (Finance) from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, I have been training, coaching, and managing research teams composed of up to 19 individuals demonstrating outstanding analytical, problem solving, accomplished communication skills, time management abilities, and a keen attention to detail which motivates me to participate as an ARIN fellow.



Sheillah Chepkoech



Institution: Moi University

Qualification: MSc

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

Ms Sheillah Chepkoech is a passionate records (data & information) management practitioner contributing strongly to data management (collection, analysis and archiving) in a systematic and easily accessible way by various users to inform their decision making in various sectors of economy towards achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). I have a dream to pursue career and higher education in big data management to shape leveraging of big data to inform decision and appropriate policy making at national and sub-national level in Africa. I have applied for Masters in Information Science, to continue with focus on big data management. I have practical experience in both traditional and digital data recording and archive management in sectors such as agriculture. I supported international organisations such World Food Programme (WFP) in research especially in data collection, analysis and reporting on food security, water and sanitation and livelihoods in Baringo County, Kenya. I have also applied data management in private sectors such cosmetic business. I look forward to working in a data demanding programme within organisations where I can continue to learn, share and provide effective records (big data) management for better decision and policy making for public good in Africa.



Paul Kweku Tandoh

Institution: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Qualification: PhD

Country: Ghana

Motivation/Bio

hh



Otto Bruun



Institution: University of Eastern Finland, CCEEL (Centre for Climate, Energy and Environmental Law)

Qualification: PhD Candidate

Country: Finland

Motivation/Bio

I recognise I'm in need of learning, companionship, support and context to be able to fulfil my aims to assist movements, actors and groups to decolonize international environmental and human rights law. ARIN is a very interesting network in this regard. As a PhD student in the early stages of my journey I feel this summer school could in a timely manner deeply affect my future path as a scholar and practitioner. I am also seriously considering participatory action research for my PhD with a focus on pastoralist groups in East Africa for my PhD. In this case, the engagement with ARIN would be particularly valuable. I'm far from an expert on the ARIN, but what I have learned on methods in webinars and actors connected to ARIN has been insightful and lead to an intense interest to learn more. Particularly insight on decolonizing method is something which very much aligns with where I want to develop as a researcher and learn more. My work with NGOs, movements and research institutions with actors from the global South has always been in need of more of such a focus and capacity. My experiences with facilitation makes me hungry to learn more on the topic of the summer school. I'm also motivated to follow up the experiences from the summer school in the STEPS methods workshop. I bring an open, generous engaged and highly motivated attitude. As a ARIN fellow I can bring experience from NGOs and research work with a broad set of global actors and institutions (surely in need of decolonization). I'm also engaged in actions to decolonize thinking in the global North, having been involved in the last years in campaigns and advocacy (in modest capacity) to end unequal trade and to support the indigenous Sami land rights in Nordic countries. I'm sure there are links in my future work that would well benefit from co-operation and learning with/from other ARIN Fellows. And I hope that I could support others in their work as well.

Ali Adan Ali

Institution: Umma University

Qualification: PhD

Country: Kenya

Motivation/Bio

As a scientist, I am interested to learn the new knowledge of sustainability research, methodologies, emerging issues and future of sustainability research. Research is always dynamic and encounters many forces. Sustainability is a critical factor that affects human needs, wants and growth socially, economically and technologically. During the summer, if given an opportunity, i will be building partnership with organizations, individuals and universities with potential for joint activities planning and development. The planned summer school is a venue for predicting the future and its related development.



Juan David Reina Rozo



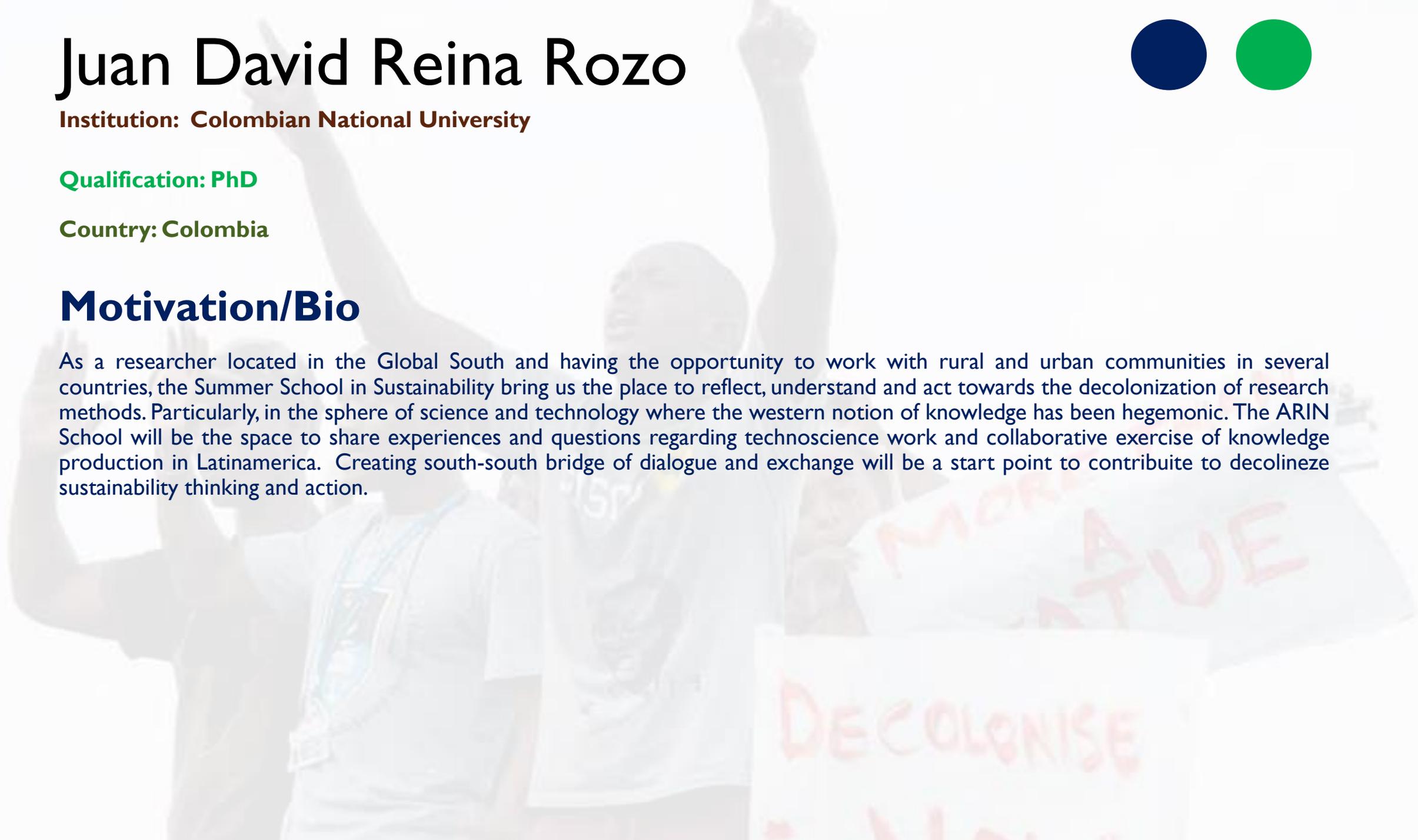
Institution: Colombian National University

Qualification: PhD

Country: Colombia

Motivation/Bio

As a researcher located in the Global South and having the opportunity to work with rural and urban communities in several countries, the Summer School in Sustainability bring us the place to reflect, understand and act towards the decolonization of research methods. Particularly, in the sphere of science and technology where the western notion of knowledge has been hegemonic. The ARIN School will be the space to share experiences and questions regarding technoscience work and collaborative exercise of knowledge production in Latinamerica. Creating south-south bridge of dialogue and exchange will be a start point to contribute to decolize sustainability thinking and action.





Elena Adamo

Institution: Danida Fellowship Centre

Qualification: PhD

Country: Denmark

Motivation/Bio

hh

