

New LCLI Fellows

We are graced by six wonderful new people joining this loose collaboration we call the Leading Causes of Life Initiative, ready to give their energy and passions to what motivates us all in one way or another. Thank you to those who nominated them. And be reminded that you as an LCLI Fellow are free to nominate anyone else *you know* who would fit well with us, who might gain from this valued meshwork of connections and who would have something to give it.



LINDA ALEXANDER

Linda, Chief Academic Officer, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) responsible for its overall mission, is lead academic officer for program initiatives that support education, accreditation, practice, professional development, workforce development, and data management. She works with ASPPH members, community thought-leaders, public health practitioners, and national and global partner organizations and institutions to enhance educational excellence and to prepare and strengthen the public health workforce. This includes operationalizing of the ASPPH Strategic Plan 2030 in supporting member schools and programs in efforts toward diversity, equity, inclusive excellence, and social justice. Principal Investigator for a CDC initiative to recruit and retain the infectious disease professional workforce, she also leads a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation initiative for ASPPH member schools to dismantle structural barriers, including but not limited to racism, that impede the public health mandates of inclusive excellence and social justice. Linda is also creating an academic Public Health Institute to transform teaching, research, service, and community engagement; has contributed significantly to the field of tobacco related health disparities and FDA Regulatory Science; is a founding member of the Tobacco Research Network on Disparities; Senior Volume Editor for the National Cancer Institute's Monograph 22; a founding Board of Directors' Member for Public Health Watch (highlighting the role of industrial chemicals and social justice disparities in environmental health outcomes); scientific advisory board member for the Arkansas Cancer Coalition (one of the National Institute for Minority Health models for community-led structural interventions to reduce the cancer burden on rural, underserved, poor and Black/African American people); and, a founding member of Colors of Promise, a community-driven outreach organization Kentucky devoted to breast cancer awareness for women of color.

LAUREN GUNDERSON



Lauren, who studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship, is one of the most produced playwrights in America, topping the list thrice including 2022/23. She is two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *I and You* and *The Book of Will*, the William Inge Distinguished Achievement in Theater Award, the Lanford Wilson Award, the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, and finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the Arthur L. Weissberger Award, and John Gassner Award for Playwriting. Her musical adaptation of *The Time Traveller's Wife* premiered on The West End last year and her new play *Billie Jean*, about tennis icon Billie Jean King, is Broadway-bound after premiering at Chicago Shakespeare this summer. *Revolutionary Women*, her new anthology of five plays, was published by Bloomsbury in 2023. Her play *The Catastro-phist*, about her husband virologist Nathan Wolfe, premiered digitally in January 2021 and is now in The COVID Art Capsule in the Library of Congress. She co-authored the *Miss Bennet* trilogy with Margot Melcon. *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* premiered off-Broadway and at [Audible.com](https://www.audible.com). Various works of hers are published by Playscripts, Dramatists Play Service, and Samuel French, while her picture book, *Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon* is from Two Lions/Amazon. She is also book writer for musicals with Dave Stewart and Joss Stone (*The Time Traveler's Wife*), Ari Afsar (*Jeannette* and *I and You*), Joriah Kwamé (*Lady M*), Kira Stone (*Built for This*), and Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk (*Justice* and *Earthrise*). A former board member of The Playwrights Foundation and member of the Aspen Institute Science and Society cohort, Lauren runs the podcast, *How to Playwright*.

New LCLI Fellows (cont. on next page) ...

LCLI BRIEFING

New LCLI Fellows (cont.) ...

ANNAH KURIAKOSE

Annah (MD, MTS, MA) is at heart a teacher. Currently Associate Director for the Center for Climate, Health, and Healthcare at Rutgers University, her work focuses primarily on creating equitable access to health and education for underserved populations. With a medical degree from New York Medical College, she served as Program Director for a public health non-profit providing access to chronic disease and disability care for the South Asian community in New Jersey. With a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, she has taught in rural and urban public schools in the Mississippi Delta and Newark, NJ. Recently completing a Master's in Theological Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, there creating a holistic wellness curriculum for underserved youth in a public high school, she has received the Robert K. Kelley Memorial Award in Youth Ministry, the Asian American Ministry Award, and a Spiritual Innovation Fellowship, selected a member of the Women with an Entrepreneurial Spirit cohort (Texas Methodist Foundation/Wesleyan Impact Partners), and is a 2024 Interfaith America Innovation Fellow and grant recipient.



AARYAMAN SINGHAL

Aaryaman Singhal believes deeply in the power of relationships and coalitions to improve the outcomes of people's daily lives. Currently, he is an incoming PhD student in the Energy & Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley. There, his interdisciplinary research focuses on issues of water scarcity, affordability, and equitable access in the face of climate change in the Western United States. In addition to working with hydrologic models, he works with community-based advocacy organizations to find solutions to their highest priority challenges. Aaryaman has past experience working as a community organizer, non-profit leader, and technology analyst. He frequently spends his free time working on local community issues, like improving street safety for pedestrians. Aaryaman also works to make sure life is full of fun through storytelling, dancing, biking, and spending time with friends.

THEMBISA COCHRANE

Thembisa (BA Hons in film, University of Cape Town), co-producer and founder of [Caspian Films](#) in London, including *My Driver & I* (2024), *The Colour Room* (2021), and *Us Among the Stones* (2019). Previously she worked for Spier Films UK, for whom she produced the international co-production *The Harvesters* (2018) in Selection Cannes 2018, also holding executive roles on *An Act of Defiance* (2017), the story of the Rivonia Trial where Nelson Mandela gave his famed 'speech from the dock', the *Young Ones* (2014) starring Nicholas Hoult, Michael Shannon and Elle Fanning; *The Salvation* (2014) starring Mads Mikkelsen and Eva Green, *The Price of Sugar* (2013) and *Of Good Report* (2013), winner of 7 South African Film & TV Awards. Before that she was founding producer at Devishly Handsome Productions, London.



CAGN COCHRANE

Cagn lives, works, and plays in the intersections of theater, storytelling, games, and education. Named after a shapeshifter and trickster (from San culture), he has worn many hats and wears them still. A minimalist meanderer, he has gone to many swathes of the world to teach and be taught. He is currently exploring convergences of art, activism, and nature, in particular techniques and technologies of re-enchantment and de-commodification that might promote more tenderness, care, and reverence for all beings and things. He runs [Story Game Labs](#), an experimental space dedicated the transformative powers of roleplaying, and [Theater4Teachers](#), a professional development programme for all educators providing practical performance tools for use in any teaching environment.

BONUS

The Unmeasurable Heart (full version)

A while ago we shared the *first part* of this moving piece from Cagn, about "The loss of the unmeasured, unquantifiable, and uncared-for things like playfulness, curiosity, awe and wonder, a feeling of adventure, a sense of mystery and beauty, and most importantly: Love – a love for learning, a love for others, and finally, a love for life itself." Here, now, is the *full piece*, a powerful narrative.

(Click either on the title or the image)

