



# Welcome to Edinburgh Futures Institute



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Futures Institute

Join us to **Challenge. Create. Change.**



We are interdisciplinary



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# Learning that's Challenge-led



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# Sustainable Futures

- Planetary Health
- Sustainable Lands and Cities
- Circular Economy
- Future Infrastructure, Climate Change and Sustainability



# Creative Futures

- Service Management and Design
- Creative Industries
- Narrative Futures: Art, Data, Society
- Cultural Heritage Futures



# Just and Equitable Futures

- Data and AI Ethics
- Data, Inequality and Society
- Education Futures
- Future Governance





# Our students



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# Employability and real world impact



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# Student partner projects



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# Collaborating with practitioners, tackling global challenges

- Students at Edinburgh Futures Institute collaborate with real-world practitioners on tackling the global challenges of our time.
- These initiatives highlight our commitment to interdisciplinary and experiential learning, at the same time recognising the important role of student research in shaping our futures.

**35 partners**  
**101 real world challenges**

“We encourage future students at the Institute to get involved in challenge projects, as they offer a hands-on opportunity to contribute to purposeful, real-world work.

Students bring fresh thinking and creativity to our teams, while gaining practical experience and insights into how innovation is applied in public policy and mission-driven contexts.

It’s a chance to learn, contribute, and collaborate meaningfully.”



**Karlis Kanders,**  
**Head of Data**  
**Science for**  
**Discovery and**  
**Innovation at Nesta**



# Innovating Together: Students Partner with Nesta



**Bárbara Ferrer Lanz, MSc Data and Artificial Intelligence Ethics**

“Working with Nesta allowed me to connect mission-oriented innovation, futures studies, and AI ethics, translating theory into practice for social good. Together we co-designed a framework grounded in AI ethics to anticipate risks and opportunities posed by AI across Nesta’s missions: Healthy Life, Fairer Start, and Sustainable Future. This Futures Project reflects the interdisciplinary spirit of the MSc in Data and AI Ethics at Edinburgh Futures Institute, equipping me to navigate complex sociotechnical systems in ways aligned with public needs. It has also opened a new career pathway in the anticipatory governance of AI and emerging technologies.”



**Konstantin Strömel, MSc Future Governance**

“Working with Nesta’s policy team was a highlight of my Masters. I enjoyed the structured, practice-oriented collaboration and felt like a true part of their team, contributing to work with real-world impact. By taking a user-centred, participatory approach, my qualitative research bridged technical innovation and policy realities, directly reflecting the Institute’s ethos of co-creative, interdisciplinary work. The experience gave me valuable insight and hands-on skills for my future career in the innovation and policy sector.”



**Diego Pascual Villegas, MSc Circular Economy**

“It was a privilege to work with such talented colleagues who welcomed us into Nesta’s Discovery team. Encountering a data science mindset while exploring emerging AI applications was genuinely inspiring, and this approach aligns with a mission that supports both people and the environment. Academically, it connected my MSc in Circular Economy by integrating AI-driven analysis of heat pump innovation with circular principles, which is an emerging application. Addressing the circularity of refrigerants, one of the technology’s greatest challenges, has sharpened my focus on its management, equipping me with practical tools and a research workflow for future professional roles.”



# From Classroom to Career

**Dr Katherine  
Gunderson, CEO,  
Grand Bequest:**



“Working with the Edinburgh Futures Institute has been a genuinely important partnership for us at Grand Bequest, built over several years as a repeatable bridge between theory and action.

MSc students work directly with our team on the kinds of challenges we are actively overcoming when bringing empty buildings back into use in ways that are fair, sustainable, and grounded in real communities. They apply ideas such as data science, equality, social returns, and circularity in a live environment, not just in theory.

For Grand Bequest, this partnership is about creating a real bridge between university research and practical delivery. Because it has developed over time, students do not just pass through, they contribute to ongoing work, bring fresh thinking, and help us test new approaches in a world increasingly shaped by data and AI.

It has been hugely beneficial to our mission. The collaboration strengthens what we do, challenges how we think, and helps us move further and faster in tackling empty building regeneration in a more inclusive and impactful way.”



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# Meet our students

Carolina, MSc Data, Inequality and Society  
student



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# *Into interdisciplinary futures: A student's journey from India to Antarctica to the UAE... to Scotland*

***Agam Dhingra***

*MSc Future Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Sustainability*



*Arriving at the Edinburgh Futures Institute  
September 2025*






## Professional Experience


  
**Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi**  
 2023 - 2025  
 Strategy and Opportunity Assessments Tourism Sector Management Office  
 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

McKinsey & Company  
**McKinsey & Company**  
 2018 - 2023  
 Service Operations and Corporate Strategy Corporate and Business Functions  
 New Delhi, India

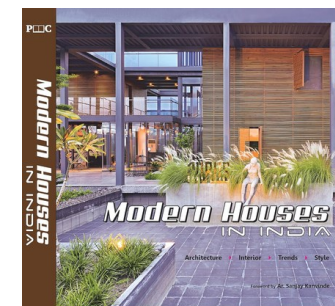
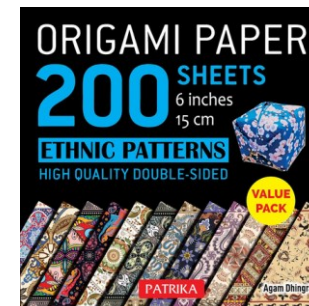
**Gartner.**  
**Gartner, Inc.**  
 2015 - 2018  
 High Tech and Telecom Consulting  
 New Delhi, India

## Education

**Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh**
  
 MSc Future Infrastructure, Climate Change and Sustainability  
 2025-Present

**University of Delhi New Delhi, India**
  
 Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)  
 2012-2015

# An unconventional path...



## Media & Publishing

- **Published Author & Editor** – Multiple books in origami, architecture, and news articles
- **Editorial Strategy** – Writing, structuring, and publishing books and articles
- **Thought Leadership** – Featured in British Airways, McKinsey & Company, and Shackleton

McKinsey & Company



## Event Organizing & Management

- **Event Leadership** – Led Retrofit Summit, engaging hospitality leaders on climate action
- **Panel Curation & Speaker Engagement** – Organized discussions with global industry leaders
- **Sponsorship & Stakeholder Management** – Secured collaborations with ne'ma, Emirates Foundation, British Airways, and others



دائرة الثقافة والسياحة  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
AND TOURISM



RIPE EVENTS

نعمّة ne'ma  
المبادرة الوطنية للتدوير من أجل أفضل الأجيال  
National Food Lanes and Waste Initiative  
مبادرة الإمارات  
EMIRATES FOUNDATION

## Culture & Arts

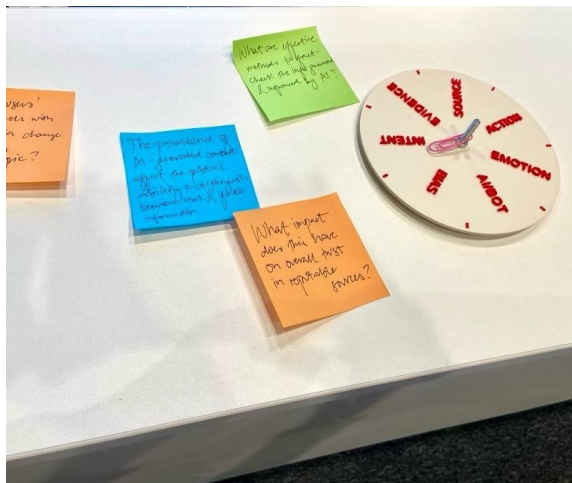
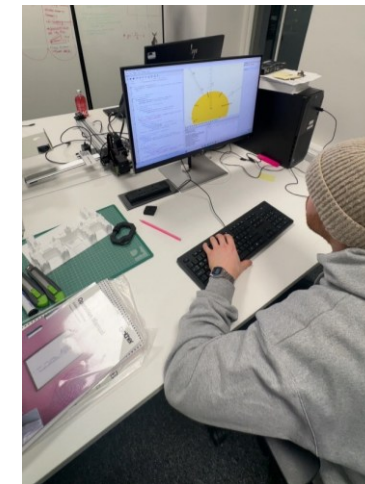
- **Creative Arts & Design** – Published multiple origami books and edited Modern Houses in India – a coffee table book on Indian architectural excellence
- **Cross-Cultural Storytelling & DIY Art** – Showcased Japanese origami through published books and do-it-yourself artworks

amazon

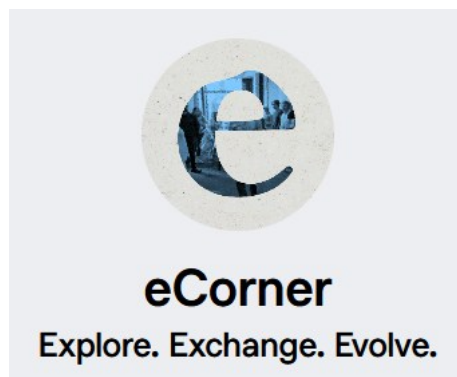
CREATIVITY  
13

PATRIKA  
BOOK CENTRE  
IMPORTER & DISTRIBUTORS

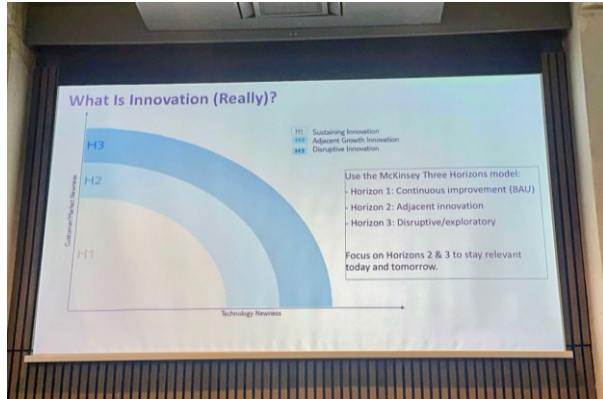
# ... *finding purpose and direction at EFI*



# *A myriad opportunities to engage, network and innovate*



# Coming full circle: Teaching rooted in practical knowledge sharing and industry insights



McKinsey & Company's Three Horizon Model



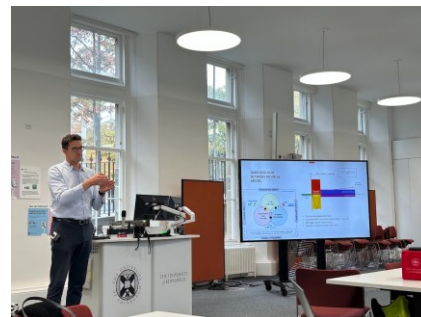
References to Gartner's Hype Cycle in lectures



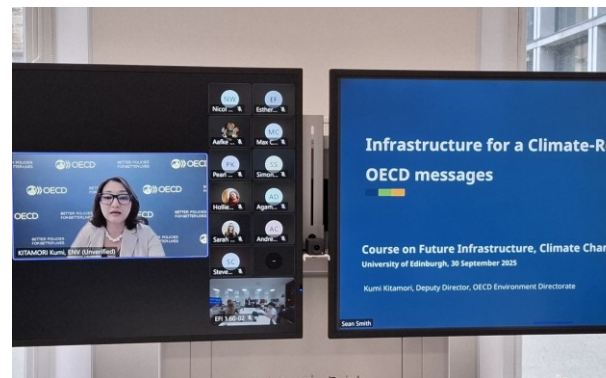
Developing strategy for a public-private partnership for a net-zero infrastructure project



Lecture by Met Office



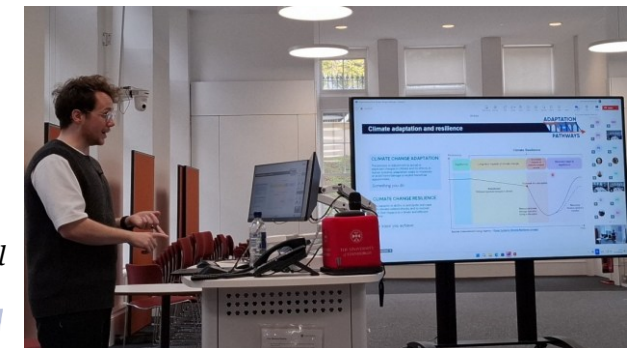
Lecture by Head of Business Development at Vattenfall



Lecture by OECD



Lecture by Scot Rail





**Thank You!**

# Questions?

- for further queries contact: [efi.education@ed.ac.uk](mailto:efi.education@ed.ac.uk)
- visit the EFI website: <https://efi.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate-study>



Join us to **challenge, create,** and make **change** happen.



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