

# LILLYGOL SEDAGHAT

*Speaker, Storyteller, Explorer*

## EDUCATION

University of Oxford

Master of Science

Nature, Society & Environmental Governance  
2019 - 2020

University of California, Berkeley

Bachelor of Arts | Political Economy

2010 – 2014 | GPA: 3.86

Student Commencement Speaker

Peking University

School of Chinese Language

Spring 2013 | Beijing, China

## HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- National Geographic Storytelling Grant Awardee | “Circular Economy in Taiwan” | Oct 2022 – May 2023
- Host and Producer | [Expedition: Earth Podcast](#) | National Geographic Asia | Dec 2021 – Aug 2022
- Co-Founder | [Suan Tian Ku La Storytelling](#) | Multimedia Storytelling People, Place & Change | Jan 2021 - Present
- Moderator | Singapore Tourism Board x National Geographic | “[Think Circular Travel Better](#)” | March 2022
- Moderator | American Beverage Association x National Geographic | “Building Circular Economy Blueprint” 2021
- Moderator | Milliken & Co x National Geographic Creative Works | “[Creating Solutions for Plastics](#)” | 2021
- Co-Creator & Program Facilitator | [EmPower Media Bootcamp: Storytelling & Reporting on Gender and Climate Change in a COVID World](#) | United Nations Women & United Nations Environment Program | Aug – Oct 2020
- [Procter & Gamble “Natural Climate Solutions CEO Roundtable”](#) Moderator, National Geographic, August 2020
- National Geographic Social Media & Community Engagement Fellowship, Inaugural Class, December 2020
- “[She sees trash as a precious commodity](#)” | Featured Article, *National Geographic Magazine*, December 2019
- [National Geographic Ganges Plastics Expedition Researcher & Storyteller](#) | *National Geographic Society*, 2019
- [Fulbright – National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship](#) | *U.S. State Department*, 2017-18
- “[5 under 25: Leaders in U.S. – China Relations](#)” | *China Hands Magazine*, Yale University, 2018

## FEATURED IN

- Egyptian Ministry of Education 4-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Textbook | National Geographic Learning, 2021-22
- AP Human Geography Textbook: Taiwan & Trash Case Study Feature | National Geographic Learning, 2020
- “[Girls Can! Smash Stereotypes, Defy Expectations, and Make History!](#)” | National Geographic | Book, 2020
- “[Sea to Source – Collecting Socioeconomic Data](#)” | National Geographic Society | Video, 2019
- “[Closing the Circle on Waste](#)” | National Geographic Science | Online Article, December 2020
- [GC Circular Living](#) | “The Success Factors of Waste Management by Lillygol Sedaghat” | Video, Nov 2019
- [The Royal Statistical Society](#) | “Water result for RSS State of the Year” | Online Magazine: Significance, June 2019
- National Geographic Learning “Geo-inquiry Case Study: No More Plastic Waste” | Educators Resource 2020
- [University of Oxford](#), Oxford Martin School | “National Geographic and Procter & Gamble virtual roundtable hosted by Lillygol Sedaghat” | Online Article, August 2020
- [National Geographic Learning: Explore Inside](#) | “Encouraging Girls’ Interest in STEM” | Online Article, Feb 2020
- [National Geographic Society Newsroom](#) | “Want to reduce single-use plastic in your life? Try these tips from National Geographic Explorer and #ExpeditionPlastic team member Lillygol Sedaghat” | Online Article, May 2019
- [The Chautauquan Daily](#) | “Heather Koldewey & Lillygol Sedaghat Emphasize Interconnectedness of World’s Waste” | Online Article, July 2019
- [CauseBecause](#) | “National Geographic: Harnessing women power to solve plastic pollution in oceans” | E-Article,
- [U.S. Embassy & Consulate in New Zealand, Cook Islands and Niue](#) | “Turn the Plastic Tide—for Seabirds, the Environment, and Human Health” | News & Events: Earth Day Online Article, April 2018
- [The Case Foundation](#) | “Highlights from Latest Research on Young Americans and the Inaugural Influence Nation Summit” | Online Article, September 2018
- [LeaderStories: Lessons on Leading from Influence Nation](#) 2018 | Video, September 2018

- [Business-Standard, Press Trust of India](#) | “Stakeholders deliberate pathways to shift consumption patterns towards sustainable alternatives” | Online Article, June 2018
- [Echo Newspaper](#) | “Ellie’s Expression: Starbucks grasps for straws” | Online Article, November 2018
- [Care 4 Earth](#): How everyone can make a difference Blog | “An article from National Geographic” | Feb 2020
- [Delhi Greens Blog Magazine](#) | “Nat Geo Launched Ganga Expedition to Beat Plastic Pollution” | E-Article, May 2019

## RESEARCH CITED IN

- [The Washington Post](#) | “Environmentalists want Coca-Cola to ditch its plastic bottles. The company says people like them too much.” | Online Article, January 2020
- [U.S. PIRG Education Fund Zero Waste](#) | “The State of Recycling in North Carolina” | Online Report 2019
- [Saber Healthcare Group](#) | “Recycling Facts, Tips, and Greener Alternatives” | Online Article 2020
- [Google Scholar](#) | “World Wide Waste: How digital is killing our planet—And what we can do about it” | Book by Gerry McGovern, 2020
- [PCB-Solutions](#) | “Chemistry in the Global Economy” | Online Article, Jacob Bieri-Brintnall, Jan 2019

## RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Hidden Compass | “Solving the Plastic Waste Crisis: Reframing Our Relationship with Trash” | 2022
- National Geographic Asia | [Planet Possible Day Malaysia: Sustainability in Urban Farming & Clothing](#) | 2021
- National Geographic Asia | [“Planet Possible Day”](#) | Online, 2021
- Circular Economy Club Malaysia | [“Applying the Circular Mindset: Clothing that Connects Us”](#) | 2021
- National Geographic Learning, [“Teaching Human Geography and Sustainability through Storytelling”](#) | 2020
- Government of Singapore, Ministry of Education, Geography Talent Program | “Geography in Action”, 2020
- National Geographic’s BE INSPIRED Virtual Panel | “Circular Economy in a COVID & Post-COVID World”, 2020
- University of California, San Diego Preuss School | “Environmentalism in Action: Making a Difference”, 2020
- Hong Kong ESF Island School | “Solutions to Plastic Pollution in the Asia-Pacific Region”, 2020
- National Geographic Society London Hub | “An Introduction into Storytelling Fieldwork”, 2020
- National Geographic GeoChallenge Virtual Celebration | “Tackling Plastic & Making a Difference” | 2020
- National Geographic Speakers Bureau GeoTech Conference Keynote | Bishop Dunne Catholic School Dallas, 2020
- United Nations Environment, SEA of Solutions | “4 Stories: Circular Economy in Asia” | Bangkok, 2019
- Chautauqua Institute | [Stories from Ganges Expedition: Interconnectedness of World’s Waste](#) | New York, 2019
- Disney’s D23 Convention | “Women of Impact: Meet the Nat Geo Explorers Changing the World” | Anaheim, 2019
- [GC Circular Living Symposium: Upcycling the Planet](#) | Living Circular Economy: Stories from Asia | Bangkok, 2019
- National Geographic Live! | “Cities of the Future: Taiwan, Recycling & Circular Economy” | Washington, D.C., 2019
- National Geographic Education | “Student Matinee: Trash, Recycling & You” | Washington, D.C., 2019
- National Geographic On Campus, University of Virginia | “Urban Resilience” | Charlottesville, VA 2019
- [Influence Nation Summit](#) at National Geographic | “Planet or Plastics?” | D.C. 2018
- U.N. World Environment Day | “Taiwan: Waste Policies & Circular Economy Initiatives” | New Delhi, India, 2018
- National Geographic Nights | [“Stories from the World”](#) | Washington, D.C., 2018
- National Geographic Explorers Festival | [“Planet or Plastic?” panel](#) | Washington, D.C., 2018
- National Geographic Fox Network China | “Planet or Plastic? Campaign [China Launch](#)” | Shenzhen, China, 2018
- National Geographic Learning | “In Her Shoes: Explorer Field Notes” | National Council for the Social Studies, 2018
- [TEDx Talk](#) | “How Choices Result in Change” | Taipei, Taiwan, 2018
- Cause & Social Influence Summit | [“How To Make A Difference in Plastics Recycling”](#) | Washington, D.C. 2018
- TechSoup | “After the Dump: Stories from Taiwan” | San Francisco, CA, 2018
- National Taiwan University | “Public Narrative: Storytelling for Social Change & Leadership” | Taipei, Taiwan, 2018
- Fulbright East Asia Conference | “Taiwan: Waste Tensions & Storytelling Treasures” | Taipei, Taiwan, 2018
- Cause & Social Influence Summit | “Conscious Consumerism: Little Actions for Big Change” | Taipei, Taiwan, 2018

- Harvard University | “Public Narrative: Crafting your Story of Change” | Project Pengyou, 2016

## DIGITAL MEDIA CONTENT

- [Video](#) – National Geographic Learning, “Introducing the 2019-20 GeoChallenge: Tackling Plastic Pollution in Our Waterways” | National Geographic Ganges River Expedition | India, 2019
- [Video](#) – “Lillygol Sedaghat: The Glitter of Garbage” | Fulbright Taiwan | Taiwan, 2018
- [Video](#) – University of Chicago, “Dance Movement Therapy: A Coming of Self,” Fulbright Taiwan, Taitung, 2018
- Video – National Geographic Asia, “Living Plastic-Free,” Planet or Plastic? Campaign, Instagram Videos, 2018
- [Video](#) – “12-day Zero Plastic Waste Challenge YouTube Video Series,” Fulbright – National Geographic, 2018
- [Music Video](#) - “w/u – Dan Shui,” featuring Hip-Hop, Taipei & Trash with sounds from Taipei’s waste system, 2018
- [Infographics](#) & Postcard Series– 7 Things You Don’t Know About Plastics & Recycling, Taiwan, 2018
- [Photography](#) – “Documenting Taiwan’s People, Recycling Innovations & Waste Systems,” Instagram, Fulbright – National Geographic, 2017 & 2018

## PODCASTS

- [Culture Shock](#), “The Work of a Digital Storyteller & the Journey of Plastic” | Season 2, Episode 12 | Taiwan 2010
- [22.33](#), U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, “Trash Truck Tunes & Hip Hop Grooves with Lillygol Sedaghat,” | Season1, Episode 18 | Washington, D.C., 2019
- [Sirius XM Radio Kids Place Live](#), National Geographic Kids *Weird but True! Show*, “Talkin’ Trash (and Plastic) with Storyteller & Explorer Lillygol Sedaghat” | Washington, D.C., 2019

## WEBINARS

- [“Teaching Human Geography and Sustainability through Storytelling”](#) | Educators - National Geographic Learning Virtual Learning Webinar Series, 2020
- “Plastics Spotlight” | Students & Teachers – Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants & National Geographic, 2020
- Telling Your Plastics Story | Students & Teachers – National Geographic GeoChallenge, 2019
- Storytelling & Plastics: Expedition Ganges | Students & Teacher – National Geographic GeoChallenge, 2019
- Human Geography & the Circular Economy | Educators & Professionals - National Geographic Learning, 2019
- Expedition on the Ganges: Plastics Research | Students & Teachers – Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants, 2019
- [Storytelling & Sharing Solutions through Video](#) | Students & Teachers - National Geographic GeoChallenge, 2018
- [Source to Sea Plastics](#) | Students & Teachers - National Geographic Learning Explorer Classroom, 2018

## PUBLISHED WORK

- Suan Tian Ku La Stories: [Biking Through Climate Change, COVID & Coastal Communities BLOG](#) (Web) 2020
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“The Man Who Started It All”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“Sweet Smiles”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“The Bearded Ladies”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“Reflections from Our Bangladeshi Team”](#) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“Fishers, Nets & Livelihoods”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“Wealth, Wastefulness, and Instant Chai”](#) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“Community Engagement & Biodiversity Conservation”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“The River is Life”](#) (Web) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“How Plastic Moves through the Ganges”](#) 2019
- National Geographic Society Newsroom: Sea to Source Dispatch | [“The River Just Needs to Flow – On Pollution, Population, and the Fate of the Ganga”](#) (Web) 2019

- *National Geographic Ganges River Plastics Expedition Digital Field Journal* | 42 Stories from the Field (Web) 2019
- [Want to reduce single-use plastic in your life? Try these tips](#) | National Geographic Society Blog (Web), 2019
- [The News Lens: International Edition](#) "Taiwan's Circular Economy: A Model for Global Sustainability?" (Web) 2018
- [The News Lens: International Edition](#) "Plastic Fantastic: A Potted History of Taiwan's Plastic Industry," (Web) 2018
- [The News Lens: International Edition](#) "Not Always Evil: An Alternative View on Why We Use Plastic," (Web) 2018
- [Commonwealth Magazine](#), "Storytelling, Trash-Chasing, and Break-dancing: An Inside Look at an Iranian-American Girl's Journey through Taiwan," Fulbright Taiwan (Web), 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "The Strong & Subtle: Women in Waste Management," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Hip-Hop, Trash & Taipei," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "7 Things You Don't Know About Plastics & Recycling," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Meet the Man at the Nexus of Taipei City's Environmental Movement," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Chasing Truth (Part I): Taxi Rides & Plastic Plants," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Chasing Truth (Part II): From the Experts," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Inside the Incinerator: A Look Into Taipei City's First Waste Facility," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Can You 'See' Me Now: Making Trash Visible through the Arts," (Web) 2018
- [National Geographic Blog](#), "Diving into the World of Food Waste," (Web) 2018
- Editor, [The Book of Five Cyphers](#): Breaking Down the Elements of Break-dancing," Self-Published, 2018

## CONFERENCES

- SEA of Solutions: Tackling Plastic Waste 2019, United Nations Development Program, Bangkok, 2019
- National Geographic Explorers Festival Asia, "Storytelling and Environmental Education," Singapore, 2019
- National Geographic Explorers Festival, "Planet or Plastic? Campaign Launch," Washington, D.C., 2018
- Fulbright East Asia Conference, "Ethics of Storytelling & Publishing Research," Taipei, Taiwan, 2018
- Fulbright Taiwan Mid-Year Conference, "Layers & Tensions in Taiwan's Waste World," Taipei, Taiwan 2018
- National Cheng Kung University, "Participatory Environmental Planning: Resolving Green Conflicts," Taiwan, 2018
- Taiwan Circular Economy Mapping Network, "Circular Economy Mapping Week," Taipei, Taiwan, 2018
- International Environmental Partnership, "Circular Economy," Taipei, Taiwan, 2017
- Taipei City Environmental Protection Bureau, "International Forum on Food Waste Management," Taiwan 2017
- Renato Lab, "Future Perfect: Living Zero-Waste, Exploring Green Innovation Salon," Taipei, Taiwan 2017
- National Geographic, "Sciencetelling Bootcamp," Washington, D.C., 2017
- Philanthropy in Motion, "Model Foundation," University of Hong Kong, 2015
- Project Pengyou Leadership Training Summit, "Public Narrative," University of California, Berkeley, 2015
- Project Pengyou Leadership Training Summit, "Story of Self, Us, and Now," Harvard University, 2014
- Strait Talk Berkeley Symposium, "Interactive Conflict Resolution," University of California, Berkeley, 2014

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Fulbright – National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship**  
*Digital Storyteller* | Documenting Taiwan's Waste Management, Plastics Recycling & Circular Economy Initiatives  
Taiwan, 2017 - 2018
- **University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy**  
*Global Programs & Policy Specialist* | Global Programs Team  
Berkeley, 2016 - 2017
- **1990 Institute: U.S.- China Education & Philanthropy Nonprofit**  
*Programs & Operations Associate*  
San Francisco, 2015 – 2016