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

GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- Artist-in-Residence | Pier 2 Art Center | Kaohsiung City Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Taiwan | 2025
- Artist-in-Residence | Kio-A-Thau Sugar Refinery Artist Village | Ministry of Culture, Taiwan | 2024
- National Geographic Storytelling Grant Awardee | "Circular Economy in Taiwan" | Oct 2022 – May 2023
- National Geographic Ganges Plastics Expedition Researcher & Storyteller |National Geographic Society | 2019
- Fulbright – National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship |Fulbright Fellow, U.S. State Department|2017-18

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- TED Countdown Summit Storytelling Cohort & Invited Attendee | Nairobi, Kenya | 2025
- Storytelling Expert & Workshop Lead, National Geographic Storytellers Collective | Sept 2024 - Ongoing
- Storytelling Consultant, National Geographic Learning Advisory Board | Vietnam K-12 National ESL Vision| 2025
- Circular Cities Asia Consultant & Storytelling Expert | Circular Stories for Impact | 2024
- Webby Nominee | Best Individual Episode – Science & Education | Expedition: Earth | April 2023
- Webby Honoree | Best Podcast Series– Health, Science & Education | Expedition: Earth | April 2023
- Host and Producer | Expedition: Earth Podcast | National Geographic Asia |Dec 2021 – Aug 2022
- Co-Founder | Suan Tian Stories | Multimedia Storytelling on Culture, Identity & Environment | Jan 2021-Present
- Moderator | Singapore Tourism Board x National Geographic | "Think Circular Travel Better" | March 2022
- Documentary Presenter | National Geographic x ABC Presents "Our America: Climate of Hope" | 2021
- 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 | UN Women & UNEP | EmPower Media Bootcamp: Storytelling & Reporting on Gender and Climate Change in a COVID World | 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

PUBLISHED WORK

- AmCham Business TOPICS Magazine | "An Inside Look: Taiwan's Artist Villages"| Print & Digital, 2025
- AmCham Business TOPICS Magazine | "Could Oyster Shells Replace Cement?"| Print & Digital, 2025
- AmCham Business TOPICS Magazine | "How Urban Greening Could Cut Taiwan's Energy Use"| Cover Story, 2025
- TIME Magazine | "These Taiwanese Companies Are Turning Waste Into Building Materials" | Print, 2024
- AmCham Business TOPICS Magazine | Cultural & Creative Parks: Taiwan's Sustainable Model for Cultural Tourism | Print & Digital, 2024
- The News Lens | 松菸 2024 年接待旅客破千萬: 全球 [永續觀光] 風潮下,台灣各大文創園區如何尋求平衡? | Digital (Mandarin), 2024
- TIME Magazine | "Why Taiwan Is Becoming a Leader in Urban Mining" | Digital, 2024
- Imagine5 | "In Taiwan, Designers are Crafting a New Relationship with Waste Materials" | 2024

- Commonwealth Magazine | "The Taiwanese Company Tackling Global Waste through Diaper Recycling" | 2024
- AmCham Business TOPICS Magazine | "Taiwan's Prospective Model for a Global Climate Solution" | 2024
- The Lions Club Magazine International | "Treasure Island: Lions Take Action to Protect their Landscape" | 2022
- The Lions Club Magazine International | "Hope Aglow: Rebuilding after the Earthquake" | (Web) 2022
- 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
- *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

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- National Geographic Slingshot Challenge Mentor & Speaker | "Activating the Explorer Within" | Online 2025
- National Geographic Learning | "The Power of Storytelling: Explorer Stories from the Field" | Macau 2025
- Disney Experiences Leadership Learning Events| Keynote: "The Power of Story: Why Stories Matter" | National Geographic Storytellers Collective | Shanghai, 2025
- National Geographic Storytellers Collective | Public Speaking & Crafting Your Presentation| Shanghai 2024
- National Sun-Yat Sen University | "Power of Storytelling: An Inside Look at the Artist Journey" | Taiwan 2025
- National Chia Chi High School | "Journey of a Nat Geo Explorer" | Presentation & Workshop | Taiwan 2025
- The World and Us, International Artist Exchange | National Tainan Fine Arts University | "Creating Stories" 2024
- National Taiwan University | "Communicating Sustainable Concepts" | Taiwan, 2024
- National Geographic Learning Regional Conference |"The Power of Storytelling in the Age of AI" |Thailand 2024
- National Geographic Learning Tertiary Events | "Storytelling & Soft Skills in the 21st Century"| Vietnam 2024
- Circular Cities Asia | "Discovering Your Story: Experiences of a Circular Economy Storyteller" | 2024
- Circular Cities Asia, Circular Stories Program | "Advanced Storytelling Practices: From Pitch to Publication"| 2024
- International Youth Leadership Program | "Sustainability and Storytelling" | Tzu Chi Foundation, 2024
- Future Earth Taipei x Academica Sinica | "Stories of Circular Economy in Taiwan" | 2023

- Japan Association for Language Teaching, 21st Century Language Teaching Conference | "SDGs & Storytelling: Using Stories in the Classroom" Closing Plenary & Waste Journal Workshop with SDG12 | 2023
- VUS TESOL Conference Plenary | "Storytelling for Change: Diversity & Inclusion in the Classroom"|Vietnam 2023
- VUS TESOL Primary Student Event | "Stories from Around the World" | Vietnam, 2023
- Ho Chi Minh City Open University x National Geographic Learning | "The Power of Storytelling" | 2023
- National Sun Yat Sun University | "Introducing Environmental Urban Resilience through Storytelling" | 2023
- National Cheng Kung University | "Circular Economy: From Idea to Practice" | 2023
- International Youth Leadership Program, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation | "The Power of Storytelling" | 2023
- National Cheng Kung University | "The Power of Storytelling: Circular Economy & Storytelling" | 2023
- Taimei Family Foundation Children's Library | "The Journey of a National Geographic Explorer" | 2023
- Taimei Family Foundation Children's Library | "Awaken the Storyteller Within: Intro to Storytelling" | 2023
- Taiwan Jiali Municipal Junior High School | "The Journey of a National Geographic Explorer" | 2023
- Taiwan Circular Economy Network | "The Status of Circular Economy in Taiwan" | 2023
- Taipei Municipal YangMing High School | "Using Storytelling to Help Students Develop Explorer Mindsets" 2023
- National Geographic Learning | "Telling a Powerful Story" | (Online) 2022
- Yenching Scholars Tsinghua University x Philanthropy in Motion | "Storytelling for Sustainability" | 2022
- National Taiwan University | "Applying Storytelling to Critical Reading & the SDGs" | 2022
- National Taipei University | "Understanding the Sustainable Development Goals through Storytelling" | 2022
- International Youth Leadership Program, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation | "Skills for the Future" | 2022
- Taiwan America Student Conference | "Storytelling for Change" | 2022
- Hidden Compass | "Solving the Plastic Waste Crisis: Reframing Our Relationship with Trash" | 2022
- Singapore Geography Symposium | "Understanding the World Around Us: The Power of Storytelling" | 2021
- National Geographic Learning | "Teaching Human Geography & Sustainability through Storytelling" | 2021
- Women Blaze Trails Virtual Festival, EBYSYP | "The Story of Plastic & My Journey to Understand It" | 2021
- National Geographic Asia | Planet Possible Day Malaysia: Sustainability in Urban Farming & Clothing | 2021
- National Geographic Asia | "Planet Possible Day: Asia-Pacific and Climate Change: What We Can Do"| 2021
- Georgetown University | "Using Storytelling to Communicate Sustainability & Climate Science" | 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
- "Teaching Human Geography and Sustainability through Storytelling" | National Geographic Learning Virtual Learning Webinar Series, 2020
- Plastics Spotlight" | Students & Teachers – Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants & National Geographic, 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
- Digital Learning Day with Lillygol Sedaghat | Students & Teachers in North America | 2019
- 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
- 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
- Storytelling & Sharing Solutions through Video | Students & Teachers - National Geographic GeoChallenge, 2018
- Source to Sea Plastics | Students & Teachers - National Geographic Learning Explorer Classroom, 2018
- Harvard University | “Public Narrative: Crafting your Story of Change” | Project Pengyou, 2016

PHOTO EXHIBTIONS

- “Intertidal 傳承” | Pier 2 Art Center Artist Residency Team Exhibition | Kaohsiung, Taiwan 2025
- “Railway Tracks: Earth, Time, and Space” | Kio-A-Thau Artist Residency Exhibition | Qiaotou, Taiwan 2024
- “Stories From Around the World” | VUS TESOL Education in the 21st Century | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 2023
- “The Journey of Connection”| Ministry of Education, Geography Symposium | Singapore 2021
- “The Trash That Connects Us: Exploration in the 21st Century”| National Geographic Learning | Egypt 2021
- “Cities of the Future” | National Geographic Nights at the National Geographic Society | Washington D.C. 2019

CONFERENCES

- TED Countdown Summit | Nairobi, Kenya | 2025
- National Geographic Explorers Festival “Innovation & Ingenuity” | Washington D.C., 2024
- National Geographic Storytellers Summit | Los Angeles, California 2024
- Global Solutions Conference: SDGS & Climate Action for Industry, Nonprofits, and Government | Taipei 2023
- Co-Gravity: Sustainable Innovation & Circular Industry Partnerships” | Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan 2022
- Sustainable Taiwan Expo (TASS 2022) | 亞洲永續供應循環經濟會 | Kaohsiung, Taiwan 2022
- National Geographic Storytellers Summit, National Geographic Society, Online 2020 & 2021
- 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