

JWL PHD COLLOQUIUM



Jesuit Worldwide Learning

Higher Education at the Margins

JESUIT WORLDWIDE LEARNING

HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE MARGINS

WHAT

Jesuit Worldwide Learning offers **quality university education** to **youth** in **excluded communities** to form leaders that create just, peaceful and sustainable solutions.

WHERE

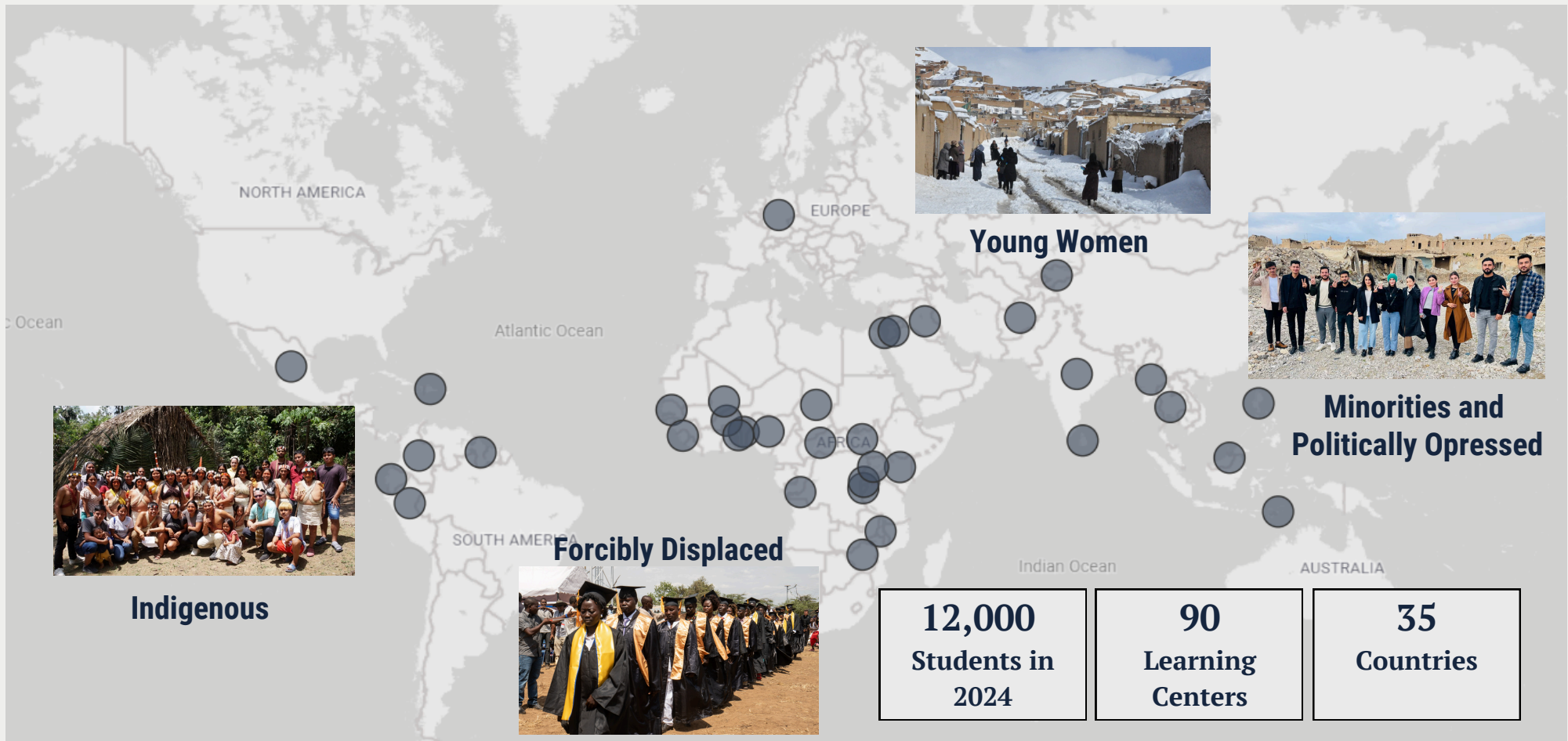
JWL engages in **crisis-affected regions** with the **forcibly displaced** (refugees, IDPs), **indigenous communities**, and other excluded and **oppressed people** (socioeconomic, religious, political, cultural, gender), including those with physical disabilities.

HOW

JWL collaborates with universities to offer **accredited programmes** in cooperation with community learning centres. We **leverage technology** through our unique learning platform and an innovative model of **blended learning**.

WHY

Students become **community-focused leaders**. They are self-reliant, work together to transfer knowledge, resolve conflicts and protect the environment. They promote **lasting peace, social and ecological justice** in their communities.



*“If you can not take the refugees to the universities,
at least take the universities to the refugees.”*

Isaac, Bachelor in Sustainable Development student in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

A NEW THEORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE MARGINS



Over these years, the JWL staff has also grown in their commitment to achieve advanced degrees. In 2024 six members of the global JWL team were enrolled in PhD Programmes at different Institutions worldwide, and at least one more team member plans to enter doctoral studies in 2025.

These doctoral students are dedicated to enhancing JWL's strong research culture and conducting participatory research to embody JWL's vision, "Learning together to transform the world" - ultimately leading to a new Theory of Higher Education at the Margins .

ARMANDO BORJA

Armando earned a Bachelor's degree in Information Systems from Fordham University. He also completed a Master of Planning with a concentration in International Development at the University of Virginia and also obtained a Master of Arts in Political Management from The George Washington University. He has spent three decades working with the Society of Jesus, including working for 16 years with Jesuit Refugee Service.

Research Interests:

- University internationalization with an emphasis on international student virtual mobility from marginalized communities worldwide

Role in JWL

- Chief Operations Officer, Chief Finance Officer
- CEO of JWL USA



Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Boston College
Boston, USA



ORVILLE DE SILVA SJ

Fr. Orville de Silva SJ has done his Masters in Social Work and Philosophy and Undergrad studies in Economics, Law and Theology.

He is a Jesuit from Goa, India. He has worked with JRS in Afghanistan for 7 years and since 2019 he has been working with JWL, coordinating the JWL higher education programs in Afghanistan. His interest lies in education for the refugees and the marginalized communities in Afghanistan.

Research Interests:

- Education in Afghanistan

Role in JWL

- JWL Focal Point Afghanistan
- Consultant for New Horizon Development Organization (local Partner of JWL in Afghanistan)



PhD Topic/Program

University

Location

MÉLODIE HONEN-DELMAR

Melodie earned her Master's degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland after she completed her BA in International Relations at the University of British Columbia. Her academic pursuits are driven by a deep-seated passion for social justice and equity and a commitment to advancing knowledge and creating meaningful impact in marginalised region and crisis areas.

Research Interests:

- transformative role and impact of higher education in emergency contexts

Role in JWL

- Global Director of Professional Programs
- Research Manager



PhD Education

University of Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland



DESIRE PATIENCE IRAGUHA

Desire started his academic journey as a JWL student in Dzaleka with a Diploma in Liberal Studies from Regis University. He holds a Master of Development Practice from Regis University and an MA in Security, Conflict and Development Studies. He has dedicated his time to empowering refugees, where he facilitated over 300 students in development, economic, environmental, and commercial courses. His favorite accomplishment has been witnessing the community's transformation by the students he facilitated.

Research Interests:

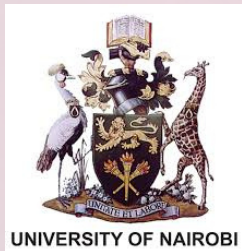
- Education at Human Right
- Accessibility and Affordability of Education

Role in JWL

- Learning Facilitator JWL Dzaleka, Malawi



PhD of Education in Emergencies
University of Nairobi
Nairobi, Kenya



ANNA MAYR

Anna Mayr holds a Master's degree in eEducation from the University for Continuing Education Krems in Austria and is currently enrolled in a PhD programme at the same institution with a focus on technology, innovation and cohesion in society.

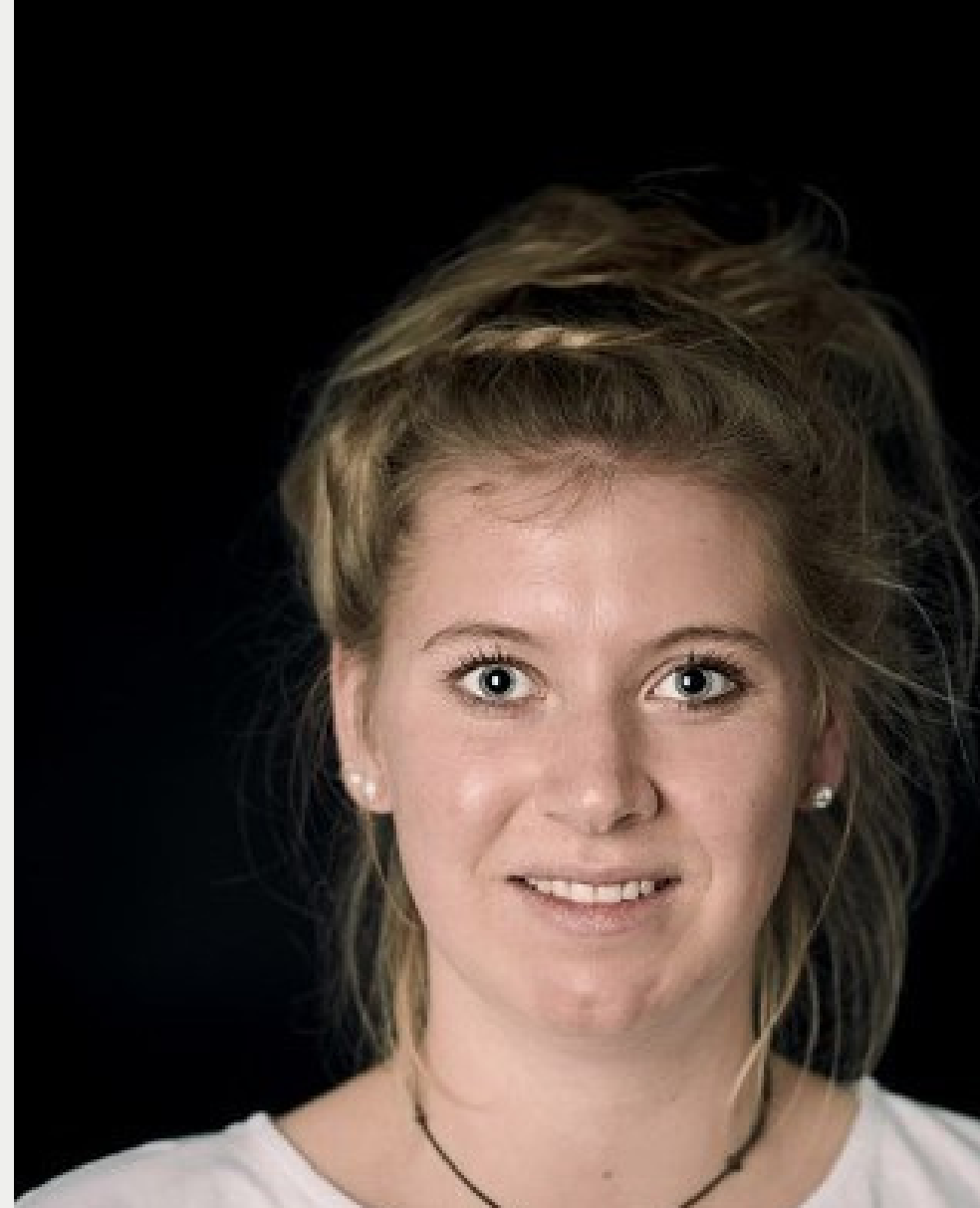
Motivated by a passionate engagement in the responsible use of technology in education, Anna strives to promote equity and justice in education by combining practical insights from project implementation with well-founded scientific knowledge.

Research Interests:

- development of design principles for culturally inclusive blended learning

Role in JWL

- Instructional Designer for JWL Courses at Seitwerk GmbH



PhD Technology, Innovation, and Cohesive Societies

Donau University
Krems, Austria



DENNIS MOMANYI

Dennis is a graduate of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, holding a Bachelor's Degree in Education Arts and a Master's Degree in Education in Emergency.

He is an experienced educator with over a decade of teaching experience across primary, secondary schools, and Teacher Training Colleges.

Dennis firmly believes in the universality of education as a human right, advocating for its accessibility and affordability without discrimination.

Research Interests:

- Education as Human Right
- Accessibility and Affordability of Education

Role in JWL

- JWL Representative Kenya



PhD of Education in Emergencies
University of Nairobi
Nairobi, Kenya



MAGDALENA NAUDERER

Magdalena studied Near and Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Arabic/Islamic and Hebrew/Jewish Studies. She is a graduate of the Munich School of Philosophy with a BA and MA in Philosophy. During her master's she focused on intercultural Philosophy writing her thesis on "The Chaldeans and the Ishtar Gate. A contribution to the philosophical theory of symbols".

Research Interests:

- intercultural and interreligious encounter
- the role of identity in multiethnic/-religious societies

Role in JWL

- Country Director and Academic Manager for JWL Iraq
- CEO of JWL Germany



PhD Philosophy
Munich School of Philosophy
Munich, Germany



DR. MARY MCFARLAND

Dr. Mary McFarland serves as the Facilitator for the JWL Doctoral Colloquium. Prior to JWL, Dr. McFarland was Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Gonzaga University, USA. She teaches online for Georgetown University, and has served on several Boards, and was a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow. In 2018 she received an honorary doctorate from Regis University, Denver Colorado.

Her education background includes a bachelor's degrees from the University of Dubuque/ University of Iowa, Master's degree from the University of Portland, and a PhD from Gonzaga University.

Research Interests:

- Leadership
- Theory Building
- Higher Education at the Margins

Role in JWL

- Moderator and Leader for the PhD Colloquium
- Co-founder and International Director for JWL from 2010-2016



PhD Leadership
Gonzaga University
Spokane, USA

