



## OUR MISSION

An international youth organization dedicated to uniting students **all over the world** in a shared **passion for learning** through hosting discussions on the **human-centred**.

## OUR VISION

To create a world in which youth from **every geographic location and background** can be **connected and united** through a shared passion for learning and meaningful discussion.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

We host sessions on Zoom with participants joining from all over the world to learn about a different human-centered topic each week. Topics include anything concerning humanity and society from philosophical questions to societal issues. Every other week, we also invite specialist guest speakers to present the topic and share their insights.

Our 1 hour sessions are structured with the aim that participants enter not knowing much about a topic, to leaving having gained a deep understanding of it, infused with the perspectives of others from differing backgrounds and cultures from around the world.

# WHY THE SAPIEN?



## Diverse & Global

As our sessions take place on Zoom, students in **any geographic location** are able to participate. Being able to converse and build friendships with others **all over the world** is an opportunity found almost nowhere else and is core to a Sapien session experience.

**Breaking down barriers** of new cultures and backgrounds to achieve constructive conversations and relationships shapes participants to be more open-minded and global citizens, preparing them for **cross-cultural interactions** in university life and beyond.



## Learning & Skill Building

Overwhelming research has shown that a large proportion of young people's education takes place outside the classroom, as **informal learning**.

Our sessions serve as a platform to not only **learn about a multitude of human-centered topics** in an engaging and friendly environment but a place to cultivate **soft skills** like public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork and more.



## Inclusive & Open

Too often in formal learning settings, students feel **unwelcome** or **aren't even permitted** to share their opinions and ideas on a subject.

In the 'Open Discussion' segment of our sessions, all participants are invited to share their own inputs on the topic in a non-judgmental and safe discussion space. No prior knowledge of topics is required; only a passion for learning!



## A Close-Knit Community

When students sign up to our sessions, not only do they become a member of The Sapien, they become part of a **family of warm and like-minded youth**. Convening weekly with familiar faces adds the **sense of community** to our sessions and fosters a safe environment where all participants feel welcome to voice their inputs.

In addition, participants engage in our **Community WhatsApp group chat** and on our **social media pages** to both deepen friendships and continue discussions outside of sessions.

## OUR STORY

The Sapien was founded in August 2020 by 17-year-old high school student Natalie Magness who sought a means of connecting with other like-minded individuals passionate about exploring and discussing anything concerning humanity and society. The Sapien, which began as just one person with a burning passion, has now evolved into an international youth organization run by a team of enthusiastic students, garnering session participants all over the world. As we continue growing and reaching youth in more areas of the world, our mission and vision will always remain central to anything we do: to unite students all over the world in a shared passion for learning through hosting discussions on the human-centered.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

We have reached participants in:

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Côte D'Ivoire, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the UAE, the UK and the USA and Zimbabwe.

## OUR SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES

**30+** Countries reached | **150+** Participants reached | **7** Partners | **20+** Sessions held |  
**500+** Instagram followers

## BEYOND THE NUMBERS

View the [Gallery Page](#) on our website for more testimonials and what our members think of us!

"This has been the perfect opportunity to meet and discuss with passionate peers on the subject of many topics affecting our current lives. I've learned to speak my mind more coherently, as well as understand the many perspectives that members bring. The Sapien is unique in that it's managed to create a comforting environment to discuss heavy matters. You never feel out of bounds or unheard. I'm actually stunned every time by the eloquence and bright minds of my fellow Sapien members. You meet brilliant people here. I highly recommend it for the sake of genuine discussion." -**Kate, Belgium**

"Intriguing topics, thought provoking discussions, the most diverse community of students you could ask for, all in one package! Truly a great place to learn, discuss, debate, and question all about the human sciences" -**Kai, Japan**

"The sessions are entertaining and knowledgeable! Everyone gets the chance to share their ideas and beliefs making each session very communicative." -**Sahnon, Qatar**

"Really great people and engaging conversation! Highly recommend The Sapien to anyone interested in learning about the social sciences or simply looking for a cool way to meet new people and share your thoughts! Everyone is super respectful about each other's opinions and open minded while hearing from an opposing view. Couldn't be happier about being a member :)" -**Grace, USA**

## OUR TEAM

View the [Meet our Team page](#) on our website to learn more about us as individuals

Natalie Magness	Founder, Executive Director, Co-Host	Josefine Deumer	Director of Graphic Design
Faris Zebib	Vice Executive Director, Director of Newsletter & Co-Host	Alin Alazrak	Director of Graphic Design
Alexia Schmidt	Director of Social Media	Yagika Jagnani	Director of Outreach, Asia
Wendy Williams	Director of Social Media	Dominique Parado	Director of Outreach, North & South America
Grace Horton	Director of Newsletter	Hussein Zebib	Director of Outreach, Africa
Sarah Baak	Director of Newsletter	Hassan Zebib	Director of Outreach, Oceania
Fadia Wissem	Director of Website	Nora Kaul Hoelgaard	Director of Outreach, Europe

## CONTACT DETAILS AND LINKS

Alternatively, please drop an email on our website [contact page](#)

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Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/thesapien\\_org/](https://www.instagram.com/thesapien_org/) (@thesapien\_org)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/thesapien> (The Sapien)

## OUR SESSIONS (SEASON 1)

You may also find the full list on the [past sessions page](#) and our [past guest speakers](#) on our website

Date	Title
9/8/2020	The Biological Reasons for Gender Inequality
16/8/2020	Are Humans Innately Good or Evil?
23/8/2020	The Sociopolitical Impacts of Social Media and TikTok
21/11/2020	Why do we want to be popular/famous/rich/powerful?
26/12/2020	How Will the World End?
6/2/2021	Racism: Innate or Cultured?
13/2/2021	Why do we believe in the Paranormal and Ghosts?
20/2/2021	Chill Session!
27/2/2021	The Development and Wealth Gap
6/3/2021	Digital Activism - does it make a difference?
13/3/2021	What is the Meaning of Life?
20/3/2021	Fad Diets: Are they Really Good for You?
3/4/2021	Abracadabra! Why Magic Fascinates Us and its Role in Our Lives
10/4/2021	Chill Session!
17/4/2021	Literature, Music & Art: Why do Humans Tell Stories?
24/4/2021	Pandemics: Their History and The Lessons We Can Learn
1/5/2021	Our Mental Health in the 21st Century
15/5/2021	Could STEM Save the World?
5/6/2021	Sleep: Society's Views and Why it Matters

## PHOTOS FROM PAST SESSIONS



## PAST SESSION POSTER EXAMPLES



## 'Why do we believe in the Paranormal and Ghosts?'

Paranormal activity has continually shown up for most of human existence. We are attracted to horror movies, ghost related shows and games. How come, despite all the advancements of modern society are we still enticed by this genre?

*Come find out in our interactive session as we delve into the age old question on why we love the paranormal!*

Time: 1pm CET/3pm AST (Arabia Standard Time) Date: Saturday 13th February 2021



IT'S 2021. YET THE FACT STILL STANDS THAT RACISM EXISTS AND PERVADES THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN AT ALMOST EVERY LEVEL FROM THE WORKPLACE TO THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY.

**TIME: 1PM CET  
DATE: SATURDAY 6TH  
FEBRUARY 2021**

Join us in our interactive discussion as we delve into this controversial subject and also explore the ways we can each help build a more racially equal world.



**'Sleep: Society's Views And Why It Matters'**

Hustle culture, toxic productivity trends and sleep deprived students. The signs are obvious that we as a society need to reevaluate our sleep culture. Join us in our interactive discussion as we take a closer look at the scientific, cultural and historical perspectives of sleep and how we could use it as our superpower.

**THE SAPIEN**

**YOUTH**

Guest speakers: Zeel Sundhani and Janhavi Shinde from Youth Magazine

Date: Saturday June 5th 2021

Time: 3pm CET

**Digital activism**

**Does it make a difference?**

BLM, FFF, MeToo and the Ice Bucket Challenge: what do they all have in common? That much of their impact came from the power of social media and technology. Currently, youth all around the world are engaging on-line to spread awareness of important causes and societal issues, but does it result in any real-world changes? Join our interactive discussion where we'll be exploring this question and looking at examples from grassroots movements, political campaigns and more.

Time: 1pm CET/ 3pm AST (Arabia Standard Time)  
Date: Saturday 6th March 2021



**'Abracadabra! Why Magic Fascinates Us and its Role in Our Lives'**  
From the sawing in half illusion, levitation, to the classic card tricks. Did you know that the reasons we love magic can be explained using neuroscience? Join us in our interactive discussion as we take a scientific look at our favorite childhood magic tricks!

Guest Speaker: Ritushree Dutta, founder of Neuroscience Foundation





 **Date: Saturday 3rd April 2021**  
**Time: 2pm CET** 

## Could STEM Save the World?

STEM propels humanity into the future, allowing us to continue our ever innovating world. Many have debated what the future of STEM means for humanity, could it be our saving grace? Or maybe the end of our world as we know it.

Guest speakers: Vibha Padmanabhan and Kriti Achyutuni, from STEM From Scratch



**Date: Saturday May 15th 2021**  
**Time: 3pm CET**