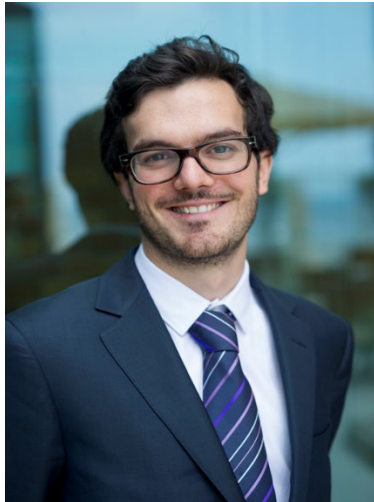


Past Business Leader Profiles on this programme



Matei Negrescu is an executive in the energy industry, currently working as the Head of Area Development for North Sea Renewable Energy activities at Equinor, an international energy company developing oil, gas, wind and solar energy in more than 30 countries worldwide. Matei joined Equinor in 2006 after graduating with a Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering from Imperial College London. He has extensive leadership experience across energy value chains – from oil & gas to renewables, and from strategy to project development – and across geographies – from the North Sea to Brazil, Algeria and China. Matei is bi-cultural, born in Romania and grown up in France. He has lived, studied & worked in 8 countries, speak 8 languages.



Colin Tan is the Director of Operations for TusPark Newcastle, the first international TusPark fully-owned by TUS Holdings, China's largest innovation ecosystem of over 300 bases in every major city in China. He works with TUS's partners in the UK to help businesses, universities and governments to enter and scale-up in the Chinese market. He is also an entrepreneur, technology investor, and has helped to build tech ecosystems in the North of England as part of the Northern Powerhouse project.

Colin is also an early-stage investor and entrepreneur.

As one of the first tech startups in the North of England, his company Rentlord became an investee of Seedcamp and 500 Startups, and was the first UK company on the Techcrunch Disrupt stage. He also helped create Dotforge Impact, the first accelerator in the North of England funded by the Cabinet Office to help tech entrepreneurs create social impact businesses.

Colin is an active mentor and community builder for the UK tech ecosystem. He established and ran the first UK-China accelerator, FORGE, and regularly shares his insights with early-stage startup entrepreneurs.

Originally from Singapore, he is also a published poet and was active in the literary scene early in his life. He remains passionate about social causes, especially education, and had worked in the non-profit sector at the United Nations in Geneva.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.



Carrie Song joined PwC UK at Risk Assurance practice in 2017, providing technology risk related advisory to FTSE 100 clients. She supports big organisations to mitigate IT related risks in order to achieve a better and mature IT ecosystem. She's CISA certified.

Being a former 'foreign student' who came to the UK to pursue her higher education, she is passionate about supporting students from various cultural backgrounds to understand the work culture in the UK and providing mentoring to those who are interested in an international career.

Before joining PwC, Carrie obtained her bachelor's degree from University of Birmingham and master's degree from UCL.



John McLean is a Non-Executive Chairman and Director who has extensive public and capital market experience with a specific knowledge of China where he has worked for over 22 years. In 2017 John chaired a report on corporate governance between China and the UK for the British Embassy in Beijing and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office. John works closely with the City of London and for 2019 was the Lord Mayor's envoy to China and led the Fintech business delegation to China in March 2019. In 2021 he was appointed Chair for the Institute of Directors for the City of London.

John was on the board of CBBC (China Britain Business Council) for 8 years until 2019 and more recently he was appointed the Senior Advisor to CCCUK (China Chamber of Commerce in the UK) to continue to contribute to the promotion of UK/China trade.

In 2007 John joined the board of Humberts plc (now Chesterton), the estate agent, and became its Executive Chairman to lead its rescue and ultimate disposal. Prior to this, he carried out a strategic review for Gamma Holdings NV of their UK textile, wallpaper, retail and brand companies, including Sanderson and William Morris, and as the CEO he successfully implemented the turnaround and disposal plan. Along with operations in Australasia, America and Canada, Sanderson established global trading partnerships in China, which included the setting-up of a manufacturing joint venture, brand licensing agreements and numerous retail franchises.

In the nineties, John was Finance Director and then CEO of ICS, the UK logistics business and co-led a management buy-out of the company with 3i, prior to its successful disposal to Hays plc. In the eighties, John was Finance Director of Gresham House plc, a listed Investment Trust which held investments in Europe and America. Prior to that, John trained

as a Chartered Accountant and was previously with Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC) in both London and New York.

In addition to these roles, John was a member of the Council of the international charity, VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas) and was chairman of VSO China for 5 years from 2010. More recently in 2018, John became Chair of the leading UK national charity, Carers Trust which works to improve support, services and recognition for anyone living with the challenges of caring, unpaid for a family member or friend. Additionally, he is Chair of The Princess Royal Respite Fund for Carers.

Since 2016, he has sat on the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal Board and heads up their China relations, including the UK-China Charity Initiative.

In the 2014 New Year's Honours list, John was honoured with an OBE for services to British business interests and the development of civil society in China.



Dr Jerry Wu is the Head of Investment at TusPark Holdings UK, which has invested £250m+ in the UK since 2018. Being an innovator and investor, he is always enthusiastic to push the boundaries, drive the innovation, and foster the collaborative network among stakeholders; being a scientist, he brings 24+ years of experience in research & development covering life sciences and deep technologies; being a leader, he is a passionate believer in the importance of personal development and in helping others to achieve their full potential; being a boy, his first ever computer was an Apple II Plus.

Jerry is an advisor at Schwarzman Scholars, and he is a mentor at Cambridge Judge Business School.

Before joining TusPark Holdings UK, Jerry worked at AstraZeneca, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, BBSRC, and UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology.



Obtained a Master's Degree in Corporate Finance with distinction from Cass Business School, Ge Ge joined PwC UK in 2019 doing external audit. She is one of the leading team members who established the first year audit of a global distributor in the Telecom sector in collaboration with 16 PwC teams worldwide. She completed both ACA and CFA qualifications during the work and will join the PwC UK Derivatives Valuations team in June 2022.

During the uni, she did internships in KPMG, Zurich Insurance and FTI Consulting.



Victoria is a Senior Associate working in PwC London headquarters in the Deals department. Two and half years into the firm's graduate scheme, Victoria is now an exam-qualified ACCA.

Having worked in both client-facing and in-house roles, Victoria has an international perspective when it comes to problem solving, she is a key team player with excellent adaptability and strong resilience within cross-border settings.

Victoria holds a Masters degree in Financial Analysis and Fund Management from The University of Exeter, with a fully funded scholarship awarded for her achievement during undergraduate studies. Outside of work, Victoria enjoys travelling, painting, learning new languages as well as exploring amazing places to eat at weekends. She is also grade 5 in the UK Royal Schools of Music's violin exam.



Mr Biao Wang MBA is the Director of Buckingham Wealth and Stagescreen Productions. Originally from China, Mr Wang is one of the directors at Stagescreen Productions (Films) Limited and he is also a China Business Consultant to the SCALA Group. He is the author of 'Journey to the West', describing his experiences of becoming a successful business owner in the UK with a humble background as a child grew up in rural area in Ningbo, China.



Mr Marco Abis is a tech entrepreneur who has been running software delivery, open source and agile businesses since 1999 in both Italy and the UK. He is the Founder of the Italian Agile Movement and , elected Director of the American Agile Alliance. He currently split his time between London (UK) and Milan (Italy), COVID19 permitting with Specialties & Interests in the following areas: • Learning Organisations • General Business Management & Development • IT Professional Services • (Tech) Leadership, Engineering Management, Process Improvement • Team Building, Mentoring and coaching • Agile and Lean Software Development • Continuous Delivery, DevOps, Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) • Open Source, Cloud & Cloud Native • Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Social Innovation • Green Computing & Tech Ethics



Dr Rachel Lawes is a social psychologist specializing in the interface between individuals and consumer culture. She supplies brand strategy and consumer insight, using social psychology, semiotics and discourse analysis, to brands worldwide via Lawes Consulting Ltd (established in 2002). The publication of her new book, "Using Semiotics in Retail: Leveraging Consumer Insight to Engage Shoppers and Boost Sales", coincides with its 20th anniversary.

For 15 years she has convened the Advanced Qualitative Methods Masterclass for the Market Research Society in the UK. Her extensive publishing history includes her first book, "Using Semiotics in Marketing: How to achieve consumer insights for brand growth and profits" (Kogan Page, 2020). It is preceded by around 50 conference papers at the annual conferences of the Market Research Society, ESOMAR, IIEEX, Qual360, The Social Research Association, the Association of Qualitative Researchers (UK), QRCA (USA), ASMRS (Australia), Social Intelligence World and many more. Her writing spans marketing industry trade journals, academic publishing in psychology and market research, and journalism.

Her academic career started with a PhD from Loughborough University's internationally renowned Discourse and Rhetoric Group (DARG) and recent academic positions include that of Principal Lecturer in Marketing at Regent's University London.

Rachel is recognised as one of the original founders of British commercial semiotics and is known for her engaging style and ability to make difficult concepts and theory accessible to non-academic audiences. She is a Fellow of the Market Research Society.