

Biography of Panelists



Ms Sofia CROCIANI

Founder, AELIS Couture

Born in Italy, where she studied classics and architecture at the University of Florence, **Sofia** integrated Fashion Institute of Technology. After graduating, she decided to settle in Paris and instantly worked for the best fashion houses. She joined DIOR as a designer during the John Galliano era and discovered the cinematic staging of Couture fashion shows.

This experience gave her a taste for supreme luxury and made her value the art of craftsmanship even more. Following

through with her passion, she decided to pursue her career as an independent designer and founded her own consulting company, while dividing her life between France and Italy. From Paris to Milan, New York and Tokyo, Sofia designed collections for several brands and collaborated with Karl Lagerfeld for more than a decade.

She also expressed herself through various artistic projects – including costume creation for contemporary ballets – that allowed her to reconnect with an experience of pure freedom, without any constraints.

Going back to basics, Sofia put all her experiences in perspective, took time to reflect on the world and on the fashion industry, and realized how important it was for her to act for the planet. A lucky encounter with Patti Smith helped her validate her decision to create differently and to become a true actress of change.

The idea to create a fashion house becoming an ethical and ecological example in the haute couture and luxury universe was a mission for Sofia and with, AELIS, she became the ambadress of a global positive message based on peace and respect of the planet.

In 2017 Sofia founded AELIS, the first, sustainable and ethical couture house. For Sofia fashion becomes the driving force to reach and inspire the change of the global system and the achievement of sustainable development on the women empowerment.

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Mr Stafford LAU

Founding Chairman, Sustainable Fashion Apparel Association

Managing Director, Prosperity Textile (H.K) Ltd & Stella Blu Textile Ltd

Stafford Lau is the Managing Director and one of the founders of Prosperity Textile (H.K) Ltd who has spent more than 25 years in textile industry. Throughout this career journey, Stafford is growing together with his company from a China domestic sub-contracted factory, to a small mill with 60sets of weaving looms and then

to a mill with vertical setup in Shaoguan industrial area. And up today, Prosperity has production facility setup in Vietnam and China.

In past decade, Stafford has highly involved and established marketing, product and operation system. Prosperity joined many textile exhibitions and develop wide range of buyer base with material supplies, local garment factory, buying offices and overseas buyers in US, Europe, and Asia. This experience has given Stafford a strong connection with global buyers, develop a close relationship and global value in Denim.

Recently, Stafford has established Sustainable Fashion Apparel Association (SFAA) which aimed to share the latest sustainable technologies & information especially among the denim industry. Supporting young designers and student with co-working place, provide them with fabric sourcing, technique advice in garment making and denim washing support to facilitate creativity and innovation from new generation.

Sustainability Lecture Series
Sustainable Fashion for a Sustainable Future: Challenges & Opportunities
12 September 2023 | Senate Room, PolyU | In-person · Online

Biography of Panelists



Prof. Jeanne TAN (*Moderator*)

Centre Assistant Director, AiDLab

Professor, School of Fashion and Textiles
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Jeanne is a design practitioner that investigates creative innovation that interfaces design and technology. Her research focuses on intelligent textile design for fashion, interiors, rehabilitation and Design-Led STEM processes. Her work had been showcased at Milan Fashion Week A/W 2023, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and collected as part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of Silk, China. Jeanne's work had

received international media coverage including Vogue, WGSN, Harper's Bazaar and the Public Broadcasting Service (USA).

Jeanne is often invited to share her work internationally at TedX, ArcInTex, the Royal College of Art, UK; Parsons School of Design, USA and Hongik University, Korea. Recent awards include iF International Design Award 2023 and Red Dot Award 2023. Her university service activities had contributed to the securing of a large-scale HKD\$ 207 million strategic grant from InnoHK Research Clusters and PolyU's unprecedented HK RAE2020 results for UoA38 Creative Arts, Performing Arts & Design. Her community service include serving as a member of the CreateSmart Initiative Vetting Committee as appointed the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, HKSAR. As a design consultant, Jeanne works with companies and organizations to implement fashion, textile and creative education solutions. Her consultancies include LVMH Group (Celine, Givenchy, Kenzo, Loewe, Marc Jacobs), Nike, Alibaba, Fashionary, Kiabi, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, The Hong Kong SAR Government (EMSD) and The Hong Kong Red Cross. Jeanne's creative innovations had demonstrated real world applications via successful licensing of patented technology to the Sino Group, The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council and Caritas Hong Kong

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Prof. WANG Xungai

Chair Professor of Fiber Science and
Technology
School of Fashion and Textile
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Prof. Wang is the Chair Professor of Fibre Science and Technology of School of Fashion and Textile of the The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Before joining PolyU, Prof. Wang held the position of an Alfred Deakin Professor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Future Fibres), and Director of the ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres at Deakin University in Australia.

Prof. Wang obtained his Doctor of Philosophy in Fibre Science and Technology and Graduate Diploma of Higher Education from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in 1992 and 1996 respectively. He worked as Senior Lecturer at the UNSW before he joined Deakin to start research on fibre/textile materials there in 1998. He held a Personal Chair at Deakin and was the Director of Centre for Material and Fibre Innovation from 2008 to 2010. Between 2011 and 2017, Prof Wang served as Deputy Director and then Director of the largest research institute at Deakin, the Institute for Frontier Materials, which enjoys the highest ERA ranking score of 5 in Australia.

Prof. Wang received the Fiber Society Award for Distinguished Achievement in Fiber Science and the H&M Foundation Global Change Award in 2005 and 2017 respectively. In 2019, the ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres led by Professor Wang received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Industry and Employer Partnerships.

Prof. Wang's research interests are primarily in sustainable fibres and textiles. He is Editor-in-Chief of a premier journal in the textile field, the Journal of the Textile Institute (UK).