

HIRING IS A TWO-WAY STREET: May 18, 2021 ALUMNAE PANEL

Panelist Bios

Fatimah Gilliam, Esq. '96 Founder and CEO, The Azara Group

Dominique Parris '08 Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Child Trends

Amita Rao '05 (moderator) Director, Talent Management, Orbis International

Simran Thadani '05 People Operations Lead, Springboard

Fatimah Gilliam, Esq.

Fatimah Gilliam '96 is the founder and CEO of The Azara Group, a strategy consulting firm specializing in diversity and inclusion, leadership development, and negotiation services. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Race Rules – How to Avoid Offending People & Acting Racist for the Woke, Unwoke & Woke-n Up*, an innovative guidebook and practical manual of the unwritten “rules” as they relate to race being released in early 2022 by McGraw-Hill. She’s a former Wall Street attorney, formerly oversaw Citigroup’s campus diversity recruiting for its US businesses, and is the former Head of Finance & Fundraising for North America for the United Nations World Food Programme.

Dominique Parris

Dominique Parris '08 (she/her/hers) is the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Child Trends, a national think tank dedicated to improving the lives of children and adolescents through research. She holds an M.Ed in Social Justice Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a BA in International Relations from Wellesley College. Her career has cut across sectors: from higher education, to direct service, to local government yet she has woven her dedication to social justice and expertise as a skilled facilitator throughout.

Amita Rao

Amita Rao '05 (she/her/hers) is the Director of Talent Management at an international non-profit, where, working across cultures to understand the unique demands of global HR practices, she oversees global talent management strategies to develop employees and optimize performance across the organization. With a B.A. from Wellesley in Economics and English, starting initially within the tech sector and then growing within the international nonprofit sector, Amita built a career in HR to support the creation of spaces where people feel valued for the perspectives they bring via their lived experiences. Leveraging 15+ years of HR experience, Amita also coaches individuals to advocate for themselves with employers and navigate the professional work environment.

Simran Thadani

Simran "Sim" Thadani '05 completed her PhD in Renaissance English from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013, just as her husband co-founded a high-growth startup in San Francisco. Bouncing between the disparate worlds of rare book libraries and technology companies, she has taken roles from intern to manager to executive, and made and negotiated 300+ job offers along the way. Even through her non-linear career, she has learned her value(s), and is eager to support women and parents in the workplace.