

# SIMON SYLVESTER-CHAUDHURI

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## **CIV:LAB**

*Founder and Executive Director - London, New York, Detroit and Los Angeles*

*May 2017-Present*

## **Centre for Sustainable Business, University College London**

*Founding Research Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer- London, UK*

*October 2024 - Present*

## **Imperial College London Business School**

*Visiting Professor - London, UK*

*June 2020-Present*

## **NYU Center for Global Affairs**

*Adjunct Professor - New York, New York*

*January 2016-Present*

## **The Urban Tech Summit at Cornell Tech**

*Co-Founder and Co-Producer - New York, New York*

*August 2015- Present*

## **Global Futures Group**

*Co-Founder, Managing Partner - New York, New York*

*February 2016- July 2018*

## **US Department of Commerce**

*Strategic Advisor to the Assistant Secretary - Washington D.C.*

*May 2016-December 2017*

## **Urban Future Lab and NYU Future Labs**

*Innovation Development Lead and Founding Team - New York, New York*

*September 2012-August 2015*

## **Education**

### **Center for Global Affairs, New York University, New York, New York**

*O'Mara Energy Fellow and MS Global Affairs: Energy and Environmental Policy*

*January 2012- May 2015*

### **Westminster Business School, London, England**

*MSc International Business Economics*

*2009- 2010*

### **University of Sussex, Brighton, England**

*BA Honours Economics and Philosophy*

*2004-2007*

## **Additional Relevant Experience**

*2022-Present Board Chair - Terreform One*

*2014-Present Board Vice Chair- Energy Vision - non-profit focused on sustainable transport*

*2020-Present Fellow- BMW Herbert Quandt Responsible Leaders Network*

*2020-Present Fellow - Urban Design Forum*

*2020-Present Advisory Board Member - Imperial College Business School*

*2023-Present Advisory Board Member - NYU Center for Urban Progress (CUSP)*

# Simon Sylvester-Chaudhuri

## Founder and Executive Director, CIV:LAB

Simon Sylvester-Chaudhuri is the Executive Director of CIV:LAB, a Global NGO dedicated to scaling community-centered climate solutions. Simon was instrumental in building the world's largest climate tech innovation ecosystem in New York. His work has helped to create thousands of jobs by supporting the development of hundreds of startups and the real estate to support them. In 2019, in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Simon spearheaded the creation of The Grid, the City of New York's first official urban innovation collaborative of over 130 organizations. Following the Grid's success, in 2020 Simon built Detroit Urban Solutions with Wayne State University and the City of Detroit, continuing his work advancing place-based climate innovation in cities. CIV:LAB now grants millions of dollars for the advancement of place-based climate innovation in New York, Detroit, and Los Angeles.



Recently, Simon was named the Founding Research Fellow at University College London's Centre for Sustainable Business, where he supports research on sustainable business practices and urban innovation. In addition, he serves as an Adjunct Professor at UCL's School of Management and NYU's Center for Global Affairs, where he created and continues to teach the Global Entrepreneurship course, now in its tenth year. As a Visiting Professor at Imperial College Business School, Simon lectures on the Future of Cities. Simon provides strategic guidance to leading institutions and urban developers. He continues to advise Cornell Tech on their Roosevelt Island campus expansion, the University of Michigan on its Downtown Detroit campus, and real estate firms like Related Companies and the Canary Wharf Group on supporting innovation through urban development.

In 2015, Simon Co-Founded the Urban Tech Summit, now in its fourth year, held annually at Cornell Tech. From 2016-2017 he served as a Strategic Advisor to the US Department of Commerce and the International Trade Administration under Secretary Pritzker during the Obama Administration. In 2017, as part of Mayor Bloomberg's long term response to Hurricane Sandy, he was part of the founding team of NYC's first climate tech incubator, the Urban Future Lab (UFL) where he focused on startup development, helping portfolio companies raise over \$175m and create hundreds of climate tech jobs.

Simon has an MS in Global Affairs from NYU where he was the O'Mara Energy Fellow. His research led to NYU's first two incubators abroad in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. He also has a BS Honours in Economics and Philosophy from the University of Sussex. His active philanthropic endeavors include Chairing the Board of visionary environmental architecture firm Terreform One and Vice Chairing the Board of climate NGO, Energy Vision. Simon is a BMW Herbert Quandt Responsible Leaders Network Fellow, and an Urban Design Forum Fellow.