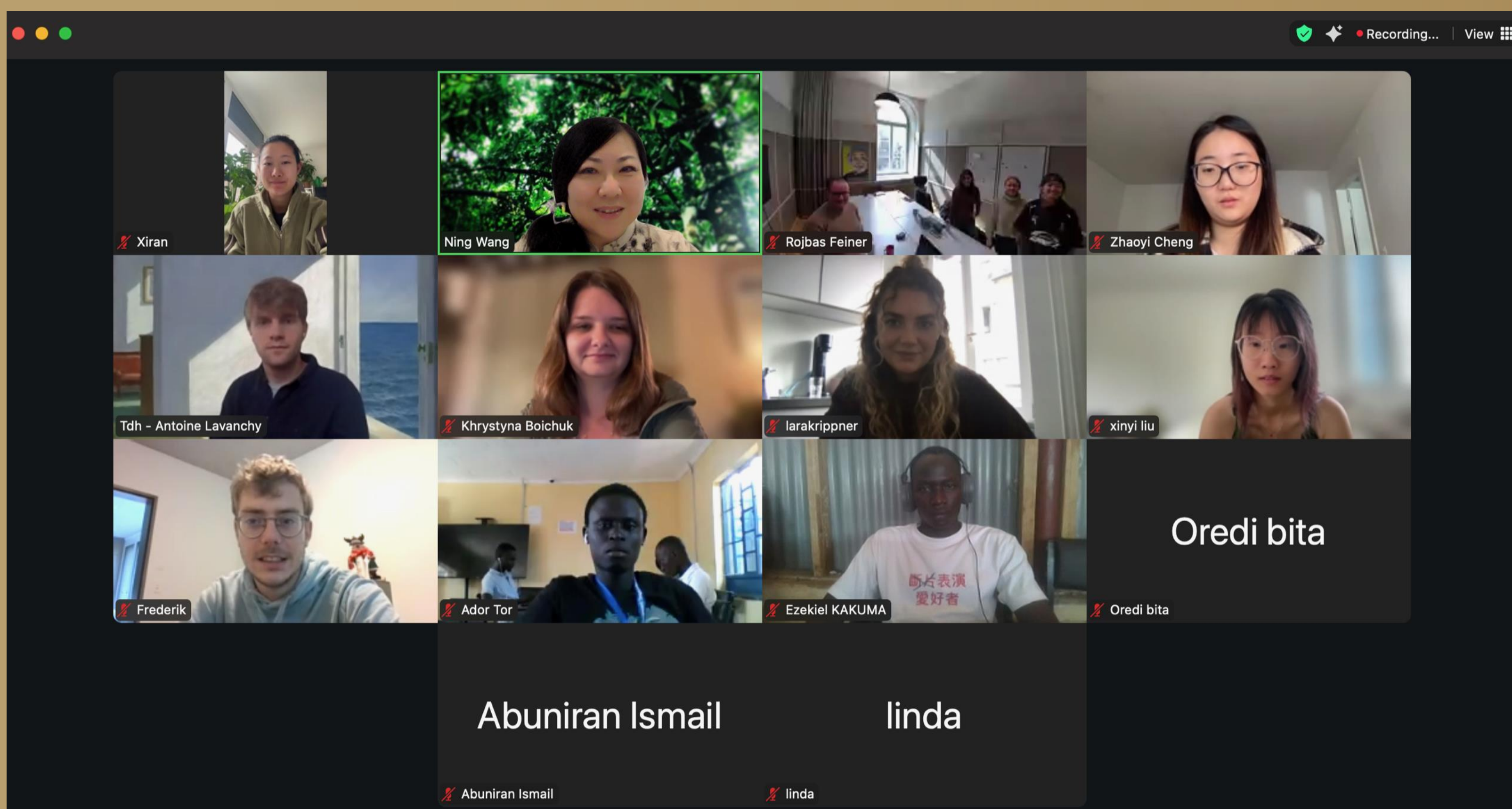


Social Innovation for Development & Sustainability

Dr. Ning Wang

Digital Society Initiative (DSI)



Group Photo of Zoom Sessions

Innovative because...

HOPE focuses on the topic of social innovation and social entrepreneurship, which is the first of its kind at the UZH. The course offered a unique opportunity for Swiss university students to connect with learners living in challenging environments to work together and develop innovation ideas for sustainable development as a group.

Exemplary because...

With the strong support from guest speakers representing top experts from academia and NGOs, participants from Switzerland and Kenya were able to connect during the workshops in a hybrid format, and to communicate in mixed groups through joint assignments. Participants also had the opportunities to work both independently and with each other to create project proposals based on the materials offered at the self-learning portal on OLAT, resulted in optimal learning outcomes.

Idea

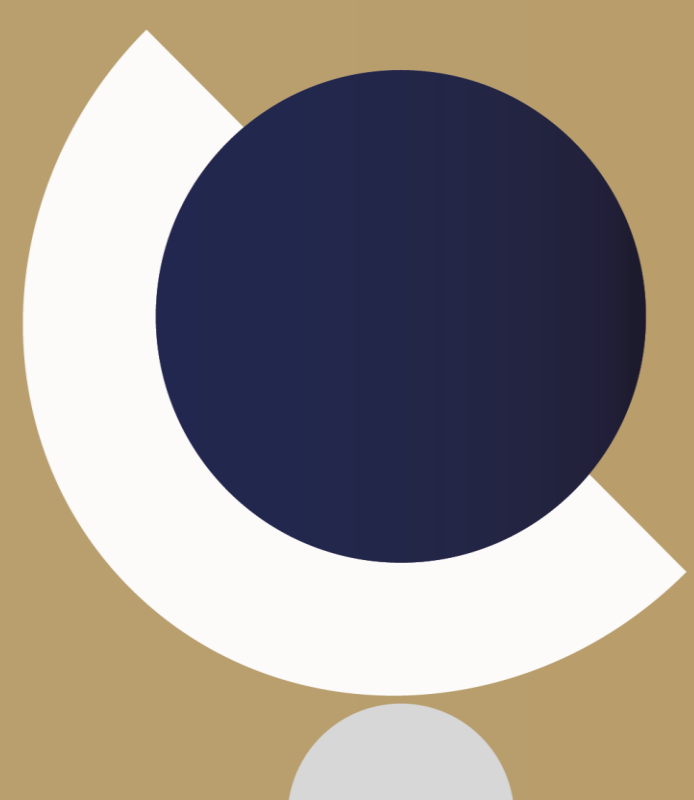
The Hubs of Open and Participatory Education for Digitally Connected Learning (HOPE) project was initiated as an explorative pilot work at the UZH, with the aim of creating Internationalization@Home opportunities for UZH students, as well as open education platforms for learners from challenging environments such as refugee camps. HOPE offers learners of diverse ethnic, cultural, and disciplinary backgrounds the access to higher education resources, to support them in developing sustainable, affordable, and feasible innovation solutions with an explicit social purpose, while being sensitive to values surrounding innovation.

Success factors & Results

In total, 9 UZH students and 15 refugee learners based at the Kakuma Camp in Kenya participated in the HOPE course. Despite the logistical challenges around connectivity, which required flexibility from both the students and the lecturers, all participants were able to attend the workshop sessions either in person or via Zoom during the 4 days. The course consisted of 18 sessions, involving 14 domain experts as the lecturers, who not only gave inputs on specific subject matters, but also mentored students throughout the course, some even maintained contact with students beyond the course. All group projects included both UZH students and refugee learners; and both individual and group assignments showed great interest and motivation from the participants.

Goals

The goal of the HOPE project is twofold: on the one hand, exploring the Open Education space to bridge the gap of educational inequality between those who have access and those who have not; and on the other hand, establishing the topic of social innovation at the UZH, which lacks attention and expertise that are needed. To this end, the HOPE course engaged various digital tools to connect students not only with respect to access to course materials, but also in terms of seeking expertise and mentorship from both within and outside academia.



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Project Website
<https://ethics.dsi.uzh.ch/project/hope/>

Master Seminar I Fall 2024
SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

In this project-based learning course, students at UZH will work with peers at University of Geneva alongside refugees living in selected camps in Kenya, Niger, and Jordan on social innovation projects, to gain theoretical insights and hands-on experiences into technology for development (T4D) solutions. The course consists of an online self-learning module, a 4-day tutorial session, and group project work. Students will learn the basics of digital skills, T4D, social impact, and value sensitive innovation, and apply them to practical use cases.

- ▶ Enrol now to be a changemaker & earn 3 ECTS
- ▶ Module booking open on UZH course catalog

12.09.24 @09:00 - 15.09.24 @14:00
UZH Digital Society Initiative (DSI)
Rämistrasse 69 & hybrid on Zoom
bridge@dsi.uzh.ch

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HOPE Course Description