Social Innovation + Change Initiative

The Social Innovation + Change Initiative (SICI) at the Center for Public Leadership, directed by Professor Julie Battilana, equips social innovators with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of initiating and implementing positive social change. SICI's goals are to create an environment in which social value is as easy as creating financial value; for social change-making to be seen as something for all people, not just some; and to support social change-makers through means that enable their success.

Framework and Strategy
SICI works to illuminate the multiple paths people take to make sense of complex problems, harness power for good, and create a brighter future for the causes that call them. Through teaching, research, and field engagement, SICI has identified three key lenses to help social innovators contribute to social change, culminating in the “3P” framework. The 3P framework considers the problem at hand, the person pursuing change, and the pathway to change. Rather than providing a one-size-fits-all blueprint, the framework offers questions for social innovators to unpack and update.

“Insert 1-2 sentence quote from Julie Battilana on SICI.”
Julie Battilana
SICI Director

New World Social Innovation Fellowship
SICI's New World Social Innovation Fellowship is a rigorous co-curricular accelerator for change-makers committed to addressing pressing social problems in new and creative ways. The fellowship selects and supports Harvard University students—known as Cheng Fellows— who are advancing progress on a social challenge through a project of their design. Collectively, fellows’ efforts represent innovation within civil society, business, government, and non-governmental organizations around the world.

Cheng Fellows use their time at Harvard to learn and simultaneously advance progress against a defined problem about which they have a dedicated passion and future commitment. The fellowship is designed as a scaffolded, intensive co-curricular program allowing students to explore social problem-solving within the context of a public policy school, all while earning their degree. Fellowship work is guided by a curated sequence of weekly co-curricular sessions, skills-based workshops, practitioner visits, individualized coaching and mentorship, hands-on studio time, and experiential learning opportunities.