

Thought Leader | Keynote Speaker | Expert Advisor
Achieving Success with Impact-Aligned Portfolio Strategies



- Senior Advisor - SELA Labs (*Africa-based blockchain sustainability initiative*)
- Capital Advisor – Unreasonable Group Accelerator Programs
- Founding Member & Senior Advisor – Mentor Capital Network
- Steering Committee - Nexus Impact Investing Working Group
- Chair - Opal Private Wealth Impact Investing Forum
- Advisory Council - IMI Emerging Managers Association
- President - Harvard Alumni Impact Alliance (@HarvardIMPACT)
- ExCom - AIESEC U.S. Board of Directors (*former Governance Chair*)
- Track Leader - Investable Solutions track, Good Capital Project/SOCAP
- Judging Panel – M&A Emerging Leader Awards & HBS New Venture Competition
- Affiliations: AlumniStartups (Bain alum initiative); Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs

A pioneer and thought leader in impact investing, Tami Kesselman is a Harvard-trained strategist & former Bain consultant working at the intersection of the highest levels of corporate, government, entrepreneurial and investor communities and is strategy advisor to multiple business and sustainability initiatives globally.

Optimizing social, environmental and reputational risk management

Known for her innate ability to identify business model risks overlooked by others, Tami is frequently consulted for impact alignment while maintaining market rate financial returns. She runs sessions for some of the world's highest net worth families and leading asset managers and is regularly asked to pressure-test portfolio investments, advising on diligence filter revisions for SDG-alignment and for more comprehensive identification and mitigation of downside environmental, social and financial risk. She also works directly with entrepreneurial management teams as they iterate their businesses from seed through Series C funding rounds, and lectures annually on improved impact diligence at Harvard Business School and at conferences for business audiences around the world. One of her most popular talks, based on the proprietary heuristic diligence framework she developed, InvestingSMART™, draws upon insights from analysis of more than 40 years of for-profit, non-profit and government program business models that seemed successful on the surface but had systemic flaws that should have been flagged from the beginning and ultimately led to underperformance or worse. A social impact business strategy book based on her work in this area will be coming out next year.

Prior to her current work, Tami was recruited away from Bain & Company to join the global strategic planning group at American Express. There she rose through the ranks to Senior Director, where she focused on M&A work with the CEO and led multiple Asia Pacific and New York-based teams for cost-cutting, market expansion and e-commerce projects before leaving to launch her own initiatives including Aligned Investing Global, where she took that deep understanding of all facets of corporate strategy and pivoted to help investors and social impact founder teams with strategic capacity building, public relations, and systems thinking at scale.

Establishing credibility with impact-driven stakeholders

Skilled at creating alchemy through innovative partner alliances, and at integrating multiple perspectives intergenerationally and across sectors and geographies, Tami serves on the NEXUS Impact Investing Working Group's Steering Committee, advising next gen heirs of some of the world's largest families on portfolio stewardship and wealth transition. She also annually chairs Opal's Impact Investing Forum, keynoting and curating discussions about today's evolving wealth priorities for family office principals, asset managers & wealth advisors covering asset classes from philanthropy to public equities and impact-aligned VC/hedge strategies.

Because of her strong global perspective, which comes from work that has taken her to Asia, Africa, North and South America and Europe with initiatives that often involve consulting on project-based capacity building and implementing the resulting strategic redirection, in 2016 – one year after all 193 UN members states ratified the historic UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the UN Office for Partnerships brought Tami in to lead a

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think tank convening some of the world's largest asset holders, focusing discussion on identification and alleviation of obstacles to aligning investments with the SDGs. In 2017, UNDP retained her to create and lead training for all 23 UNDP-Asia country heads to onboard them to the UN's changing role in multi-sector financing solutions, then to lead strategic partnerships for the rollout of UNDP's SDG Impact Finance initiative, UNSIF, a platform launching a series of \$100mil-\$200mil blended capital funds. Closer to home, Tami helped shape the Growing the Impact Economy Summit at Harvard, paving the way for broader regulatory reforms nationally.

[Leveraging impact expertise to develop more effective business solutions](#)

Often called upon to help clients understand the impact of evolving expectations of millennial wealth holders as they transition to decision-making power over large portfolios of capital, Tami sits on the Advisory Board of IMI's Emerging Managers Association, was enlisted by 500 Startups to discuss impact investing with the Silicon Valley VC community, and is a Capital Advisor for Unreasonable Group's accelerator program teams. She serves annually as a judge for M&A Advisors' Emerging Leaders Awards and for multiple high-profile business plan competitions where she provides coaching and feedback afterwards for teams in need of small adjustments to unlock potential for more successful future capital raises.

With her track record of success, Tami is often brought in to work with entrepreneurial founder teams and nonprofit boards, including serving as a Senior Advisor to SELA Labs, a blockchain initiative focused on emerging market affordable housing and environmental sustainability solutions. She has served as a mentor for teams at Harvard Business School's Rock Center for Entrepreneurship, Senior Advisor to Mentor Capital Network, and Entrepreneur-in-Residence for the Hult Prize's finalist accelerator, where she then continued 1:1 mentoring to an Africa-based team to tighten their business model and revise their investor pitch, ultimately helping them secure the \$1 million grand prize.

[Lecturer on growing the ecosystem of investable impact-aligned opportunities](#)

A dynamic speaker and featured keynote, Tami always enjoys the opportunity to lead discussions that motivate traditional investors to begin their shift to an impact investing mindset while remaining true to their market objectives. She has inspired audiences at the World Forum at The Hague, ENANGRAD Brasil, Innovation Forum Detroit, Nikkei's Tokyo AgTech Summit, MaRS Social Finance Forum in Toronto, Saïd Business School at Oxford University, and student teams at HBS, U Penn, Yale, and Columbia Business School, as well as +Social Good as a moderator for their Master Class. Tami has also led sessions for investor audiences at Rockefeller & Co Wealth Advisors, MIT Enterprise Forum, McKinsey & Company, NEXUS Global, and Family Office Association (FOA), and has emceed multiple TEDx events, including TEDxConcordia 2017 and TEDxDupontCirlceED 2018.

Gifted at structuring training, she served on the curriculum development committee shaping a Transformational Leadership course for the UN for headquarters and field staff from across agencies and continents, playing an integral role in creating curricula and teaching weekly modules on leadership, resiliency, systems thinking, and driving innovation beyond current frameworks.

Tami's strength at risk identification and mitigation has led to multiple board invitations, often asked to take on roles otherwise given to attorneys, including for the multimillion-dollar leadership development & employment readiness nonprofit AIESEC U.S., where she served as Chairman of the Governance Committee before being elected to a two-year term as Chairman of the Board. She currently sits on the Governance Committee for Harvard Kennedy School's Global Alumni Board of Directors, where her four-year term began in 2018.

Tami earned her MPA in Business & Government Policy from Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) with her degree curricula spanning HKS, Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School. While a student, she was elected President of Harvard's university-wide student government, served as the Graduate Rep to the Provost's Committee on Computerization, was selected her 2nd year as Roger Porter's course assistant for his Business & Government course, and rowed crew for both HKS and HBS. As an alumna, along with having been elected to the HKS Alumni Board, Tami is worldwide President of the Harvard Alumni Impact Alliance (@HarvardIMPACT). Prior to Harvard, Tami was a Taubman Scholar at the University of Michigan where she earned her bachelor's degree in industrial Relations with a triple minor in business, econ and communications. In between Michigan and Harvard, Tami served on the board of AIESEC International in Europe and completed student internships for a pharmaceutical subsidiary of Procter & Gamble in Italy, for the Environmental Working Group of the U.S. Council for International Business in the U.S. and for the United Nations' Earth Summit in Brazil.



A SAG-AFTRA speaker, Tami Kesselman's speaking popularity stems from her unique ability to deliver complex content in a way that audiences easily distill, with takeaways to immediately integrate into their business strategies

Keynotes and moderated discussions topics include:

- [For Investors & Management Teams: Improving Diligence for Better Financial & Impact Returns](#)
Sample talk: "Investing for the Future: Achieving Alpha with Impact Investment Strategies"
 - Audiences include: Opal Private Wealth Forum • 500 Startups/PreMoney • Capital Markets Global Summit at the United Nations • Good Capital Project/SOCAP • FLII - LatAm Impact Investment Forum
Sample talk: "Systems Thinking at Scale: Due Diligence, the SDGs & Scaling Social Enterprises"
 - Audiences include: Social Finance Forum-MaRS • Harvard SECON at HBS & HKS • Nikkei Tokyo AgriTech Summit • NEXUS Global • +SocialGood Global Livestream with Mashable • Mentor Capital Network • Youth2Business at Yale University • ENDEVVR Accelerator at U Penn.
- [For Donors: Shifting Trends - From Grantmaking to Venture Philanthropy](#)
Sample talk: "Philanthropy & Development Finance: The Evolution of Multi-Sector Solutions"
 - Audiences include: Opal Endowments & Foundations Forum • MIT Enterprise Forum • United Nations NGO Conference • Opal Newport Family Office Forum • NEXUS Global NextGen Training.
- [For Academia: The Behind-the-Scenes Evolution of Impact and Multi-Sector Collaborations](#)
Sample talk: "An Insider's Look at Business, Govt, Civil Society & the Sustainability Movement"
 - Presented to Deans & Faculty for Business Schools across Brazil at ENANGRAD 2018 • Skoll Emerge at Oxford University • Presented as ½ day training at UNDP Bureau for Asia & the Pacific.

Meeting Facilitation & Event Curation includes:

- [Facilitation - Board Retreats & Long-Term Strategy Sessions](#)
 - For Corporate Divisional Leadership: including American Express Asia Pacific.
 - For Global Project Leadership Teams: including USAID/UNICEF; SELA Lab; One Liter of Light.
 - For Nonprofit Boardrooms: including LuMindRDS; Plant-a-Fish; AIESEC.
- [Event Chair/Conference Curation](#)
 - Including for: Opal Private Wealth Family Office Impact Investing Forum; Capital Markets Global Summit at the United Nations.
- [TEDx Master of Ceremonies](#)
 - Inaugural TEDx UNPlaza; TEDx Concordia 2017; TEDx DupontCircleED 2018.