I am Susette España, a 35-year-old woman who was born and raised in the Eternal Spring Country - Guatemala! Ever since I have memory, I was always doing either one of these 2 things: reading or exploring. I would have my mother listen to me reading to her and then explaining to her what I just read. Or I would get into trouble for going "outside" to explore without telling anyone. I am a life-long learner and through the years, I have learned growth processes involve constant and never ending iterations of trial-and-error rounds.

Since the beginning of my career, I was blessed enough to be able to combine teaching with a practical side of business. I studied both business and economics in college and then enrolled into a graduate entrepreneurship program. I started as a TA during my last years of college and fresh off the oven from college took on an executive role within the MBA program I studied at. I have enjoyed mixing up both activities up until this very day and will probably continue to do so!

A few years ago, I decided I wanted to continue exploring other interests and growing different skills. Back then, I didn’t know a big lesson I was going to learn was how to navigate the World and make friends with people who held very different WORLD VIEWS from mine.

So, I embarked on a 2-year sabbatical where I developed a committed yoga practice and went into the challenging and thrilling world of extreme sports! Through the last few years, I have gone in a string of adventures trying to -safely - push my personal envelope a bit-further each time. I began with hiking, wall-climbing, and rappelling. Then one day, mustered the guts to do a tandem jump. But the interesting part of this story, is that both my 65-year old mother and 61-year old father also jumped with me from the same plane! From 16,500 feet! Before the jump, they had -NEVER - before done anything remotely close to extreme sports. 'This-facing-your-fears" lesson from them is one that has stuck with me ever since.

As of lately, I also made a life-long dream come true: to become a scuba diver. I simultaneously dreaded and desired to go into my first ever deep-night-dive for weeks!!! There is one - seemingly - tiny lesson I want to pinpoint from this experience: I always saw videos of divers back-rolling into the ocean thinking: HOW WILL I EVER MANAGE TO DO THAT?! To prepare I would just do drills of back-rolling into the pool. This helped me to take some fear out of my mind and was able to back-roll into the Ocean – which was easier than in the pool! I realized if I am patient enough and engage in small-imperfect-but constant-efforts, compound effect does its magic and can go on learning new stuff. I enjoy learning just because.

I have taken my exploring nature as a leverage to expand my skill set and lose fear of jumping into some previously unknown knowledge areas. Signing up for your course is one of the big leaps of this year. Recently, I have been analyzing several papers on experimental economics, and since I'm not used to working with quantitative and research methods, your course is a door to begin my journey on it. It’s going to be a challenge, but one I’m jumping on joyfully! In the coming years, I know I want to enroll into a doctorate degree trying to intersect economics with psychology, and I’m well aware on the importance of sound research methods required on them. And well, we all begin somewhere, always.