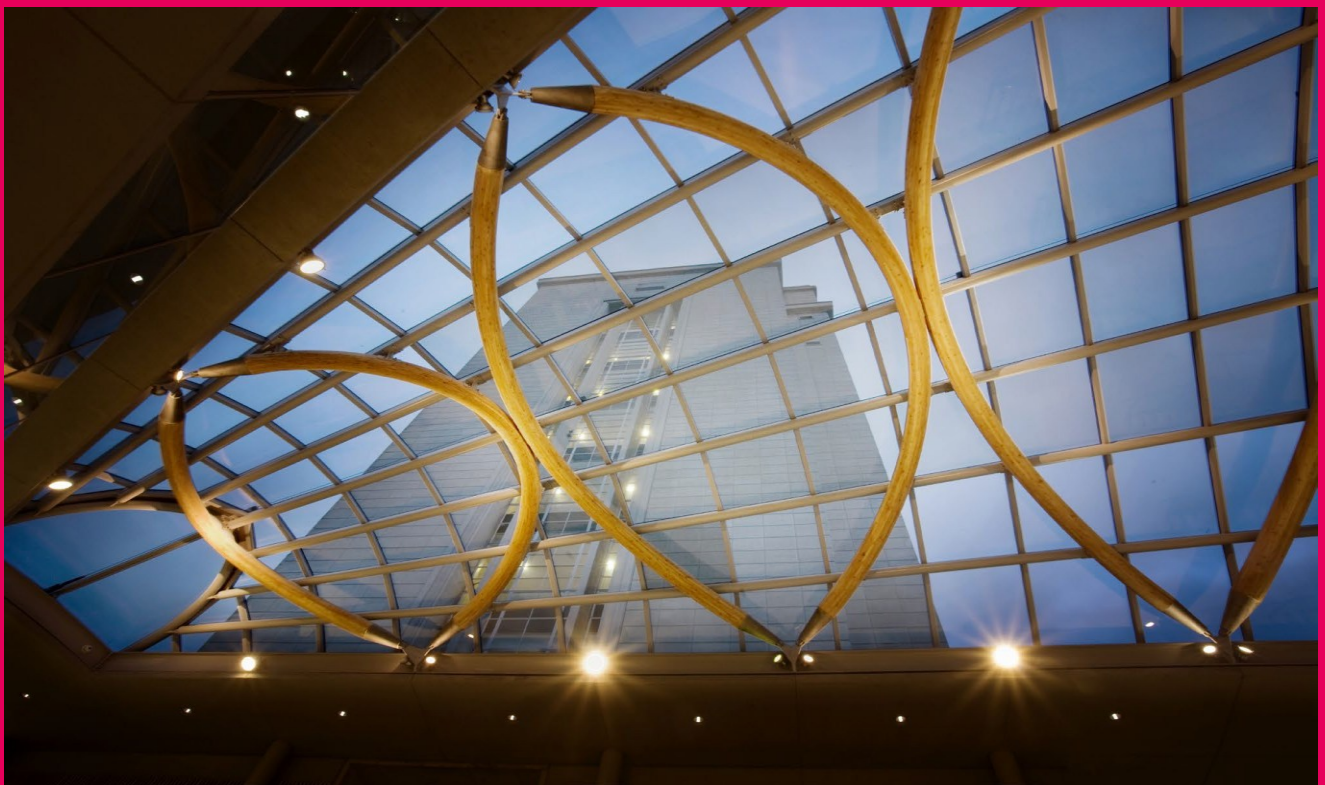




NottinghamTrent
University

The 2nd Annual NTU Eastern Africa Centre Symposium



Tuesday, 11 March – Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Dryden Enterprise Centre, City Campus, Nottingham Trent University

EAC Website



The 2nd Annual NTU Eastern Africa Centre Symposium

Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Time	Session
09.30	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre
10.00	Workshop One 'EITAI' ('Community Togetherness') Teso PhD Documentary Dissemination Screening and Workshop Panel Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Conway Coordinator, Eastern Africa Centre, NTU Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Sally Bashford Squires Teaching Fellow, School of Human Sciences, University Greenwich 'Eitai' Film screening Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online: Christine Aruo Counsellor at The Aids Support Organisation (TASO) Soroti branch Dr Sally Bashford-Squires Teaching Fellow in Human Sciences, University of Greenwich, NTU PhD Graduate Professor Linda Gibson Professor of Global Public Health, School of Social Sciences, NTU Sonyanga Ole Ngais Filmmaker and Graduate of MA Media and Globalisation, NTU Dr Mathew Nyashanu Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, NTU Discussion and Questions
12.30	Catered Lunch Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre
13.30 – 17.00	Workshop Two The Eastern Africa Centre & Africa Middle East Network: Research, Funding Opportunities, and Networking Workshop Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Mazedha Hossain Director, Eastern Africa Centre and Professor of Global Health, NTU Hamzah Ikram Senior Global Partnerships Manager (Africa, Middle East and Americas), NTU Global I. Funding Opportunities Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Nathaniel Golden Research and Partnership Development Manager, NTU Dr Ioannis Vermpis Head of EU Research Funding, NTU

14.30	II. Turing Funding Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paulina Swann International Mobility Manager, NTU Global Betty Tequame Global Mobility and Funding Coordinator, NTU Global
14.45	III. Research ‘Lightning Talks’ - NTU Academics and Alumni <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Partnership: Malawian Social Worker Insights Dr Simon Cauvain Head of Social Work, Care and Community, School of Social Sciences, NTU Explore the impact of initial midwifery training on the overall health outcomes in rural communities in Liberia Abdul-Rahman Faiyah Bah NTU Alumni Amplifying Voices: Film as a Catalyst for Community Advocacy Sonyanga Ole Ngais Film maker and Graduate of MA Media and Globalisation, NTU Adventures in prosthetics and orthotics: A walk through lessons learnt Dr Cleveland Barnett Associate Professor of Biomechanics, NTU Detecting cross border transmission of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> in East Africa Dr Conor Meehan Associate Professor, Microbial Bioinformatics, NTU South African Foreign Policy Review, Africa and International Relations Project, and UK-Africa Relations project Dr Lesley Masters Senior Lecturer, International Relations and Diplomacy, NTU <p>Discussion and Questions</p>
15.30	Networking and Afternoon Refreshments Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre
15.45 – 17.00	IV. Research ‘Lightning Talks’ - Student Researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building platforms and partnerships in marginalised communities through media and research to achieve SGDs Calvin Manika Masters Student, Centre for Broadcast Journalism, NTU Social innovation from an Afro-centric approach: A Ugandan perspective Michael Obeng Brown PhD student, Nottingham Business School, NTU Transmission of multidrug resistant bacteria at the Uganda Cancer Institute Dr Magaret Lubwama AREF Researcher Development Fellowship, School of Science and Technology, NTU Senior Lecturer, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Uganda Life during and after the Covid-19 pandemic for people living with long term conditions Karin Zakeyo PhD Student, School of Social Sciences, NTU Beyond Clinical Settings: Community Participation in Antimicrobial Stewardship Grace Biyinzika Lubega PhD Student, School of Social Sciences, NTU Large Family Size and Population Growth: A Blessing or Curse? Samuel Dada PhD Student, School of Social Sciences, NTU Support Through a Keyhole: The Role of Telehealth in Supporting Maternal Mental

Health and Breastfeeding Practices of Displaced Mothers During Conflict

Yafa Ajweh

PhD Student, School of Social Sciences, NTU

- **Ecological Restoration and Soil Degradation in the Savanna Ecosystem: Analysis of Soil Quality and Vegetation Dynamics by 'The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index' (NDVI) in the Maasai Mara, Kenya**

Francesco Guatelli

PhD Student, University of Bologna, Italy

- **How do we learn musical rhythms? - Featuring Mali Rhythms**

Katie Gray

PhD Student, Psychology, School of Social Sciences, NTU

- **A journey from Zimbabwe**

Samantha Matanaka Tsungu

Undergraduate Student, School of Science and Technology, NTU

- **The impact of gender inequalities on maternal and child healthcare services delivery in Ghana".**

Elma Banyen

PhD student, Institute of Health and Allied Professionals, NTU

Discussion and Questions

The 2nd Annual NTU Eastern Africa Centre Symposium

Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Time	Session
09.30	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre
09.50	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Chancellor Professor Edward Peck, NTU Professor Richard Emes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & International, NTU Professor Mazeda Hossain, Director, Eastern Africa Centre and Professor of Global Health, NTU
10.10	Keynote Speakers <p>Africa We Want: The Role of Transformative Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His Excellency Johnston Busingye, High Commissioner of Rwanda to the United Kingdom <p>Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurial Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online: Ambassador Bitange Ndemo, PhD., FKIM, CBS. Kenya's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium <p>Discussion and Questions</p>
11.00	Panel Discussion One <p>Transformative Leadership and Innovation in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Future Direction</p> <p>Panel Chair -Introduction to the Panel and the Eastern Africa PhD Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Jonathan Gorry Head of Department, Social and Political Sciences, NTU <p>Sustainable Prosthetic Assistance for Resilient Kids in Youthful South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Angus Hunter Head of the Department of Sport Science and Professor in Neuromuscular Physiology, NTU Dr Cleveland Barnett, Associate Professor of Biomechanics, Department of Sport Science and Director of Doctoral Programmes, NTU <p>African Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AfrIE) Research Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Amon Simba Director of the African Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AfrIE) Research Hub and Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Nottingham Business School, NTU <p>The Badilisha Project: Creating Transformative Opportunities for Girls and Young Women in Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online: Winnie Atemba Founder and Executive Director, At the Heart of a Woman, Kenya Online: Dorcas Nimo Project Coordinator, At the Heart of a Woman, Kenya Angela Robson Senior Lecturer, Centre for Broadcast Journalism, NTU Professor Mazeda Hossain Professor of Global Health and Director of the Eastern Africa Centre, NTU

	<p>Delivery of Education in Active Armed Conflict and Crisis: Case Study Somalia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Abdishakur Tarah Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Institute of Education, NTU <p>African Policy and International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Lesley Masters Senior Lecturer, International Relations and Diplomacy, NTU <p>Discussion and Questions</p>
12.30	<p><u>Catered Lunch</u> Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre</p>
13.30	<p><u>Panel Discussion Two</u></p> <p>Biocultural restoration: Merging traditional ecological knowledge and science</p> <p>Panel Chair - Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Andy Gill Associate Dean for Research, School of Animal Rural & Environmental Sciences (ARES), NTU <p>Use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring to evaluate restored and degraded Tropical Savanna Ecosystem in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: Consolata Gathoni NTU EAC ARES Postgraduate Researcher – EAC PhD at Distance Studentship, based in Kenya. <p>Social Ecological approaches for ecosystem restoration in Maasai Mara, Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: Alex Nduah NTU EAC ARES Postgraduate Researcher – EAC PhD at Distance Studentship, based in Kenya. <p>Soil Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Marcello Di Bonito Associate Professor of Environmental and Soil Sciences, School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences (ARES), NTU <p>Biocultural Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Felipe Melo Associate Professor in Ecological Restoration, School of Animal Rural and Environmental Sciences (ARES), NTU <p>Discussion and Questions</p>
14.30	<p><u>Afternoon Refreshments</u> Reception, Dryden Enterprise Centre</p>
14.45	<p><u>Panel Discussion Three</u></p> <p>Building Resilient International Academic Partnerships</p> <p>Panel Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Neil Mansfield Executive Dean, Research and International Reputation, NTU

	<p>NTU Global - Building International Partnerships in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Clare Newstead Associate Director, NTU Global <p>Maximising partnership potential – Outlining the developments from a short partnership visit to Nairobi, Kenya.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chris Rolph Associate Professor of Education Policy and Practice, and Director of Nottingham Institute of Education (NIE), NTU <p>African Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AfrIE) Research Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Dr Amon Simba Director of the African Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AfrIE) Research Hub and Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Nottingham Business School, NTU <p>NTU-MAK Partnership – Principles of Shared Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Linda Gibson Professor Global Public Health, NTU and UK Lead NTU-MAK Partnership • Online: Dr David Musoke, School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda and Uganda Lead NTU-MAK Partnership <p>Global Capacity Building Programme (GCBP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Linda Gibson Professor Global Public Health, NTU and UK Lead NTU-MAK Partnership • Online: Dr David Musoke, School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda and Uganda Lead of the NTU-MAK Partnership • Online: Allan Ssemuusi Early-Career Researcher, Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda <p>Commonwealth Partnership for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: Dr Jody Winter Principal Lecturer Microbiology, NTU • Grace Biyinzika Lubega PhD Student, NTU <p>Pan-African Mental Health Research Network (PAMHRN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: Professor Tholene Sodi PAMHRN Joint Project Lead, Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Limpopo, South Africa • Professor Linda Gibson PAMHRN Joint Project Lead, Professor of Global Public Health, NTU and UK Lead of the NTU-MAK Partnership • Michael Obeng Brown Research Associate, NTU <p>Discussion and Questions</p>
16.45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Neil Mansfield Executive Dean, Research and International Reputation, NTU • Professor Mazedza Hossain Professor of Global Health and Director of the Eastern Africa Centre, NTU

17.00 – 19.00	<p><u>EAC Networking Reception: 'Continue the Conversations'</u></p> <p>Location: Directorate Courtroom, 50 Shakespeare Street, NTU City Campus</p> <p>Join us for an informal networking event to continue the discussions, share your experiences, and explore potential future collaborations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal networking and refreshments • Celebration of EAC research, partnerships, and networks • Opportunity to connect with speakers and attendees • Reflections on the Symposium • Explore future collaboration possibilities
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Day 1: Workshop Overviews and Speaker Bios

Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Workshop One

Eitai – A Documentary Film Exploring Community, Togetherness and Change in Rural Uganda. (Screening and Panel Discussion)

Overview

A screening and panel discussion of *Eitai*, a documentary that explores the challenges and innovative solutions of rural community members in North-Eastern Uganda. Filmed in Teso, Uganda, this 60-minute documentary captures the resilience of a community facing climate challenges, poverty, and gender-based violence. It explores how social enterprises may provide economic stability, safe spaces, and environmental solutions through tree planting, music, drama, and dance. 'Eitai'—an Ateso word for "community togetherness" - was co-produced with celebrated Masai filmmaker Sonyanga Ole Ngais (an NTU graduate) and based on doctoral research by Dr Sally Bashford-Squires, an NTU PhD graduate. The film and panel discussion will celebrate the resourcefulness of communities in Teso and serve as a platform for international knowledge exchange. The diverse panel, including colleagues from Teso, will aim to amplify majority-world perspectives on global challenges and foster dialogue across cultures.

Panel Chair



Jonathan Conway, Coordinator, NTU Eastern Africa Centre. Jonathan is an international university research centre coordinator, journalist, and communication professional with extensive communication experience within Eastern Africa both in Higher Education and the television news industry. Jonathan previously worked as a news producer for NTV in Uganda for four years after graduating with a Masters in 'Television Broadcast Journalism' from Nottingham Trent University (NTU). Jonathan is currently working with NTU as a Coordinator of the Eastern Africa Centre, coordinating partnerships, promoting visibility of the Centre, and developing new connections within the region and beyond. He is responsible for updating and creating content for the EAC website and organising large scale events such as today's Symposium.




Panellists



Dr Sally Bashford Squires is a Teaching Fellow within the school of Human Sciences at the University of Greenwich in London. Prior to this role she was a Senior Lecturer in Public Health at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). Sally completed her PhD at NTU, which examined the impact of social enterprise projects on women's health in the rural Teso area of Uganda. In 2021, she received a distinction in her MA Public Health at NTU. Prior to working in academia, Sally had a long career in education, teaching both secondary and primary pupils and working as an assistant headteacher. She is also the founder and Chair of a UK registered charity that supports marginalised communities in North-Eastern Uganda. Her interests include ethnography and creative research methods, as well as intersectionality, new materialism, and Indigenous knowledge. She enjoys teaching about the social determinants of health, policy and practice, politics of health, concepts of health, and ethics.



Christine Areo Aruo is a counsellor at The Aids Support Organisation (TASO) in Soroti District, Eastern Uganda. Christine is a dedicated professional counsellor with over 31 years of experience in providing psychosocial support to individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. With a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Social Administration, Christine has worked extensively with The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) Uganda, contributing to the development of impactful programs and serving as a national trainer in community work. Christine has a deep passion for supporting adolescents and young

	<p>people living with HIV and has had the privilege of mentoring numerous community workers and healthcare providers. Currently, she is engaged in the Mustard Seed Project in Teso, where she works closely with small groups and contributed to the creation of the "EITAI" (Togetherness) documentary, highlighting the power of community unity in addressing HIV challenges. Christines unwavering commitment to empowering communities and fostering understanding around HIV continues to drive her work, alongside her passion for creating positive, lasting change for those affected.</p>
	<p>Professor Linda Gibson has over twenty years of experience in health promotion and working with local communities in the UK and internationally. She has worked in East Africa since 2003 running workshops on qualitative research for the British Council in Tanzania, and leading a partnership with School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda since 2012. She is currently involved in several research partnerships, networks and teaching projects in Europe, East Africa (Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia) and across Africa, including the NTU Africa Middle East Network, Pan-African Mental Health Network, and the East African PhD Hub. She is the UK lead for the NTU-Mak Partnership.</p>
	<p>Sonyanga Ole Ngais is an advocacy filmmaker and community activist dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices through storytelling. His work addresses pressing social injustices, including female genital mutilation, child marriage, environmental challenges, and the need for quality education. In addition to his advocacy through film, he has contributed to documentaries such as Warriors, African Drivers, The Lions Slide Story, and The Journey is the Destination, and has proudly represented the Maasai Cricket Warriors. His mission is to bridge cultural divides and inspire communities to live together in peace and mutual respect.</p>
	<p>Dr Mathew Nyashanu is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Social Sciences at NTU. Dr Nyashanu contributes to a number of modules both for undergraduate and postgraduate, including Global Health and Development, Health Promotion, Research and Professional Practice among others. Mathew also engages in research on different health issues. He supervises students on their dissertations for both undergraduate and postgraduate health and social care courses. Mathew also collaborates with community groups working in health and development.</p>

Day 1: Workshop Overviews and Speaker Bios

Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Workshop Two

The Eastern Africa Centre and Africa Middle East Network Research, Funding Opportunities, and Networking Workshop

Overview

Workshop Two is a joint session organised by the NTU Eastern Africa Centre and the Africa Middle East Network. This workshop will be an engaging afternoon to learn more about research and funding opportunities relevant to those conducting research in Africa and the Middle East and a networking session.

I. Funding Opportunities Workshop

Explore funding opportunities applicable for research in Africa and the Middle East. Advice and guidance on relevant funding opportunities, including discussions on the application process, and how to address common application questions on ethics, safeguarding, and other issues faced during the application process for UK and EU funding applications. Led by UK and EU funding experts.

Panellists



Dr Nathaniel Golden is the lead in Research Development at NTU. With a career spanning nearly 20 years in research management and strategic development, Dr Golden has been instrumental in fostering international collaborations and securing significant funding for various projects. He has a proven track record in developing clusters of excellence, managing research development teams, and enhancing university partnerships with regional and international communities. Notably, he has championed the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) at NTU, leading initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His international work includes coaching and training research staff in Uganda as part of an Erasmus+ exchange. He holds a PhD in Holocaust and Gulag Literature from Keele University and has publications in this field.



Dr Ioannis Vermpis is Head of EU Research Funding at NTU. He aims to expand NTU's funding portfolio across all disciplines and further strengthen our engagement with Horizon Europe and other international funding schemes. With a PhD in Engineering and extensive experience in national and international research funding and business development (+20 years), Ioannis is passionate about fostering innovation, collaboration, and advancing impactful research initiatives across academia and industry.

II. Turing Funding Opportunities

Learn more about the Turing Scheme which offers funding support for PhD students to gain international experience through work and study placements worldwide. Led by NTU Global experts in mobility.

Panellists



Paulina Swann is the International Mobility Manager, NTU Global. Paulina joined NTU over 5 years ago and is currently involved in co-ordination and administration of International Mobility. Her role focuses on management of international exchange and study abroad programmes for incoming and outgoing students and staff. Paulina leads on the University-wide promotion of outgoing students mobility and manages a large-scale Global Opportunities Showcase and she also oversees the University's relationship with the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). Paulina successfully completed the BSc in Psychology with Sociology in 2010 and the PG Dip Career Guidance / Qualification in Careers Guidance course in 2012, both at NTU. She additionally undertook a professional work placement within the University of Sheffield Careers Service during the latter course. In her previous NTU roles, she was responsible for the effective administration and promotion of the Erasmus + scheme at NTU, coordination of Summer Schools at NTU Partner Universities 2014-16, administration of NTU Travel awards and supporting work of the Validation Service team. Paulina is passionate about the internationalisation, intercultural communication and also the study of languages (Spanish, Chinese Mandarin).

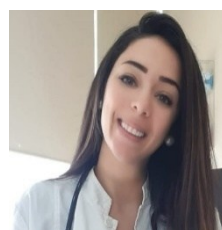


Betty Tequame is the Global Mobility and Funding Coordinator, NTU Global. Betty manages and implement processes associated with the new Turing Scheme, an international scheme which is a national replacement for Erasmus which comes into effect from 2021. Betty joined NTU as a student in January 2014 to study her MSc in Management and Finance. In April 2014 she joined the International Office first as Part-time Global Lounge Assistant and then in June 2015 as European Partnership Assistant. She progressed to her current as Erasmus+ Mobility Coordinator role in November 2016.

III. Research Lightning Talks

A showcase of 5-minute research talks from academics and student researchers from across NTU and our collaborating institutions, on a range of different subjects, focused on Africa and the Middle East.

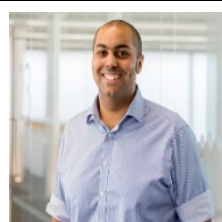
Panellists (listed alphabetically)






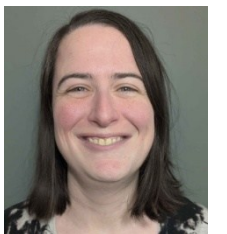

Yafa Ajweh is a humanitarian worker, lactation consultant, mental health nurse and PhD scholar specialising in maternal mental health and breastfeeding support through telehealth. Her experience supporting mothers in hospitals, refugee camps, and among displaced communities has inspired her mission to create sustainable solutions, ensuring every mother has access to the care and support she needs—no matter where she is.









Abdul-Rahman Faiyah Bah is a distinguished expert in Public Health Policy and Practice, holding a Master's degree from Nottingham Trent University, UK. With over 12 years of experience in Liberia's health sectors, he has significantly contributed to both public and private health initiatives. His diverse qualifications include a diploma in pharmaceutical management and a degree in business administration (Accounting), which enhance his understanding of health systems. Abdul has held key roles in various Liberian ministries, guiding impactful health policies. He has led collaborative health projects with Life For African Mothers (LFAM UK), and currently volunteer with Helen Loewenstein recognized by the Ministry of Health and the British Embassy. He is dedicated to advancing public health through interdisciplinary partnerships.



Dr Cleveland Barnett is currently an Associate Professor of Biomechanics in the Department of Sport Science and Director of Doctoral Programmes in the School of Science and Technology at Nottingham Trent University. Dr Barnett is a member of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, where he is also a member of the Scientific Committee and a member of the ISPO World Congress 2023 and 2025 Scientific Committees. Through his presentation today 'Adventures in prosthetics and orthotics: A walk through lessons learnt,' Dr Barnett will focus on his research journey from exploring the biomechanics of assistive devices to how patient and stakeholder views on data shape healthcare. He will

	outline some of the key lessons he has learnt along the way and how this may be used to help develop support in less resourced settings, where assistive technology needs are lacking.
	Michael Obeng Brown is a Research Associate at the Institute of Health and Allied Professions, part of Nottingham Trent University's (NTU) Social Science School. He held an Honorary Research Fellow role at Queens Mary University London and is currently a recipient of NTU's Vice Chancellor's PhD Studentship at Nottingham Business School. His doctoral research project seeks to provide context-specific Afro-centric strategies for deploying socially innovative solutions to health-related problems in underserved communities. Michael's research areas can be classed in the following categories: health promotion; health systems strengthening; public health; mental health; regional economics; social innovation and entrepreneurship; and policy analysis.
	Dr Simon Cauvain is Head of Social Work, Care and Community in the School of Social Sciences and a founding member of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre with a background in professional social work practice. His annual visits to Malawi for SSWIM underpin consistent and effective practice education for students, supports social work leaders and the professionalisation of Malawian social work. Dr Cauvain's presentation is titled 'Community and Partnership: Malawian Social Worker Insights'. His talk will provide a context for his involvement in supporting social work in Malawi through a charitable organisation (SSWIM) spanning 10 years, followed by insights from four social workers. These fascinating insights illuminate the world of practice in one of the poorest countries in the world.
	Samuel Dada is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at Nottingham Trent University, UK. He is a result-driven Public Health Professional and Researcher, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist with experience in Health Promotion and Education, health systems; on-field qualitative and quantitative research, and programs' monitoring and evaluation. He holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree and has extensive experience in Public Health Study designs, project implementation, data collection, analysis and report writing. He holds professional membership with the Royal Society of Public Health, London and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), France. He is an Associate Fellow Advance HE, UK.
	Katie Gray is a post-graduate researcher focusing on the how the brain learns to process and perceive music. She comes from a multi-disciplinary background, including research in psychophysics, 10 years of consulting in acoustics and noise, and 30+ years as a musician. Her current research interests include how does the brain learn to perceive culturally specific rhythms, how does the brain learn through play, and how can music help bring people together?
	Francesco Guatelli , an environmental engineer, is graduating with a Master's degree in Monitoring of Agro-Territorial, Forest, and Landscape Ecosystems at the University of Bologna. In 2023, he was awarded a research grant through the SHEER (Soil Health Evaluation in Ecological Restoration) program, an international collaboration involving the University of Bologna, Nottingham Trent University (UK), Mount Kenya University, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya). As part of this project, he conducted field research in collaboration with CERK (Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya), focusing on soil quality assessment and ecosystem restoration in the Maasai Mara. His research integrates GIS, remote sensing, and agroecological approaches to develop Nature-Based Solutions for sustainable land management in collaboration with local communities.

	<p>Grace Lubega is a doctoral candidate at NTU at the Institute of Health and Allied Professions. She is interested in strengthening community health systems, especially in the active participation of lay persons in their health and wellbeing. Prior to her PhD, she worked as a Research Associate at Makerere University School of Public Health. Grace holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Sciences from Makerere University, Uganda, and a Master of Arts in Public Health from Nottingham Trent University, UK. Her research aims to develop sustainable community health interventions that are culturally appropriate and relevant.</p>
	<p>Dr Magaret Lubwama is on a 'AREF researcher development fellowship' with Nottingham Trent University. Dr Lubwama is a medical microbiologist and senior lecturer at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. Her research focuses on antimicrobial resistance in patients with cancer. Today's presentation is on 'Transmission of multidrug resistant bacteria at the Uganda Cancer Institute.'</p>
	<p>Calvin Manika, an award-winning journalist is the Chief Executive Officer of Besana Media, the publisher of The Besana Mail and Curator of Ubuntu Circle. He is a Mandela Washington Fellow (Michigan State University - US) and Chevening Scholar (Nottingham Trent University - UK). He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies and currently a Post Graduate Student in M.A Global Media and Communication with research interests in Global Crisis Reporting, Media ethics, and Community Media development in the Sub – Sahara Africa.</p>
	<p>Dr Lesley Masters is a senior lecturer and course leader for the MA in International Relations and MA International Relations & Security courses at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). Prior to moving to the UK, Lesley held a position at the University of Johannesburg as a senior researcher and lecturer at the SARChI Chair in African Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, where she remains affiliated as a Senior Research Associate. Before joining academia Lesley worked as the programme manager for foreign policy and diplomacy at the Institute for Global Dialogue, a foreign policy think tank based in Pretoria, South Africa. Lesley's research is in this field of foreign policy and diplomacy, with an interest in South African foreign policy, and Diplomatic history, and the role of non-state actors in diplomacy.</p>
	<p>Dr Conor Meehan is a researcher in pathogen epidemiology and genetics, primarily Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Mycobacterium leprae. He works closely with partner countries to help them incorporate genome sequencing into their clinical and public health decision making. His presentation is titled 'Detecting cross border transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in East Africa.' Tuberculosis is an ever-present threat in many African countries, but most public health is done on a country-by-country basis. Here Dr Meehan will show that the primary drug-resistant strain of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Rwanda is also found in neighbouring countries, prompting a need for more inter-country collaborations on tackling this disease.</p>
	<p>Sonyanga Ole Ngais is an advocacy filmmaker and community activist dedicated to amplifying marginalised voices through storytelling. His work addresses pressing social injustices, including female genital mutilation, child marriage, environmental challenges, and the need for quality education. In addition to his advocacy through film, he has contributed to documentaries such as Warriors, African Drivers, The Lions Slide Story, and The Journey is the Destination, and has proudly represented the Maasai Cricket Warriors. His mission is to bridge cultural divides and inspire communities to live together in peace and mutual respect.</p>



Samantha Matanaka Tsungu, a young girl born and raised in Zimbabwe, the first born in a family of four. My story starts from a rebellious era during my childhood and teenage years, damaged, wounded and lost in a realm of crippling belief systems and natural occurrences around me. From being raised by a single mum as an only child, to boarding school, having a new father and lovely siblings and then some setbacks and finally to regaining my inner self at the age of 19 until now. My story involves a whole lot of occurrences, but this whole journey until now, has led to so many awakenings, I have and continue to learn, meekness, obedience, the power of unity and humility. Life from 19 has been a journey that is being continually woven. I am grateful to my family, to the friends and new people that became family and to every single good/bad experience, because all these have taught me so much, after all, great companies are only famous because they improved other companies “bad reviews”. This is my story, thank you.



Karin Zakeyo, PhD Student, School of Social Sciences, NTU. Karin’s research interest is HIV, with her undergraduate and 1st degree research module on HIV among black sub-Saharan Africans (BSSA). Now I am in my 4th year PGR, researching on BSSA living with long-term condition (including HIV). I would like to pursue research on HIV in the future. Today’s presentation titled ‘Life during and after the covid-19 pandemic for people living with LTC. Her presentation will focus on the challenges they faced after the pandemic and how they are coping with their daily lives.

Day 2: Panel Overviews and Speaker Bios

Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Welcome and Introduction

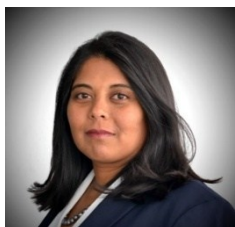


Professor Edward Peck, Vice-Chancellor and President joined Nottingham Trent University on 1 August 2014, since when, as The Sunday Times Good University Guide put it recently, the University “is enjoying a period of unprecedented success”. It was this same guide’s Modern University of the Year in 2018, the Times Higher Education University of the Year in 2017, and The Guardian University of the Year in 2019.

Beyond the University, Professor Peck is a Trustee of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) and Deputy Chair of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). In July 2020 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. In July 2020 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Professor Peck was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2021 New Year Honours List for Services to Higher Education. In June 2022, Higher Education and Further Education Minister Michelle Donelan announced that the Department for Education (DfE) appointed Professor Peck as its first Student Support Champion.



Professor Richard Emes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & International at NTU. As PVC Research and International, Richard is responsible for the leadership of a compelling strategy to deliver a step change in research activity and improvement of the international student experience. This includes leadership of the University's international partnership strategy, responsibility for the investment of funds to build continued success and preparation for national assessment exercises. His international responsibility is to deliver an exceptional student experience for international students at NTU and to provide both in-country and virtual international opportunities for all NTU students. Richard is a trustee of the John Van Geest Cancer Research Charity and Chair of the Medical Technologies Innovation Facility Board. Nationally, he is a member of the East Midlands Combined County Authority Innovation Advisory Board to the Mayor and assisting in the development of the regional Inclusive Growth Plan; Chair of the UK Researcher Development Concordat Strategy Group developing the UK concordat for researchers in partnership with national funders, industry and academia and Chair of the UKRI-BBSRC Transformative Technologies Strategic Advisory Panel providing insight, horizon scanning and policy advice to UKRI.



Professor Mazeda Hossain, Director of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre and Professor of Global Health. As Director of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre, she leads a strategic research centre that focuses on improving the SDGs through research and innovation in the Africa region. She is a social epidemiologist who leads transdisciplinary research with a focus on gender, violence, and health especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings. She was previously a co-Director of the UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub, a £15 million global research consortium focused on conflict-affected settings. She is currently leading the development of a new quantitative multi-dimensional index on societal wellbeing which accounts for factors relevant to fragile and conflict-affected settings – The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index.

Day 2: Panel Overviews and Speaker Bios

Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Keynote Speakers

Keynote Address I

Africa We Want: The Role of Transformative Leadership



His Excellency Johnston Busingye, High Commissioner of Rwanda to the United Kingdom

His Excellency Johnston Busingye is the current High Commissioner of Rwanda to the United Kingdom. Previously, he served as the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, from 2013 to 2022. He has a Bachelor of Laws, obtained from Makerere University and also holds a Diploma in Legal Practice, awarded by the Law Development Centre in Kampala. Johnston Busingye has held many positions in the Rwandan government and Rwandan judiciary. From 2006 until 2013, he served as the President of the High Court of Rwanda. Other previous responsibilities include as the National Prosecutor of Rwanda, as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and as Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

Keynote Address II

Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurial Development



Ambassador Bitange Ndemo, PhD., FKIM, CBS, Kenya's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium

Prof Ndemo Bitange is the Kenyan Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, a global technocrat, editor, advisor and a champion of Pan-Africanism. Previously, he was the Permanent Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communication and Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Nairobi School of Business. He is an advocate of development strategies leveraging emergent technologies and social enterprise in Africa. His research centres on the link between ICTs and small and medium enterprises with emphasis on how ICTs influence economic development in Africa. He chaired the Kenya Distributed Ledgers and Artificial Intelligence Taskforce that developed a Kenyan road map for digital transformation. He is an advisor and Board member to several organisations including Safaricom, one of the leading telecommunication companies in Africa.

Day 2: Panel Overviews and Speaker Bios





Wednesday, 12 March 2025

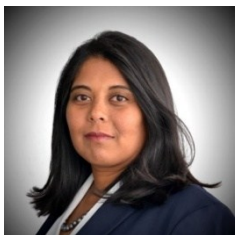




Panel One

Transformative Leadership and Innovation in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Future Directions

Overview

Panel One will explore the intersection of entrepreneurship, innovation, and educational leadership in addressing the challenges faced in Africa. This session will emphasise empowerment through comprehensive and innovative approaches, including ones that work with marginalised groups while considering the broader context of conflict and crisis settings.

Panel Chair	
	<p>Dr Jon Gorry, Head of Department for Social and Political Sciences, NTU. His role is to provide academic leadership, strategic and operational management within the subject areas of Sociology, Politics, International Relations, Public Policy and Security Studies at undergraduate, postgraduate and commercial levels. His responsibilities encompass learning and teaching, scholarship and research, internationalisation activities together with a wider contribution to the civic mission of the Department, School, and University. Dr Gorry is also the Chair of '<i>The Eastern Africa (EA) PhD Hub</i>', a strategic EAC partnership between NTU and six Eastern Africa universities in Uganda, Malawi, and Kenya. It aims to strengthen the quality of doctoral supervision through partnership, knowledge exchange through sharing good practice across the regions, and development of a strong mentorship programme.</p>
Panellists (listed alphabetically)	
	<p>Winifred Atemba is the Founder and Executive Director of 'At the Heart of a Woman' (ATHOW), a women-led grassroots NGO focused on empowering women in marginalised communities. With a decade of experience in project facilitation, mentoring, and financial advisory, Winnie is dedicated to empowering women through holistic community development. Her core values of integrity, reliability, and excellence drive her commitment to social justice and combating poverty.</p>
	<p>Dr Cleveland Barnett is currently an Associate Professor of Biomechanics in the Department of Sport Science and Director of Doctoral Programmes in the School of Science and Technology at Nottingham Trent University. Dr Barnett is a member of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, where he is also a member of the Scientific Committee and a member of the ISPO World Congress 2023 and 2025 Scientific Committees.</p>
	<p>Professor Angus Hunter, Head of Department of Sport Science and Professor in Neuromuscular Physiology at NTU. Prior to joining NTU in October 2021, I was Professor of Neuromuscular Physiology and Associate Dean of Research for The Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport, University of Stirling. I was at The University of Stirling since 2002 before which I received my Doctoral degree from University of Cape Town (foreign scholarship), in the Physiology of Exercise examining various manipulations on neural fatigue. My research focuses on understanding how the brain recruits muscle within different populations and within different conditions. This research spans understanding</p>

	of elite athletic performance, sport concussion to non-communicable diseases of South African township populations.
	Professor Mazeda Hossain, Director of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre and Professor of Global Health. As Director of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre, she leads a strategic research centre that focuses on improving the SDGs through research and innovation in the Africa region. She is a social epidemiologist who leads transdisciplinary research with a focus on gender, violence, and health especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings. She was previously a co-Director of the UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub, a £15 million global research consortium focused on conflict-affected settings. She is currently leading the development of a new quantitative multi-dimensional index on societal wellbeing which accounts for factors relevant to fragile and conflict-affected settings – The Global Wellbeing and Resilience Index.
	Dr Lesley Masters is a senior lecturer and course leader for the MA in International Relations and MA International Relations and Security courses at Nottingham Trent University. Prior to moving to the UK, Lesley held a position at the University of Johannesburg as a senior researcher and lecturer at the SARChI Chair in African Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, where she remains affiliated as a Senior Research Associate. Before joining academia, Lesley worked as the programme manager for foreign policy and diplomacy at the Institute for Global Dialogue, a foreign policy think tank based in Pretoria, South Africa. Lesley's research is in this field of foreign policy and diplomacy, with an interest in South African foreign policy, and Diplomatic history, and the role of non-state actors in diplomacy.
	Angela Robson is a multi award-winning journalist and filmmaker and Director of an independent production company, Pearl Works Productions. Angela has reported from over fifty countries, investigating, filming and producing media content from some of the world's most challenging environments for media outlets including the BBC, the Guardian, Al Jazeera, Le Monde diplomatique, and for a number of NGOs.
	Prof Dr Amon Simba is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Nottingham Business School (NBS) at NTU, and his expertise lies in entrepreneurship and innovation with a focus on Africa. Amon is the Director of the ' <i>AfrIE Research Hub</i> ', an important network and partnership in the Eastern Africa Centre. Prof Dr Simba supervises PhD students whose studies focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. In addition to his roles at NBS, he is a Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Central University of Technology, Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Prof Dr Simba is also an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (IJESB) and the Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship (JSBE).
	Dr Abdishakur Tarah is a Senior Lecturer and researcher in education policy and management at Nottingham Institute of Education (NIE) at NTU. He has served as an education officer in Local Education Authority in Leicester. He also worked as senior education advocate for marginalised and minority communities in the UK. He has number of published works including "Research and Practices for Sustainable Development, education policy, school leadership in armed conflict zones." He has worked as independent education consultant and worked with many basic and higher education institutions in Somalia and throughout East Africa. He is a member of globally known education networks and partnerships, including the Education in Crisis and Conflict Network and Higher Education Learning Network. He is the proud father of four and lives in Leicester, Premier League Champion City of 2015.



Dorcas Wairimu is the Project Coordinator 'At the Heart of a Woman' (ATHOW), bringing nearly six years of experience in strategic communications, media relations, and partnerships management. With over seven years of experience in community-building programmes, Dorcas has a strong focus on supporting vulnerable women and children. Her expertise in community engagement and communication, combined with her passion for transformative social change, enables her to drive impactful initiatives that foster lasting change in marginalised communities.

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Panel Two

Biocultural Restoration: Merging Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Science

Overview

Technology and traditional knowledge are transformative and must be integrated when planning the restoration of working landscapes. Panel Two will showcase the research agenda implemented by the NTU ARES team in Kenya, where a diverse range of approaches have been implemented, from landscape monitoring to ecosystem restoration and soil management. This session will explore the incorporation of new ecological monitoring methods using advanced technologies, such as eco-acoustics. It will also highlight how this dynamic and innovative team plans to integrate remote sensing, robotic automation, and artificial intelligence, among other new technological approaches, into their research.

Panel Chair

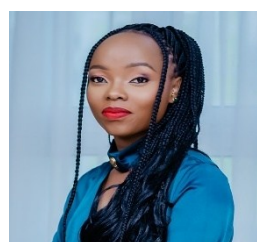


Professor Andy Gill, Associate Dean for Research, School of Animal Rural & Environmental Sciences (ARES), NTU. Andy is responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership to support the development, implementation and monitoring of the research and innovation strategy of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences. One of his key aims is to enhance the quality of the school's research environment, income, outputs and impact.

Panellists (listed alphabetically)



Dr Marcello Di Bonito is an Associate Professor of Environmental and Soil Sciences in the School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences (ARES) at NTU, where he carries out his teaching and research activities. Dr Di Bonito is an active researcher with a multidisciplinary approach, but with particular interests in soil conservation and its sustainable management, the relationship between natural resources, their ecosystem functions, and their modelling and understanding, especially through GIS and remote sensing. He currently focuses his research on ecological restoration issues, the role of soil in the restoration of ecosystems, and the use of remote sensors and analysis.



Consolata Gathoni is the first recipient of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre PhD-at-Distance Studentship, based in Kenya. Consolata is a dedicated ecologist with over five years of experience, specialising in conservation technology to advance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. In her current role as a postgraduate researcher at Nottingham Trent University, she integrates acoustic monitoring with traditional ecological methods to assess restoration levels and degradation gradients in African savannah ecosystems. Her work is supported by expertise in conservation technology, GIS, and scientific writing. Consolata has led impactful research projects, published in reputable journals, and presented at prominent international conferences. She has earned recognition for her contributions through prestigious awards, including the Neville Shulman Earthwatch Award and the Rufford Small Grant which continues to support and motivate her career.



Dr Felipe Melo is an Associate Professor in Ecological Restoration Sciences in the School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences (ARES) at NTU and the NTU Eastern Africa Centre Professorship focused on ecological conservation. His research interests are focussed on how to conserve biocultural diversity in rural social-ecological tropical landscapes.



Alex Nduah is the second recipient of the NTU Eastern Africa Centre PhD-at-Distance Studentship, based in Kenya. Alex is an ecologist with over 6 years of experience working in both research and development agencies in ecosystem management. He is keen on advancing research on the Savannah ecosystem restoration by integrating scientific and traditional ecological knowledge to simultaneously achieve conservation goals and socio-economic wellbeing of the local communities. Alex is a PhD research student at NTU, and his project is based in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya. His current research has earned recognition from the prestigious Neville Shulman Earthwatch Award.

Day 2: Panel Overviews and Speaker Bios




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Panel Three

Building Resilient International Academic Partnerships

Overview

This panel will explore the development and impact of international academic partnerships in Africa. The session will highlight strategies for equitable knowledge exchange, capacity building, the integration of global research priorities, and future directions for these partnerships. This diverse panel will provide valuable insights into the complexities and benefits of international academic partnerships in Africa, showcasing the EAC's commitment to global engagement and sustainable development.

Panel Chair	
	<p>Professor Neil Mansfield is the Executive Dean of Research and International Reputation at NTU. Professor Mansfield joined NTU from the School of Design Engineering at Imperial College London where he was Professor of Design Engineering and Human Factors. At Imperial, he has been central to the establishment of the School of Design Engineering which launched in 2015. He established the Human Performance and Experience research cluster and the college Human Factors Network. Before joining Imperial, Neil was Professor of Human Factors Engineering and Associate Dean for Research at Loughborough University Design School. He is both a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Ergonomist / Human Factors Specialist as well as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).</p>
Panellists (listed alphabetically)	
	<p>Michael Obeng Brown is a Research Associate at the Institute of Health and Allied Professions, part of Nottingham Trent University's (NTU) Social Science School. He held an Honorary Research Fellow role at Queens Mary University London and is currently a recipient of NTU's Vice Chancellor's PhD Studentship at Nottingham Business School. His doctoral research project seeks to provide context-specific Afrocentric strategies for deploying socially innovative solutions to health-related problems in underserved communities. Michael's research areas can be classed in the following categories: health promotion; health systems strengthening; public health; mental health; regional economics; social innovation and entrepreneurship; and policy analysis.</p>
	<p>Professor Linda Gibson has over twenty years of experience in health promotion and working with local communities in the UK and internationally. Prof Gibson has worked in East Africa since 2003 running workshops on qualitative research for the British Council in Tanzania, and leading a partnership with School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda since 2012. Prof Gibson is currently involved in several research partnerships, networks and teaching projects in Europe, East Africa (Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia) and across Africa, including the NTU Africa Middle East Network, Pan-African Mental Health Network, and the East African PhD Hub. She is the UK lead of the NTU-MAK Partnership.</p>

	<p>Grace Lubega is a doctoral candidate at NTU at the Institute of Health and Allied Professions. She is interested in strengthening community health systems, especially in the active participation of lay persons in their health and wellbeing. Prior to her PhD, she worked as a Research Associate at Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda. Grace and Dr Jody Winter will reflect on what they have learnt through working together on CwPAMS, an international partnership project that aims to improve antimicrobial stewardship (optimal use of antimicrobial drugs) to help tackle the global problem of antimicrobial resistance.</p>
	<p>Dr David Musoke is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health at Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) in Uganda. He holds a Bachelors in Environmental Health Sciences from Makerere University, a MSc in International Primary Health Care from the University of London (UK), and PhD in Public Health from Cardiff Metropolitan University (UK). Dr Musoke is the Uganda lead of the NTU-MAK Partnership.</p>
	<p>Dr Clare Newstead, Associate Director - NTU Global. Clare provides direction on international partnerships, collaborative education, student and staff mobility, and internationalisation of the curriculum.</p>
	<p>Dr Chris Rolph is Associate Professor of Education Policy and Practice, and the Director of Nottingham Institute of Education. He is keen to develop new partnerships with institutions at home and abroad and is firmly committed to a collaborative approach to education at all levels, in which developments in teaching and learning are based on robust research.</p>
	<p>Prof Dr Amon Simba is an Associate Professor of entrepreneurship and innovation at Nottingham Business School (NBS) in the UK, and his expertise lies in entrepreneurship and innovation with a focus on Africa. Amon is the Director of the AfrIE Research Hub at NBS. He supervises PhD students whose studies focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. In addition to his roles at NBS, he is a Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Central University of Technology, Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. He is also an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (IJESB) and the Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship (JSBE).</p>
	<p>Professor Tholene Sodi holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a PhD (Psychology) from the University of Cape Town. He is a registered Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Psychology at the University of Limpopo (South Africa). He holds the SAMRCDSI/NRF-UL SARChI Chair in Mental Health and Society at the same university. He is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and serves as a Member of its Standing Committee on Health. He is a founder member of the Pan African Mental Health Research Network (PAMHRN). Prof Sodi has published widely in both local and international journals and has presented more than 100 conference papers nationally and internationally. His key areas of research interest include youth mental health; culture and mental illness/health; African psychology; behavioural medicine; and mental health policy. tholene.sodi@ul.ac.za; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7592-5145</p>



Allan Ssemuusi, is an early-career researcher at School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda and an alumnus of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme, 2023.



Dr Jody Winter is a Principal Lecturer in Microbiology in the Department of Biosciences at Nottingham Trent University. Her main research focus is on understanding disease-causing bacteria, especially those that have become resistant to antibiotics. Jody and Grace will reflect on what they have learnt through working together on CwPAMS, an international partnership project that aims to improve antimicrobial stewardship (optimal use of antimicrobial drugs) to help tackle the global problem of antimicrobial resistance.