



UNIVERSITY OF
CAPE COAST

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LAWEH
OPEN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



14th ANIE Conference 2024

9th-11th Oct 2024 Accra, Ghana

Theme: Repositioning International Education for Africa's Future

Speaker Bios

Welcome to the Speaker Bio Book for the 14th Annual Conference of the African Network for Internationalisation of Education (ANIE). This year's conference, held from October 9th to 11th in Accra, Ghana, under the theme "Repositioning the International Education Agenda for Africa's Future," brings together a distinguished group of scholars, educators, and industry leaders.

In this Bio Book, you will find detailed profiles of our esteemed speakers, each of whom brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the conference. From tackling the challenges of COVID-19 and global conflicts to exploring the impacts of disruptive technologies and climate change, our speakers are set to provide invaluable insights into the future of international education in Africa.

We are honored to present these thought leaders who will share their knowledge, foster meaningful discussions, and contribute to shaping the future of education on the continent. We invite you to explore their bios, learn about their achievements, and prepare for the engaging sessions ahead.

Keynote Speaker

Prof Rosemond Boohene

Prof Rosemond Boohene is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast and a Professor of Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise Development.

She has 27 years' experience in higher education and holds a PhD from the University of New England, Armidale Australia and a PDip.Com and MCom (Accounting) from the University of Otago, New Zealand. She has managed projects for the European Union (EU), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the United Nations Environmental programme (UNEP).

She also led a team to establishment the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise Development and the Design Thinking and Innovation Hub at the University of Cape Coast. Prof. Boohene has presented at conferences and facilitated various workshops on entrepreneurship, small enterprise development, entrepreneurial universities, industry-academia engagement and resource mobilization in higher education.



*Pro Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Cape Coast*



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*President, Laweh Open University College, Ghana
Chair, African Network for Internationalisation of Education, ANIE*

Prof. Goski Alabi - Chair ANIE

Professor Goski Alabi is an accomplished academic, practitioner and entrepreneur with experience in academia, consultancy, and regulations. She is a Professor of Quality Management and Leadership and holds B.Sc. in Chemistry and a Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast, an M. Phil. in Food Science from the University of Ghana, Legon, a Doctor of Business Administration from the Swiss Management Centre, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Central University of Nicaragua. Prof. Goski is currently the Dean of the Centre for International Education and Collaboration at the University for Professional Studies, Accra and served as the Founding Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the University. As the Founding Dean she grew the School from zero to 1000 students in six short years. She is a Quality Management professional of the highest order. She is a Chartered Quality Professional (CQP) from the Chartered Quality Institute, UK. She has consulted widely, and has published over 70 scholarly journal articles, books conference and technical papers. Prof. Goski Alabi proposed and facilitated the establishment of the Otumfuo Centre for Traditional Leadership and the Drolor Centre for Strategic Leadership, two leadership centres of excellence in Ghana. Prof. Goski is passionate about open supported teaching and learning and is the co-founder of Laweh Open University College.

Prof. Kefa Simwa - Executive Director ANIE

Prof. Kefa Lidundu Simwa is the Executive Director of ANIE and is thus responsible to the Board for the implementation of ANIEs programs and activities. Dr. Simwa is a senior lecturer and Chair of Department, Educational Foundations in the School of Education at Moi University. He earned his Ph D at University of Johannesburg, South Africa in 2013. His area of specialisation is History of Education. Dr. Simwa started his professional career as a teacher educator in Moi University in 1996 and to date, he has a quarter a century of work experience. In addition to teaching and supervision of undergraduate students, he is actively involved in supervision of Masters and PhD candidates in addition to undertaking various research projects. He is an experienced researcher who has published several journal articles and book chapters. Among other professional organisations he is affiliated to is the American Association of Educational Researchers (AERA) and African Network on Internalisation of Education (ANIE). He aspires to enhance the research and knowledge generation role of ANIE, strengthen the capacities of international offices, foster the development of early career researchers in different disciplines and create platforms for scholarly exchanges on internationalization of education in Africa.



*Executive Director,
African Network for
Internationalisation of
Education, ANIE*



Founding Executive Director, African Network for Internationalisation of Education, ANIE

Dr. James Otieno JOWI

Dr. James Otieno Jowi is the Principal Education Officer at the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat (composed of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania) where he coordinates the development and implementation of regional education programs (www.eachq.org). He is the founding Executive Director of the African Network for Internationalization of Education – ANIE– (www.anienetwork.org) a pan-African organization focused on internationalization of higher education in Africa. He is currently a member of the ANIE Board and chairs the research committee. He holds a PhD from the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, Netherlands; a Masters in Comparative & International Education, University of Oslo, Norway; a Master of Linguistics & Bachelor of Education from Moi University, Kenya. Before joining the EAC, he was a Senior Lecturer at the School of Education, Moi University, Kenya where he taught Comparative and International Education. His research and publications focus on internationalization, governance and leadership in higher education with a focus on Africa. He sits in several international boards including the African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE), the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education & Research for Development (APPEAR), Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART), Association of Studies in International Education (ASIE), the technical committee of AUs Committee of Ten Heads of States on Science & Technology and the IAU Expert Committee on Internationalization. He has published extensively on internationalization in Africa and undertaken several studies and consultancies on higher education in Africa.

Prof. Chika Schoole

Professor Chika Schoole is a professor of higher education and the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria. He obtained his PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in December 2002. In 2003/4 he was a visiting Rockefeller post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for African Studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. In 2005/06 he was a New Century Fulbright Fellow again, at the same university. His research interests are in the areas of higher education policy, internationalization of higher education, higher education in Africa and globalization of higher education. He has served in several international research projects focusing on higher education and providing expertise from the South African and African perspectives. In 2013–2017 he served as the Chairperson of the Board of the African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) and he is currently serving on its board. He currently serves as the chairperson of the Education Deans' Forum of South Africa. He has three– edited scholarly books on higher education, one sole authored book titled "Democratising higher education policy, constraints of policy in post-apartheid South Africa. He has published more than 40 articles in journal articles, book chapters and popular media. In 2020–2022 he was appointed a guest editor of the subsection of the Elsevier's Encyclopedia on Education which focused on Higher Education Policy Governance and Practice. This is a volume that is produce ones in 10 years. This was in recognition of his expertise in the field higher education.



Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria.



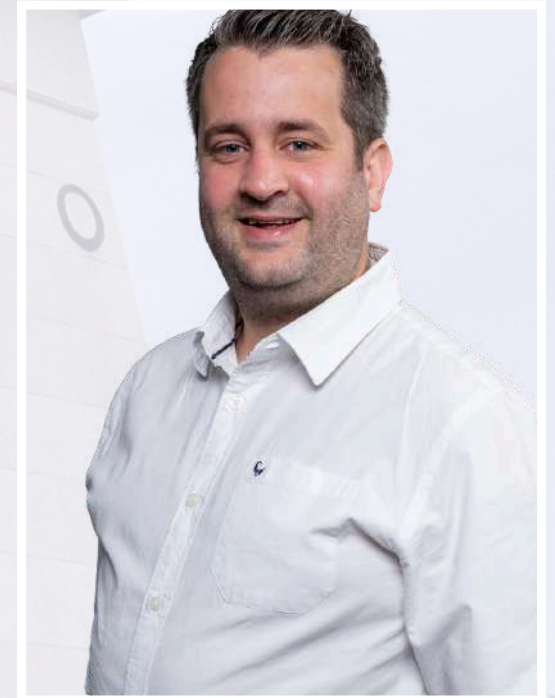
*Chairholder UNESCO
Chair on Intercultural
Competence at
Stellenbosch University*

Dr. Darla K. Deardorff

Dr. Darla K. Deardorff is the chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University. In addition, she is a research fellow at Duke University and holds several other faculty appointments at universities around the world including in Japan, China, and Canada. She is also a former faculty member at Harvard University's Global Education Think Tank and Future of Learning Institute. She specialises in intercultural scholarship and training, assessment and evaluation, teacher/faculty preparation/development, curriculum internationalisation, global leadership, and intercultural coaching and she is regularly invited to speak around the world on these topics. In addition, she consults with organisations such as OECD, UNESCO, World Bank and International Baccalaureate Organization, among others. Founding president of the World Council in Global and Intercultural Competence, she is author/editor of over twelve books and 60+ book chapters and articles. She holds a masters and doctorate from North Carolina State University.

Werner de Wit

Werner de Wit is the Senior Programme Manager of the Unit for Student Mobility at Stellenbosch University International, and the Operational Coordinator: UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competences. He is responsible for the UNESCO Chair operations and is the international liaison. He holds BComm & LLB Bachelor degrees, and an MPhil (Higher Education). His Masters Thesis topic was on the Development of students' Intercultural Competences through a study abroad experience. Student learning, leadership and development, Internationalisation and Intercultural Competences are topics he is passionate about. He is currently a PhD (Higher Education) candidate focussing on Intercultural Competence. He has worked over the past 12 years in developing short term study abroad opportunities facilitating global learning of international and local students at SU. He is a UNESCO Story Circles facilitator and regularly facilitates workshops on behalf of the Chair.



*Senior Programme
Manager of the Unit for
Student Mobility at
Stellenbosch University
International, and the
Operational Coordinator:
UNESCO Chair on
Intercultural
Competences.*



*Project Manager for
Africa at OBREAL Global*

Apiyo Okwiri

Apiyo Okwiri is currently the Project Manager for Africa at OBREAL Global. She has vast experience in the field of International cooperation in Higher Education and quality assurance.

She has worked as a lead consultant on Research and Education Networks in Eastern and Southern Africa of Ubuntunet Alliance, Malawi. She has been involved in several collaborative projects with other organizations focused on Higher Education, namely the Association of African Universities (AAU), the African Union (AU), and the European Universities Association (EUA) under the Africa-EU partnership as a Tuning Expert in Tuning Africa and Institutional Evaluation Expert in Europe-Africa Quality Connect: Building Institutional Capacity through Partnership.

She is a former President of Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA) global, former President of the EMA African Chapter and Co – Chair of Erasmus+ Students and Alumni Alliance (ESAA). She is currently co-leading the establishment of the African Student and Alumni Forum (ASAF).

Huba Boshoff

Huba Boshoff has built a career in the higher education sector. In the past two decades she has worked in the field of student development, programme development and accreditation, quality assurance and internationalisation. Huba's previous professional roles include being the Manager of the Center for Partnerships and Internationalisation at Stellenbosch University where her portfolio included partnership management, strategy development and information management. She has also worked intensively on student development establishing the Unit for Multiculturalism (also at Stellenbosch University), reviewing student leadership structures and support mechanisms and crafting interventions that engage students both inside and outside the classroom.

She is currently the Director for Nuffic in Southern Africa (part time) with a specific focus on fostering innovative models of collaboration in internationalisation between South Africa (and other African countries) and the Netherlands.

Alongside her professional positions, Huba served as a member of the International Education Association for South Africa (IEASA) from 2013 –2019 and volunteered as trainer for the former international student programme, SAWIP as well being a faculty member for ENACTUS.

She completed a Masters degree in Higher Education (cum laude) at Stellenbosch University and focused her research on the barriers to international student mobility. She holds further academic qualifications in Community Development and Knowledge management.

In 2022 Huba established The Knowledge Collab as a platform to conduct consulting assignments alongside her role as Director of Nuffic Neso South Africa/Southern Africa. The Knowledge Collab is based on the principles of trust, creativity and impact.



*Director for Nuffic in
Southern Africa*



Dr Samia Chasi

As a member of the National Academy for International Education (NAIE), based at the Institute of International Education (IIE), Samia Chasi is an internationally recognized leader in the field of higher education internationalisation. Her career as an international education practitioner, scholar and facilitator spans 25 years.

Samia is currently the Manager: Strategic Initiatives, Partnership Development and Research at the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA). Before joining IEASA, she worked in international offices of German and South African universities, an agency of the European Commission as well as representations of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic and the British Council in South Africa.

Samia is passionate about facilitating deeper understanding and connections between diverse people and institutions by creating spaces for critical engagement and constructive dialogue. Her current research interests lie in Global South perspectives on higher education internationalisation, with a particular focus on critical perspectives and decolonial approaches. Samia holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg), a Master of Philosophy in Engineering Management (University of Johannesburg) and a Master of Arts in English, Russian and Sociology (University of Rostock).

Manager: Strategic Initiatives, Partnership Development and Research at the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA)

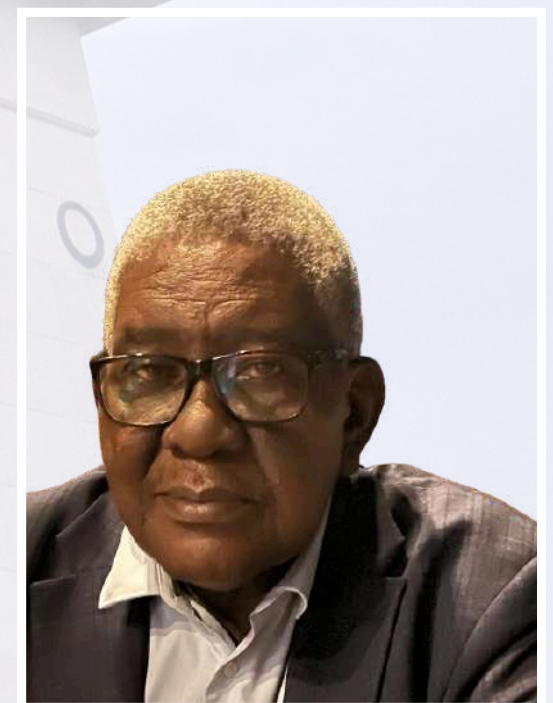
Prof. Felix Maringe

Felix Maringe is a Professor of Higher Education and the current Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional Development, Research and Innovation at the University of Kigali. He is a former Head of the Wits School of Education and Assistant Dean for Internationalisation and Partnerships at the Wits Faculty of Humanities. He researches in areas of international education, leadership in educational environments of multiple deprivation and in decoloniality in higher education.

After completing his doctorate, he was appointed as lecturer at the University of Southampton where he worked between 2004 and 2012, rising to the level of Senior Lecturer. Felix was appointed at Wits as Associate Professor in 2012 and became full Professor in 2015 in the department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies.

Professor Maringe is extensively well published with 122 outputs including 13 edited and jointly authored books. His peer reviewed articles have been cited more than 5800 times and has a Google Scholar H-index of 32 and an i10 index of 55 indicating that 55 of his articles have been cited more than 10 times each. Three of his articles have achieved the status of classics after attaining more than 400 citations each.

He is an NRF rated scholar, an admitted Fellow of the South African Academy of Science and a Fellow of the British Higher Education Academy. He is also the current Editor in Chief of the Journal of Education Studies hosted at the University of Venda.



Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional Development, Research and Innovation at the University of Kigali.



Charlotte M'Doe LLM

Charlotte M'Doe is a senior policy advisor (International Affairs), based at the central Strategy and Policy department of the University of Twente in the Netherlands. She has extensive experience at public and private education institutions in the UK, Japan and the Netherlands, with a focus on international education including internationalisation policy, partnership management, stakeholder engagement, governmental relations and marketing. Throughout her career in higher education, she has focused on amplifying the African voice at the institutions and organizations where she has worked – both at a strategic and operational level.

*Senior Policy Advisor -
International Affairs
University of Twente*

Prof. Charles Ong'ondo

Prof. Charles Ochieng' Ong'ondo is the Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). Prof. Charles Ochieng' Ong'ondo is an Associate Professor in Teacher Education.

He is a Commonwealth Academic Fellow and Scholar who holds a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Research Methodology (University Warwick, UK), a PhD in English Language Teacher Education (the University of Leeds, UK), an M.Phil. Degree in English Language Education (Moi University, Kenya), a B.Ed. Degree in English and Literature (Moi University), and a Diploma in Education (Siriba Teachers College – Kenya). His academic interests are: Research Methodology (with special interest in Qualitative research); Teacher Education (with keen attention to the Practicum); English Language Pedagogy (at School, Tertiary and University levels); Training of Trainers; Curriculum/Programme/Course Design and Evaluation; Academic Writing and Organizational Communication.

Before he joined KICD, Prof. Ong'ondo was a Teacher Educator in English Language Teacher Education in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Media (CIEM) in the School of Education at Moi University – Kenya. He has worked at Moi University for Sixteen years – rising from the level of Assistant Lecturer in 2004, through the ranks of Lecturer and Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor. Prior to joining the university as a lecturer, Charles had had Thirteen years' experience as a teacher of English Language and Literature in English at secondary school level in Kenya. While at Moi University, Prof. Ong'ondo served as the Executive Director of African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) for more than three years



*Director/Chief Executive
Officer (CEO) at the
Kenya Institute of
Curriculum Development
(KICD)*



Divinia Jithoo

Ms Divinia Jithoo is a Specialist in International Education at the International Education and Partnerships Office at the Durban University of Technology. She has gained extensive experience in higher education internationalisation.

She has a keen interest in internationalisation of the curriculum and has gained expertise in International Virtual Engagement, specifically in Collaborative Online International Learning as a approach to inclusive internationalisation. She also holds a PhD in Higher Education Studies from the University of Western Cape, with a focus on global structural dynamics of academic cross border collaboration.

Specialist in International Education at the International Education and Partnerships Office at the Durban University of Technology.

Dr Lavern Samuels

Dr Lavern Samuels is a global leader in the field of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and International Virtual Exchange (IVE). He is a sought-after speaker in international education on the global stage. Dr Samuels is also dental surgeon and medical scientist with a special interest in oral medicine and broader public health.

Currently, he serves as the Director of International Education and Partnerships (IEP) at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). He has held the Directors position for 15 years. He was also the Senate Representative on the University Council and the Council EXCO for 16 years. He is also the past Chairperson of the DUT Institutional Forum, a position he held for 14 years. Dr Samuels has also played a leading role in the development of the institutional strategy, ENVISION2030 as part of the DUT Strategic Planning Working Group, a body established by the DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Dr Samuels is also the President of the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) for the period of 2023 – 2024, a position he previously held from 2012 – 2014. In 2014, as President of IEASA, Dr Samuels hosted the Presidents and Executive Directors of Sister Organisations from across the globe in a seminal gathering, the first Global Dialogue in International Education. This resulted in the Nelson Mandela Bay Declaration, a landmark document in international education. He has also served two terms as Deputy President and has also served as Treasurer and Chair of the IEASA Directors Forum. In addition, he is the Chair of the Board of the Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD), a consortium of 60 universities across 15 countries from the Southern African and Nordic regions. Furthermore, Dr Samuels was elected as the President of the International Virtual Exchange Consortium (IVEC) Board and is the Chair of the Network of International Education Associations (NIEA), the peak global body for international education associations. Furthermore, Dr Samuels serves on the global board of the Climate Action Network of International Educators (CANIE).



Director of International Education and Partnerships (IEP) at the Durban University of Technology (DUT).



Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Director, Institute of Research at Africa Nazarene University (ANU).

Prof. Orpha Ongiti

Orpha Ongiti is a Professor of Educational Administration and Policy Studies. She is an Educationist, Administrator, Researcher, and Policy Specialist. Prof. Ongiti holds a PhD in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from the State University of New York at Albany; a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from the State University of New York at Albany. Prof. Ongiti earned her Master of Education (MED) degree in Curriculum Studies from Kenyatta University, and a Bachelor of Education (BED) degree in Swahili Language and Philosophy of Religious Studies from the University of Nairobi. Prof. Ongiti is a Ford Foundation International Fellow (2002).

Currently, Prof. Ongiti serves as the Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Director, Institute of Research at Africa Nazarene University (ANU). Prior to that, she worked as the Principal Nairobi CBD Campus, Africa Nazarene University. Prof. Ongiti is a renowned teacher/faculty, having taught in High School and at the University for many years. Prof. Ongiti served as a Council Member at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) (2016–2022). She is a member of the African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE); American Educational Research Association (AERA); World Educational Research Association (WERA); Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER); British Educational Research Association (BERA); and Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). Prof. Ongiti has received various awards including Dissertation Research Fellowship Award; Initiative for Women Award; Leadership Award, and The Bette Knowlton Roe Scholarship. Prof. Ongiti's research areas include policy and gender equity issues in higher education, particularly in the STEM fields; Internationalization and Globalization; Partnerships and Collaborations in Higher Education. Presently, she is engaged in a research project: Internationalization and Digitalization of Graduate Training and Research for the Attainment of African Regional and Global Development Goals. Project acronym: DigiGrad Africa, Project 101082765.

Prof Dr Christopher Odhiambo Joseph

Prof Dr Christopher Odhiambo Joseph is the immediate former Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation, Odhiambo is a Professor of Literature and Applied Theatre in the Department of Literature, Linguistics, Foreign Languages, and Film at the School of Arts and Social Sciences. He serves as the MU team leader for the EU-Erasmus Plus Creating Postgraduate Collaboration (CPC) Project and is the MU focal person for the Consortium for Advanced Research and Training in Africa (CARTA). Additionally, he is the spokesperson for the Research Section, Arts and Aesthetics in the African Multiple Cluster Centre for Excellence at Moi University. He is actively involved in teaching, research, supervision, community service, and outreach. Teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Literature, Theatre, Film, and Research Methodology. Has supervised and mentored numerous Master's and Ph.D. students at various universities in Kenya and internationally. Also served as an external examiner for several universities both within and beyond the borders of Kenya. Has presented papers and delivered keynote addresses at numerous conferences, seminars, colloquia, symposia, and workshops, both nationally and internationally and published extensively in the fields of Literature, Theatre, Film, Radio, and Popular Culture, Theatre, and Film. He participated in the formulation of postgraduate policies, rules, and regulations and was involved in developing the Drama for Life Curriculum at Wits University in South Africa. In addition, is a reviewer for numerous journals, curricula, and grant proposals He has been honoured with prestigious research fellowships from the Mellon Foundation and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



Immediate former Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation,



Member of Faculty in the School of Education, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Physical education.

Dr Richard Kimeli

Dr Richard Kimeli is a member of faculty in the School of Education, department of Humanities, social sciences and Physical education. He has a Ph.D. from Moi University-Eldoret ; a M.Phil. in Religious Studies, Moi; a PGDE, Moi, PGD (CPE)Moi and Baccalaureate of Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome.

His publications and research interests research interests are the history of philosophy of education, moral philosophy and its significance for education, and pre-college philosophy of education. Aside from work and Pastoral ministry Dr Kimeli likes playing soccer, travelling, athletics, reading existential philosophy and coordinates the School's debate in Philosophy and Religion. He welcomes PhD inquiries and conference and media requests in the field.



Director of International Relations, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

Dr. Annie Soriot

Annie Soriot is Director of International Relations at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Prior to joining the university, she was Deputy Director of Programs at the Global Development Network, a public international organisation located in New Delhi (Headquarters) and Washington. Annie worked on global research capacity building programs for the Least Developed Countries and on various research projects, such as Natural wealth accounting (Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco), Financial inclusion in Latin American countries. She was also the director of the 'Annual Global Development Conference', which brings together researchers, corporate leaders, and political figures to discuss critical development issues (Structural Transformation in Africa, Agriculture for Sustainable Growth). Back to France, she was Director of international affairs of Université de Rennes 1. Previously, she was the Academic Director of Economics and Social Sciences Department at the École des Ponts ParisTech, a French graduate engineering school. She holds a PhD in Economics (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) and taught Microeconomics, Monetary Policy, History of Economic Thought, and Economic Policy at several universities including Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris Sud and University of Liege

Yasmine Cherif

Yasmine Cherif is in charge of international projects as well as the operational steering and data monitoring in the International Relations Department of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

She namely oversees international projects in the fields of digitalisation, governance, and capacity building of higher education at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Since joining the International Relations' Department in 2020, she has coordinated regional and international projects that have a strong focus on cross-border university cooperation, policy reform, digital innovation, and structural transformation, among which the European project OpenU, and capacity building projects with Kenyan, Guinean and Senegalese partners (PROSPER, GRAINES, PALME).

She currently works with international partners committed to fostering changes and making a useful impact across the academic community. Yasmine Cherif holds a M.A. degree in Political Sciences with a specialization in international cooperation and development.



Monitoring and International Projects, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University



Rector, Université de Labé

Dr. Mohamed Cherif Sow

Dr. Mohamed Chérif Sow is the rector of the University of Labé, as well as a lecturer and researcher in the field of sciences.

After obtaining his doctorate in Science from Jean Monnet University in Saint-Etienne in 2013, he focused his research on the development and implementation of innovative materials processes (laser processes, 3D printing, thermal poling, etc.) for a wide range of applications, particularly in the field of renewable energies.

He has worked as a consultant/coordinator on projects aimed at improving the employability of young people in Guinea, through the development of technical and professional skills in promising sectors (creation of an Ecolab, a renewable energy laboratory-school at the ENAM in Conakry and the creation of the technology innovation centre-Tech Hub at the University of Labé).

He also actively contributed to the implementation of several research and non-research projects, among which the FAIR project at the Ecole Nationale des Arts et Métiers in Paris and the INDIGO project at the University of Labé

Dr. Christopher Chepken

Dr. Christopher Chepken is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Planning and infrastructure in Open University of Kenya, as well as a seasoned trainer, lecturer, and researcher in the field of Computer Science, specializing in ICT4D, Human-Computer Interaction, Computer and Cyber Security, Software Engineering, Mobile Application Development, and Data Science.

Before being nominated in his current position, Dr. Chepken was the coordinator of the postgraduate studies at the Department of Computing and Informatics at University of Nairobi.

Through his ICT4D/ICTD research and consultancy in urban commuting challenges- telecommuting; Software Engineering; Health; Agriculture and Business process outsourcing, Dr. Chepken brings a wealth of considerate experience in carrying out ICT and development related to work.

He has experience both as a practitioner and as a researcher from East and Southern African Countries on innovation and current computing trends. He is also an experienced mentor and jurist on matters of innovation, having worked with the Kenya Innovation Agency award programme for three years.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Planning and infrastructure, Open University of Kenya (Konza Technopolis, Kenya)



*Deputy Principal,
Koitaleel Samoei
University College*

Prof. Rose Ruto-Korir

Prof. Rose Ruto-Korir is the Deputy Principal, Koitaleel Samoei University College, (A constituent of the University of Nairobi), and a distinguished Kenyan scholar, recognized for her extensive contributions to the fields of psychology and education. With a PhD in Educational Psychology, she has become a leading voice Educational Psychology, with over 29 years' experience in higher education, as an academic, researcher and as a teacher – educator in Kenya. She has published widely in peer reviewed journals, contributed book chapters, and presented in international conferences, and workshops in the subject discipline. She has also consulted for Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the South African National Research Foundation (NRF), and the Commission for University Education-Kenya, among others.

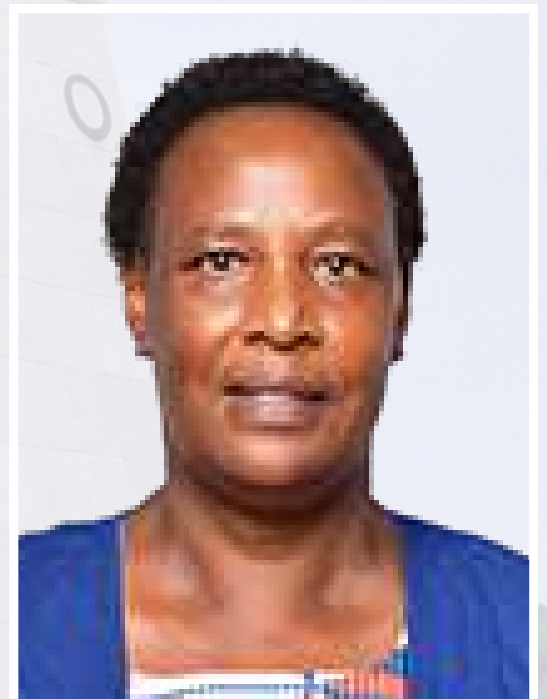
Her research interests currently intersect with digital learning and education. She sits in the editorial Board of the South African Journal of Education. Additionally, Rose has reviewed journals for the Journal of Psychology in Africa, Journal of Research in Childhood Education, South African Journal of Education, and Social Change (Journal). Lately, her interests in Psychology of Learning interface with use of technology in online learning in higher education. She has led three related projects: Her latest book chapter focuses on the 'Use of social media in higher education', in the reference book, 'The Sage Handbook for Online Higher Education' (<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-sage-handbook-of-online-higher-education/book281802>).

Dr. Mary Sambu

Mary Cheptanui Sambu holds a PhD in Special Needs Education and a teacher educator in Moi University. She is currently the examinations' coordinator at the Department of Educational Psychology and a member of the graduation technical team in the School of Education. She has been an active member of School of Education Consultancy and Research Committee and School of Education representative at Institute of Gender, Diversity and Peace Studies (IGDPS), Moi University.

She is also an active member of African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE). She has supervised, examined and reviewed several postgraduate works. She has authored and co-authored various articles on special needs in refereed journals. Has participated in numerous educational workshops, seminars and conferences and she is actively involved in curriculum development for learners with special needs and disabilities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Her main research interests are in the areas of curriculum delivery, development and implementation for learners with special majoring on hearing impairments, gifted and talented and inclusive education. She has a wealth of experience in the education of learners with disabilities and special needs. An active person in educational and community leadership.



*PhD in Special Needs
Education, Teacher
Educator in Moi
University.*



Dr. Faith Mkwanzani

Faith Mkwanzani is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Higher Education and Human Development Research Group at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Her research focuses on education and development with particular interests in education and social policies, educational entrepreneurship, youth, inequalities, as well as participatory research methods. She has been working on youth projects focusing on choices, opportunities and aspirations. She has experience in conducting arts-based methodologies, including digital storytelling and photovoice with young people.

*Senior Researcher with
the HEHD Research
group*

Sauyah Mbabazi

Sauyah Mbabazi is a passionate educator and dedicated leader with extensive experience in teaching, administration, and youth empowerment.

Currently serving as a Learning Support Teaching Assistant at the International School of Uganda, Sauyah specializes in Mathematics and Science education, focusing on creating tailored learning experiences to meet diverse student needs.

With a strong background in educational leadership, having previously held the position of School Principal at Zeus Kindergarten School, she is committed to fostering safe and productive learning environments. Sauyah is also deeply involved in community service, guiding and mentoring youth in Uganda as a Co founder of the Quaint Desire Foundation., particularly in rural areas.

Her academic achievements include a Master's in Education Administration and Human Resources Development from the Uganda Management Institute, She is Currently pursuing an Online Post-graduate Diploma at the University of Edinburgh under the MasterCard Foundation Scholars program, and she is continually expanding her expertise through ongoing professional development.



*Learning Support
Teaching Assistant*



Philina Wittke

Philina has been working in development cooperation contexts for the last ten years. Between 2013–2017, she was the director of the DAAD Information Center in Johannesburg, South Africa, for Southern Africa. In that capacity, she promoted international student and research exchange as well as funding opportunities for students to study in South Africa, Africa and Germany. During her time in the DAAD Headquarter in Bonn, Germany, she founded a working group for partnerships on eye-level with the Global South, especially with Africa. She was also actively involved in the development forum.

Currently, she is the spokesperson of the Academic Working Group of the DAAD Africa Alumni Network (ANSA e.V.).

For the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF), she wrote the program for an African–German network for research, innovation and transfer.

Currently, she is the expert for cooperation and third-party funding for the 15 Goethe-Instituts in Sub-Saharan Africa where she advises on EU-funding opportunities as well as local and regional sponsorships.

Finally, she is a passionate teacher of German as a Foreign language and Intercultural Programs which has been teaching in Germany, the United States and South Africa. In 2022, she won the Teaching and Learning Reimagined Awards at the University of Texas in San Antonio, USA.

Expert for cooperation and third-party funding for the 15 Goethe-Instituts in Sub-Saharan Africa

Mr. Jackson Leolyn

Leolyn Jackson has been in the higher education sector for more than 30 years as a Senior Lecturer, Head of Student Enrolment and Director of the Southern African–Nordic Centre (SANORD). He was also the Director of the International Relations Office (IRO) at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). Leolyn served as a member of the UWC Executive Management Committee, a Senator, and chaired the Senate International Relations Committee. During his tenure he also helped facilitated the successful run of the musical “Mama Africa: The Musical” as one of the Executive Producers.

He is currently employed as the Director: Centre for Global Engagement at the Central University of Technology, Free State and is a Senator, a Senate Executive member, and a member of Senate sub-committees (University Internationalisation Committee, University Teaching & Learning Committee). In addition, his office also manages various EU and other Global Funding Agency projects.

He serves on the national Directors Forum of the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) and is the Immediate Past President of IEASA (2017–2018).

Leolyn is also a member of various global networks and organisations such as the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), the African Network for Internationalisation of Education (ANIE), the Asia Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE), the European Association for International Education (EAIE), and NAFSA: Association of International Educators. His research interest focuses also on Comprehensive Internationalisation of Higher Education.



Director: Centre for Global Engagement at the Central University of Technology, Free State



*University of
Johannesburg lecturer at
the Department of
Biotechnology and Food
Technology*

Dr. Tumisi Molelekoa

Tumisi Molelekoa is a University of Johannesburg lecturer at the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology under the new generation of academic professionals' program (nGAP). He completed a PhD in Food Technology focusing on the production of microbial metabolites (pigments) using green waste for ultimate application in food, pharmaceutical and textile industries. He teaches Food Biochemistry and Food Technology to undergraduate and postgraduate students respectively. He serves as a Deputy Director at the Center of Innovative Food Research (Biotechnology and Food Technology, UJ) as well as a BRICS young scientist who was involved in think tank responsible for the 2024 Energy Outlook on sustainability.

He is passionate about research with interests that span across fermentation science, microbial pigments, food waste valorisation, acetic acid and lactic acid bacteria, product development, cereal science and nutraceutical foods. Recently, he was recognised by the Mail and Guardian as one of South Africa's 200 most promising young people under the Innovation and Technology category which underscores his passion about driving impactful research. One of his favourite quotes by Voltaire (a French writer) "there's no problem that can stand the assault of sustained thinking" has motivated him to always strive for excellence in his academic and life endeavours.

Dr. Victor Ekwukoma

Victor Ekwukoma is a creative writer, communications specialist and an educational researcher. He holds a B A (Ed) degree in English and Literature with Second Class Honours (Upper Division), a Master's and a PhD in Sociology of Education.

He is a Chief Research Officer with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), Abuja. A prolific writer with multiple awards, Victor has to his credit over 100 academic publications including books and scholarly articles published in reputable and high-impact national and international journals.

He is also an editor and reviewer to many Nigerian-based and internal journals. His latest books include Fundamentals of English Lexis and Structure for Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges, and Practical Guide in Oral English for Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges by BookRange Publishers Limited.



*Chief Research Officer
with the Nigerian
Educational Research
and Development Council
(NERDC), Abuja*



Prof. Akim O. Osunde

Prof. Akim O. OSUNDE is Professor of Soil Fertility in the Department of Soil Science and Land Management, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria. He was a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University and currently the chair of the University senate committee on the Development of Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards.

He is a fellow of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria and a member of several other professional bodies including the African Network for the internationalization of Education. Prof. Osunde is married with children and grandchildren.

former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the Federal University of Technology, Minna

AIME NDAYIZAMBA

My name is NDAYIZAMBA Aimé, I am Burundian with a master degree in public policy from the University of Science Po Toulouse (France), a degree in economics and international trade and a bachelor degree in political science and international relations. I participated in several events and trainings as participant, presentator and /or panelist in the world (Egypt, India, Germany, South Korea, South Africa, Palestine,...). I am teacher and trainer at the National School of Administration (Burundi) with an extensive experience in education domain. I worked as General Director of High Institute for Entrepreneurship and Management (ISEG Burundi). I am vice chair of parent committee of LCN de VUGIZO. I am coach, trainer and administrator of some public and private institutions. After my master program, I conducted a research on decentralization as an explanatory factor for improving the local education system in Burundi: the case of schooling in the commune BUYENGERO. I am PhD student at Burundi national University and my research framework is about capacity building and education.

I am attentive, active and dynamic in several organizations at the local, national and international level. I sit on many organizations as board member. I like and work actively in supporting youth in their beginning projects.



Teacher and trainer at the National School of Administration (Burundi)



Umesh Bawa

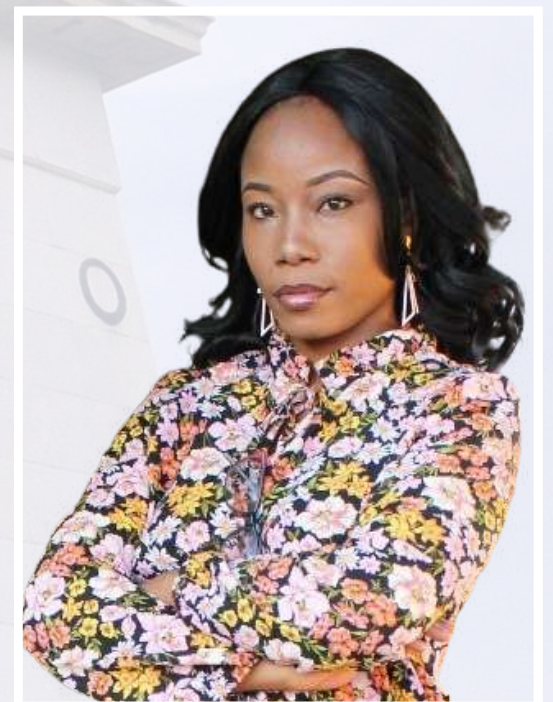
Umesh Bawa is a clinical psychologist and a former academic in the Department of Psychology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town, South Africa. He currently holds the position of Director of International Relations at UWC and SANORD, a network of Nordic and Southern African institutions. Umesh is also a senior team member on key community-engaged research projects at the University of South Africa's Institute for Social and Health Sciences. His professional work spans multiple countries, including South Africa, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Chile, focusing on violence rehabilitation, trauma, and human rights.

Previously, Umesh served on the Council for the International Society for Health and Human Rights and was the Director of the Children for Tomorrow-South Africa Project, which provides free psychological services to children affected by violence in impoverished communities in the Western Cape. His research, training, and clinical interests include the psychological effects of violence on children, trauma counselling, reintegrating ex-combatants and child soldiers in post-conflict settings, and promoting safety and peace. Umesh has published research on visual methodologies like Photovoice, youth engagement, community-based participatory research, and the relevance and utility of psychology interventions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Director of International Relations at UWC and SANORD, a network of Nordic and Southern African institutions.

Annah Chuene

Annah Chuene is an International Relations Coordinator at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town, South Africa, with over seven years in the field of international education. Her expertise lies in the areas of administration, mobility, and partnerships. At UWC, Annah is responsible for Erasmus+ projects, staff and student mobility programs, communication and media in the International Relations Office.



International Relations Coordinator at the University of the Western Cape (UWC)



Stakeholder Relations, Communications & Public Relations Strategist in the Marketing and Communication Department at Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT).

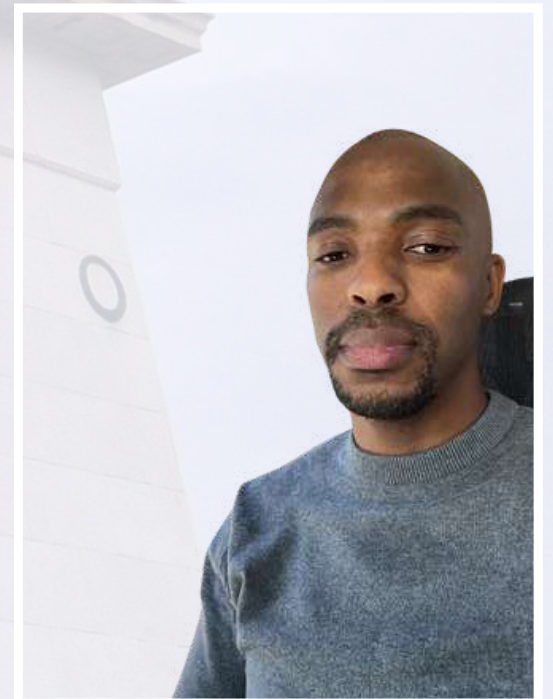
Zama Sishi

Zama Sishi is an experienced Stakeholder Relations, Communications & Public Relations Strategist in the Marketing and Communication Department at Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT). Her academic qualifications are a BA in Communication Science, a Postgraduate Diploma in Communication Management, an MPhil in Strategic Communication Management, BTech Commercial Administrations, and a National Diploma in Office Management. Zama has also received professional development in marketing and communications, creative writing, brand management, international mobility, and cultural exchange. In May 2024 Zama presented a poster at the South Africa Sweden University Forum's (SASUF) Research & Innovation Week. She is an alumna of the United States International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP). Through the IVLP she established linkages with Universities in the US, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Benin, DRC, Tunisia, and Guinea Bissau. She has also completed the KMUTNB Staff Mobility Programme: Cultural Diversity from King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok.

Zama served on the Local Organising Committee for the EnergyWaterFoodClimate Nexus Global Summit, which was hosted in Durban, South Africa. Her extensive network of partners and collaborators contributed to the summit's success, including the participation of government, private sectors, SOEs, NPOs, high school learners, and other global partners.

Nkululeko Nkosi

Nkululeko Nkosi is a Mangosuthu University of Technology lecturer in Durban, South Africa. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. A major focus of his research and expertise lies in solution thermodynamics and designing (rig and pilot plant) and modifying low-high pressure phase equilibrium equipment, renewable energy, green technology, and separation technologies. All this aims to maximise market value by minimising fossil-based energy use, maximising chemical recovery, and producing liquid fuels. Throughout his career, he has focused on conducting relevant, purpose-driven research that promotes commercialisation and entrepreneurship while considering environmental concerns. He explores using solvents derived from biofuels (lignocellulose) as extractants to find alternative energy sources. Moreover, these solvents are investigated for their potential use in transporting and storing green hydrogen via gas hydrates. His research interests also include applying reverse electrodialysis technology to test its suitability for generating electricity while treating wastewater. He is a co-principal investigator for these projects. Having an interest in this field of research, he looks forward to collaborating with others to expand its scope. He works with researchers from South African universities (Wits, CPUT, DUT, and UKZN) and international universities (Denmark, Iran, China, and the UK). Also, his responsibilities include supervising master's and PhD students



International Relations Coordinator at the University of the Western Cape (UWC)



*Project Manager at the
Division for Global
Partnerships at Uppsala
University, Sweden.*

Helin Bäckman Kartal

Helin Bäckman Kartal is a Project Manager at the Division for Global Partnerships at Uppsala University, Sweden. She is the Project Manager for the South Africa – Sweden University Forum (SASUF), a transformative project that fosters collaboration in research and education among 40 universities from Sweden and South Africa. By bringing together researchers, educators, students, university leaders, and various stakeholders, SASUF aims to develop collaborative solutions addressing the challenges presented by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

Helin is also the Uppsala University contact person for the Southern Africa – Nordic Centre (SANORD), which is an academic university network that brings together Southern Africa and the Nordics.

Helin holds a MA in International Crisis Management and Peacebuilding. Her academic focus has centered around the exploration of informal finance in South Africa and the formalisation process of the country's informal financial sector.

