



Cambridge Global Challenges (CGC) Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) 'Equity in Research Partnerships' Workshop

Location: Room GS5, Donald McIntyre Building, Faculty of Education, 184 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8PQ

Virtual: <https://cam-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/82376458264>

Date: Thursday, 31 October 2024

Time: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Theme: *Building Fair Research Partnerships: Fast-Tracking the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Together*

Programme Objective: To facilitate an open and focused dialogue between academics, research leaders, and institutional representatives from Cambridge and Global South (particularly African) institutions. The goal is to review Cambridge's guidelines on Equity in Research Partnerships and explore how these guidelines could be further elaborated upon in consultation with partners in the Global South and adopted to accelerate progress towards the UN SDGs.

Agenda

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Arrival

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM: A Welcome Note

Speaker: Professor Pauline Rose (Co-Chair, Cambridge Global Challenges, IRC)

10:10 AM - 10:25 AM: Opening Remarks

Chair: Professor Pauline Rose

Speaker: Professor Bhaskar Vira, FAcSS (Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Education and Environmental Sustainability, University of Cambridge).

10:25 AM – 11:00 AM: Keynote Presentation - Setting the Context

Chair: Professor Pauline Rose

Speaker: Professor Tassew Woldehanna (Former President of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

Overview: The keynote presentation will highlight how equitable research partnerships and guidelines can address power imbalances, foster mutual benefit, and contribute to SDG acceleration in Africa and the Global South.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM: Presentation - Introduction to Equity Guidelines and Strategies for Equitable Partnerships

Chair: Professor Yusuf Sayed (Professor of Education, University of Cambridge)

Speakers: Dr Maja Wallberg (Strategic Partnerships Office, University of Cambridge); Dr Daniel Wunderlich and Susan Black (Research Operations Office, University of Cambridge)

Overview: The first session will feature the Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO) presentation on the Guidelines on Equity in International Research Partnerships, focusing on key principles that facilitate fair collaborations between Cambridge and Global South institutions. The second session will be led by the Research Operations Office (ROO), which will outline its financial and legal strategies to support partnerships and ensure they are sustainable, compliant, and mutually beneficial by tackling issues related to funding mechanisms, contract negotiations, and equity standards.

12:20 PM – 1:20 PM: Panel-Led Discussion: Cambridge African Scholars Alumni Perspectives on Equitable Partnerships

Chair: Dr Carol Ibe (Research Manager, Cambridge Global Challenges, IRC)

Speakers:

- Dr Lyn Joanne Kouadio (Cantab), University of Oxford
- Dr Siyabonga Njica (Cantab), University of Cambridge
- Dr Francis Wamonje (Cantab), National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), UK
- Dr Faith Kandie, Moi University, Kenya
- Molly Jerono, Moi University, Kenya

Overview: This panel will feature Cambridge African scholars and representatives from Africa-based research institutions, providing insights on enhancing Cambridge's guidelines for equitable, impactful partnerships with African institutions. The discussion

will emphasise practical steps, including resource sharing, inclusive governance, and sustainable collaboration models, aiming to create a roadmap for reimagining academic partnerships to promote global equity.

1:20 PM – 2:10 PM: Networking Lunch

2:10 PM – 3:40 PM: Roundtable Discussion (Group Activity and Feedback)

Overview: This interactive session invites participants to explore how Cambridge can improve its [guidelines](#) for equitable partnerships with Global South researchers, particularly in Africa. Participants will break into small groups (in person and online) to discuss key aspects of building effective, impactful collaborations that drive progress toward the SDGs. Groups will be given 35 minutes to discuss and make recommendations based on the two discussion points below.

Key Discussion Points:

Part 1 (35 minutes): Relevance and Opportunities for Improvement in Guidelines

Guiding Questions:

- What gaps exist in Cambridge's Equity in International Partnerships guidelines, and how can they be improved to better support inclusive and equitable partnerships?
- How can Cambridge ensure that its guidelines align with the research priorities of Global South partners to effectively address pressing development challenges?
- What best practices can strengthen research partnerships between Cambridge and Global South institutions?

Part 2 (35 minutes): Challenges and Barriers to Implementing Guidelines

Guiding Questions:

- What barriers (e.g., funding, power dynamics) exist in forming equitable partnerships between Cambridge and Global South researchers?
 - How can these barriers be overcome to support long-term, sustainable partnerships?
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3:40 PM – 4:20 PM: Closing: Reflections and Concluding Remarks

Speakers: Professor Alan Blackwell, Dr Carol Ibe, Professor Tassew Woldehanna, Dr Maja Wallberg (SPO) and Susan Black (Research Operations Office).

Overview: A summary of the day's outcomes, including reflections on discussions, proposed next steps, and considerations for future research collaborations.

4:20 PM – 4:50 PM: Coffee + Networking (Optional)

Speaker and Chair Profiles**Professor Bhaskar Vira**

Professor Bhaskar Vira, FAcSS, serves as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Cambridge, where he is also a Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Geography and a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College. An economist by training, Professor Vira's research delves into the political economy of environment and development, with a focus on land use, water management, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and human well-being, particularly in South Asia. His work examines the hidden costs and distributional impacts of environmental decisions and the institutions governing these processes. Professor Vira collaborates widely with both academic and non-academic partners worldwide and leads a major initiative on Decent Work and Youth Livelihoods. He was the Founding Director of the Cambridge Conservation Research Institute and remains active in the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, promoting interdisciplinary approaches to global challenges. Recognized for his contributions to science-policy dialogues, he has advised on panels like the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and received the Royal Geographical Society's Busk Medal in 2018 for his impactful work in environment and development.

Professor Tassew Woldehanna

Professor Tassew Woldehanna is a Professor of Economics and the immediate past President of Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He currently serves as President of the Ethiopian Economic Association and is a member of the Independent Council of Economic Advisors (ICEA) to the Prime Minister. As a development economist, his primary research interests include fiscal policy, child welfare and poverty, employment, micro and small-scale enterprise development, entrepreneurship, and food security. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on topics such as poverty, fiscal management, education, health, rural labor markets, child and adolescent development, and micro-enterprise development, with a high citation record on Google Scholar. Professor Woldehanna has received multiple research awards and currently leads several international projects, including Young Lives, RISE (Research on Improving Systems of Education) Ethiopia, and the Girls and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) program.

[Professor Pauline Rose](#) (Co-Director, Cambridge Global Challenges IRC)

Pauline Rose is a Professor of International Education at Cambridge University, where she is Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre. She is also co-director of the Cambridge Global Challenges Interdisciplinary Research Initiative. Prior to joining Cambridge, she was Director of UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report, which tracks progress towards global education goals. Pauline's research focuses on a range of issues related to educational policy and practice with respect to inequality, politics, financing and governance in collaboration with partners in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In 2022, Professor Rose was awarded an OBE for her services to girls' education internationally.

[Professor Alan Blackwell](#) (Co-Director, Cambridge Global Challenges IRC)

Professor Alan Blackwell is a Professor of Interdisciplinary Design at the University of Cambridge, where he focuses on creating meaningful technology through creative practice, critical analysis, and innovative representation. As co-director of Cambridge Global Challenges, he works to tackle complex global issues through interdisciplinary collaboration and design thinking. A Fellow of Darwin College, Professor Blackwell is dedicated to bridging technology and society, fostering transformative approaches that engage both academic and broader communities. His research aims to inspire new ways of understanding and developing technology that thoughtfully addresses pressing social and environmental needs.

[Professor Yusuf Sayed](#)

Professor Yusuf Sayed, a specialist in global education policy and development at Cambridge, focuses on equity, inclusion, and social justice. Previously, he held roles as Professor of International Education at the University of Sussex, South African Research Chair in Teacher Education, and Founding Director of CITE at CPUT. With over 40 years of experience, Sayed's interdisciplinary scholarship examines the intersection of education policy and practice, particularly in the global South, exploring how policies impact equity and empowerment. He has authored over 20 books and 200 publications, influencing education policies across a wide range of countries.

[Dr Maja Wallberg](#)

Maja Wallberg completed a PhD at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, followed by immunology research at the University of Cambridge. She then transitioned into strategic research funding and program management at the Wellcome Trust. In June 2023, she joined the Strategic Partnerships Office at Cambridge, where she supports institutional engagement with universities and government agencies in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Nordics.

Dr Daniel Wunderlich

Daniel Wunderlich is Assistant Director at the Cambridge Research Office in support of EU and International funding, the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences and Non-Schools overseeing central pre-award, post-award and contracting for these areas. Daniel has a PhD in Politics on the implementation of public policy in international settings from the University of Sheffield.

Dr Carol Ibe

Carol Ibe is a Research Manager at Cambridge Global Challenges (CGC) and the Faculty of Education, focusing on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals for vulnerable populations worldwide. She is dedicated to improving food security and development in sub-Saharan Africa and founded the JR Biotek Foundation, which aims to build scientific research capacity and foster innovation for sustainable growth. As a Gates Scholar with a PhD in Plant Sciences from the University of Cambridge, she has led initiatives empowering emerging African scientists to enhance crop productivity and sustainable livelihoods. Carol spearheads projects like the Agri-Innovation & Impact Project (AGRIIP), promoting climate-resilient food systems. Her work has gained recognition in Forbes and TEDx Oxford, earning her prestigious awards such as the University of Cambridge's CSAR Award and the 2019 Bill Gates Sr. Prize for her commitment to scientific innovation and community-driven change.

Panellists

Dr Lyn Kouadio

Dr Lyn Kouadio is Beacon Junior Research Fellow in Race and Postcolonial Studies at University College Oxford. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge where she also received her MPhil. She holds a B.A.(Hons) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. Her research interests lie in the international politics of Africa and its associated politics of knowledge production.

Dr Francis Wamonje

Dr Francis Wamonje is a Senior Scientist and Research Leader in Entomology at NIAB, UK, specializing in pest detection, surveillance, and biocontrol to support sustainable agriculture and environmental resilience. His career includes roles in the UK, Canada, Kenya, and Tanzania across academic and research institutions. He is widely published in plant sciences, entomology, and genomics. Dr Wamonje also authors *52 Science Stories*, a LinkedIn newsletter simplifying scientific concepts, with a focus on biodiversity and Global South research. A former Royal Society FLAIR Fellow, he completed his PhD in Molecular Plant Virology at the University of Cambridge under Professor John Carr.

Dr Siyabonga Njica

Siyabonga is the Isaac Newton Trust Fellow in Global African History in the Faculty of History at Cambridge University and serves as Director of Studies in History Part 1B and Fellow at Lucy Cavendish College. He is the former Smuts Research Fellow in the Centre of African Studies and holds a PhD in History from Cambridge University where he was a Gates Scholar. His research interests include histories of black transnationalism in the twentieth century, African and diasporic intellectual traditions, and the cultural Cold War. Siyabonga's current research project examines twentieth-century African student mobilities in British higher education institutions, with a particular focus on Cambridge University.

Dr Faith Kandie

Dr Faith Kandie holds a PhD in Natural Science from Goethe University and the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research in Germany. She earned an MSc in Environmental Sanitation from Ghent University, Belgium, and a BSc in Environmental Studies with a focus on Environmental Biology and Health from Moi University, Kenya. Currently a lecturer and researcher at Moi University, Dr Kandie is also a Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study in South Africa. Her research interests center on the analytical screening of organic micropollutants in surface and wastewater systems and their links to the prevalence and infectivity of *Schistosoma*-host snails in western Kenya. She collaborates with various national and international partners in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, and several African countries.

Molly Mercy Jerono

Molly Mercy Jerono is the Head of Pre-Award at AMPATH Kenya's Research Sponsored Projects Office at Moi University (Kenya), where she focuses on ethical stewardship of donor funds and enhancing accountability in international development and healthcare initiatives. With expertise in grants management and compliance, Molly works to make funding processes transparent, efficient, and ethically aligned, ensuring every Sterling pound drives meaningful impact. Passionate about fostering equitable partnerships, she enjoys collaborating with diverse teams to support sustainable and impactful global health projects.

Important Links: The University's guidelines/checklist on Equity in International Research Partnerships can be found via this [link](#).

For any questions, please contact the Cambridge Global Challenges (CGC) Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) at coordinator@gci.cam.ac.uk