

Scientific Advisory Board

PEOPLE



Prof. Ngugi wa Thiongo

Prof. Ngugi wa Thiongo (PhD) is a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature, English (African and Caribbean literature, theatre and film, performance studies, cultural and political theory at the University of California, Irvine. The legendary post-colonial African writer is also a literary and social activist. He writes plays, novels, short stories, and critical essays. His writings also deal with the cultural and political legacy of colonialism in contemporary Africa. He was educated at Kamandura, Mangu and Kinyogori primary schools; Alliance High School, all in Kenya; Makerere University College (then a campus of London University), Kampala, Uganda; and the University of Leeds. Prof Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o is also an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 2003 and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2014.






Prof. Thomas K. Cheruiyot

Prof. Thomas K. Cheruiyot (PhD) is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Eldoret. He is a Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sustainability, and Strategy. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Strategic Management (Moi University); a Master of Management Sciences (Wageningen University-Netherlands), and a Bachelor in Agribusiness Management (Egerton University-Kenya).



Prof. Phillip Raburu (PhD) is an associate professor of Aquatic Resources and Environmental Management. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Environmental Studies from Moi University, a Master of Science in Hydrology, and a Bachelor of Science in Botany and Zoology from the University of Nairobi. Prof. Raburu has experience in extension, having worked with the local communities and civil society in the last 20 years. He is the founding director of a national NGO, Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED) International. He served as the national chair of the Kenya Nile Basin Discourse Forum (KNDF) for 5 years and the regional vice chair of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) covering the 10 Nile Basin Countries. He was also the regional chair of the Human Resource Development Working Group during the 1st phase of the Fisheries Management Plan for Lake Victoria. Nationally, Prof. Raburu has immensely contributed to the development and revision of national policies and regulations in the state ministries concerned with Fisheries, Natural Resources, and the Environment.

<p>Prof. Phillip Raburu</p>	
 <p>Prof. Godfrey W. Netondo</p>	<p>Prof. Godfrey W. Netondo (PhD) is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academics and Student Affairs, University of Eldoret. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry (Maseno University), Master of Science in Botany (University of Nairobi) and Bachelor of Science in Botany and Zoology (University of Nairobi). Prof. Netondo is a member of Kenya National Academy of Sciences and Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA). His research interests include environmental plant stress physiology, agro-biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services nexus. He has supervised 15 master's and 6 PhD students to completion. He has also served as examiner of more than twenty theses. He has also served as external examiner for various universities in Kenya, for both undergraduate and postgraduate coursework.</p>
 <p>Prof. Wilson Ng'etich</p>	<p>Prof. Wilson Ng'etich (PhD) is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance). He is an Associate Professor of Soil Science at the University and brings a wealth of experience in the management and general operations of the University, having served previously on several occasions as acting Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Ng'etich holds a Doctorate Degree in Agricultural Water Management from Cranfield University, United Kingdom, and a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Nairobi. He started working at the Tea Research Foundation of Kenya, where he rose from Assistant Research Officer to Principal Research Officer by the time he left to join Moi University in 2007. He started as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Soil Science, teaching soil physics and soil-plant-water relations. He was appointed the Head of Department and later became an Associate Professor in 2012. He continues to teach soil physics and crop modelling at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has supervised and examined several postgraduate candidates. He is a member of several professional associations locally and abroad. He is active in research, with current interests in degraded lands.</p>
 <p>Prof. Beatrice Were</p>	<p>Prof. Beatrice Were (PhD) is the former Ag Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Eldoret. Her main Disciplines include Genetics, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology. Her Skills and expertise are in the areas of Genetic Diversity, Population Genetics, Molecular Markers, and Plant Breeding, with a focus on Plant Biotechnology, Genetics, Molecular Biological Techniques, Biotechnology, Cloning, PCR, and Sorghum. A plant scientist by training, her areas of research interest include genetic diversity studies, molecular biology, crop breeding, agronomy, agroecology, biofertilizer and biopesticide technologies. Her current research focuses on the improvement of crop resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses through resistance breeding and the integration of environment-friendly technologies into the management of ecological stresses facing crop plants. As an educator with more than twenty years of teaching genetics/plant breeding, her primary goal is to meet the distinctive learning needs of her students for them to achieve their academic goals.</p>



Prof. Munyaradzi Mawere

Prof. Munyaradzi Mawere (PhD), is a Professor Extraordinarius of Interdisciplinary Research (UNISA), and a Full Professor of African Studies at Great Zimbabwe. Prof Mawere holds a PhD in Social Anthropology (UCT), an MA in Philosophy (UZ) and an MA in Development Studies (GZU), as well as several professional certificates. His research interests cut across disciplines such as African studies, philosophy, cultural studies, sociology/anthropology, development studies, knowledge studies, climate change, entomology, and political science. Mawere has more than 270 publications to his credit, including more than 70 books, over 200 book chapters, and peer-reviewed journal articles published with internationally acclaimed publishers. He has won several awards, including the internationally coveted African Studies Association Presidential Fellowship Award (2017). His most recent book is entitled: *Covid-19 manifestation, ramifications, and future prospects for Zimbabwe – a multi-disciplinary perspective*



**Dr. Khanyisile Litchfield
Tshabalala**

Dr. Khanyisile Litchfield Tshabalala (PhD) is the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows (APNIFFT) Continental Chairperson. A retired Rear Admiral Junior Grade, she stands out as a multifaceted professional encompassing roles such as facilitator, trainer, public speaker, writer, and consultant. Her expertise spans illicit financial flows and tax, with a keen focus on international finance institutions' transparency, accountability, and community engagement. It extends to other areas, including public debt and the development of finance institutions' transparency and accountability, feminism (which she has defined for herself in her first book as Afro-gender), decoloniality, African Spirituality and culture, precolonial African history, as well as activism for social and economic justice. Dr. Litchfield-Tshabalala's unique dedication to Africa, often prioritizing it above personal interests, is well-known among her peers and those who have worked with her. Her illustrious career began as a veteran of uMkhonto WeSizwe and an exiled freedom fighter, culminating in her historic achievement as the first female admiral in the South African Navy. Following her naval career, she continued to serve in the public service in various roles as the Gender Focal Point for the Gauteng Provincial Department of Infrastructure and Development, as the Project Manager of the National Youth Service under the Department of Defence, and as a Member of Parliament under the Economic Freedom Fighters. Through 16 years of public service, she specialized in human resources, gender mainstreaming, equal opportunities, equity, and mentorship, as well as transformation and institutional, cultural dynamics and change.



Prof. Bruce Mutsavairo

Prof. Bruce Mutsavairo (PhD)n is a Full Professor and Chair of Media, Politics, and the Global South in the Faculty of Humanities Department of Media and Culture Studies, Utrecht University. A co-editor of two Springer International Publishing book series (link 1 & 2) and jointly published over 30 books focused mostly on the journalism, media, and communication research fields. (co)-authored or (co)-edited over 20 scholarly books and special-themed issues in high-impact journalism and media journals. His work investigates the impact of technological transformations in global journalism practices, particularly in non-democratic settings. A holder of three master's degrees in international business management (VU Amsterdam), International Journalism (Cardiff University), and International Politics (University of Hull), he completed his PhD at the Graduate School of Humanities at Leiden University in 2013. Completed his undergraduate degree, in 2004, at Utrecht University after spending a year studying the Russian language and culture at Voronezh State University in Russia. He initially studied broadcast journalism at Southern Institute of Technology in New Zealand, graduating in December 2020.



Prof. Mariama Awumbila

Prof Mariama Awumbila (PhD) holds a Ph.D. (Geography) from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, and teaches at the Department of Geography and Resource Development and at the Centre for Migration Studies, both at the University of Ghana. From 2006 to 2013, as founding Director, she nurtured the establishment of the Centre for Migration Studies into a full-fledged University Centre, undertaking extensive migration research, teaching and capacity building, and extension services. She has provided consultancy and extension services for several international and national agencies and civil society organizations. She was the Ghana Director of the DFID-funded “Migrating Out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium” from 2010 to 2019 and the Lead Consultant for the development of a national migration policy for Ghana, among others. She has served on several professional and national governing boards including the IUSSP Scientific Panel on International Migration, and at the national level, the Ghana Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Migration, the Ghana Statistical Service Board, the National Council for Tertiary Education, and World Vision Ghana Advisory Board. She currently Chairs the National Working Group for the establishment of a Ghana National Migration Commission.






Prof. Miriam Kinyua

Prof. Miriam Kinyua (PhD) is Professor of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology in the School of Agriculture and Biotechnology at the University of Eldoret. With extensive experience in teaching and research, she is an enthusiast for the application of nuclear techniques in crop improvement. Professor Kinyua has received several awards, including the International Award for Women in Nuclear from the joint FAO/IAEA, a nomination to represent Africa in Women in Nuclear Science in Washington, USA, and the Presidential Award of the Order of Grand Warrior (OGW) for her outstanding contributions to agricultural production through research. Before joining the University of Eldoret, Prof Kinyua was involved in research at KARI (now KALRO) where she developed and released over 10 varieties. Prof. Miriam G. Kinyua has been conducting very successful research projects towards production of novel varieties of cash and food crops in Kenya.



Prof. Linnet Gohole (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Entomology and Integrated Pest Management from the School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, University of Eldoret. She holds a Doctorate degree in Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (Agricultural Entomology) from Wageningen University in The Netherlands, a Master of Science in Zoology, and Bachelor of Education Science in Zoology and Botany from Kenyatta University. Her academic research at these levels was focused on the integrated management of insect pests.

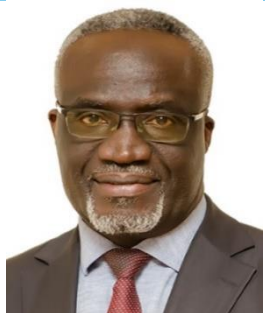
<p>Prof. Linet Gohole</p>  <p>Dr. Jacob O. Onyango</p>	<p>Dr. Jacob Onyango (PhD) is the Dean, School of Arts and Human Development. He holds a PhD from Maseno University, a Master of Philosophy degree in Entrepreneurship Studies from Moi University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Kenyatta University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi. He has experience spanning over ten years as a Lecturer at the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM). He has also been a Lecturer at Moi Institute of Technology, Rongo, Eldoret Polytechnic, Moi, and Maseno Universities.</p>
 <p>Dr. Hosea Kiplagat</p>	<p>Dr. Hosea Kiplagat (PhD) is the Dean, School of Education University of Eldoret. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Technology Education: Electrical and Electronics Technology. He is leading important departments in educational training at the university, namely the Centre for Teacher Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Management, Educational Psychology, Foundations of Education, Science Education, Social Sciences, and Technology Education.</p>
 <p>Dr. Caroline Ayuma</p>	<p>Dr. Caroline Ayuma (PhD) is the Dean, School of Business, Economics and Management Sciences. Dr. Ayuma- PhD BA- Finance (JKUAT), MBA- Finance (JKUAT), Ongoing CPA, Diploma in Forensic Accounting, Level IV- (IFA) from Brentwood Open Learning College, UK, BEd Science (Mathematics/ Physics)- Moi University. Caroline Ayuma is a Senior Lecturer of Finance/ Accounting at the University of Eldoret. She has teaching experience of over 26 years of which 12 years are at the University level. She is the Author of a Postgraduate Guidebook titled- Independent Paper Writing for Social Sciences, which is in the process of translation to Kiswahili in Tanzania. Caroline has served in various Universities in Kenya; she was in charge of the School of Business and Economics at the Kisii University's Eldoret Campus up to January 2017. She also served as a Lecturer at the Technical University of Mombasa until September 2017, when she joined the University of Eldoret as a Senior Lecturer. Caroline is a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of African Business Studies (IJABS) and a peer reviewer for the African Journal of Education, Science and Technology (AJEST), among others. Caroline has six (6) book chapters, the latest being in The Palgrave Handbook of Kenyan History (2023) by Palgrave Macmillan Cham- Chapter 51: Kenya's External Trade. She has over fifty (50) publications in peer-reviewed journals, supervised over thirty-</p>

five (35) postgraduate students to completion locally and internationally, and attended and presented papers in over fifteen (15) conferences. Together with her team, she has an innovative Integrated Student Support Programme (ISSP) at the University of Eldoret. Beyond her stellar academic record, she has a special interest in matters that affect Women and Youth and their social and economic empowerment.



Prof Victor Kimeli

Prof. Victor Kimutai Kimeli (PhD) is the Director, Information and Communication Technology at the University of Eldoret. He is an associate Professor of Computer Software and Technology in the School of Science at the University of Eldoret. He holds a PhD in Computer Software and Technology; a Master of Science in Computer Science, and a Master of Philosophy in Biostatistics. Prof. Kimeli has previously served as the Head of Mathematics and Computer Science for eight years and later as the Dean, School of Science. He has extensive experience in teaching and research of over 30 years in computer science, ICT, Biostatistics and has spearheaded automation of processes at the University of Eldoret. He has published widely in internationally referred journals and participated in conferences and seminars. He is a registered member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Kenya National Statistical Society (KNSS). He has supervised postgraduate students both at the Masters and Doctoral levels.



Prof. Doland Otieno

Prof. Doland Otieno (PhD) is the Dean, School of Science. Prof. Otieno holds a PhD in Science from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He earned his master's degree in biology from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. His expertise lies in plant systematics, with a particular focus on the classification and phylogeny of angiosperm plant families, specifically Lamiaceae and Asteraceae. Prof Otieno also has a strong research interest in ethnobotany, particularly the use of plants in traditional medicine by local communities. Beyond plant systematics and ethnobotany, Prof. Otieno is also having keen interest in Biotechnology and Biosafety. His ethnobotanical research has also led to collaborations with partners in Tanzania and Uganda. In partnership with researchers from the Netherlands, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso, he successfully secured a European Union grant to develop a MSc curriculum in Biotechnology. His 34 years of academic work, has also included leadership roles as Chairman of the Implementing Committee overseeing the MoU between the University of Eldoret and the North Rift Herbalists Association. At the University of Eldoret, Prof. Otieno has held key leadership positions as Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and Director of Quality Assurance. His expertise in quality management led to his engagement by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), where he played a pivotal role in developing the Quality Management Systems module for the Certified Quality Practitioner (CQP) Program, a professional course jointly introduced by KEBS and KASNEB. He was subsequently appointed Chief Examiner for the CQP program. In 2024, he was nominated by the University of Eldoret to join the Kenya Quality Awards Judging Committee and was later appointed by the East African Community Secretariat to represent Kenya on the Regional Quality Awards Committee. Additionally, he is a certified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems. Beyond academia, Prof. Otieno is the Vice-Chairman of BioCosmos Trust Foundation, Kenya.



Dr. Nicholas Kiprop

Dr. Nicholas Kiprop (PhD) – is the Dean, School of Agriculture and Biotechnology. He is also a senior Lecturer at the Department of Seed, Crop Horticultural Sciences, University of Eldoret

Dr Rop holds a PhD in Plant Pathology - Moi University, MSc. (Plant Sciences, Specialization Organic Plant Production)- Wageningen University, Netherlands, BSc. Tropical & Subtropical Agriculture, Specialization Plant Production -Larenstein, Netherlands, and Diploma (Agricultural Education) Egerton University. His research interests are in the field of Plant Sciences focusing on research in Plant Protection, Organic Plant Production, Agro ecology, Seed Science and technology, Molecular Aspects of Bio-interactions, Ecology of Bio-interactions and Sustainable Agricultural production practices. Dr Rop works on several research projects HABITAT Project (PI): Harnessing Pasture Biodiversity and Productivity in the Kenyan Highlands: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Scale sustainable and Climate Friendly Smallholder dairy farming in Collaboration with Bangor University (UK) International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and University of Eldoret. Project PI: Adaptive Production Practices to Increase Smallholder Dairy Farm. Dr Rop has also served in other leadership roles as Head of Department and as Acting Director University of Eldoret Town Campus. Dr Rop is a reviewer and has published several manuscripts for local and international journals. He has examined MSc and PhD theses.



Dr. Mark Kiptui

Dr. Mark Kiptui (PhD) – is the Dean, School of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management. Dr. Kiptui, holds a Ph.D. (Moi), M.A (U O N), B.Ed. (Egerton), Diploma in HRM (KIM)

Dr Kiptui is teacher by profession having taught high school for over ten years and risen to the position of deputy principal. He has over 14 years of university teaching and research experience.

Dr Kiptui has taught and supervised undergraduate and post graduate students in various universities on part time and full-time basis. He has taught and supervised post graduate students in among other Moi, Kenyatta, KeMU, Kabianga, Kisii and University of Eldoret. He is a retired head of department having served two terms and now Dean, School of Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management at the University of Eldoret. Dr Kiptui has served as external examiner in Moi, Kabianga, Kenyatta, Kabarak , and Kisii universities. He has supervised to completion 7 PhD. and 9 Master's students. He has published extensively, having published over twenty articles peer refereed journals, three book chapters and four university level books. Dr Kiptui has attracted research and development funds to the University to mention a few of his achievements.



Dr. Eng. Clement Kiptotich

Dr. Eng. Clement Kiptotich (PhD) - Dr Kiptum is a lecturer in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering and Dean, School of Engineering at the University of Eldoret in Kenya. Prior to this, he had been acting head of department and acting Dean in the School of Engineering. Before Joining University of Eldoret in 2015, he had worked in a road project as an assistant engineer until 2015 in upgrading of Kapsowar and Chebiemit road to bitumen standard. He also worked in another road project in 2014 in Garissa County as an assistant engineer. Eng. Kiptum also worked as an expatriate lecturer at Umatara Polytechnic which is now University of Rwanda, Nyagatare campus, where he was the head of Department of Building and Construction Technology Department. Prior to Lecturing in Rwanda, he had worked in Town Council of Litein, Kericho County. Before joining the local authorities Eng. Kiptum worked with Batiment Consulting Engineers in Nairobi, Shiv construction Company and Tech-Em Construction Companies. He has completed several research projects both at University of Eldoret and University of Rwanda. His main contributions have been in water quality, groundwater modelling, building materials, water use efficiency, irrigation, runoff analysis among other areas of Civil and Structural Engineering. His subsidiary area of specializing is in highways and structures particular construction materials. Dr. Kiptum has taught both undergraduate and post graduate students. He won back-to-back innovation awards during university innovation week in 2019 and 2021.

Research Associates & Fellows



Dr. Otieno Ong'ayo (Antony)

Otieno Ong'ayo (Antony) (PhD) is a political scientist by training. He is a Researcher Fellow at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University. He is currently a visiting scholar at the University of Eldoret in Kenya. He is also a Research Associate at the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in The Hague, where his research focuses on Governance of migration, diaspora engagement policies, migration, and development. He is an associate researcher with Globalization, Accessibility, Innovation and Care (GAIC) at the Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences (TSHD) Tilburg University, and for the last 8 years, he has been a member of the Commission on Development Cooperation (COS) of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs (AIV) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr Ong'ayo has been lecturer in Globalization Studies and Humanitarian Action, Development Studies, Advanced master's in development studies, African Dynamics, Migration and Development, and international relations at several universities in the Netherlands (Leiden-Delft-Erasmus African dynamics programme, University of Groningen, University College Amsterdam, Tilburg University, University College Utrecht, and Webster University Leiden Campus). His research experience includes the implementation of several large-scale projects with grants from the EU - EU FP7-SSH-2007 on Diasporas for Peace: Patterns, Trends and Potential of Long-distance Diaspora Involvement in Conflict Settings in collaboration with knowledge institutes (PRIO-Norway, BICC - Germany, CeSPI-Italy, UK, and Finland), McArthur Foundation Migrant Grant for Building Institutional cooperation between African Diaspora organizations and Governments in their countries of origin with a focus on Ghanaians and Nigerians in Germany, UK, and United States; Maximizing the value of the Kenyan diaspora funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most recently, Dr. Ong'ayo has been implementing projects on Transnational Diaspora Engagement: Refugee Settlements in Northern Uganda in collaboration

with Cordaid and participated in NUFFIC-funded research on strengthening the capacity of educational institutions in Benin and Strengthening Training and Education Partnerships on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for the Justice, Law, and Order Sector (STEPS for JLOS) in Uganda. His areas of specialization include Political Theory: Political Thought, Comparative Politics, Intersectional Theory International Relations: International Relations Theories, International Organisations, International Non-Governmental Organisations, Human Rights, Transnational Theory, International Development Corporation, Humanitarian Action Development Studies: Development Theories, Governance, Civil Society-State Relations, Political Economy, Globalization, Migration and Development, Digital Technology and Society, Global Health. Research methodology: Philosophy of Science, Qualitative Research; Discourse Analysis, Transformative Methodologies Programme management: Project Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, Institutional Capacity Strengthening, Curriculum Development, Facilitation of Participatory and Policy processes, Cross-cultural training.



Odilia Anyachi Okonga

Odilia Anyachi Okonga (BSc) Odilia is a passionate advocate for educational reform in Africa. She passionately believes that education is the most powerful catalyst for change on the continent. She is a resolute proponent of an African-centered curriculum and is committed to amplifying African voices and images within educational contexts. Odilia's leadership and initiative are evident in her role as the founder of the International African School (IAS) (<https://internationalafrican.school/>), an Online School that teaches Swahili as a second language and Social Studies with a focus on African History, Civics, culture, and literature. Odilia's scholarly contributions to African education are significant. As a published author of Swahili grammar books in English, French, Dutch, and German, she has made substantial contributions to the documentation and advancement of resources for integrating African perspectives into the classroom. Based in the Netherlands, Odilia is a freelance teacher. She introduces the Discovering Africa Program in primary and secondary school classrooms. Through the art of storytelling, she skillfully utilizes African folktales to impart invaluable lessons in civics and history. Odilia has significantly promoted African culture and knowledge through various impactful initiatives in The Netherlands. She was honored to present the African concept of Ubuntu philosophy to over two thousand individuals in 2023. Furthermore, in 2023-24, Odilia curated an insightful African Textile exhibition at a prominent museum in The Netherlands titled "Discovering Africa Through Textile," highlighting African textiles' rich and diverse heritage. Her commitment to promoting African culture is further evidenced by her publication of Sauti ya Afrika Magazine, which focuses on curating African culture and narratives. Before her current endeavors, Odilia also contributed her expertise to a UN organization for more than 10 years, furthering her impact on a global scale. Her multifaceted contributions continue to make a positive and lasting impact on promoting and celebrating African culture and education. She is one of the founders of KEMET Awards for Achievement in African Languages (KAAAL Awards), an initiative that recognizes, archives, and honors the achievements and development of African mother tongues.



Prof. Auma Okwany

Prof Auma Okwany (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Social Policy at The International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands. Her scholarship centers on the relationship between policy, practice, and theory for children, youth, and their families in diverse areas including a gendered analysis of education, social protection, (adolescent/youth) sexuality and reproductive health and rights, Relational Learning and Place-based Pedagogies. Her scholarship building privileges research that is attentive to epistemic diversity, highlighting the need to center and amplify voice and experiences which are often marginalized by the dominant narrative. In this endeavor of pursuing epistemic justice, she has built alliances with scholars in the African region in nurturing and mentoring emerging researchers on situated approaches. Her research outputs include articles, book chapters, and edited volumes including a book that she is currently editing for publication by Routledge. Using her scholarship to improve policy and practice, she has been involved in coordinating several externally funded multi-year, multi-partner research, development, and capacity building projects in East, South and West Africa.



Dr. Leonard Muaka

Dr. Leonard Muaka (PhD) is the Chair, Department of World Languages & Cultures. Prof Muaka is an accomplished linguist, researcher, academic leader, professor of Swahili, and experienced study-abroad leader. He currently leads and teaches languages at Howard University in Washington, DC, USA. He holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and an Advanced Certificate in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) from the same Institution. In addition, he also holds a master's degree in Swahili Studies from the University of Nairobi and a master's degree in applied Linguistics from Ohio University, USA. His research focuses on African languages, language acquisition, youth languages, and sociolinguistics in general. Dr. Muaka's experience of more than 30 years of teaching Swahili as a foreign language is what is needed to attract foreign language learners and to provide training to future educators in the field. He currently directs the Fulbright Swahili Group Project Abroad to Kenya for American students to study advanced Swahili. This is a very competitive federally funded study abroad project.



Dr. Rahab Njerii

Dr. Njeri Rahab (PhD) is a mother, historian, decolonial scholar, and community activist. She earned her PhD from the University of Trier through the International Excellent Graduate School IRTG (funded by DFG), following her studies at the University of Cologne. Her research interests include Postcolonial and Gender Studies, Intersectionality, Black Feminism, African History, Critical Whiteness Studies, Black Diaspora, Migration Studies, and Black Canadian Studies. As a trainer, Njeri specializes in Critical Whiteness, Anti-Black Racism, Critical Intersectional Diversity, and Empowerment. In her roles as moderator, curator, and trainer, she applies a decolonial lens to the complexities of race, gender, and power, creating inclusive and transformative spaces for dialogue and action. Njeri is actively engaged in the restitution debate in her city, advocating for the return of cultural heritage looted during colonialism. She serves on the board of several organizations, including the Health Committee of the City of Cologne, Postkoloniales Erbe Köln (Postcolonial Heritage of Cologne), ANSA e.V. (DAAD), International African School, and Women of Impact. She is one of the founders of the African Institute of Professional & Development Studies (AIPDS) and currently, also working to institutionalize Black Studies within German academia. Deeply involved in grassroots climate movements, Njeri brings a decolonial perspective to climate change activism. She is a strong advocate for the inclusion

and visibility of Black women in climate policy discussions and has delivered several presentations on the contributions of Professor Wangari Maathai and Indigenous knowledge systems to current climate politics in Germany, promoting sustainable solutions rooted in equity and justice. In 2020, she ran for a political seat as a direct candidate for City Hall, representing the environmental political group Klima Freunde. An advocate of the Utu philosophy as articulated by Prof. Micere Githae Mugo, Njeri advocates for social justice, equity, empowerment and critical diversity in German higher education policy and strategy. She employs an Utu-centred decolonial framework to address issues of racism, coloniality, and exclusion, striving to dismantle oppressive structures across academia, society, and politics while fostering solidarity and critical allyship. Njeri is the founder of the KEMET Awards for Achievement in African Languages (KAAAL Awards), an initiative that recognizes, archives, and honours achievements in African languages both in the diaspora and on the continent. Under the patronage of renowned intellectual Prof. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, KAAAL foregrounds the significance of African languages as critical tools for decolonizing knowledge production, preserving cultural heritage, and empowering communities in the diaspora. For her work in decolonial activism, climate justice, and African language advocacy, Njeri was recognized as Historian of the Year 2023. Currently, Njeri works as a consultant for the University of Cologne (UoC), where she develops and advocates for antiracist policies and strategies. This is the first position of its kind in the history of German universities. Her work focuses on creating sustainable structures to ensure the University of Cologne becomes more inclusive for all, while also providing counsel to employees experiencing racial discrimination and supporting the development and implementation of anti-racist strategies across the institution.



Dr. Luanga Nchari

Dr. Luanga Nchari (PhD) is a result-oriented chemical engineer/project manager with experience in building fundamental knowledge and creating and delivering innovation based on business needs. Dr. Nchari has a decade and a half of experience in the FMCG sector and other industries, with remarkable know-how to translate technical challenges into winning concepts that can potentially enable business growth. His areas of expertise include Process scaling-up from lab to industrial scale; Process optimization and innovation; Project technical leadership; Powder physics and technology; Technology scouting; Corrosion control; Surface science, and Modelling/simulation.



Godian Ejiogu (MA)

Godian Ejiogu (MA) has worked for more than 25 years as a spiritual caregiver, specializing in culturally sensitive care for African roots in The Netherlands. He knows where he comes from. His community upbringing in his family of birth did not leave him after migrating to the Netherlands. While writing his master’s thesis in 1996, he researched the *Spirituality of African people* (very relevant in understanding Africans). In another thesis for his master’s diploma in 2007, he researched *Racism against Africans in the multicultural church communities*. It was relevant to understand why migrant or international churches exist. It also exposed the depth of racism in education and its effect on social interaction. Both research and other life work helped him maintain his African identity and professional skills in cultural diversity. He did parish pastoral work in different Roman Catholic dioceses in The Netherlands. Later, he worked as a city pastor in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Lecturing at different theological universities is his way of maintaining his passion for education. A decade ago, he established the God Peace Ministry. A non-denominational congregation for the spiritual education and cultivation of a community culture of health and living peace. He has established tens of communities, both in Africa, and in Europe. Ejiogu is a community person imbued with the spirituality of union and peace. His writings, both books and articles, are based on promoting and preserving human dignity. Some of his books aim to break taboos by telling untold stories of harm. Encouraging people to tell their personal stories and break their fears and taboos is part of his method of spiritual care, which encourages self-liberation, healing, strengthening of spirit of resilience, and provide peace of mind. Guiding people to find answers to their life questions and peaceful living peace is his primary goal. Living with Dutch origins for almost three decades as an African, both in private and public life, expands his knowledge of both African and Dutch culture. As the father of three children born into mixed African and Dutch heritage, he understands the challenge this poses in intercultural upbringing. The question of identity for children and their place of belonging can be traumatizing. Ejiogu is the General Overseer of the Good Peace Ministry. He is the chair and CEO of the Foundation Collectively Strongly Rooted. He is also the director of the Migrant Mother and Child Foundation and owner of Peace Servant (<https://peaceservant.nl>), including the publishing press.



Dr Dennis Obonyo Ndolo

Dennis Obonyo Ndolo (PhD) is Group Leader – Biopesticides at the International Centre for Genetic and Engineering (ICGEB), based in Cape Town, South Africa, where he leads a team that focuses on supporting the development of more sustainable pest control options, particularly those incorporating the use of biopesticides as part of integrated pest management strategies. Dr. Ndolo holds a PhD and a BSc from the University of Nairobi, an MSc from Egerton University, and an Advanced Certificate in Project Management from the University of Cape Town. Prior to his current role, he served as a Programme Officer in the ICGEB Biosafety Group, where he co-managed a major capacity-building project aimed at strengthening the ability of African regulators to address biosafety issues in agricultural biotechnology. Dr. Ndolo has also worked with Dudutech, a leading international Integrated Pest Management company, where he conducted research on sustainable biocontrol solutions for agricultural pests and diseases. He has (co)authored several peer-reviewed scientific publications and book chapters.



**Grace Kavochi McBride
(MEd)**

Grace Kavochi McBride (MEd) is a trained Early Childhood educator with 20 years of experience teaching Public and private schools, grades preschool to 3rd grade, in the United States of America. Her experience as a former Kenyan primary level and secondary student, a Kenyan Primary school teacher, and a preschool and primary level teacher in the United States school system qualify her to share innovative strategies to enhance the rural teacher in skill development and closing the gaps that exist in the African primary school curricula. Her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and an advanced degree in Education as a Reading Specialist, coupled with extra course work in education intervention, qualify me to be on this pioneering platform for the Institute of Innovation and African Studies at Eldoret University. Grace has a wealth of information on how to transform teaching and learning in primary schools in Kenya through developmentally appropriate practices, which call for innovative strategies that can bring connectivity to rural primary school teachers and students. She posits that Primary schools are where more education resources should be invested than any other grade level. Numerous brain research conducted in the past 30 years consistently indicate that most learning in children takes place in the first five years, and 'it is when a child's brain develops fastest, and when they learn critical, social-emotional and academic skills they'll need to have positive educational outcomes (see www.tcf.org). She wants to collaborate on innovating education for the 20th-century elementary learner.




**Liesbeth Simone Peroti
(MA)**

Liesbeth Simone Peroti (MA) was born in Suriname (Caribbean/South- America). She studied music pedagogy, performing arts and musicology in the Netherlands (Rotterdam Conservatory), Jamaica (Edna Manley College for Visual and Performing Arts) and Ghana (University of Cape Coast). At policy and implementation level in the Arts and Cultural sector she is active within Education, Science, Performing Arts, Entrepreneurship and as a Producer. At both national and international organizations such as Naks (National African Culture Suriname) the IHIB (Online Institute for Hebrew Israelite Awareness), the CS (Suriname Conservatory of Music) LMPA (Lisibeti Music Performing Arts) and the IAS (International African School) she contributes within the Councils and Boards. Her discipline and interest are in the field of African Studies focused on the Performing Arts -as the soul and spirit of a culture - (Art, music, -dance, theatre) but also African Performing Arts as a didactic tool in education on the primary, secondary, and tertiary level.



Dr. Marie-Antoinette Stellamaris Nyanhama Okemwa, (PhD) is Chair of the ENAR Aisbl and ENAR Foundation, JEDI consultant at Hand in Hand against Racism, 30+ years in Policy and Advocacy, Human Rights Defender, Decolonial Expert, Public Speaker, and Social Influencer. She has proven leadership skills, experience in human rights activism, and expansive expertise in advocacy, lobbying, giving speeches, and facilitating workshops. She is adept at making critical decisions, managing deadlines, and conducting team reviews. I am skilled at effective negotiations and upselling techniques and thereby successfully contributed to company profits by improving team efficiency and productivity.

<p>Dr. Marie-Antoinette S. Nyanchama Okemwa</p>	
<p>S'thabile Mlotshwa (BA)</p>	<p>S'thabile Mlotshwa (BA) is a creator, art collector and enthusiastic campaigner for women's rights who sees art as a catalyst for change, innovation, and human advancement. S'thabile is Founder - Executive director of Thamgidi Foundation, Producer of Art, Books en Wine, Artistic Director Festival De Oase, Producer, and artistic director of IFAA 2008 and IFAA Art Platform, visual artist, cultural producer, and independent curator. She is former chair of "VAAB" the visual arts association in Bulawayo Zimbabwe, former Secretary General ResArtis, Board of directors Stichting WHAA, 2009 advisory Board member of the Gelders Balkon (Museum of Modern Art in Arnhem) and 2008 President of the Jury at the Dakart Biennale. Four of her biggest successes are: 1) Thamgidi Fund, which has to-date given more than 35 grants. 2) Building a major collection of contemporary art with the focus on Africa and the international Diaspora. 3) Producing IFAA 2008 & IFAA Art Platform, (an international cross - disciplinary Festival and artist in Residency Platform), taking place in different cities worldwide. 4) Producing Art, Books en Wine, (a network and debate platform bringing together creators and the corporate sector) through art, food, literature, and wine. She was invited to speak at Tedx Women Amsterdam and publicised in The Next Women (an Online Magazine for Female Business Heroes) as an inspirational woman. She is publicised in the Rebelle Art & Feminism 1969 -2009 catalogue of the Museum of Modern Art in Arnhem. S'thabile was selected for the Asia-Europe Network Training Program of Independent Autonomous Art Centres in Paris organised by Asia Europe Foundation, Trans Europe Halles & Art factories where she represented the Netherlands for the building of the Asia - Europe Network for Independent Cultural Centres. She has illustrated books and participated in the restoration of the Cyrene Mission (restoration of a church which is on UNESCO world heritage list).</p>
 <p>Wema Mumma (MA)</p>	<p>Wema Mumma (MA) is a Film Programmer and Events Manager from Nairobi, Kenya, currently based in London. She has a First Class Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature and Film from the University of Kent and a First Class Master of Arts degree in Film & TV Studies from the University of Warwick. Through her master's degree, she designed a module on Queer African Cinema. She went on to program for the British Film Institute's annual London Film Festival and its LGBTQIA+ film festival, Flare. She has also programmed and produced other film festivals, including the 2023 Fragments Film Festival and the inaugural DIVA Film Festival. As an events manager, Wema has overseen the management of over 500 events, including film and literature festivals, series premieres and commercial events for companies including Disney, BAFTA, and Channel 4. Wema currently works as an events manager for the Southbank Centre's Creative Engagement team, coordinating programs to engage the local community in the arts. LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/wemamumma.</p>



Dr. Moffat Moyo

Dr. Moffat Moyo (PhD) Literary critic, poet, recording artiste, and performer, Gankhanani Moffat Moyo is Zambia's UNESCO-recognised international expert and trainer on intangible cultural heritage. He teaches literature, cultural studies, and creative writing at the University of Zambia. Gankhanani whose PhD is in Literature has published his research extensively in many academic journals. One of his recent publications is a book entitled: The Status of Writing: Towards the Nurturing of the Book Industry in Zambia (2021) and an article on decoloniality entitled: Independent States without Cultural Awareness? In Defence of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (2022). His research interests include literary theory, creative writing, performance arts, and cultural studies.





Ankwetta B. Achaleke (BSc)

Ankwetta Beatrice Achaleke (BSc), is a fearless African soul celebrating over 50 glorious orbits around the sun! Her incredible journey spans continents, cultures, and emotions, woven with 49 years of wisdom forged through trials, triumphs, and transformation. Cameroon's nurturing embrace shaped her early years, infusing her with boundless enthusiasm and a curious naiveté. Then, Austria beckoned, opening a kaleidoscope of experiences – a mosaic of gains, losses, and battles within. These challenges kindled a profound desire to heal, propelling her back to her African roots in 2015. South Africa became her sanctuary, a cocoon for self-discovery and the incubator of her GloBUNTU Transformational Mindshift System™, a compass guiding her metamorphosis. From wounded to warrior, she emerged stronger, embracing her role as a mother, a human, and a visionary professional. Achaleke's journey is not just personal; it is a tango of words and wisdom. She is the brain behind GloBUNTU Books, crafting 37 books and 18 eBooks that inspire, empower, and ignite minds. Her coaching prowess fostered a literary renaissance, empowering 37 budding authors to unleash their voices – and 18 of them even claimed coveted awards! Fluent in 6 languages, including the rhythmic beats of Bangwa and the harmonies of Portuguese she is mastering, Achaleke's voyage continues. Currently, SaoTome and Principe are her new classrooms for learning and healing, as she embarks on yet another chapter of her extraordinary story.



Ms. Stella Simiyu (BA) is Director of Regulatory Affairs and Stakeholder Relations at CroLife AME, the regional association representing leading global manufacturers of crop protection products, seeds, and biotechnology products. Her role in leading and managing the regulatory pillar is focused on promoting the application of science and evidence-based decision-making processes. She oversees knowledge sharing & capacity-building efforts to enhance the understanding and application of evidence and science in risk assessment, registration processes, MRLs, and consumer safety. As well as policy and regulatory transformation programs to enhance the development of enabling regulatory and policy environment, including harmonization to facilitate uptake of innovative solutions to climate change and pests and disease pressure. Her role involves engaging collaboratively with global, regional, and national stakeholders, including regulators, policymakers, industry, and farmers, on actual policy and regulatory issues critical to secure farmers' access to plant health innovations, including crop protection products and related technologies, particularly in the context of sustainable agriculture. Her background is in public policy analysis, biosafety in agriculture, regulatory compliance for crop protection products, including biologicals,

<p>Stella Simiyu (MA)</p>	<p>regulatory harmonization, scenario-planning, and entrepreneurship development. She has over 20 years of cumulative experience in agriculture sector development. Ms. Simiyu holds a Master of Policy Studies (MPS) from the South African Regional Institute of Policy Studies (SARIPS), affiliated with the University of Zimbabwe, University of Dar Es Salaam, and Fort Hare University and a B.A. (Hons) in Political Science from the University of Nairobi, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Agro Food Systems.</p>
 <p>Dr Muchimuti Erastus</p>	<p>Dr Muchimuti Erastus (PhD) is a Lecturer at the school of Education, University of Eldoret. Dr. Muchimuti holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Management, a Master of Philosophy in Educational Planning and Bachelor of Education Science from Moi University. Kenya. He lectures courses in Advanced Equity and efficiency, Econometrics, Quantitative techniques, Supply of and Demand for Education, Financing of Education and Research Methodology. He has accumulated experience through many years of teaching Undergraduate, Master, and PhD students in quantitative research methodologies, specifically in questionnaire construction and design and multivariate analysis techniques using SPSS. He has also undertaken consultancy work on the Master Card foundation, of note consulted for teacher preparation in Sub-Saharan Africa. He has also participated in many DAAD and Erasmus+ Networking Research seminars and workshops. He has published extensively in refereed journals on topics covering equity, Gender, access, Retention, Mental health, and student financing and co-authored several books on educational policy and management-related issues and quantitative research.</p>
 <p>HE Ambassador Stella Orina (LLB, MA)</p>	<p>HE Ambassador Mokaya Stella Orina (MA, LLB). Diplomat and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Kenyan Ambassador to The Federal Republic of Germany and Extraordinary and plenipotentiary accredited to Poland and The Czech Republic. She holds Master's Degree in Arts (International Studies), University of Nairobi, bachelor's degree in law, University of Nairobi. She has been Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya for over 21 years, with experiences as Deputy Director General, Kenyan Foreign Service Academy;; Ag. Director-General of the Kenyan Foreign Service Academy; Deputy Director General Foreign Service Academy. Ambassador Stella Orina has been the Deputy head of Mission, Kenya Embassy Vienna – Austria; Registrar of Treaties with effect from July 2015 to May 2019. Served also as Head/Legal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade between. Prior to this, she held the post of Assistant Director in the Ministry. Other positions held are Second Counsellor at Kenya's Permanent Mission to the UN, (New York); She has also been the First Secretary Kenya Embassy, Washington, DC. Ambassador Orina was seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as State Counsel II from the Office of the Attorney General in Kenya. Prior to joining Government, she was in private legal practice in Nairobi. Ambassador Stella Orina brings her international relations and diplomacy experience to the Institute to strengthen the relevant courses and expose students to real world experience of International Relations Practice.</p>



**Dr. Elizabeth (Eliza)
Ngutuku**

Dr. Elizabeth (Eliza) Ngutuku (PhD) is a research fellow at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA) in the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is also a researcher at the Institute of Education, University College London. Eliza holds a PhD in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her PhD research explored children’s complex lived experience of poverty and vulnerability in Kenya. Eliza is a scholar-activist working on interdisciplinary issues on children and youth development in Europe, Africa and Asia. Her research practice involves critical inter-disciplinary research on voice and lived experience of children, Poverty, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender and Conflict, Education and constructions of young people’s needs in policies and practice. As a decolonial scholar she also teaches on decolonial and gender sensitive education policies. Eliza is widely published including articles in Childhood and Ethnography and Education journals. Her latest publication is her book ‘Children’s Lived Experience of Poverty and Vulnerability in Kenya’ just published with Routledge in 2025.



**Pius Odhiambo
(MSc)**

Pius Odhiambo (MSc) - Data Scientist in Washington DC, USA. Founder of KISWATE Digital Academy Scholarship Fund, KISWATE TV, KISWATE Community Service Program. Pius is also the Director General of Blue Nile Analytica (<https://www.bnanalytica.org>) and has worked with the AirForce Research Lab (AFRL), at the Bowie State University.



Dr. Mary Mangai

Dr. Mary Mangai (PhD) Senior lecturer, School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA), SPMA research representative at the faculty, University of Pretoria, South Africa. She holds a Masters in Economic Development and Policy Analysis from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and a PhD in Management Sciences with a specialization in Public Administration from Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands. Dr. Mangai specializes in public policy and management with a focus on citizen co-production and co-creation of service delivery, innovation in service delivery, collaborative governance, crisis response, emergency management, local government, and developmental countries. Her extensive experience includes consulting for national and international organizations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), European Union, African Union, German Development Co-operation (GIZ), South African Presidency and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). She was engaged in projects funded by The World Academy

of Sciences (TWAS), the German Research Foundation (DFG), and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). Dr. Mangai currently serves on 2 Public Administration journals as the coordinating editor for Public Administration and Development and editorial board member for Public Administration.



Dr. Seraphine Chepkosgei (PhD) – Head of communications, language and literature department, and a Lecturer at the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Eldoret. Dr. Seraphine Chepkosgei holds a PhD Literature, M. Phil Literature, and B.Ed. (arts). Her main area of specialization is in African diasporic Literature. Dr. Chepkosgei’s research interests include African diasporic studies, Gender studies, Post colonial literature, Theatre arts and film studies.

**Dr. Seraphine
Chepkosgei**



Dr. Richard Ochieng (PhD) – The deputy Director of Town Campus and Lecturer, School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Eldoret. He holds a PhD and a Master of Science in Geography from Egerton University, complemented by foundational training in Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing from GSITI, Hyderabad. Dr. Ochieng’ is a social scientist, experienced in environmental management, green energy solutions, analysis of rainfall and drought trends. His extensive expertise also encompasses food security and pastoral resilience. Dr. Ochieng’ has collaborated with researchers from Kenya, United States of America, United Kingdom, and Mongolia. Currently serving as the Chair of BioCosmos Kenya, he focuses on Intelligent Design and its implications in contemporary research. Dr. Ochieng’s commitment to innovation is evident through his development of the mobile communication app “SMART CONNECT,” showcased during the Kenya National Innovation Week. As a mentor and supervisor, Dr. Ochieng’ has guided numerous postgraduate students, including those pursuing doctoral and master’s degrees. He has received funding from BioCosmos Africa for projects related to Intelligent Design and has actively participated in research initiatives focused on resilience and sustainable futures in rangelands, as well as social innovation in university education.

Dr. Richard Ochieng