Plenary speakers

Read more
Director of CVD-Mali, Professor Samba Sow is a medical doctor and epidemiologist. He has spent his career working to improve the lives of Malians and in the course of that work has received numerous honours, including the French Legion of Honor and the National Order of Merit in 2017 for his work on the Ebola epidemic. He also received the 2000 Paul Laviron Prize in Tropical Medicine from the University of Marseille (France) and was the Commemorative Fund Lecturer of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 2006.

Professor Sow was Minister of Health and Public Hygiene for Mali between April 2017 and May 2019 and instituted a series of visionary health sector reforms, to provide free antenatal and maternal healthcare as well as free care for children under five years old. In 2020, he was appointed WHO Special Envoy for Covid-19 in West Africa.

Title: Establishing a centre of excellence in vaccine research in Mali
Title: THRiVE, A DELTAS research consortium marks a decade of progress

Professor Nelson Sewankambo MBChB, MSc, M.MED, FRCP, LLD (HC), Professor Emeritus and a former Dean of Makerere University Medical School, Uganda, and a past Principal at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences. He facilitated the establishment of many global health collaborations between Makerere University and institutions in both high as well as low and middle-income countries. He is a Principal Investigator on several research and capacity building projects that are externally funded including THRiVE (Training Health Researchers into Vocational Excellence in East Africa), a DELTAS Africa-supported program. He is a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences and the African Academy of Sciences and was a Vice-President of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; He is a recipient of several honorary awards including a Doctorate of Letters from Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health; a Grand Silver Medal from Karolinska Institute, Sweden; a Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa from McMaster University in Canada, Fellow of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an external affiliate of the US National Institute of Medicine (formerly US Academy of Medicine).
Morning speakers
Caroline was appointed Academic Director for Cambridge-Africa in October 2018, succeeding Professor David Dunne (the founding Director in 2008). She is a Principal Research Associate in Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge and an honorary epidemiologist at Public Health England. Her research examines the potential and actual impact of immunisation using a range of methods from classic epidemiology to mathematical modelling and health economics. Her work has been used to inform national and (as a consultant to the World Health Organisation) international vaccine policy. Much of Caroline’s research is focussed on meningococcal disease and carriage in the UK and Africa, working with African partners, including the African Meningococcal Carriage Consortium (MenAfriCar). She has been involved in a range of projects in the African meningitis belt, both to quantify the impact of MenAfriVac (an affordable group A meningococcal conjugate vaccine), and to investigate both short (epidemic response) and long-term (preventive vaccination) options for the control of epidemic meningitis. She also has current projects on the impact of vaccination against group B streptococcus and rabies.

Sharath Srinivasan is David and Elaine Potter Associate Professor at the University of Cambridge’s Department of Politics and International Studies, a Fellow of King’s College Cambridge, and Co-Director of the University’s Centre of Governance & Human Rights (CGHR). Sharath’s teaching, research, and applied collaborations lie at the intersection of contentious politics, civic action and technology, especially in Africa. His work unravels the politics of how artefacts that shape our political world are made – institutions that peacemakers ‘build’, more recently, in the design and distribution of communication technologies – and implications for civil political action. This has led to projects on failed peace interventions and civil politics (When Peace Kills Politics, Hurst/Oxford UP; Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan, ed, British Academy/Oxford UP), and on digital publics (Publics in Africa in a Digital Age, ed, Routledge). Alongside, he has spun out from research the award winning non-profit Africa’s Voices Foundation, and recently launched civic technology start-up Katikati with a computer science colleague, based on their support to the Covid-19 response in eastern Africa.

Dr. Caroline Trotter & Dr. Sharath Srinivasan
Chairs of morning session
Title: Science, technology, and innovation from Africa: Perspectives from Archaeology in Nigeria

Dr Abidemi Babatunde Babalola is the Andrew Mellon fellow at the Scientific Research Department of the British Museum and a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge. He was the Smuts Research Fellow at the Centre of African Studies and a Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge (2018-2021). He was a Research Affiliate at the Science and Technology in Archaeology and Heritage Centre of the Cyprus Institute (2017-2018). From 2016 to 2018, Dr Babalola was the McMillian Stewart Fellow at the Hutchins Centre, Harvard University. Trained at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (B.A and M.A) and Rice University, USA (Ph.D.), Dr. Babalola's research focuses on the intersections of science, technology, innovation, and the emergence of complex societies in early West Africa. His research on 'archaeology of glass in Southwest Nigeria' has received several grants and awards including the 2019 Shanghai Archaeology Forum Discovery Award and the Cambridge-Africa Alborada grant. Dr Babalola has published in top-tier journals including Journal of Archaeological Science, Antiquity, Journal of African Archaeology, Journal of Black Studies, and the International Journal of African Historical Studies among others.

Dr Kingsley Chinedu Daraojimba is an Environmental Archaeologist and Lecturer at the Department of Archaeology and Tourism, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He obtained his degrees (B.Sc 2007; M.Sc 2010 and Ph.D 2017) from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr Daraojimba is a 2020 African Humanities Program (AHP) Postdoctoral Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). He was a University of Ibadan Postgraduate School Teaching and Research Assistant (2013-16). He obtained Certificates in Global Social Archaeology, Kyushu University, Japan (2016) and Community Archaeology, University of Cambridge (2019). Dr Kingsley has received several awards and research grants, some of which include Early Career Academic Grant, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), (2018); Society of Antiquaries of London (SAL) Research Grant (2020 and 2022); Cambridge-Africa Alborada Research Grant (2020-2021). His research interest straddles Nigerian archaeology and ethnohistory, Melissopalynology, human-environment relationship, palaeoenvironment and human-environment interaction in the early historic period; community archaeology and public engagement. He has several publications to his credit, including contributions to the archaeological projects in Eastern and Western Nigeria including Igbo-Ukwu and Owu Archaeology Projects, respectively. He is currently a Newton International Postdoctoral Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.
Dr Seifu A Tilahun
Mr Mayamiko Nkoloma & Dr Seifo A Tilahun

Title: Rapid response blueprint: Lessons learned from the digital fabrication of crisis-critical items in Ethiopia and Malawi

Dr Seifu A Tilahun

Bahir Dar Institute of Technology. He held a position of scientific director of Bahir Dar Institute of Technology. He has currently an associate professor position within Faculty of Civil and Water Resources Engineering of Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia. Dr Tilahun is Associate Professor at the Institute of Technology - Addis Ababa University and a PhD in Biological and Environmental Engineering from Addis Ababa University. He has been an assistant professor of Electrical Engineering at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). Mr Mayamiko Nkoloma is a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Malawi. He has been an assistant professor of Electrical Engineering at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS).

Mr Mayamiko Nkoloma is a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Malawi.
Dr Jenny Molloy & Stephane Fadanka

11.30-11.50

Title: Towards distributed manufacturing for the bioeconomy in Africa

Stephane Fadanka is a Molecular Biology researcher and Executive Director at Mboalab, a community innovation hub located in Yaounde, Cameroon. Stephane works with the UK based Beneficial Bio and Open Bioeconomy Lab to make research tools and protocols more accessible to researchers in Cameroon and abroad through local manufacturing of reagents for molecular biology research and application. Stephane is also SynBio Africa Emerging Leader in Synthetic Biology and Biosecurity fellow and a fervent advocate of Open Science in Africa sharing his experience in open science as an Outreach mentor and as Open Science Ambassador with the Open Life Science (OLS-5) program.

Dr Jenny Molloy is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cambridge building technologies for an open, globally inclusive and equitable bioeconomy through the Open Bioeconomy Lab. She develops biomanufacturing tools and technologies that are sustainable by design and deployable in low-resource contexts. Her group also investigates the most effective ways that their research can make a positive impact in developing and emerging economies, particularly the effect of open licensing and collaborative development with end users. Jenny is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Synthetic Biology, chairs an independent multi-sectoral working group on Local Production and Diagnostic and has co-founded four social enterprises and nonprofits supporting the development and deployment of open source tools for science.
Dr David Izuogu was a Cambridge-Africa scholar and the winner of the inaugural Dr Amit Bhasin Prize for an outstanding African postgraduate at Cambridge in 2021. He completed his PhD in Theory and Computational Chemistry at the University of Cambridge where he used computational techniques to investigate smart materials known as single-molecule magnets for quantum information processing. His undergraduate and master's degrees were obtained from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Tohoku University, Japan respectively. David comes with a diverse professional background in academia and business. He recently worked as a consultant and Venture Associate with Start Codon venture capital in Cambridge, UK as well as a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, UK. He now doubles as a part-time Lecturer at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and a visiting Lecturer at Covenant University, Nigeria. He also holds a position as an Associate at McKinsey. He is the founder of ‘Africa of Our Dream’ Initiative, a charity that supports minority students from Africa to pursue Higher education at top global universities and bridges the gap between researchers in the global north and their counterparts in the global south through research partnerships. While in Cambridge, he served in various leadership positions and board of trustees including those of Wolfson College, Cambridge Black Advisory Hub, and Cambridge-Africa Strategic Advisory Board among others. His various leadership, entrepreneurial and academic experiences have earned him numerous awards including the CAS Future Leader award, Outstanding Student Contribution to Education Award – Access & Outreach category, and the Trinity Bradfield Entrepreneurial prize among others.

Title: The serendipity and design of scientific innovation in Africa: A case for single-molecule magnets and quantum information processing
Dr Tonny Okedi’s PhD explored the use of photosynthetic bacteria for generating low-carbon electricity from just sunlight as an energy source and water as an electron source. This has the potential to provide low-cost, small- or micro-scale electricity in developing regions, as well as reduce the energy demands for the remediation of wastewater. His research combined electrochemistry and machine learning to elucidate the factors that affect the sunlight-to-electricity harvesting efficiency of the bacteria.
Afternoon speakers
Professor James Wood is a veterinary epidemiologist who leads the Disease Dynamics Unit in Cambridge University and conducts multidisciplinary research on infectious diseases. He is also Dean of Cambridge University Veterinary School. His research interests are focussed on One Health approaches to infectious disease emergence and its control and are based in UK, India, Ghana and Ethiopia. He is involved in collaborative studies of emergence of RNA viruses from fruit bats and control of bovine tuberculosis. He chairs the Cambridge-Africa science advisory group (CASAG).
Prof. Dr.-Ing Esayas Alemayehu & Dr Ronita Bardham

Title: Heat and Health Risks in transitional housing of Ethiopia – A path towards design solution

Prof., Dr.-Ing Esayas Alemayehu is a Ph.D (Dr.-Ing) with highest distinction, magna cum laude, in Environmental Engineering from Rostock University, Germany. He is Professor in Water and Environmental Engineering and was Scientific vice Director at Jimma University till 2018. Professor Alemayehu has enriched experiences to coordinate several multidisciplinary international research and capacity-building projects since 2001. He is a co-founder of Gilgel Gibe Field Research Center (GGFRC), Ethiopia. He has contributed to high-quality community-based research in the field of Public and Environmental Health including appropriate housing, indoor air pollution control, climate change mitigations, basic vital events, low-income energy sources, WASH, etc. Professor Alemayehu has proven successful in the management of research projects and conducts research that responds to the needs of residential buildings, including Integrated Housing Development Programme (IHPD) of Ethiopia. His current research interest is the development of appropriate engineering solutions to mitigate overheating and indoor air pollution in IHPD houses. Prof., Dr.-Ing Esayas Alemayehu has supervised and graduated 11 doctoral students and more than 100 master's students. Professor Alemayehu has received several institutional and national awards from the institutions for Outstanding Academic & Research Achievements.

Dr Ronita Bardhan is Associate Professor of Sustainability in Built Environment at the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge. She is the Director of MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies (MAUS) and leads the Sustainable Design Group at the university. Her research focuses on data-driven design for built environments that respond by reducing health and energy burdens in the warming climate. Bardhan combines architectural engineering, AI and machine learning with social sciences to develop built environment design solutions for low-income communities. Bardhan specialises in data-driven design for developing context-specific solutions in the affordable housing sector. She has intensively worked on developing sustainable, low-cost design and technology solutions for transitional and affordable housing design in the Global South - India (Mumbai), Africa (Ethiopia), and South Africa (Cape Tow). Her impactful work on developing design solutions for reducing the burdens of tuberculosis, heat health and poor indoor air quality in Ethiopia's rural housing has received immense traction from policymakers. Bardhan currently collaborates with government departments and agencies on energy efficiency and heat health in affordable housing and has written over 130 academic articles on the health and environmental design of the affordable residential built environment. Bardhan specialises in data-driven design for developing context-specific solutions in the affordable housing sector.
Dr Stéphanie Swarbreck, Group Leader Crop Molecular Physiology, is interested in understanding how plants integrate and respond to different environmental conditions such as nutrient availability and the presence of neighbour (e.g. weeds). Her research aims to provide useful information for the development of crop varieties that can produce high yield with lower herbicide and fertiliser inputs. Through collaboration with Ethiopia and India, she has strong interest in millet species (e.g. foxtail millet, pearl millet and finger millet) as well as tef (Eragrostis tef).

Dr Kebebew Assefa, Lead Researcher, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), was trained in plant sciences (Bsc) and agronomy (Msc) at Addis Ababa University and obtained his PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He principally works on tef though has some interest in chickpea. Dr Kebebew currently leads the national tef research program in Ethiopia. He has published >100 peer-review publications focusing on tef genetics and many articles arguing for the need to support research in orphan crops. His work has led to the development and adoption by farmers of new tef varieties.
In 2013, Dr. Eleblu was awarded a PhD degree in Plant Biology from the University of Paris Sud 11 (now Paris Saclay), Orsay, France for his work on the functional characterization Cucumis melo CmWIP1 gene using Arabidopsis thaliana as a model system. He had his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and MPhil Crop Science degrees from the University of Ghana, Legon in the year 2005 and 2007 respectively. At the postgraduate level, he specialized in Genetics and Breeding. He won the African Scientist Award and served as a Visiting Research Scientist under the African Research Fellowship of the Institute for Genomic Diversity (IGD), Cornell University, USA where he managed a research project on the genetic contributions of PINNOID genes in Maize plant and kernel architecture development (2007 – 2008). His current research interests are in the genetic improvement of legumes and cucurbits for food and nutrition security in Africa. Dr. Eleblu has served as Principal Investigator on many projects and his collaborative work has led to the training of more than 4,000 farmers, 300 extension agents. He has supervised more than 10 PhD students and has over 22 scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals.

**Dr John Eleblu**

1.45-1.50

**Title:** Cowpea Tissue Culture and Regeneration at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) towards the Development of Climate Smart Varieties
Professor Eugene Ndabaga & Professor Ricardo Sabates Aysa

Title: Understanding strategies and principles used by Rwandan primary school teachers to enable learning: Moving beyond language barriers

Professor Eugene Ndabaga holds a Doctorate in Educational Management, Policy and Planning from the University of Bath, UK. He is Associate Professor at University of Rwanda-College of Education. He is also the Director of Research and Innovation, as well as the Chief Editor of the Rwandan Journal of Education. For eight years, he was the Vice Rector/DVC in charge of Academic affairs at Umutara Polytechnic University in the Eastern part of Rwanda before the merger. Professor Ndabaga has vast experiences teaching and supervising students across secondary and higher education. He has been involving in a wide range of local and international research as well as consultancy projects that look into the roles of education in enabling positive social changes. The most recent work includes an ESRC/DFID funded study on Engaging teachers in peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts: evaluating education interventions in Rwanda and South Africa, in collaboration with the University of Sussex among other partners.

Professor Ricardo Sabates Aysa is the Director of Research at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge and a member of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre and the Cambridge Network for Disability and Education Research (CaNDER). Professor Sabates has 20 years of experience working in areas of educational inequalities, particularly for out of school children, children living in rural areas, those with disabilities and those experiencing other forms of exclusion. He has undertaken research in some countries of the Global South, particularly in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana and India. Ricardo has expertise in the application of quantitative methods in education, understanding and measuring educational inequalities, and contributing to current debates on access and learning for the most marginalised populations. Current research focuses in understanding accountability relations in rural India, system change in Ethiopia, quality of education in Rwanda, as well as outcomes of education in diverse contexts.

Professor Eugene Ndabaga & Professor Ricardo Sabates Aysa

1.50-2.05
Prof. Suzanne Turner obtained her PhD from the world-renowned Paterson Institute for Cancer Research and the Christie Hospital in Manchester where she examined the potential toxic side-effects of chemoprotective gene therapy. This work was a collaborative effort with what was at that time the AstraZeneca Central Toxicology Labs at Alderley Edge. Following this training period Suzanne moved to a research post at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge. It is here that Suzanne has conducted academic research of an international standard and also teaches and examines aspects of the medical, veterinary and natural science tripos.

Suzanne is also the director of postgraduate education in the Department of Pathology. In 2007, Suzanne was awarded the prestigious Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research (LLR; now Blood Cancer UK) Bennett Fellowship and in 2012 a further 5-year senior lectureship award. Amongst her achievements is the inception and establishment of the European Research Initiative on ALCL, a study group that brings together scientists from across Europe to foster collaboration and advancement in this important area of health research.

Suzanne was also the lead of ALKATRAS, a European Union Marie Curie Innovative Training Network of 14 research groups in 7 EU countries and is currently non-clinical chair of the International Society for Paediatric Oncology. It is here that Suzanne conducts academic research of an international standard and also teaches and examines aspects of the medical, veterinary and natural science tripos. Suzanne is also the director of postgraduate education in the Department of Pathology. In 2007, Suzanne was awarded the prestigious Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research (LLR; now Blood Cancer UK) Bennett Fellowship and in 2012 a further 5-year senior lectureship award. Amongst her achievements is the inception and establishment of the European Research Initiative on ALCL, a study group that brings together scientists from across Europe to foster collaboration and advancement in this important area of health research.

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Professor Rose is a Professor of International Education, Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre and Co-Director of Cambridge Global Challenges at the University of Cambridge. Her research in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia focuses on educational policy and practice, including in relation to inequality, financing and governance, and the role of international aid. Professor Rose works closely with international aid donors and non-governmental organisations, providing evidence-based policy advice on a wide range of issues aimed at fulfilling commitments to equitable access to quality education for all.
do have the advantage of being powered at ambient temperature and pressures. It adds industrial feedstock in a single process and is expected to produce fuels and value-added products. Compared to other current technologies, CO2 electrolysis produces fuels and value-added products, known as electrochemical conversion of CO2. It is a promising carbon recycling technology and is being studied by researchers across the world.

Peace Adesina is a third year PhD Chemical Engineering student at the University of Cambridge. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Coast, and her Master's degree in Advanced Chemical Engineering at the University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. Her doctoral research centres on carbon capture and utilization, and the intersection between the clean energy technology, energy policy and finance. She is very passionate about a sustainable energy future and particularly about the role of technology in driving the transition. Her research explores how carbon capture could become a potential cornerstone towards a circular economy. She has previously worked on developing a method of CO2 reduction involving the use of readily available resources such as water and renewable energy. This process when integrated with existing technologies like biomass or anaerobic digestion could become a potential source of renewable energy.

Sovereignty in Zimbabwe, investigates why targeted sanctions have often failed to achieve their intended outcomes. The thesis argues that there is no difference between targeted sanctions and comprehensive sanctions. In his spare time, Edward enjoys a good run and workout, and is a member of the University Rugby Football Team as well as being an active member of the Family Research Centre. Roger is also a member of the University Equality & Diversity Committee and chairs the management committee of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. He sits on the BBC Director of London 2012. He was appointed as one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the University of Cambridge in 2013. He was appointed as one of the seven Presidents of the University of Cambridge in 2016. He is a Syndic of the University of Cambridge in 2018. He is a Syndic of the University of Cambridge, and was appointed as one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the University of Cambridge in 2013. He was appointed as one of the seven Presidents of the University of Cambridge in 2016.
Title: Oxbridge PhD scholars discuss Postgraduate education, should I stay or should I go?

Dr. Anne Makena & Dr. Tabitha Mwangi

Dr. Anne Makena is the Co-Director of the Oxford-African Partnership for ‘All Things Africa’ (AfOx) at the University of Oxford. She is a Rhodes Scholar and a leading advocate of higher education in Africa. Dr. Makena’s research partnership is supported by a wide range of international organisations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Her research focuses on developing innovative educational models that support students in the region and beyond.

Dr. Tabitha Mwangi is a DPhil Scholar at the University of Oxford, researching the impact of higher education in Africa. She holds a PhD in Education from the University of Cambridge and has conducted extensive fieldwork in Kenya and Tanzania. Her research explores the role of higher education in building prosperous societies.

Dr. Makena and Dr. Mwangi will discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by African PhD students in the UK, exploring the influence of these experiences on future careers and the impact on the wider academic community.

The event will take place on [Date], from [Time], at [Location]. Please register in advance to secure your place.

Dr. Anne Makena & Dr. Tabitha Mwangi