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Cambridge-Africa Spring 2026 Newsletter

Greetings from the Cambridge-Africa Programme. We have a busy summer ahead and have lots of exciting things to share with you.

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Cambridge-Africa Day Registrations Opened



Every two years the Cambridge-Africa programme holds a Cambridge-Africa Day. This showcases the activities of the programme and the collaborations supported. The next Cambridge-Africa day will be held in Cambridge on **16th June** and attendees need to register in advance.

The theme of this year's event is Cambridge-Africa – Supporting African Agendas. We are delighted to have two wonderful keynote speakers to inspire

us, Professor John Kitayimbwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Uganda Christian University and Professor Kevin Chika Urama, Chief Economist and Vice-President of the African Development Bank. Professor Kitayimbwa will focus on Africa's research priorities and provide a forward vision for a young continent. Professor Urama will reflect on Africa's development prospects in a changing world and will examine the implications for development economics in practice. Both of these keynote speakers are being welcomed back to Cambridge having undertaken postgraduate studies in Cambridge. There will also be discussions about the climate research agenda as well as presentations from those involved in Cambridge-Africa research collaborations and from current African scholars in Cambridge.

The registrations have just opened for in person attendance in Cambridge. Do register soon via the [Cambridge-Africa website](#), Places are limited and are likely to fill up quickly.

**Dr Amit Bhasin Prize for an Outstanding African
Postgraduate Scholar in Cambridge**



The Dr Amit Bhasin Prize is now open for applications from African postgraduate scholars in Cambridge, including those who have been awarded their PhD in the last 12 months. Dr Amit Bhasin was Cambridge-Africa Programme Manager 2019-2020, until his untimely death. His friends and colleagues raised funds to create a prize to be awarded to an outstanding African research student at the University of Cambridge to remember him and celebrate his dedication to supporting African researchers throughout his career. An award of £500 will be made to the recipient. Applicants can be nominated or self-nominate – the closing date is the 15th May. The Prize will be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge at the Cambridge-Africa Day. See the [Cambridge-Africa website](#) for the nomination form which includes information on the criteria for being an 'outstanding' scholar.

Cambridge-Africa at Kings Seminars



We have had two fantastic seminars in this series, the first from Dr Kingsley Daraojimba on archaeology in southeast Nigeria. The second seminar was co-presented by Dr Vendelin Simon from the University of Dar Es Salaam and Dr Michael Degani from the University of Cambridge who spoke about their Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund collaboration on the social and spiritual life of electricity in Tanzania's Mission hospitals.

The third and final seminar of the Cambridge-Africa at Kings College will take place on **Monday 22nd June, 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm** at the Audit Room, Kings College, Cambridge. The speaker is Assistant Professor Iheanyi Onwuegbucha. Iheanyi is an art historian and independent curator specialising

in the art of Africa and its diaspora and will be discussing the decolonisation of museums in Africa. More details will be available on [Cambridge-Africa website](#) nearer to the date. All are welcome. The presentation will be followed by a wine reception.

Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund

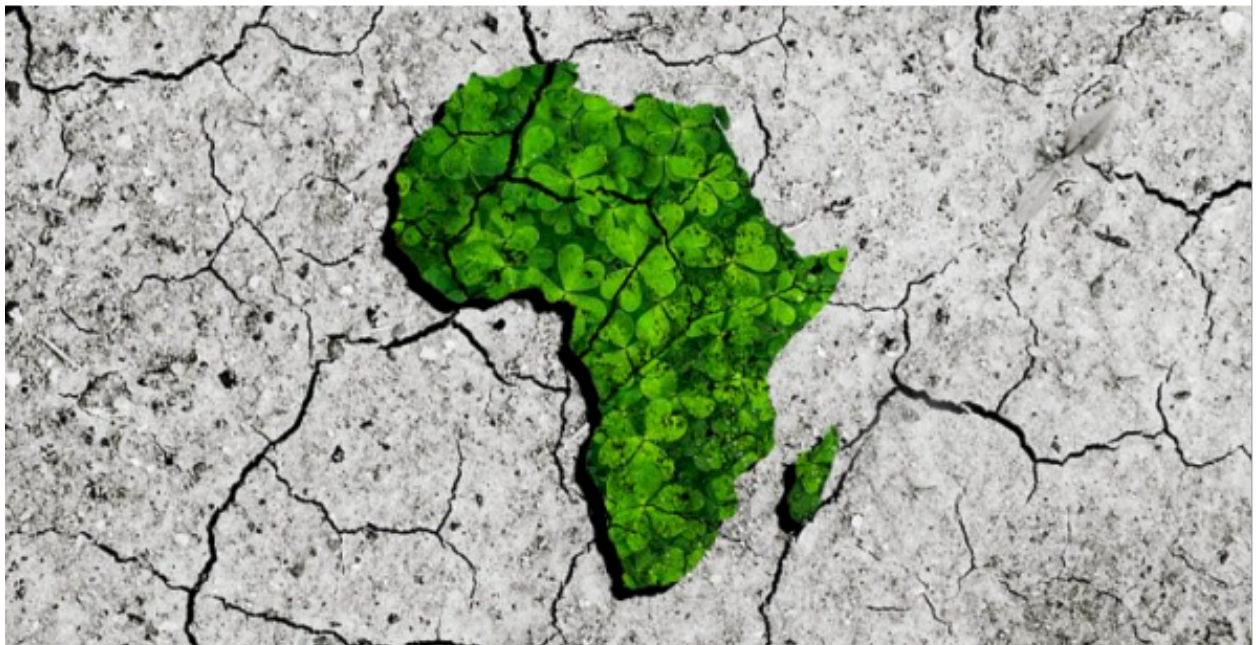


The 2025 call resulted in 27 awards being made for research collaborations between Africa and Cambridge based researchers. These awards involved researchers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa, Botswana, The Gambia, Uganda and Mozambique. Three of the awards were for workshops to be held in Africa with the remainder for research projects. There were seventeen science and seven social science research

projects. As ever the range of research topics was very wide reflecting the scope of this funding scheme with projects on transient array telescopes, to urban change in Dakar, nematodes and weevil resistance in sweet potatoes to archaeology projects in the Karamoja region of Uganda, in Xai-Xai and Chongoene Shell Middens in Mozambique and in the palaeoenvironments of the earliest modern humans at Natodomeri, Kenya. The next funding call will open in early June and will be publicised on the Cambridge-Africa website.

Calls are publicised on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#). Any enquires regarding the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund can be directed to Adeniyi Emmanuel alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund (CreSus)



The second call for applications closed in January 2026 and these were evaluated by expert reviewers and grant panels. At the end of March, 20 awards were announced, twelve for research catalyst awards and eight for workshops - all with co-PIs in Cambridge and Africa and focussed on research relevant to climate resilience and sustainability. The African Principal Investigators are from Namibia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Malawi. Thank you to all panel members, reviewers and applicants for making this a success. The next call will open in the Autumn.

All calls are publicised on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#) and any enquiries on this funding scheme can be made to Parinaz Hariri cresusrf@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk.

Visits from the Chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Congo and from the High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius



Dodo Viewing with the High Commissioner of Mauritius at the Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

On the 9th of March the University had the pleasure of hosting Mr Emeric Cibaly, Charge d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of the Congo, and Ms Christelle Bhalat, Counsellor at the Embassy, in Old Schools. Mr Cibaly introduced the Congo Basin Climate Diplomatic Initiative to colleagues coordinating the university’s work in climate science, conservation and agriculture, such as Cambridge Zero, The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme, Cambridge Food Systems and Cambridge-Africa. The visit ended with a stimulating tour of the state-of-the-art facilities at the Crop Science Centre, hosted by Dr Christian Rogers and Dr Emily Servante.

On the 19th of March we were also pleased to host a visit by Dr Rajeshwar Jeetah, High Commissioner, and Mr Kevin Payendee, Deputy

High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius. The High Commissioner held discussions about topics of shared interest, notably conservation work in coastal zones, with Cambridge academics Professor Tom Worthington and Professor James Herbert-Read. The visit included a view of the Museum of Zoology's marvellous collection courtesy of Professor Daniel Field and Mr Matt Lowe, including spectacular Mascarene birds such as the pink pigeon, and of course, the striking Dodo skeleton. The visit included discussion with Cambridge-Africa and also with Professor Nick Wareham in light of the rising toll of diabetes in Mauritius.

African Society of Cambridge University Conference



The Cambridge Africa Together Conference 2026, organised by the African Society of Cambridge University, is an annual interdisciplinary gathering that brings together leading voices from across academia, policy, business, civil society, and the creative industries to engage with the most pressing questions shaping Africa's present and future. The 2026 conference will be held on 22–23 May 2026 at the Cambridge Union under the theme “Africa in the Age of Disruption.” This year's programme will convene students, academics, business leaders, creatives, and prominent policymakers for two days of timely discussion on the forces reshaping Africa and its place in the world. The conference is structured around key sub-themes: Geopolitics and Global Realignment; Economic Futures and Industrial Transformation; AI, Technology and Digital Sovereignty; Civic Resilience and Governance; Energy Security and Climate Resilience; and Culture, Narratives and Soft Power. Tickets and registration are now available at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cambridge-africa-together-conference-2026-tickets-1983248994129?aff=oddttdtcreator>, with further details on the conference website: <https://www.africansocietycambridge.co.uk/atc>.

Blogs

Since the last newsletter we have published a number of blogs on the Cambridge-Africa website. Dr Sura Qadri wrote about the symposium she co-organised at the University of Blida-2 in Algeria on teaching in African literatures in the context of increasing English language provision at the University.

[Read Dr Sura Qadri's Blog](#)

Kyle Michie wrote a blog on his experience undertaking a medical elective in the Central African Republic (CAR). Kyle was able to extend his intercalated PhD at Cambridge focused on malaria to understanding the research and diagnosis of malaria in a hyperendemic country and the range of research on other endemic diseases in CAR. This was the first time a member of the Cambridge research community had visited CAR.

[Read the blog on Kyle Michie's Medical Elective in the Central African Republic](#)

Margaret Kerubo Njenga a Cambridge-Africa scholar wrote about her long PhD journey with COVID lockdowns and motherhood lengthening the process but with the ultimate success in achieving her goals.

[Read Cambridge-Africa Alumna Margaret Kerubo Njenga's blog](#)

Joyce Adidja hopes to start her PhD in vaccinology in the coming year and her blog describes her journey to vaccinology inspired by her experience as a medical doctor in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Joyce is a

participant on the [PATs MECOR training course](#) into respiratory research and as part of this is also undertaking research on the little recognised respiratory symptoms among children with Mpox in Bukavu, an epicentre of the disease.

[Read PATs MECOR participant Dr Joyce Adidja's blog](#)

Another inspiring blog was written by Dr Nusrat Afolabi-Balogun about her Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research fund activities with Dr Sara Pensa on setting up HPV testing facilities in Nigeria, enabling women to be screened for cervical cancer and followed up to prevent deaths from this leading cause of cancer mortality among women in sub-Saharan Africa. They will present their research at the Cambridge-Africa Day.

[Read Nusrat Afolabi-Balogun's blog](#)

Two Dawits, one from Cambridge and one from Ethiopia, wrote a blog about their research into how to make science education more meaningful with context based science teaching. This research was funded with a Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA research fund award.

[Read the blog on Making Science Education 'Real' in Ethiopia](#)

Dr Prince Vale has been undertaking research with his Cambridge collaborator, Prof Rachel Garrett into how tropical forests in Côte d'Ivoire can be preserved in the face of the rapid expansion of the mining sector. The research is particularly important in light of this phenomenon across much of Africa.

[Read the blog on the challenges from gold mining for conservation in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Dr Renata Retuke wrote a blog on banana bunchy top disease threatening bananas and plantains - important staple food crops. This is threatening livelihoods in Benin and other countries in Africa. The research was funded through the University of Cambridge Africa Climate Collaborative programme in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

[Read Dr Renata Retake's blog on banana and plantain disease in Africa](#)

Graduating Scholars

Congratulations to Margaret Kerubo Ontita, Mark Asare, Yaw Ofusu Ansong

Snr and Chisom Ifeobu on successfully completing their PhDs. We wish them every success in their post Cambridge careers.

This newsletter gives you a snapshot of Cambridge-Africa activities but please do look [at our website](#) for more information on the Programme and for updates on events and opportunities. We can be contacted via enquiries@cambridge-Africa.cam.ac.uk . Our LinkedIn account is <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeafrica>

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