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## Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Summer 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Summer 2025 newsletter – we have lots of exciting news to share with you.

### Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund

**The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund call is now open.** The call opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will close on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The purpose of this funding is to facilitate research, training and research related engagement activities between Cambridge and Africa. There are 4 categories of awards:

- Research awards (in any subject) - up to £20,000
- Workshop or research training awards - up to £10,000
- Equipment - up to £20,000
- Travel awards - up to £5000

These awards will support co-created collaborative research related activities between Cambridge and Africa based researchers (post-doctoral and above) who have contracts in their respective universities or research institutes at least until the end of the proposed research and preferably beyond. The Cambridge researcher can be working at the University of Cambridge or in allied research institutes such as the Wellcome Sanger Institute or NIAB. The research awards provide seed funding for new research activities with the intention to spark applications for more substantial funding. The research projects should be around a year's duration, with a start date from December 2025. Further details are available on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#) or for more information contact Adeniyi Emmanuel, the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund coordinator [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk).

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## Postgraduate Research Symposium for African Scholars.

The poster features a collage of images of diverse African scholars in a meeting. Logos for Cambridge Africa and the African Society of Cambridge University are in the top left. The title 'POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARS' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, the date '30TH JUNE 2025' and location 'HUGHES HALL, CAMBRIDGE' are listed. A description at the bottom states it is a platform for African postgraduate researchers to share their work and network, and a collaboration between Cambridge-Africa and the African Society of Cambridge University. A registration link is provided at the bottom right.

**CAMBRIDGE AFRICA**

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARS**

**30TH JUNE 2025**  
**HUGHES HALL, CAMBRIDGE**

A platform for African postgraduate researchers to share their work, network, and engage in academic discussions.  
A collaboration between Cambridge-Africa & the African Society of Cambridge University

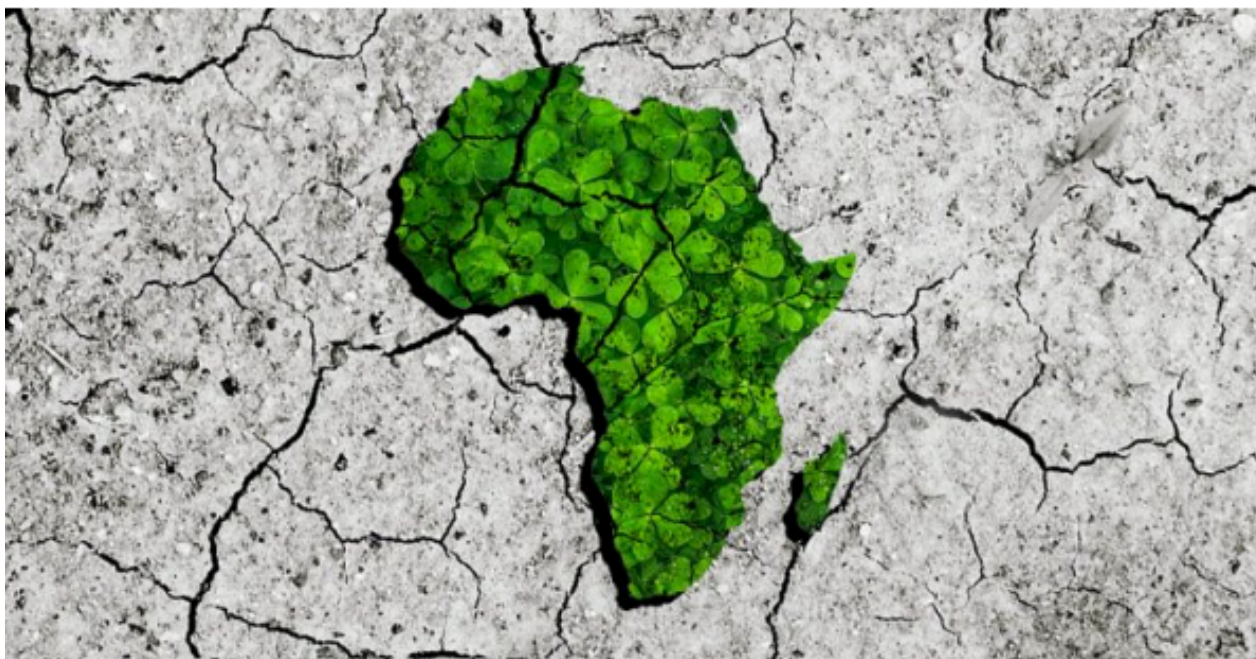
Register here:  
<https://forms.gle/SVZmS8PBWki285x98>

Cambridge-Africa in partnership with ASCU (African Society of Cambridge University) have been organising a symposium for African postgraduate scholars in Cambridge to showcase their exciting research. We have a great programme lined up for the 30<sup>th</sup> June with research talks, flash talks, a panel

session on transitions to the world of work and talks on social enterprises. We have two fascinating keynote speakers lined up, Dr ThankGod Ebenezer, Global Engagement Manager at the EBI and Founder of the African Biogenome Project and Dr Siyabonga Njica, Research Fellow in Global African History, University of Cambridge. We also have a number of creative performances where scholars will treat us to their poetry and musical skills. **Registrations are closing soon** on the 4th June - please register for this in person event. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgeV7wBhnNLUmQBYQOCzzZxPYe6jroU9Xn4pAXAEZMi-L96A/viewform>

We will also be awarding the Dr Amit Bhasin Prize for an outstanding African scholar (in Cambridge) at the event.

## Mastercard Foundation University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund



We had an excellent response to the call with many high quality applications. Thank you to all applicants for your efforts. 21 Research Catalyst Grants were awarded and 11 Workshop Grants were funded. The full list of awards will be published in due course on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#).

Workshops, mostly focused on strengthening climate-related research skills, will be held in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda with participants expected from a much larger number of African countries.

The Research Catalyst Grants involve research in Benin, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia and Uganda. This is the first time there have been Cambridge-Africa supported projects in Cabo Verde, Djibouti and Mozambique so we are particularly excited to be supporting projects in these countries.



*Countries with Mastercard Foundation University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund Research Catalyst Grants or Workshop Awards in Africa 2025-26*

**Cancer Programme**

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We have two Ugandan medical students coming to do electives in oncology/hematology in June and July. We look forward to welcoming Swabrah and Patience from Makerere University, Uganda, who are keen to pursue careers in cancer on completion of their medical degrees. The elective programme was established after being identified as a priority by the Director of the Uganda Cancer Institute and is an important way for Cambridge to support the development of cancer research and cancer services in Uganda. In addition, CRUK Cambridge Institute (CRUK CI) will host two Ugandan Masters students to participate in the annual Summer School. This initiative has been very successful in enabling Ugandan students to bridge to their next goal of securing PhD funding and we are very grateful for CRUK CI for supporting this.

The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund is funding a week long microbiology and bioinformatics cancer school in Uganda to extend the summer school opportunity to more Ugandan postgraduate students. The faculty will be from CRUK CI, ably led by Dr Maïke de la Roche. Thank you to Maïke and her colleagues at CRUK CI.

## Lung Health

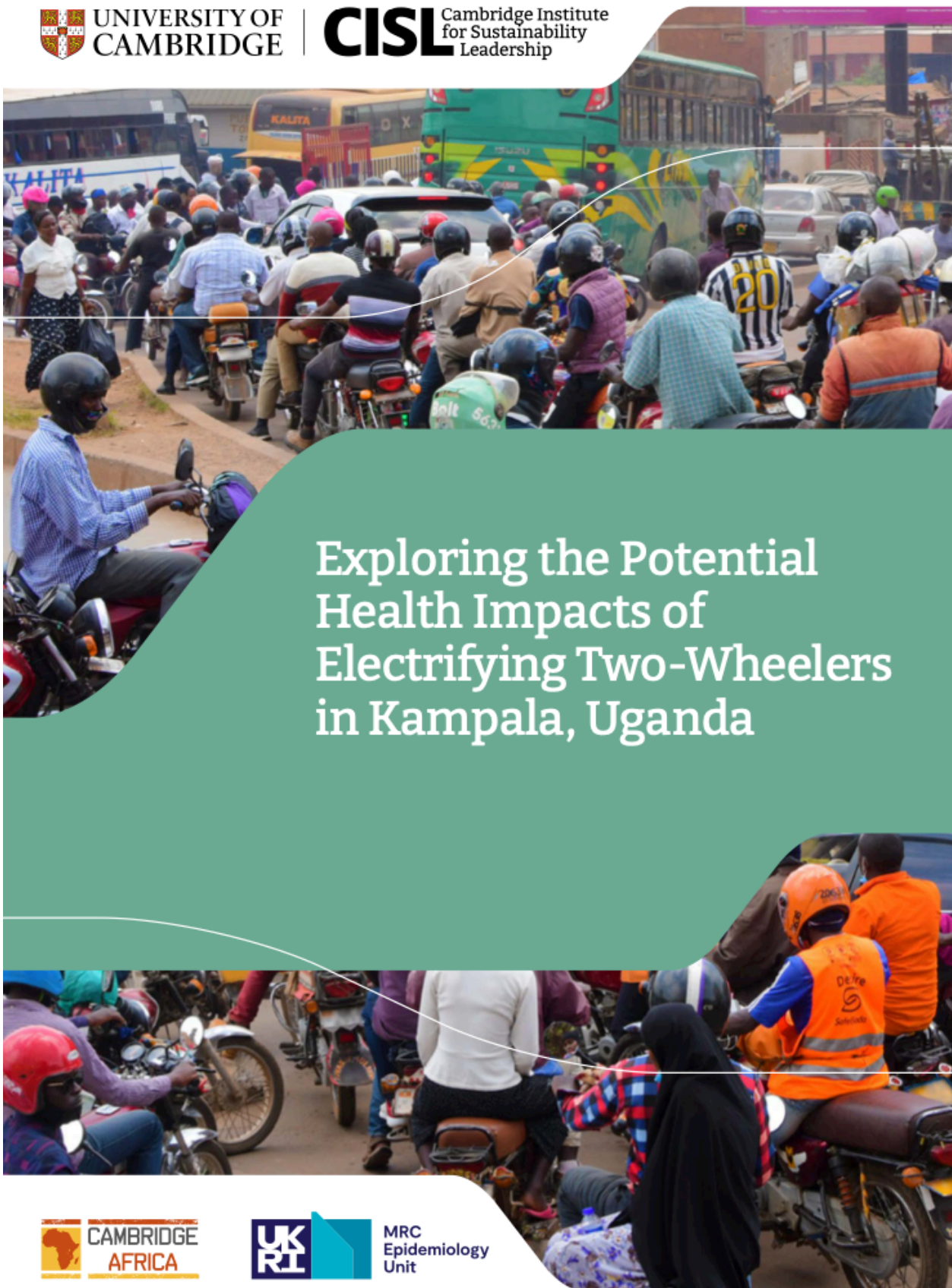
Cambridge-Africa is again supporting the Pan African Thoracic Society Methods on Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operational Research (PATS MECOR) which will take place in September in Kenya.

There is a growing recognition of the impact of poor air quality on health. The latest Global Burden on Disease analysis now identifies air pollution as the greatest contributor to morbidity worldwide. Parts of Africa and Asia are particularly badly impacted by poor air quality. In Africa as well as pollution resulting in poor outdoor air quality, indoor air quality is worsened through cooking using biomass fuels such as wood and charcoal. Those living in poverty and the most exposed, women and children, are particularly affected. There is a lack of research in Africa to both quantify the extent of the problem and to propose solutions. The PATS MECOR programme addresses this by training aspiring respiratory health researchers and developing research skills in those who have already embarked on their research journey. This excellent week-long workshop trains medical and other allied health professionals from across Africa to undertake research into lung health.



*PATS MECOR participant shares her research ideas during the 2024 workshop*

## Exploring the Potential Health Impacts of Electrifying Two-Wheelers in Kampala, Uganda



## Exploring the Potential Health Impacts of Electrifying Two-Wheelers in Kampala, Uganda

Cambridge-Africa supported research by Dr Gabriel Okello, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and Dr Lamed Tata, MRC Epidemiology, University of Cambridge investigating the impact of electrification of boda bodas (motorbike taxis) on reducing air pollution in Kampala, Uganda. As well as contributing to the research knowledge base on ways to reduce air pollution in African cities, this report will be used to inform discussions with policy makers.

The Report can be read on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#).

## Visit of the Senior Leadership Team from Uganda Christian University

We were delighted to host the senior leadership team from the Uganda Christian University on their visit to Cambridge in April. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof Jonathan Kitayimbwa and Director of Academic Affairs, Prof Angella Napakol aim to further strengthen postgraduate research at the Uganda Christian University. The Vice Chancellor having been a CAPREx fellow and the deputy Vice-Chancellor a MUII fellow, have strong connections with Cambridge-Africa and the University of Cambridge. Along with Dr Maja Wallberg of the Strategic Partnerships Office at the University of Cambridge, we developed a week-long programme of visits linked to their ambitions for their university. We are grateful to the many departments who welcomed the visitors and shared their ideas for how they could work with our Ugandan colleagues.



*Visitors from the Uganda Christian University Vice-Chancellor, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, and deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof Jonathan Kitayimbwa meet with University of Cambridge Vice Chancellor Prof Deborah Prentice.*

## Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Cambridge-Africa scholar Priscilla Bretuo who recently completed her PhD.

## Blogs

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In the last few months we have featured a number of [blogs on our website](#).

Dr Ronita Bardan and Dr Jiayu Pan wrote a blog on residential over heating in an integrated housing development project in Ethiopia. This affects many new housing initiatives addressing urban migration but resulting in inappropriate conditions for those living in the buildings.

### **Read Ronita's and Jiayu's blog**

Cambridge-Africa alumnus Dr Sebastine Arthur wrote about the successful and well attended 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial African Virology Conference.

### **Read the blog on the African Virology Conference**

We featured a blog about a successful Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund project looking at the paleoecology of the Namibian seafloor. Dr Alex Liu, Dr Collen-Issa Uahengo and Elkan Utoni discovered very dense fossil records, exceeding any found elsewhere for the Ediacaran Period. Included in these were at least 10 new species and their findings challenge theories about the end of the Period.

### **Read the blog on the paleoecology of Namibia's seafloor**

Dr Eva Namusoke wrote an update on the next stages of the African Collections Futures work following the publication of her report on the Africa

and African related collections at the University museums, botanic gardens and libraries at the University of Cambridge. This topic underpinned a lively discussion at last year's Cambridge-Africa Day and [the report](#) and its recommendations are well worth reading.

### **Read Eva's blog on the African Collections Futures**

There were also blogs on Building Global Capacity for Climate Law and Governance at COP 29 led by the University of Cambridge's Democratising Education for Global Sustainability and Justice Programme.

### **Read the blog on Climate Law and Governance activities at COP 29**

A further blog described a Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Project by Dr Melisew Alula and Prof Andrew Wheatley examining how pollutants in watercourses can be degraded using chemical processes.

### **Read the blog on degrading chemical pollutants in watercourses**

We have also had a number of blogs from Cambridge-Africa PhD alumni who have recently completed their PhDs – namely from [Matipa Mukondiwa](#), [Ernest Aguinam](#) and [Edward Murambwa](#).

The Cambridge-Africa team look forward to engaging with you. We can be contacted via [enquiries@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk). Our **LinkedIn** account is now active - follow us to keep up to date on our latest activities <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeafrica/>

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