



Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

Advisory Council Bios

Ilesanmi Adesida is currently serving as the University Provost of Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. In this position, he is the chief academic and research officer of the institution. The emphasis of his work is to turn the young institution into a major international research university. Previously, he served in various faculty and administrative positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Dr. Adesida received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his academic career as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate and Visiting Assistant Professor at Cornell University. He was head of the Electrical Engineering Department at Tafawa Balewa University in Bauchi, Nigeria. Adesida has conducted research and published many papers on nanotechnology and ultra-highspeed optoelectronics. He is a Fellow in many engineering and technological societies and has served as the President of IEEE Electron Device Society. Some of the awards he has received are *TMS John Bardeen* for outstanding contributions to electronic materials and *Outstanding Alumnus of the EECS Department at University of California, Berkeley*. He is a member of the prestigious United States National Academy of Engineering and has consulted for and served on many advisory boards of both private and governmental bodies inside and outside of the United States. He is a co-founder of a technology company and has served on the board of directors of several engineering firms and academic committees. His interests include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, higher education, entrepreneurship, and their relevance to national development

Patricia Daley is a Professor of the Human Geography of Africa and a Helen Morag Fellow and Geography Tutor at Jesus College, University of Oxford. Her previous academic appointments were at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, Loughborough University and Pembroke College, Oxford. At Jesus College, she held the administrative offices of Tutor for Admissions (1999-2002) and Tutor for Women (1998-2004). She has been on various College committees, including the Academic Committee, Disciplinary Panel, and on the Accommodation, Catering and Conference Committee. In 2013, as a consequence of her research on violence and displacement in Central Africa, she was invited to give a 30th Anniversary address at the Center for Refugees Studies, York University, Toronto and as an academic expert to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, UNHCR, Geneva, in December 2008. Patricia was awarded an ESRC/NERC interdisciplinary seminar grant on African Environments and has chaired the African Environments Programme for the academic year 2006-7. Her media work includes acting as a consultant for an internationally-screened documentary film on the genocide in Rwanda (*Rwanda: The Forgotten Tribe*) and participation in panel discussions on topics such as climate change and Africa, and refugees on the Shoot the Messenger programme at VoxAfrica.com. She has commented on the 2015 political violence on Burundi on Al Jazeera and the BBC World Service.

She is a member of the Council of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information of the Independent Chief Inspector of Border and Immigration. Patricia is a committee member and the equalities officer for the Oxford Branch of the University College Union and chairs Fahamu Trust Ltd. She peer reviews a range of journals, including *Political Geography*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Journal of Refugee Studies* and has also peer reviewed grants for the ESRC and the Leverhulme Trust. She was awarded the Outstanding Supervisor Award by the Oxford University Student Union in 2015.

Gibril Faal is a business and development executive- a multi-disciplinarian with an eclectic professional background. He is the founding and interim director of ADEPT, and the co-founder and director of GK Partners – a UK-based company that specializes in socially responsible business models, social enterprise, development finance and implementation. He serves as the chair of AFFORD and is a Visiting Professor in Practice at London School of Economics, and vice chair of Bond - the platform of UK NGOs working on international development. He is also a vice chair of Bond, founder of RemitAid™ and a senior associate of the Foreign Policy Centre since 2007. As a business adviser, management consultant and development executive for 25 years, he has directly supported 1,000s of SMEs and social enterprises in Europe and Africa. Since 1998, Gibril has received ministerial appointments for various public functions in the UK. He has been involved in SDG and Financing for Development (FFD) negotiations. In recognition for his services to International development, he was appointed OBE in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honors List, having been nominated by DFID. Gibril has chaired and moderated sessions at high level meetings and delivered 100s of keynote speeches and presentations at conferences and forums around the world. In February 2017, he became chair of the Entrepreneurship Committee of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Business Mechanism. He was a lecturer at The Open University, University of Oxford and in 2004 was appointed a Justice of the Peace and part-time magistrate. Gibril studied at five universities in London and holds a Combined Bachelors Honours degree in Law, Finance and Management, postgraduate degrees in Development Studies and Environmental Sciences, and professional qualifications in Economic History, Policy Studies, Urban & Transport Management, Environmental & Quality Management, Ethical, and Community Development & Islamic Finance.

Catherine Kyobutungi is the Executive Director of African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), an Africa-based and African-led premier research institution that conducts policy-relevant research and builds individual and institutional capacity for research in the African region. Catherine joined APHRC as a post-doctoral fellow in May 2006, rising to the position of Director of Research before holding her current position. As a research leader, Catherine is intimately involved in mentoring the next generation of African scholars who join the program as post-doctoral fellows, research interns or research staff. She is an alumna of the University of Heidelberg, Germany. She obtained her Ph.D. in epidemiology in the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health in 2006 and a Master's of Science degree in Community Health and Health Management in 2002 from the same university. Prior to her graduate studies, Catherine studied medicine at Makerere University. She has practiced medicine in rural Uganda and lectured at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. As a researcher, she has a strong interest in the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases in the African region and in strengthening health systems to work for everyone.

Thandi Mgwebi is Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and internationalization at Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. She was the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation at the Tshwane University of Technology, Director of Research at the University of the Western Cape.

She was the Executive Director of the South African Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence at the National Research Foundation responsible for establishing and guiding multi-sectoral partnerships and networks. Thandi was the founding Director of the Southern African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC). Thandi participates in a number of sustainability and system analysis forums globally including championing sustainability science in South Africa. She has led the inaugural participation of Nelson Mandela University in the Times Higher Education Impact rankings. Thandi is an insightful leader in the SA Higher Education landscape. She has led a number of national projects at the science-policy interface in the higher education landscape including serving as Grantholder and reference group member of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) Review of Doctoral Studies in South Africa; Principal Investigator and author for the development of the NRF's application and proposal to host the Future Earth Global Secretariat. Thandi has provided training on research and grant management to a range of stakeholders in and outside South Africa including the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) in Africa. Thandi is an advocate of science and has concluded significant international partnerships that have leveraged financial and in-kind support to the national science agenda. She is a council member of the recently launched SDSN South Africa Leadership Council.

Thandi was the founding Board Chair of Amaya Space, a commercial noansatellite company of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She continues to serve in various advisory boards for science capacity building initiatives in and outside South Africa. She is a council member of the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences. Thandi holds a PhD in Cell & Developmental Biology from UCT, a Management Development Programme Certificate from the University of Stellenbosch Business School and a postgraduate qualification in Tertiary Education Management from the University of Melbourne. She completed her postdoctoral research fellowship at the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, UCT. Thandi holds a certificate in Business Sustainability Management from the University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika is a Professor in the Department Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta. She began her career as the first African female full-time faculty of the university. Her research program is transnational, community-based and interdisciplinary, with a focus on gender relations within African and African immigrant populations. Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika currently heads the University of Alberta's Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE) – a research initiative aimed at boosting research, scholarship and policymaking with respect to people of African descent. She is involved in numerous research projects as well as community-based organizations.

Dr. Okekelhejirika has also gained international acclaim as an expert in and a visiting Professor for program planning, curriculum development, and graduate training. As a gender analyst, she has served as a consultant in many international research projects. She is an adjunct professor in several African universities, including Durban University of Technology, South Africa as well as in Nigeria's Federal University of Technology Akure and Nnamdi Azikiwe University. She is also a resource person to international bodies such the MacArthur Foundation, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the Carnegie Corporation. Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika is also a collaborating researcher with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development as well as the 2018 Director for CODERSIA's Gender Institute.

Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika has also received numerous awards for her work. She is an acclaimed community leader Edmonton, among her board memberships, a founding member of the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE). Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika also has strong track record of working with Alberta's youth organizations and mentoring youth of various social backgrounds. She is also a Rotary Scholar, a Carnegie Fellow, a Killam professor and a founding member of College of Mentors to African universities.

Kefa M. Otiso is Professor of Geography and Graduate Coordinator for the School of Earth, Environment, and Society at [Bowling Green State University](#), Bowling Green, Ohio, USA. He is also a Commissioner on Ohio's [New African Immigrants Commission](#). He has a PhD in Urban and Economic Geography from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, USA, an MA from Ohio University, USA, and a B.Ed from Kenyatta University, Kenya. His research interests are in urbanization, socioeconomic globalization, international migration, development, governance, and cultural change in the context of Africa and North America. He teaches various courses in urban, economic, population, and cultural geography, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications. He is the founding president of the US-based [Kenya Scholars and Studies Association \(KESSA\)](#).

He is co-author of *Population Geography: Problems, Concepts, and Prospects*, 10th Edition (Kendall Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, IA, 2013) and author of *Culture and Customs of Tanzania* (Greenwood Press, 2013), *Culture and Customs of Uganda* (Greenwood Press, 2006) and many [refereed and journal articles, book chapters, and editorials](#) in his areas of expertise. He is a past editor of the [African Geographical Review](#) and has presented papers in many national and international conferences including those organized by the [Kenya Scholars and Studies Association](#), [American Association of Geographers](#), [African Studies Association](#), and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. He is a frequent media commentator on many US, Kenyan, and other international news outlets.

Alfred Anakalo Shitandi has been engaged in research management providing support to multidisciplinary researchers for more than 20 years and has a long-term interest in building positive relationships in international education. He shares the perception that international education provides a strong basis for constructing inventive understanding and a peaceful world. This perception developed and clarified while he was a global fellow for the [Association of International Educators](#) responsible for coordinating internationalization of research partnerships in Sub-Saharan African Universities. He has demonstrated leadership in academic, research and development and managed research projects and developed competency in planning, risk management, stakeholder management communications, reporting, budgets and resource management. As founding Director of Research at Kisii University he successfully coordinated the establishment of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship program at the institution which has attracted several International African scholars from the Diaspora to Kisii -Kenya over a ten year time frame. Anakalo has been a project manager for the African Higher Education Leadership project funded by the European Union in [Advancing Inclusive Innovation for Development](#). He has been an [African Academy of Sciences](#) member of the technical committee on the development of research management standard; a principal investigator of the [Advanced Studies Institute on Water Quality and Harmful Algal blooms](#) in Lake Victoria, Kenya. He is also a research associate at the [Institute of Primate Research Kenya](#). To support his research interests Anakalo has been effective in substantial resource mobilization from funding organizations over the years. This has been from various organizations which includes: The European union; The US Department of Agriculture, Swedish Institute, Swedish International Development Agency, South African Water Council, Danish International Development Agency, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons, Food and Agricultural Organization, National commission for Science and Technology and International Foundation for Science. He has enhanced his capacity for interdisciplinary research through professional training from various institutions which includes: Strategic Management- China: Bioethics – St John's Research Hospital; Public health – Nordic public health school– Sweden: Biomedical Statistics, Danish Agricultural University – Denmark; Extension Research methods– Sweden amongst others. He has been an external examiner for the University of Swaziland in the faculty of health sciences and been a technical expert member at the Kenya Bureau of standards on several committees and represented the country in standards meetings within the East African community.

Alfred Shitandi is a Professor of Microbiology with a doctorate and MSc degree from SLU-Uppsala, Sweden and a degree in Biological Education (Kenya University) and currently the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor-Academic, Student Affairs and Research at Kisii University in Kenya.