



Africa Oxford Initiative



AfOx Annual Report 2021

Our year in review

The upheavals of the past year have demonstrated that our challenges are global in nature and demand innovative research and strong collaborations to overcome them. We commend everyone, especially the members of the AfOx community who have worked tirelessly to tackle the pandemic from different angles, reimaged their research, adapted to virtual classrooms and found new ways of collaborating and sharing knowledge with each other.

Since our establishment in 2016, the world as we knew it may have changed, however our mission of 'building equitable research partnerships between researchers based in African institutions and the University of Oxford' remains as relevant as ever. Against the background of the pandemic and the associated difficulties, we are proud to have continued supporting equitable collaborations with colleagues across the continent. This has included making 8 new AfOx Research Development Awards of over £350,000 to provide AfOx grant holders the opportunity to build on ideas developed during their initial interactions. 21 distinguished African researchers from 14 countries were selected for the AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme, our largest Fellowship cohort to date. We awarded 6 travel

grants to enable new collaborations in the fields of public health, philosophy, geosciences and law. We are especially happy to have welcomed 6 outstanding African graduates to the University of Oxford through the AfOx Graduate Scholarship Programme in partnership with Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholarship and Oppenheimer Fund. While their journeys to Oxford could not be more varied, each scholar is exemplary and shares a commitment to Africa's development.

The past year has highlighted the importance of health systems in ensuring a sustainable future for all. With support from the Oxford-Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund, we launched the Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform to accelerate solutions to Africa's health challenges. Led by AfOx and supported by key researchers across African institutions and Oxford, the Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform connects research to industry to solve intractable societal challenges.

We had to pivot to the virtual world for many of our events, including our flagship insakas. Although our digital insakas have the disadvantage of not having drinks afterwards, they have the big advantage of widening participation for people outside Oxford and the UK. Our digital insakas are viewed by hundreds of people in the UK, across the African continent as well as viewers from Europe, Asia

and America. We also shifted to a new digital home with a new website that celebrates the work of the AfOx community and allows opportunities for virtual networking.

At AfOx, all our programmes and events are designed to establish equitable collaboration, cultivate working relationships and cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange. In the coming year, we will continue to build on what we have achieved so far, and work with our partners in African institutions and across Oxford to develop avenues for research capacity sharing. We hope you enjoy our reflections from the past year, and we look forward to continuing to work together in 2021.

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AfOx Graduate Scholarship Programme

A poet, lawyer, computer scientist, social activist, entrepreneur and writer are the outstanding scholars that are being supported by the AfOx Scholarship scheme in partnership with the Standard Bank Chairman's Scholarship and Oppenheimer Fund.

African graduates and researchers will play a key role in contributing to the future of not just the continent, but the world.

The AfOx Graduate Scholarships support six outstanding African graduates to undertake a fully funded Master's degree at the University of Oxford. Going beyond providing course fees and living costs to the scholars, the scholarships aim to deliver tailor-made training programmes and networking opportunities to support students during and after their time at Oxford.

With support from Student Fees and Funding, and Graduate Admissions at the University of Oxford, the scholars were selected following a rigorous, multi-stage review and interview process. In addition to academic merit, the chosen scholars demonstrated strong convictions in global citizenship, leadership potential and commitment to Africa's development. The University of Oxford, as a leading global academic training ground, provides the knowledge, training, and support to translate their experiences and passion into practical ways of addressing some of the most pressing challenges in Africa.

We are proud to be part of their journey and enjoy learning from their experiences.

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“The aim of these Scholarships is not only to transform the lives of the scholars who come to Oxford, but also transform Oxford and enrich the rest of the University with the perspectives of these dynamic scholars”

Dr Anne Makena, Programme Coordinator, AfOx



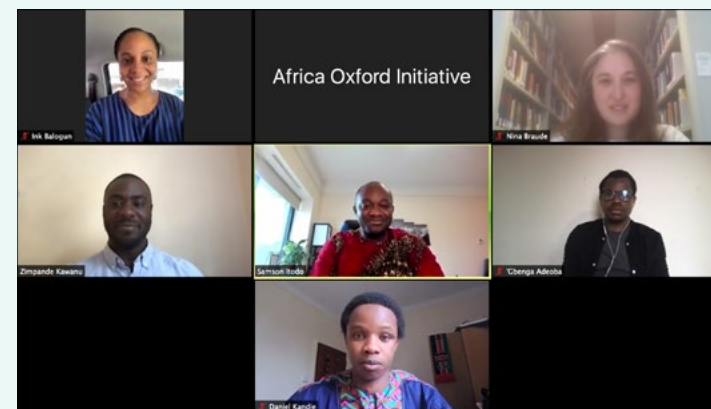
“The most profound experience Oxford has offered me is an encounter with myself. This may seem contrary to intuition as a graduate often selects Oxford for the assured interaction with one’s exceptional peers and remarkable academics. This has been true for me. However, what has been enduring is the realisation that I came to Oxford to discover what is already abundant in me and how much I am capable of.”

Zimpande Kawanu, MSc World Literatures, AfOx Graduate Scholar



“Beyond the scholarship, the AfOx team has been a community away from home in all aspects of my life. Oxford has opened my eyes to the turns my future could take, but the path will always lead me to making a difference in Nigeria.”

Nkechi Balogun, MBA candidate, AfOx Graduate Scholar



Meet our Scholars

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A scholar and poet exploring the power of creative writing to express the refugee experience

Olugbenga Adeoba, Nigeria, I MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, College I AfOx Graduate Scholar



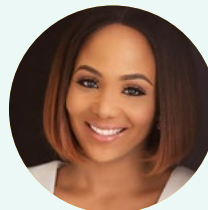
A literary scholar and creative writer engaging with the complex narratives of South Africa's past

Zimpande Kawanu, South Africa, I MSt World Literatures in English, University College I Oppenheimer Scholar



An educator and lawyer committed to making legal principles of democracy and justice tangible

Nina Braude, South Africa, I Bachelor of Civil Law, Wadham College I SBAC Scholar



An entrepreneur using business to champion gender equality

Nkechi Eze, Nigeria I Masters Business Administration I Wadham College I SBAC Scholar



A social activist championing the participation of young people in politics

Samson Itodo, Nigeria I Masters in Public Policy, Wadham College I SBAC Scholar



A computer scientist committed to using the power of data science to better inform policy

Daniel Kandie, Kenya I MSc Social Data Science, Wadham College I SBAC Scholar

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Targeted support for African students

Targeted support enhances student experiences, promotes a sense of belonging and influences the academic success of emerging African leaders in Oxford.

We take a holistic approach in supporting a graduate's journey from the start of their application process, preparing to arrive at Oxford, during their time at Oxford and beyond their graduation.

Virtual Open Day

"What should I include in my personal statement?"

"How should I find a supervisor for my DPhil?"

"When will I know if I have been awarded a scholarship?"

"What is a graduate college?"

These are some of the most common questions we receive from graduate applicants. To help prospective applicants navigate the admissions process, we host the AfOx Admissions Livestream annually. This year an incredible panel of current students, professors and graduate admissions officers answered over 30 admissions-related questions sent to us by African graduate applicants from 30 countries. The video received over 500 views, along with positive feedback from the participants.



"The guidance from the panelists was really insightful. Please, keep up the good work in providing prospective African students insights into the admission process at Oxford"

- Adeyemi Awomodu, 2021 offer-holder in MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics at Oxford



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/uzJqLzoFJQo?t=3135



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AfriSoc Mentoring Scheme

To support African applicants make the strongest graduate application possible, the student-led Oxford University Africa Society, runs a mentorship programme each year. Current students and alumni provide advice to applicants on managing referees, finding suitable funding as well as tips and feedback on writing a personal statements and CVs.

In the last academic year, 62 African applicants were mentored by current students and alumni in Oxford.

AfOx works with AfriSoc and covers the application fees for applicants applying for a graduate degree via the AfriSoc Mentoring Scheme. This year, we covered the application fees for 22 applicants and we wish them the very best in their applications.



“Mentoring, to me, is a way to mutually invest one’s intellect in the life of others and socially contribute to the development of tomorrow’s leaders today through targeted training. I cherish this humbling experience”

- **Emmanuel Mawuli Abalo**, MSc Environmental Change and Management (2018-19), Ghana

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African applicants were mentored by current students

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application fees covered this year

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Virtual & In-person socials

As the six AfOx Graduate Scholars were preparing to travel to Oxford, we hosted a virtual welcome get together for the students and the AfOx team. This informal and relaxed meeting was an opportunity for students to get to know each other and the AfOx team; as well as ask any questions about living in and adjusting to life in Oxford.

At the start of the academic year, we joined the Oxford University Africa Society to host a welcome event for all new and existing African students in Oxford. This annual welcome event was an opportunity

to introduce all Africa-related events and student support options available for students. This was followed by an informal Q&A where students asked questions about life in Oxford as well as how they could get involved in the student society.

With the aim of breaking the monotony of Zoom life, we also organised a socially-distant drinks evening with the students once they arrived at Oxford. This was another opportunity for students to feel part of a community and share their experiences with each other.



AfOx Scholars and staff at an in-person social

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Unofficial guide to Oxford

As an offer-holder, the University may feel like an intimidating institution to join. Moving to a new country can feel overwhelming as well. Developed in consultation with students and alumni, our unofficial guide to Oxford aims to answer questions and address general hesitations for new students navigating the University and the city.



“First, do not be intimidated! Indeed, Oxford can initially be unnerving but always remember that you have earned your space here and that you are just as qualified as anyone else on your programme.”

- Nwamaka Ogbonna, Nigerian DPhil Candidate
International Development

Read our guide here:
www.afox.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-03/students-unofficial-guide-to-oxford-2020.pdf

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Academic Writing Workshop

Words like ‘challenging’, ‘difficult’, ‘critical’ are often associated with the Oxford academic essay. To help students tackle the Oxford essay with confidence, we hosted a virtual essay-writing workshop in the first week of Michaelmas Term. In the first part of the workshop, our facilitator Prof Martin Williams, Blavatnik School of Government, discussed the importance of good subject knowledge and gave top tips on how to structure an essay. Thereafter, students were sent into virtual breakout rooms to practise outlining an essay based on essay questions they had been asked to bring to the session.

40 new students attended the workshop and 9 DPhil students, alumni and academic staff facilitated the workshop and the breakout rooms.



“I enjoyed the interactive format of the workshop and its content - from establishing the appropriate way to introduce an essay, to learning how to frame arguments and support these. My favourite bit of the session was working through a sample essay with other students – it really helped solidify the theory.”

- **Valary Mumbo**, Masters in Public Policy candidate, Blavatnik School of Government

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Participants

**along
with**

9
facilitators

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We are supporting researchers in African institutions to work with their collaborators in Oxford to advance the Sustainable Development Goals including quality education, human rights, accessible healthcare and economic growth.

AfOx Research Development Awards

From developing new antibacterial compounds to combat antibiotic resistance to exploring the origins of humankind, 16 AfOx Research Development awardees are researching to create a more sustainable future for all.

In 2020, we awarded 8 AfOx Research Development Awards to previous AfOx Visiting Fellows and Travel Grant recipients. Each project has a lead researcher from an African institution and a University of Oxford collaborator. The awards address at least one Sustainable Development Goal through their research and aim to generate societal benefits beyond creating knowledge in their area of specialisation.



The AfOx ReDA award will support our project to develop targeted and operationally viable interventions to limit the spread of malaria in West Africa. We are exploring malaria transmission in mining areas, new forms of public participation, and the governance of novel interventions in national malaria control programmes.

- **Dr Lea Toe Pare**, Institute of Research in Health Sciences, Burkina Faso & **Dr Javier Lezaun**, Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, University of Oxford

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A roadmap co-created by caregivers on navigating the mental healthcare streams in Ghana

Dr Caesar Atuire, Department of Philosophy & Classics, University of Ghana, Ghana & Prof Ilina Singh, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford



Food safety in households with young children and its impact on their nutritional and health status in informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya

Prof Salome Bukachi, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies, University of Kenya, Kenya & Prof Alexandra Alvergne, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford



Clinical and virological characteristics of chronic hepatitis B in Maputo

Dr Tongai Maponga, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa & Prof Philippa Matthews, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford



Childhood Cancer Surveillance in Southern Africa

Dr Mazvita Muchengeti, National Cancer Registry National Health Laboratory Service, South Africa & Prof Maxwell Parkin, Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford



Understanding the impacts of development policies in fragile contexts: the case of South Sudan

Dr Augustino Mayai, The Sudd Institute, South Sudan & Prof Christopher Adam, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford

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Natural product drug discovery to tackle antibiotic resistance

Dr Cynthia Danquah, Department of Pharmacology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana & Prof Christopher Scofield, Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Oxford



My research seeks to discover novel bioactive compounds in natural products such as herbs and spices that can be used to tackle antibiotic resistance. The AfOx ReDA award will help me in purchasing various equipment to further my research and increase the pace at which I can test these natural products for their antibacterial properties.

- Dr Cynthia Danquah, Department of Pharmacology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana



Developing the Social Science of Malaria Control for Areas of High Transmission

Dr Lea Toe Pare, Institute of Research in Health Sciences, Burkina Faso & Dr Javier Lezaun, Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, University of Oxford



Ecology and the deep roots of our African origins

Dr Fredrick Manthi, Department of Earth Sciences, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya & Prof Susana Carvalho, School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford

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Equitable knowledge co-creation

We support researchers to translate their research findings into practice that can have a positive impact on society.

Workshop series to co-produce a peer-mentoring model of support for the digital delivery of a psychological intervention for adolescents in Uganda

In May 2020, we supported the **African Psycare Research Organisation** in Uganda to host a series of virtual and in-person workshops in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry at Oxford.

The aim of the workshop was to develop a model of peer-mentor support to improve emotional wellbeing and reduce symptoms of depression amongst adolescents in Uganda. This piece of work complements an **ongoing study** co-led by the Oxford Department of Psychiatry, **BRAC Uganda** and the **MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit** to develop a digital mental health intervention for adolescents in Uganda. The peer mentor model of support will play an instrumental role in supporting adolescents to engage with the digital mental health intervention.

Through a series of 10 workshops, academics, mental health professionals, adolescents, university students and other key stakeholders from Uganda, the UK and South Africa created a peer mentor manual and a training model. This included engaging with adolescents' parents and the community on mental health topics such as destigmatising mental health and identifying support for mental health available to adolescents in the community. Participants at the workshop also produced a competency framework, fidelity assessment



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for peer mentors, and a training manual for supervisors of peer mentors. Work is currently ongoing to develop audiovisual training materials to supplement the peer mentor manual.

All the training materials and tools will be made freely available online as guides for other researchers working to improve mental health among adolescents across different cultures.



“There is enormous potential in digital mental health interventions for adolescents in Africa, such as the smartphone app we are developing in the Ebikolwa N’empisa study. Peer mentors can play a crucial role in supporting adolescents to engage with the app and understand the content of the treatment. This is key to ensuring that our intervention will be scalable and sustainable. The generous support of AfOx to conduct these workshops to help develop the peer mentor manual and programme made such a difference!”

- Prof Alan Stein , Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford
& Prof Eugene Kinyanda, African Psycare Research Organisation, Uganda

Workshop participants in Uganda



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Right to a better world: documentary series

AfOx is proud to have supported a documentary series titled 'Right to a Better World' that was produced in collaboration with WHO and HRP, UN Human Rights and the [Oxford Human Rights Hub](#) (OxHRH). The documentary explores how tactics developed by the human rights movement can be used to achieve sexual and reproductive health rights, and drive meaningful progress towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There are four 20-minute episodes in Right To A Better World on themes of [contraception](#), [comprehensive sexuality education](#), [maternal mortality and morbidity](#) and [violence against women](#). All the videos are free to access.



“This powerful series creates a unique synergy between academic and practical human rights approaches, vividly demonstrating the key role human rights can play when advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights in political, legal, and international forums.”

-Professor Sandra Fredman, Director of the Oxford Human Rights Hub



You can watch the first episode of Right to a Better World here: youtu.be/8rL1EZo75ul

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My AfOx story

“How can I utilise my research to have a positive social impact?”

This has been Siana’s guiding question since she decided to become a scientist at a young age. Siana always had a strong desire to become a medical doctor, however an alternative path of studying chemistry, molecular biology and human genetics has led her to develop solutions for some of Tanzania’s pressing health challenges.



Dr Siana Nkya working in the lab at the Department of Oncology at Oxford with her colleague Dr Adam Burns.

Blood diseases are a major problem in sub-Saharan Africa which has a high incidence of both genetic conditions and blood cancers. While effective and affordable therapies are available in many African countries, a diagnostic test for conditions such as sickle cell disease can cost up to 400 USD and requires a highly skilled multidisciplinary staff and equipment and methodologies that cannot easily be maintained.

Siana was working as a laboratory manager for a newborn screening programme, **Muhimbili University for Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)** in Dar-es-Salaam with the aim of conducting an early screening for SCD in newborn babies in Tanzania. This was a programme led by Prof Julie Makani from MUHAS. During this time, she met Prof Anna Schuh, from the Molecular Diagnostics Centre, University of Oxford. All three scientists had one common goal; to save lives of newborns by ensuring easy and affordable access to blood diagnostic tests.

Together they formulated a plan to build local capacity for precise, low-cost, low-maintenance, patient-near DNA diagnostics solutions. To translate their idea into action, Siana applied for the AfOx Visiting Fellowship in 2019. This enabled her to visit Oxford and work in collaboration with Anna and other colleagues at Oxford’s Department of Oncology and the Molecular Diagnostics Centre.

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“The AfOx Fellowship had a dual benefit. Not only did it give me access to resources and equipment that were then lacking at my home lab, but it also made me think of the social aspect of the diagnostic test. For the first time in my career as a scientist, I thought, how can we create an innovation that will actually work in the community?”

This question led Siana and her colleagues at the Muhimbili University for Health and Allied Sciences and Anna to co-found SEREN. Inspired by the Serengeti National Park, SEREN will be a social enterprise that delivers affordable and accessible diagnostic tests to patients and that will employ 12 full-time staff and provides clinical and laboratory practice training for laboratory technicians, bioinformaticians, nurses and clinicians.

In close collaboration with MUHAS, University of Oxford, the **Muhimbili National Hospital** and the patient charity **Tumaina la Maisha**, they have put in place the required infrastructure to facilitate national patient referrals, local sequencing, joint cloud-based data analysis and clinical data collection for the WHO Cancer Registry.



“From day one we had a very clear goal. Although our project is starting in Oxford, it needs to be fit for purpose in Tanzania.”

Siana and colleagues have put in place frameworks to consent parents/patients for DNA analysis and to provide diagnostic-grade DNA testing for as low as \$10/test. As of March 2021, 50 children and young adults have undergone testing, and Muhimbili National Hospital has already adopted one of the tests to provide government-funded diagnosis of chronic myeloid leukaemia.

In 2020, SEREN won the University of Oxford’s Vice-Chancellor’s Innovation Award. Siana and the teams at Oxford and MUHAS are now in the process of securing additional funding for SEREN and are in discussions with representatives from the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to secure sustainability for genetic diagnostics that will save the lives of thousands of children and young adults in the region.



You can watch Siana talk about her journey here: youtu.be/MHUFSSaagss



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Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform

50 Innovators developing new solutions to Africa's health challenges

The Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform (AfOx-HIP) is a multi-disciplinary programme launched earlier this year to support African innovators develop new solutions to Africa's health challenges. AfOx-HIP is aimed at connecting research to industry to solve intractable societal challenges by tackling prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment through impact investment and innovation.

AfOx-HIP will identify 50 outstanding emerging African researchers and innovators, proposing new solutions for health and facilitate their interaction with partners across Oxford, for the AfOx Innovation and Entrepreneurship Scheme.

AfOx-HIP is a collaboration between AfOx and key partners including: **Grand Challenges Africa** at the African Academy of Sciences, **The Royal Academy of Engineering**, **The Institute of Biomedical Engineering**, **Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship**, **Oxford Foundry**, **TORCH**, **the Saïd Business School Africa Initiative** and **Reuben College, Oxford**.



“We’ve seen first-hand the ingenuity & resourcefulness that has gone into fighting COVID-19 across Africa. The results, from PPE made of recycled PET bottles to contact tracing platforms, reinforce that it is innovation that holds the key to delivering a more accessible and effective healthcare into the future. By connecting and supporting innovators making a difference in their communities, we can build a network with the power to change the world for the better”

- **Wariara Waireri**, Senior Manager of International Development, Royal Academy of Engineering

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Senior AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme

Creating a research environment where collaborations can grow sustainably

The Senior AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme supports the University of Oxford's international research agenda by bringing together leading researchers in African institutions and Oxford to address pressing issues facing us today.

The Senior AfOx Visiting Fellowship allows established African researchers who demonstrate the ability for novel thinking and strong leadership to spend two academic terms in Oxford and work in collaboration with colleagues based at the University of Oxford to advance knowledge in their respective fields.

Six researchers from Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia and Liberia have been awarded the inaugural Senior AfOx Visiting Fellowship. Their expertise includes research ethics, astrophysics, social policy and neurosciences.

6

researchers

with expertise in
**research ethics,
astrophysics,
social policy and
neurosciences**

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**Senior AfOx
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Prof Boutheina Kerkeni

Institution: ISAMM Université la Manouba, Tunisia

Project: Combined Quantum chemical and Kinetics Investigations of H₂ formation on Molecular Clusters for Astrochemical Interest

Oxford affiliation: Department of Physics



Prof Kalpana Hiralal

Institution: University of Kwazulu –Natal, South Africa

Project: The struggle for gender equality in South Africa's Road to Democracy

Oxford affiliation: African Studies Centre



Dr Stephen B. Kennedy

Institution: Institution: University of Liberia, Liberia

Project: Strengthen Research Ethics Committees in Liberia for Genomic Studies

Oxford affiliation: Ethox Centre



Prof Godwin Inalegwu Ogbole

Institution: University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Project: Enhancing clinical decisions that improve outcomes in Africans with stroke and dementia using advanced MRI techniques

Oxford affiliation: Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences



Prof Workineh Kelbessa Golga

Institution: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Project: Water ethics and its contribution to sustainable water resources management

Oxford affiliation: Faculty of Philosophy



Prof Laetitia Charmaine Rispel

Institution: University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Project: Research on the Health workforce

Oxford affiliation: Department of Social Policy and Intervention

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AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme

In its fourth year, the growing community of AfOx Fellows stands at 57 research leaders from 47 institutions across Africa working in a range of fields such as astrophysics, conservation, economics, law, marine science, mathematics and medical humanities.

The AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme is designed to provide exceptional African researchers an opportunity to build international networks and focus on a project of their choice, away from teaching and administrative duties at their home institutions. Open to all research fields, the Fellowship supports researchers to spend up to 8 weeks at Oxford. Previous Fellows have gone on to receive further research funding from external sources, prestigious awards, published their research and extended their global networks.

Last year 21 distinguished researchers from 14 countries were selected as the 2020 AfOx Visiting Fellows. While the Fellows were not able to physically visit Oxford due to the pandemic, we are developing a suite of tools for virtual engagement to augment the physical visit.

Meet the AfOx Visiting Fellows



Dr Abera Tura

Institution: Haramaya University, Ethiopia

Oxford affiliation: Nuffield Department of Population Health

Research: Collaboration to establish the Ethiopian Obstetric Survey Systems (EthOSS)



Dr Ameha Muluneh

Institution: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Oxford affiliation: Department of Earth Sciences

Research: An Investigation of deformation patterns in the Main Ethiopian Rift



Dr. Anani Badje

Institution: Programme PACCI, Côte d'Ivoire

Oxford affiliation: Nuffield Department of Medicine

Research: Emerging infectious diseases in the context of climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Dr Cindy George

Institution: South African Medical Research Council, South Africa

Oxford affiliation: The George Institute for Global Health

Research: Piloting the African network for chronic kidney disease (CKD) epidemiology



Dr Dimakatso Gumede

Institution: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

Oxford affiliation: Sir William Dunn School of Pathology

Research: Generation of genetically-modified iPSC-derived macrophages



Dr Ismaila Emahi

Institution: University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana

Oxford affiliation: Department of Chemistry

Research: Electrode Modification Strategies for Toxic Metal Detection via Voltammetry



Dr James Njunge

Institution: KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya

Oxford affiliation: Department of Paediatrics

Research: Is systemic LPS a marker of intestinal dysfunction and a driver of systemic inflammation and mortality among acutely ill undernourished children



Dr Mkunde Chachage

Institution: University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Oxford affiliation: Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences

Research: Establishing a collaboration for studying dysbiosis in the gut microbiome of HIV-helminth co-infected Africans/Tanzanians



Dr Nosiphiwo Zwane

Institution: University of Eswatini, Eswatini

Oxford affiliation: Department of Physics

Research: Cosmological tests of Cosmic Acceleration due to Inflationary Quantum Fluctuations

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Dr Peter Amadi

Institution: Imo State University, Nigeria

Oxford affiliation: Sir William Dunn School of Pathology

Research: Impact of Zika virus infection on the metabolic state of microglia, and neural progenitors



Dr Sadio Soukouna

Institution: University of Bamako, Mali

Oxford affiliation: Oxford Department of International Development

Research: Mechanisms and figures of local governance of mobility in Africa



Dr Sara Abdel Gaber

Institution: Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Institute, Egypt

Oxford affiliation: Department of Materials

Research: Development of natural polymer-based scaffolds for bone tissue regeneration



Dr Tolulope Adeleye

Institution: Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

Oxford affiliation: Department of Engineering

Research: Improving the efficiency of hydrolysis in Anaerobic Digesters



Dr Asante Lucy Mtenje

Institution: University of Malawi, Malawi

Oxford affiliation: African Studies Centre

Research: (Un)Dressing the nation: power, dress and sexuality in Malawian popular art



Dr George Bob-Milliar

Institution: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Oxford affiliation: African Studies Centre

Research: Party Politics and capital mobilisation in Ghana

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Dr Emile Sunjo

Institution: University of Buea, Cameroon

Oxford affiliation: Centre for Criminology, The Faculty of Law

Research: From peace-breakers to peace-makers? The role of the Anglophone diaspora in the Cameroon's Separatist Conflict



Dr Gcobani Qambela

Institution: University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Oxford affiliation: The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)

Research: The Anthropology of Boyhoods

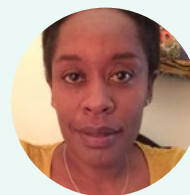


Dr Endalkachew Hailu Guluma

Institution: Arba Minch University, Ethiopia

Oxford affiliation: The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)

Research: An Ecocritical Revaluation of Traditional Environmental Thought and Ecological Knowledge of the Aari of Southern Ethiopia



Dr Alice Karuri

Institution: Strathmore University, Kenya

Oxford affiliation: Department of Zoology

Research: Sustainability in global commodity chains: an institutional analysis of farmer organizations



Dr Krossy Mavakala

Institution: University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Oxford affiliation: Department of Zoology

Research: Maluku: The flow of Wildmeat from Rural DR Congo



Mrs Suzanne Mogue Kamga

Institution: IITA-Cameroon, Eco-regional Center, Cameroon

Oxford affiliation: Department of Zoology

Research: Ecological sustainability and conservation of Bush Mango under Cocoa agroforestry systems

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Strengthening emerging collaborations

Afox Catalyst Grants

AfOx Catalyst Grants reflect our ethos of equitable and sustainable research partnerships

In light of the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have reimagined our Travel Grants so that researchers in African institutions and the University of Oxford can continue to forge new collaborative partnerships despite travel restrictions. In addition to AfOx Travel Grants, this year we have introduced the AfOx Starter Grants. Both the Travel Grants and Starter Grants come under the umbrella of the AfOx Catalyst Grants.

AfOx Catalyst Grants provide seed funding for the development of collaborative research between researchers based in African institutions and at the University of Oxford. Catalyst Grants are open to all disciplines and applications can be made throughout the year.

Travel Grants

The AfOx Travel Grants programme was established in 2016 with the aim of supporting new collaborations between researchers based in African institutions and the University of Oxford by allowing researchers to meet in either Oxford or an African institution to work together on an emerging research area of mutual interest.

Over the last 5 years, we have awarded 210 Travel Grants that have initiated new collaborations between researchers from 111 African institutions and 42 Oxford Departments.

AfOx Starter Grants

The AfOx Starter Grants will fund activities such as the early-phase development of ideas, feasibility studies, public engagement, and conducting of primary research with the aim of developing sustainable partnerships and strengthening applications for longer-term fellowships and funding.

[Find out more about the AfOx Starter Grants on our website.](#)

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AfOx Events

As we continue to adapt to new ways of living and learning, we are also uncovering new possibilities for collaboration. We have been utilising the digital realm to strengthen our network and expand the reach of our events to a global audience.

Digital insaka

A virtual space for knowledge exchange and collaboration

In May 2020, we started hosting digital insaka's every month. More than 2000 people from over 15 countries have joined us so far as our digital insaka's explore topics ranging from decolonising the pharmaceutical industry to creating new narratives for Africa, and the future of Africa's energy systems.

May 2020



Watch the video here:

youtu.be/VeyW-8Un6VI

Carlos Lopes, Professor at Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town: Is Africa obliged to trade between lives and livelihoods in face of the Covid-19?

Jennifer Mabuka, Advisor, African Academy of Sciences: African scientists gear up for Covid-19 research.

July 2020



Watch the video here:

youtu.be/ekqHNVAGCaM

Alison Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, University of Cape Town: Leaders, Followers or Spectators: African Research Universities and the Future

Isaiah Nengo, Director, Research and Science, Turkana Basin Institute, Stony Brook University: Why should Africans care about palaeontology?

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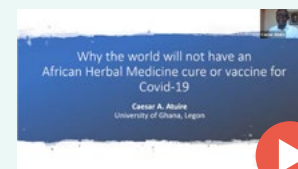


Watch the video here:
youtu.be/eEG2tT0UeWQ

Katrina Charles, Associate Professor, School of Geography, University of Oxford: Achieving safe drinking water for all in Africa: opportunities for innovation

Thomas Kariuki, Director of Programmes, African Academy of Sciences: Shifting the Centre of Gravity: 10 Achievements of the Five Year AESA Journey

October 2020



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/mv4DndUewd0

Caesar Atuire, Senior Lecturer, Coordinator of Bioethics Section, Department of Philosophy and Classics, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana: Why the world will not have an African Herbal Medicine cure or vaccine for Covid-19

Anne Makena, Programme Coordinator, AfOx & Morategi Kale, Student Engagement Liaison, AfOx: Advancing research partnerships: the AfOx approach

September 2020



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/UMpObVNY5p0

Ola Uduku, Professor & Joint Head, Manchester School of Architecture, University of Manchester and President African Studies Association of the UK: Collaborative Partnerships in African Architectural Documentation and Research

Gordon Awandare, Director, West African Center for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens and Professor, University of Ghana: Building and sustaining a conducive ecosystem for globally competitive research in African universities

November 2020



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/qEUWvHDWH6E

Neo Tapela, Senior Research Fellow, Nuffield Department of Population Health and Research Associate, Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership, Oxford: Reducing delays in cancer diagnosis and treatment for rural patients

Saudah Namyalo, Senior Lecturer, School of Languages, Literature and Communication at Makerere University, Uganda: The comeback disappointed the professor again: understanding Uganda's urban-youth language based on English

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December 2020



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/Nxdw56XPPcE

Nana Oforiatta Ayim, Founder of the ANO Institute of Arts and Knowledge, Ghana: Creating New Narratives for Africa and its Diasporas

Yacob Mulugetta, Professor of Energy and Development Policy, University College London, London: What direction for Africa's Energy Future?

February 2021



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/x43jMtT7S8s

Oluwaseyi Shorinola, Future Leader Africa Independent Researcher (FLAIR) Fellow: Developing capacity for Africa's gene/genome revolution

Noni Mumba, Head of the Community Engagement Platform, KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya: Engagement during global health emergencies: Challenges and opportunities

March 2021



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/Qz4bsr7Ci7Y

Stella Kabiri- Marial, Programme Leader, National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda: Climate change and food production: saving emissions by using air as a raw material in the production of low cost fertilisers

Leena Koni Hoffman, Associate Fellow of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, London: Why social norms approaches matter to understanding corruption and doing anti-corruption

April 2021



Watch the video here:
youtu.be/-ldQpAl3waU

Iruka N Okeke, Professor of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, the University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Overcoming barriers to targeted solutions for infantile diarrhoea

Susana Carvalho, Associate Professor of Paleoanthropology and Fellow at St. Hugh's College, Oxford: Fifteen years of tracing invisible steps in the technological evolution of early hominins: where should we be heading next?

Globinars on the Future of Archaeology in Africa and the Diaspora

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Building linkages between the present and the future

In the wake of global debates on the restitution of African cultural heritage, we have partnered with institutions across the world to explore how archaeology can be reinvented to provide models of alternative knowledge that could advance sustainable development goals.

As of April 2021, we have hosted 3 out of planned 12 Globinars. The Globinars are going beyond virtual events and are being studied by postgraduate students at StonyBrooks University, Kenya and at Rice University, Texas, USA.

Following the Globinar discussions around the challenges faced by early career archaeologists to fund costly archaeology procedures such as carbon dating, a group of senior archaeologists are in the process of setting up a fund to support archaeology students and early career researchers to access labs and expensive equipment.



“The globinars engage experts from around the globe about fundamental issues at the heart of archaeology and its role in society. They are reflective and innovative interventions providing direction for the future of archaeological research. Over the next few months, they will continue to foster global academic exchanges, planting the seeds of collaborative research topics and at the same time, providing material to rethink and reshape the curriculum.”

- **Prof Shadreck Chirikure**, British Academy Global Professor, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford & Professor of Archaeology, University of Cape Town

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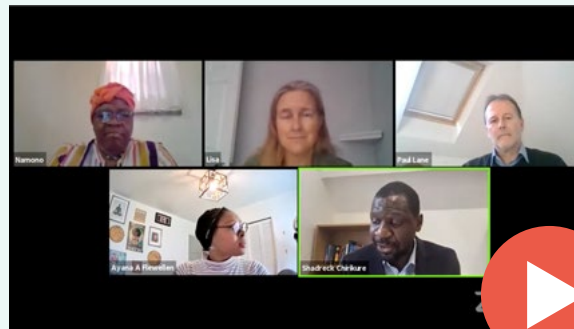
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Inaugural globinar: Africanising archaeology and palaeoanthropology: decolonisation, race and inequality

Watch the video here: youtu.be/bNbjX51Wb_I



African archaeology at home and in the diaspora: funding & the role of professional associations

Watch the video here: youtu.be/mj0hY5X_Vq8



Archaeological science in Africa and the Diaspora: present situation and future prospects

Watch the video here: youtu.be/34HfA7Wq5Vo

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A new digital home

Launched this year, our new website hosts information on all our activities, programmes and events. In the coming months we will continue to build on this website to create a digital home for the AfOx community to find the latest Africa-related research and interact with each other. Visit our new website here: afox.ox.ac.uk

Researcher Database

Our researcher database is a platform to connect with Oxford-based researchers from across disciplines who are keen to collaborate with colleagues based in African institutions. Over the last 5 years over 300 Oxford-based researchers from across disciplines have signed up to share ideas, knowledge and expertise with African colleagues.

View our database here:

afox.ox.ac.uk/afox-researcher-database

Visit our new website here:
afox.ox.ac.uk



Digital Engagement

In the last year, more than ever social media has helped us keep in touch with the AfOx network and celebrate the work of our community.

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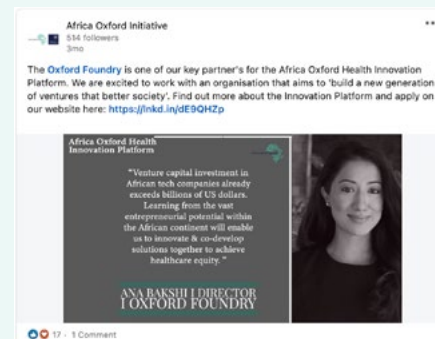
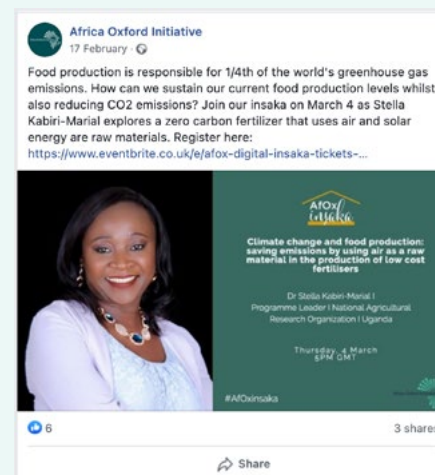
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- [@Africa_Oxford](#)
- [@africa_oxford](#)
- [in/africaoxfordinitiative](#)



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A deliberate commitment to work together for our sustainable future

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the world's status quo while also highlighting the power of research collaborations to find solutions to our challenges and build back better. In the coming years, we will continue to increase opportunities for African students in Oxford, strengthen our network across the African continent, provide a platform for research and innovation for researchers based in African institutions and the University of Oxford.

A training ground for future policy makers, business leaders and thinkers

By 2050 the majority of the world's student age population will be in Africa. African graduates and researchers will play a key role in contributing to the future of not just the continent, but the world.

AfOx-Reuben Scholarship

Following the success of the AfOx Graduate Scholarship scheme, we have collaborated with Oxford's newest college, Reuben College, to award up to 4 scholarships to African graduates in the 2021-2022 academic year. The AfOx-Reuben Scholarship will begin to create a community of scholars committed to interdisciplinary knowledge

exchange and innovative thinking on some of the big challenges of the future. The selected scholars will receive bespoke programmes of intellectual activity, academic support, and professional guidance by Reuben College Fellows and members of the AfOx community.

An enabling environment to advance knowledge, creativity and innovation

All our programmes are designed to create a research culture that is equitable, sustainable and people-centred. Over the last five years, we have facilitated collaborations for over 500 researchers, and we will continue to provide an environment that is conducive to the development of new solutions to tackle the world's most pressing problems.

This summer, 50 African innovators will join the AfOx-Health Innovation Platform. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels to find out how they are finding solutions for Africa's health challenges.

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Creating an engaged and connected alumni community

As we approach AfOx's fifth anniversary, we will develop an alumni engagement strategy to bring together past AfOx grant holders and African graduates. This will be both an opportunity to engage AfOx alumni with our events and programmes and provide a platform for our alumni to share their research with a wide audience, connect with other researchers and find opportunities for career development.



“Africa is the continent of the future. We are the equivalent of the new world, with 250 million youth on the continent today and 840 million expected by 2050. The only way to lead is to disrupt ourselves”

- **Prof Alison Lewis**, Professor and Dean of Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Cape Town at the AfOx digital insaka

5 years of AfOx

This October we will celebrate our 5th anniversary. We will take this opportunity to reflect on our journey over the last 5 years and share our strategic priorities for the next 5. Look out for anniversary celebrations in October, where we will celebrate our past AfOx grant holders and publish our next strategy plan.

To stay up to date with all our activities, programmes and events, sign up to our mailing list [here](#).



“By combining education, research and innovation under one roof, universities are the best place to build sustainable research capacity”

- **Prof Gordon Awandire**, Director, West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens, University of Ghana at the AfOx digital insaka

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To our partner Colleges, AfOx Steering Committee members, partner institutions and friends across Africa, Oxford and elsewhere - thank you for your support, time, expertise and participation in our programmes and events!

Ngiyabonga

e dupe

āmeseginalehu

Obrigado

shukraann

Asante

Merci

wazviita

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AfOx Steering Committee

Prof Wale Adebaniwi, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations, St Antony's College

Prof Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English, Wolfson College

Prof Lucie Cluver, Professor of Child and Family Social Work, Nuffield College

Prof Patricia Daley, Professor of the Human Geography of Africa, Jesus College

Prof. Sir Charles Godfray, Hope Professor of Entomology, Jesus College

Mrs Carole Souter, Master of St Cross College

Prof. William James, Professor of Virology, Brasenose College

Prof. EJ Milner-Gulland, Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity, Reuben College

Dr. Samson Kinyanjui, Director - IDeAL & Head of Training, KEMRI|Wellcome Trust

Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Postdoctoral researcher in Classics education

Prof Sarah Rowland-Jones, Professor of Immunology, Christ Church College

Prof Balazs Szendroi, Professor of Pure Mathematics, St Peter's College

Mr Craig Morley, International Strategy Office

Dr Elisha Ngetich, President of Oxford University Africa Society

AfOx-HIP Partners

Grand Challenges Africa at the African Academy of Sciences

The Royal Academy of Engineering

The Institute of Biomedical Engineering Skoll

Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Oxford

Foundry

The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

Saïd Business School Africa Initiative

Reuben College

AVFP Partner Colleges

All Souls College

Brasenose College

Christ Church College

Hertford College

Jesus College

Merton College

Somerville College

St Antony's College

St Cross College

St Edmund Hall

St Hugh's College

St Peter's College

Wadham College

Wolfson College

AVFP Partner Centres

African Studies Centre

Faculty of Law

Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science

The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

AfOx Team

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Thank you



Professor Kevin Marsh

Director



Watu Wamae (PhD)

Research Engagement Manager



Avni Gupta

Communications Officer



Anthi Demetriou

Programme Assistant



Dr Anne Makena

Programme Coordinator



Dr David Kerr

Programme Manager



Adelina Blaga

Programme Officer



Morategi Kale

Research Associate

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[AfOx.in](https://www.facebook.com/AfOx.in)



[@Africa Oxford](https://twitter.com/Africa_Oxford)



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[in/africaoxfordinitiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/africaoxfordinitiative)