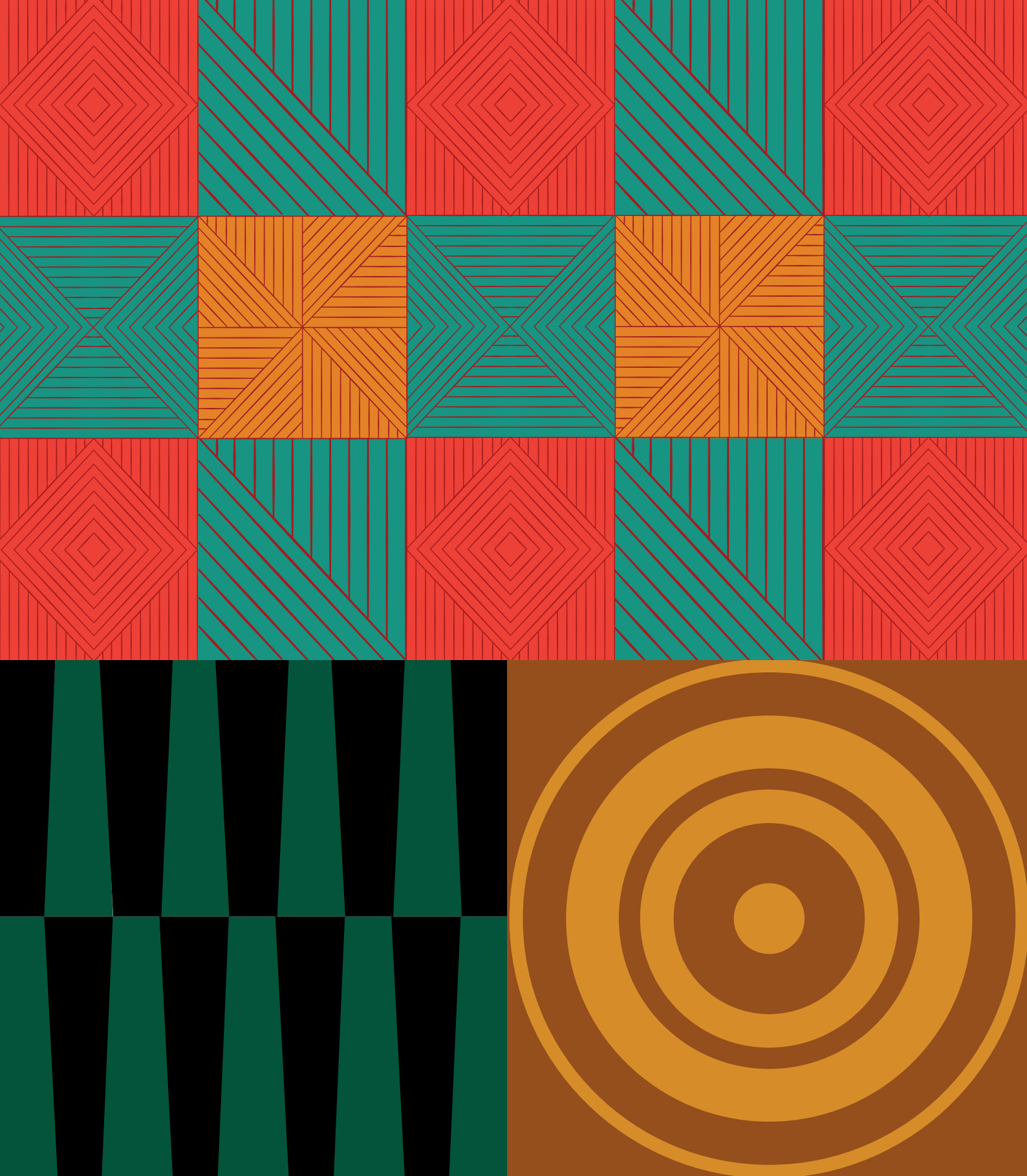




Firoz Lalji Institute  
for Africa

# Annual Report

2022/23



“

Over the past year, the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa has continued to pursue its goal of placing Africa at the heart of LSE’s intellectual life. We have won new research grants, hosted events that attracted large audiences, published widely, and engaged with policymakers. The Institute continues to work with colleagues in Africa and with the populations living in the places where we work. Distance learning and collaborative workshops with African universities and other institutions are a growing part of our activities.

At LSE, we have been joined by new academic and professional services staff as we continue to expand both at LSE and on the African continent. Our Programme for African Leadership and Africa Engagement Programme have gone from strength to strength and support our ambitious agenda. In addition, we have welcomed the Centre for Women, Peace and Security to the Institute and look forward to supporting the Centre’s flourishing.

”

**Tim Allen,**

Director of the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa





“ By bringing together the School’s African community and those researching and teaching on the continent, the Institute is always building new connections. The Institute is dedicated to promoting inclusive debate and sustainable futures at LSE and beyond, while the Programme for African Leadership drives an expanding network of alumni across the continent. This is an exciting moment for the Institute. ”

**Firoz Lalji,**  
BSc Economics 1969



“ The tremendous growth of the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa is the latest step in LSE’s long history of engagement with Africa and African issues. It has quickly built a reputation for excellent research and leadership development. The Institute continues to launch new projects, host world-renowned speakers, and foster an inclusive and dedicated community on campus, all in the name of making a positive real-world difference to development, humanitarianism, and public health in Africa. We are very proud of the Institute’s people and their progress in building something special. ”

**Eric Neumayer,**  
Interim Director of LSE

## LSE, AFRICA, & AFRICAN THINKERS

Seven post-independence African heads of state have studied at the school: including three presidents of Ghana – Kwame Nkrumah, Hilla Limann and John Atta Mills; two presidents of Kenya – Jomo Kenyatta and Mwai Kibaki; president of Mauritius Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo; and Sylvanus Olympio former president of Togo.

In 1957, LSE students were amongst the first in the UK to protest the apartheid regime in South Africa. In the 2000s, LSE became a frequent destination for African leaders, including Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan, to deliver public speeches and share their thoughts about global issues.

Professor Thandika Mkandawire launched LSE's Africa Initiative in 2009, the Programme for African Leadership was established in 2012, and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa was created in 2021.



Kwame Nkrumah.  
Credit: The National Archives UK - CO 1069-50-1, via  
Wikimedia Commons



## FLIA Mission Statement

### Vision

The Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA) will place Africa at the heart of the LSE. It will be a hub for work on under-represented voices within and outside Africa and bring these perspectives to the centre of global debates.

### Mission

Placing Africa at the heart of LSE will involve engaging with African scholars, students, thought leaders, professionals, policymakers, and activists, and foregrounding African perspectives on matters within and beyond the African continent. FLIA will work with departments across the School to ensure the inclusion of African perspectives into debates, events, and initiatives at LSE.



### Guiding Principles

These guiding principles are reflective of our values and facilitate a shared understanding about the prioritisation of initiatives.

- The Institute will be the home for research on Africa and under-represented groups at LSE.
- We will drive transformative research and creative work through internal and external relationship building, innovation, and impact, and support both research and creative ventures.
- The Institute will create enriching learning and research opportunities for LSE staff and students.
- It will promote new analytic frameworks and forge new research directions with FLIA's research programmes, including the Centre for Women, Peace, and Security.
- It will engage a diverse academic, professional services, and student body.
- The Institute will support interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary connections and collaboration in research, teaching, and policymaking.
- It will include the perspectives of those rarely heard and provide a forum for critical debate in places and with people who are often not included in global discussions.



## A year in summary

This academic year, our inaugural one as an institute, has been an exciting one for the FLIA with new projects, research agendas, and staff joining our team. Arguably the biggest development of the year has been the Centre for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), and the Gender, Justice and Security Hub joining the Institute. WPS has a long history of impactful, high-quality work including advising the United Nations on its work on the status of women. Professor Joanna Lewis has joined the Institute as the WPS Director and will bring a new research agenda to the FLIA focused on women, gender, and social justice in Africa and beyond.

FLIA's existing ESRC-funded centre, the Centre for Public Authority and International Development (CPAID) has ramped-up its second phase with fieldwork in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan and hybrid courses for researchers and development practitioners across Africa. The academic staff at the Institute have been incredibly productive this year, submitting over 30 research grant applications to funding bodies to drive forward new and emerging research on topics such as the polycrisis, African trade, health systems, and African policymaking. The research programme is growing, and we look forward to sharing its developments over the course of the next year.



The Institute hosted the Africa Summit in-person for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. The event welcomed 400 attendees and produced a policy briefing written by the organising students. A new event series this year called the Ubuntu Café was created by the Programme for African Leadership that infused academic debates with African music, poetry, and food. The Cafes brought together panels that discussed issues facing Africa with postgraduate students and staff participating in the discussions. At the spring edition of the event, FLIA's Strategic Director, Dr David Luke, launched his book *How Africa Trades*, published by LSE Press.

The Institute is successfully meeting its' objectives of bringing African perspectives to LSE through the Africa Summit, Africa Talks, and collegial lunch and learn seminars with those working on Africa. Building connections across LSE for those working on and dedicated to Africa is a key goal for the Institute as it evolves.

FLIA is working closely with LSE's Philanthropy and Global Engagement team to raise funds for scholarships for African students and early-career African research fellows to develop their academic careers at LSE. The Institute will launch a new fundraising campaign in 2024 to boost engagement with Africa across the School. We look forward to delivering our aims and continuing to increase Africa's presence and visibility at LSE.





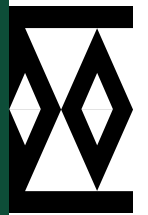
## RESEARCH



The Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa has produced wide-ranging, high-impact research on topics such as governance, public authority, digital innovations, health, humanitarianism, pandemics, and resilience. Our research has produced new insights and knowledge for academics, policymakers and practitioners and guided policy responses to Covid-19, regional trade, and the displacement of refugees among a range of other subjects.

As the Institute has grown, so has the scope of our research. Our projects are multidisciplinary and engage institutions and researchers across Africa including in Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

**26** JOURNAL ARTICLES



**5** BOOKS

1. HOW AFRICA TRADES
2. SPIRITUAL CONTESTATIONS
3. CONTESTING MORALITIES
4. STATE POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY IN EASTERN AFRICA
5. TOUCH OF GENIUS

**1** SPECIAL ISSUE  
CIVIL WARS

**3** POLICY BRIEFS

1. CBAM
2. SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION
3. SUBMISSION TO DEPT FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO



## The Centre for Public Authority and International Development

Established in 2017, the Centre for Public Authority and International Development (CPAID) is an ESRC funded multi-year research centre. It looks at the acquisition of authority and the delivery of public resources in areas where the state is weak or not the sole provider of public goods, safety, and security.

The concept of Public Authority refers to any kind of authority beyond the immediate family that commands a degree of consent. This can include clans, aid agencies, or violent militias. Using this lens, CPAID researchers focus on who benefits and who is excluded from different actors' claims to authority. The approach does not exclude the state but seeks to challenge the state-centric framework in a world where non-state actors increasingly shape global governance.

The Centre began looking at issues of population displacement and social reintegration in conflict affected or post-conflict area across Africa. Since then, it has grown and applied the same public authority lens to the Ebola and Covid-19 pandemics and engaged in comparative work in Europe and South America. With 22 projects across six countries, CPAID draws expertise from universities, NGOs, and the private sector. Over fifty researchers are, or have been, engaged with the Centre. All united by an interest in public authority.

### A lens in scholarly debates

Analysing a situation using the concept of public authority can provide a deeper understanding of what happens on the ground in particular regions and why some policy interventions in these areas consistently fail. CPAID applies this lens to places that are being affected by acute social upheaval and where formal governance structures are weak and challenged by other actors. This approach reveals the potential of existing arrangements on the ground to contribute or obstruct economic development, the provision of services, and the promotion of wellbeing.

Through extensive publications, public forums, and conference panels, CPAID researchers have elevated the profile of the public authority concept and promoted its relevance to contemporary issues. This renewed attention on public authority has contributed to a re-thinking of core concepts that underpin policies on issues such as health security, resilience, and sustainability. Applying the Centre's research findings and insights from Africa to the polycrisis taking place outside the continent will be an important feature of its future research.

### Impact

The University of Johannesburg and CPAID launched a course aimed at early- and mid- career humanitarian and development professionals about public authority and its application to key issues for the sector.

An initial workshop and the first session of the course took place in at the University of Johannesburg in April 2023 with over 50 attendees. Subsequent sessions were held online.

The course covered why you need to be aware of how public authority is created and maintained in the places humanitarian and development organisations work. It looked at frameworks, techniques, and research that can help to better understand and engage public authority to achieve sustainable outcomes. The course's light touch learning materials consisted of videos, podcasts, and readings. A short essay-based assessment was given at the end of the course and certificates of achievement were awarded. Learning materials were grounded in the research of course conveners and largely focused on case studies.

"Reflecting on this course, I am genuinely appreciative of the novel revelations it offered regarding public authority. The course brilliantly bridged the gap between theory and reality, providing a clearer understanding of the world we navigate. One remarkable insight was recognising how individuals stepping in to manage traffic during robot downtime perfectly aligns with the lens of public authority. Moreover, the course kindled a research interest in the intricate interplay between cybersecurity and public authority, which beckons further exploration. The course's illumination of cyber vigilantes safeguarding vulnerable states, exemplified by the Ukrainian context, vividly showcased the dynamics of public authority. I am truly grateful for this transformative experience, which has enriched my understanding of the intricate interplay between the liberal framework of cooperation and the indispensable role of non-state actors." Mancha Johannes Sekgololo, University of Johannesburg, Research Associate, Department of Politics and International Relations.

"Participating in this course has been an eye-opening journey that has redefined my understanding of people's needs and wants. Through the thought-provoking discussions, I have learned to appreciate the delicate balance between exercising authority and upholding the principles of humanity. I was particularly struck by the fact that the concept of public authority goes beyond formal institutions to include local leaders, community influencers and even grassroots organisations. This realisation has deepened my appreciation for the power of collective action in addressing societal challenges. At the end of this course, by integrating the lessons learned here, I hope to contribute meaningfully to a future in which the powerful tools of public authority are used to promote, protect, and empower every individual in our global community." - Shadreck Muchaku, University of Fort Hare, Postdoctoral Research/Teaching Fellow.

OVER THE YEARS, FLIA'S ESRC-FUNDED CENTRE, CPAID, HAS SUPPORTED CUTTING EDGE FIELD RESEARCH IN DRC, UGANDA, KENYA, AND SOUTH SUDAN ON GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC AUTHORITY, DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION, AND LOCAL ORDER AND CONFLICT. THIS WORK HAS BEEN A SPRINGBOARD FOR THE ACADEMIC CAREERS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS COMMITTED TO AFRICA AND HAS HELPED MAINSTREAM THE CONCEPT OF "PUBLIC AUTHORITY" IN PUBLIC POLICY DEBATES.

### Catherine Boone

Professor of Comparative Politics, Departments of Government and International Development, LSE

## The Africa Trade Policy Programme

Throughout human history, trade has played a key role in generating economic growth. This has been achieved by leveraging comparative and competitive advantages for the exchange of goods and services. Economic thought, theory, and practice all confirm the key role that trade plays in transforming economies and societies.

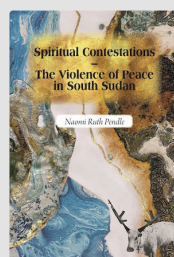
Today, trade is recognised as a driver of growth, sustainable development, and poverty reduction. But this is not automatic. It requires trade policies that are dynamic, inclusive, and responsive to both opportunities and constraints in the face of constantly changing national, regional, and global contexts.

The Africa Trade Policy Programme, led by FLIA Strategic Director Dr David Luke, brings together international expertise on African trade policy and negotiations to evaluate and contribute to trade policies that can help African countries to better leverage trade as a vehicle for inclusive development. The Programme team has extensive experience of working with governments, development partners, and international organisations across trade policy research, design, and implementation.

The goal is to make trade policy work better for Africa. To achieve that, the Programme focuses on several key areas:

- To better understand the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including where additional policy interventions can generate better results with stronger impacts on livelihoods and different parts of African societies.
- To significantly extend the current knowledge base on African trade policy for more informed decision-making on trade as a driver of sustainable development at various levels of policymaking.
- To demystify African trade policy as a specialised esoteric activity confined to a few experts in order to generate a better and more broad-based understanding of how trade impacts the lives of ordinary Africans and the continent's sustainable development aspirations.
- To produce easily accessible open access information on Africa's trade data, trade agreements, and up-to-date information on current trade negotiations with annotated guidance to enhance intelligibility.
- To empower policymakers, stakeholders, scholars, and others to interrogate the effectiveness of trade agreements, including the implementation dimensions in relation to sustainable development, inclusion, and poverty reduction objectives.

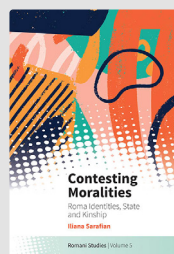
## Publications



### [Spiritual Contestations – The Violence of Peace in South Sudan](#)

*Dr Naomi Pendle*

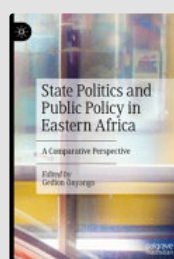
A fresh perspective on conflict and peace-making that highlights the cosmologies and invisible entities that state, society, and religious authorities draw on to claim or reclaim legitimacy and control. (April 2023)



### [Contesting Moralities: Roma Identities, State and Kinship](#)

*Dr Iliana Sarafian*

Roma identities have often been presented in literature as collectively constructed and in opposition to those who are not Roma. Contesting Moralities challenges these preconceptions about Roma identification by disentangling the binaries between Roma and non-Roma, state, and non-state, public and private. (April 2023)



### [State Politics and Public Policy in Eastern Africa - A Comparative Perspective](#)

*Dr Gedion Onyango (eds)*

The book advocates for a regionally-focused comparative approach across Africa, arguing that it provides a greater level of analysis than a complete continental study. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, it covers numerous topics relating to politics, public policy, state, and nation-building in Africa. (April 2023)



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## Outputs

*How Africa Trades* is an invaluable open access resource for making sense of the continent's major trade challenges, including commodity dependence, competitiveness, and how African countries engage with often uncondusive international trade rules that distort global markets.

Edited by Professor David Luke, and featuring vital contributions on trade economics, international law and sustainable development, *How Africa Trades* draws on the research expertise of LSE's Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa. This volume provides information, expertise and tools for policymakers, stakeholders, and scholars with an interest in understanding the dynamics of trade and in making effective policy decisions that centre development and inclusivity for Africa and its people.

*"This is an authoritative book on what needs to be done in Africa and its major trading partners to make the undersized and underperforming Africa's trade become an engine of development, poverty reduction, industrialisation and economic transformation. The book is a must read for anyone concerned about the future of Africa and the world."*

Justin Yifu Lin, Professor, Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University, Former Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, the World Bank

*"A well-researched, up-to-date and reliable source of information on key Africa trade policy issues including investment flows, intra-African trade, the AfCFTA, trade with external partners with insights on Covid-19 impacts and a realistic assessment of Africa's engagement in the WTO. The call for a new trade deal for Africa must not go unheeded. This is a must-read for all interested in the crucial role of trade in Africa's economic development."*

Fatima Haram Acyl, Vice President of the Economic and Monetary Commission for the Central African States, Former Commissioner of Trade and Industry at the African Union Commission



## Trade and climate change

David Luke submitted evidence to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero that highlighted the need for any UK policy proposal on carbon leakage to address the differentiated impact the policy would have on African countries.

The submission was based on the report published in April 2023 entitled *Implications for African countries of a carbon border adjustment mechanism in the EU* produced in partnership with the African Climate Foundation. The report provides both an economic and legal assessment of the implications of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on African countries. The CBAM is scheduled to be phased in from 2026 to 2034 and will initially cover imports of iron and steel, cement, aluminium, fertiliser, hydrogen, and electricity.

## Sustainable industrialisation

*The White Paper on African Sustainable Industrialisation: The Art of Upgrading Industrial Policymaking Itself* was published in June in collaboration with Olawale Ogunkola from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. The paper argues that successful African industrialisation in the twenty-first century is unlikely to look like the successful East Asian experiences of the twentieth century. There is no “the model” or “golden policy template” towards industrialisation, instead what matters is the approach and process, including “experimenting and learning” to craft appropriate interventions by a committed developmental state. This first requires an understanding of the “big five” industrialisation issues of today: policy consensus, green industrialisation, supply chain security and resiliency, shifting industrialisation paradigms, and widening policy space. But most importantly it requires that industrial policymaking in Africa is itself upgraded to be more adaptive, collaborative, and consultative, while bringing together government, anchor investors, and donors, into a grand bargain for social and environmentally sustainable industrialisation.

## Current projects

Dr Luke and associates of the programme are currently working on another book under the provisional title, *How Africa Eats: Africa's Food Trade and Food Security in a Changing Climate*

Over the coming year, the programme will continue to explore the link between trade and climate, with a specific focus on the implications for inclusive growth in Africa of

## Women, Peace & Security

The LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security (WPS) joined the Institute in May 2023. The Centre was set up in 2015 with the support of the UK Government as part of its Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI). The Initiative was launched by William Hague, then UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, alongside Angelina Jolie, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Special Envoy. PSVI focused on ending sexual violence in armed conflict, achieving accountability, and ending impunity for harms committed.

WPS quickly established itself as a world-leading academic space for scholars, practitioners, and students to develop strategies to promote justice, human rights, and participation of women in conflict-affected situations around the world.

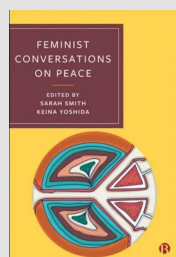
Under the Directorship of Professor Christine Chinkin, the Centre set up a regular two-day training course for middle-career professionals, and participants came from the police forces, Defence Academy, the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Ministry of Defence, and NGOs, as well as a one-year Master's Degree in Gender, Peace and Security run by the Gender Institute.

One of the many prestigious research grants awarded to the Centre included funds to establish a Database on National Action Plans and reports on Twenty Years of WPS NAPs and The Future of the UK's Women, Peace and Security Policy. It developed online resource and education tools including an A-Z dictionary of landmark legal cases dealing with sexual violence and a practical guide to tackling violence against women and girls.

## Outputs

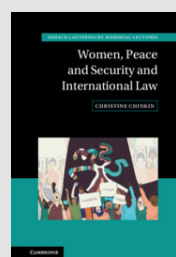
Professor Chinkin and Distinguished Policy Fellow, Dr Louise Arimatsu recently completed two WPS projects, underlining the continued need for understanding peace and security through feminist and gendered approaches. The projects on Feminist International Law on Peace and Security (AHRC grant) and Gendered Peace (ERC Advanced Grant), produced several research articles and books.





### Feminist Conversations on Peace, *Dr Sarah Smith and Dr Keina Yoshida*

This edited, open access collection brings together conversations across borders and boundaries to explore plural, intersectional and interdisciplinary concepts of feminist peace. The book includes contributions from a geographically diverse range of scholars, judges, practitioners and activists, and the chapters cut across themes of movement building and resistance and explore the limits of institutionalised peacebuilding. The chapters deal with a range of issues, such as environmental degradation, militarisation, online violence and arms spending. (July 2022)



### Women, Peace and Security and International Law, *Professor Christine Chinkin.*

In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted the ground-breaking Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). What are its implications for peace and for security? And what does it mean for international lawyers? Through the narratives of women's activism and of international law this book seeks to make the WPS agenda better known to international lawyers and to ask whether it is, or could become, an international legal regime that conforms and responds to the realities of women's lives. (March 2022)

Feminist International Law on Peace and Security and Gendered Peace generated high-level policy briefs regarding the UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and on Transformative Reparations.

The project Gendered Peace has experimented with new forms of media and outreach, such as through close collaboration with NGO personnel in Asia and Women's Active Museum on War and Peace in Tokyo. These collaborations created an award-winning documentary – recognised with the first prize at the Educational Film Award – on the legacy of the Tokyo Women's Tribunal. A Letter on Feminist Peace, which gave expressions for peace in several languages and was played at the LSE Festival last year and is another example of the experimental research outreach conducted by the Centre.



## The UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub

The UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub, hosted at the WPS Centre, is a £17 million, five-year multi-partner research network working with civil society, practitioners, governments, and international organisations to advance gender, justice and inclusive peace.

By bringing together 125 researchers, activists and practitioners from multiple disciplines and practices, the Hub seeks to advance the delivery of the UN's fifth Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality; its sixteenth on peace, justice and strong institutions; and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda by developing an evidence-base around gender justice and inclusive security in conflict-affected societies.

The Hub is guided by a set of feminist ethics and principles, which is reflected in its participatory and collaborative approach and emphasis on equitable partnership across its 40 projects. Hub research is organised in four thematic streams and two cross-cutting streams: Transformation and Empowerment; Livelihood, Land and Rights; Migration and Displacement; Masculinities and Sexualities; Law and Policy Frameworks; and Methodological Innovation.

The Hub focuses on research in Afghanistan, Colombia, Kurdistan-Iraq, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and Uganda as well as operating projects in 16 other countries including four in Africa.

### Key achievements

#### Influencing the WPS agenda

In March 2023, A Hub delegation was present at the UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW 67 meeting in New York. The Hub engaged with policy and decision makers, diplomatic missions, international organisations, and activists. This engagement at the world's leading annual platform on women's rights raised the Hub's international profile and built a platform for future influence, collaboration and impact, in particular with the research initiative Pathfinders, UN Women, and the UNDP Gender & Crisis Facility. It also hosted two official side events, in collaboration with the International Peace Institute and the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN. Audience members included Country Mission Representatives, United Nations organisations, policymakers, members of the Women's Major Group, academics, activists, diplomats, and ambassadors.



## Boosting project, country, and policy impact

The Hub has invested in increasing the impact of existing projects through seven individual impact grants and additional investments into focus country impact and global policy engagement which includes 25 new publications including book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, policy briefs, documentaries, and podcasts.

## Conventions

The third and fourth Hub Conventions (Belfast May 2022, and Colombia July 2023) have produced new collaborative approaches and outputs that maximise the final stages of the Hub's project. These collective outputs, underpinned by strong partnerships, are the basis for sustainable research, projects, and programmes that will extend beyond the Hub's funding.

## Interdisciplinary research and practice projects

Based on the Belfast Convention, five new collective projects were started in 2022 that consolidate the Hub's themes and practices and document the Hub's achievement over the last four years. These include the impact of Covid-19, gender and land justice, early career and Global South perspectives on the Hub's feminist practice, and a broader examination of the Hub's feminist approach, knowledge production and ethics of work in conflict. The projects will produce podcasts, academic articles, policy briefs and a digital and physical library of Hub-produced research, based in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

## Supporting Early Career Researchers and Practitioners

The Hub's Early Career Network (ECN) held dedicated sessions at the 2022 Belfast Convention and a two-day conference at the 2023 Colombia Convention. The Hub encourages the ECN to participate in and influence the Hub's outputs and legacy planning.

The WPS Centre and the Hub will continue to provide outstanding educational resources for LSE students and alumni. The Centre will build on its reputation for academic research excellence and innovation in women, peace and security across the disciplines of law, development, peace studies, gender, history, and international relations and will engage with departments across LSE. It will carry on bringing together high-level policymakers, diplomats, military personnel, and practitioners for creative dialogue with academics and specialists.





WPS will also continue to provide a creative and free-thinking space for women from all backgrounds, to reflect personally on lives caught up in conflict and peace-making, and to explore strategies for rebuilding and artistic avenues of healing. Critically reflecting on WPS moving into its second decade at LSE, problematising gender relations, sharing in furthering a feminist ethics in methodology and practice, as well as promoting young, new scholars in the field, will be extremely important.

This year, the Centre appointed a new leadership team of WPS Director, Joanna Lewis and Manager, Salla Turunen.

IT'S AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TIME TO BE PART OF WPS AT LSE. DESPITE ALL THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNMENT ACTION PLANS RELATING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AS RECENT CONFLICTS SHOW, WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTINUE TO ENDURE SOME OF THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ACROSS THE WORLD IN WAR AND PEACETIME. TODAY'S HIGHLY UNSTABLE AND UNEQUAL WORLD PLACES MILLIONS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SITUATIONS OF EXTREME VULNERABILITY. MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO PREVENT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SLIPPING FURTHER DOWN THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AGENDA AND TO BRING WOMEN INTO CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING, IF WE HAVE ANY CHANCE OF ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL LONG-TERM SECURITY FOR ALL OF HUMANITY.

– PROFESSOR JOANNA LEWIS

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY, AS WELL AS MATTERS OF GENDER, JUSTICE AND SECURITY, FIND THEIR EVER-INCREASING RELEVANCE IN A WORLD OF CONFLICT AND HURT AS A WAY TO PROVIDE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN A WAY THAT CONSIDERS SOCIETIES AS INCLUSIVE AND WHOLE. AS BOTH A WPS PRACTITIONER AND PEACE AND CONFLICT RESEARCHER, IT IS EXCITING TO JOIN THE CENTRE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT REPRESENTS A HOME FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE EQUALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE PLURALITY OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND SECURITY PROVISION.

– SALLA TURUNEN

## GOALS OF THE LSE CENTRE FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

- TO REMAIN A GLOBAL CENTRE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, GENERATING EVIDENCE, POLICIES, AND NETWORKS WITHIN LSE TO HELP:
- INCREASE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND PEACE-MAKING TO BETTER PREVENT CONFLICT.
- MORE EFFECTIVELY ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING CONFLICT AND SITUATIONS OF VIOLENCE.
- IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF LONG-TERM PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS, TACKLING GENDER INEQUALITY AND MISOGYNY AND APPLYING A FEMINIST ETHIC TO ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOURS.







## Ongoing research

The Institute has undertaken a range of research projects this year, all generating peer-reviewed research, policy recommendations, and engagement with civil society and academic institutions across Europe and Africa.

### Art Allies

The 'Art Allies' project identifies how artists and activists understand protection and vulnerability based on lived experiences. The work recognises that artists who create political and socially engaged work are increasingly at risk. Three workstreams address the research questions through case study research in Colombia, Story Circles in South Sudan and curation of an exhibition in Bogotá, Colombia. This project is part of the Creating Safer Space network funded by AHRC.

### China-Africa Initiative

The China-Africa Initiative strives to enlighten, debate and, where possible and appropriate, influence and inspire Chinese engagements in Africa. It does so through research, policy engagements and events, including China-in-Africa conferences, workshops, and exhibitions. Its director, Dr Shirley Ze Yu, Asia Fellow with the Ash Center of Harvard Kennedy School, an adjunct professor with the IE Business School and a member of the Davos Expert Network on 5G, geopolitics and geoeconomics.

### Hunger and Human Dignity: The Politics of Hunger Courts in South Sudan

This research studies South Sudanese hunger courts in which local chiefs' courts redistribute food to the hungriest people. Using historical, ethnographic, and quantitative methods across four sites in South Sudan, the primarily South Sudanese team explores the socio-legal construction of norms of welfare and dignity, as well as social hierarchies and inequities. Funded by the British Academy.

### Pan-European Response to the Impacts of Covid-19 and Future Pandemics and Epidemics (PERISCOPE)

PERISCOPE is a large-scale research project involving a consortium of 32 European institutions to investigate the social, economic, behavioural, and mental health-related aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project uses data to examine the broad impacts of Covid-19, identify local approaches that can be scaled to the European level, and develop guidance on to improve Europe's pandemic preparedness. Funded by the European Commission.



### Public Authority and the Governance of Informal Cross-Border Trade in Eastern DRC

Focusing on the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Simplified Trade Regime, this research examines the need for good institutional design of regional trade policies that are better adjusted to the circumstances of their targeted beneficiaries, and thus, have a broader coverage of trade agreements. Funded by the British Academy.

### Safety of Strangers: Understanding the Realities of Humanitarian Protection

The Safety of Strangers project investigates the impact of local protection mechanisms in South Sudan and its borderlands, which has been a primary site for testing humanitarian protection. The research includes disciplinary approaches including anthropology, history, theology, ethnomusicology, and curatorial studies, with training and mentorship of early-career scholars in South Sudan and Uganda central to its impact. Funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

### Stigma in a Post-Covid-19 World: Ethnographies of Health Among Roma Communities in the United Kingdom

The project seeks to bring forward perspectives previously unknown to national understandings of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on underrepresented groups, and on post-pandemic recovery and preparedness. The study is multi-sited research providing insights into life in a post-Covid-19 world for Roma populations in London and Leicester, UK. Funded from the LSE Research and Impact Support Fund.

### Trust in a Post-Covid World: Participatory Interventions across the Midlands, UK

This research project uses participatory methods to investigate what trust means among Somali and Roma communities living across the Midlands in the UK. Concurrently, it focuses on how policymakers working in these communities understand the concept of trust and build trust relations through community engagement and service provision. It has resulted in numerous publications and presentations to UK policymakers regarding the theorisation of 'trust' in health policy. Funded from the LSE Research and Impact Support Fund.

### Understanding the consequences for quality and efficiency of expanding services through the private sector in South Africa (SoPriMa)

The SoPriMa project aims to undertake a detailed empirical investigation of the market for public and private primary care services in Soweto, Johannesburg. The project will focus on the determinants of provider performance on the one hand,

and demand for private services from uninsured cash-paying patients on the other. Funded the Medical Research Council.

### Unwanted Strangers: Ethnographies of Bordering, Deservingness and Resilience Among Ukrainian Roma Refugees in Poland

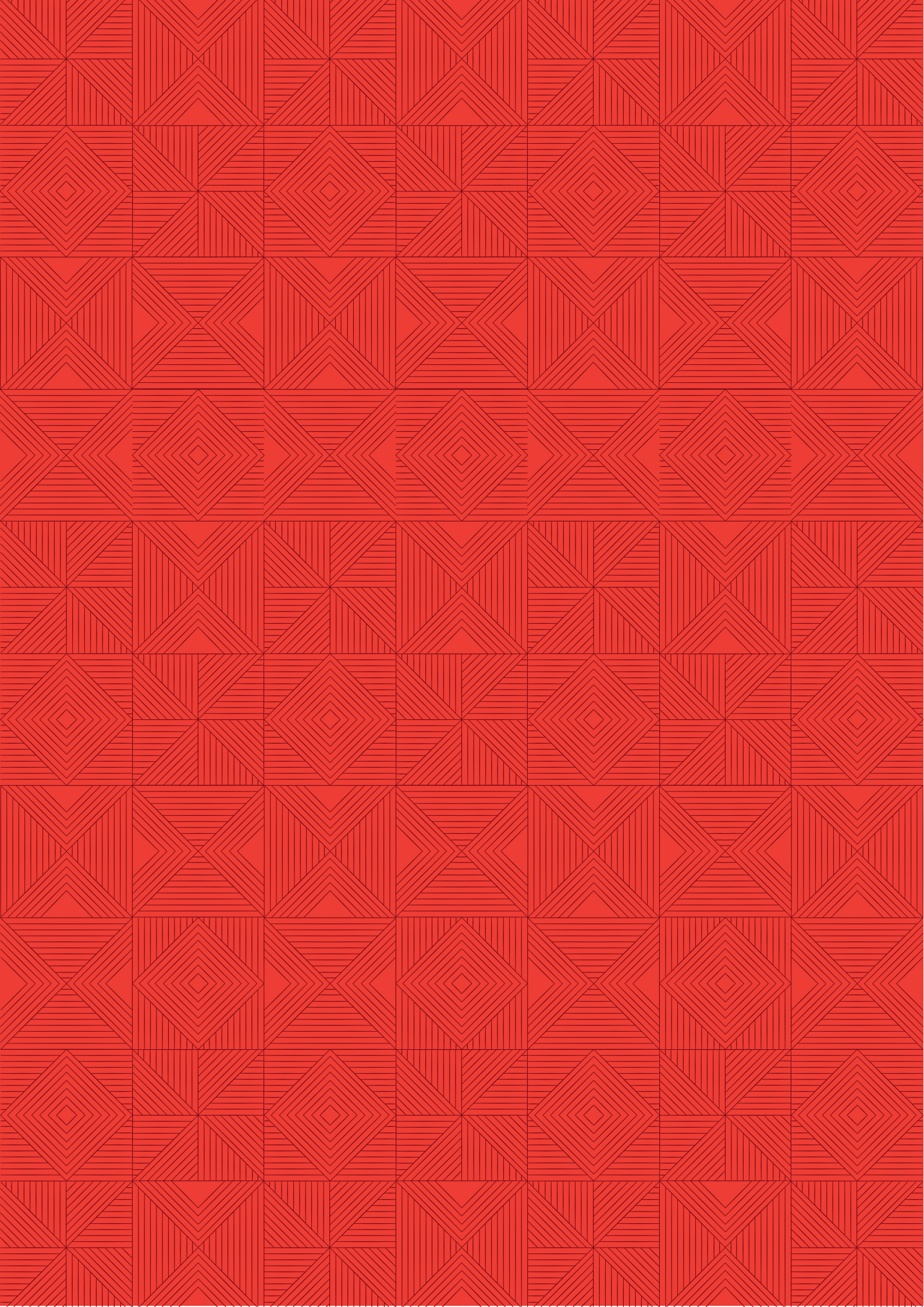
Unwanted Strangers explores the geographical and social bordering practices through the lived experiences of Ukrainian Roma refugees in Poland. Amidst the outpouring of solidarity, volunteering and benevolence for Ukrainians fleeing the Russia-Ukraine conflict, there have been cases pointing to the segregation of Ukrainian Roma refugees and for whom support is not so forthcoming. Funded by the British Academy.

### Public Authority and the Governance of Informal Cross-Border Trade in Eastern DRC

This project highlights the importance of designing good trade policies that consider informal trade flows. The project focuses on the case study of small-scale cross-border traders in Eastern DRC to explore the challenges faced in the governance of informal cross-border trade in the region. This research project is funded by a British Academy and Leverhulme Small Research Grant.







## PROGRAMME FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP



The LSE's Programme for African Leadership (PfAL) began in 2012 and predates the Institute. It has grown into an alumni network of over 600 African graduates from 42 countries. It is an extra-curricular programme focused on leadership development and networking, available exclusively to African graduate students currently studying at the School.

Those who enrol are invited to a structured set of activities and events including debates, career days, and leadership seminars throughout the academic year. As future African leaders, students hone their leadership skills to positively inspire, influence, and impact their professions, organisations, and communities at home and abroad.

PfAL students also have the opportunity to play a central role in delivering the prestigious annual LSE Africa Summit.

The Programme aims to provide every PfAL graduate with an extensive support network of like-minded peers who have passed through LSE and gone on to careers in academia, government, and the private sector.

This year, PfAL hosted the first Ubuntu Café as part of Africa Day celebrations which attracted 200 guests. The programme also introduced PfAL Connect and the PfAL Lunch and Learn series, which are dedicated sessions for students to share their professional work and academic research with staff and students across the School.



# PFAL CALENDAR

|                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Welcome reception           | September                          | Orientation and induction for the new cohort                                                                                                          |
| Africa Debates              | Quarterly                          | Oxford-style debates on thematic African issues to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills                                      |
| Group Projects and pitching | Oct/Nov                            | Opportunity to design a feasible campaign (product or service) to a problem in Africa. Designed to develop problem-solving and entrepreneurial skills |
| Ubuntu Café                 | Black History Month and Africa Day | A space for African students at LSE and friends of Africa to connect, converge, debate and be empowered                                               |
| Leadership development      | Recurring                          | Workshops and seminars on theoretical and contextual leadership in Africa                                                                             |
| Career development          | Recurring                          | Group coaching sessions to provide career guidance for students transitioning into the labour market in the UK or going back to their home countries  |
| Speaker Series              | Recurring                          | Interactive session and conversations with professionals on their career journeys                                                                     |
| PFAL Network                | Recurring                          | Amplifying impact by connecting like-minded institutions with a shared mission to empower leaders across the private and public sectors in Africa     |
| PFAL Lunch and Learn        | Bi-monthly                         | Seminar series to share academic and professional projects with the wider LSE community                                                               |
| Graduation                  | June                               | Celebratory event and presentation of certificates                                                                                                    |

The objective of PfAL is to develop, empower, and amplify leadership opportunities for the next African leaders at LSE.

Next year, our goal is to amplify development and career opportunities for students through the PfAL Network and to further empower them to be active agents in placing Africa at the heart of debates through a range of new initiatives.

Those who complete the Programme join the diverse PfAL Network which connects PfAL alum to support each other after graduating from LSE. A highlight of the Programme is the PfAL Forum, a biennial summit, which brings together the PfAL network on African soil to strengthen bonds and share ideas.





## PFAL LEADERSHIP CODE

The PfAL students in the third and fourth cohorts collaborated to create a leadership code for those who undertake the programme. The values contained in the code encapsulate the vision of the programme to make a positive impact on the continent. The code has been used by subsequent cohorts to guide projects and group discussions.

- **SUPPORTING INITIATIVES THAT REDUCE POVERTY IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER AND, WHERE NECESSARY, CHALLENGING THOSE THAT CREATE DEPENDENCY.**
- **WORKING TO FOSTER SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENT.**
- **STRENGTHENING AND AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF AFRICAN CITIZENS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.**
- **PROMOTING AFRICAN INTELLECTUALISM, STORYTELLING, EXPERTISE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH.**
- **FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUNG AFRICANS CAN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**
- **EMPOWERING AND MENTORING OTHERS IN TAKING UP LEADERSHIP WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF INFLUENCE.**
- **PROVIDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE HAS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED.**
- **ACTIVELY FOSTERING AND FURTHERING THE PFAL NETWORK THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH FELLOW NETWORK MEMBERS.**

## Leadership workshops

Alternative concepts of leadership are investigated in workshops delivered by FLIA Visiting Senior Fellow Dr Vanessa Iwowo, a lecturer at Birkbeck University and Dr Souad Mohamed, FLIA Visiting Senior Fellow. The workshops build on studies of organisational psychology and ideas of positive African leadership to encourage debates about leadership and the ethical dilemmas it presents. Students are encouraged to think critically about collaboration, practical applications of leadership, and the different forms of leadership around the world.

The value of Ubuntu is critical to these workshops. The principle of “I am because we are” promotes an ethos of inclusive, collaborative leadership. It is used by the programme to guide discussion around what effective forms of leadership mean in different contexts.



**PfAL Senior Programme Manager: Tosin Adebisi**

Tosin is the Senior Programme Manager for the Programme for African Leadership and responsible for the development of the programme.

[o.adebisi@lse.ac.uk](mailto:o.adebisi@lse.ac.uk)





I HAD THE MOST AMAZING  
EXPERIENCE MEETING  
THE BEST PEOPLE FROM  
THE CONTINENT AND  
LISTENING TO PEOPLE'S  
EXPERIENCES

AXEL FREDDY NOEL BEUGRE,  
(MSC IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

A COLLABORATIVE  
EXPERIENCE, WITH  
THE PROGRAMME'S  
FOCUS BALANCED  
BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT/OPPORTUNITY  
EXPLORATION AND BUILDING A  
NETWORK OF  
AFRICA-FOCUSED PROBLEM  
SOLVERS

WITH PFAL EVERY DAY  
IS AFRICA DAY

ELIZABETH MWAMBULUKUTU,  
(MSC IN MEDIA COMMUNICATION &  
DEVELOPMENT)

IT UNITED ME WITH OTHER  
AFRICANS AT LSE, & I WOULDN'T  
HAVE MET THEM OTHERWISE.  
PFAL FEELS LIKE A HOPEFUL  
AFRICAN UNION

MARYAM ISA ZAREWA,  
(MSC IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

ABDALLAH ABBA AJI,  
(MSC IN HEALTH POLICY, PLANNING & FINANCING)

## PFAL FACTS & FIGURES

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PFAL12

77

31 MSC PROGRAMMES

26  
COUNTRIES

660 LSE ALUMNI



# PFAL FACTS & FIGURES



STUDENT NATIONALITIES

NIGERIA 24  
GHANA 9  
KENYA 9  
MOROCCO 5  
EGYPT 3  
UGANDA 3  
THE GAMBIA 2

COTE D'IVOIRE 2  
SOMALILAND 2  
SOUTH AFRICA 2  
SUDAN 2  
BENIN 1  
CAMEROON 1  
CAPE VERDE 1

DRC 1  
ERITREA 1  
ETHIOPIA 1  
LIBERIA 1  
LIBYA 1  
MADAGASCAR 1  
RWANDA 1

SENEGAL 1  
SEYCHELLES 1  
SOUTH SUDAN 1  
TANZANIA 1  
ZAMBIA 1

# SCHOLARSHIPS

 **39** STUDENTS HAD A SCHOLARSHIP

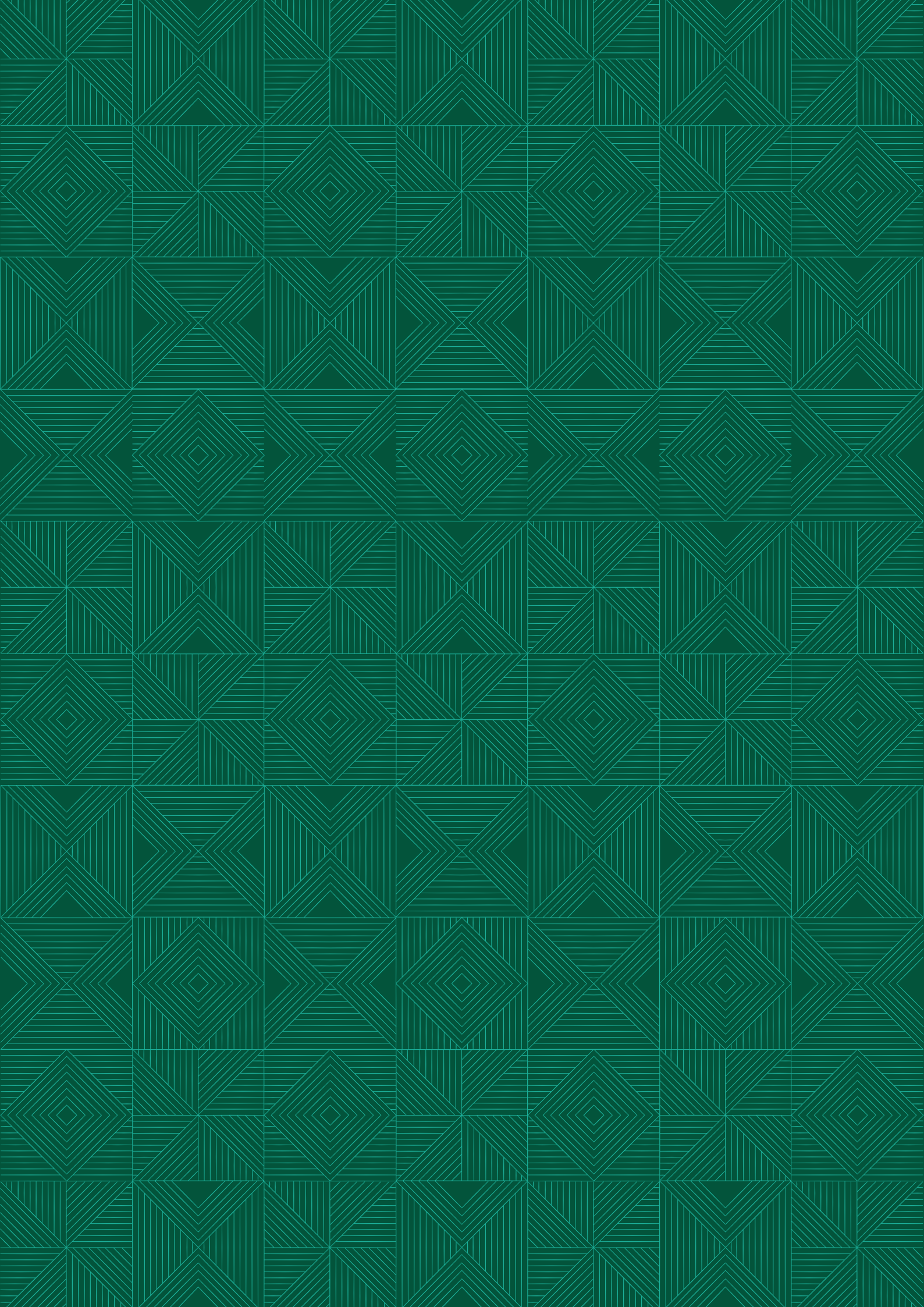
 **18** CHEVENING SCHOLARS

 **2** COMMONWEALTH SHARED SCHOLARSHIPS

 **1** ATLANTIC FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY

 **1** LSE MASTER AWARDS





## AFRICA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Africa Engagement Programme (AEP) at the [Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa](#) expands LSE's commitment to Africa by developing partnerships with African public and private institutions, promoting African scholarship, and increasing career opportunities for LSE students across the continent.

By cultivating relationships with African academic institutions and researchers, employers, donors and alumni, the programme has built an ecosystem of change-makers that positively contribute to LSE and the African continent.

The Africa Engagement Programme strategy is guided by four objectives that align with the priority areas outlined in LSE's 2030 'Shape the World' strategy.

- (1) To build partnerships;
- (2) To support alumni and students;
- (3) To engage employers; and
- (4) To advance philanthropic support.

These objectives were designed to advance the mission of the Institute to “encourage research, policy creation, and global debates that incorporate African voices and perspectives.”



## Partnerships

### FLIA-AUC Partnership

To advance the strategic engagement objectives of the FLIA and wider School, the Institute and the African Union Commission (AUC) have established a joint workplan aimed at fostering youth leadership in Africa, promoting innovation, and generating knowledge products geared towards advancing Agenda 2063 and the economic development of the African continent.

Recognising the critical importance of collaboration between academia and regional multilateral bodies, this partnership leverages the expertise, resources, and networks of both institutions to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities of contemporary Africa. With FLIA's reputation as a leading research and knowledge hub on Africa and the AUC's mandate to drive continental integration and development, the collaboration will facilitate knowledge exchange, evidence-based policy formulation, and the implementation of initiatives that will help drive sustainable development and inclusive growth in Africa.

The joint workplan focuses on several key areas critical to Africa's development, including youth and harnessing the demographic dividend, climate change, and trade policy. By collaborating on research projects, policy forums, and engagement initiatives, FLIA and the AUC seek to drive evidence-based decision-making and facilitate policy uptake among African governments and regional institutions.

Through the partnership we will engage key stakeholders, including civil society organisations, private sector actors, and international development partners, to foster dialogue and partnerships that are crucial for implementing effective, context-specific solutions that address Africa's most pressing challenges.

### Africa Sustainable Industrialisation Conference

In June 2023, the Institute partnered with ARISE IIP, the Royal African Society, Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK to host the Africa Sustainable Industrialisation Conference in the Palace of Westminster. The conference was supported by a generous gift from ARISE IIP.

The conference brought together government ministers, business leaders, United Nations representatives, journalists, and academics and provided a forum for them to share their experience of a sector that was prioritised in the African Union's Agenda 2063. The conference also acted as a platform for the launch of the LSE



White Paper on Sustainable Industrialisation in Africa: The Art of Upgrading Industrial Policymaking Itself, and the launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa enquiry into Energy Transition in Africa, led by Lord Jonny Oates.

The event featured Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister for Development and Africa; Professor Carlos Lopes, Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town (former Executive Secretary of the UNECA); Mr Gagan Gupta, CEO ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms, and Ms Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

### FES & EU Policy Engagement

In 2022, AEP and the African Trade Policy Programme conducted several EU-focused policy engagement activities, generously supported by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The first of these took place in Brussels from the 24-25 October, before travelling to Geneva and Berlin from 29 November - 2 December.

In Brussels the team undertook several high-level meetings with a range of EU policymakers, MEPs, and NGOs. The trip provided the opportunity to discuss the Institute's recent publication 'How Africa Trades' and its EU-focused policy



recommendation with those responsible for EU policy implementation in Africa. Over the two days we had roundtable meetings with European External Action Service's Head of Pan-African Affairs, the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission's Head of Unit for Africa and MEPs.

Following Brussels, the team travelled to Geneva to present at an FES/WTO event for journalists working on Africa, and meet donors, before going to Berlin to present the research at a high-level roundtable at the German Parliament, also chaired by Joachim Schuster MEP. The team also participated in the event 'Franco-German Africa policy as the paradigm shifts in German foreign and security policy', organised by FES, the German Institute of Development and Sustainability and the French Institute of International Relations. The event discussed AfCFTA implementation, the EU's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and French military intervention in the Sahel.

"It was a unique opportunity to work with some of the best researchers and experts on trade & development issues in Africa. The result of our joint efforts has helped to raise the understanding of Africa's status and potential to a whole new level. With 'How Africa Trades', the Firoz Lalji Institute has undoubtedly hit the big time, and we are extremely proud to be part of it." - Hansjörg Lanz, Director FES Geneva



## Innovating in Africa

To mark the 2023 World Creativity and Innovation Day, the Innovating in Africa event, presented by Africell and the FLIA, highlighted the trends and prospects of innovation in Africa to over 200 young professionals, entrepreneurs, scholars, and creatives. The event explored avenues for making an impact – either on the ground in Africa or using London as a springboard.

The panel considered opportunities to work on the continent for ambitious UK-based students and young professionals and identified avenues for doing positive work and earning a living in Africa, focusing on the fields of technology, sustainability, and creativity. The speakers explored both structured corporate career paths and more flexible entrepreneurship opportunities, and discussed the current industry landscapes, promoted the concept of working in Africa (or working on Africa-related issues), addressed key challenges that gave attendees practical ideas, advice, and inspiration for starting or advancing an Africa-focused career. During the event, one of the event partners - GSMA: Mobile for Development presented findings of its recently published report on [Scaling Digital Innovation in Emerging Economies](#).

Speakers included: Alexis Akwagyiram, Managing Editor at SEMAFOR Africa; Charlotte Bwana, Vice President of Marketing and Brand Strategy for Africa at Audiomack; Fan Gu, Head of Impact Investments 100x Impact Accelerator at LSE Marshall Institute; and Bili Sule, African Angel Investor and Founder & Chief Growth Engineer at aLGROWithm.

The success of the event was amplified by external partnerships with the Royal African Society, the Africa Centre, Clifford Chance, and GSMA, as well as an internal partnership with the Marshall Institute.

## Supporting alumni and students

The AEP Career Transitions Lab is a multi-day series of talks and workshops that aim to equip LSE students and alumni with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to support their transition from academia to professional work on the continent or on African issues. Speakers and workshop facilitators include industry experts and organisations from the continent who speak to students and facilitate discussions on how to best make an impact in Africa.

The four-day event included 14 sessions hosted by career consultants and industry professionals from organisations such as the African Development Bank and the African Union. The speakers shared practical knowledge on the current market trends and key insights from the African public sector, international health policy, research as well as the private sector.



This year, Charles Sekwalor, CEO of MoveMeBack ran a workshop on how to set yourself up for the current and future work prospects on the continent. For those who are not sure what their next steps will be, Nisha Aubeeleck, delivered career coaching. Sheila Mburu, Health Advisor at Tony Blair Institute, spoke about her experience as a global health professional. Other speakers included Dapo Oyewole, Senior Adviser to the Nigerian Government & Yale World Fellow, former McKinsey & Co. LSE Alumni; Maud Jallow, PfAL alumni, Government Advisor at Tony Blair Institute, former Boston Consulting Group, and UN; and Olaoluwa Samuel-Biyi, Venture capitalist and Entrepreneur, Director at Busha, Co-Founder at SureGroup, Partner at Hacked Ventures.

### Coordinating Alumni meetings

AEP continued to coordinate with PAGE to manage the School's African alumni country groups via the Regional Liaison Committee. This year was also the final year of Mr. Uba Okonkwo's tenure as Chair of the Regional Liaison Committee.

## Engage Employers

### African Employer Network

The African Employer Network provides opportunities for African employers to partner with LSE to assist them in their recruitment of talented and skilled. Working with [LSE Careers](#) and the [LSE Alumni Office](#), this network connects LSE graduates with African institutions through internships or employment opportunities in different industries.

This year was the second year of the Africa Internship Programme, placing current LSE students and recent alumni in roles at the School and externally. Expanding on our objective to engage with employers, the LSE Africa Internship Programme was designed to support selected students who have the intention of continuing their career on the African continent post-LSE or who are interested in working on African issues throughout their career. The internships provide a learning opportunity for LSE students and recent alumni in the early stages of their career.

Externally, LSE candidates were appointed to the position of Member Services Intern at the African Private Equity & Venture Capital Association, and Research Intern at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime.

Internally, the Institute appointed an Events & Communications Intern, and a Programme for African Leadership Intern helping to advance diversity and student opportunities at the School.

## African Research Fellowship Programme

The FLIA will soon launch the African Research Fellowship Programme, which will provide opportunities for junior researchers at LSE focused on Africa to build their research agenda while contributing to the FLIA's larger [research programme](#). By partnering with African academic institutions, we will work to support these researchers at the LSE and on the continent to facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange, enhance academic mobility, and build local capacity.



### Africa Engagement Programme Manager: Fadil Elobeid

Fadil is responsible for strategic partnerships with African centres of academic excellence, as well as public and private institutions in Africa, to enhance LSE's connections with organisations in the region.

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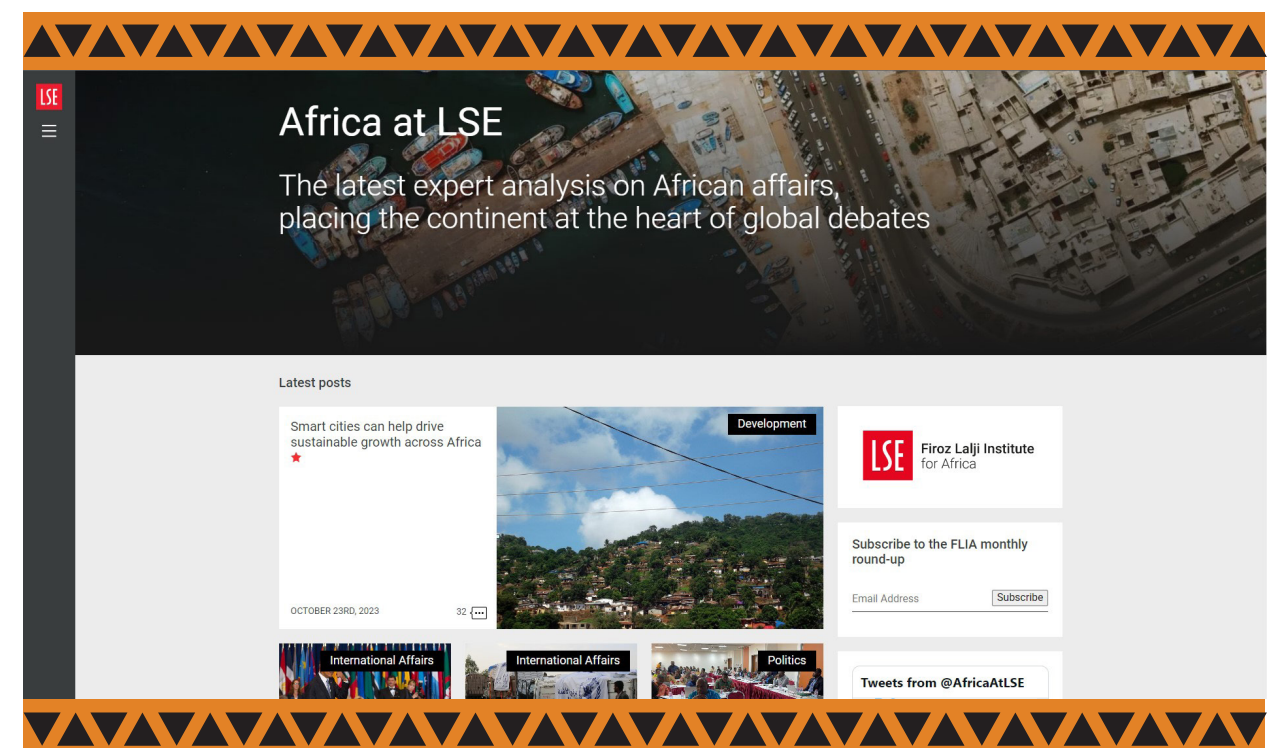






## AFRICA @ LSE

The Africa@LSE blog hosts insight and analysis on the key issues affecting Africa from leading academics based at LSE and across the world. The blog is a world-leading platform for critical analysis on African socio-economic and political issues presented in an accessible way to broaden the audience for social science research. Our articles have been reposted and cited in news items around the world, and as direct result of their work on the blog authors have been approached for interviews by the BBC and called for advice by embassies in Africa on a range of topics.





## AFRICA @ LSE BLOG

3,534,097 VIEWS

2,046 POSTS

1,475 COMMENTS

### TOP 10 COUNTRIES (READERSHIP)

UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, SOUTH AFRICA, NIGERIA,  
CANADA, KENYA, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA, GERMANY, GHANA

## MOST READ ARTICLES

ITALIAN NARRATIVES ABOUT THE AMHARA HELPED LAY THE SEEDS OF GENOCIDE IN ETHIOPIA

EUROPE MUST MAKE IT EASIER FOR AFRICANS TO GET VISAS

CARBON CREDITS ARE DISTORTING MARKETS AND DESTROYING LOCAL BUSINESSES

THE “OBIDIENT MOVEMENT” WILL SHAPE NIGERIAN POLITICS BEYOND THE 2023 ELECTION

AN INVASION OF NIGER COULD LEAD TO A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA

DIGITAL XENOPHOBIA IS ON THE RISE IN SOUTH AFRICA

FROM NIGERIA TO THE WORLD: AFROBEATS IS HAVING A GLOBAL MOMENT

## SOCIALS



@AFRICAATLSE

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS TWITTER)

28,561 FOLLOWERS  
UP 7.59% FROM LAST YEAR



LINKEDIN

3,524 FOLLOWERS  
UP 75% FROM LAST YEAR

flickr

FIROZ LALJI INSTITUTE FOR AFRICA HAS  
OVER 300 PHOTOS FROM OUR EVENTS  
OVER THE LAST YEAR

@LSEPFAL

188 FOLLOWERS  
1,285 FOLLOWERS

## Institute Events

### Africa Summit

The Africa Summit is an annual event organised by LSE students. It brings together politicians, academics, policymakers, entrepreneurs, artists, and philanthropists from across Africa and its diaspora to discuss topics affecting the continent.

FLIA recruits a committee of LSE Masters' students who collaboratively decide the theme, invite the speakers, and prepare the programme to generate debate that has the possibility to create to meaningful action.

Over the years, the Summit has been attended by influence policymakers and politicians including Nana Akufo-Addo (President of Ghana), Yemi Osibanjo (Vice-President of Nigeria), Dr Donald Kaberuka (for president of the African Development Bank), Ibukun Awosika (Chairman of First Bank of Nigeria), Cristina Duarte (Special Advisor on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General) and Dr Stella Nyanzi, the Ugandan human rights activist.

This year's theme of 'The Now and Next Generation' highlighted how African countries can harness the strengths of their growing youth populations to drive regional and global development. More than 60 per cent of the continent's population is under 25. They will be deeply affected by the challenges posed by climate change, security, and governance, yet they are largely absent from decision making across Africa. The Summit made the case that the best way to tackle the problems and seize the opportunities for the continent is to embrace its youth population.

Across the two days, the Summit heard from Chido Mpemba, the African Union's Youth Envoy; H.E. Johnson Sakaja, Governor of Nairobi and hosted panels on topics including 'The Proliferation of Violence Against Youth', 'Should Africa be optimistic about COP27?' and 'The Global Digital Revolution: Africa's Place Now and in the Future'.

Over two days, 400 delegates attended the Summit which was the first held in-person since the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in the UK.

FLIA is delighted to announce that after this year's event, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union to collaborate on future editions of the Africa Summit.

### Africa Talks Series

Africa Talks is a high-profile event series that informs and transforms global debates, inspiring new perceptions of the continent. Giving a platform to Africa's pre-eminent thinkers and practitioners across academia, politics, and activism, speakers present forward-thinking ideas to address contemporary global challenges.

Last year's Africa Talk on 'Preserving Africa's Biodiversity in a Changing Climate' examined the issue of biodiversity from an African perspective.

At the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal in 2022, the world agreed to targets to address overexploitation, pollution, and unsustainable agricultural practices. The headline grabbing announcement was the 30 x 30 pledge embedded in the global biodiversity framework, which aims to protect 30 per cent of the world by 2030.

This was a landmark agreement with support from over 100 countries, but the final wording was pushed through despite objections from the Democratic Republic of Congo – home to one of the world's largest rainforests.

The panel discussed biodiversity finance, food systems, and conservation and the potential of the Global Biodiversity Framework for Africa.

Chaired by Giles Atkinson, Professor of Environment Policy at the LSE Department of Geography and Environment, the audience heard from Dr Beth A. Kaplin, a Research Professor of Biodiversity in the School for the Environment at the University of Rwanda; Dr Philip Osano, the Centre Director of Stockholm Environment Institute Africa; and Levis Kavigi, Regional Coordinator for Ecosystems and Biodiversity at the United Nations Environment Programme Africa.

As part of the LSE People and Change Festival in June, the Institute organised the event 'Financing Climate Change? Inspiration for Change from African Thinkers'.

African nations are among the most affected by the consequences of climate change. Policymakers are attempting to address this inequity through climate credit, debt exchanges, and the Loss and Damage Fund, which was established at COP27.

The event considered the ways in which climate change mitigation will be financed, seeking approaches from key African academics and professionals. It addressed the environmental and ecological challenges the continent faces and critically evaluate climate capitalism.





It was chaired by Luca Taschini, Professor of Climate Change Finance at the University of Edinburgh Business School and a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute. The panel consisted of Bogolo J. Kenewendo, a Global Economist and Strategic Advisor who served as the Cabinet Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry and Specially Elected Member of Parliament in Botswana and is now Africa Director & Special Advisor of the UN High Level Climate Champions Team; and Annet Nakyeeyune is a climate change specialist at the International Institute for Environment and Development, former lecturer in the Department of Development Studies at Makerere University, Kampala and GEO4 fellow at the United Nations Environment Programme.

### The Climb

The Climb is a joint podcast production by [Channels Television](#) and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa. It discusses themes of youth leadership, innovation, and development through unique stories of individual achievement and panel discussions. Launched in January 2023, the podcast has so far released 12 episodes featuring among others John Oseni, a 17 year-old tech prodigy from Akure, Nigeria; Cynthia Nyongesa, a 27 years old storyteller and education advocate using the power of storytelling to get support and life-changing opportunities to those in need; and Saidy Brown, a young South African HIV activist who at the age of 14 discovered that she was born with HIV and decided to share her experience with her community. Now 28, she has become a champion for social justice and health equity.

The podcast has been downloaded over 1,000 times the vast majority of listeners come from the African continent. The Climb can be heard on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.



#### Editor and Communication Manager: Mark Briggs

Mark is the editor of the [Africa@LSE](#) blog and the manager of the Institute's communications and events team.

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## AROUND LSE

As part of its mission to place Africa at the heart of LSE, the FLIA runs a number of programmes that reach out to other departments across the School to create an intellectual community of people working on Africa and African issues.

### MA dissertation prize

The Master's Dissertation on Africa Prize celebrates outstanding fieldwork and research on Africa. It is awarded each year to the most innovative dissertation that furthers our understanding of the continent.

This year's winners were:

Fraser Curry, from the department of [Geography and Environment](#) for his outstanding thesis, *On the land of others: Gardiens and entanglement in a changing Dakar*.

Nora Geiszl from the [International Development](#) department for an exceptional dissertation entitled, *An Empirical Study of the Impact of Kenya's Free Secondary Education Policy on Women's Education*.

### LSE Africa Internship Programme

In 2021, as part of the Africa Engagement Programme, the FLIA launched the LSE Africa Internship Programme. The Internship provides a 4-12-week work placement for African students enrolled in an LSE postgraduate programme or is an alumnus who graduated within the last two years.

In addition to providing mentorship and leadership development, the programme supports students who intend to continue their career in Africa, or who are interested in working in or on African. The Programme allows interns to develop new skills, expand their network, build their CVs, and enhance their career readiness before entering the job market.



*“As a Kenyan living in London for the first time, an internship at FLIA was the perfect place for me to expand my postgraduate experience beyond the classroom and engage on issues related to the African continent. When I reflect on this experience, I’m grateful for my time at FLIA because it allowed me to expand my LSE life, work on content I found interesting as well as meet amazing people from all backgrounds.”*

- **Edel Were**, former Communications and Events Intern who holds an MSc International Social and Public Policy from LSE and now a Consultant at the World Bank.

*“FLIA was a perfect placement for me as it allowed me to interact with academic and policy research about my region. I will eventually head back home to continue my work in communities most affected by disasters, poverty, and climate change. When I do, I will have a whole new way of looking at things and solving problems.”*

- **Aggrey Nyondwa**, former AEP intern and Communications and Events Manager at 100x Impact Accelerator, based at LSE’s Marshall Institute.

*“My experience working at FLIA as a Communications and Events intern was absolutely incredible. I was privileged to work on some key academic and cultural events that contributed to shaping the African narrative. Working at the Institute enabled me to network with a talented pool of researchers, students, and professionals all passionate about Africa. The team at FLIA were very welcoming and very good at what they do. Working at FLIA was one of my highlights at LSE.”*

- **Alis Okonji**, former Communications and Events Intern, now Partner Manager at Syli.

### Africa PhD Research Day

The Africa PhD Research Day at LSE is an annual event that brings together LSE PhD students who are working on Africa. The event creates connections between students and faculty from different departments to showcase the breadth of the School’s work on Africa.

The first PhD Research Day was held on 25 May 2022 and included presentations on localisation of aid in South Sudan to the impact of weather shocks to household spending in Nigeria. The upcoming PhD Research Day will be held in November 2023.

### Lunch and Learn Seminar Series

The FLIA hosted monthly lunch and learns throughout term time fostering collegiality among colleagues and students and hosting contributors from across LSE and other universities. In each session, a speaker presents their latest work before taking questions from the audience and then receiving feedback on their work from the academic in attendance.

Last year, we ran 10 sessions featuring over 20 speakers on topics including resilience, cross border trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the latest work by this year’s PfAL cohort.

Following the success of last years’ events, the FLIA will run fortnightly Lunch and Learns over the coming academic year showcasing the excellent work being done on Africa the Women, Peace and Security agenda being done at the School and beyond.



# Supporters & Funders

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## Supporters

- Firoz Lalji
- Jules Green (BSc Management Studies 1985) and Susan Green
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