



Celebrating the life of

**Prof. Thandika
Mkandawire**

1940-2020

**4 October 2022
Shaw Library,
London School
of Economics**



Thandika was born 1940 in what is now Zimbabwe, grew up in townships and worker compounds in colonial southern Africa, and attended secondary school in Malawi. He began working as a journalist in Malawi before the age of 20, participating actively in Malawi's struggle for independence and the post-colonial struggle against authoritarian rule. He received degrees in Economics from Ohio State University in the USA and Stockholm University in Sweden, and obtained a Senior Doctorate in Development Studies from Rhodes University in South Africa, as well as honorary degrees from the Universities of Helsinki, Ghana and York (Canada).

When Thandika's activism forced him into exile, he was granted refuge in Sweden, where he continued his studies, taught, and became a Swedish citizen. In the early 1980s, he participated in founding the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies (ZIDS) which he headed from 1982 – 1985. He was a founding members of the Dakar-based Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), where he served as Executive Secretary from 1986 – 1996. He went on to be the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva from 1998 – 2009, and in 2010 he was appointed the first Chair of African Development at the London School of Economics, where he worked until his passing on 27 March, 2020. He also served on the Board of the US-based Social Science Research Council, was the Olaf Palme Professor for Peace with the Swedish Institute for Future Studies, and maintained a special relationship with the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden.

Thandika has made seminal contributions in the fields Political-Economy, Political Sociology, Social Policy and Development Studies. His numerous publications have shifted debates on democracy and the developmental state in Africa, economic restructuring, patrimonialism, and social policy. At the LSE, Thandika was at the forefront of the School's African Initiative, ran the Africa Talks lecture series, and his course in African Development inspired many cohorts of students.

We will remember Thandika as an innovative and globally renowned scholar, an inspiring and congenial colleague, and a committed mentor to students and young scholars within the department and beyond. Our thoughts are with Thandika's family and friends, and with the wide circle of colleagues, collaborators and practitioners he has left behind. He will be dearly missed.

Order of service

Opening Music: Blues for a Hip King, Abdullah Ibrahim

Welcome and Opening Words:

Revd Canon Prof James Walters

Nkhujipeleka (I give of myself), Wambali Mkandawire

Tributes: Prof. Ken Shadlen & Prof. Catherine Boone

Stimela (Coal Train), Hugh Masekela

Tribute: Dr. Eyob Balcha Gebremariam

Visa från Utanmyra (Song from Utanmyra), Jan Johansson

Tribute: Dr. Laura Mann/Students

Amabutho (Warriors), The Joy

Tribute: Prof. Carlos Lopes

Memories of Thandika: From the gathering

Closing Music: Birima, Youssou N'Dour



*** The cover design is based on a plaque given to Prof. Mkandawire by CODESRIA at the end of his term as Executive Secretary.**