openAIR

AFRICAN INNOVATION RESEARCH

QES-Open AIR Program

A decade of scholars, partnerships, and possibilities 2016–2026

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About Open AIR

The Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) partnership is a collaborative network of researchers in over 20 African countries, Canada, and beyond. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the International Development Research Centre, Universities Canada, and other supporters, the network fosters cross-continental research and policy insights.

It aims to showcase Africa as a leading force in the global knowledge economy, where innovation, collaboration, and equitable access to knowledge drive sustainable development. Its goal is to generate actionable insights on intellectual property and innovation policy, uncovering how knowledge can be shared, accessed, and leveraged to foster inclusive, locally grounded, and globally connected innovation across Africa.

The Open AIR network has established hubs at six institutions: the University of Cape Town and University of Johannesburg in South Africa, Strathmore University in Kenya, the Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in Nigeria, the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and the University of Ottawa in Canada. New institutional partnerships are being forged with the University of Pretoria and the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, the University of Yaoundé II in Cameroon, York University in Canada, and others. Our researchers come from many disciplines, including law, economics, management, political science, and public policy.

The Queen Elizabeth Scholars (QES) program is a global scholarship and mobility initiative that supports doctoral, postdoctoral and early-career researchers from Canada and eligible low- and middle-income countries to engage in international research, leadership, and community engagement experiences. Its objectives are to develop globally minded citizens, foster enterprising leadership, and strengthen collaborative peer networks, with expected outcomes including enhanced knowledge, professional skills, cross-cultural connections, and meaningful contributions to local and global communities.

In 2016, Open AIR co-founders and co-directors from the network's institutional hub at the University of Ottawa began engaging with the QES program to empower emerging scholars by equipping them with the skills, networks, and opportunities needed to generate and share impactful research. This commitment is advanced through the New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERG), which provides a collaborative platform for early-career researchers to engage in mentorship, interdisciplinary dialogue, and knowledge exchange as they develop and disseminate insights in their future scholarly and professional endeavors.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

DATA SCIENCE LAW LAB

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

FACULTY of LAW

Toronto Metropolitan University

Lincoln Alexander School of Law

Western Law

UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ II
TECHNOPOLE DES SCIENCES SOCIALES

Scholars in action











Foreword

The Open African Innovation Research network, known as Open AIR, was conceived nearly two decades ago, when we saw a lack of connectivity between researchers in Canada and on the African continent. We wanted to build relationships across these regions, believing the best way to do that was to invest in emerging scholars.

Shortly after the network's inception, we created the New and Emerging Researchers Group—or NERG, as we affectionately call it. We recruited graduate students to work with us and our partners did the same. We also established a fellowship program enabling students to move between institutions. We saw how that mobility transformed their educational experiences and put them on exciting new career trajectories.

By 2016, we saw an opportunity to connect our NERG and fellowship program with the Queen Elizabeth Scholars' QES–Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) initiative. This new initiative supported doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career researchers moving between academic institutions in different countries, as well as between universities and organisations in the private and public sectors.

The prospect of bringing these initiatives together was tantalising. In 2017, we obtained our first QES grant to support Canadian scholars and scholars throughout Africa. A few years later, we obtained a second grant supporting Canadian and West African scholars.

Engaging with more than three dozen advanced scholars through the QES program over the past decade has been a tremendous privilege. The program has given us the opportunity to learn from individuals we might otherwise never have encountered. Over that decade, these scholars have become a community—one that is part of the broader community of researchers within Open AIR.

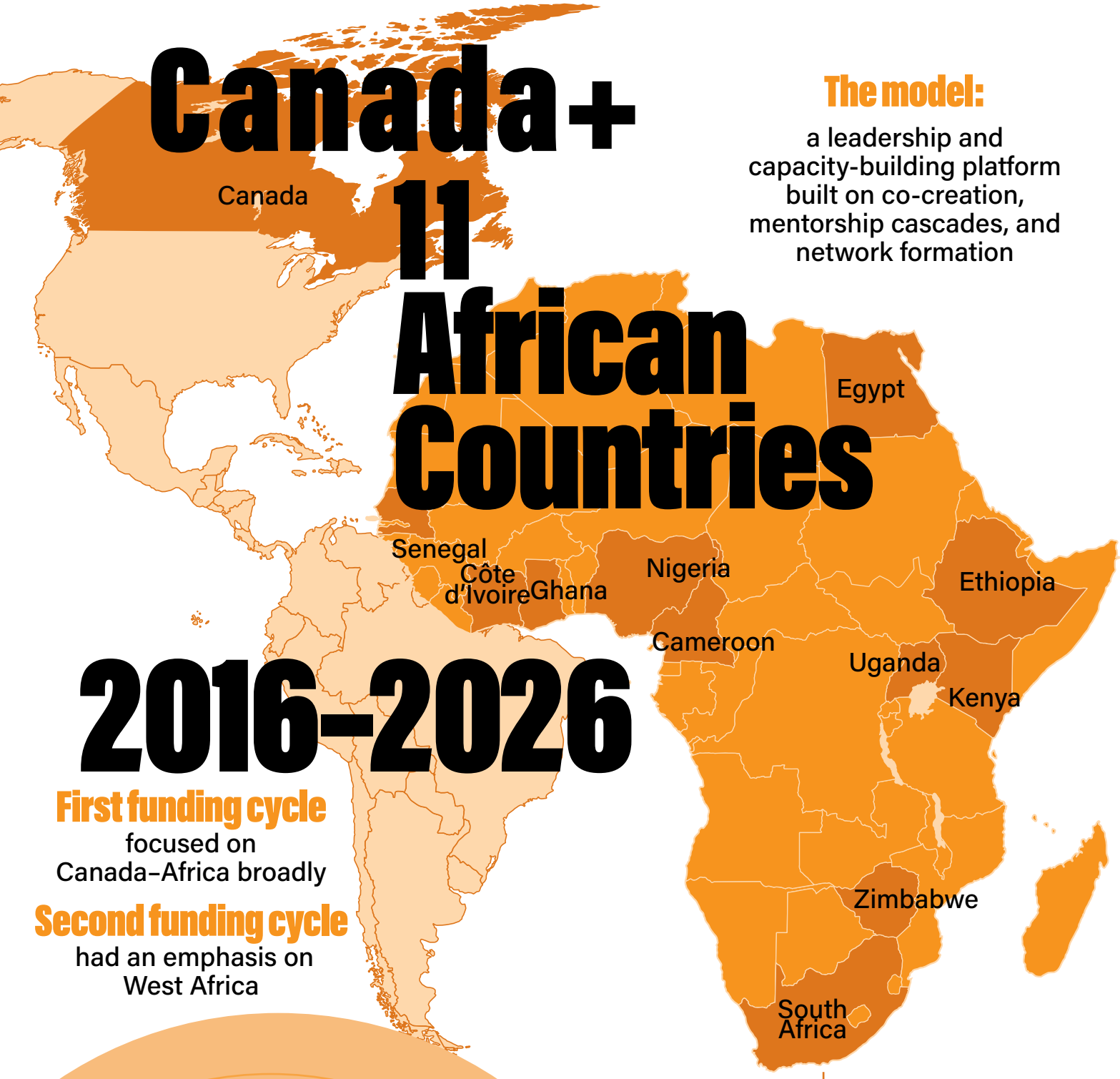
Scholars with backgrounds in law, economics, education, mathematics, computer science, communications, drama and theatre, health sciences, and many more domains have joined us, and become immersed in this community. Some continue in academia; others move into influential policy roles. Through the skills they develop and the cutting-edge research they undertake, they are helping to address humanity's greatest challenges, including food security and climate action. Addressing practical, real-world problems requires research that builds connections across countries and regions.

This work offers an opportunity for Canada's investments in Africa to have an impact in new ways. QES is about more than Canada contributing to research capacity in Africa. It is also about Canada recognising what Africa has to offer, learning from African expertise, and building partnerships grounded in mutual respect.

The legacy of this program is already evident. We have seen fellows mentoring others, sharing their experience and supporting those who follow them. We have also seen fellows remain connected to the network, continuing to work with us and grow. Among the most rewarding aspects of this program is watching our alumni grow from doctoral students or postdoctoral fellows into full-fledged collaborators and co-applicants on several of our research programs, now holding appointments as university professors, government officials, and business leaders. The relationships formed endure beyond individual fellowships, sustaining a community that continues to learn and grow together.

Jeremy de Beer and Chidi Oguamanam, Ottawa, Canada, 2026

Canada+ 11 African Countries



The model:

a leadership and capacity-building platform built on co-creation, mentorship cascades, and network formation

2016–2026

First funding cycle
focused on Canada–Africa broadly

Second funding cycle
had an emphasis on West Africa

$7 million+

Post-fellowship grants secured by scholars

For every dollar invested by the funder, fellows secured at least **ten times as much** in subsequent research funding

Research focus

- Innovation
- Intellectual property
- Sustainable development

Aligned with SDG 5 and SDG 9

and intersecting with health, education, food systems, and climate-related policy questions.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH Scholars

38 Scholars

16 doctoral students
19 postdoctoral fellows
3 early-career researchers



40+
Countries reached

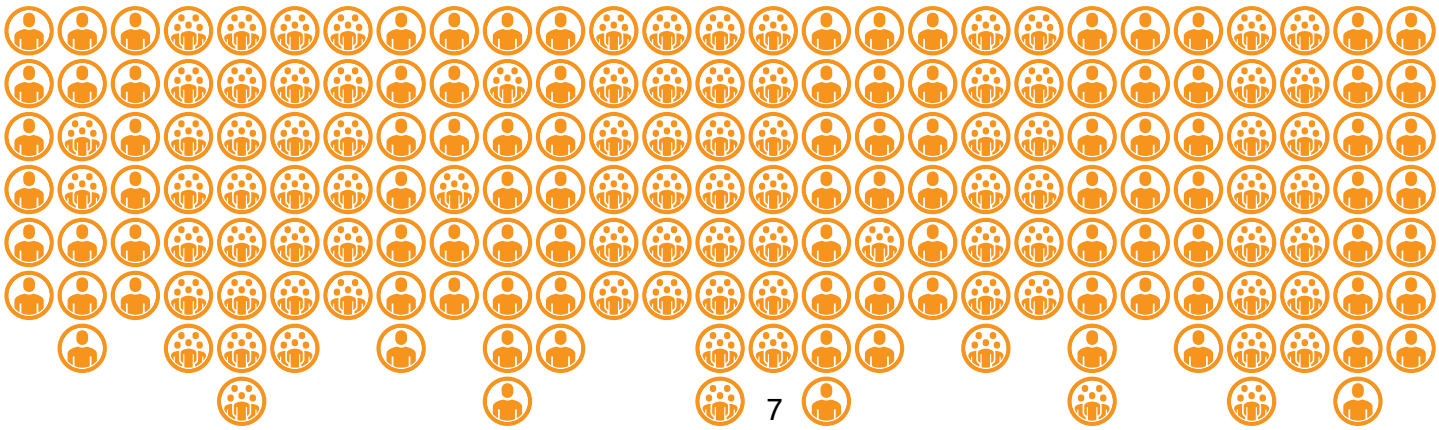
5+
National and regional processes influenced

50+
Institutions engaged

70+
PhD and Master's students supervised

80+
Outputs produced during or connected to the fellowship

1500+
Direct beneficiaries



What we set in motion

A decade ago, the ambition was simple.

- **Support talented researchers.**
- **Create opportunities for learning.**
- **Encourage collaboration.**
- **Build relationships.**

What emerged was far greater than anticipated.

- **Scholars became mentors.**
- **Mentors became leaders.**
- **Research informed policy.**
- **Partnerships outlasted the fellowships.**
- **Ideas travelled across borders.**
- **Communities benefited.**

And a growing network of people committed to more equitable and inclusive innovation took shape.

QES–Open AIR transformed

- **International mobility into long-term partnership**
- **Individual opportunity into collective capacity**
- **Research into tangible societal impact**

What Makes the QES–Open AIR Program Unique?

The QES–Open AIR program built on the Open AIR network's long-standing Canada–Africa partnerships to foster collaborative research through co-creation, equitable innovation, and human capacity development. Specifically, the program:

- **Cultivated research leaders:** Developed emerging scholars into globally connected researchers equipped to address challenges in law, technology, development, and social justice.
- **Built lasting research capacity:** Strengthened universities, research systems, and policy ecosystems across Canada and Africa through sustained institutional partnerships.
- **Promoted meaningful exchange:** Created reciprocal learning between Canadian and African scholars, enriching research through diverse perspectives and lived experience.
- **Connected research to policy:** Aligned scholarship with priorities such as gender equality, inclusive innovation, sustainable development, and digital governance to inform policy and practice.
- **Created enduring global networks:** Built long-term collaborations among researchers, institutions, and practitioners that continued beyond the scholarship period.

The above form part of the program's legacy, which endures today.

Selection and Support Model

The QES–Open AIR program identified and supported high-potential scholars through collaborative partnerships that strengthened research capacity across Canada and Africa.

- **Strategic, Partnership-Based Selection**
  Candidates were selected through a competitive process with African partner institutions, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and shared institutional commitment.
- **Flexible and Inclusive Mobility**
  Combining of longer-term placements and short exchanges broadened participation, particularly for scholars with caregiving or institutional constraints.

Three-Pillar Support Framework



Leadership through co-creation

Leadership built through collaborative research, co-authored publications, grant development, and academic leadership opportunities.



Mentorship cascade

Faculty-to-scholar-to-student mentoring strengthened research excellence, leadership, and professional development across multiple career stages.



Focused capacity development

Structured professional development equipped scholars with transferable skills for careers in academia, policy, and innovation.

A community without borders

The QES–Open AIR program brought together scholars from 11 African countries and Canada, creating a vibrant network across diverse cultures, disciplines and institutions. This exchange fostered new perspectives, strengthened long-term partnerships, and enriched research grounded in local realities.

Scholars represented fields including law, social sciences, innovation, public policy, and development studies. Working across disciplines enabled them to tackle complex challenges through collaborative, solution-focused research.

Learning extended beyond universities. Placements with policy organisations, innovation hubs, civil society groups, and development agencies connected research with practice, helping scholars translate knowledge into real-world impact.

Together, this geographic, disciplinary and cross-sector diversity created a program that was globally connected, locally relevant, and designed to make a lasting difference.



16
Countries represented or visited

8+
New institutions, labs, and platforms created

130+
Students mentored post-fellowship

Skills for research and beyond

Scholars consistently reported that the fellowships strengthened both their research capability and their ability to communicate, collaborate, and lead. While research and analytical skills showed the greatest gains, participants also highlighted growth in leadership, project management, policy engagement, intercultural understanding and community advocacy—qualities essential for research with real-world impact.



The fellowship developed well-rounded researchers who combined technical expertise with leadership, collaboration and community engagement

For every dollar invested a network of skills multiplied

Research capacity
Leadership
Collaboration

Ideas put to work

Research matters most when it moves beyond publications to improve policy, strengthen institutions, and benefit communities.

The QES–Open AIR program equipped scholars with the knowledge, networks and practical experience to address real-world challenges. Together, they produced a rich body of interdisciplinary research while translating ideas into policy, innovation, and community action.

Their work spanned issues central to Africa's development—including artificial intelligence, intellectual property, climate resilience, food systems, education, trade, entrepreneurship, and gender equality—and contributed to global conversations on inclusive innovation and sustainable development.

Much of this work is still ongoing.

Domains of impact:

- **Academia**
- **Policy reform**
- **Civil society**
- **Grassroots communities**
- **International institutions**
- **Youth engagement**
- **Justice sector actors**



Work deeply rooted in African realities while contributing to global conversations

How the program created impact

The QES–Open AIR program combined international mobility, mentorship and collaborative research within an established network of universities and partner organisations. Rather than supporting scholars in isolation, it invested in the relationships, skills, and partnerships that enable lasting impact.

The model followed a simple pathway:

Inputs

Funding, partnerships, mentorship, and research expertise.

Activities

Research training, international exchanges, collaborative projects, policy engagement, and leadership development.

Outputs

Research publications, policy briefs, conference presentations, strengthened partnerships, and expanded professional networks.

Outcomes

Scholars become research leaders, secure funding, supervise students, influence policy and strengthen their institutions.

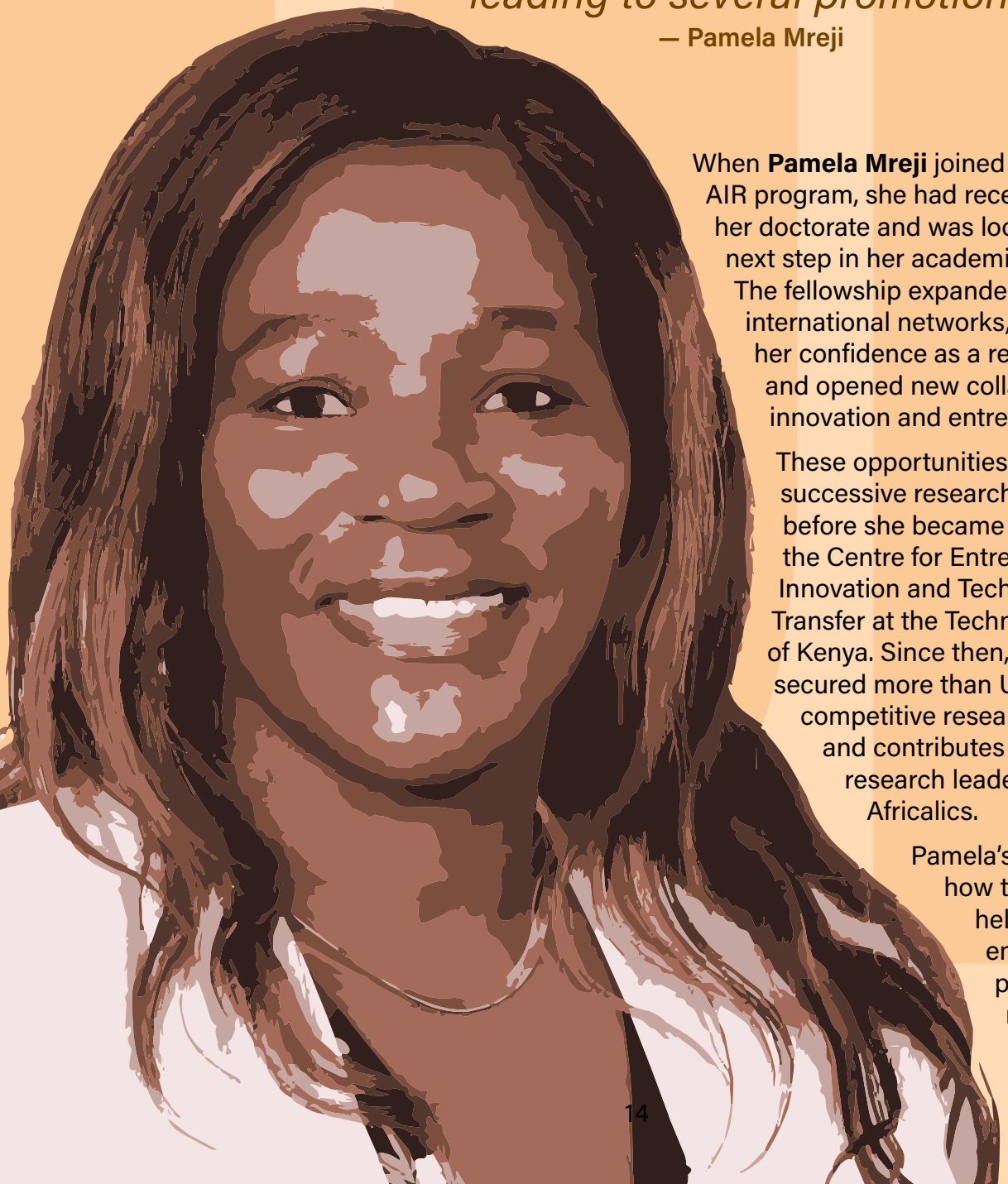
Long-term impact

A growing community of globally connected scholars advancing knowledge, innovation, and equitable development across Africa and Canada.

Growing leaders, scholars, and institutions

"The experience greatly enhanced my confidence as a scholar and made me more marketable in my career, leading to several promotions."

— Pamela Mreji



When **Pamela Mreji** joined the QES–Open AIR program, she had recently completed her doctorate and was looking for the next step in her academic journey. The fellowship expanded her international networks, strengthened her confidence as a researcher, and opened new collaborations in innovation and entrepreneurship.

These opportunities quickly led to successive research appointments before she became Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology Transfer at the Technical University of Kenya. Since then, she has secured more than US$700,000 in competitive research funding and contributes to continental research leadership through Africalics.

Pamela's journey shows how the program helped transform emerging potential into regional leadership.

For many scholars, the fellowship arrived at a defining moment in their careers. It offered more than research support—it provided space to think differently, trusted mentors, international exposure, and a network of peers who challenged and encouraged one another. Years later, the effects are still unfolding as former fellows lead research centres, supervise doctoral students, secure major grants, and shape policy conversations across Africa and Canada.

Other scholars whose careers flourished

"The fellowship opened the door to Oxford and shaped the next stage of my career."

— Elvis Korku Avenyo

"Forty to fifty percent of my publications can be linked to collaborations within the network."

— Desmond Osaretin Oriakhogba

"The program strengthened my interest in sustainability and responsible innovation."

— Aboubacry Kane

"I developed skills that prepared me for my current role as Program Manager in Open AIR."

— Yvonne Ndelle

"The exposure to other cultures made my analytical lens more sensitive."

— Ghazaleh Jerban

"The fellowship gave me confidence to lead research groups."

— Olayinka Oluwakemi Adeniyi

"I am now more intentional in connecting my research to global realities."

— Anthony Onunekwu Oguguo

"I can now articulate policy solutions that respond to the realities of women innovators."

— Philda Maiga

A network became a community

"The QES network represents more to me than professional contacts; it is a community."

— Ghati Nyehita



For **Ghati Nyehita**, the most valuable outcome of the fellowship was not simply a stronger publication record, but becoming part of an international community of scholars committed to inclusive innovation. Through the Open AIR network she found collaborators, mentors, and critical friends who continue to shape her work.

Today she remains actively engaged in research, mentorship, and advocacy, drawing on relationships established during the fellowship to develop new projects focused on the needs of marginalised communities.

Her experience reflects what many scholars describe as one of the program's most enduring legacies: belonging to a community that continues to learn and grow together.

Scholars consistently describe the relationships formed during the fellowship as one of its greatest strengths. These were not temporary professional contacts but enduring collaborations that continue to generate publications, projects, conferences, and friendships long after the fellowships ended.

Other QES scholars strengthening the network

“After the fellowship, I became the lead of the Open AIR New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERG), helping to support the next generation of scholars.”

– Esther Ekong

”The NERG network expanded my professional network to include Canadian connections.”

— Ogochukwu Monye

”I remain actively involved in strengthening Open AIR’s French-speaking network.”

— Yobare Yentiare

”The network has been a great place to exchange ideas and discover new opportunities.”

— Charlene Musiza

”We established a network committed to building an AI governance framework in Central Africa.”

— Emile Salomon Zambo Assembe

”The fellowship opened new collaborations and opportunities to train other researchers.”

— Marie Laure Belomo Onguene

“The relationships built through Open AIR continue to shape my work across more than 30 African countries.”

– Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou

Knowledge shaping policy

Jake Effoduh entered the fellowship as a legal scholar interested in emerging technologies. During the program his research shifted decisively towards applied policy work, particularly in the governance of artificial intelligence (AI) across Africa.

Since then he has advised Nigerian government agencies, produced policy briefs with Accountability Lab, and contributed to national conversations on AI governance. His research now bridges academia, public policy, and community engagement.

His journey illustrates how the fellowship encouraged scholars to move confidently between research and real-world application.

"The fellowship shifted my work from pure academic theory to applied, policy-facing, community-responsive research."

— Jake Okechukwu Effoduh



Many fellows have moved beyond publishing research to influencing legislation, advising governments, supporting international organisations, and contributing directly to policy development. Their work demonstrates how rigorous scholarship can help shape practical solutions to complex challenges.

QES scholars influencing policy

"The fellowship helped me secure consultancies with United Nations organisations."

— Uchenna Ugwu

"My feedback is largely reflected in Ethiopia's national AI policy."

— Sileshi Bedasie Hirko

"I helped develop a US$7 million initiative to close Africa's digital gender gap."

— Dianah Byaruhanga Ajuna

"The externship gave me hands-on experience designing regional renewable energy programs."

— Dennis Oghenerobor Agelebe

"I continue building bridges between universities through collaborative research."

— Volviane Saphir Mfogo

"I was able to help establish a network of researchers, decision-makers, and students committed to building an AI governance framework in West Africa."

— Abdelhamid Benhmade

"I focus on ensuring my research has practical value by translating it into accessible resources for policy, practice, and communities."

— Jane Ezirigwe

Research improving everyday lives

The program encouraged scholars to think beyond academic audiences. Across Africa and Canada, research has been translated into practical initiatives that continue to strengthen schools, support entrepreneurs, improve access to knowledge, and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.



Other scholars creating community impact

"The program opened me up to international collaborations, an engaged scientific community, and a broader vision of innovation research."

— Onyema Otitodiri Ogadinma

"QES enabled me to support women entrepreneurs across Africa."

— Esther Ekong

"It opened opportunities to advance open knowledge and public access."

— Helen Chuma-Okoro

"Our work produced practical resources that help migrant workers access legal services."

— Jane Ezirigwe



"The fellowship empowered me to contribute to institutional development at home."

— Esther Adekunbi

Norris Igbinosa Erhabor believes that science education should never depend on expensive laboratories. During the fellowship he developed practical methods for teaching STEM using locally available materials, making science accessible to children in underserved communities.

Since then he has mentored more than 50 students, worked with Indigenous children in Canada, and built international partnerships dedicated to transforming science education.

His work demonstrates how research can inspire practical solutions that change lives far beyond the university.

"I have mentored over 50 students through the work I started during QES."

— Norris Igbinosa Erhabor

Delivering on supporters' mandates

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

The QES–Open AIR program directly supported IDRC's mission through work that continues today:

- **Advancing locally led research that addresses pressing development challenges across Africa.**
- **Strengthening research capacity through skills development, mentorship and institutional partnerships.**
- **Connecting research to policy and practice through collaboration with governments, civil society, and innovation organisations.**

IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

The program advanced SSHRC priorities, the effects of which are still felt today:

- **Supporting research excellence in the social sciences and humanities.**
- **Encouraging interdisciplinary and international collaboration.**
- **Mobilising knowledge to inform policy, innovation and public benefit.**

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Canada

Queen Elizabeth Scholars

The program reflects the core objectives of Queen Elizabeth Scholars by:

- **Developing globally minded research leaders through international mobility and collaboration.**
- **Strengthening long-term partnerships between Canadian and African institutions.**
- **Creating community impact through applied research and knowledge exchange.**

Rideau Hall Foundation and Universities Canada

The program contributed to the Foundation's vision by:

- **Expanding opportunities for emerging leaders through international learning and mentorship.**
- **Promoting innovation and inclusive leadership across diverse communities.**
- **Building networks that continue creating social impact beyond the fellowship.**

Universities Canada provides core management and administrative support to the QES program.

QUEEN ELIZABETH Scholars

Fondation Rideau Hall Foundation

Universities Canada. Universités Canada.

Proven and ready to scale

The QES–Open AIR program has shown that relatively modest investments can create lasting change. Its impact has extended well beyond individual fellowships, strengthening institutions, expanding international collaboration, and developing leaders who continue to influence research, policy, and practice.

This is a model that has already demonstrated what works: strong partnerships, structured mentorship, cross-continental collaboration, and an engaged alumni network. Future investment would build on these established foundations, enabling the program to reach more scholars, institutions, and communities.

As the network matures, alumni are becoming professors, research leaders, policy advisors, and innovators who mentor others, secure research funding, and create opportunities within their own institutions. Each new cohort benefits from the experience and networks of those who came before, creating a multiplier effect that grows over time.

The model is also increasingly relevant. As governments and institutions seek practical solutions to challenges such as AI governance, climate innovation, food systems, and inclusive development, they need researchers who can connect knowledge with action across disciplines, sectors, and borders. QES–Open AIR alumni are already doing exactly that.

The greatest value of the QES–Open AIR program lies not only in what it has already achieved, but in what it has made possible. With continued investment, this proven and scalable model can support new generations of scholars, strengthen research ecosystems, and expand its contribution to addressing shared global challenges.

Appendices

Profiles of scholars

Mnena Abuku



Mnena Abuku is an Associate Professor of Drama and Theatre, a development communication consultant, and a social justice writer. She has led numerous development initiatives focused on improving the lives of women and girls in disadvantaged and rural communities. As an Open AIR researcher and former Queen Elizabeth Scholars–Advanced Scholars Fellow at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (CIPIT), Strathmore University, her research has explored gender, innovation, entrepreneurship, education, human rights, food security, and environmental sustainability. She holds a PhD from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and has used applied theatre extensively to engage communities and address social challenges.

Esther Adekunbi



Esther Adekunbi is a researcher in education specializing in gender equality and women's empowerment. With a background in adult education, her work focuses on human development, particularly women's and girls' education and advancement. Having served as both a teacher and school administrator in Nigeria, she developed a deep understanding of the barriers to educational equity. Her experiences working with women in rural communities strengthened her commitment to advancing gender equality through education. Her PhD research in women's reproductive health education further reinforced her dedication to improving the lives of women and girls through inclusive and transformative educational approaches.

Olayinka Oluwakemi Adeniyi



Olayinka Oluwakemi Adeniyi is a legal scholar, researcher, and practitioner whose work lies at the intersection of socio-economic rights, gender justice, law and technology, and African development. Her research focuses on water justice, women's rights, children's rights, digital rights, climate justice, and access to justice in Africa. She currently serves as Head of the Socio-Economic Rights Unit at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, where she leads research and engagement on issues affecting vulnerable communities across the continent. She holds a PhD in Human Rights Law from the University of Pretoria and an LLM from Obafemi Awolowo University. Her scholarship demonstrates a strong commitment to linking academic research, policy engagement, and advocacy to advance justice and inclusion.

Dennis Oghenerobor Agelebe



Dennis Oghenerobor Agelebe is a Visiting Fellow with the Open AIR network at the Centre for Law, Technology and Society, University of Ottawa, a Senior Research Fellow at the Environmental Law Centre, University of Cologne, and a member of its Legal Advisory Board. Formerly an Associate Professor of Law at Jindal Global University, India, he holds an LLB from the University of Calabar, an LLM in International Human Rights Law and Environmental Protection from Charles University in Prague, and a doctorate in law from the University of Cologne, specializing in environment and trade law. His research focuses on emerging technologies, sustainable development, renewable energy investment, environmentally responsible trade, and foreign direct investment in developing countries.

Dianah Byaruhanga Ajuna



Dianah Byaruhanga Ajuna is a legal scholar specialising in privacy, data protection, and emerging technologies. She holds a PhD in Law from the University of Ottawa, where she has researched consent, AI, and data-driven technologies. An Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and founder of the ICT Law Centre Uganda, she has taught ICT, cyber, and technology law at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She has received several international awards and scholarships, including the Open AIR Queen Elizabeth Scholars Award and the CLTS Impact Award, and participated in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program on cybersecurity. She is active in international research and policy networks. In January 2027, she will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at York University, focusing on the governance of predictive AI in healthcare.

Emile Salomon Zambo Assembe



Emile Salomon Zambo Assembe is a PhD researcher in Comparative Higher Education at the University of Montreal. He holds a master's degree in Governance and Management of Higher Education Institutions from the University of Yaoundé II. His research focuses on internationalization, university governance, quality assurance, and the academic profession. Professionally, he specializes in developing training programs, knowledge mobilization, and institutional evaluation, supporting higher education reforms across Africa. His doctoral research examines university quality assurance systems through the lens of partnership performance in diverse institutional contexts.

Elvis Korku Avenyo



Elvis Korku Avenyo is an Associate Professor with the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development at the University of Johannesburg. He previously served as a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development and as a Research Officer at the Technology and Management Centre for Development, University of Oxford. He holds a PhD in the Economics of Innovation, Policy Studies of Technical Change and Governance from UNU-MERIT/Maastricht University. His research focuses on industrial development, innovation, technical change, labour markets, and firm behaviour in developing countries. He has published widely and contributed research to organizations including the World Bank, ILO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and the African Centre for Economic Transformation.

Abdelhamid Benhmade



Abdelhamid Benhmade is a Part-time Professor at the University of Ottawa whose research focuses on Africa–Canada economic relations and the role of African global cities in international development. In 2023, he was appointed Special Advisor on Africa–Canada Relations to the Senate of Canada. He previously served as Director of Africa Relations at ICCCASU, where he led collaborations with African academic and political institutions, including capacity-building initiatives in urban development. As spokesperson for the Réseau québécois pour une mondialisation inclusive, he has represented the network before the Parliament of Canada and the National Assembly of Quebec.

Helen Chuma-Okoro



Helen Chuma-Okoro is an Associate Professor at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS). She holds an LLB from the University of Calabar, an LLM from the University of Lagos, and a PhD in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Cape Town. Helen is currently the Head of NIALS Postgraduate School and Head of the International Law Department. Her professional experience includes research fellowships at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, University of Ottawa, and the University of Cape Town. She coordinates the CopyrightX-NIALS Course, which is organised in collaboration with Harvard Law School. She is also Country Lead of Creative Commons Nigeria Chapter, an international NGO promoting equitable and inclusive intellectual property (IP) policies globally. Her area of research focuses mainly on IP and also intersections with other fields, including technology regulation, digital rights, and data governance. She is Assistant Editor of the *NIALS Intellectual Property Journal* (*NJIP*).

Dominique Diouf



Dominique Diouf is a specialist in sustainability-oriented innovation and entrepreneurship. He holds a PhD in Business Administration from Université Laval, an MA in Sociology from Université Gaston Berger, and postgraduate qualifications in sustainable development and responsible investment. He previously led the Innovation, Technology and Sustainability Research Program at the Centre d'Études en Responsabilité Sociale et Écocitoyenneté in Montréal. His research focuses on entrepreneurship, technological innovation, sustainability, and agricultural development. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Wagadu, an organization dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture across Africa and its diaspora.

Norris Igbinosa Erhabor



Norris Igbinosa Erhabor is a senior lecturer in the Department of Health, Safety and Environmental Education at the University of Benin, Nigeria, and a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa. His research explores low-cost, community-driven approaches to science and environmental education through collaborations across Canada, Nigeria, and Brazil. Through the QES–Open AIR fellowship, he has advanced research on the Circular Learning Economy, teacher training, and locally sourced STEM learning tools. His work integrates participatory action research, decolonial perspectives, and the Sustainable Development Goals to promote inclusive and culturally grounded STEM education.

Jake Okechukwu Effoduh



Jake Okechukwu Effoduh is an Assistant Professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University. A lawyer specializing in human rights, technology, and artificial intelligence, he has advised international organizations and governments on AI governance and regulatory frameworks in countries including Brazil, Nigeria, and the United States. He previously served as Chief Counsel to the Africa–Canada Artificial Intelligence and Data Innovation Consortium (ACADIC) and as a Research Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University. He holds master's degrees in international law from both the University of Oxford and York University and serves as Production Editor of the *Transnational Human Rights Review*.

Esther Ekong



Esther Ekong is an Intellectual Property (IP) Examiner with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. She earned her PhD in Law from the University of Ottawa in 2023 and also holds an LLB, LLM, and Master of Public Administration (MPA). A Nigerian scholar, she served as Lead of the Open AIR New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERG) from 2019 to 2023 and as Graduate Student Representative for the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) from 2019 to 2022. In 2019, she received third prize in the Africa Portal *Women, Power and Policy Making* research competition for her policy brief on the gender implications of geographical indications for Ghanaian shea butter. She has published numerous journal articles and book chapters on intellectual property, gender, and development.

Jane Ezirigwe



Jane Ezirigwe is an Associate Professor at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. With more than two decades of experience in legal practice, academic research, policy advocacy, education, and knowledge mobilization, her work focuses on governance, sustainability, and social justice within food and agricultural systems. She examines human–technology–environment partnerships, with particular emphasis on the governance of big data and artificial intelligence in the agri-food sector. She is the author of more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and policy papers and is committed to community-centered research that advances equitable governance through collaboration with marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Sileshi Bedasie Hirko



Sileshi Bedasie Hirko is an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and a Connected Minds Postdoctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University. His research spans intellectual property, artificial intelligence, competition law, international trade, innovation, higher education, and sustainable human development. He is the author of *Rethinking Copyright for Sustainable Human Development* (Routledge, 2021) and *Copyright and Tertiary Education Regimes in Ethiopia* (Palgrave, 2023). His interdisciplinary scholarship has been published in numerous national and international journals.

Uchenna Ijoma



Uchenna Ijoma holds an LLM with distinction from the University of Lagos and has extensive experience as a commercial and corporate lawyer and litigator. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on global energy and environmental governance, sustainable development, renewable energy systems, gender equity, social justice, human rights, investment, and inclusive governance. She has published widely on environmental law, renewable energy policy, natural resources law, sustainable development, agriculture, and gender, with a strong emphasis on the relationships between law, governance, and sustainable development.

Ghazaleh Jerban



Ghazaleh Jerban is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Government of Canada. She received her PhD in Law from the University of Ottawa, where her research examined the intersection of intellectual property and gender. During her doctoral studies, she received numerous prestigious awards and fellowships, including the International Policy Ideas Challenge, the International Law Research Program Fellowship at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the Nicole Senécal Graduate Scholarship in International Law, the Trade Facilitation Office Canada, and the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Her work bridges intellectual property, international law, gender, and public policy.

Aboubacry Kane



Aboubacry Kane is an economist specializing in innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable development. He holds a PhD in Economics and is currently undertaking postdoctoral research at Polytechnique Montréal within the Canada Research Chair in Innovation Management and Economics. His research has explored gender, digitalization, and open innovation in Africa, resulting in several publications on women's inclusion and economic resilience in Senegal. His current work examines the digital transformation of Canadian agri-food supply chains, emerging technologies, and business resilience. His career combines empirical research, innovation policy, and international collaboration to promote the inclusive and responsible use of technology.

Philda Maiga



Philda Maiga is a legal practitioner, academic, and researcher specializing in intellectual property, innovation, and trade policy, with a focus on inclusive and development-oriented legal frameworks in Africa. She has more than a decade of experience spanning legal practice, academia, and policy-oriented research, and currently teaches at Makerere University. As an QES–Open AIR Fellow in 2021, her research explored the intersection of gender, innovation, and intellectual property, examining barriers faced by women-led enterprises and proposing policy approaches to strengthen gender-inclusive trade and intellectual property systems, particularly within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Kehinde Medase



Kehinde Medase is currently a researcher at the Institute of Innovation and Rural Economics within the Thünen Institute of Rural Studies in Germany and a Senior Research Associate with the DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development at the University of Johannesburg. His research interests include development and welfare economics, innovation, entrepreneurship, industrial organization, knowledge management, firm growth, intellectual property rights, technological capabilities, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Volviane Saphir Mfogo



Volviane Saphir Mfogo is a researcher specializing in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. She holds a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Dschang and has undertaken applied research in Cameroon, Ghana, and the United Kingdom. She currently contributes to the Climate-Sensitive Early Warning Systems for Malaria Seasonal Chemoprevention project, where she develops predictive models linking climate, public health, and artificial intelligence. Her research focuses on machine learning, cybersecurity, secure human–machine interaction, and ethical medical AI. She is also committed to AI capacity building across Africa, serving as Lead Organizer of Deep Learning IndabaX Cameroon and as a member of the Pan-African Steering Committee of Deep Learning Indaba.

Ogochukwu Monye



Ogochukwu Monye is a specialist in law, technology policy, and digital financial inclusion. She holds an LLB from the University of Nigeria, an LLM from Queen Mary University of London, and a PhD from the University of Cape Town. She is a research consultant with the Consumer Awareness Organisation, Nigeria, and was a 2023 British Academy Fellow at the University of Southampton. Her research explores artificial intelligence, copyright enforcement, digital lending, financial inclusion, and AI governance. She has published a book, numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and technical reports, and her current work includes research on AI national strategies across Africa.

Pamela Mreji



Pamela Mreji is an innovation management and enterprise development specialist with extensive experience in both industry and academia. She is a Lecturer at the Technical University of Kenya and former Director of the Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CEITT). She also serves as Adjunct Faculty at Strathmore Business School and as a non-resident Senior Research Associate with the DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development. She holds a PhD in Business Management from the Gordon Institute of Business Science, University of Pretoria. Her research focuses on innovation systems, entrepreneurship, university–industry partnerships, technology transfer, intellectual property, and gender and social inclusion.

Charlene Musiza



Charlene Musiza is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the SARChI Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development at the University of Cape Town. She holds an LLB from the University of Zimbabwe and both an LLM and PhD in Commercial Law from the University of Cape Town. A lawyer admitted to practise in Zimbabwe, she previously worked in corporate and commercial law before moving into academia. Her research explores the relationship between intellectual property and development, with particular emphasis on geographical indications, traditional knowledge, agricultural value chains, and opportunities for small-scale producers. She has also undertaken research and consultancy work for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Open AIR.

Yvonne Ndelle



Yvonne Ndelle is a public policy scholar specializing in the governance of emerging technologies, institutional analysis, and science, technology, and innovation policy. She serves as Program Manager of the Open AIR network at the University of Ottawa, where she coordinates international, multidisciplinary research partnerships focused on innovation, intellectual property, and development across Africa and Canada. Her work encompasses research management, grant administration, knowledge mobilization, and stakeholder engagement. Her research interests examine how governance and institutional frameworks shape inclusive and sustainable innovation systems.

Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou



Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Ottawa and a faculty member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society. His research adopts a decolonial perspective on development, focusing on digital humanities, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence, and technology for the common good. He is the founder of Mboalab Biotech in Cameroon and established the Responsible AI Multidisciplinary Lab at the University of Yaoundé II. He previously served as Researcher-in-Residence at the International Centre of Expertise in Montréal on Artificial Intelligence (CEIMIA), where he worked to strengthen Africa's representation within the global AI ecosystem. He holds a PhD in Public Communication from Université Laval.

Ghati Nyehita



Ghati Nyehita is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the SARChI Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development at the University of Cape Town. She holds a PhD and LLM in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Cape Town and an LLB from Kenyatta University. She is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Her research examines the intersection of gender and intellectual property, exploring how intellectual property can support social innovation and the labour market integration of refugee women in South Africa. She also contributes to access to justice and human rights initiatives through the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU), the Judicial Institute for Africa (JIFA), and AfricanLII. She serves as Lead Ombudsperson for the Open AIR New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERG).

Onyema Otitodiri Ogadinma



Onyema Otitodiri Ogadinma is an Associate Professor of Law at Imo State University, Nigeria, specializing in international economic law and corporate law. He holds LLM and PhD degrees in Law from Abia State University and serves as Assistant Legal Officer of the University as well as a member of its Directorate of Research and Innovation. A Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, he is a member of both the Nigerian Bar Association and the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers. His research focuses on the relationship between innovation, regulation, and foreign investment in developing countries, with particular emphasis on the police powers doctrine.

Anthony Onunekwu Oguguo



Anthony Onunekwu Oguguo is a legal scholar and doctoral candidate in Health Law and Governance at the University of Ottawa. His research addresses global health governance, health equity, and access to healthcare, with a particular focus on Africa. He holds LLM degrees in Health Law and Governance from the University of Ottawa and Commercial Law from the University of Lagos. He is also a researcher with Professor Adegboyega Ojo's team at Carleton University, where his work focuses on the legal, regulatory, and governance dimensions of artificial intelligence. His scholarship is complemented by community initiatives that provide micro-credit support and free medical services to marginalized communities.

Chijioke Okorie



Chijioke Okorie is an Associate Professor in the Department of Private Law at the University of Pretoria and a National Research Foundation (NRF) C2-rated researcher. She is the founder and Principal Investigator of the Data Science Law Lab, where she leads interdisciplinary research on the legal and policy dimensions of data science and artificial intelligence in Africa. She also serves as Principal Investigator of the IDRC-funded Open AIR project, *Catalyzing AI's Potential in Africa through IP Innovation*, which examines how intellectual property systems can support inclusive and context-responsive AI development. Her research spans intellectual property, competition law, information justice, and innovation policy, with a strong focus on African legal systems.

Marie Laure Belomo Onguene



Marie Laure Belomo Onguene is an economist specializing in international migration and development. Her research examines the socioeconomic impacts of migration on countries of origin, with particular interests in economic complexity, women's political empowerment, food security, and artificial intelligence in higher education. She is a Research Assistant in the Department of Public Economics at the University of Yaoundé II-Soa and has held research appointments at the University of Lomé and the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University. Her Open AIR research contributes to advancing gender equality in African higher education through artificial intelligence.

Calory Larry Onyango



Calory Larry Onyango earned his PhD from the University of Johannesburg in 2020, where his research examined mobile phone adoption and use in South Africa's informal settlements. His work focuses on digitization, informality, innovation, and the inclusion of small businesses in the digital economy. Drawing on Critical Theory of Technology, he investigates how resource-constrained communities adapt technologies to meet local needs. His broader research interests include digital innovation, mobile technologies, and inclusive economic development.

Desmond Osaretin Oriakhogba



Desmond Osaretin Oriakhogba is an Associate Professor in the Department of Private Law at the University of the Western Cape, an Adjunct Professor at Strathmore Law School, and Head Tutor for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy's advanced distance-learning course on intellectual property and traditional knowledge. He is an Associate Editor of both the *South African Intellectual Property Law Journal* and the *African Journal of Legal Studies*. He holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town and LLM and LLB degrees from the University of Benin. He is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria whose research focuses on intellectual property, traditional knowledge, and innovation law.

Uchenna Felicia Ugwu



Uchenna Felicia Ugwu is a researcher and lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. She holds a PhD in International Intellectual Property Law and Development from the University of Ottawa and has more than a decade of experience researching the relationship between intellectual property, innovation, and technology adoption among vulnerable groups, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, farmers, and women in developing countries. Her research focuses on intellectual property, artificial intelligence, patents, plant variety protection, food security, agriculture, and regional intellectual property systems in Africa. She also serves as a consultant to the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

Bertha Vallejo



Bertha Vallejo is a science and technology policy analyst specializing in innovation studies and the implications of technological change for development in the Global South. She is an early-career researcher with the Trilateral Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development at the University of Johannesburg, and Managing Partner of TwINS AFRIKA. She has contributed to innovation and development projects with organizations including UNCTAD, UNESCO-IHE, and UNIDO, and serves as a reviewer for several international journals. Her research focuses on innovation policy, sustainable development, and capacity development across Africa.

Angela Yeboah-Appiah



Angela Yeboah-Appiah earned her PhD from the University of Ottawa, where her doctoral research examined gender inequality within inheritance systems in Ghana. She also holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Sussex and a BA in Political Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Her research focuses on human rights, particularly women's rights, and she has published on issues including inheritance rights and the impact of the death penalty on children. She currently serves as a Part-time Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa.

Wondia Mireille Yeo



Wondia Mireille Yeo holds a PhD in Innovation from the University of Johannesburg. Her research explores sustainability, renewable energy, gender, politics, and innovation policy, with particular attention to the role of renewable energy technologies in Côte d'Ivoire's energy transition. She is the Founder of Environnement Kpohoh, a non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable development through education and public engagement. She also holds an MSc in Sustainable Development from the University of Sussex and a BA in Political Science from California State University, Northridge.

Yobare Yentiare



Yobare Yentiare is a postdoctoral researcher specializing in legal geography, legal pluralism, and access to justice in Togo and Francophone Africa. His research examines endogenous dispute-resolution mechanisms, particularly the commercial mediation practices of women traders operating where access to formal courts is limited. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach that integrates legal geography, social ethics, and indigenous knowledge systems, his work seeks to inform more inclusive and contextually appropriate access-to-justice policies.

Support networks and academic stewardship

Role of supervision and mentorship

Supervision and mentorship were central to the QES–Open AIR program, shaping both scholars' research and professional development. A layered mentorship model combined academic supervision with professional and peer support. Faculty supervisors and institutional mentors from the Open AIR network across Canada and Africa guided research design, methodological rigour, and scholarly writing, ensuring research met high academic standards while addressing policy challenges in innovation, intellectual property, and sustainable development.

Mentorship extended beyond research to leadership, grant writing, policy engagement, project management, and knowledge mobilization. Through regular mentoring, seminars, conferences, and collaborative research, scholars developed the skills to translate research into policy-relevant and practice-oriented outputs.

A distinctive feature of the program was its faculty-to-scholar-to-student mentorship model. Senior academics mentored postdoctoral and emerging researchers, who in turn

supported graduate students, creating a cascading system that strengthened research excellence, leadership, communication, and professional capacity across career stages. Participation in the wider Open AIR network further enriched scholars' experience through peer mentoring, cross-institutional collaboration, and shared learning platforms such as the NERG brownbag seminars and collaborative workshops.

Program supervisors

Prof. Jeremy de Beer



Professor Jeremy de Beer holds the Canada Research Chair in Innovation and Intellectual Property Law at the University of Ottawa, where he is a Full Professor and member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society. He is a pioneer of international research partnerships addressing societal challenges including access to education and medicines, food security, and technology transfer for climate change. He collaborates with international organizations, including agencies of the United Nations, African Union, and European Commission, and regularly advises Canadian government departments. His work has earned numerous accolades, including the 2023 SSHRC Impact Award for partnership and, in 2024, election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Prof. Caroline Ncube



Prof. Caroline Ncube is a Professor in the Department of Commercial Law at the University of Cape Town, where she holds the DST/NRF SARChI Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development. Her research focuses on intellectual property law, open development, and access to knowledge, with an emphasis on balanced IP frameworks that support innovation and development in Africa.

She has provided expert advice to the African Union, World Intellectual Property Organization, Economic Commission for Africa, AfCFTA Secretariat, and Southern African Development Community. She is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and the AfCFTA Trade and Industrial Development Advisory Council, and an Associate Member of the University of Ottawa's Centre for Law, Technology and Society.

Prof. Ncube holds a PhD in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Cape Town, an LLM from the University of Cambridge, and an LLB from the University of Zimbabwe. She teaches postgraduate courses in intellectual property and electronic law and supervises master's and doctoral research. In 2024, she received the South African Women in Science Awards' Distinguished Women Researchers' Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula



Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula is Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg and is currently the Chairholder of the DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development. Her work focuses on alternative development paths for African economies. She specializes in the analysis of innovation systems in connection to equitable development and

inclusive development, and has done pioneering work on innovation in the African informal sector. Her research interests also include science and technology policy analysis and international cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. She holds a master's degree in Science and Technology Policy from the University of Sussex, and a Doctorate in Development Studies from the University of Oxford.

Prof. Chidi Oguamanam



Prof. Chidi Oguamanam holds a Research Chair in Bio-Innovation, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Global Knowledge Governance at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (Common Law Section). He is the Director of Access and Benefit Sharing Canada (ABS-Canada) and is affiliated with the Centre for Law, Technology and Society; Centre for Environment and Global Sustainability; and Centre for Health Law, Policy, and Ethics. Dr. Oguamanam has diverse interdisciplinary research interests in the areas of global knowledge governance, especially the dynamics of intellectual property and technology law, with emphasis on biodiversity and biotechnology. He obtained his LLM and PhD degrees in law from the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Tobias Schonwetter



Dr. Tobias Schonwetter is an Associate Professor and Director of the Intellectual Property Unit (IP Unit), Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town (UCT). He is also the Founding Director of the iNtaka Centre for Law & Technology at UCT and its LawTechLab. He has decades of experience exploring IP issues and regularly advises various government and non-governmental entities on issues relating to IP and, in particular, copyright and open access. Dr. Schonwetter has been involved in numerous research projects, including the Open Review of the South African Copyright Act 1978 project and the Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries (ODDC) initiative. He holds PhD and LLM degrees from the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Law.

Dr. Melissa Omino



Dr. Melissa Omino is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya whose expertise spans intellectual property, AI governance, and data policy, with particular attention to Africa's legal and institutional landscape. As Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) at Strathmore University, she oversees research and advisory initiatives on AI policy, data governance, language data, and intellectual property frameworks relevant to Africa and the wider Global South.

She holds an LLD in Mercantile Law from the University of Fort Hare and an LLM from Stellenbosch University. Her academic background informs nearly a decade of engagement in research and policy on the legal foundations of digital economies in Kenya and East Africa. She also co-developed the Nwulite Obodo Open Data Licence (NOODL), designed to support the equitable sharing of African datasets. This work received the 2025 LSGL Research Award and was published in *Law, Technology and Humans*.

Placement/externship partners

1. Accountability Lab (AL), South Africa
2. Africa Trade Desk, Canada
3. African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) Ghana
4. African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya
5. African Trade Policy Centre, UNECA, Ethiopia
6. AI for Good Foundation, US
7. Al-Imran Foundation, South Africa
8. Association des Femmes pour la promotion des Sciences et de la Technologie au Sénégal (AFSTech Senegal)
9. BioCiTi Labs, South Africa
10. Canadian Internet and Public Policy Clinic
11. CARE Canada
12. CEIMIA – Centre of Expertise in Montreal for Artificial Intelligence
13. Choma Museum, Zambia
14. CODE, Canada
15. Community of Practice (CoP) in Innovation and Inclusive Industrialisation – DST/NRF Project, South Africa
16. Corona Management Systems, Nigeria
17. Délégation Générale du Québec à Dakar, Senegal
18. ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREE), Cabo Verde
19. Feminist Alliance for International Action, Canada
20. Future Earth, Canada
21. Gathering for Open Science Hardware (GOSH), US
22. International Institute for Sustainable Development (ISSD), Sweden
23. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for Africa, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Switzerland
24. Jesuit Refugee Service, Nigeria
25. Kazuri Centre, Kenya
26. Laboratoire de Dynamique des Mécanismes Sociaux (LARDYMES) – Université de Lomé, Togo
27. Let's Talk Science, Canada
28. Partnership for Economic Policy, Canada
29. South African Roadies Association
30. Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA), South Africa
31. Trade Facility Organisation (TFO), Canada
32. Woza Moya Project, South Africa

Selected scholarly publications

Esther Mobolayo Adekunbi

Book Chapters

Adekunbi, E. M. (2021). Factors affecting female entrepreneurship in Nigeria: Implications for inclusion and lifelong learning. In A. Abiona, A. Afonja, R. Ojo, O. Aitokhuehi, & F. Olafare (Eds.), *Contemporary Issues in Education and Learning* (pp. 173–190). University of Lagos and Bookshop Ltd.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Adekunbi, E. M., & Adebayo, E. O. (2021). Post COVID-19 crisis: Reflection on system transformation and rethink of rural education in Nigeria. *COEASU Journal of Education*, 8(1), 70–82.

Public Scholarship

Adekunbi, E. M. (2020). *COVID-19: My Experience, My Reflections.* Open AIR.

Adekunbi, E. M. (2020). *Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Southwest States of Nigeria.* Open AIR.

Adekunbi, E. M. (2021). *How Women's Economic Empowerment Is Tackling Poverty in Southwest Nigeria.* Open AIR.

Adekunbi, E. M. *Building Women's Resilience and Leadership in Climate Change and Humanitarian Crises.* Open AIR.

Olayinka Oluwakemi Adeniyi

Books

Kraemer-Mbula, E., Onyango, L., von Hippel, E., Lucarelli, G., & Akinyemi, T. (2023). *Making the invisible visible: Informal innovation in South Africa.*

Book Chapters

Adeniyi, O., & Olomola, O. O. (2021). Policy Issues and Challenges on Teaching Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) to Adolescent Girls with Mental Disabilities in Nigeria: The Way Forward. In Palgrave Macmillan.

Adeniyi, O. O. (2020). Towards an Integrated Approach on Cyberviolence against Women in Africa: A Case Study of Nigeria and South Africa. Book chapter. Palgrave Macmillan.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Adeniyi, O., & Olomola, O. O. (2020). Public Interest Litigation (PIL) as Strategic Legal Mechanism on Women's Socio-economic Rights in Nigeria: Making a Case for Girl Child Education. *European Scientific Journal*, 16(29).

Adeniyi, O. O. (2021). The Human Rights Impact of COVID-19 on African Women: Focus on Nigeria and South Africa. *African Journal of Gender, Society & Development*, 10(3), 13.

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Adeniyi, O. O. (2021). Kidnapped and Made Brides: Advancing Quantum Reparation for Sexual and Gender-based Victims in Conflict Zones. *European Scientific Journal*, 17(13), 60.

Adeniyi, O. O. (2022). Engendering Women Data Use, Privacy, and Protection in Africa: Focus on Data Laws in South Africa and Kenya. *Queen Mary Law Journal*, 3, 52–66.

Policy Briefs

Adeniyi, O. O., & Zalo, M. (2021). *The Impact of AI on Women's Job Loss in Africa's Banking Industry: Focus on Kenya.* Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (CIPIT).

Unpublished and Submitted Works

Adeniyi, O. O. *Trade/African Trade and WTO.* Unpublished manuscript.

Adeniyi, O. O., Rutenberg, I., & Zalo, M. *African Women and Networked Knowledge Economy: The Role of Law and Technology for Sustainable Development.* Submitted book chapter.

Adeniyi, O. O., Rutenberg, I., & Zalo, M. *African Women Entrepreneurs and Open Innovation: Issues and Challenges of Law and Technology.* Submitted journal article.

Dennis Oghenerobor Agelebe

Unpublished Manuscripts

Agelebe, D. O. *Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement: Factoring Green Energy Trade for Sustainable Development.*

Agelebe, D. O. *Digitalization in the Energy Transition Plan of the Economic Community of West African States: Factoring Inclusivity for Sustainable Development in Regulating Innovations.*

Elvis Korku Avenyo

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Avenyo, E. K., & Kraemer-Mbula, E. (2021). Innovation and the Performance of Informal Enterprises in Developing Countries: A Gender Perspective. *International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship*, 13(4), 277–301.

Avenyo, E. K., Mohnen, P., & Konte, M. (2019). The Employment Impact of Product Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa: Firm-level Evidence. *Research Policy*, 48(9), 103806.

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Avenyo, E. K. (2018). *Informal Innovations in Urban Ghana: Data Set and Descriptive Analysis.* UNU-MERIT Working Paper Series, No. 2018-030.

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Dominique Diouf

Other Research Outputs

Diouf, D. *Bringing Sustainability Risks into the Mainstream: The Framing of Sustainability in Big Four Accounting Firms.*

Diouf, D. *Quelle est la place de la femme dans l'écosystème digital au Sénégal ?*

Jake Okechukwu Effoduh

Book Chapters

Effoduh, J. O. (2021). Preparing for Frontier Risks in the New Economy. In *Building Back Broader: Policy Pathways for an Economic Transformation* (pp. 58–70). World Economic Forum.

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Effoduh, J. O. (2021). *Stakeholder Mapping of Artificial Intelligence Actors in Nigeria.* Paradigm Initiative.

Public Scholarship

Effoduh, J. O. (2021). *7 Ways that African States Are Legitimizing Artificial Intelligence.* Open AIR.

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Esther Ekong

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Ekong, E. (2021). Coalescing intellectual property incentives, gender inclusiveness and environmental sustainability for female traditional healers in Nigeria.

Public Scholarship

Ekong, E. (2019). *Gender implications of geographical indications for Ghanaian shea butter.*

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Norris Igbinosa Erhabor

Other Research Outputs

Erhabor, N. I. *Digital repository of low-cost instructional material demonstrations.*

Erhabor, N. I. *Collection of videos, photographs, and step-by-step guides demonstrating how everyday, recycled, and affordable materials can be used to teach science and environmental concepts.*

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Jane Ezirigwe

Book Chapters

Garard, J., Ezirigwe, J., Ayoub, M., et al. (2025). AI and diversity, equity, and inclusion. In *Encyclopedia of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Spirituality.* Springer Nature.

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Sileshi Bedasie Hirko

Books

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Hirko, S. B., & de Beer, J. (2019). Intellectual property and knowledge transfer between universities and industries in Africa: The case of Botswana. *Journal of the Licensing Executives Society*, 54(2), 164.

Ghazaleh Jerban

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Jerban, G. (2020). *Everywhere still invisible: Women and their traditional knowledge.* Open AIR.

Aboubacry Kane

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Kane, A. *L'industrie manufacturière sénégalaise : l'heure de la transformation numérique.* ResearchGate.

Kane, A. (2019). *Les femmes entrepreneures au Sénégal : entre montée en puissance et difficulté d'accès à la technologie et à l'innovation.* Open AIR.

Kane, A. (2020). *Secteur informel sénégalais : après la crise, la survie.* Open AIR.

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Kehinde Medase

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Amankwah-Amoah, J., & Medase, S. K. (2023). Extracting innovation value from intellectual property: Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, 1–35.

Medase, S. K., & Abdul Basit, S. (2021). Trademark and product innovation: The interactive role of quality certification and firm-level attributes. *Innovation and Development*, 1–41.

Medase, S. K., & Wyrwich, M. (2022). The role of innovation for employment growth among firms in developing countries: Evidence from Nigeria. *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*, 14(3), 610–619.

Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou

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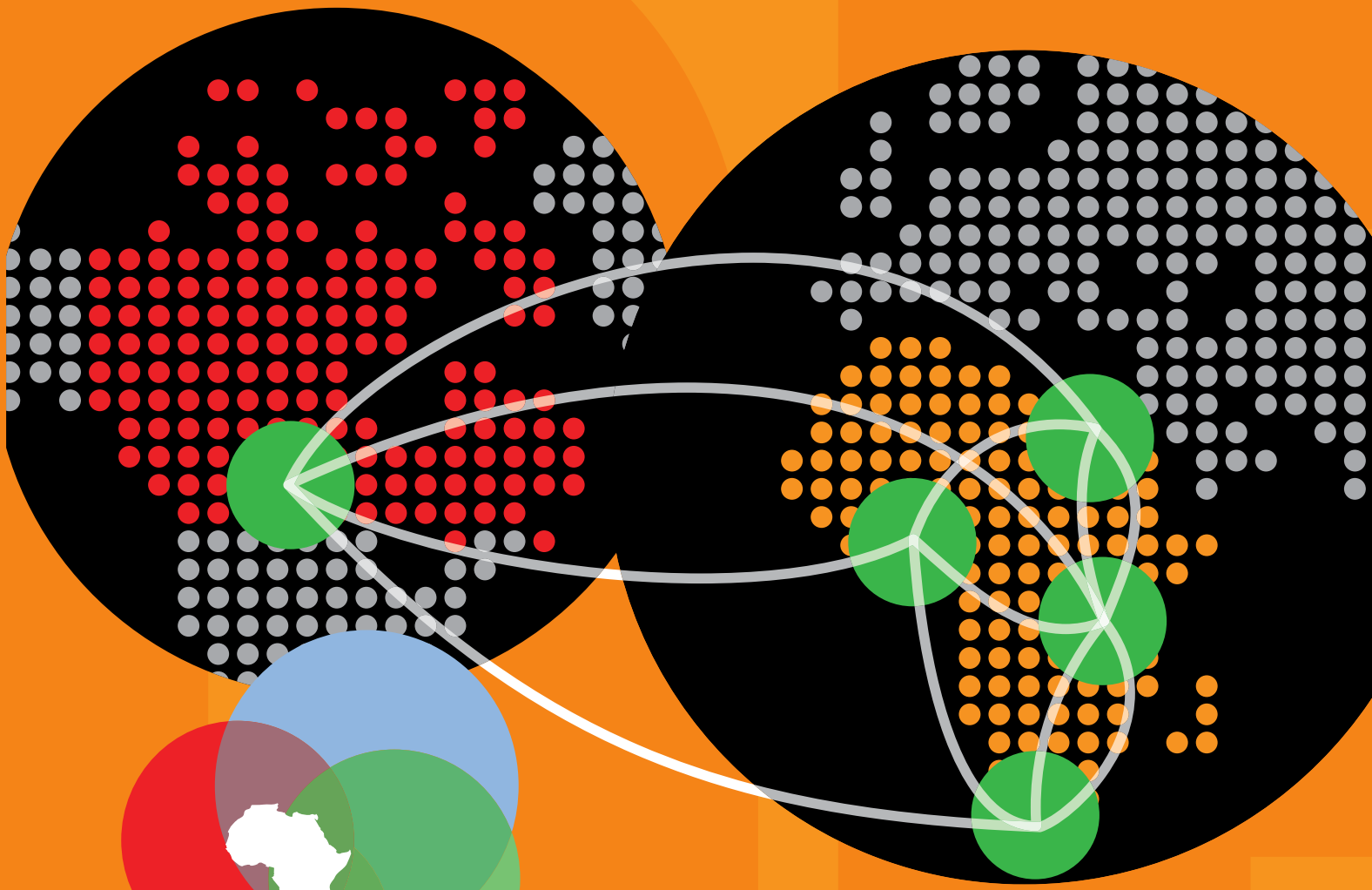

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