

2019

**The AUC International Conference for Research on  
African Challenges (ICRAC), No Poverty**



Cairo/ Egypt  
AUCegypt.edu

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## The Conference

Poverty is among the major problems discussed globally, and Africa is the continent that suffers the most. Many of the disciplines within the social sciences and several outside the social sciences have incorporated poverty as a research topic. Congregating all those topics under one platform create undeniable significance and can pave the road towards concrete applicable solution to that problem. Moreover, it provides the opportunity to further interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary research in this important area that constructs novel methodologies which abridge some steps towards faster and more effective solutions.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is a good collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations in 2015 are broad and somewhat interdependent, yet each has a separate list of targets to achieve. Achieving all 169 targets would signal accomplishing all 17 goals. The SDGs cover social and economic development issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice.

Throughout its history, American University in Cairo (AUC) has balanced a strong commitment to liberal arts education with a concern for the region's needs for practical applications and professional specializations. Today, AUC offers 36 undergraduate, 44 master's and two PhD programs rooted in a liberal arts education that encourages students to think critically and find creative solutions to conflicts and challenges facing both the region and the world. Acknowledging its responsibility as one of the leading universities in Africa, guided by the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and being the global university in Egypt, The AUC decided to take the initiative of hosting an annual peer-reviewed international conference with a generic theme of "Research on African Challenges" and specific themes that alternates biannually and that ensures that:

- Its importance is recognized at an international level.
- Theme is cross disciplinary so as to encourage full participation across disciplines as well as multidisciplinary research

The topic chosen for this year is "NO POVERTY". This conference is intended to be a platform where different disciplines discuss methods combating poverty and provide solutions. It provides an

opportunity for researchers, policy makers and NGOs to meet and present their work as well as extend their networks and reach practical solutions to commonly identified problems.

### **Conference organizers:**

**AUC President:** [Francis J. Ricciardone](#)

**AUC Provost:** [Dr. Ehab Abdelrahman](#)

**Associate provost for Research Innovation and Creativity:** [Dr. Alaa El-din Adris](#)

### **Conference Speakers**

**Key Note Speaker:** To be determined

#### ***Plenary speakers:***

1. Dr. Aderanti Adepaju
2. Dr. Amber Murrey-Ndewa
3. Dr. Andrew Fischer
4. Dr. Arjuna Sathiaseelan
5. Dr. Bruno Crepon
6. Dr. Claudio Bogliotti
7. Dr. Damtew Teferra
8. Dr. Dzodzi Tsikata
9. Dr. Farhad Hossain
10. Dr. Florence Ssereo
11. Dr. Francois lenfant
12. Dr. Gamal Gorekeh Nkrumah
13. Dr. Ibrahim ElBadawi
14. Dr. Loren Landau
15. Dr. Mohanad Hammami
16. Dr. Moses Kiggundu
17. Dr. N'Dri Therese Assie-lumumba
18. Dr. Prashant Kumar
19. Dr. Richard Matthew
20. Dr. Rudi Pauwels
21. Dr. Safaa El-kogali
22. Dr. Shaker Mousa
23. Dr. Stefan Dercon

### **Venues**

The conference will take place in the AUC campus in New Cairo. To have a look at our campus and meeting facilities please follow the following link

<https://www.aucegypt.edu/about/visitor-information/new-cairo-campus>



## **Conference Governance and Format**

- The ICRAAC is managed by an Organizing committee chaired by the [Associate Provost for Research Innovation and Creativity](#)
- Organizing committee
  - Conference Chair: AP-RIC Alaa Adris
  - Conference Program Director: Shams Albatrawy
  - Organizing Committee Members: Alaa Adris+ Shams Albatrawy+ track chairs (Abeer ElShennawy, Ghada Barsoum, Gerda Heck, Hassan El-Fawal and Malak Zaalouk)
- Sponsors: TBD
- Academic Committee: chairs and co-chairs for each track constitute the academic committee of the track
- The five tracks represent five disciplines serving the overarching theme of “No Poverty” ;
  1. Business (Different Policies effect on Poverty Alleviation),
  2. Global affairs and public policy (Poverty, Social policy and governance)
  3. Education ( Combating poverty through education)
  4. Humanities and Social sciences (Economies of poverty)
  5. Science and Engineering (Science contribution to alleviating poverty)
- Each track is chaired by a faculty member
- The Five tracks will run in parallel during the two days
- The Track will be introduced by a plenary session of the 5 co-chairs
- The track is formed of 4-5 sub-tracks, each can have a different sub-theme
- Each sub-track is chaired by one or more faculty member and co-chaired by an international prominent researcher in the field. All international co-chairs constitute the members of the plenary and conclusive sessions relevant to their track.
- Each sub-track is expected to run 4-5 sessions, 2 in the first day and 3 in the second, which will run in parallel, so we are expecting to run up to 20 sessions at a time.
- After abstracts are rated, the Executive Committee will organize sessions by overall topics and distribute highest rated abstracts into the sessions. If an abstract is accepted for presentation, the author is REQUIRED to present material as stated in the peer-reviewed abstract
- Each session will run for 90-120 minutes
- A multi-disciplinary plenary session for each track will conclude day 2

***This format is subject to some changes after abstract submission and evaluation***

### **Structure of the Sessions**

**Track B:** Trade, Responsible Business and Labor Market for Poverty Reduction

**Track Chair:** Dr. Abeer ElShennawy

<b>Sub-track</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
B1	Trade, Structural Transformation and Poverty Reduction	Dr. Rami Galal.	Dr. Stephan Dercon,
B2	Labour Market Policies to reduce Poverty	Dr. Jamal Haidar	Dr. Bruno Crépon
B3	Poverty Alleviation: Leading through Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Dr. Sherwatt Ibrahim & Dr. Elham Metwally	Dr. Moses Kiggundu
B4	Responsible Business and Poverty Reduction	Dr. Rania Hussein	Dr. Francois Lenfant

**Track E:** Combating Poverty through education

**Track Chair:** Dr. Malak Zaalouk

<b>Sub-track</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
G1	Girls' Education and Gender Equity	Dr. Malak Zaalouk and Dr. Ibrahim Karkouti	Dr. N'Dri Therese Assie-lumumba
G2	Quality Education and technologically enhanced Learning	Dr. Heba eldeghaidy and Dr. Gihan Osman	Dr. Florence Ssereo
G3	Social mobility	Dr. Thomas DeVere Wolsey	Dr. Safaa ElKogali
G4	Higher education	Dr. Teklu Abate	Dr. Damtew Teferra

**Track S:** Science contribution in alleviating Poverty

**Track Chair:** Dr. Hassan El-Fawal

<b>Sub-track</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
S 1		Dr. Hani Sweilam	Dr. Claudio Bogliotti

	Water-Energy-Food Nexus and community empowerment for nutritional security ( Food security , nutrition and health)		
S 2	Poverty, health and the environment: Sanitation and Air Pollution and Solutions	Dr. Ahmed El Gendy & Dr. Nageh Allam	Dr. Prashant Kumar
S 3	Disease biomarkers: Enabling Technologies for Disease and Risk Identification in Poor Communities	Dr. Hassan Azzazy	Dr. Rudi Pauwels
S 4	Traditional Medicine Alternatives, Empirically, and New Therapeutics	Dr. Hassan El-Fawal and Dr. Anwar Abdelnaser	Dr. Shaker Mousa
S 5	Holistic Reorientation of Research and Education from Curative to Preventive	Dr. Hassan El-Fawal	Dr. Mouhanad Hamami
S 6	Architecture for the poor	Dr. Khaled Tarabieh	Dr. Rasem Jamal Badran,
S 7	Poverty in the digital world	Dr. Tamer El-Batt	Dr. Arjuna Sathiaseelan

**Track H: Economies of Poverty**

**Track Chair:** Dr. Gerda Heck

<b>Sub track</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
H1	Gendering Agency and Economies in the Global South.	Dr. Holly Oberle	Dr. Amber Murrey-Ndewa
H2	Resource sustainability in Africa	Dr.Tamer Elgindi	Dr. Richard Matthew
H3	Economies of poverty and migration	Dr. Gerda Heck & Dr. Iika Eickhof	Dr. Loren Landau
H4	The New Politics of Redistribution in Africa	Dr. Hania Sholkamy	Dr. Dzodzi Tsikata

**Track P:** Poverty, Social policy and Governance

**Track Chair:** Dr. Ghada Barsoum

<b>Sub track</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
P1	Wealth creation and Economic Inequality in Africa	Dr. Hamid Ali	Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi
P2	The evolution and changes in social protection policies in the continent issues of poverty and inequality	Dr. Ghada Barsoum	Dr. Andrew Fischer
P3	The role of media in addressing issues of poverty and inequality	Dr. Firas Al-Atrqchi	Dr. Gamal Gorekeh Nkrumah
P3	Migration, poverty, social policy	Dr. Ibrahim Awad	Dr. Aderanti Adepoju
P1	Governance challenges and their impact on poverty and social policies	Dr. Shahjahan Bhuiyan	Dr. Farhad Hossain

### **Notes to Authors**

- Please DO NOT send us a full copy of your paper (neither before nor after the conference).
- Abstracts sent by email cannot be accepted.
- Each participant can submit and present one paper as first author.
- The submitting author will be considered the presenting author.
- All submitting/presenting authors can be second author of one more paper.
- Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.
- Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and selected for presentation the scientific committee.

### **Abstract submission platform**

The link will be provided on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### **Abstract submission deadline**

15 May 2019



## **Important Deadlines**

17 <sup>th</sup> March, 2019	Publication of the Call for Papers
20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2019	Abstract submission opens in ConfTool pro
15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2019	Abstract submission deadline
1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2019	Peer-Review deadline
15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019	Notification of acceptance, opening of participant registration
4th- 5th December 2019	AUC international conference on African Challenges in Cairo, Egypt

## **Information you should know about ConfTool Pro2019**

1. Link - will be provided on March 20, 2019
3. You need to create an account in ConfTool pro 2019 in order to submit an abstract and register for participation in the AUC International Conference on African challenges
3. Validate your e-mail address in ConfTool pro 2019. You can do this through the link sent in the confirmation message which you will receive from the system, once you have created a user account. This will help to avoid problems with incorrect e-mail addresses and it will ensure that you receive important information about your abstract and the conference.
4. In ConfTool pro, you can always 'Edit User Account Details'. There is a direct link for this in the 'Overview' of your ConfTool pro 2019 account. Here, you can change your address, affiliation, information for the visa invitation letter offered through ConfTool pro and more.
5. Please take into account that we will consider the submitting author to be the presenting author. If you and your co-authors change your mind about who will (or can) present the paper at the conference, send us a mail. We can change this until the deadline for participant registration for paper presenters.
6. Visit and use your ConfTool Pro 2019 account regularly. Log in and find out about the status of your abstract, your registration and payment details, print out your invoice, download invitation and confirmation letters and browse the conference agenda once it is accessible.

***All relevant links will be available on 20<sup>th</sup> March 20, 2019***

## Call for Papers

### **B track: Trade, Responsible Business and Labor Market for Poverty Reduction**

#### **Sub-track B1: Labour market policies to reduce reduction**

**Chair: Dr. Jamal Haider**

**Co-chair: Dr. Bruno Crépon**

Alleviating poverty is a key challenge for Africa. To address this challenge, one needs to acknowledge that the primary problem of the poor is that, by definition, they have low income and precarious jobs. The best way to alleviate poverty is to increase the income of the poor by providing productive jobs that lead to higher income. Among other labor-market channels, reducing poverty could, thus, happen via generating employment, increasing employability, and making the labor markets more efficient. In addition minimum wage policies, policies to alleviate child labor as well as immigration have all played a role in reducing poverty. The impact of job matching schemes, on-the-job training, job-coaching, professional counseling, and vocational training on youth self-employment and youth wages and how all this impact poverty needs to be examined. That said, submissions of both theoretical and empirical academic papers are welcome as long as they are related to the theme of "labor market policies to reduce poverty".

#### **Biographies**

**Jamal Ibrahim Haider** is an assistant professor of economics at The American University in Cairo (AUC). He joined AUC after completing a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard University. He holds a PhD in economics from the Paris School of Economics, University of Paris-1 Pantheon Sorbonne (FR), MA degree in applied economics from Johns Hopkins University (US) and MSc degree in international finance from Cass Business School, City University London (UK). Previously, he worked at the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, International Monetary Fund, and Institute of International Finance in Washington DC. His fields of specialization are international economics and development economics.

**Bruno Crépon** is a researcher at Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique (CREST) and an Associate Professor at ENSAE and École Polytechnique. The focus of his research is on policy evaluation with special attention to labor market policies. Bruno is a Co-Chair of Jameel poverty action lab; J-PAL's Labor Markets sector and a member of J-PAL's executive committee. Bruno earned his PhD from Université de Paris, Sorbonne.

#### **Sub-track B2: Responsible business and Poverty Alleviation: Leading through Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

**Chair: Dr. Sherwat Ibrahim, Dr. Elham Metwally**

**Co-chair: Dr. Moses Kiggundu**

Poverty reduction through entrepreneurship and innovation can be seen as an efficient path to change the poor's attitudes and behaviors from a passive to a more active mode. The generation of new business models among the poor can provide the means for the poor to change their own lives. Scholars advocate BOP entrepreneurship, women entrepreneurship, public entrepreneurship, grassroots entrepreneurship, inclusive entrepreneurship, innovative entrepreneurship and sharing economy as innovative models to address poverty eradication. Focusing on Africa's productive enterprises, including locally owned businesses, the informal sector, start-ups and scale-ups, this track calls for papers examining entrepreneurship and innovation across different sectors such as health, education, technology, and the social and physical sciences with an eye toward Africa.

## **Biographies**

**Sherwat Elwan Ibrahim** is an associate Professor of Operations Management at The American University in Cairo (AUC), and the Director of the MBA programs at AUC School of Business. She holds a master's and Ph.D. in technology management from Stevens Institute of Technology. Her Ph.D. dissertation was awarded 'Best Dissertation', by the Wesley J. Howe School of Technology Management, and has several publications in prestigious journals including Journal of Economic Geography, Strategic Outsourcing Journal, Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management, and Management Decision. She has been jointly awarded the Ted Eschenbach prize for Best paper in Engineering Management Journal, and the "Bright Idea" award, for her paper in New Jersey Publications. Her current research interests include sustainable supply chain management, responsible sourcing, supplier governance, and supply chain technology adoption. Elwan teaches several courses in the area of operations and technology management including supply chain management, operations for competitive advantage, product and process innovation, and technology and innovation strategy. Elwan is Partner & Senior consultant at Innovety, an innovation management consulting firm and an affiliate of Boston-based IXL-Center, where she leads several engagements with the private sector, government, and NGO accounts, and consults on innovation practices, strategy, and management of technology. She is an expert on SMEs' business growth and development and was a core faculty member of Goldman Sachs (GS) Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership Program (WEL) that has overseen the graduation of hundreds of women entrepreneurs in the Middle East as part of GS 10,000 Women Initiative. Elwan has received Executive Education training from Wharton and Kellogg business schools and has also received training on Sustainable Entrepreneurship from the Centre on Sustainable Consumption & Production (CSCP) in Wuppertal, Germany.

**Elham Metwally** is an adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Business at the American University in Cairo, and had several years of teaching experience at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She is a graduate of the American University in Cairo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Psychology, and a Master Degree in Business Administration. She is a graduate of Maastricht School of Management, the Netherlands with a Doctorate of Business Administration Degree. She worked for a dozen of years in the realm of banking, namely in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). Then she took a position as an Assistant Director, and later Director of Scholarships at the American University in Cairo. She is a Founding Executive of the Africa Academy of Management, <http://www.africa-aom.org/> (link is external), a member of the Academy of Management in USA, the European Academy of Management (EURAM), the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM), the Middle East Council for Small Business & Entrepreneurship (MCSBE), an Holland Alumni Network in the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC). She has several scholarly publications and her research and teaching interests

include strategic management, organizational behavior, human resources management, organizational development, banking, and entrepreneurship and small businesses.

**Moses N. Kiggundu** is Professor of Management and International Business at the Sprott School of Business. He is cross-appointed to Carleton University's Institute of African Studies. Dr. Kiggundu's career is focused on advancing management scholarship in and about Africa and globally through research, education, policy, practice and service. He is founding editor of the Africa Journal of Management (AJOM), published by Taylor & Francis for the Africa Academy of Management. He also serves as an Advisor and member of the Strategic Studies Group for the African Capacity Building Foundation. He was the inaugural recipient of the Emerald and Africa Academy of Management Trailblazer Award for advancing management scholarship in 2011. Dr. Kiggundu works with and mentors doctoral and graduate students and faculty pursuing studies and research in advancing management scholarship in and about Africa and globally. He is currently working with students and faculty at universities in North America and Africa. His work also examines development issues related to China and Africa, as well as Canada and Africa. Dr. Kiggundu works with African organizations in the public and private sectors, as well NGOs, on various issues of development. Dr. Kiggundu's research focuses on Africa as it connects to the rest of the world. He is interested in the study of conceptual and practical questions of building state and non-state capacities in open societies for the facilitation of effective, gainful and equitable participation in the global economy and society.

### **Sub-track B3: Responsible business and Poverty reduction**

**Chair: Dr. Rania Hussein**

**Co-chair: Dr. Francois Lenfant**

Business in Africa is increasing. Entrepreneurship, innovation and an educated workforce can lead the continent toward growth and prosperity. African countries need to ensure that growth is responsible and it paves the road toward market stability and sustainable development. Responsible business is thus an ongoing quest for Africa. Poverty reduction is a direct outcome of responsible business. This theme incorporates studies focused on how can African counties attempt to achieve equitable and prosperous future through sustainable business. Research papers focused on fostering economic development, addressing inequalities, improving energy access, food security, as well as new ways to create fair and reasonable work environment, among others, are welcomed.

### **Biographies**

**Rania S. Hussein** is an Assistant Professor of Marketing at the Business School in The American University in Cairo. She was awarded her MBA degree from Georgia State University, USA in 2001 and her PhD degree from The University of Nottingham, UK in 2010. She is a Fulbright scholar and has conducted joint research with George Washington University in 2014. Her research interests include internet marketing, social media and innovation adoption. She has published a book on Adoption of Web based Marketing in the travel industry with Lambert Academic Publishing in 2011. Her research appears in journals such as Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing, Online Information Review, the International Journal of Marketing and Management Research and the International Journal of Customer Relationship Marketing and Management. Besides teaching marketing core courses, she is

particularly specialized in teaching Internet Marketing. She provides consultation and advice to online start-ups on how to manage their online businesses.

**Francois Lenfant** is researcher at the University of Amsterdam Business School, and lecturer at the Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. His areas of expertise are in multi-stakeholder partnerships in Africa, corporate social responsibility, sustainable development, and the economic dimensions of peace processes. His PhD thesis “On business, conflict and peace: Interaction and collaboration in Central Africa” explored business interaction with peace and conflict in Central Africa, mostly Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has published articles in different journals ranging from Journal of Business Ethics to Development in Practice. François also carries out research and evaluation assignments in Africa for governments, NGOs and multilateral institutions such as UNICEF. François holds a M.A. in International Development from the American University in Washington, DC, and a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. For more information and an overview of his publications,

### **Sub-track B4: Trade, Structural Transformation and Poverty Reduction**

**Chair: Dr. Rami Galal,**

**Co-chair: Dr. Stefan Dercon**

Sustainable poverty reduction results fundamentally from structural transformation that involves the relative growth of employment in labor intensive and higher-productivity sectors. Unlike East Asia, this phenomenon has not been seen in Africa or the Middle East. In these regions, most of the growth did not sufficiently involve a movement of resources from rural poor areas to urban rich ones in the form of expansion of high-tech industries. At the heart of the problem is market failures, ill-advised government policies, and poor human capital development. Trade barriers have also impeded the expansion of labor intensive export oriented industries. This session would invite submissions to address the topic at hand from different angles. Submission can be at the macro- or microeconomic level, covering one or a group of countries comparatively.

### **Biographies**

**Rami Galal** is an assistant professor of economics at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Rami Galal is an Assistant Professor of Economics at The American University in Cairo. His research covers issues in development economics, labor economics, and inequality in the Middle East and North Africa. He has also worked with the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of London (SOAS) and holds an MA in Economics from the American University in Cairo, and a BSc in Economics and Philosophy from Boston University.

**Stefan Dercon** is Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and the Economics Department, and a Fellow of Jesus College. He is also Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies. Between 2011 and 2017, he was Chief Economist of the Department of International Development (DFID), the government department in charge with the UK's aid policy and spending. In this position, he provided strategic advice, and was responsible for ensuring the use of evidence in decision making.

Before joining the University of Oxford, he held positions at the University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the Catholic University of Leuven, and WIDER (Helsinki), part of the United Nations University.

His research interests concern what keeps some people and countries poor: the failures of markets, governments and politics, mainly in Africa, and how to achieve change. Current research work focuses on the psychological challenges of poverty, the political economy of development, the challenges of industrialization in Africa, the challenges and opportunities of new technologies, and how to organize and finance responses to natural disasters and protracted humanitarian crises.

His latest book, “Dull Disasters? How Planning Ahead Will Make A Difference” was published in 2016, and provides a blueprint for renewed application of science, improved decision making, better preparedness, and pre-arranged finance in the face of natural disasters.

## **Track G: Combating Poverty through Education**

### **Sub-track G1: Social mobility**

**Chair: Dr. Thomas DeVere Wolsey**

**Co-chair: Dr. Safaa Elkogali**

Economic growth in Africa continues to improve, but at a slow and irregular pace (World Bank, 2018), and it does not reach every sector of the population. Social mobility, the nature and rate of change between economic strata and demographic classes, is stagnant in many ways. Children tend to stay in the same occupations held by their parents, for example. The sons of subsistence farmers tend to remain farmers. Approximately 10 percent of the population can make the transition from agricultural work to other non-farm jobs (Bossuroy, 2013). Women have a more difficult time entering the labor force or moving to jobs that offer increased economic opportunity, in part because women in Africa are often not as well-educated, and they face additional challenges to upward mobility due to social expectations, child-rearing, and marriage at a young age.

Education is a path upward, but in many African contexts the quality of education varies greatly in quality. Parents who are themselves poorly educated lack the knowledge required to overcome obstacles such as poor schooling, social barriers, or internal conflicts. Though efforts are underway in some countries to improve public education opportunities and access, these efforts are often vulnerable to political influences that tend to change rapidly. This strand focuses on exploring what is known about upward social mobility in Africa and discovering possible innovative solutions to stagnant social mobility through improved education.

The ICRAC organizers encourage academics and professionals to share their research and their relevant experiences at the conference. An abstract of [insert word count] proposing a session or workshop should be submitted to [insert contact] no later than [insert date] for possible inclusion in the Conference. Submissions will be peer reviewed and full papers will be considered for publication in Conference proceedings.

### **Biographies**

**Thomas DeVere Wolsey**, Ed. D., teaches graduate courses in research and literacy in the Graduate School of Education at The American University in Cairo. He leads professional development for teachers

in Guatemala, Mexico, China, on the Hopi Reservation and throughout the United States, among other places. He is the author or co-author of seven books for teachers and teacher educators with two more in development. Dr. Wolsey has developed training materials for the California Department of Education, Text Project, San Diego State University and North County (San Diego) Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program. His specialties include exploring intersections of literacy and technology, middle grades and secondary literacy practices, teacher preparation, and green school design.

**Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali** is the Education Practice Manager for the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank based in Washington DC. She is a leading expert with 20 years of experience in international development. In her 13 years at the World Bank, Ms El-Kogali has occupied a number of positions including Lead Specialist at the Education Global Practice, Sector Leader in Human Development for the Caribbean in the Latin America and Caribbean region, Senior Economist at the Human Development department, Chief Economist at the Middle East and North Africa region office, and Economist at the Education department of the Sub-Saharan Africa region. In addition to the World Bank, Ms El-Kogali has also worked with the Population Council as Regional Director for West Asia and North Africa based in Cairo, Egypt. She has also worked previously as a researcher with the Population Council and the Economic Research Forum (ERF) in Egypt. Her experience includes management, policy dialogue, research, and project design in over 15 countries. She authored a number of studies and recently published a book entitled: *Expanding Opportunities for the Next Generation: Early Childhood Development in the Middle East and North Africa*. Ms El-Kogali is a Sudanese national and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, USA and a Master of Philosophy degree with distinction in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK.

## **Sub-track G2: Gender equity and Girl's education**

**Chair: Dr. Malaak Zaalouk, Dr. Ibrahim Karkouti**

**Co-chair: Dr. N'Dri Thérèse Assié-Lumumba**

Although many reform initiatives were launched to bridge the gender gap in higher education classrooms, research indicates that female graduation rates in African universities are still falling short of anticipated goals due to systematic discriminatory policies and practices against minority groups. The purpose of this conference session is to examine the effects of inequity on post-secondary female student persistence and degree attainment. Specifically, it will (a) identify the factors that increase attrition and dropout rates among female students; (b) establish the fundamental link between gender equity, persistence, and post-secondary degree attainment rates; (c) present policies that govern student rights to higher education; and (d) expose gender inequity practices at African colleges and universities. Scholars in the field of higher education are highly encouraged to share their research findings and experiences related to gender equity, persistence, and degree attainment at African post-secondary institutions. Policy briefs that aim at addressing unjust admission and enrolment practices are also relevant. All submissions will be peer-reviewed and complete papers will be considered for publication in the conference proceedings. This session should generate recommendations for practice

and future research that aim at expanding educational opportunities for minority groups in Africa and formulating context-specific policies that bridge the gender gap in African educational systems

The issue of Girl's education within the overall gender equality normative global goal has survived many international calls for governments to commit to education. It has appeared in the Education for All EFA movement, in the Dakar framework for action where The United Nations Girls Education Initiative UNGEI was born, it reemerged in the Millennium Development goals and now has reasserted its importance through the sustainable development goals. The Education 2030 Framework for Action, a tool aimed at helping the international community achieve SDG 4 on education, explicitly recognizes gender equality as a guiding principle linked to the realization of the right to education. It states clearly that girls and boys, women and men, must be equally empowered 'in and through education'. Although goal five is totally devoted to gender equality it is clear that all goals are meant to be interrelated in a framework that supports equity, empowerment and the eradication of poverty. Hence girl's education and women's empowerment are key to the achievement of the goals on health, employment and sustainable development. Moreover it is clear that the poorest quintile of the world population will often coincide with the representation of a compounded profile of a rural girl who is colored, disabled and out of school. Although the world at large has made great progress in decreasing the gender gap in education it still persists in many parts of Africa and at the different levels of education.

Achieving gender parity and equality is a most complex undertaking. It is not only the business of education nor is it the sole responsibility of governments. It requires concerted efforts from different stakeholders and through a variety of initiatives that reflect the multi-sectoral nature of the problem. It not only looks at the number of enrolled girls but also looks at how they are treated, what role models they might follow, how they are portrayed in curricula and which areas of learning they are guided to. Inequality happens in a context that is political, cultural and economic.

The American University in Cairo all Africa conference to be held in the fall of 2019 with a focus on No poverty will be an excellent opportunity to bring together all those concerned with girls' education and gender equality in the continent. Papers presented are encouraged to offer strong analytical frameworks around the barriers to girls' education as well as offer innovative solutions. Evidence based discussions will be the norm. Moreover good practices from Africa are very welcome touching on a variety of topics including regional initiatives, leadership, policy frameworks, financial approaches, curriculum design, teacher sensitization, school facilities and building, gender audits, gender sensitization, community support, poverty alleviation programs, social protection and more. Papers and sessions should be a good mix of academic analyses as well as policy and practical recommendations while making the links between no poverty and the education of girls evident. Submissions will be peer reviewed and full papers could be considered for publication as an edited book or as a journal special issue



## **Biographies**

**Malak Zaalouk** is professor of practice and the director of Graduate School of Educations (GSE) Middle East Institute of Higher Education. Malak has previously served as UNICEF Regional Senior Education Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She led the founding of Egyptian community schools and has promoted girls' education and quality education reform and has been a noted global leader on issues of human rights and gender equity. She has published widely on issues of development in both English and Arabic. Malak holds a diploma in educational planning from the International Institute of Educational Planning IIEP in Paris, a PhD in social anthropology from the University of Hull, an MA in sociology from the American University in Cairo, and a BA in political science from The American University in Cairo. Her research interests include political economy of reform and social change, gender, education and development, empowerment, participation and development, liberation education, comparative education, quality education, community participation and education, transitions from school to life.

**Ibrahim Karkouti** Ibrahim M. Karkouti is an independent thinker, a young scholar and a life-long learner who recently defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of Hartford, CT - USA. Karkouti holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration from UHART, an Ed.M. in Educational Leadership from Qatar University, and a B.A. in Advertising from the Lebanese International University. Ten years of professional experience have taught him that learning has no boundaries and that education matters the most when it is used to remedy the deleterious effects of segregation, racism, sectarianism and other forms of discriminatory practices that prevent historically excluded populations from attaining their basic rights of education, healthcare and prosperity.

Karkouti's research focuses on (a) diversity issues in higher education, (b) the elements that aid in the facilitation of the use of technology in the classroom and (c) the types of social support K-12 teachers need to embrace and implement reform. His work on the importance of diversity in higher education appeared in scholarly journals such as *College Student Journal* and *Education*. In addition, he participated in the local and international conference and was invited for lectures and presentations at the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University.

Previously, Karkouti worked as high school instructor and extra-curricular activities coordinator at a private international school in Doha - Qatar. He has over 10 years of teaching and research experience at K-12 and higher education settings and is looking forward to assuming more leadership roles at the American University in Cairo.

**N'Dri Thérèse Assié-Lumumba**, who is the President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES, 2016-2019) and served in 2015-2016 as President of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), is a Professor of African and Diaspora education, comparative and international education, social institutions, African social history, and the study of gender in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. She joined Cornell in 1991 as a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow and Ford Foundation/Africana Studies Fellow. She is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. She served as Director of the Cornell Program on Gender and Global Change (GGC) and as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) of the Africana Studies.

Assié-Lumumba earned her Ph. D. in Comparative Education (Economics and Sociology of Education with Pi Lambda Theta Honors) from the University of Chicago in 1982, two Masters and two BAs (Licence) in Sociology and History, respectively, from Université Lyon II, Lyon (France) between 1973 and 1975.

She has been Visiting Professor in the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE) at Hiroshima University (Japan) and Distinguished Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo (Egypt). She is Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), Extraordinary Professor in the Education Policy Studies at the Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Diasporan Fellow in the department of Sociology (UG-Carnegie Diaspora Programme) at the University of Ghana, Chercheur Associé at Centre de Recherches Architecturales et Urbaines (CRAU) at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), and Research Affiliate of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance of the University of Houston, Houston (Texas). She is co-founder and Associate Director of the Pan-African Studies and Research Center in International Relations and Education for Development (CEPARRED), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). Prior to coming to Cornell, she was a Resident Fellow in the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in Paris (France), held teaching and administrative positions in the Lomé (Togo) CIRSED doctoral program for researchers and administrators in education for francophone countries, the Ministry of National Education Mali (planning unit), Bard College and Vassar College (New York, USA).

Assié-Lumumba has published extensively articles in refereed journals, chapters in books and peer-reviewed reports. Her article "Educational and Economic Reforms, Gender Equity, and Access to Schooling in Africa" published in the International Journal of Comparative Sociology, received the 2001 Joyce Cain Award for Distinguished Research on African Descendants offered by the Comparative and International Education Society. She serves on editorial committees of prestigious journals. Her monographs, edited and co-edited books include: *Les Africaines dans la politique: Femmes Baoulé de Côte d'Ivoire* (L'Harmattan, Paris 1996); *African Voices in Education* (Juta Publishers, Lansdowne, South Africa 2000); *Cyberspace, Distance Learning, and Higher Education in Developing Countries: Old and Emergent Issues of Access, Pedagogy and Knowledge Production* (Brill, Leiden and Boston 2004); *Higher Education in Africa: Crises, Reforms and Transformation* (CODESRIA, Dakar 2006) and *African Higher Education in Transition: Recurrent Impediments, Emerging Challenges and New Potentialities* (CODESRIA, Dakar, Forthcoming).

### **Sub-track G3: African higher education and poverty alleviation**

**Chair: Dr. Teklu Abate Bekele**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Damtew Teferra**

Historically, studies on rate of return were used to allocate funding to education. According to a series of World Bank studies, the rate of return of higher education was purported to be lower than basic education. These studies were mainly used as a rationale for the limited public funding of higher education in the developing world.

In 2015, the World Bank, in reversal to its long-held position, declared that the rate of return for African higher education "is not only high, but that at 21 percent, it is among the highest in the world" (Teferra, 2016, 11). More recent findings also indicated that the "economic returns for higher education graduates are the highest in the entire educational system — an estimated 17 percent increase in earnings as compared with 10 percent for primary and 7 percent for secondary education" (World Bank, 2017, n.p.).

Currently, multilateral organizations and governments firmly acknowledge the importance of higher education for socio-economic development. The role of higher education in building technical and professional capacity and bolstering pre-higher education is stressed. The World Bank and other organizations also call for a greater role of states in advancing higher education; countries are advised not to focus only on rate of return analysis but also take account of the sub-sector's major external benefits, which are more holistic in directly combating poverty.

African higher education (public and private universities, colleges, technical training institutes, and vocational schools) is beset with insufficient capacity to promoting African culture; little consideration of emerging needs (e.g. the environment, terrorism, peace and conflict resolution); limited capacity in improving quality of life in rural communities; limited contribution to ease youth/graduate unemployment; negligence of human rights abuses in society; and limited willingness to introduce meaningful autonomy and good governance at the institutional level. More than ever before, these call for, a significant reconceptualization of research on African higher education.

The American University in Cairo organizes an international multidisciplinary conference with a comprehensive theme on poverty elimination. The higher education sub-track of the conference aims to significantly improve our understanding of the role of higher education in directly promoting socio-economic development and eliminating poverty. This is intended to be achieved through 1) a robust understanding of the plethora of challenges higher education is currently facing; 2) re-conceptualizing higher education governance, management, research, teaching, and learning models; and 3) communicating the findings to African higher education institutions, development partners, governments, and ministries of education for bigger impact. The conference could also create opportunities for academics and professionals interested in African higher education to create a forum for further networking and cooperation.

Interested individuals are invited to submit abstracts not more than 300 words on areas of their scholarly works related to higher education governance, management, research, teaching, learning, funding, among others, all within the context of socio-economic development and poverty elimination. Within these topics, contributors could consider cross-cutting issues of quality, relevance, and equity. The abstracts should have theoretical, conceptual, and/or empirical depth, clearly reflecting on recent developments in higher education and society. Submissions are encouraged to challenge or re-conceptualize existing models, approaches, cultures, or frameworks. Post-modern, post-colonial, critical perspectives, and multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are also encouraged. Policy-oriented abstracts, which are supported by relevant theory and practice, are also relevant. Contributors are advised to avoid using anecdotal evidence; case experiences need to be put together in a coherent way so that they can provide useful policy or theory options.

### **Biographies**

**Teklu Abate Bekele** is Associate Professor of International and Comparative Education (ICE) at the Graduate School of Education, The American University in Cairo (AUC). Prior to joining the AUC, Bekele worked as Research Fellow, Research Associate, Lecturer and Senior Lecturer of ICE at the Department of Education, the University of Oslo, Norway.

Bekele was part of over 80 commissions who evaluated Master's theses in ICE, Higher Education and Education Policies for Global Development programs at the University of Oslo. For nearly a decade, Bekele has been studying the fields of teaching and learning, technology in education, quality of

education, education reform, workplace learning and emerging knowledge production cultures, employing qualitative and quantitative methodologies. He also participated in international and interdisciplinary projects involving scholars from America, Europe, Asia and Africa and is currently serving as Board Member for the Nordic Comparative and International Education Society. He also regularly reviews papers for international academic journals including Educational Technology and Society journal. Bekele was awarded twice the University of Oslo's Quota Scholarship in relation to his graduate and doctoral studies.

**Damtew Teferra** is Professor of higher education and leader of Higher Education Training and Development at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. He has been the founder and director of the International Network for Higher Education in Africa, earlier at the Center for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston College, now at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, for 10 years now. Teferra was the former director for Africa and the Middle East of the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program in New York. He was (former) founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of African Higher Education and the recently launched International Journal of African Higher Education and the Chronicle of African Higher Education. He is author of Scientific Communication in African Universities: External Assistance and National Needs (RoutledgeFalmer, 2003) and lead (and sole) editor of the award-winning book African Higher Education: An International Reference Handbook (Indiana University Press, 2003) and other three books: African Higher Education: The International Dimension (CIHE, Boston College and Association of African Universities, 2008), Higher Education and Globalization: Challenges, Threats and Opportunities for Africa (University of Maastricht and INHEA (CIHE) 2010), and Funding Higher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). Professor Teferra holds academic credentials from institutions in Africa, Europe and the United States.

#### **Sub-track G4: Quality Education and Technology**

**Chair: Dr. Heba Eldeghaidy, Dr. Gihan Osman**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Florence Sseero**

Poverty and education in Africa form a vicious cycle that prevents the continent and many of its inhabitants for achieving its potential for development and prosperity. An educated citizenship is vital for sustainable economic growth and the reduction of poverty and unemployment. In many African countries, large portions of the children remain out of school. The situation is even more dismal for girls and youth in their late teens. The rate of gross enrollment in tertiary education in sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest in the world. Although tremendous progress has made towards the education for all goals, the road to the full attainment is still long.

However, international organizations and reports imply that the full impact of education for all (EFA) cannot be realized with sufficient attention to quality and not just access. Student test scores by global standards lag behind, and research implies that many of those children who do go to school do not master the basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills. An increasing body of evidence implies that quality education needs requires focus on variables that influence the value of student-teacher experiences within the classroom, such as teacher quality, access to resources, policies, language of instruction, pedagogy, learning time, and leadership, among others.

Many believe in the potential of Information and communication technologies (ICTs), and especially mobile technologies, to enable more equitable ubiquitous access to education at all levels as well as improve the quality of the learning opportunities experiences by students and teachers through more cost-efficient innovative models and modalities. The variation in technologies integrated address local challenges such as scarce internet connectivity and access to electricity, yet much needs to be done towards the development of national policies and the capacity building of stakeholders to fully leverage the power of ICTs to advance educational attainment in Africa.

International organizations predict that the situation will only get worse due to the exponentially growing school-age population. Unless African countries address issues related to education access, quality, and learning achievement, underdevelopment will continue to plague its people, denying a whole generation of the opportunity to rise out of poverty. Factors related to educational expenditure, teacher education, educational policy, and modern localized curricula among others are all at play and need to be examined; addressing yet another important deficit of African educational systems - namely the absence of data to access progress and impact.

### **Biographies**

**Heba El Deghaidy** is currently chair of the Department of International and Comparative Education at the Graduate School of Education. EL-Deghaidy is an associate professor of science education and leads the STEAM education initiative as an international approach to an interdisciplinary learning model. Her doctoral degree in science education comes from the University of Birmingham, UK. She was the PI of the bilingual STEAM education project funded by British Gas. EL-Deghaidy is the co-PI for an Erasmus funded project called School and University Partnership for Peer Communities of Learners (SUP4PCL).

Before coming to AUC, EL-Deghaidy was an associate professor of science education at the Faculty of Education at Suez Canal University. She served as a coordinator for two TEMPUS projects, funded by the European Commission on Education for Sustainable Development. She worked closely with pre-service science teachers, and she trained and taught in-service science teachers at the graduate level. Her work involved training teachers and university faculty members on contemporary pedagogical strategies.

Along with her teaching experience, EL-Deghaidy brings a wide range of professional experience, having served on various national and international committees and societies. Of the most prominent international societies in science education is the National Association for Research in Science Education (NARST) for which she served as a strand coordinator from 2012 to 2014 and is currently serving as a member of the Publication Advisory Committee, for a three-year term from 2015 to 2018. She was invited as a guest speaker at the 65th Korean Association for Science Education International Conference 2014 and at the International Seminar of Science Education Research Centre, Korean National University of Education. She was also a keynote speaker in 2016 at the first Inter-Regional Research Conference on Science and Mathematics Education: Interfacing Arab and European Science and Mathematics Education Research, at AUB.

Part of her professional service includes reviewing manuscripts and proposals for international journals with high impact factors such as *Computers and Education*, *Education and Environmental Education Research* and others, in addition to participating in international conferences.

**Gihan Osman** is an assistant professor of instructional design and technology at the Graduate School of Education (GSE's) and the Center of Learning and Teaching (CLT) at the American University in Cairo (AUC). At AUC, she led the University's blended learning initiative from 2014-2018. In that role, she focused on faculty awareness and professional development, the design of blended and online courses, and coordinating the evaluation and vetting of blended courses. She has spearheaded GSE's data-driven project to take its teacher professional diplomas online. She is currently the principal investigator on a project with UNESCO focusing on creating open education resources for teacher professional development in the area of information and communication technologies. The courses she teaches focus on the research as well as integration of technology and innovation in reforming education.

Osman brings a variety of experiences to the Graduate School of Education. Previously Osman worked as the associate dean for research at the Graduate School of Business at the Arab Academy Graduate School of Business (Cairo Branch) and as the deputy director of international and doctoral programs at the same school. Before that, she has worked as an instructor, designer, researcher, and evaluator in a number of universities including Indiana University Bloomington, the University of South Florida, and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology. She started her career over 15 years ago as a Grade 4 teacher in Egypt, but has since then taught in diverse contexts: at the graduate and undergraduate levels; in public and private institutions, in Egypt and the United States; in both face-to-face and web-based educational settings. She has also worked on a number of international projects and grants that focus on the design of virtual environments such as the Learning to Teach with Technology Studio, an online teacher professional development environment, and a cross-cultural development project to build learner-centered distance education capacities in Azerbaijani universities. Osman has her PhD and MSc in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University Bloomington, an MA in TEFL from the American University in Cairo, and a BA in English from Alexandria University.

Osman's Research interests include, educational reform and change management, organizational learning, technology integration, as well as the impact of innovations, such as the open education movement and social entrepreneurship, on education. Her current research focuses on the use of open educational resources for the professional development of teachers, and teacher education with reference to 21st century skills and digital literacies.

**Florence Ssereo** is a programme specialist in the Teacher Policy and Development Section in the Division for Planning and Development of Education systems at UNESCO. She served as an Education programme specialist in two field offices in Africa: at the Addis Ababa Cluster Office where she covered Ethiopia and Djibouti from 2004 to 2008, and at the Dar-es Salaam Cluster office where she covered Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros from 2008 to 2010. In the field Dr. Ssereo was responsible for implementation of programmes in all sublevels of education in the cluster countries. Her main tasks consisted of providing policy advice; facilitating policy dialogue with key stake holders; participating in monitoring projects such as annual sector review meetings and field visits; assisting education sector-wide programming; networking and building public/private partnerships for EFA; and coordinating of the Education Development Partners Group and leadership in thematic technical working groups on education and representation in UNDAF processes. She also helped manage implementation of the Basic Education for Africa programme in Eastern Africa Region, a project which prioritized capacity development and curriculum for quality. Prior to joining UNESCO, Florence worked as a high school chemistry teacher in Uganda, a co-Secretary General of the International Catholic

Students Movement— an NGO that cooperates with UNESCO and promotes international student solidarity and intercultural exchanges involving over 90 countries. Florence holds a PhD in social science, a BSc in natural science, a post-graduate diploma in education, a MA degree in sociology of defence and strategy, a MA in conflict resolution, a post-doctoral diploma in curriculum design and development, a post-doctoral certificate in education policy and planning and a post-Doctoral certificate in international and comparative education.

## **Track S: Science Contribution to Alleviating Poverty**

### **Sub-track S1: Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Community Empowerment for Nutritional Security (Food security, nutrition and health)**

**Chair: Dr. Hani Sewilam**

**Co-chair: Dr. Claudio Bogliotti**

In Africa and internationally, the water-energy-food nexus has gotten expanding thought from researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. African nations in particular, confront developing difficulties in taking care of the mounting demand for food, water, and energy for a rapidly growing population. An essential establishment of 'the nexus' is that water use is inter-reliant with energy and food production. Notwithstanding the intrinsic interconnections between water, energy, and food security, associations regularly work in a partitioned and confined way. Underprivileged sectorial management and institutional division have started an unsustainable utilization of assets and undermined the long haul maintainability of water, energy, and food security in the region, and furthermore disguised difficulties to accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More coherent strategy between the three sectors is precarious for decoupling expanding food production from water and energy intensity and moving to an effective and manageable utilization of assets. The nexus approach can upgrade understanding the bungle of the three sectors and fortify coordination among them. In any case, it requires a noteworthy move in the basic leadership process towards taking a comprehensive view and creating composed systems to organize activities and reinforce complementarities and cooperative energies among the three areas. The "ICRAC" gathering in September 2019 unites experts to examine these imperative issues, and what they mean for African economies and networks.

### **Biographies**

**Hani Sewilam** joined AUC as a professor (tenure) for sustainable development and water resources management. Sewilam is the founding director of both the Center for Sustainable Development and the MSc in sustainable development at AUC. He coordinated the capacity development activities of the United Nations Water between 2010 and 2011. Sewilam works at the RWTH Aachen University in Germany as the academic director of the Department of Engineering Hydrology and executive director of the UNESCO Chair on Hydrological Changes and Water Resources Management. From 2002 to 2010, Sewilam worked as the deputy director for the Department of Engineering Hydrology at the RWTH Aachen University. He managed international research and capacity building projects in 21 countries.

In 2017, Sewilam founded the MSc in sustainable management – water and energy at the RWTH Aachen University. In 2008, he established the North African Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE Cairo), which is acknowledged by the United Nations University. Sewilam worked for the Egyptian National Water Research Center as a researcher and coordinator for development projects with several UN organizations.

He has more than 25 years of academic and professional experience in the fields of sustainable development, water resources management, water-energy-food nexus, desalination and capacity building. He authored many peer-reviewed scientific papers and book chapters. Sewilam served as a consultant and reviewer for several international research and development organizations. Sewilam holds a PhD in water resource management from the RWTH Aachen University (Germany), a MSc in irrigation management from Southampton University (UK), as well as a graduate diploma and BSc in irrigation and environmental engineering.

**Claudio Bogliotti** is the Head of EU Research and Innovation Policies Unit at CIHEAM, 30 years professional experience of which 15 years devoted to European Union affairs in science and technology as well as research in water and land, climate, agriculture. More than 10 years' experience in managing EC funded research and development projects (DG Research, DG DEV, EU Structural Funds) and working also as policy officer (present position) at DG Research. The latter position gave me the opportunity to gain experience in policy and strategy development within the EU institutions, particularly in science and technology, environment, energy, climate, communication and education. The present position as policy officer at DG Research give me also the opportunity to work at diplomatic and senior officials level with EU (mainly Cabinets and European parliament), Member States, International Organizations and third countries (particularly Mediterranean partner countries and Sub-Saharan countries). The former working positions as researcher and practitioner (in the private sector) have contributed to consolidate the professional background in the technical sector, to develop a win-win analytical approach, to enhance multi-discipline and integrated models and strategies across the different thematic sectors, namely environment, climate and natural resources.

## **Sub-track S2: Poverty, health and the environment: Sanitation and Air Pollution and Solutions**

**Chair: Dr. Ahmad ElGendy and Dr. Nageh Allam**

**Co-chair: Dr. Prashant Kumar, PhD**

Notwithstanding the solid connection among contamination and wellbeing, it has been generally dismissed up to this point in the global health agenda. Additionally, the universal and local committed assets to control the strengthening greatness of contamination are far beneath the required levels. As per the WHO report in 2012, it is assessed that 4.3 million individuals died because of household air pollution, 3.7 million individuals died because of ambient air pollution, while 842,000 individuals passed on because of perilous water, poor sanitation, and lacking cleanliness. Pollution health impacts fall most intensely on the world's poor with a gauge of around 90% of pollution related deaths happening in low-income and middle-income nations particularly those in Africa and Asia. In such manner, Africa and Asia (barring China) are most influenced by ecological health related diseases. In Africa, environmental health influences the poor in sub-Saharan Africa the most. In 2002, sub-Saharan Africa, with just 10 percent of the worldwide populace, represented 24% of the whole worldwide weight of sickness and for 29% of the world's environmental burden of disease. A shared and persistent exertion with respect to



every one of us is vital to ensure that this imperative issue is tended to and solutions are executed. We encourage you to go along with us in this exertion in ICRAC 2019, which straightforwardly influences the wellbeing of the poor in Africa.

### **Biographies**

**Ahmed S. El-Gendy** is an associate professor (tenure) at The American University in Cairo. El-Gendy is a holder of a BSc in civil engineering and an MSc in environmental engineering from Ain Shams University, Egypt. He gained his PhD in environmental engineering from the University of Windsor, Canada. Prior to joining the AUC, he was an associate professor of environmental engineering at Aim Shams University. Professor El-Gendy taught different environmental engineering courses at different universities in Egypt and Canada. He also has had a variety of experiences, becoming exposed to different research communities. He was a full-bright scholar (research grant) at the University of Iowa, United States. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Windsor. In addition to his academic work, he was a consultant for several professional firms in Egypt, where he provided professional training and support in the areas of environmental engineering. At AUC, he teaches environmental engineering courses in addition to several basic engineering courses. He is also responsible for the environmental engineering laboratory.

**Nageh Allam** received his PhD in materials science and engineering from Pennsylvania State University and pursued his postdoctoral studies at both Georgia Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He joined the faculty at The American University in Cairo (AUC) as an assistant professor in fall 2011. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in 2015. Allam's research is multidisciplinary in nature as it is at the interface between nanoscience, physics and chemistry. It deals with the development of a set of synthetic and fabrication techniques to obtain well-designed nanostructured materials with composition, size and shape control for use in energy conversion and storage, sensors applications, biomedical applications, among others. The research comprises both experimental and theoretical activities. Allam is a member of the American Physical Society, the American Nano Society, the Materials Research Society, the Electrochemical Society, and the American Society for Testing and Materials International, the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, and has recently been elected to the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA). Allam has published more than 100 papers in reputed peer-reviewed international journals and has authored more than 90 conference articles. He serves as an editorial board member of a number of renowned journals. He is the recipient of the Ford Foundation international graduate fellowship, RAK-CAM postdoctoral fellowship, the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Yong Scientist Award, the Showman Foundation Award in Applied Sciences, the State of Egypt Award in Advanced Technological Sciences and the AUC Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award.

**Prashant Kumar** is Chair in Air Quality and Health and the founding Director of the Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) at the University of Surrey, UK. He is the Head of the GCARE's Air Quality Laboratory and the Deputy Director of Research for the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Since March 2018, he is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Engineering at the Trinity College Dublin in Ireland.

He received his PhD (Engineering) from the University of Cambridge, and an MTech (Environmental Engineering & Management) from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. Prior to his PhD, he worked at a research institute and in industrial sector for about 8 years. After his PhD, he joined University of

Surrey as Lecturer (2009-2012), and subsequently worked as Senior Lecturer (2012-2015) and Reader (2015-2017).

His fundamental and application oriented cross disciplinary research is focused at the interfaces of clean air engineering/science, human health and smart/sustainable living in cities/megacities. His research builds an understanding of the formation and emission of particles, both from vehicle exhausts and non-vehicular sources. He investigates their contribution to pollution, especially in megacity contexts. He is developing approaches to low-cost sensing and contributing to the development of exposure control technology and guidelines for policymakers to curtail pollution exposure in cities, with associated health benefits.

His current research projects are focused in broad multidisciplinary areas of air pollution monitoring/modelling, low-cost sensing, nature-based solutions, climate change mitigation and developing innovative technological and passive (e.g. green infrastructure) solutions for air pollution exposure control for both developing and developed world.

With over 150 articles in top-ranked journals (h-index 35; citations >4025), his research has secured over £5 million of individual funding from the RCUK (e.g., EPSRC, ESRC, NERC, MRC, HEFCE, British Council, Innovate UK), industry and international funding bodies (e.g., European Commission, Qatar National Research Foundation, Commonwealth Commission, FAPESP). He has developed a network of collaborators across four continents, serving on editorial boards of several international journals and scientific evaluation panels of numerous funding agencies.

He is advising local/national/international agencies on air pollution and urban nexus and his research has featured in well-read media outlets such as the BBC and The Times.

### **Sub-track S3: Enabling Technologies for Point of Care Diagnostics in Poor communities**

**Chair: Dr. Hassan Azzazy**

**Co-chair: Dr. Rudi Pauwels**

Forty years ago, Alma Ata declaration accentuated the significance of health benefits near where individuals live, and of society support. Back then, healthcare was delivered in the patient's home through physician house visits. As new technologies developed, care then shifted to specialized hospitals with centralized laboratories. Most recently, several point of care diagnostics have become available and supported shifting healthcare toward early detection of disease, prevention, and management of chronic conditions.

In this sub-track, new disease specific biomarkers, innovative diagnostic methodologies, and enabling technologies for point of care testing in remote locations will be examined. In addition, strategies to provide low cost screening for infectious (existing and emerging) and non-communicable diseases will be presented.

#### **Biographies**

**Hassan Azzazy** is a tenured professor of Chemistry (2003-present) at The American University in Cairo (AUC). He serves as the Chairman of Chemistry Department and was the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the School of Sciences and Engineering, AUC. He is the founder of the Novel

Diagnostics & Therapeutics Research group and the director of the International Medical Laboratory Scientists training program at AUC.

Azzazy was a postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor at University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD (1995-2002). Azzazy is a graduate of Alexandria University, Egypt and received his PhD from the School of Biomedical Sciences, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX (1994). He holds two board certifications in Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics from the American Board of Clinical Chemistry, Washington, DC. He is certified as a Specialist in Chemistry by the Board of Certification, the American Society for Clinical Pathology in Chicago, IL.

Azzazy has over 28 years of experience in biomedical research and he is the founder of Novel Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research group. A core interest of this group is the development of innovative diagnostics for accurate and affordable detection of biomarkers of infectious agents and cancer. Detection strategies combine the use of Nano sensors, chips, smart phones, 3D printers, and/or robotics. He is also interested in drug design, subcellular targeting of drugs using smart biodegradable Nano carriers, and development of biodegradable honey chitosan nanofibers for use as antibacterial wound dressings.

Azzazy authored over 85 scientific publications in international refereed journals, 70 conference presentations, and 25 book chapters. He serves on the editorial boards of Clinical Biochemistry (Elsevier), Clinica Chimica Acta (Elsevier), and Clinical Chemistry Laboratory Medicine (De Gruyter). Azzazy has co-founded two nanomedicine startup companies. He is the CTO of D-Kimia, LLC innovative diagnostic solutions and the CEO of NanoEbers, LLC for nanofiber wound dressings.

**Rudi Pauwels** (born 1960) is a Belgian pharmacologist. He studied pharmaceutical sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and obtained a PhD with a dissertation on Development of New Anti-HIV Agents. He did research on virology at the Rega Institute for Medical Research .[1] In 1994 he founded the Belgian biotech company Tibotec, together with his wife Carine Claeys, and in 1995 he co-founded Virco. At Tibotec he continued his work on HIV.[2] In 1999, he was elected as board member of the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB).Rudi Pauwels is also the co-founder, director and CEO of a molecular diagnostic company.

#### **Sub track S4: Traditional Medicine Alternatives, Empirically, and New Therapeutics**

**Chair: Dr. Dr. Hassan Elfawal, Dr. Anwar Abdelnasser**

**Co-chairs: Dr. Shaker Mousa**

Medicinal plants have been utilized in all societies as a wellspring of drug. Traditional medication utilized plant, animal and mineral-based drugs, spiritual treatments, manual procedures and activities to treat, diagnose and avert illnesses. In spite of the advancement accomplished in the most recent decades with present day therapeutic and pharmacological items and new restorative innovation, in Africa, up to 80% of the population depends on traditional medicine for their essential health care needs. Despite the fact that not constantly fruitful or successful, traditional medication used to keep up great health, and additionally to anticipate, diagnose, enhance or treat physical and psychological illnesses with basic strategies and a huge range of natural items isolated from plants, animals and in some instants microorganisms. Natural medications that were used to treat various illnesses for long time have given significant incentive to the cutting edge pharmaceutical industry over the past 50 years, especially in the fields of infectious diseases and oncology. Reverse pharmacology approaches enlivened by traditional

medicine offered a discerning procedure for new drug discoveries and encouraged for the improvement of sound synergistic plant preparations. In this sub-track we feature the advancement accomplished in the most recent decades by traditional medicine and its appropriation by the World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly. Additionally, how the natural products utilized in the past gave a valuable platform to the advancement of pharmaceutical industry. Besides, safety worries for traditional medication use will be discussed by a board of specialists.

### **Biographies**

**Hassan A. N. El-Fawal** is Professor of Neuroscience, Toxicology and Pharmacology and Dean of the School of Sciences and Engineering at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Prior to joining AUC, he was Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in New York. He was previously Assistant Chair and Chair of Natural Sciences and Professor of Health Sciences at Mercy College from 1997 to 2009. The focus of his research is diagnostic and prognostic neuro-immune biomarkers of neurodegeneration, neurotoxicity and therapeutics. He earned a B. Sc. from Alexandria University, Egypt in 1979, and a M.Sc. from the University of Guelph in Canada. His Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, was earned at Virginia Tech in 1989. From 1989 to 1997 he worked as Research Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine's Institute of Environmental Medicine.

### **Anwar Abdelnaser**

Is an assistant professor of chemistry at the School of Science and Engineering of The American University in Cairo? Abdelnaser received his bachelor of pharmacy (BPharm) degree from Ajman University (Ajman, U.A.E.) in 2006 and his MSc and PhD from the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) in 2008 and 2013, respectively. Following this, he worked as a post-doctoral associate at the University of Alberta for three years. During his graduate and post-doctoral studies, Abdelnaser received several university, provincial, and federal awards and scholarships. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles in international journals and a similar number of abstracts in local, regional, and international meetings and conferences.

**Shaker Mousa** was appointed as an endowed, tenured Professor and Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Research Institute (PRI) in 2002. He also served as Vice Provost for Research at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences from 2010 – 2018. As the leader of PRI, Dr. Mousa works with scientists and students to identify novel strategies for unmet medical needs. Dr. Mousa and his staff have developed partnerships with other academic research centers in New York State's Capital Region and academic and industrial centers nationally and worldwide. He holds Adjunct Professor Appointments at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and Temple University. He is a Visiting Professor of Bioethics at Albany Medical College and a Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University.

Previously, Dr. Mousa was a Senior Scientist and Fellow at DuPont Pharmaceutical Company for 17 years where he served as a Working Group Chair of several drug discovery programs from 1993-2001. Dr. Mousa holds more than 350 US and International Patents related to the discovery of novel anti-angiogenesis strategies, antithrombotics, anti-integrins, anti-cancer, and non-invasive diagnostic

imaging approaches. He has published more than 500 journal articles, book chapters, and books as author and editor. His research has focused on diagnostics and therapeutics of angiogenesis-related disorders, thrombosis, and vascular diseases.

Dr. Mousa received his BSC from Alexandria University, College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences with distinction, ranking first in a class of more than 500 Pharmacy students. He was then appointed a member of the faculty, and he received his MSC in Biochemical Pharmacology. He received his PhD from Ohio State University, College of Medicine, in Columbus, OH, and did a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. He has also received his MBA (Management) from Widener University in Chester, PA.

### **Sub-Track S5: Holistic Reorientation of Health Research and Education**

**Chair: Dr. Hassan Elfawal,**

**Co-chairs: Dr. Mouhanad Hamami**

Medicinal plants have been utilized in all societies as a wellspring of drug. Traditional medication utilized plant, animal and mineral-based drugs, spiritual treatments, manual procedures and activities to treat, diagnose and avert illnesses. In spite of the advancement accomplished in the most recent decades with present day therapeutic and pharmacological items and new restorative innovation, in Africa, up to 80% of the population depends on traditional medicine for their essential health care needs. Despite the fact that not constantly fruitful or successful, traditional medication used to keep up great health, and additionally to anticipate, diagnose, enhance or treat physical and psychological illnesses with basic strategies and a huge range of natural items isolated from plants, animals and in some instants microorganisms. Natural medications that were used to treat various illnesses for long time have given significant incentive to the cutting edge pharmaceutical industry over the past 50 years, especially in the fields of infectious diseases and oncology. Reverse pharmacology approaches enlivened by traditional medicine offered a discerning procedure for new drug discoveries and encouraged for the improvement of sound synergistic plant preparations. In this sub-track we feature the advancement accomplished in the most recent decades by traditional medicine and its appropriation by the World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly. Additionally, how the natural products utilized in the past gave a valuable platform to the advancement of pharmaceutical industry. Besides, safety worries for traditional medication use will be discussed by a board of specialists.

### **Biographies**

**Hassan A. N. El-Fawal** is Professor of Neuroscience, Toxicology and Pharmacology and Dean of the School of Sciences and Engineering at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Prior to joining AUC, he was Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in New York. He was previously Assistant Chair and Chair of Natural Sciences and Professor of Health Sciences at Mercy College from 1997 to 2009. The focus of his research is diagnostic and prognostic neuro-immune biomarkers of neurodegeneration, neurotoxicity and therapeutics. He earned a B. Sc. from Alexandria University, Egypt in 1979, and a M.Sc. from the University of Guelph in Canada. His Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, was earned at Virginia Tech in 1989.

From 1989 to 1997 he worked as Research Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine's Institute of Environmental Medicine.

**Mouhanad Hamami**, M.D. a graduate of Aleppo University, Syria, Dr. Hammami completed his postdoctoral research in Pediatrics at the Newborn Center of the University of Tennessee in Memphis, and then accepted a faculty appointment at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan and a research position at the Detroit Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics. In 2006 he was granted the American Medical Association (AMA) foundation for Excellence in Medicine and Leadership award for his public health advocacy and community work. He is listed in the Marquis 2006-2007 Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, Strathmore's 2006-2007 Who's Who in Healthcare and Madison's Who's Who in the World 2008 - 2009. He was awarded the "Health Policy Champion Award" by the Michigan Department of Community Health in 2011. Dr. Hammami served as Executive Director of the National Arab American Medical Association (NAAMA) from 2006 to 2009 and then elected as national president for 2011. He currently serves as the Chief of Health Operations of Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services and County Health Officer for Wayne County where he oversees all health related operations for the 13th largest County in the Nation.

## **Sub-Track S 6: Architecture and Poverty**

**Chair: Dr. Khaled Tarabiah**

**Co-chairs: Dr. Rasem Badran**

Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Projections show that urbanization, the gradual shift in residence of the human population from rural to urban areas, combined with the overall growth of the world's population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90% of this increase taking place in Asia and Africa. The United Nations Population Fund estimates that by two thousand twenty, a billion and a half people will live in slums and will face both global environmental, economic and social challenges. Architecture can solve many problems of these challenges especially as it relates to poverty, inequality and social segregation. Many cases around the world show commitment by leading architects especially in areas of need in Africa, Latin America and Asia with efforts that are extend to decades in the making. Hassan Fathy (1900-1989) was an Egyptian architect who has been credited with tackling this specific issue and by bringing the vernacular architecture of Egypt to a wider audience, putting the neglected traditional building systems to work for the poor. As Egypt transitioned in post-world war II and faced with economic challenges in the 60s, Fathy's career adopted an anti-colonial stance through the rejection of modernism in favor of a culturally specific architecture, focused on reviving the lost identity and to resolve much of the socio-economic challenges during that time. He outlined his approach in his book "Architecture for the Poor" which is considered one of the leading documentaries on the revival of vernacular/ traditional architecture. This session discuss how Architecture can overcome poverty, providing a mitigated strategy towards the present time challenges: Health, Energy and Climate Change.

### **Biographies:**

**Khaled Aly Tarabieh** is an assistant professor at The American University in Cairo. He is a holder of a Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering from Alexandria University, and both a master's in city planning (MCP) and a PhD in city and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania, U.S., with a

specialization in the planning of energy efficient urban environments, high performance building design, certification and assessment. Prior to joining AUC, he worked as an assistant professor of sustainable design at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, as well as an adjunct professor at Drexel University. He served as the technical adviser for the development of the energy section for the new STAR rating system with AASHE, a co-founder of the Egyptian Green Building Council (EGGBC), and was a member of the T.C. Chan Center for Building Simulation and Energy Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he took part in the development of the Qatari Sustainability Assessment System (QSAS) in Qatar.

He is a LEED-accredited professional and initiator of the LEED lab at AUC collaboration with the United States Green Building Council and a QSAS-certified green professional with expertise in green buildings design, construction and assessment using different types of rating systems. He was selected as one of 21 emerging leaders from the Delaware Valley Region (PA-NJ-DL) for a prestigious year-long fellowship program, the Environmental Leadership Program, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the environmental movement. In addition to his academic work, he has developed 20 years of experience as a professional architect and project manager in the U.S. and served as the director of project management for real estate services for the University of Pennsylvania, where he managed a portfolio of healthcare, office and residential projects. He offers consultations to several professional firms in Egypt and the Gulf region, and provides professional training and support in the areas of LEED and BREEAM certification, green building design and sustainable urban planning.

At AUC, he teaches the sustainability in the architectural design core studio and advises the thesis I graduation project studio. He is the primary contact and is responsible for the operation of the Building Sciences Lab, and currently conducts research on the thermal performance of building envelope materials for residential buildings in Egypt and the assessment of its ecological impact, an adviser and developer of the University carbon footprint report in collaboration with the sustainability office as well as the chair of Library and Learning Technologies, and is an active member in both the campus wide energy and carbon committees.

**Rasem Jamal Badran**: Born in 1945, Dr. Badran graduated with B.Sc. in Architectural Engineering from the Technical University T.H. of Darmstad, Germany in 1970. He received an honorary PhD in Architectural design from the Jordan University of Science and for his achievements in the field of Architectural Design and theory in 2002. Dr. Jamal participated with some colleagues in the exhibition 'Elementa 1972,' which enabled them to realize their designs on experimental accommodation units in an area of the city of Bonn; returned to Ramallah later that year; moved to Amman in 1973 and opened his own architectural office 'Dar Al-Umran'; worked as artist, calligrapher and architect since; had architecture exhibitions in Berlin and Stuttgart in 2005; is considered one of the most influential architects in the Arab world; his works include the villas Hand-hal (1975) and Hatahat (1979) in Amman, the Abu Ghueillah housing complex and the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman (1979), the Baghdad State Mosque (1980), the Palace of Justice in Riyadh (1984), a Mosque in Doha (1985), the Beit Al-Kamel Apartment and Office Building in Sana'a (1987), the Madi Commercial Center in Amman (1987), the Great Mosque and the redevelopment of the old city center Qasr Al-Hokm in Riyadh, the National Archeological Museum of Amman in 1991, the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh in 1994 and the Qatar Islamic Arts Museum in Doha in 1997; currently works on the Damascus University Central Library and the Jabal Omar Housing Compound in Mecca; is permanent member of the Academic Council for the

International Academy of Architecture in Sofia since 1990; received many awards and prizes, incl. the Arab Architecture Award in Marokko in 1990; the Aga Khan Architecture Award in 1995, the Palestinian Architecture Prize in 1997 and the first Prize of the Arab Architects awarded by the Arab League in 1997; Professor of Architecture; James Steele published a book about his style and work, entitled The Architecture of Rasem Badran - Narratives of Peoples and Places (Thames & Hudson, 2005). Additional Information: <http://www.badrandesign.com/studio>

### **Sub-Track S7: Poverty in the digital world**

**Chair: Dr. Tamer ElBatt**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Arjuna Sathiaseelan**

This conference sub-track solicits original, unpublished work on the key role of information and computing technologies in realizing Digital Transformation which is projected to play a pivotal role in combating poverty and developing societies in disadvantaged, rural communities in Africa, in particular, and in developing countries around the globe. This includes, but is not limited to, the important role of innovative digital technologies in: understanding and analyzing poverty dynamics, agriculture and food security, safety and security, combating illiteracy, education, management of natural resources, preventing energy poverty, healthcare services, public health, preventive medicine, reducing unemployment rates, economic growth, transportation, cost-effective Internet connectivity for rural, underserved communities, society development, sustainable societies, trading and services on the go, e.g., mHealth, mEducation, mCommerce, etc.

**Tamer ElBatt** joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at The American University in Cairo as an associate professor in July 2017. He received his BS and MS degrees in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Cairo University, Egypt in 1993 and 1996, respectively, and his PhD degree in ECE from the University of Maryland, College Park, USA in 2000. From 2000 to 2009, he was with HRL Labs, United States, SDRC, United States and Lockheed Martin ATC, United States at various positions. From 2009 to 2017, he was with the EECE Department, Cairo University, as an assistant professor and later as an associate professor (currently on leave). He held a joint appointment with Nile University, Egypt from 2009 to 2017 and served as the director of the wireless center (WINC) from 2012 to 2017. ElBatt research has been supported by DARPA, ITIDA, QNRF, FP7, H2020, GM, Microsoft, Google and Vodafone Foundation and is currently supported by the NTRA. He has published more than 100 papers and holds seven US patents.

ElBatt is a senior member of the IEEE and has served on the TPC of numerous IEEE and ACM conferences. He served as the demo's co-chair of ACM Mobicom 2013 and the publications co-chair of IEEE Globecom 2012 and EAI Ubiquitous 2014. ElBatt currently serves on the editorial board of IEEE TCCN and Wiley IJSCN and has previously served on the editorial board of IEEE TMC. ElBatt has also served on U.S. NSF and Fulbright review panels. ElBatt was a visiting professor at Politecnico di Torino, Italy, Sabanci University, Turkey and University of Padova, Italy. Tamer is the recipient of the 2014 Egypt's State Incentive Award in Engineering Sciences, the 2012 Cairo University Incentive Award in Engineering Sciences and the prestigious Google Faculty Research Award in 2011. His research interests lie in the broad areas of performance analysis, design and optimization of wireless and mobile networks.



**Arjuna Sathiaseelan** is the CEO of the Ammbr Research Labs (part of the AmmbrTech group) and the Co-Founder of GAIUS Networks. Before moving to the industry, Dr Arjuna Sathiaseelan directed the Networking for Development (N4D Lab) at the Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge. The research group conducted research on novel Internet architectures for improving and reducing the cost of Internet access. He founded and chaired the IRTF Global Access to the Internet for All (GAIA) research group and was a member of the Internet Research Steering Group (IRSG). He was in the Access Advisory Panel of the United Nations Foundation's \$75 million Digital Impact Alliance (funded by the Melinda and Gates Foundation, USAID and SIDA). He is in the advisory board of Tresorio Hub focused on green edge computing infrastructure, Ubuntu Power - a social enterprise focused on providing affordable off grid energy and Internet to underserved communities and Ensemble- a social business incubator in Democratic Republic of Congo. He is also in the advisory board of the EU NETCOMMOMS project. He is a member of the Center for Science and Policy (CSaP). He is also a member of the Cambridge Big Data initiative as a principal investigator interested in big data for development and understanding the interplay between users, networks and data for development and humanitarian crisis.

His research interests also include architecting the Future Internet, enabling quad-play (voice, video, data, and mobility) convergence and mobile systems especially inter-RAT mobility. He has co-authored and contributed to several Internet standards and drafts (IETF) and contributed to the DVB-RCS2 standardization at the ETSI TM-RCS.

In the past he was a Research Fellow (Connected Digital Economy - Rural Digital Economy hub and Networking - School of Engineering) at University of Aberdeen. He was also an Associate with the Center for Sustainable International Development (CSID) at Aberdeen where he founded and convened the ICT4D group.

He was also the Chief Evangelist at United Mobile Apps, India, where he helped the company raise one million dollars in venture capital funding.

Arjuna Sathiaseelan has a PhD in Networking from Kings College London (2005), MSc in Computing and Internet Systems from Kings College London (2001) and Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering from NIT, Trichy, India (2000). He was awarded the Young Alumni Achiever Award from NIT Trichy (2016).

## **Track H: Economies of poverty**

### **Sub-track H1: The New Politics of redistribution in Africa**

**Chair: Dr. Hania Sholkamy**

**Co-chair: Dr. Dzodzi Tsikata**

“Structures of distribution are determined by structures of production” (Ferguson 2015: 34). The past three decades have witnessed a shift in poverty and social policy and politics in the African continent whereby production and investment in infrastructure and in productive assets, once the mainstay of development policy have been eclipsed to some extent by the new programs of distribution. These are cash transfer programs and grants of South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Morocco and Egypt. These programs have been well studied and critically evaluated. They have had an effect on poverty but have also effected the content and meaning of citizenship. Cash transfers, basic income payments and work

guarantees are no longer simple technologies of poverty and misery alleviation. Indeed, in an edited collection by anthropologists on cash transfers (Olivier de Sardan & Piccoli 2018), the authors question the possibility of understanding or championing such tools of distribution in the absence of an understanding of context, history, power and the realms of possibility.

The articulation of these large programs to the wider context has similarly been problematized by Devereux et al who have noted that externally-driven and/or funded social protection programs have little domestic traction. They are either perceived to be unnecessary, too generous or too miserly, too small if introduced as pilots and on the whole unsustainable or insignificant. They are yet another donor band-aid placed on a festering and deep wound (Devereux et al. 2010: 3).

This track will invite researchers from the continent to reflect on the politics and implications of social protection to citizenship, identity, and national development trajectories.

### **Biographies**

**Hania Sholkamy** is an Egyptian anthropologist with a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences of the University of London. She obtained her BA and MA from The American University in Cairo (AUC). She is currently an associate research professor at the Social Research Center of the AUC. She has spent a decade working on social protection issues and has designed and piloted the cash transfers programs of the government of Egypt in her capacity as special advisor to the minister of social solidarity. She is a proponent of feminist social protection and has lobbied for the right of women to receive welfare and pensions in their own right and not as dependents. She was regional coordinator of the Pathways to Women's Empowerment Research Consortium in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, United Kingdom.

Prior to her current position, she was served as an assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Egyptology at AUC, worked as a research associate at the International Population Council and was the Ioma Evans Pritchard Junior Research Fellow at St. Anne's College of Oxford University. Her research interests and publications mainly revolve around the fields of poverty, health, particularly reproductive health, gender, population and qualitative methods. She has co-edited two volumes, one titled *Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and Historical Studies in Critical Demography* (OUP) with S. Szreter and A. Dharmalingam and another titled *Health and Identity in Egypt* (AUC press) with F. Ghannam.

She was a visiting fellow and professor at the American University in Beirut, the Arab Gulf University in Bahrain and Yale University. She has participated as a member of various professional associations including the Reproductive Health Working Group, the Committee on Anthropology and Demography of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (1998-2002) and the Advisory Committee of the Middle East Awards program of the International Population Council (2002/3). She was also a member of the executive committee of the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies of AUC, a fellow of the Economic Research Forum and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Council for Social Sciences.

**Dzodzi Tsikata** is a professor at the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Her academic interests include gender and development Issues, gender equity policies and practices. She was elected in June 2015 as the president of Council for the Development of

Social Science Research in Africa at their 14th general assembly meeting in Senegal. Her research interests have also included the exploitation of local contract farmers by large corporate plantations that are often characterized as having "few linkages" into the economies of the countries that they operate in

## **Sub-track H2: Gendering Agency and Economies in the Global South.**

**Chair: Dr. Holly Oberle**

**Co-chair: Dr. Amber Murrey-Ndewa**

In honor of its Centennial celebration and its annual international conference series, the American University in Cairo will host the 2019 International Conference on Research in African Challenges with the broad theme of "No Poverty." AUC is among the premier research universities in the Middle East as well as Africa and thus, is in a unique position to host an interdisciplinary conversation on this vital topic. The conference aims towards tackling the broad theme from a variety of perspectives representing the various departments and Schools at AUC. The goal of the conference is to provide a comprehensive discussion on poverty and social mobility in light of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN in 2015.

In conjunction with the larger conference, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences invite submissions on the sub-theme "Gendering Agency and Economies in the Global South." This sub-track will focus on the cultural and political structures that underlie economic inequality between men and women, as well as how those structures work in constructing "masculine" and "feminine" spaces in the Global South. While feminist approaches have proliferated and have become widely appreciated throughout the social sciences, this sub-track seeks to utilize as well as problematize the standard "feminization of poverty" approach. We seek innovative research that considers other factors alongside gender such as age, ethnicity, and sexuality, as well as the socio-economic pressures and inequalities experienced by men. We are also interested in the intersection between the "discourses of the everyday" and the "everyday lived experiences" of men and women in the Global South, and "official" discourses of poverty alleviation embedded in governance structures such as the IMF, the state and the UN. How does gender inform processes of resistance to, as well as compliance with, development programs such as the SDGs, structural adjustment policies, multilateral infrastructure projects, and other more recent phenomena such as microfinance and crowd-funding? Are these macro and micro development processes creating new vocabularies of agency, dissent, or identity? This sub-track invites research from all disciplinary backgrounds as well as methodological orientations. Senior researchers, as well as junior faculty, PhD and MA students, recent graduates, or practitioners and activists in the field are welcome to apply.

As such, we invite proposals that draw from feminist theories and politics, intersectionality, postcolonial and decolonial thought, queering frameworks and other critical approaches to address themes and topics related to, but not limited to the following:

- Official narratives of development and/or equality and/or empowerment
- Alternative knowledges of wellbeing, poverty, and economic justice
- Ongoing effects of the Great Recession, food and fuel hikes and strikes
- Resurgence of corporate- and state-extractions and implications for gender relations and identities
- Community action, social movements, and resistance

- African and Arab environmental politics, feminist political ecologies, and ecocriticism
- Women's leadership and political participation
- Gender-based violence and women's movements (1in9 movement, #EndRapeCulture, etc.)
- Online activism, student and youth resistance
- Visual art, music videos, and other gendered cultural representations of poverty, affluence, and resistance
- Forced as well as voluntary migration,
- Decolonizing refugee and border studies

### **Biographies**

**Holly Oberle** is an assistant professor in the department of political science at AUC. She received a BA in International Relations and Gender and Women's Studies from Knox College in Illinois, an MA in Global Governance from Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, and a PhD in Transnational Studies from Freie Universität in Berlin. Her research focuses on American foreign policy and feminist theory. She completed research and teaching fellowships at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh, where she taught a variety of courses including "Gender, Justice and Violence," and "Introduction to Global Studies and International Relations." She recently won an Emerging Scholar Award from the International Studies Association, and is the author of the book *College Abroad* and a contributing author to the volume *Web Writing*. At AUC, she teaches courses such as "Introduction to International Relations" and "International Security," and started an interdisciplinary working group of faculty concerned with issues related to gender and women's studies.

### **Amber Murrey-Ndewa**

A decolonial political geographer with interests in environmental justice, resistance studies, and social change, Amber is an Associate Professor of Human Geography at the University of Oxford. She is the editor of *"A Certain Amount of Madness": The Life, Politics and Legacy of Thomas Sankara* (2018 with Pluto Press) and has authored more than a dozen articles and chapters on racism, resistance, extractive capitalism, and decolonial ethics in the social sciences. Her most recent publications include "Slow Dissent and 'Permanent Counterrevolution' in Africa" in the *Review of African Political Economy* (2019), "When Spider Webs Unite, They Can Tie Up a Lion": Anti-Racism, Decolonial Options and Theories from the South" in the *Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations* (2019), and "Constant Questioning On-and-Off the Page: Race, Decolonial Ethics and Women Researching in Africa" in *Women Researching in Africa: The Impact of Gender* (2018).

### **Sub-track H3: Resource sustainability in Africa**

**Chair: Dr. Tamer Elgindi**

**Co-chair: Dr. Richard Matthew**

The African continent is home to a significant amount of natural resource wealth. Not only does the region encompass an abundance of natural resources including but not limited to diamonds, gold, oil, natural gas, iron, and uranium, but it also contains the world's largest arable landmass along with some of the largest and longest rivers, and massive amounts of tropical forests. Despite the region's impressive economic growth rates in last couple of decades, the region still suffers from high poverty and indebtedness rates. The challenge then remains how to leverage the continent's natural resources

for inclusive and sustained growth. The AUC International Conference on Research in African Challenges (ICRAC) with its sub-track on Resource Sustainability in Africa encourages submissions using interdisciplinary studies to examine the relationship between resource sustainability and poverty, income inequality, and debt rates in Africa. Given the emphasis that the recent sustainable development goals (SDGs) put on sustainability and the environment, it becomes necessary amongst African leaders and policymakers to implement public policies and development plans that both ensure resource sustainability along with inclusive growth.

### **Biographies**

**Tamer ElGendi** is assistant professor of political science at The American University in Cairo. He holds a PhD in planning, policy, and design from the University of California, Irvine, an MA and a BA in economics from The American University in Cairo. He wrote his PhD dissertation on the effects of neoliberal globalization and natural resource dependency on income inequality in developing countries. His current research interests broadly lie within the realms of economic development, inequality, natural resources, and sustainability with special focus on developing countries and the Middle East in specific.

His articles appeared in several renowned journals such as the Middle East Policy, Current Sociology, and the Review of Radical Political Economics. He also has a forthcoming article addressing inequalities in Egypt to appear later in 2017 in the Arab Studies Journal. He also wrote couple of online articles addressing the future of oil and gas in GCC countries in the online journal Academic Foresights, and more recently his article on rebuilding the Egyptian economy appeared in Muftah magazine. Before joining AUC, Tamer worked as assistant professor of policy, planning, and development at Qatar University.

**Richard A. Matthew** (BA McGill; PhD Princeton) is Professor of International and Environmental Politics in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science at the University of California at Irvine, and founding Director of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs ([www.cusa.uci.edu](http://www.cusa.uci.edu)).

He studies (a) the environmental dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding; (b) climate change adaptation in conflict and post-conflict societies; and (c) transnational threat systems. He has done extensive field work in conflict zones in South Asia and East, Central and West Africa.

In addition to his positions at UCI, he is also a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Geneva; a Senior Fellow at the Munk School at the University of Toronto; a senior member of the United Nations Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding; and a member of the World Conservation Union's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy. Dr. Matthew has received Certificates of Recognition for his research and service activities from the U.S. Congress, the California State Legislature and the City of Los Angeles. He has over 150 publications including seven books and co-edited volumes.

### **Sub-track H4: Economies of Poverty and Migration: Coloniality and Migration Management**

**Chair: Dr. Gerda Heck, Dr. Ilka Eickhof**

**Co-chair: Dr. Loren B. Landau**

Africa is often depicted as a continent of mass migration and displacement caused by poverty, violent conflict and environmental stress. Accounts of extreme poverty, starvation, warfare and environmental aggravation reinforce a notion of African misery (de Haas and Flahaux 2016).

This sub track aims to bring together researchers and scholars from different disciplines, approaches, backgrounds, and experiences working on the complex and manifold relationships of poverty, migration, and their economies. The track discusses and questions two interconnected strands of thought regarding the economies of poverty and migration.

On the one hand, we aim to scrutinize conventional interpretations of African migration, and explore developmental approaches and policy drivers of programs and strategies. While some migration scholars focus on the assumption of a poverty-driven African emigration out of the continent, which is also considered to be a result of failure of development (see Collier 2013), there exist a growing body of research on contemporary African migration that sheds light on the diversity of migration movements, motivations, background and migrant profiles (Bredeloup & Pliez 2005, de Haas and Flahaux 2016, Schielke & Graw 2012). Migration - intra- and transnational, voluntary, forced, impelled, seasonal, etc. - can be a tool to escape (relative, absolute, monetary, multidimensional, etc.) poverty and is often driven by the hope for well-being and improved living standard, it can also open new vulnerabilities and difficulties including the production of hierarchical categories of migrants and refugees through migration policies.

On the other hand, the track wants to investigate local, and international-funded poverty alleviation programs in Africa and other new programs of distribution, evaluating their success and sustainability. Do these programs provide sufficient support to alleviate the problems its targeted population is facing on the local levels? Or do these structures, based on aid, stabilize a system that hinders the interference of it, and hence enables the perpetuation of structural inequality? What exactly is the outcome of these programs? And how do migrants and refugees navigate these new emerging migration infrastructures? How do they make use of it? What kind of conflicts, negotiations, rivalries, but also new collaborations, emerge?

We draw on Ruben Andersson (2014), who sees these emerging migration industries in the global South not as a homogeneous field of actors, but rather as a networked entity in which objectives sometimes oppose each other and roles overlap. And we want to discuss the contemporary articulations of the interactions between the economy, nation-states, non-governmental organizations and the movement of people.

This track will invite international researchers to critically reflect on migration politics and programs of poverty alleviation in Africa and their implications in regards to local and international migration governance, the management of transnational migration movements and its link to poverty alleviation programs.

As such, we invite proposals that address, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Questioning conventional assumptions on the relationship between poverty and migration in Africa
- Migration and poverty alleviation programs that see refugees as labor market participants.
- Relationships between neoliberalism, poverty alleviation and migration

- Gender, poverty alleviation and migration
- International programs addressing the root causes of migration
- Postcolonial and/or decolonial critiques

## **Biographies**

**Gerda Heck** has a shared position as assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) at The American University in Cairo. Prior to this, she held positions at the University of Cologne, the European Viadrina University Frankfurt/Oder, the Georg August University Göttingen, and at the Weissensee School of Arts in Berlin (Germany). Her academic work and research focus on migration and border regimes, urban studies, transnational migration, migrant networks and self-organizing, religion and new concepts of citizenship. She has conducted research in Germany, Brazil, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Morocco, Turkey and the USA. Apart from her own research projects, she has participated in various international research projects. From 2010 to 2013, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the international and interdisciplinary research project, Global Prayers – Redemption and Liberation in the City. In 2016, she conducted research in Turkey within the scope of the international research project, Transit Migration 2: A Research Project on the De- and Re-Stabilizations of the European Border Regime. She is a member of kritnet: Network for Critical Migration- and Border-Regime Research.

**Ilka Eickhof** joined the sociology unit in 2017. Before coming to AUC, she was a PhD researcher and lecturer at NVIC Cairo (2014-2017), a research associate and lecturer at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at Freie University Berlin, and worked at the 'Haus der Kulturen der Welt' in Berlin (2009-2011). Her Phd in which she analyzes Northern European cultural institutions in Cairo 2011-2015 in regards to development aid, the notion of the gift, neoliberal labor structures and the perpetuation of social inequality through European foreign cultural politics is anchored at the department for social anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. The research aims at taking a closer look at the structures and frameworks of intervention and regulation in and through the cultural field, scrutinizing the approach and self-representation of dominant European cultural institutions in Cairo, and how their work is negotiated on the ground. Eickhof holds an MA (HONS) in Islamic Studies, Sociology, and Modern History (2009).

**Loren B. Landau** is the Director of the African Center for Migration and Society (ACMS) (formerly Forced Migration Studies Programme, FMSP) at Wits University in Johannesburg, South Africa. With a background in political science and development studies, his work focuses on human mobility, development, and sovereignty.

Completed projects focused on Immigration, Transit and Urban Transformation: A Comparative Study of Post-Apartheid Migration and Urbanisation in Lubumbashi, Maputo, and Johannesburg (2006-2009) being part of an research programme on “International Migration, Territorial Recomposition and Development in Africa” funded by the French Department of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by the French Institute of Research for Development. In late 2010, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom approved funding for a research consortium entitled: ‘Migrating

out of Poverty'. Coordinated by the University of Sussex, the consortium has five core partners including the ACMS.

Loren Landau published numerous articles on immigration issues, his latest book came out in 2008 *The Humanitarian Hangover: Displacement, Aid and Transformation in Western Tanzania*. (Johannesburg: Wits University Press).

## **Track P: Poverty, Social policy and Governance in Africa**

### **Sub-track P1: The evolution and changes in social protection policies in the continent**

**Chair: Dr. Ghada Barsoum**

**Co-chair: Dr. Andrew M. Fischer**

There has been a “silent” revolution in social policies around the world, with countries in the South pioneering new models of interventions including conditional cash transfers; cash for work; and guaranteed employment programs. This track will seek to advance understandings of poverty, social policy and governance in Africa. As part of this track, we invite scholarly and policy-oriented articles to provide an analysis of the evolution and changes in social protection policies in the continent. Issues of cross-learning and south-to-south knowledge exchange are relevant to this discussion.

#### **Biographies**

**Ghada Barsoum** Ghada Barsoum is associate professor and tenured at the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Her research focuses on issues of youth, gender, employment and poverty. She was recently the principal investigator of a study on informality in Egypt in collaboration with the UNDP regional office. Prior to joining AUC, She was research associate at the Population Council, West Asia and North Africa Office. Barsoum is the author of a book on the employment crisis of female graduates in Egypt and a number of papers in peer-reviewed journals.

**Andrew M. Fischer** is Associate Professor of Social Policy and Development Studies at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), and laureate of the European Research Council Starting Grant, which he won in the 2014 round. He is also the founding editor of the book series of the UK and Ireland Development Studies Association, published by Oxford University Press, entitled *Critical Frontiers of International Development Studies*, and editor at the journal *Development and Change*. His forthcoming book, *Poverty as Ideology*, won the 2015 International Studies in Poverty Prize, awarded by the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP).

Dr. Fischer’s research and teaching are centrally concerned with the role of redistribution in development at local, regional and global scales. He examines this with respect to three strands: financial and fiscal processes; social policy (as one of the principle policy areas where redistribution is enacted at national scales); and productive development policy. These three strands are represented, for instance, by his current ERC Starting Grant is on “The Political Economy of Externally Financing Social Policy in Developing Countries,” which focuses on the emerging social protection agenda among donors in seven countries (Ecuador, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Cambodia and Philippines). His earlier work on the impact of Chinese regional development policies in the Tibetan areas of Western China



(encompassing five provinces) also examined regional redistribution at a sub-national scale, in particular with respect to some of the dark sides of redistribution, and is well known for its critical engagement with concepts of social exclusion and marginalisation.

At ISS, Dr. Fischer led the establishment of the MA major in Social Policy for Development, which he convened from 2012 to 2014. He also convened the specialisation in Poverty Studies and Policy Analysis from 2009 to 2012. He has worked with and advised various multilateral agencies and NGOs, including UNRISD, UNW, UNDP, UNICEF, UNECOSOC, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, and he has been involved in development studies or working in developing countries for 30 years, including seven years living and working in India and Nepal prior to his PhD at the London School of Economics.

## **Sub-track P2: Wealth creation and economic inequality in Africa;**

**Chair: Dr. Hamid E. Ali**

**Co-chair: Dr. Ibrhaim Elbadawi**

Wealth creation and distribution are going hand-in-hand. However the dynamic of the private capital accumulation inevitably led to the wealth concentration in ever fewer hands in Africa. In addition, the forces of growth, competition and technological progress led to accentuate the wealth inequality. This track will be attempting to answer, what we really know about wealth and income distribution in Africa, in the event of twenty first century.

### **Biographies**

**Hamid E Ali** is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the American University in Cairo (AUC), and one of the founders of public policy program and former Director of Master of Global Affairs at AUC. Prior to joining AUC, Ali taught at Southern Methodist University and Texas State University. Ali obtained his Ph.D. degree in economics and public policy from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004.

In 2008, Ali was appointed as Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Policy at AUC's Department of Public Policy and Administration. In 2013, Ali was promoted to Associate Professor at AUC's Department of Public Policy and Administration. In 2013 he was appointed as the Chair of the Department.

As educator, his area of teaching is public policy theories, Research Methods, economics for public policy analysis and applied quantitative analysis, globalization and development. His research interests are in the areas of peace economics, inequality and economic development. In addition, Ali is a member of editorial board for *Defense and Peace Economics*; *Economics of Peace and Security Journal*; and *Digest of Middle East Study*; and Guest editor for *Defense and Peace Economics* in 2012-2013. He has membership on various professional and academic organizations.

He has practical experience on how the government's agencies operate; he was a researcher at US government Accountability Office (GAO), where he was a major contributor on various reports to congressional committees on issues related to US Army's chemical and biological units' readiness, Farm subsidy programs and FCC regulation of the digital spectrums. Ali worked at Texas Workforce Commission and the Center for Transportation Research in Texas. Also he is working with parties in Sudan conflict to end the human suffering, democratic transition and reconstruction.

His most recent publication includes: "Military Spending and Natural Resource: Evidence from Rentier States in Middle East and North Africa" *Defence and Peace Economics*; "Military Spending and Human Development Guns and Butter Argument Revisited: A Case from Egypt" *Peace Economics, Peace Science*

*and Public Policy*; “Reserve Requirements and Optimal Monetary Policy in Economies with Informal Sector” *International Journal of Banking and Finance*; “War food cost and Countervailing Policies: A Panel Data Approach” *Food Policy*; “Military spending and Panel Granger Causality Test” *Journal of Peace Research*. “Military Spending and Inequality: Evidence from Global Data” *Defense and Peace Economics*. “Political Economy of Grant Allocations: Case from U S Federal Highway Programs” *Publics: Journal of Federalism*). Finally, edited Book under review with Rutledge “Handbook on Darfur Political Economy”

He is regular commentator and contributor for BBC, Alarabia TV, NileTV; Voice of America; Radio Sawa; Alhuda TV; Daily News Egypt, Sudan Tribune and Cairo Review.

**Ibrahim Elbadawi** is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt. Prior to that, Dr. Elbadawi was the Director of the Macroeconomics Research Department at the Dubai Economic Council since March 2009. Before that, he was Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank from 1989 until February 2009. During his work at the World Bank he also served as Research Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, 1993-1998), on leave from the Bank. Dr. Elbadawi holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the USA and he was he was an Associate Professor of economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan

Dr. Elbadawi has published widely on several areas of macroeconomic and development policy: exchange rate regimes, real exchange rate and macroeconomic competitiveness, macroeconomics of oil management and economic diversification; conflict, post-conflict transitions and peace-building; aid effectiveness and development partnership; and, investment climate and export performance. His regional specialization covers Africa and the Middle East, where he is widely networked with academic research and policy forums in the two regions. His most recent co-edited book (with Dr. Hoda Selim) of *Understanding and Avoiding the Oil Curse in Resource-Rich Arab Economies*. Cambridge University Press: 2016.

### **Sub-track P3: The role of media in addressing issues of poverty and inequality**

**Chair: Dr. Firas Al-Atrqchi**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Gamal Gorekeh Nkrumah**

International organizations recognize that the media has a transformative role to play in poverty eradication. Over the years, the media has modified its coverage of poverty issues from raising public awareness to one of strategy and action. However, these issues remain under-reported and it is generally understood that the media's potential as a force promoting action and change is never fully realized. How can the media in its various iterations and platforms combine the strength of its stakeholders - journalists, editors, agenda-setters - to mobilize the powerful medium to shape opinion and policy which ultimately leads to persistent action contributing to poverty eradication?

#### **Biographies**

**Firas Al-Atrqchi** is a Canadian journalist and editor who has covered the Middle East and North America since 1992. Raised in different capitals in Europe, North America and the Middle East, he is very much a

product of internationalism, bridging both eastern and western value systems. He has worked at the Middle East Times; Pose Magazine; Al Ahram Weekly; Daily News Egypt (chief editor); Egypt Today (assistant editor); General Physics Canada (senior technical writer); and editor of Imprint (Toronto), to name a few. Additionally, he is regular contributor at the Huffington Post. In 1996, he received an award from the Arab League for accomplishments in the field of journalism. Between 2004 and 2010, he worked at Al Jazeera English as a senior editor for its online edition and was in charge of converging web and TV broadcast. Since 2010, he has been the faculty advisor of AUC's student newspaper The Caravan. In 2012, he became co-founding editor of The Brics Post – a news website dedicated to coverage of economics and politics in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. He has a BS in physics and an MA in journalism.

**Gamal Gorkeh Nkrumah** is a Ghanaian journalist, a Pan-Africanist and an editor of Al Ahram Weekly newspaper. He is the eldest son of the first president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, and his Egyptian wife Fathia Nkrumah

He received his doctorate in political science from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He initially worked as a political journalist at Al-Ahram Weekly in Cairo for over 15 years. Presently, he is editor of the international affairs section at the newspaper.

#### **Sub-track P4: Governance challenges and their impact on poverty and social policies**

**Chair: Dr. Shahjahan Bhuiyan**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Farhad Hossain**

Herbert Werlin (2003) argues that poor countries are poor not because they have a lack of resources more because of governance deficit. Governance is a sine qua non for a gradual elimination of poverty in developing and transitional countries. The objective of this track is to understand the role governance plays in poverty reduction by achieving social policies goals in [selected] African countries. In this context, this track seeks the answer to the following questions: (1) What are the poverty reduction strategies in [selected] African countries? (2) what are the roles of social policies in reducing poverty in (selected) African countries? and (3) what roles governance play in poverty reduction and achieving the goals of social policies in (selected) African countries.

#### **Biographies**

**Shahjahan Bhuiyan** is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration (PPAD). He is also the associate dean for administration, undergraduate studies, and public outreach in the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP). Bhuiyan is former chair of PPAD. His teaching and research are in the areas of public management, governance, public policy, non-profit management, human resources management, service delivery and sustainable development. Prior to joining AUC, he served as dean of the College of Social Sciences at KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. He also chaired KIMEP University's Public Administration Department for two consecutive terms. He was a visiting research fellow in the Oxford Institute of Population Aging (OIA) at Oxford

University (2010) and the Inaugural Democratic Governance Fellow in UNDP's Oslo Governance Center (2013). Bhuiyan holds a PhD (2004) in development studies (specialization: development policy and planning) from the University of Bonn, an MPhil (2001) in public administration from the University of Bergen, and an MPA and a BSSPA both from the University of Chittagong.

**Farhad Hossain, Senior Lecturer**, is based at the Management, Governance and Development (MGD) cluster at Global Development Institute (GDI). In addition to research, the MGD cluster manages the following reputed MSc programmes at GDI: MSc Human Resource Management (International Development); MSc Organizational Change and Development; and MSc Management and Implementation of Development Projects.

Prior to joining the University of Manchester in January 2006, Dr. Farhad have held various academic positions at the School of Management, University of Tampere and the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy: Social and Public Policy, University of Jyväskylä, both in Finland and at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. He has also served as a visiting scholar in a number of foreign universities including the University of Helsinki in Finland, the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh and the University of Namibia in Southern Africa.

Over the years, Dr. Farhad has been extensively engaged with the PhD programme in Development Policy and Management at GDI/SEED and have supervised a large number of PhD students to successful completion. Besides teaching and research, he is the Programme Director of the MSc Human Resource Management (International Development).

Outside Manchester, he also examine PhDs and serve as External Examiner to a number of postgraduate programmes in the UK and abroad

### **Sub-track P5: Migration, poverty, social policy**

**Chair: Dr. Ibrahim Awad**

**Co-Chair: Dr. Aderanti Adepoju**

In Africa, as elsewhere, poverty is a driver of migration. Often, migration is a strategy adopted by poor families. Indeed, migration holds the potential of reducing poverty and inequality. In Africa, migration can reconstitute natural and ancient economic circuits that were broken by borders between nation-states. However, may challenges remain in place? This panel is interested in papers that can address these challenges and propose solutions that would ensure that migration in Africa is able to make a more equitable and effective contribution to poverty reduction and development, including the realization of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

### **Biographies**

**Ibrahim Awad** is a political scientist and political economist. At present, he is a professor of practice of global affairs and the director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies in the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at The American University in Cairo. He holds a BA in political science from Cairo University and a PhD in political science from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

He has worked for the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the International Labor Organization, holding positions such as secretary of the commission, UN-ESCWA; director, ILO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa; and director, ILO International Migration Program.

**Aderanti ADEPOJU** is a Nigerian, economist-demographer, Professor of Demography and a migration specialist. He holds a BSc degree in Economics from the University of Ife in Nigeria; MSc and PhD in demography from the London School of Economics, UK. He spent several years lecturing and researching issues on migration at the Universities of Ife and Lagos, Nigeria and while working for the ILO in Addis Ababa, UN in Swaziland and UNFPA in Senegal. A former President, Union for African Population Studies, and member, World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Migration, he is now Chief Executive, Human Resources Development Centre in Lagos and Founder/Coordinator, Network of Migration Research on Africa. He serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of key international migration journals and has published numerous scientific articles and books on aspects of Africa's international migration and regional integration