



CARE-P Project Fest 2020

Foreword

In this volume, you will find brief overviews of selected emerging and ongoing projects on Africa being done at the University of Newcastle and the Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P) by staff, students, affiliates and their collaborating partners in 2020. CARE-P was opened in late November 2019 to further enhance research and the global engagement of the staff and students at the University of Newcastle with partners in Africa. CAREP's African Project Fest is an innovative approach observed periodically to identify and promote partnership among emerging projects as well as for keeping focus on the development of institutional research partnerships.

The 2020 Fest is a triumph over COVID19 and CARE-P acknowledged the contributions of all who have worked so hard to make the event COVID safe and successful. Our special thanks goes to Professor Kevin Hall (the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and President of the Global Engagement and Partnerships (GEP)) for his great care and support, Professor John Hearn (Chair of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) and Associate Professor Grace Mingyi Liu (Secretary, AAUN) for supporting CARE-P and to Sarah Vassallo for her excellent coordination, design and IT support. We thank Danielle Paranthoienne, Melissa Crain, Helen Cameron, Mei Tan, Emma Drake, Dorcas Zuvalinyenga, Kristy White, Adel Issa and all who have contributed in diverse ways towards the Fest. To our great presenters and those who have joined the Fest online as well as in person, we say thank you and we look forward to many more productive collaborations.

Janet Dzator

Director: Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships



Associate Professor Matt Hayward

Bringing conservation lessons learnt in Africa to Australia.

Matt Hayward is an Associate Professor of Conservation Science in the School of Environmental and Life Sciences. Matt has had a long fascination with Africa. He undertook his first post-doc at the Walter Sisulu University in the Transkei region of South Africa, where he studied the impact of humans on wildlife distribution patterns. He then moved to the Nelson Mandela University to study the reintroduction of large predators to Addo Elephant National Park. Since leaving Africa, Matt has supervised several post-graduate students in Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya and South Africa. In his previous academic job, Matt took 2nd year students to Kruger National Park (South Africa) for a two-week field trip. Last year, Matt used an AAUN grant to begin planning a project looking at the role of predators in reducing crop loss and improving food security with colleagues in Uganda and South Africa. Matt is always looking for opportunities to work and research in Africa and is keen to participate in any project with a conservation angle.

Cristina Viola

Implications of Climate Processes and Variabilities for NSW Coastal Water Levels: Extreme Water Level Anomalies

The goal of this project is to understand the relationship between coastal flooding and climate processes and to assess the vulnerability of people living around coastal areas. The project will estimate the magnitude, duration and frequency of coastal processes and coastal flooding in New South Wales, Australia and in Africa. The project is important because coastal areas are home to many activities and are often heavily populated. Tourist's hotspots, ports, recreational activities, residential properties, and many other assets and activities are located around coastal areas. Coastal flooding therefore leads to major losses in the economy. This is not a unique problem for New South Wales, it happens in many other places of Australia and it is a worldwide problem. Africa has 54 countries from which 39 have a coastline meaning 39 countries in Africa are potentially at risk of coastal flooding at some point in time. Mozambique has the fourth longest coastline in Africa, and it is highly vulnerable to floods. This project can improve the capacity of response adaptation and mitigation of coastal flooding in many parts of the world by improving the coastal management plans and prevent major losses in the economy, the environment and more importantly prevent loss of human lives.



Dr Sidsel Grimstad

Food Next Door Co-op: A multi-stakeholder food co-op in Mildura, Victoria

The Food Next Door Multi-Stakeholder Co-operative is located in Mildura, Victoria. Even though Mildura is an agricultural community, there was little local food, most produce is exported overseas. In 2016 Mildura welcomed refugees from Burundi and DR Congo, but they felt isolated and missed their traditional foods. This is where Food Next Door

has come in with an innovative project, which produces local food, sells this locally through veggie-box subscriptions. Refugees were keen to farm as this was something they did at home, and they missed their staple foods from home.

The Food Next Door Co-op matches under-utilised farmland with landless farmers to support small-scale regenerative farming, growing diverse crops and engaging people from diverse backgrounds to supply food locally and also grow traditional staples from home. Food Next Door is a Multi-stakeholder coop, where both farmers, consumers, landholders and volunteers are members and contribute to the co-op. The Co-op provides subscriptions to “Out of the Box” veggie boxes to local community. In 2020, Food Next Door, was registered as a charity, and has initiated an aid program with a sister-coop in Burundi which it has supported with farming equipment.

The Co-op was established in 2018, and during their start up both the Executive Officer Deborah Bogenhuber and Board Member Sevilla Furness undertook postgraduate co-op education at the University of Newcastle. Dr. Sidsel Grimstad and Ann Apps, both lecturers in co-operatives at UoN, have both been nominated to sit as advisors on the Food Next Door Co-ops advisory board to provide advice on the implementation of a large state grant they have received.

During the height of the COVID pandemic in the first half of 2020, the subscriptions for Veggie-boxes increased 50%. Refugee farmers have been much better integrated in the local community and the possibility to farm has also helped heal trauma. This year refugee representatives on the board will receive management training. The Food Next Door Co-op is a unique multi-stakeholder co-op, it is well explained in the educational Video below. This has been used in the co-op courses.

<https://uoncapture.ap.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=5f1e6b1d-09f0-4bde-8094-ab7c00232912>

<https://www.foodnextdoor.org.au/>



Professor Craig Batty

The Creative Doctorate: Knowledge Creation and Contribution through Non-Traditional Research Artefacts

This project is about the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes. This definition of research is consistent with a broad notion of research and experimental development (R&D) as comprising of creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humanity, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.



Adjoa Assan

African-Australian Youth Collective: African and African Diaspora students networking for equity sustainability and development

The African-Australian Youth Collective (AAYC) is the first Africa-focused student society at Western Sydney University. Our focus is on community engagement, career advancement for our members and the creative arts from the African and African Diaspora perspective. We have ourselves experienced a disconnect between students in the African Diaspora and students in Africa. As young African Diaspora students, we have a lot to learn from our fellows in Africa. We also believe in African-led solutions to the equity, sustainability and development challenges facing Africa.

Furthermore, much of the research and work we will go on to do concerning Africa will require us to have networks there. These networks should be established at the Undergraduate level in order to build genuine relationships that can continue at the post-graduate level. To address this disconnect that we have identified, we propose a project that will operate as an adaptation of the pen pal concept. The project hopes to leverage the existing relationships between Australian and African Universities. We propose that the project be piloted on a small scale first between one African University and AAYC in order for its potential to be measured. There is also an invitation to the University of Newcastle to participate in this pilot.

The African University and AAYC would be responsible for choosing 10 students each, who have an interest in this project. They will also oversee the success of the project using periodical check-ins with participants. The 20 students will be paired with a buddy based off of their study area and future aspirations in relation to addressing equity, sustainability and development in Africa. This will maximise the potential impact and longevity of the relationship.

This project is scalable and presents exciting opportunities, such as an exchange program in Africa. We will need assistance in being connected with an AAUN-member University in Africa, such as the University of Ghana, and advice on a suitable platform for the participants to communicate over. We also welcome any expertise that you may think is also necessary.

Thank you to CARE-P for the opportunity to participate in the Africa Pitch Fest and please get in touch with myself if you are interested in this proposed project.

Get in touch:

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Peninah Kansiime

Social Work with Male survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Uganda

Sexual violence continues to feature in several conflicts across the globe. Previously, focus has been on women and girls as victims and males as perpetrators and this has shaped intervention and research on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Men and boys may also be victims to CRSV. However, in response, interventions focus largely on female victims, and male survivors of sexual violence fall through the cracks of service delivery. A qualitative study involving 22 in-depth interviews with social work practitioners found that social workers in Uganda provided services to male survivors in an environment marked by strong sociocultural and religious norms on gender roles and male identity, wherein gendered responses to sexual violence had had far-reaching impacts. The social workers used their professional principles and skills learned from their generalist training to navigate service delivery and a range of methods and interventions at the individual, family, group, community, and policy levels. The study identified the need for a greater focus on social work with male clients and for the decolonisation of social work education in Uganda. Social workers used traditional and indigenous methods in responding to CRSV against men. Therefore, there is a need for further research to study their efficacy and the effectiveness of blended indigenous and Western social work methods. There is also a need to explore the use of African principles, such as *Ubuntu*, to create knowledge to advance culturally relevant and indigenous theories, models, and practices, as suggested in various. This knowledge would also facilitate the use of local problem-solving systems and approaches.



Associate Professor Lynne McCormack

Child rehabilitation and safety following child sacrifice and child trafficking in Uganda

My pitch is not exciting nor about to make me wealthy.
My pitch is not about leaving you comfortable.

My pitch is to raise awareness, compassion, gratitude and empathy for action around human rights, child protection and support for those at the front line of child sacrifice and trafficking. You can press your mute button if you like, but I hope you won't!

In December last year, 2019, I went to Uganda to briefly connect with colleagues at Makerere University but primarily to run self-care and child protection workshops for the carers of children rescued from the grips of child sacrifice. Globally, witchcraft is practiced in many countries remaining a grim phenomenon masquerading as an old custom. It has long been practiced throughout Uganda, and traditionally involved the sacrificing of animals like goats or chickens.

But witchdoctors now claim their work is "more powerful when you sacrifice the blood of a child". "Child sacrifice is real — it's not a myth. It's a reality and it's happening on a huge scale in Uganda." Suffering horrific wounds most children exposed to this horrific practice, do not survive.

Though outlawed under the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, child sacrifice, continues as an abhorrent form of child abuse

and violence. Fifteen years ago, a young Ugandan pastor Peter Sewakiryanga travelled to Kyampisi, a village he describes as the country's "epicentre of witchcraft". Since that time, he and colleagues have built a school from Kindergarten to end of school, a baby and mother health clinic, and a rehabilitation unit for survivors. Those at the front line at Kyampisi, the carers, are closely involved in rescue operations, rehabilitation and the ongoing care of victims and their families. Burnout is common, but their passion is palpable. How such work impacts their psychological wellbeing long-term is unknown but we do know that both negative outcomes e.g. burnout and vicarious trauma; and positive outcomes e.g. posttraumatic growth are possible from empathic engagement with others trauma.

With this in mind, before leaving for Uganda, I sought ethical approval to interview some of these carers seeking their negative and positive insights into their work with children survivors. Gathering rich data, the study is currently being prepared for submission by myself and student, Megan Son Hing, providing a unique insight into the passion that drives such carers despite real threat and risk to their own wellbeing. Unfortunately, this incomprehensible practice is still ongoing. Vitally, altering practices in a community means educating the next generation of leaders. Perhaps a humanitarian scholarship at the University of Newcastle is possible for a graduate of Kyampisi and survivor of child sacrifice from Uganda?



Ms. Winifred Asare-Doku

"Mental health is not our core business": A Qualitative Study of Mental Health Supports in the Ghanaian Mining Industry

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Within Africa, Ghana is the largest gold producer. The minerals sector accounts for 37% of the country's total export of which gold contributes over 90% of the total mineral exports. In 2019, gold accounted for 93.28% of gross mineral revenue. It is important to understand the mental health of the employees in this industry that contributes hugely to the Ghanaian economy. The WHO in 2011 estimated that about 13% of the adult population in Ghana have mental disorders, with a treatment gap for mental health disorders of about 98%. Like many countries, there is social stigma and cultural beliefs associated with mental illness. This is further complicated by the limited access to mental health services in Ghana. Workplaces present an opportunity to promote better mental health. Some male-dominated workplaces such as mining may pose particular vulnerabilities to mental health. Alongside any gender-related health and social factors in these workplaces, examples of such vulnerabilities are working long shifts, physical hazards, remote settings, and repetitive tasks, therefore investigating this further is important. Little is known currently about the mental health of employees in this mining industry and the support systems required and available for employees. There are ways that management can promote better mental health and assist to reduce or minimise the effects of mental health problems when these occur including direct access to specific health services, promoting positive workplace culture, identifying and mitigating workplace factors affecting

mental health, and educating and training staff in mental health conditions. The objective of this study was to explore the status of mental health within workplace management and policy in this industry in Ghana.

A qualitative research project was conducted with 19 managers from five gold mine sites' in Ghana. Semi structured interviews were used to explore the support systems provided by management to support employees having mental health problems. Three major themes with sub-themes were identified using thematic analysis: Health Promotion (health promotion onsite activities; health assessments); Onsite Support (workplace policy; supervisor support; management support; job accommodation/RTW; onsite medical support) and External Support (formal support, informal support). Although there was no evidence of specific mental health interventions identified, mental health was implied in some of the activities undertaken by the companies. Also, management support for employees was available although informally and not overtly identified. This study is the first to explore mental health policy and practices in a male-dominated workplace in Ghana. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that mental health programs be integrated within the general health and safety policies of the mining industry.



Ms Susan Smith

The sustainability secrets of samba

Project Abstract

I will be interviewing the founders of Samba community here in Australia, Nei Boa Morte, Carlos Ferreira, Marcony, and others, as well as creating a select exchange group of teachers between Brazil and Australia. We will look at the evolution of samba from Africa to the Terreiro to the Global phenomenon it is today. This project will create two documentaries about the phenomenon (one on Samba and one on Capoeira) to create more interest in the intercultural exchange and to promote further mutual understanding and connection around Brazilian Arts in Australia.

Samba and Capoeira made their way to Brazil from Africa, via the slave trade 1501 - 1866 AD. These arts are an ancient African practice (comprised of dance, song and drumming) that has not only survived to the modern age but thrive globally today and since 1990 have been experiencing a global uptake. This is a global phenomenon now playing out strongly also in Australia with 25 major events occurring each year in every Major Capital, bringing artists from Brazil to teach Australians. This includes the Bi-Annual Afro Brazilian Conference (run by Umbela Brasil and Ecomar Arts) and the Annual (International Samba Congress and Retreat. In conjunction with these 'introductions' to artists at conferences, Australian's now are going to train each year in Brazil, with an estimated 2000 students travelling annually to participate in Rodas (capoeira events), Encontros (conferences) and Carnaval Alas (dance communities in Carnaval).

Samba and Capoeira Schools exist in every continent and major capital cities, with a recent marketing estimate at 2 million dedicated students. Brazil's Carnaval - a samba spectacle - captivates 1.5 Million tourists and is estimated at \$3.5 billion USD injected into the Brazilian economy. 'Sister city' Carnivals exist in Japan, London, Germany and San Francisco and in the last few years Samba Congresses

have sprung up in Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil and the USA. Yet the number of academic papers /projects studying the global Brazilian Arts community and the lessons to be learned from Samba, are less than a handful.

The UNESCO slave trade project has identified and catalogued oral heritages about slavery. They have included Samba de Roda (a more traditional form of Samba) as intangible cultural heritage. They have also placed a call to action for new ways of educating for sustainability. With languages and cultures dying off globally, at the rate of 2 languages per week, Samba and Capoeira, deserves a place in both these explorations.

The researcher, Ms Smith is a Master's qualified Social Ecologist with over two decades of research roles in Government, not-for-Profit and Corporate placements. She has also been a part of the global conversation about Samba, as the CEO of Umbela Brasil, a community organisation that has hosted over a decade of samba based cultural exchanges. Ms Smith has recently received the sought-after invitation to study in a famous closed community in Brazil, who are about to open their gates to the west. This is akin to when Yoga or Kung fu opened their doors to the west.

The University of Newcastle is the ideal place for this research as the School of Education has been documenting cultural exchanges through the work of Dr Phoebe Everingham. A/Professor Robert Parkes has been leading an exploration on Capoeira and Samba as liberating education.



Ms Sylvia Morris

Towards Diversity in Educational Leadership and Curriculum: A NSW case study

Scholars and media commentators agree that we live in a unique historical moment marked by the inevitable reality of globalisation, i.e. political-economic and cultural integration. Innovations in science, transportation and communication technologies have created an interconnected world in which not only people, goods and services move across transnational borders, but cultures also interconnect globally. Australia embraces this new order of globalism since it is posited as the most ethnically diverse nation in the world. How might the Australian educational system reflect this global ethos of multiculturalism and tolerance associated with globalisation in the era of global anti-racism? My presentation would problematise the current educational leadership structure, practices, and policies that enable the status quo to promote skewed and unjust understandings of other identities, cultures, and epistemologies, and by so doing, negate the values of a multicultural and multi-ethnic Australia. Additionally, it will illustrate how a hegemonic educational leadership structure fundamentally impacts and shapes what/how students learn. Drawing examples from the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and Educational Policy documents, I will show how these policies, hiring practices and pedagogical frameworks promote a biased view of other cultures and groups, and thus undermine efforts at cultural tolerance. I will draw from personal experiences, both as a researcher and an educator, to illuminate the insidiousness these exclusionary practices have on both aspiring transnational leaders and students alike. I argue that in the era of the trans-nationalisation of cultures and the current global

anti-racism movement, the new vision the Australian educational leaders must forge for themselves is one that emphasises a notion of global citizenship and the equality of all peoples and cultures.



Professor Emeritus Shirley Randell, AO

Mentoring Program for Women in Leadership

This work is about a mentoring program between the University of Newcastle Australia and the University of Rwanda. The mentoring program is designed to provide an international forum for female academic staff to foster a culture of peer mentorship and learning. Mentoring is essentially about assisting people to develop more effectively. It is a relationship designed to build confidence and support mentees, so they are able to take control of their own development and work. Mentoring is not the same as training, teaching, or coaching, and mentors do not need to be qualified trainers or experts in the role the mentees carry out. They need to be able to listen and ask questions that will challenge the mentees to identify the course of action they need to take regarding their own development. The benefits of mentoring are many and include job satisfaction for the mentor from seeing others develop, increased self-confidence and motivation for the mentee as well as tangible and measurable gains if work tasks and projects are used as development tools for the organisation.

The University of Newcastle Australia and the University of Rwanda Mentoring Program for Women in Leadership is underpinned by the GROW Model. The GROW Model is an internationally recognised model for coaching and mentorship. The GROW Model provides a sound structure for mentorship allowing the mentor and mentee to start with a goal and work logically through the model or start with the reality and then determine the goal.

Professor Emeritus Shirley Randell, AO who is a conjoint staff at the University of Newcastle has a longstanding working relation with the University of Rwanda. Shirley is working with CARE-P to develop the Mentoring Program for Women in Leadership. Women interested in mentoring are invited to contact CARE-P at carep@newcastle.edu.au



Dr David Mickler

The Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC)

The Africa Research & Engagement Centre AfREC is one of the African Centres in Australia and similar to CARE-P. The AfREC was first developed as the UWA Africa Research Cluster 2015-18 and then launched as AfREC on 27 Aug 2018 as a UWA Strategic Institutional Research Centre by UWA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dawn Freshwater.

AfREC produces research, teaching, training, and other collaborations with partners to address sustainable development challenges and responsibilities and to strengthen wider Australia-Africa relations. The Centre drives innovative and ethical collaborations between Australia and Africa – a dynamic and diverse continent of 55 countries and 1.3 billion people – and draws upon the important knowledge, ideas and experiences of growing African-Australian communities.

The AfREC Community include Executive Committee; Advisory Board; Research Fellows; Postgraduate Fellows; African UWA Professional Staff, Australia Awards Africa Scholars; AfREC Members; UWA African Students' Union.

Flagship activities:

- ❖ AAUN Annual Forum during national Australia Africa Week
- ❖ Annual AfREC Africa Research Showcase
- ❖ Annual AfREC Samuel M. Makinda Africa Day Public Lecture
- ❖ Convened AFSAAP Conference (2016)
- ❖ Co-convened National African-Australian Diaspora Engagement Conference (NAADEC) (2019)
- ❖ Co-convene research workshops across Africa with African university partners
- ❖ Host regular roundtables with visiting Ambassadors and DFAT Africa Branch, Ministers, MPs, Senators, including WA African community leaders
- ❖ Co-convene WA African Women's Leadership, Empowerment & Development (A-LEAD) program
- ❖ Co-sponsor the WA African Women in Leadership Award
- ❖ Co-convene African Students in WA (ASIWA) University Working Group
- ❖ Run film nights, book launches, reading group, panel discussions, partner on community cultural events.
- ❖ AfREC *AfricaNarratives* news and blog: www.afrec.uwa.edu.au/blog
- ❖ Monthly mailing list: www.afrec.uwa.edu.au/join-us



Professor Tim Roberts

Transitioning to a Sustainable Future through STEM training and research

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This project involves the formation of collaborative networks in the area of sustainability and transitioning in the face of climate change. It is about using hands-on STEM awareness through mini solar vehicle competition and aimed at feeder schools to attract more students into tertiary STEM studies. Schools or teams are provided with mini electronic vehicle kits with instructions to build the vehicles and enter their vehicle into a competition. The longer-term goal is to take the STEM initiative of Mini Solar Vehicle Competition to UoNbi feeder schools in Nairobi. The University of Newcastle (UON) team lead by Professor Tim Roberts made a successful first in January 2020 to Kenya with 11 UON students to initiate the STEM recruitment from KyU feeder schools with Dr Gachoki, (Engineering, KyU) through electric vehicle building competition. The team also met with other collaborators Professor Charles Omwandho (KyU) and Professor Madara Ogot from the University of Nairobi (UONbi). COVID19 has disrupted a planned visit by collaborating partners from KyU and UONbi to Australia and a second visit by the Australian team to Kenya.

The project team is looking for collaborators who are interested in STEM education in Australia and Africa. Interested fellows should contact CARE-P at carep@newcastle.edu.au