

AAUN New South Wales Members Day: Knowledge Partnerships 11 July 2017, University of New South Wales

Participants Biographies

Professor John Hearn

Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Board Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)

John Hearn is Co-Chair of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN), Board Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and Professor of Physiology at Sydney Medical School. He works in research and education capacity strengthening through international knowledge partnerships between leading universities, international agencies and stakeholders. He advises the Australian Government, OECD, WHO and the British Council. He has lived and worked in Kenya and Uganda, and served for 6-7 years each in five international universities. He is committed to assist by building capacities that address the Sustainable Development Goals and other major policy priorities that require global teamwork.

Professor Ian Jacobs BA, MA, MBBS, MD, FRCOG

President and Vice-Chancellor, University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Professor Ian Jacobs has been President and Vice-Chancellor of UNSW Australia since February 2015. Prior to this he was based in the UK as Dean of Medicine at University College London from 2009-11 and Vice President of the University of Manchester from 2011-15.

He qualified in medicine at Cambridge University and the University of London before specialising in surgical treatment of women's cancers at St Bartholomew's Hospital and University College Hospital in London. He has for the last 30 years led a research team working on early detection and risk prediction of cancer with a particular focus on screening for ovarian cancer which has led to grant awards >£50m, over 400 publications and an H-Index of >70.

In 2005 he established the Uganda Women's Health Initiative, which conducts a series of projects in Uganda including a cervical cancer screening programme. He has been President of the British Gynaecological Cancer Society and the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology. He is Emeritus Trustee of the Eve Appeal charity which he founded in 1985 and a non-Executive Director of Abcodia Ltd a medical diagnostics company he founded as a spin out from his research in 2010.

Since joining UNSW in February 2015 he has taken on a number of additional roles in Australia including: Honorary Senior Principal Research Fellow of the Garvan Institute; Board member of Research Australia; Chair of the Australian Conservation Foundation's Leadership Forum for Energy Transition; board member of the Business/Higher Education Round Table Board (BHERT); Lead Vice-Chancellor for Universities Australia on Equity and Diversity; Chair of the Sydney Partnership for Health Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE); and Deputy Chair of the Group of 8 universities.

Ms Gita Kamath

Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Gita Kamath is a senior career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is currently Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, a position she took up in May 2017. Ms Kamath has held a range of positions in DFAT including Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Australian Embassy Paris, Assistant Secretary, Agriculture

and Food Branch, Assistant Secretary, Domestic Legal Branch, Director, Arms Control Section, and First Secretary, Australian High Commission, Singapore. Prior to joining DFAT, Ms Kamath worked as a solicitor with Clayton Utz. Ms Kamath holds a BA LLB from UNSW, a Grad Dip in Legal Practice from UTS and an MA (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from the ANU.

David Wise

Advisor to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University of Newcastle

David has 34 years + experience in the international education sector.

Prior to joining the University of Newcastle in May 1997 he worked for the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) -1974-1997

David worked in the International Office at the University of Newcastle (May – 1997 -2003) and was responsible for international student recruitment, developing relationships with senior staff in high schools, academic institutions and government ministries in Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda ,W. Samoa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

From 2004 -2010 he worked as the senior project officer in the office of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Education and Arts. David was responsible for developing the international culture among the academic and administrative staff in the Faculty, developing international projects with the academic staff in the thematic areas of: applied linguistics, education, speech pathology, social work and social change and development and joint projects with the Faculty of Education and Arts international partner institutions and NGOs in Botswana, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho., Mozambique, Namibia, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda.

In 2011 David returned to the International Office and was responsible for international student recruitment and the management of the of the University's relationship with its partner institutions and government ministries in the countries in East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa (Ghana and Nigeria) Regions on the African Continent

In mid- August 2015 David commenced as new role as Senior Advisor to the Pro Vice Chancellor, International and Advancement. David is now an Advisor to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation.

Professor Deborah Sweeney

Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Western Sydney University

Professor Deborah Sweeney is the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation at Western Sydney University. She provides leadership and guidance to achieve the University's strategic priorities for research and innovation and focusses on quality assurance and enhancement. In addition, she is responsible for supporting the research portfolios within the Schools and Institutes.

Deborah joined Western Sydney in 2009 and has more than 20 years' experience in research and research management. She received her Bachelor of Optometry from UNSW in 1980, subsequently joining the Cornea & Contact Lens Research Unit within the School of Optometry, UNSW. Since completing her PhD in 1992, she has held various executive roles within the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit and Vision CRC and its predecessor the CRC for Eye Research and Technology, including five years as Chief Executive Officer of Vision CRC.

Deborah is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Her major research area has been corneal physiology, and her work has been instrumental in developing an understanding of the physiology of the human cornea and the effects of contact lens wear and refractive surgery on corneal function characteristics and the development of alternative forms of vision correction. Deborah has published over 100 refereed articles and several book chapters, and is a co-inventor on two patents.

In 2015 Deborah was awarded the Ruben Medal by the International Society for Contact Lens Research, for an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of contact lens-related research.

Dr Tim Foster

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, the University of Technology Sydney

Tim Foster is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney. He conducts transdisciplinary research that examines the social, environmental, institutional and technological determinants of water supply sustainability in rural areas of Africa and Asia. His research has led him to conduct extensive field work across Kenya, The Gambia and Sierra Leone. He has degrees in Civil Engineering, Law, and Water Management, and holds a doctorate from Oxford University, where he investigated the collective action dimensions of community-managed water supplies on the South Coast of Kenya.

Professor Prem Ramburuth

Professor in International Business, the School of Business at UNSW

Prem Ramburuth is Professor in International Business in the School of Business at UNSW, where she was Associate Dean Education and Undergraduate Programs, Head of School of Management, and Foundation Director of the Education Development Centre. She is the immediate past President of the UNSW Academic Board, and current Chair of the NIDA Academic Board. Prem serves on the Register of Experts for the Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), and is Chair of the UNSW Uganda Strategy Group. She teaches and researches in areas including Emerging Economies, Globalization of Higher Education, Cross-Cultural and Diversity Management, and Gender Equity.

Professor Rebecca Mitchell PhD

Faculty of Business and Law, The University of Newcastle (UON)

Dr Rebecca Mitchell, Professor of Management at the University of Newcastle, Australia, has a PhD from the University of Sydney. Her research interests lie in the area of organisational behaviour and healthcare management, including team dynamics, leadership and professional roles in healthcare organizations. She is Director of the Health Services Research and Innovation Centre at the University of Newcastle, She is a professional member of the European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology and the US Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. In addition to her academic experience, Dr Mitchell's previously worked in the Australian and Irish public sector as a senior policy advisor. She has worked as State representative on several Council of Australian Government (COAG) working parties and has developed health, community and social services policy at a state and national level.

Professor Anthony (Tony) O'Brien RN, BA, Med.Stud, PhD

Faculty of Health and Medicine, The University of Newcastle

Prof O'Brien is a Registered Nurse (AHPRA) nursing researcher with extensive clinical experience in mental health assessment and treatment of people living with mental illness. He has a strong interest in cross cultural health and nursing research, previously conducting research studies with Australia's first people, Maori in Aotearoa, Thailand, Taiwan and Singapore. He was previously the Clinical Lead for the HNELHD Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre for 3 years. Tony now has a continuing appointment as Professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at UoN. Tony has worked at Monash, NUS in Singapore, UNE, Massey and Newcastle universities. He has a faculty practice MOU with UoN and HNE to practice clinically in the acute mental health service as a Registered nurse.

Professor Athula Ginige***Professor of Information Technology, Western Sydney University (WSU)***

Athula Ginige is Professor of Information Technology at Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia and he leads the Social Computing and Knowledge Ecosystems Research Program at the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics. This program focuses on developing knowledge driven Social Computing solutions delivered via mobile based systems to range of applied problems including “Grand Challenges” in diverse areas such as agriculture, healthcare, business and education. His current research areas include both autonomous and participatory sensor networks, knowledge aggregation and event detection, large scale knowledge organisation based on ontologies and semantic web technologies, context modelling, designing mobile based systems for user empowerment and Social Computing.

Dr Olayide Ogunsiji (RN, PhD)***Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University***

Dr Olayide Ogunsiji is a registered nurse and lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University, Australia. Her research interest focuses on African Women’s Health. She has conducted a number of research projects including a community awareness program for breast and cervical cancer screening; domestic violence among African community; caring for women living with female genital mutilation and parenting experiences of African migrants and refugees. Olayide has publications in referred and peer-reviewed journals and has presented in local, national and international conferences.

Dr Dana Cordell***Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney
Co-founder, Global Phosphorus Research Initiative***

Dr Cordell leads and undertakes international and Australian sustainable food and phosphorus research projects at the [Institute for Sustainable Futures](#). She leads the collaborative P-FUTURES project across Australia, Malawi, Vietnam & the U.S and which aims to identify together with local stakeholders how urban food systems can cope or transform in response to the emerging global phosphorus challenge. Dr Cordell co-founded the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative to facilitate research, networking and public debate among policy-makers, industry, scientists and the public regarding the risks and opportunities for food systems associated with global phosphorus security. As a global food security expert, Dr Cordell is frequently invited to provide expert opinions and interviews, from the United Nations to BBC to Australia’s Chief Scientist. Dr Cordell’s research contributions have led to numerous prestigious recognitions including one of Australia’s top science prizes -- the Eureka Prize for Environmental Research and a position in 100 Women of Influence.

Dr Dharma Hagare***Senior Lecturer, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics
Western Sydney University***

Dr Dharma Hagare, has over 20 years of academic and 5 years of industrial experience in the areas of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His industrial experience includes working with consulting firms and city councils. He has carried out internationally recognised research in a wide variety of fields, including water, salt and nutrient management for optimal agriculture production, agricultural waste management and sustainable water and energy systems. He has a strong track record of completing large research projects with budgets over \$0.4 million. His current projects include use of urban lakes for liveable subdivisions and

sustainable dairy farming. He has received a total of over \$1.3 million in research grants including an ARC grant. He has published over 120 refereed journal and conference publications and 7 book chapters.

Dr Lorraine Towers

Lecturer, School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

Dr Lorraine Towers is a lecturer at the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney, where she teaches Indigenous History and Education, as well as Comparative and International Education. She explores educational experience, identification, subjectivity, and the articulation of authority and power through schooling in various contexts. Her current research includes: *Academics without PhDs*, and *Culture, history and education: Indigenous knowledges, peoples and power*. Her monograph, *Formal Schooling, Identity and Resistance in Ethiopia: Oromo Experience from Empire to the Postcolonial State* (Palgrave MacMillan) will be published later this year.

Dr Matthew A.M. Thomas

Lecturer, The University of Sydney

Matthew A.M. Thomas is a lecturer in comparative education and sociology of education at the University of Sydney, where he coordinates and teaches both undergraduate and post-graduate courses. Matthew completed his Ph.D. in comparative and international development education from the University of Minnesota in 2013 and holds an MA in from Columbia University, Teachers College. Previously he worked as a public school teacher in the United States, where he was certified in music (grades K-12) and social studies (grades 7-12). Matthew has also worked as an educational consultant and professional development facilitator in Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, the U.S. and Zambia.

Professor Jerry Parwada

Head of Banking and Finance, Business School of the University of New South Wales

Professor Jerry Parwada is the Head of Banking and Finance in the UNSW Business School at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. His research specialises in funds management and financial markets and has been published in internationally renowned finance journals, including *Journal of Accounting Research*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis* and *Financial Management*. He has prior investment banking experience and is an active consultant to industry on issues relating to managed funds and valuation. He sits on the Finsia Institutional Markets Advisory Council and has served, since 2012, on the Credit Suisse Endowment Advisory Council. He is a regular speaker at local and international finance conferences. He was educated at St Ignatius College (Zimbabwe) and holds a BCom (Hons) From NUST (Zimbabwe), an MPhil from UNSW Australia, and MBA and PhD degrees from Edith Cowan University.

Pamela Connell

Founder, Changing Minds: Youth Entrepreneurial Empowerment Network

Pamela first journeyed to Rwanda in 2006 and was confronted by rural education standards and sense of oppression. Returning to Rwanda in 2009, as teacher in a rural school, Pamela somehow found herself as national trainer and curriculum developer with British Council and Rwanda's Ministry of Education in the rollout of training teachers how to teach in English using learner-centred methodologies. National curriculum development continued and in 2012 worked alongside USAID and University of Rwanda, College of Education, in the nationwide transition of primary teacher training colleges, curriculum development of Diploma in Primary Teaching and Post-grad Diploma in Vocational Training. In her school administrator role, Pamela pioneered secondary school pathways to entrepreneurship and a

school-to-work internship program, adopted in 2016 into the national curriculum.

Caitlin Barrett

Founding CEO, Love Mercy Foundation

Caitlin Barrett is the founding CEO of Love Mercy Foundation, a not-for-profit that exists to empower communities in northern Uganda to overcome poverty through simple, sustainable projects that generate income and increase access to healthcare and education. Caitlin holds a Bachelor of International studies and a Master of International Development from UNSW, and was recently awarded the Young Alumni of the year Award for her work in Uganda. Caitlin has a young family and lives south of Sydney. She is passionate about gender and sustainable solutions to the complex problems of poverty.

Dr Felix Ogbo

Western Sydney University

Felix Ogbo studied at the University of Benin (MBBS) and Western Sydney University – MPH (Hons). Still at Western Sydney University (WSU), Felix has submitted for examination his Doctor of Philosophy thesis – focused on nutritional epidemiology in sub-Saharan Africa – and has published over 20 peer-reviewed articles in moderate to high impact journals, including The Lancet.

Felix research interests include maternal and child health, including malnutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention and control. While in Nigeria, Felix led both hospital- and community-based initiatives, with a special interest in scaling up uptake of evidence-based interventions for improving health outcomes. He currently teaches units in the Master of Epidemiology and medical degree at WSU.

Abstracts of Presentations

Professor John Hearn

Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Board Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)

In a time of international turbulence, teamwork and knowledge partnerships are pivotal to build trust and capacity that solves challenges. As individual researchers, we are free and able to engage anywhere and we do. Working with and in research and education Networks adds a further dimension in building communities of scholars who can have a team impact. It is vital that we engage the power of established and emerging researchers in creating such opportunities, and that we accelerate achievement by overcoming inertia, ignorance and bureaucracy. The global tectonics with BREXIT, the Sustainable Development Goals, the forming and fracturing of agreements, is a new normal. Higher Education and Research diplomacy is a quiet and enduring diplomacy that must focus our universities, governments, agencies and NGOs to maximum international benefit. We can do this only if we work together.

Transformative Academic Development and Capacity Building in Uganda

Prof Prem Ramburuth, the School of Business at UNSW

The UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all...* seeks to ensure equity in education as *'the foundation to improving people's lives'*. The goal is reflected in UNSW's 2025 Global Development Strategy - to share knowledge, skills and

expertise with academics teaching, researching and working in disadvantaged communities. This presentation highlights the delivery, outcomes and aspirations of a Transformative Academic Development Program being implemented with Gulu University (Uganda). The program aims to enhance teaching performance, strengthen student learning, build capacity and educational leadership, and contribute to a sustainable institutional culture of quality in learning, teaching and research. The presentation also seeks AAUN input and collaboration.

Positive Outcomes - A Sample of the University of Newcastle Strategic Partnerships
David Wise, Advisor to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle

This paper has been written to demonstrate that engaging with partner universities in the Sub Saharan Region on the African Continent can lead to positive outcomes for academic colleagues from both partner institutions, students and at future point members of the local communities.

In the thematic area of Early Childhood Development and Education

Colleagues in the School of Education worked with their colleagues at the University of Fort Hare and North West University to develop a capacity build project to upgrade the qualifications of young academics from UFH and NWU in the area of ECDE. Funding of the project was sourced from the Ford Foundation.

The Outcomes were:

- Cohort of academic colleagues with postgraduate research qualifications in ECDE
- Development of a Centre of Excellence in ECDE at UFH

In the Thematic area of TVET:

Colleagues in the School of Education worked with colleagues in the Faculty of Education, Walter Sisulu University of Science and Technology on a project to capacity build a cohort of young academics in TVET Curriculum Development. The funding Source was the Ford Foundation.

Outcomes:

- A cohort of young academics with postgraduate qualifications in TVET Curriculum Development
- The First Pam Africa TVET Conference
- The Capacity Building of a cohort of FET Administrators from South Africa and Namibia-AAF funds

Thematic Area of Health Research:

Colleagues in the School of Medicine and Public Health, in partnership with their colleagues in the counterpart Faculties at University of Western Cape, University of Botswana, Moi University, Kenya and the Aga Khan University Hospital, Kenya, developed an Australia Leadership and Fellowship project to capacity build the research skills of young academics from the partner institutions.

Student Mobility:

Students from the University of Newcastle and the University of Cape Town have undertaken, on student exchange, have spent at least one semester at the partner institution while UoN a cohort of students from UoN have undertaken project work with students at Moi University.

Occupational Health Nursing Job Characteristics in the South African Mining Sector
Prof Rebecca Mitchell, The University of Newcastle
Prof Anthony O'Brien, The University of Newcastle

The purpose of the project is to investigate the work and job characteristics of occupational

health nurses working in South African mining. The South African Society for Occupational Health Nursing (SASOHN) have identified job (dis)satisfaction and intention to leave as organizational issues that require investigation. This project seeks to investigate the impact of job characteristics on job stress, satisfaction and turnover intention in occupational health nurses in mining.

This project has an ethics committee peer review submission near completion. The survey is also completed for trial. Prof Mitchell has secured a Business and Law Faculty grant to progress the ethics and survey development. Prof O'Brien has provided some funding initially to conduct a literature search.

The Experiences of Patients and Healthcare Workers with Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients Accessing Treatment, Care and Support in the Public Healthcare System, Nelson Mandela Bay

Prof Rebecca Mitchell, Faculty of Business and Law, University of Newcastle

Prof Anthony (Tony) O'Brien, University of Newcastle

To explore patients' and healthcare workers' experiences of the provision of treatment, care and support in the DR-TB healthcare system in the Nelson Mandela Bay Health District (NMBHD) and the impact of these experiences on treatment outcomes.

The specific objectives of the study thus far are to explore and describe: (i) The experiences of patients with DR-TB regarding accessing treatment, care and support; (ii) The current sources of support for patients with DR-TB and; (iii) Cultural and socioeconomic barriers and challenges which may preclude treatment and medication compliance.

It is anticipated there will be two other HIV projects in the wind, perhaps a third, all focusing on treatment care and support in the health system. Another potential TB project also being discussed is related to patient compliance (broadly speaking). There is also a project with the health systems trust, specifically TB challenges in the Eastern Cape region.

Mobile based Information System for Nutrition driven Agriculture to combat Hidden Hunger in Africa

Prof Athula Ginige, Western Sydney University

Researchers at the University of Pretoria have identified wide spread existence of 'hidden hunger' (micronutrient deficiencies) among rural African communities resulting in many health problems. Though there are local crop varieties that can be grown to address this issue lack of relevant knowledge is preventing such crops being grown. The researchers at Western Sydney University have developed a mobile based information system (MBIS) for farmers in Sri Lanka empowering them by providing timely information to grow wide range of crop varieties. We are now exploring ways to minimise 'hidden hunger' by similarly empowering affected communities via a MBIS making use of rapidly growing mobile devices connectivity. At present a detail need assessment is in progress.

Promoting breast cancer awareness and screening among African women in Australia and Africa.

Dr Olayide Ogunsiji, Western Sydney University

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer among women and a leading cause of mortality and morbidity, globally. Its mortality can be improved through routine cancer screening, and

awareness of early signs and symptoms can prompt early treatment. Despite the fact that breast cancers in African women present at a younger age and at later stage, research has demonstrated that both in their home countries and also in many western countries, the participation of African women in breast cancer screening measures is poor. This presentation highlights the delivery of a community-based cancer awareness program among African women in Australia. The key question is “how can breast cancer awareness and screening be promoted among African women in Australia and Africa?” The program is aimed to be replicated in Africa through collaboration with colleagues at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr Dana Cordell

***Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney
Co-founder, Global Phosphorus Research Initiative***

The University of Technology Sydney, through the Institute for Sustainable Futures, leads a range of transdisciplinary sustainable development research in Africa, including: A. P-FUTURES project: working in Malawi engaging research and stakeholder partners to collaboratively identify how they can transform their urban food systems in response to emerging global risk of phosphorus scarcity; B. Conducting research in rural areas of Kenya, Sierra Leone and The Gambia to understand the technologies, service delivery models and socio-environmental factors that enhance the sustainability of safe water supplies.

Urbanisation and its Impact on Liveability, and Water and Food Security

Dr Dharma Hagare, Western Sydney University

With urbanisation, most cities in Africa and Australia are experiencing significant negative impacts due to less land and water for food production, more wastewater and increased flooding risks. This requires development of appropriate strategies to manage the water and land within urban centres. As part of these strategies, stormwater and treated wastewater (recycled water) can be used to develop waterscapes, parklands and nature strips and urban food production capabilities. Planners are now realizing that it is not the reduction in the rainfall which is causing most urban water resources problems, but the lack of appropriate strategies to manage erratic rainfall events. They are slowly understanding that if the rainfall occurring within several city catchments are managed well, it is possible to develop thriving smart-water cities that can support urban waterscapes (such as, urban lakes, fountains and streams), green parklands, nature strips, and vertical, backyard or rooftop farming. This presentation will discuss some of the issues related to the sustainable management of water resources to achieve the goal of reduced water footprint and superior water management plans to improve the nutrition, health and the overall well-being of urban communities. These issues may have relevance to urban and peri-urban areas in Africa.

Academics without PhDs in South Africa and Australia

Dr Lorraine Towers, University of Sydney

Dr Mignonne Breier, University of Capetown (Chief Investigator)

How do the concurrent imperatives of transformation and neo-liberalism in South Africa and Australia affect individuals who are employed as academics but have not yet completed the

traditional initiation into academia – the PhD? This is the question which the AAUN-funded project on ‘Academics without PhDs’ is trying to address, in the qualitative stage of the project. Taking into account the varying country contexts, the initial research is a productive basis for comparative analysis. In-depth interviews with academics in both countries highlight the changing nature of the PhD, new academic ‘games’ and issues of identity and liminality in doctoral education.

Dr Matthew A.M. Thomas
Lecturer, The University of Sydney

Matthew’s research focuses on educational policies, pedagogical practices, teachers’ lives, and the changing roles of teacher and higher education in international. He has co-published a monograph for UNESCO and three book chapters in *Teaching in Tension* (2013) based on collaborations with Tanzanian researchers as well as journal articles in the *Compare*, *Discourse*, *Journal of Education Policy*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, and other journals. His current project in Tanzania examines research capacity building among higher education faculty at a university in the Kilimanjaro Region, where he has worked since 2008. He is collaborating with colleagues at the University of Zambia to explore teacher education curricula and pedagogy.

African Finance Research Capacity Development Initiative
Professor Jerry Parwada
Head of Banking and Finance, Business School of the University of New South Wales

This initiative seeks to use existing high quality research institutions in Africa to build bridges between current and future financial economics research students from the continent. We identify students who would like to compete for a place in the Masters in Risk Management of Financial Markets program at the University of Cape Town (UCT). We provide travel fellowships for the students to attend an academic conference at UCT and present their research proposals for consideration for enrolment. Upon successful completion of the master’s program, selected candidates may be enrolled in the PhD program at UCT in collaboration with researchers at the University of New South Wales. Graduates would also be able to submit stronger applications to PhD programs elsewhere than would be the case without this bridging master’s degree. To complement this initiative, we coordinate PhD supervision for students enrolled at African universities and run coaching clinics for them through PhD symposiums.

Pamela Connell
Founder, Changing Minds: Youth Entrepreneurial Empowerment Network

A part-time 1st-year equivalent PhD Candidate of University of Newcastle, Pamela’s field of research is Entrepreneurship Education in Rwanda and key question is: *In what ways is Rwanda’s entrepreneurship education & training curriculum reflected through the capabilities, functionings, agency and freedoms of rural Rwandan youth post-graduation, on the journey of nascent entrepreneurship under the demands to be self-reliant?*

An advanced liberalist, the research adopts Amartya Sen’s Capabilities Approach in exploring what rooted capabilities of entrepreneurialism are ingrained in Rwandan youth through six years of mandatory study of entrepreneurship. Regarded a pillar in Rwandan society, youth

from 14 to 35yrs are 42% of the population. A minority of students complete full secondary education though, as vocational education begins to flourish alongside academics, retention is increasing. The entrepreneurial ecosystem in Rwanda is encouraging however, as this research journeys life with a few rural postgraduate students toward self-reliance, do they become nascent entrepreneurs?

Research contribution gives voice to rural Rwandan youth and provide valuable feedback to Rwandan education to enhance learning and experiential development of the entrepreneurship curriculum. Future research includes a longitudinal study, broadening the scope, and a documentary series, highlighting the plight of rural African entrepreneurial youth.

Caitlin Barrett

Founding CEO, Love Mercy Foundation

Cents for Seeds is a microloan agriculture program working with women in Northern Uganda. A woman is loaned a 30kg loan of seeds of her choice. She attends agricultural training workshops and joins a village savings and loans group. From her harvest she returns the initial principal of 30kgs, and uses the rest of her crop to generate income and food security for her family and community. The returned loan is then given again to another woman the following year making the program self sustainable. There are currently 10,000 women across Northern Uganda participating in 2017.

Food insecurity and malnutrition among a highly vulnerable group in Nigeria: a call to action

Dr Felix Ogbo, Western Sydney University

Status: Food insecurity and malnutrition are the major causes of death and disability adjusted life years among a highly vulnerable group (people living with HIV/AIDS, PLWHA) in Nigeria.

Objective: To establish a platform for experts to translate context-specific, culturally-appropriate and evidence-based initiatives on food security and optimal nutrition into practice for PLWHA.

Future: The collaborative platform will improve short-term health outcomes and long-term sustainable source of income for PLWHA.
