






Profiles of Session Chairs, Keynote Speakers, Panelists and Discussants


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| Name: Professor Frans Swanepoel | |
| Institution: University of Pretoria, South Africa & AAUN Secretariat | Department: Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) |
| Position: Director of Strategic International Partnerships & AAUN Interim Co-Chair | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Professor Frans Swanepoel is the Director of Strategic International Partnerships and Professor of Agricultural Transformation in Africa at the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria and the interim Co-Chair for the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) Steering Group. He is also a Fellow at the Institute for African Development, Cornell University and visiting fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, University of Western Australia.</p> |
| | <p>Professor Swanepoel has served in executive positions at various leading universities across South Africa. He has served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation at the University of the Western Cape, Dean at the University of Free State, Director of the African Doctoral Academy at Stellenbosch University and Director of the Postgraduate School for Agricultural and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria.</p> |
| | <p>Professor Swanepoel has published extensively, with more than 170 scientific journal articles, conference proceedings, book chapters and reports. He has been chief-editor for three books, including the latest: <i>Towards Impact and Resilience: Transformative Change in and through Agricultural Education and Training in sub-Saharan Africa</i>.</p> |


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| Name: Professor Dhanjay Jhurry | | |
| Institution: University of Mauritius, Mauritius | | Department: |
| Position: Vice Chancellor | | Nationality: Mauritian |
| Photo | Bio profile: | |
|  | <p>Professor Dhanjay Jhurry is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius. He received his PhD in Polymer Chemistry in 1992 from Bordeaux-1 University (France). After spending three years as Research Chemist at Flamel Technologies company in Lyon, France working on biomedical polymers, in December 1994, he joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Mauritius as Lecturer and was appointed Professor in 2005. He held the post of National Research Chair in Biomaterials and Drug Delivery under the Mauritius Research Council from 2012 to 2016. He founded and headed the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), a centre attached to the University of Mauritius, from 2011 to 2016.</p> | |
| | <p>Prof Jhurry worked on sucrose-based polymers for his PhD. His mainstream research in polymer science, biomaterials and tissue engineering, nanotechnology/nanomedicine and drug delivery has led to 70 papers in scholarly journals. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Polymer International and also a member of the IUPAC Committee on Polymers.</p> | |
| | <p>He has received various national and international awards and recognition including the first Best Mauritian Scientist Award in 2011, the 'Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' insignia by the Rep. of Mauritius in 2012 and the 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques' insignia by the Rep. of France in 2007. He was designated 'Mauricien de l'Annee 2011' by local newspaper l'Express. Prof Jhurry was also Vice-President of the COMESA Innovation Council from 2013 to 2015.</p> | |

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| Name: Professor Tawana Kupe | |
| Institution: University of Pretoria, South Africa | Department: |
| Position: Vice Chancellor and Principal | Nationality: Zimbabwean |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Professor Kupe is the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria. Prior to joining the University of Pretoria, he was based at the University of the Witwatersrand where he held the rotating Vice-Principal post for one year and also served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Advancement, Human Resources and Transformation since January 2013.</p> <p>Professor Kupe also served as the Executive Dean of the University of the Witwatersrand Faculty of Humanities for six years, between January 2007 and December 2012, after serving as the Head of the then School of Literature and Language Studies, and the founding Head of the Media Studies Department.</p> <p>Prior to joining University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Kupe lectured at Rhodes University between 1999 and 2001, and briefly acted as the Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. He joined Rhodes from the University of Zimbabwe, where he worked in various academic capacities from 1988, including as Chairperson of the Department of English, Media and Communication Studies.</p> <p>Professor Kupe holds a BA Honours degree and Masters in English from the University of Zimbabwe, as well as a DPhil in Media Studies from the University of Oslo in Norway</p> |


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| Name: Professor John Hearn | | |
| Institution: University of Sydney, Australia & AAUN Secretariat | | Department: |
| Position: Deputy Vice Chancellor & AAUN Co-Chair | | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor John Hearn is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (International) and Professor of Reproductive Physiology at the University of Sydney. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Steering Group of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN). Prior to that he served as the Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network for a period of over 10 years.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Hearn was awarded his PhD from the Australian National University (ANU) and served for 6-7 years leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU and Sydney. Most recently he was Vice President (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and Vice President (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He teaches first year and advanced students in science and biomedicine. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Hearn has published 210 research papers and edited six books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell biology and biotechnology. A committed international citizen, he has worked globally in research capacity development, especially in China, India, Thailand, Kenya and Brazil. He is a senior adviser to the Australian Government, World Health Organisation and the OECD. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and Chairman of the Board of the Sydney Confucius Institute.</p> | |


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| Name: Hon Minister Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun | |
| Institution: Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius | Department: |
| Position: Honorable Minister | Nationality: Mauritian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun is currently the honorable Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in the government of Mauritius. She has also served as the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions (2010-2011) and Minister of Arts and Culture (2004-2005). Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun has also served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary from 2000-2004 and a member of Parliament since 2000.</p> <p>Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun is an educator in the field of science by profession. She has been a part-time lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). She also served as the Vice President and President of the women`s wing of the Militant Socialist Movement in Mauritius.</p> <p>Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun holds a Bsc (Hons) in Zoology from the University of Delhi and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Science) at the MIE and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of Brighton.</p> |


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| Name: Professor Maano Ramutsindela | | |
| Institution: University of Cape Town, South Africa | | Department: Department of Environmental and Geographical Science |
| Position: Dean, Faculty of Science | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Maano Ramutsindela is Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Before his appointment as the Dean, Professor Ramutsindela was the Deputy Dean of Operations. He has also served the science faculty in critical committees such as the Ad Hominem Committee, Committee of Assessors and the Executive Committee. He chaired the Faculty of Science Transformation Advisory Committee and served as an elected member of the UCT Council and the Senate Executive Committee. He has also represented UCT in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and is the founding co-chair of the WUN Global Africa Group.</p> | |
| | <p>Having obtained his PhD in Geography from the Royal Holloway, University of London, Professor Ramutsindela has gone on to receive the NRF President Award (currently known as the NRF Prestigious Award), the International Visitor Award of the African Studies Association in the USA, an appointment as Fellow of the Society of South African Geographers, and the NRF Award for the Transformation of the Science Cohort. He is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Ramutsindela has researched and published extensively in the areas of borders, regions, land reform and transfrontier conservation. He uses these themes to engage with broader debates on the conceptions and institutionalization of borders and their (im)materiality, territorial politics, regionalisms, and the society-nature relations.</p> | |


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| Name: Her Excellency Ms Jenny Dee | | |
| Institution: Australian High Commission to Mauritius | | Department: |
| Position: Ambassador/High Commissioner | | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Her Excellence, Ms Dee is currently the Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius. She also holds non-resident accreditation as Ambassador to Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles. Prior to her appointment she was a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Director, External Budget Section. In Canberra Ms Dee has held a range of positions in DFAT, including as Director, Sri Lanka and Maldives Section; India Political and Regional Section; and Indonesia Economic and Transnational Issues Section. She has served overseas at Australia's missions in Jakarta and Harare. Ms Dee holds a Master of Arts (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from Monash University and a Bachelor of Business (Journalism) from the Queensland University of Technology. She is married with two children.</p> | |

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| Name: Dr Aldo Stroebe | |
| Institution: National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa | Department: Strategic Partnerships |
| Position: Executive Director | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Dr Aldo Stroebe is Executive Director Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa, and Visiting Fellow at the Institute for African Development at Cornell University, USA. He is a former President of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), serves as South Africa's National Contact Point for the ERC to H2020, and holds Ministerial appointments to the boards of the Water Research Commission (WRC), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC); and the National Education and Training Forum for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (NETFAFF). He was a founding member of the SA Young Academy of Science, and is an elected Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS).</p> <p>Dr Stroebe holds Bsc and Honors degrees from the University of Pretoria; Master's degree in International Agricultural Development from University of Ghent, Belgium and PhD from the University of the Free State and Cornell University, USA. He also completed postdoctoral research at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Dr Stroebe has published widely in smallholder farming systems, and has been acknowledged as a leader in internationalisation of Higher Education, and research and innovation management.</p> <p>.</p> |


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| Name: Dr Moses Osiru | | |
| Institution: International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Kenya | | Department: PASET |
| Position: Manager | | Nationality: |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr. Moses Osiru is currently the Manager for PASET Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund at the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya. Prior to that he was the Deputy Executive Secretary at the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM).</p> <p>Moses' previous work experience includes the CGIAR in Malawi and Uganda, NARs in East Africa and the Government of Uganda. Moses serves on the Board of the African Crop Science Society and the GCHERA and Editorial Boards of the Journal of Phytology and the Global Journal of Applied Agricultural Research. He is a member of the Steering Group of AFAAS. With over 20 publications, Dr. Osiru has participated as a Scientist on various EC Projects including an EC project for non-state actors in Malawi with CARE-Malawi; Mcknight Foundation Projects on Groundnut Breeding and Aflatoxin Management; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Project on Legume Breeding with ICRISAT. He also coordinated an ACP S&T Project on strengthening the engagement of universities with development practice, and leads the WP4 on capacity building in FARA/AgriNatura led DGDEV PAEPARD Project.</p> | |


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| Name: Professor Sanjeev K Sobhee | | | |
| Institution: University of Mauritius | | Department: | |
| Position: Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academia) | | Nationality: Mauritian | |
| Photo | | Bio profile | |
|  | | <p>Professor Sanjeev K Sobhee is the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academia) and Professor of Applied Economics and Development Studies at the University of Mauritius. Previously, he served as Dean of Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities from 2008 to 2011. He taught Advanced Macroeconomics, Public Policy, Economics of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Quantitative Methods mostly on postgraduate programmes of studies. His research areas include, amongst others, theoretical and applied economics, development issues and macroeconomics of the environment.</p> <p>Prof Sobhee has published extensively in internationally refereed journals such as Journal of Economic Policy Forum, Oxford Development Studies, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, American Review of Political Economy, Development Southern Africa, Applied Economics Letters, Ocean and Coastal Management and Environmental Management.</p> <p>In addition, Prof Sanjeev Sobhee has consulted on quite a few projects for various international institutions, namely, The World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC). Among some of the completed projects, he has been working on Green Fiscal Policy Making, Migration and Climate Change, Socio-economic Consequences of Alcohol Abuse and Household Indebtedness in Mauritius.</p> | |


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| Name: Dr Christine Erbe | |
| Institution: Curtin University, Australia | Department: Centre for Marine Science and Technology |
| Position: Director | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Dr Christine Erbe is the Director of the Centre for Marine Science and Technology (CMST) at Curtin University. She has worked in the private sector as a private consultant and Director of JASCO Australia and as a research scientist at the Institute of Oceans Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.</p> |
| | <p>Dr Erbe is also a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, the Chair of the Animal Bioacoustics Technical Committee of the Acoustical Society of America, and the Australian Government representative on the International Standardization Organization (ISO) working group on standardising underwater noise measurements of vessels.</p> |
| | <p>Dr Erbe has published widely in the areas of underwater acoustics, marine soundscapes, noise generation and propagation, and noise impacts on marine life. She holds an MSc in Physics from University of Dortmund and a PhD in Geophysics from University of British Columbia.</p> |


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| Name: Professor Vishwanath Attri | | |
| Institution: University of Mauritius | | Department: Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) |
| Position: Chair of Indian Ocean Studies | | Nationality: |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Attri is the Chair of Indian Ocean Studies at the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), University of Mauritius. He has worked as a Professor and Head of Department in the Department of Economics, University of Kurukshetra and ICSSR Senior Fellow, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.</p> | |
| | <p>Over the past few years, Professor Attri has emerged as an international expert in Blue Ocean Economy. His inputs and expertise have been solicited by international organizations such as the World Bank, universities/research institutions, various governments of IORA member countries. He is currently a member of the Working Group based on the “National Blue Economy and Sustainable Development Policy” spearheaded by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India as well as a member of the Blue Economy Task Force.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Attri is also an eminent expert in International Trade and Investment, with a postdoctoral research in International Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as well as the George Washington University. He has supervised more than 45 MPhil students and more than a dozen PhD scholars. He has also published more than 75 research papers in reputable international and national journals and participated in more than 35 international conferences.</p> | |


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| Name: Mrs Prerna Roy | |
| Institution: Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) | Department: Natural Product Chemistry Unit |
| Position: Associate Research Scientist | Nationality: Mauritian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
| | <p>Mrs Roy is an Associate Research Scientist at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) since 2011. She is currently working on the project 'Bioprospecting of Mauritius Waters' and is involved in identifying potential cancer drug leads from marine- derived substances and elucidating their mechanism of action. Her research interests encompass cancer research, marine biotechnology and cellular biology amongst others.</p> |


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| Name: Professor Erika Techera | |
| Institution: University of Western Australia | Department: |
| Position: Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Professor Techera is the Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) and a Professor of Law in the Law School at the University of Western Australia (UWA). She was formerly the Director of the UWA Oceans Institute and before that Dean of the Faculty of Law. Before becoming an academic Professor Techera practised as a barrister in Sydney for over 7 years. She has also been a company director.</p> <p>Professor Techera is an international and comparative environmental lawyer with particular emphasis on marine environmental law and the legal protection of cultural heritage relating to the oceans. Her research explores Indo-Pacific maritime issues: marine environmental law, marine protected area governance, migratory species and marine pollution, as well as international law for the conservation and management of wildlife and habitats. Her most recent projects include the intersection of climate change and fisheries law; transnational maritime crime and IUU fishing; rigs-to-reefs law and policy; and intangible marine heritage. She teaches three postgraduate subjects: Oceans Governance, International Environmental Law and Global Heritage Governance. Erika is the author of more than 50 publications including books, chapters and journal articles, and regularly presents public lectures and at academic conferences. She supervises law and non-law research students.</p> |


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| Name: Mr Gareth Rees | | |
| Institution: Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) | | Department: |
| Position: Director | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Mr Rees has been seconded from the South African Department of International Relations and Corporation (DIRCO) as a Director of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat since January 2019. Prior to joining the IORA Secretariat, he has held several positions in the South African foreign service. He has served at the DIRCO headquarters in Pretoria dealing with South Africa's relations with IORA (2015-2019), the European Union (2009-2011) and the United States (1992-1994 and 1999-2003). He has served abroad in DIRCO's diplomatic missions in Windhoek, Namibia (2011-2015), Washington DC, USA (2003-2008), and Vienna, Austria (1994-1999).</p> | |
| | <p>Mr Rees has a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in International Relations and Psychology from the University of Witwatersrand.</p> | |


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| Name: Dr Jeremy Prince | |
| Institution: Murdoch University, Australia | Department: Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research |
| Position: Adjunct Professor | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Dr Jeremy Prince is an alumni and Adjunct Professor of fisheries at Murdoch University. With more than 30 years of international experience he is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts in assessing and managing small scale and subsistence fisheries. Long held to be the most intractable challenge for sustainable fisheries, the inapplicability of established methodologies has, until recently, made it impossible to scientifically address the sustainability of more than 90% of the world's fisheries, upon which 40+ million artisanal fishers directly depend, and 200+ million people indirectly depend, many of them in Africa. Since a break-through discovery in 2011, hailed by the Marine Stewardship Council as a 'global game-changer', Dr Prince has been working around the world implementing his new approach to small-scale fisheries assessment and management. Supported by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, since 2012 he has been primarily focused on fisheries reform in Pacific rim and island countries. However, invited by the World Wildlife Fund and Kenyan Fisheries Service, in 2017 he began introducing his approach to Africa where he is happy to see it being adopted just as enthusiastically, already empowering discussion about reforming coastal fisheries management.</p> <p>Recently, the Lake Tanganyika Authority initiated discussions about extending his approach into the great rift valley lakes.</p> |


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| Name: Dr Thandi Mgwebi | | |
| Institution: Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa | | Department: |
| Position: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Engagement) | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr Thandi Mgwebi is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Engagement) at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in South Africa. Prior to joining TUT, she was Director of Research at the University of the Western Cape since 2015. Dr Mgwebi is a research and innovation leader with a PhD in Cell and Development Biology from the University of Cape Town. Her experience includes two years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the South African Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) at UCT; a ten-year full-time appointment as research leader and manager at within the SA System of innovation from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); MRC and the NRF where she was Executive Director for the South African Research Chairs and centres of Excellence.</p> | |
| | <p>She is an insightful leader in the SA Higher Education landscape, served in the Ministerial task team for design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a National Mathematical Sciences Programme. She has featured in many international forums for research management and practice in higher education. Dr Thandi has provided training on research and grant management to a range of stakeholders in and outside South Africa including her role as trainer and facilitator for Objective 1 of the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) in Africa. Dr Thandi is an advocate of science engagement and communication; she has concluded significant international partnerships that have leveraged financial and in-kind support for the national science agenda.</p> | |
| | <p>She has also represented the country at many international forums such as the World Science Forum; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the European Open Science forum; the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS).</p> | |


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| Name: Professor Eeva Leinonen | | |
| Institution: Murdoch University, Australia | | Department: |
| Position: Vice Chancellor | | Nationality: |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Eeva Leinonen joined Murdoch University as Vice Chancellor in April 2016, after three years of service as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Wollongong.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Leinonen has an academic background in linguistics and psychology and has extensive experience in higher education in the United Kingdom, Europe and internationally. Her academic research focuses on pragmatic deficits of children with autistic spectrum disorders as well as higher education topics relating to curriculum and use of technology in learning.</p> | |
| | <p>Prior to moving to Australia in 2012, Professor Leinonen held the position of Vice-Principal (Education) and Professor of Clinical Linguistics at King's College, University of London. She has also been Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hertfordshire, UK where she also held a number of other academic leadership positions including Dean of the Faculty of Health and Human Sciences, Director of the Health and Human Sciences Research Institute, Head of the School of Psychology and Head of the School of Humanities.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Leinonen has been actively involved in national and international higher education debates and advisory groups, including: Chair of the UK Higher Education Funding Council/Quality Assurance Agency advisory group into Employer Engagement in Learning, Chair of the King's -Warwick Project, Trustee of IntoUni Charitable Trust; Trustee of the School's Competition Settlement Trust, Member of the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group in Australia, Member of the CEOs Council of Open Educational Resources University; Director of University of Wollongong Dubai Ltd.</p> | |


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| Name: Professor Teboho Moja | | | |
| Institution: New York University, USA | | Department: Administration, Leadership and Technology | |
| Position: Professor of Higher Education | | Nationality: South African | |
| Photo | | Bio profile | |
|  | | <p>Professor Teboho Moja is a Professor of higher education at New York University (NYU) and has been a policy analyst with a focus on the South African higher education system.</p> <p>Professor Moja has held key positions linked to higher education in South Africa including; Special Advisor to the Minister of Education; chair of the Board of Trustees to the largest university in South Africa, the University of South Africa and the Executive Director and Commissioner to the National Commission on Higher Education appointed by former President Nelson Mandela. The Commission produced a national report that provided a framework for higher education reform in South Africa. Professor Moja was also instrumental in setting up the Center for Higher Education Transformation (CHET) in South Africa to monitor and stimulate debates on change issues. She serves on the boards of international bodies such as the UNESCO-Institute for international Education Planning and the World Education Market. Professor Moja is also a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS), University of Pretoria.</p> | |

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| Name: Mrs Kirsty Kaiser | | |
| Institution: Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) | | Department: Research Fairness Initiative |
| Position: Implementation Manager | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Kirsty completed her MSocSci in Psychology (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Her interests lie in research ethics and fairness in research.</p> | |
| | <p>Kirsty joined COHRED in 2017 as an intern, working on the Research Fairness Initiative – a project aimed at improving research partnerships and creating a global learning platform to better understand practices surrounding them. Her work in 2017 involved assisting in project management of the RFI. In 2018, Kirsty was promoted to RFI Implementation Manager and she works on the RFI out of Ballito, South Africa. Her work currently involves management of the RFI, introducing it on a global scale, as well as working towards digitising the RFI to promote fair research partnerships between institutions across the globe.</p> | |


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| Name: Professor Jaya Dantas | | |
| Institution: Curtin University, Australia | | Department: Faculty of Health Sciences |
| Position: Dean International and Professor of International Health | | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Jaya Dantas is Dean International and Professor of International Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University, Western Australia where she leads the Faculty Strategic International portfolio. Professor Dantas received her PhD in Science Education from Curtin University in 2003. She was Director of Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences between 2011 and 2017 and chaired the Faculty Research Training Committee.</p> | |
| | <p>Her research and teaching expertise is in health inequities, the social determinants and community based participatory research with refugees and migrants. Professor Dantas has worked for 34 years in India, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Australia, and has undertaken research and teaching in Timor Leste, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and South Africa.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Dantas is widely published and currently co-ordinates the PhD programme in International Health. She has expertise in participatory community health and field research and leads a program of research in Global Migration and Health Inequalities with communities in Western Australia and Internationally.</p> <p>In 2010, she was awarded a National Award for University Teaching by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, in 2013, she was made a Fellow of the Public Health Association of Australia and has been a Graduate Women International Delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, USA from 2015 onwards. She has recently been appointed as President of Australian Graduate Women.</p> | |


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| Name: Dr Salem Saumtally | | |
| Institution: Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) | | Department: |
| Position: Director | | Nationality: |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr Salem Saumtally is Director of the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute (MSIRI). He manages Research and Development (R&D) at MSIRI, implemented by a team of 44 scientists and technicians. These R&D objectives are contained in a 5-year Plan (2016-2020) linked to the long-term sustainability of the Mauritian cane industry aiming at improving and developing new cane varieties, better crop management practices and value addition to contribute to industry diversification and profitability. He is also engaged in monitoring research projects conducted by MSIRI in partnership with other countries and institutions.</p> | |
| | <p>Salem Saumtally has a first degree in Microbiology from the University of Dundee, UK and an M Phil degree in Applied Biology from the University of Cambridge, UK. He obtained his Doctoral degree (PhD) from the University of Reading, UK, in 1996.</p> | |
| | <p>Salem Saumtally is a member of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the British Society of Plant Pathology (BSPP). He forms part of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT), an apex international body for sugarcane. He has conducted several consultancies on the sugarcane crop in Africa and in Asia.</p> | |
| | <p>He currently serves as member of different Boards and Committees of various local institutions.</p> | |


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| Name: Dr Anne Makena | | |
| Institution: Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) | | Department: |
| Position: Program Coordinator | | Nationality: Kenyan |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr. Anne Makena is a biochemist and the Program Coordinator of the Africa Oxford Initiative, a vibrant platform for all things Africa in the University of Oxford. Anne holds a BSc in Biochemistry from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, and a DPhil in Chemical Biology from the University of Oxford where she was a Rhodes Scholar.</p> | |
| | <p>Her research interests are in antimicrobial resistance with a particular focus on the biophysical and biochemical characterisation of metallo-beta-lactamases – bacterial enzymes that confer resistance to the vital penicillin class of antibiotics. She has published extensively on protein stability, structural and conformational changes and inhibition profiles metallo-β-lactamase variants with the aim to elucidate drivers of the enzymes' rapid evolution.</p> | |
| | <p>Her experiences as a researcher, and student leader in Kenya and the UK have made her passionate about transformation of higher Education and research institutions in African countries, and in particular exploring the utility of international collaborations in strengthening research capacity in the continent.</p> | |
| | <p>In this light, Dr. Makena co-founded and took up management of the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) in 2016 and has since been coordinating the everyday activities of the Initiative. She has been involved in the setting up and management of researcher mobility schemes to support establishment of new and sustainable partnerships between Oxford University academics and colleagues in various African Institutions. She is currently working with her team at AfOx on establishing and maintaining various programs which ensure that engagement with African researchers and academics remains a strategic priority for Oxford and other like-minded universities.</p> | |

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| Name: Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa | |
| Institution: University of Pretoria, South Africa | Department: Center for the Advancement of Scholarship |
| Position: Postdoctoral fellow & Programme Coordinator for ESDA | Nationality: Zimbabwean |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of University of Pretoria. He also the programme coordinator for the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) initiative which was initiated by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) in Tokyo, Japan.</p> <p>From 2016-2017, Farai was a JSPS UNU Postdoctoral fellow at UNU-IAS. His postdoctoral research focused on the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), with particular emphasis on governance and linking the global vision with national implementation strategies in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. Before joining the United Nations University, Farai was an Old Mutual Emerging Markets lecturer for three years at the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town. In addition to this, he also worked as a consultant on projects related to inclusive business models, energy efficiency, environmental management and climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa for organizations such as UNDP and GIZ.</p> <p>Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa holds a PhD in Business and Political Science from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. His thesis explored the business contributions to climate change governance in areas of limited statehood in the case of South Africa and Kenya.</p> |


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| Name: Mr Ian Halliday | | |
| Institution: Australia Trade & Investment Commission; Australian Consulate in Dubai | | Department: |
| Position: General Manager, Middle East & Africa; Consul-General, Dubai | | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Mr Ian Halliday joined Austrade in July 2018 as General Manager – Middle East and Africa with responsibility for Austrade operations across the region. He also holds the position of Consul-General of Australia to Dubai. Prior to joining Austrade, Ian was Managing Director of Dairy Australia from January 2010. Ian's expertise includes an extensive range of management roles with SPC, Goodman Fielder, Kraft Foods, KR Castlemaine and Vesco Foods. At Vesco Foods and KR Castlemaine he was the CEO, responsible for leading transformational change at both organisations. Whilst at Kraft Foods, Ian was Director of Operations responsible for all manufacturing and supply chain activities for the Kraft Australia organisation. He was also responsible for all Kraft Australia Export business, most of which included sales into Asia and the Middle East. His last appointment at Kraft Foods was the Director of Coffee Operations based in the United Kingdom.</p> | |
| | <p>Ian has a Bachelors in Applied Sciences (Food Tech) from Hawkesbury Agricultural College. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), and a former Director of Agrifood at Skills Australia, and GOTAFE.</p> | |


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| Name: Professor Prem Ramburuth | |
| Institution: University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia | Department: School of Management |
| Position: Professor in International Business | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile |
|  | <p>Prem Ramburuth is Professor in International Business in the School of Management, UNSW Sydney, Australia. Her leadership positions at UNSW include Immediate Past President of the Academic Board, Associate Dean Education and Undergraduate Programs, Head of School of Management, and Foundation Director of the Business School Academic Development Centre. She researches and teaches in Cross-Cultural and Diversity Management in Business and Higher Education and is a member of editorial boards including the Journal for Multicultural Education, International Journal of Emerging Markets and Chinese Management Studies. Her research focuses on International Business and Emerging Economies, Diversity and Inclusion, Gender Equity, and China's Global Growth in Africa. She currently holds an AAUN PRDF Grant for research into 'Empowerment in the Workplace: Women in Africa' with researchers from AAUN partners in South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.</p> <p>Professor Ramburuth is the Academic Lead for Africa at the UNSW Institute for Global Development. She oversees transformative development programs in Northern Uganda in areas including capacity building and training for academic staff; medical education and community initiatives; student exchange and global learning; research in peace and governance; and is planning to establish a Learning, Teaching and Community Development Institute at Gulu University (Northern Uganda). She has been Chair of the Academic Board, National Institute of Dramatic Art; is on the Panel of Experts, Australian Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA); and is Higher Education Program Assessor, Fiji National Higher Education Commission. She is Visiting Professor at Gulu University (Uganda); and has been Visiting Professor at VNU Hanoi Business School (Vietnam), University of Colorado (Denver), and University Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia).</p> |

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| Name: Professor Stephanie Burton | | |
| Institution: University of Pretoria, South Africa | | Department: |
| Position: Vice-Principal (Research & Postgraduate Education) | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Stephanie Burton is the Vice-Principal for Research and Postgraduate Education at the University of Pretoria, appointed in 2011. She holds an MSc in Organic Chemistry (1990) and a PhD in Biochemistry (1994) from Rhodes University. Professor Burton's academic career started in Biochemistry and Biotechnology at Rhodes University, and then as Professor in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. She served as Director of Postgraduate Studies and Director of the Biocatalysis and Technical Biology Group at Cape Peninsula University of Technology before her current appointment. Her research interests are in applied biochemistry and biotechnology, and she has held an NRF B rating. She has published widely and supervised a large number of postgraduate students.</p> | |
| | <p>Professor Burton is the member of the University of Pretoria Executive responsible for the implementation of the University's new Future Africa initiative. She has a passion for developing inter-and trans-disciplinary research, especially that focusing on sustainability. She has also maintained a strong interest in research capacity development and postgraduate training, and she serves on several national bodies related to doctoral training. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and a member of the Council of Academy of Science of South Africa.</p> | |

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| Name: Dr David Mickler | | |
| Institution: The University of Western Australia (UWA) | | Department: Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) |
| Position: Director of AfREC | | Nationality: Australian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr David Mickler is the Director of the Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) at the University of Western Australia and a Senior Lecturer in Foreign Policy & International Relations in the School of Social Sciences. From 2016-18, Dr Mickler was the inaugural Co-Chair (with Prof. Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town) of the Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group (WUN GAG), and he has co-hosted the AAUN Australia Forum at UWA since 2016. His research focuses on Australia-Africa relations as well as on the role of the African Union in regional governance. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia, 2013), a Visiting Researcher at the African Union Commission (Ethiopia & South Africa, 2017), and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria (South Africa, 2019). His most recent book is M. Ramutsindela & D. Mickler (eds), <i>Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (Springer, 2019). At UWA, he teaches courses on Africa's international relations, Africa's security, and a collaborative short course in Pretoria and Jakarta on cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. Dr Mickler won the Community Pillar Award at the Inaugural WA African Community Awards 2019.</p> | |

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| Name: Professor Carolin Plewa | | |
| Institution: University of Adelaide, Australia | | Department: Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre |
| Position: Professor & Director | | Nationality: Australia & Germany |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Professor Carolin Plewa is the Director (Interim) of the Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre and Professor of Marketing and Stakeholder Engagement at The University of Adelaide, Australia. As part of this role she facilitates a range of initiatives driving entrepreneurial learning and activity in Australia and internationally. Professor Plewa specialises in the interaction and value co-creation across a myriad of organisations and individuals, with a particular emphasis on university-business collaboration, as well as service and social contexts. Her research in the context of university-business engagement, in particular, has led to her appointments to the South Australian Science Council (2015-2018), to the Accreditation Council of the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial & Engaged Universities, to the Australian Research Council Engagement & Impact Assessment Panel (Social Sciences, 2018), and to co-chair the University-Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) Australia Chapter. Complementing her extensive higher education profile and publication record, Professor Plewa holds valuable industry experience, particularly in the areas of commercialisation, relationship and event management.</p> | |

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| Name: Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee | | |
| Institution: University of Pretoria, South Africa | | Department: Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship |
| Position: Senior Researcher | | Nationality: South African |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr Mentz-Coetzee is currently appointed as Senior Researcher at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS), University of Pretoria working on the Peer Learning for Emerging Researchers' Knowledge and Advancement (PERKA) Initiative which aims to identify, analyse, document, and share the key lessons learned from the Carnegie Corporation's investment in postdoctoral fellowships in Africa through a collaborative, participatory, peer-learning approach, and to document and investigate partnership models for postdoctoral fellowships in Africa.</p> | |
| | <p>Dr Melody Mentz- Coetzee is a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning specialist focusing on theory-based mixed-methods evaluation initiatives; and the monitoring and evaluation of research and leadership in the context of development, with an emphasis on gender and agriculture. She has worked for the past six years as an evaluator in multinational contexts, engaged at national, pan-African and international levels. She was recently appointed as the Secretariat to the International Panel of Experts conducting the institutional review of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), a multinational, research institute with a focus on policy relevant science (in Austria). Prior to that, she was an external member of the evaluation team for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) programme run in eleven African countries involving more than 600 women based in Nairobi (Kenya).</p> | |
| | <p>Dr Mentz- Coetzee is a co-author on national and international publications on the engagement patterns of undergraduate students and contributed a number of chapters to a social sciences research methodology textbook tailor-made for developing contexts. Most recently she contributed several papers in a multi-volume special journal edition of Gender and Development on Catalyzing and Evaluating Gender, Women's Leadership and Empowerment in Agricultural Research and Development in Africa.</p> | |
| | <p>In 2010 she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to work and study at the National Survey of Student Engagement Institute, Indiana University (USA), which led to the completion of her PhD.</p> | |

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| Name: Dr Mohammad Santally | | |
| Institution: University of Mauritius | | Department: |
| Position: Pro Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources) | | Nationality: Mauritian |
| Photo | Bio profile | |
|  | <p>Dr Mohammad Issack Santally is the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning & Resources) at the University of Mauritius. He joined the university as a research assistant at the Virtual Centre for Innovative Learning Technologies (VCILT). He was subsequently appointed as Instructional Designer, in 2002 and Lecturer in 2005. In 2009 he was appointed as Officer-in-Charge of the VCILT and he was promoted to Associate Professor in the field of Education Technologies in 2014. He also served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning before being appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources) in April 2017.</p> | |
| | <p>Dr Santally is an active researcher in the field of Education Technology and e-Learning and he has been involved in a number of regional consultancies for institutions like the Commonwealth of Learning, COMESA and SADC. In 2006 he was elected the “Outstanding Young Person of Mauritius”, and in 2010 he led the University of Mauritius to be awarded the prestigious Commonwealth of Learning Excellence Awards in Distance Education. He has worked on innovative learning methodologies such as the Rapid e-Learning Technique, which helps educators and practitioners to develop their own e-learning and interactive materials without high-end ICT skills. In collaboration with Microsoft and Commonwealth of Learning, he has been conducting a series of capacity-building workshops in South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, India, Seychelles, Mauritius and Rodrigues.</p> | |