



FIROZ LALJI CENTRE FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

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MESSAGE FROM FIROZ LALJI

YEAR IN REVIEW



Despite only being in its third year, the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa has rapidly grown into a global leader in research and African engagement.



Fulfilling its aim to work in partnership with Africa, the Centre has started new projects with researchers on the continent, facilitated leadership and PhD writing workshops, organised networking hubs everywhere from Lagos to Nairobi to Juba, and increased its prestigious blog's readership worldwide. These achievements are reflected in high-profile media coverage and sold-out events throughout the year, raising the Centre's international reputation.



Whether it's growing the star potential of LSE's African students through the Programme for African Leadership, or publishing world-leading research based on rigorous fieldwork, the Firoz Lalji Centre is challenging the limits of what a global, outward looking Centre can achieve. With more staff and increased funding, we look forward to the next year and the exciting new ventures it will bring.

A middle-aged man with thinning grey hair and glasses is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to his right and speaking into a microphone. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been a busy year, with intense research activities and many very successful events. Highlights for me were the inspiring 2018 PfAL Forum in Mombasa, Kenya, which brought together PfAL alumni from across the continent; the sixth Africa Summit, which had some remarkably engaging and thought-provoking sessions; and the Save the Children Centenary Conference, co-hosted with the agency.

These events have benefitted greatly from the insights generated by our research programmes, which continue to expand into new areas, and from the exhibitions and presentations by artists working with us at the Centre.

Publications by our academics have been prolific, including papers in leading journals and widely read blogs on topics as diverse as Ebola, child soldiers, international aid, football, memorialisation, art, economic growth, populism, entrepreneurship, water supply, gendered violence, justice, spirituality, and the past and present of African scholarship. In support of the latter, we have published the main anthropological writings of renowned poet Okot p'Bitek, including his book about studying in Oxford in the 1960s, as well as his doctoral thesis—a remarkable work on Uganda that was astonishingly failed in 1970. Other new books have

focussed on Pan-Africanism, humanitarianism and sexual violence and justice in northern Uganda.

The Centre is growing and attracting more funding and support. Placing Africa at the core of LSE activities, we are reaching out to African scholars and policymakers to develop genuinely co-produced initiatives. By mentoring researchers, in the UK and in Africa, our raised capacity has benefitted the quality and scope of our work.

We are excited to expand these activities over the coming year. Our new engagement programme will strengthen existing partnerships and build new links with African universities, charities, and businesses. This work, combined with supporting new African fellowships, will further the continent's relationship with LSE's staff and students.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tim Allen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PROFESSOR TIM ALLEN
DIRECTOR, FIROZ LALJI CENTRE FOR AFRICA



ENGAGEMENT

Outreach in the UK and Africa underpins the Centre's work, its multidisciplinary expertise used to forge new links with institutions on the continent and participate in global public debate. The Centre has become a central place of synergy for scholars, researchers, students, industry leaders and policymakers working in and on Africa, building networks within LSE, among actors on the continent, and internationally. Having built an effective platform for African voices to be heard on African as well as global issues, the Centre focusses on important debates and critical reflections on the continent's development challenges.

Our success is attributed to the numerous researchers, students, media representatives, and development practitioners we engage with every year and the diverse knowledge community this creates. Over the past year, the Centre has furthered and deepened its UK-Africa knowledge exchange and co-production by creating and building strong collaborations with universities in Uganda, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan. Engagement with national and local policymakers, by working closely with African researchers and university departments, has also enhanced the quality and availability of our research output.



VISION

This year the Centre has spearheaded a new strategy to expand significantly its engagement programme to increase and strengthen partnerships and collaborations with African education institutions. The strategy aims to establish an African Research Fellowships programme, grow links with African businesses and charities, and establish a holistic direction for furthering LSE's relationship with the continent. This work will complement and grow the Centre's research trajectories and reach, expand the Programme for African Leadership network, and increase the blog's African readership.

IN THE MEDIA

Over the last year, the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa has increased its media engagement across print, radio, and digital channels. Director Professor Tim Allen has made numerous appearances on BBC World Service, the annual Africa Summit received a feature lengthy review in *Vice*, and the Centre's work made the front page of the *Observer*, among other commentaries by our researchers on current debates.

The [LSE Africa Summit] and the sheer range of topics it visited was unlike anything I have ever attended.

JASON OKUNDAYE
Vice, 4 April 2019

Only one person out of [the 25 invited] made it to the [LSE Africa Summit]. All the flight costs and visa applications were paid by the UK research councils so this is very unjoined-up government.

PROFESSOR TIM ALLEN

discussing the UK's restrictive visa rules,
Observer front page

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



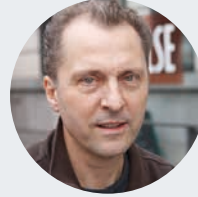
Centennial Professor **Leonard Wantchekon**

has been elected to the globally prestigious Econometric Society, drawing international attention to his work on African economic development.



Centennial Professor **Alcinda Honwana**

was appointed as Strategic Director of the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa. Professor Honwana's current work focusses on youth and conflict and the role of younger generations in post-conflict reconstruction and development.



Centre Director Professor **Tim Allen**

has been elected to the Council of the Academy of Social Sciences.



Research Fellow **Holly Porter**

was selected as a finalist for the 2018 Melville J Herskovits Prize for her book *After Rape: violence, justice and social harmony in Uganda*.



Research Fellow **Michael Amoah**

published his book *The New Pan-Africanism*, investigating the concepts of nationalism, the nation state, and globalisation in light of the growing Pan-African movement.

AFRICA AT LSE

In its eighth year the *Africa at LSE* blog has secured its reputation as an authority in expert analysis on African affairs. Its international and LSE contributors have attracted a growing, global readership, exploring the issues behind the headlines with the latest social, political, and economic research.

In 2018/19 the blog launched the Citing Africa project, which unpacked the unequal global construction of knowledge production, launched a new website to display the breadth of its output, and continued its series on themes of public authority and displacement in collaboration with local researchers across the continent.

*blog
stats*
2018/19



120
blog posts
published

read our blog:
blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/

our readers are in
192 *countries*



203k
annual
users

BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

5 *most read* BLOG POSTS

1

Visa applications: emotional tax and privileged passports

2

The romantic rewriting of Haile Selassie's legacy must stop

3

Eritrea: from war and oppression to peace and development

4

The UK's self-harming scandal of visa rejections for visiting academics

5

The hidden worth of the global African diaspora



EVENTS

The Firoz Lalji Centre hosts a wide and varied range of events such as public lectures, seminars, workshops, book launches, and conferences, which draw upon the outstanding multidisciplinary expertise of LSE's diverse knowledge community. In collaboration with its African partner institutions, it engages thousands of scholars, students, policy makers, aid and development professionals, and media and business representatives every year.

Event topics in the 2018/19 year included:

- South Sudan: what chance of peace beyond the peace deals?
- Film screening and discussion of 'The River Between African and European Languages'
- Citizenship in Africa: the law of belonging
- Getting to Zero: A doctor and a diplomat on the Ebola frontline
- Decolonising the curricula: why necessary and why now

events at a glance



10
public events



80
speakers



3000
event attendees

speakers included:



MARY ROBINSON

President of Ireland (1990–97) and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002)



DR LYN OSSOME

Senior Research Fellow in the Makerere Institute of Social Research at Makerere University



DR SIMUKAI CHIGUDU

Associate Professor of African Politics at University of Oxford



SIR MIKE AARONSON

Director General of Save the Children UK (1995–2005)

AFRICA TALKS

Africa Talks is a series of events with distinguished guests sharing their ideas, knowledge, and expertise to inspire new ideas and perceptions of the African continent.

To mark the launch of our podcast Citing Africa, which takes a critical look at the wider context of knowledge production about the African continent, we hosted a special Africa Talks event "Decolonising the curricula: why necessary and why now" as part of LSE's festival "New World (Dis)Orders".

Bringing together Dr Lyn Ossome from Makerere University, Dr Simukai Chigudu from the University of Oxford, and Dr Laura Mann from LSE, and chaired by the Firoz Lalji Centre Centennial Professor Alcinda Honwana, the event explored why students across the world are calling for the decolonisation of the curricula and what universities can do about it.

The successful event inspired passionate conversations and debates among LSE students and staff, as well as over 100 attendees from across universities of London.



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS



In 2018/19, we organised numerous workshops and seminars to engage partners with our research, in the UK and Africa, creating a space to share findings, debate our work, and increase research capacity with actors on the continent.

Events included:

- Weekly seminar series at LSE for the Centre for Public Authority and Development
- Social sciences writing workshop with 16 young scholars at Njala University, Sierra Leone
- Monthly the Critical African Writings Reading Group at LSE
- Writing workshop on “Public authority in and after Peace” in Kampala, Uganda with the British Academy and the University of Juba
- A creative writing workshop exploring the experiences of displacement and dynamics of return with 10 South Sudanese scholars in Juba



LSE AFRICA SUMMIT



“*Rich with informed insights into Africa’s ‘future frontiers’ ... Spaces such as the LSE Africa Summit remain vital for platforming the best minds.*”

JASON OKUNDAYE
Vice, 4 April 2019

The LSE Africa Summit is an annual student-led conference which showcases Africa's contribution to the world and promotes debate around contemporary challenges and opportunities facing the continent. By gathering renowned scholars, leading politicians, change makers, and forward-thinking entrepreneurs, together with our passionate students at the LSE, the Summit provides a unique platform for sharing ideas and nurturing relationships to translate thought into meaningful action.

The 6th LSE Africa Summit, with the theme "Africa's Future Frontiers", explored how Africa can navigate its current crossroads and progress towards economic and social sustainability and inclusivity. Speakers addressed the prospects of Africa reaching beyond its borders to achieve exponential growth, the banking revolution's potential to ensure financial inclusion, the establishment of the rule of law for fairness and justice, the harnessing of technology for private sector development, and the embrace of a sustainability culture and African soft power for socio-cultural empowerment, among other topics.

The Summit emphasised, for the first time, the role of arts and culture in contemporary Africa by exhibiting exceptional African artists. Nairobi-based photographer Mutua Matheka presented his work on urban living, "Unscrambling Africa", which challenged representations of African cities with an exploration into urbanity, architecture and culture across southern Africa. The Summit also

featured artworks from the Centre's Politics of Return project, resulting from a residency in Kampala where artists responded to research on themes of displacement and return in Uganda, Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Top:
Organising team of
the 2019 LSE Africa
Summit

Bottom:
Fashion designer
Ozwald Boateng in
conversation with
the deputy director
of the Royal African
Society, Sheila Ruiz

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

We had the pleasure of hosting WorldRemit's founder Ismail Ahmed, Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia Meaza Ashenafi, fashion designer Ozwald Boateng OBE and actress, producer, and Nollywood director Genevieve Nnaji for a special fireside chat. Additionally, a couch conversation with Ghanaian superstar Fuse ODG, Bashair Ahmed and Lexy Owusu-Boahene provided a spotlight on the African diaspora.







RESEARCH

Reparations:



And the memories?

redress given to victims of gross or serious human rights violations/abuses. Reparations refer to accountability. Reparations as well as individual or compensation-monetary legal and psychosocial apology, burials, construction-repetition-reformation of

Research conducted by the Firoz Lalji Centre has made important progress in 2018/19, with an increased number of hosted research projects and publications making an impact in scholarship and government policy. Strengthened partnerships with academic institutions on the continent have enabled our research to benefit from local expertise, be shaped by African concerns, and develop North-South and South-South knowledge exchange and co-production.

Traditional Justice:

refers to localized cultural practices and reconciliation; it encourages practices that the communities use to attain localized disputes to attain safety and access to justice by all.

The results are rigorous, high-quality outputs which accurately reflect rapidly changing situations on the ground, with clear recommendations to our international audiences of policymakers, scholars, and NGOs.

Transitional justice:

processes and mechanisms aimed at confronting legacies of the past human rights abuses and violations in order to repair harm suffered by victims, ensure accountability, serve justice, promote reconciliation, guarantee non-recurrence of violations and abuses and build peaceful and democratic systems that contribute to the rule of law.

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITY

Exploring public authority and governance in fragile and conflict-affected areas across the continent



In its third year, the Centre for Public Authority and International Development (CPAID) has entered an exciting phase exploring the governance of societies in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Working across Uganda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Kenya, our researchers have published high-quality books, journal papers, and blog posts, and reached out to new research partners to share widely findings from the contexts in which they work.

COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

The team have run several events throughout the year, including writing and blogging workshops, a monthly reading group, and a weekly seminar series to advance the theories and methodologies underpinning the research.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

In northern Uganda, the CPAID team have undertaken capacity-building with early career Ugandan scholars, running workshops and collaborating on research and policy proposals for local government. The scheme has built a reliable platform for knowledge exchange, the co-production of research results, and improved the rigour of engagement with the region's peace and security issues.



DISSEMINATING RESEARCH

AFRICA AT LSE BLOG

Through the *Public Authority* series, researchers have started ground-breaking debates on public authority across the continent. Topics covered range from wildlife parks to witch doctors and from land governance to taxation along busy rivers.

Top blog posts in the series:

- Neither Education nor Impact: Why are Universities and Higher Education Institutes springing up all over Eastern DR Congo?
by Samuel Keith Muhindo Balume and Papy Muzuri
- Mind the Billboards: International Aid Conquering the Public Space in Burundi
by Astrid Jamar
- What do witch doctors actually do?
by Robin Oryem

Read the *Public Authority* series at
blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/tag/public-authority/

KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Esther Marijnen and Judith Verweijen, 'Why we must question the militarisation of conservation' in *Biological Conservation*
- Pat Stys, Judith Verwijen, Papy Mazuri, Samuel Muhindo, Christopher Vogel and Johan H Koskinen, 'Brokering between (not so) overt and (not so) covert networks in conflict zones' in *Global Crime*
- Tim Allen, Anna Macdonald and Henry Radice, 'Humanitarianism: A Dictionary of Concepts' (Routledge)
- Peter Schouten and Esther Marijnen, 'Electrifying the green peace? Electrification, conservation and conflict in Eastern Congo' in *Conflict, Security & Development*



CPAID HOSTS A CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP IN MOMBASA, KENYA

In September 2018, CPAID hosted a capacity-building workshop in Mombasa, Kenya. Researchers from the DRC, Uganda, the UK, and South Sudan shared their research skills and held masterclasses on writing research articles, blogging, and social media.



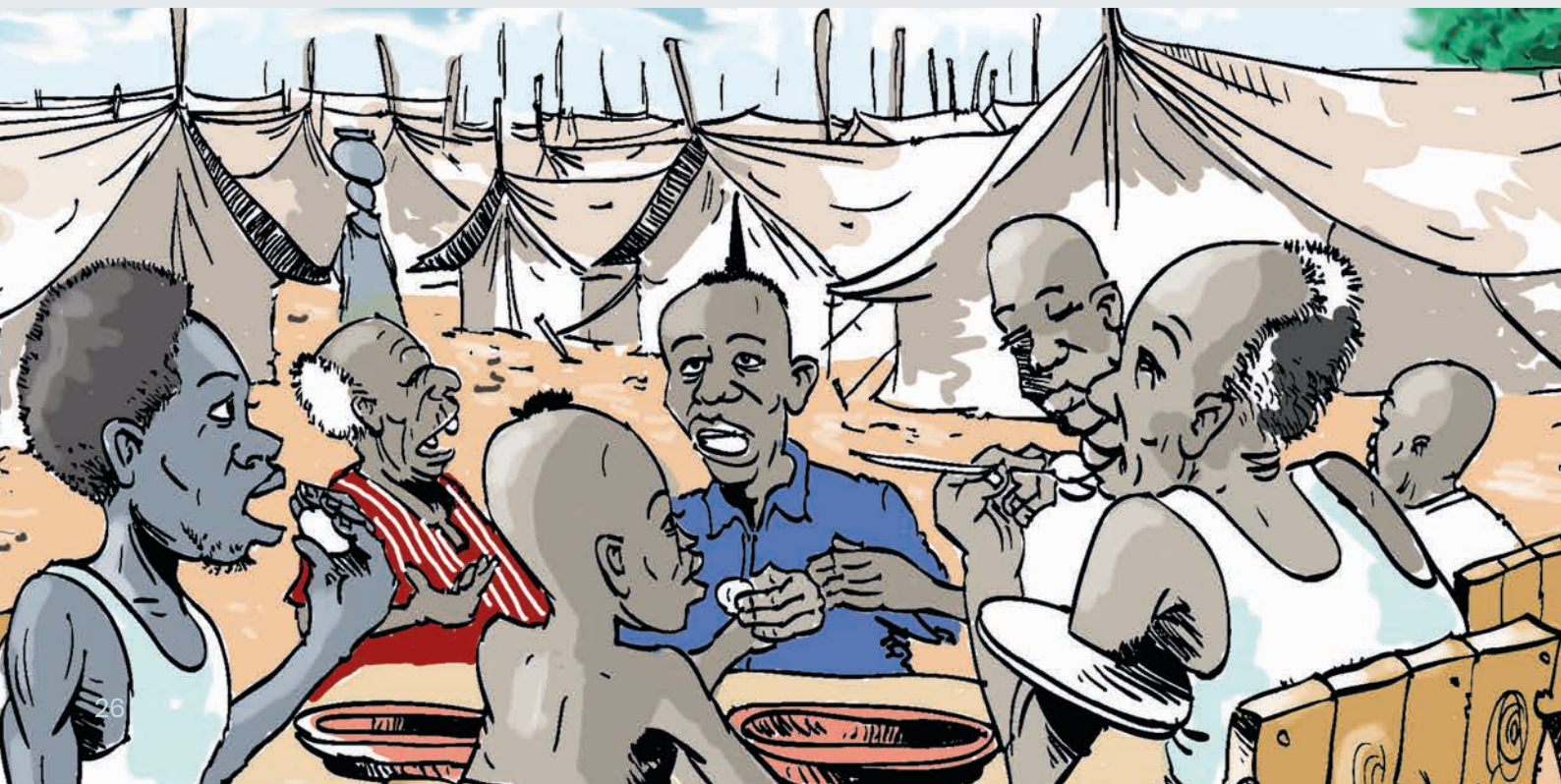
CPAID RESEARCHERS SHARE EXPERTISE IN LSE IQ PODCAST

CPAID Investigator Dr Duncan Green and Visiting Professor Grace Akello participated in the LSE IQ podcast. Examining the role of humanitarian and development assistance, the episode 'Do we need to rethink foreign aid?' explored the increasingly sceptical political aid environment.



DYNAMICS OF THE NGO SECTOR IN SOUTH SUDAN

Informing engagement with the localisation agenda



Launched in spring 2019, the study aims to understand the historical and political dynamics of local and national NGOs in South Sudan. Investigating these organisations' origins, institutional development, and contemporary functions, the project will inform the UK Department for International Development's engagement with the localisation agenda both in South Sudan and globally. More than focussing on material dynamics, the project will also explore the ways these organisations navigate challenges and how their ideological basis becomes entangled and reimagined in the process.

Specifically, an objective of the study is to understand how NGOs at local and national levels have been shaped by major events such as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and South Sudan's independence as well as, more recently, the changes associated with the conflict in December 2013 and July 2016. The project further seeks to grasp the leadership styles and composition of local and national



NGOs and what the realities are for managing funding shortfalls or gaps, and how they cope.

Researchers Dr Naomi Pendle and Alice Robinson at LSE are working with researchers from the University of Juba and The Research People consultancy. Collaborators in the research include Dr Leben Moro, Revd. Dr Martin Ochaya and Dr Lydia Tanner who will assist in collecting qualitative interviews, life histories, and organisational histories from across South Sudan, including in Akobo, Wau, and Yambio.

Findings will be published in late 2019.

THE POLITICS OF RETURN

Investigating the dynamics of return and reintegration of refugees in central and eastern Africa

Art installation by Bathsheba Okwenje



Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the three-year project engaged researchers in investigating the conditions for and obstacles to social repair in Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic. These complex dynamics have been explored in journal articles, blog posts, photography, and art exhibitions.

Concluding in September 2019, the project has resulted in a variety of outputs, which include writing workshops conducted in South Sudan and Uganda, art residencies that explore the intersection of arts and research, and conferences held in Gulu and London.

READ MORE

Refugees in northern Uganda now have 'democracy' but no authority
by Charles Ogeno and Ryan O'Byrne



The artists, researchers, and curator are constantly moving and engaging with the work, research, and space in a way that invites the creation of new perspectives. By casting the subject in a collaborative role rather than a passive one, artists, subjects, and participants alike can engage meaningfully with difficult topics through an artistic lens.

MEITAL KUPFER
LSE Researcher

EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES

Part of the project's engagement strategy involves organising exhibitions that bring together the work of artists and researchers. In 2018/19 artworks and comics of the research have been exhibited at the 2019 LSE Africa Summit and the Save the Children Centenary Conference.

On 25–26 July 2019 researchers and artists working across central and eastern Africa gathered to present key findings from the project and discuss new research agendas during a public conference held in Gulu, Uganda. Over 100 people attended over the two days, including journalists from local media who covered the event in publications and on radio.

The event was not only an opportunity to further examine the intersection and co-production of research and arts, but also provided space for the public to view and engage with artworks produced alongside and from the research.

On 25 July the artists launched the exhibition 'When We Return', which was displayed at TAKS Centre in Gulu from 25 July to 14 August. Reflecting on the themes of return, reintegration, and displacement, the exhibition featured multimedia artwork and installations by Willy Karekezi, Kusa Kusa Gaël Maski, Ben Mergelsberg, and Bathsheba Okwenje, as well as comics by Charity Atukunda, Didier Kassaï, and Victor Ndula.





Artwork by Willy Karekezi



Artwork by Bathsheba Owekenje



Artwork by Willy Karekezi



Artwork by Kusa Kusa Gaël Maski



TRAJECTORIES OF DISPLACEMENT

A multi-disciplinary exploration into return and social repair after mass displacement in northern Uganda



Following the mass displacement during the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency from 1986 to 2006, this project investigated the long-term impacts of post-displacement interventions as experienced and understood by affected communities.

Concluded in spring 2019, the project identified a need to rethink the principles associated with reuniting separated children in war-affected areas, where children have been involved in violent acts. The findings revealed that agencies with a protection mandate need to have longer term follow-up mechanisms for those whom they are responsible. Where these mechanisms are not in place, people

who have been given protection find themselves extremely vulnerable when these protections are withdrawn.

ENGAGEMENT

- Findings have also been reported to Save the Children, UNICEF and other agencies that were initially involved in reintegrating children from the conflict.
- In February and March 2019, the research team disseminated findings through workshops discussions in Uganda with BRAC in Kampala and Gulu University.

IMPACT

The research team, with northern Ugandan researchers, produced policy briefs ranging from broad recommendations about ways to make justice more accessible to women who have experienced sexual violence – such as creating self-help groups – to specific recommendations that target particular challenges identified by the communities who were researched.

- Findings on the resettlement of people from the LRA have been drawn upon by the Member of Parliament for Gulu, Uganda in framing a private member's bill. The briefs were used to secure support particularly for people who were returned to their families as babies.
- The researchers have actively been engaged in land policy reform debates through engagement with

politicians, support for the collection of evidence in land conflicts, communication with landless people, and exploration into practical survival options.

READ MORE

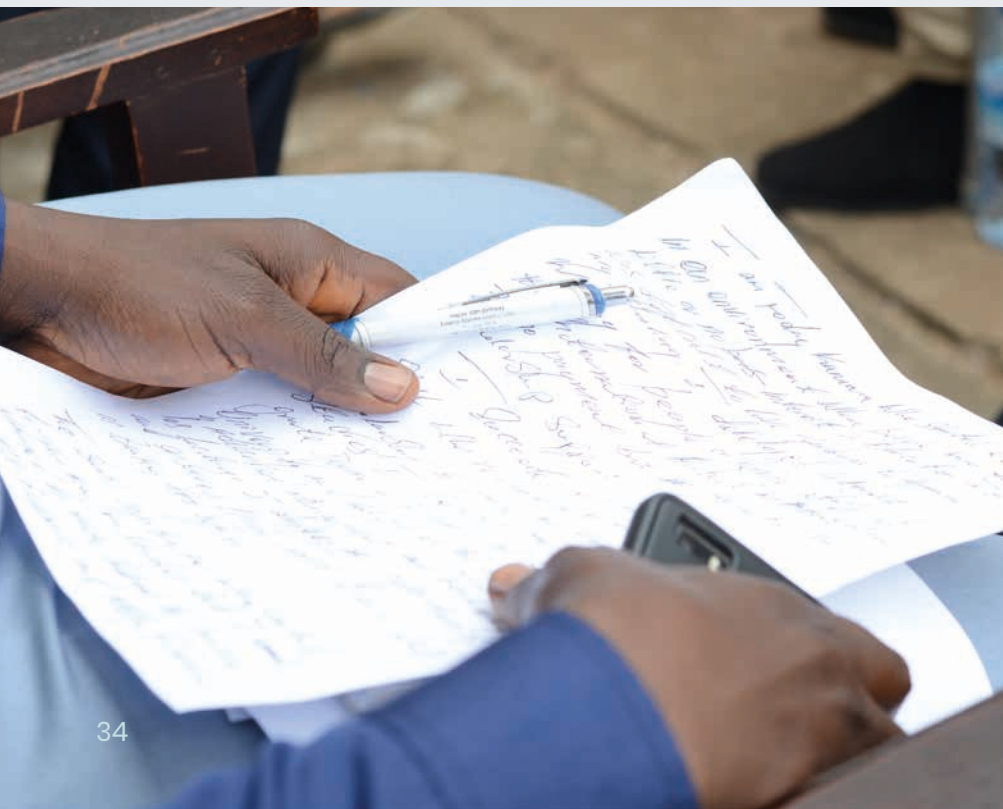
TAKS Centre in Gulu: From Bastion of the Colonial Establishment to Acholi Cultural Hub
by Morris Omara and Tim Allen

I would like to say thanks for coming to interview me. Ever since I came back nobody has talked to me or followed me up. This research has given me an opportunity to share my past experience once again my mother never wanted me to talk about my experience but am glad someone has come today to talk to me.

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANT

LOCALISED EVIDENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Addressing the need for locally-relevant evidence in public health decision-making and administration



This year the Centre launched the Localised Evidence and Decision-making (LEAD) project, which addresses the lack of relevant evidence in public health decision-making. Focussed on the African Great Lakes region, the project will create links between local practitioners and medical evidence, identifying local needs to improve the impact of disease-specific, global health interventions.

The researchers will use the findings to influence models for global health interventions, inform the exploration of artificial intelligence techniques for their implementation, and run a series of workshops with local practitioners.

DECONSTRUCTING NOTIONS OF RESILIENCE

Exploring coping strategies and resilience in post-conflict Uganda

The idea that there are socio-cultural systems that make people more or less able to recover from crises has intuitive appeal and is of great importance for policy design. But despite its potential as an explanatory concept, 'resilience' is a fuzzy notion that can complicate aid delivery and shift responsibility onto the victims of war and crisis for their situation.

This research project explores how people negotiate, experience and understand their own coping strategies and resilience. Our researchers have undertaken studies in pastoralist Karamoja in Uganda, areas affected by the LRA insurgency, and the West Nile, which has hosted multiple waves of refugees from South Sudan.

READ MORE

Why children from Karamoja end up begging on the streets of Kampala
by Saum Nangiro



A TALE OF TWO GREEN VALLEYS

Data-driven agro-innovation in California's Central Valley and Kenya's Rift Valley



A Tale of Two Green Valleys has continued its research into the digital transformations taking place across two rich agricultural valleys: Kenya's Rift Valley and Central Valley in California. The project uses a political economy approach to examine who is benefiting and losing out from the commercialisation of digital data in agriculture, and how these benefits and losses are understood across different political players.

The researchers, Dr Laura Mann and Dr Gianluca Iazzolino, have been conducting interviews in the regions and preparing to create a podcast series to engage communities with the findings in Kenya and California, and beyond.

GOING WITH OR AGAINST THE FLOW?

A study of water governance in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo

Launched in September 2018 with partner organisation Mercy Corps, this innovative new project examines households' daily management, financial governance, and access to water and basic social services in the city of Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

It uses a mix of social network research, ethnography, and governance diaries to collect in-depth data to reveal how residents navigate public authority in an insecure environment and cope with unforeseen shocks.

In the last year, the investigators have trained five Congolese researchers to collect data every two weeks from resident households over a period of eleven months and used workshops to share skills and discuss pressing local development concerns.

READ MORE

Notes from the field: beginning a new research project
by Pat Stys and Tom Kirk



LIVING THE EVERYDAY IN THE CONTEXT OF EBOLA

A study of health and social interactions at Uganda's borders



Photo MONUSCO/Alain Coulibaly/Flickr

The project principally addresses how social relations and everyday life affect the knowledge and management of sickness, including and beyond the Ebola virus. The research will be based in the West Nile sub-region of Uganda, with research sites situated directly on the borders of Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda-South Sudan.

Recently, these borders have come to the attention of international experts, under the guise of Ebola-preparedness efforts following the spread of the epidemic from North Kivu, DRC. Yet little is known about everyday social relations, movement, and health-seeking across these spaces.

‘Living the everyday’ deploys the Centre’s extensive interdisciplinary expertise in the region. Alongside novel international partnerships with Gulu University and Muni University in Uganda, it will provide much needed, urgent perspectives on health-seeking to the wider region.

CITING AFRICA

Investigating knowledge production about the African continent

Citing Africa is a podcast and blog series exploring the global construction and imbalances of knowledge production, taking a critical look at the wider context affecting the African continent.

Over nine podcast episodes respected academics, editors and publishers explore the history of higher education in Africa, the decline of Africa-based contributions in top international academic journals and current programmes of global North-South knowledge exchange. It also provides practical guidance to young scholars seeking to publish their own work.

PODCAST

Episodes: 9

Guest speakers: 25

Total listens: 6,100

READ MORE

African and Development Studies: scholarship in need of its own replication crisis
by Dr Laura Mann



PROGRAMME FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

A group of people, including a man in a grey blazer and glasses, laughing and clapping in a meeting. The man is wearing a white turtleneck and a colorful beaded necklace. He is surrounded by other people who are also smiling and laughing. The background is a blurred office setting with a large window.



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Programme for African Leadership (PfAL) is the Firoz Lalji Centre's extra-curricular leadership, networking and skills building initiative reserved for African students studying a Masters at LSE. Since its launch in 2012, more than 370 students from over 40 countries have taken part and joined the international PfAL alumni network.

The 2018/19 academic year saw 75 students from 18 African countries join the eighth cohort and engage in a range of networking, skill-building and career-oriented activities throughout the year. The PfAL8 curriculum was based around themes of project management, entrepreneurship, employment, and intra-African networking.

EXPANSION

The PfAL alumni network continues to grow across the continent and beyond, creating a global community. Following on from the success of the 2018 second biennial PfAL Forum in Mombasa, Kenya, the programme has focussed on encouraging and facilitating networking opportunities within the alumni network. Africa Day in 2019 saw PfAL alumni gather to celebrate in Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Madagascar, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and the UK.

To accommodate the growing annual cohort of PfAL students and alumni, PfAL works with a number of organisations both within LSE and externally, such as The African Capacity Building Foundation in Zimbabwe, to create more professional opportunities.

PFAL 2018/19

“This opportunity opened our minds and visions for what role we each would like to and could play, as well as the impact we will make in our different corners of the world.”

KELE MAFOLE

PFAL PROJECTS

The Programme started the academic year with the PfAL Projects competition, in which the students propose and design awareness campaigns to address African development challenges in the following categories: Enhancing Educational Opportunities, Celebrating Arts and Culture, Promoting Health & Wellbeing and Boosting Travel and Trade.

To support students' development during the competition, PfAL hosted workshops on project planning and design, budgeting, presentation delivery, and marketing led by professionals from organisations such as Deloitte, LSE Enterprise, The Tree, and LSE Generate. The winner, as voted for by the students, was "Uyinqoba", an outstanding initiative to raise awareness of HPV and cervical cancer in secondary schools in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa.

SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOPS

In Lent and Summer Terms, PfAL hosted workshops on debating, rhetoric, and post-graduate employment, as well as panel discussions on career building with representatives from EY, Facebook, and AgDevCo, and a leadership talk in collaboration with LSE, Yale University, and Birkbeck College.

NETWORKING

To enrich networking among the cohort, PfAL organised a variety of social events off-campus. Meeting regularly gave

opportunities for the cohort to get to know each other and build bonds outside their studies, discuss ideas, and explore common interests while also gaining some respite from their rigorous academic work.

PFAL OPPORTUNITIES

PfAL has continued its emphasis on providing opportunities for students and alumni, from regular communication highlighting employment and academic opportunities to seeking meaningful collaborations with organisations in the UK and Africa to become involved in the PfAL community.

In 2019 the Centre piloted the MSc Fieldwork Scholarship, which supported MSc students across LSE with funding for their dissertation fieldwork in Africa. The scholarship supported 17 students to conduct fieldwork in Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, and South Africa.



2018 PFAL FORUM

A woman with long, dark braids is shown in profile, speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a blue top. The background is a blurred audience in a large hall with high ceilings and bright lights.

“The Forum was an amazing experience because it not only allowed me to interact with people from all over the continent but also realise that we share a same vision by being optimistic about the future of our continent. It feels great to know that everybody is working toward having an impact on the continent thanks to the support received by PfAL.”

The second biennial PfAL Forum in Mombasa, Kenya was organised under the thematic umbrella 'Working together to shape our future.' The two-day event brought together 150 alumni, academics, researchers, speakers, and special guests who celebrated the programme, joined discussions on the opportunities for collaboration, and reflected on PfAL's aims and values.



PFAL FORUM AT A GLANCE



OUR COMMUNITY

CENTRE STAFF

Ikenna Acholonu | PfAL Programme Officer

Professor Tim Allen | FLCA Director

Gemma Edom (until April 2019) | Graduate Intern

Martha Geiger | Centre Manager

Professor Alcinda Honwana | FLCA Strategic Director and Centennial Professor

Stephen Johnson | PfAL Programme Manager

Natasha Koverola Commissiong (until December 2018) | Research Grants Officer

Yovanka Paquete Perdigao | Events Programme and Communications Coordinator

Laurence Radford | Communications Manager and Editor of Africa at LSE

Ingrina Shieh | Research Grants Officer

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Professor Karin Barber | Centennial Professor
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Dr Lars Williams | Visiting Fellow

MESSAGE FROM FIROZ

The growth of the Centre's engagement and research is an inspiring example of what can be achieved in a short space of time. It has been wonderful to meet the talented new leaders from the eighth PfAL cohort, and I look forward to seeing where their ambitions take them in the years to come.

FIROZ LALJI
(BSc Economics 1969)



Photo by Owen Biddle

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a black off-the-shoulder top, speaking into a microphone. She is looking slightly to her right. In the background, other people are partially visible, including a man with glasses and a woman with long braids. The image is used as a background for the left half of the page.

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Their support for our public events programme, the Programme for African Leadership, and our research programmes has been invaluable.

CONTACT THE CENTRE



FIROZ LALJI
**CENTRE
FOR AFRICA**

Based at LSE, the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa promotes independent academic research and teaching; open and issue-oriented debate; and evidence-based policy making. The Centre accomplishes this by connecting different social science disciplines and by working in partnership with Africa bringing African voices to the global debate.

Contact us for more information or to support the Firoz Lalji Centre:



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Since its founding in 2016, the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa has made a significant impact in the field of African Studies not only in Europe, but also in Africa. ... I cannot think of any comparable Centre for the study of Africa outside of the continent that has made such a huge impact within such a limited time.

...The Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa has reinvigorated the study of Africa in the UK and the engagements between the UK academy and African institutions.

PROFESSOR WALE ADEBANWI
African Studies Centre, University of Oxford

