



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

Conference Abstracts

10:00 a.m. | SEMINAR

Posvar Hall 4130

HOW INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS, TRAUMA SURGEONS, OB/GYNS, AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE WICKED PROBLEMS IN AFRICA

Optimizing blood transfusion services in Africa represents both a major health challenge and a social imperative. This presentation shows a Pitt team poised to be part of the improvement of the Kenyan blood transfusion system by utilizing a wicked problem-solving strategy and an interdisciplinary team that features physicians, social scientists, and industrial engineers from the U.S. and Kenya.

Dr. Bopaya Bidanda, *Engineering*

Dr. Juan Carlos Puyana, *Medicine*

11:00 a.m. | SEMINAR

Posvar Hall 4217

SECURITY IN NIGER DELTA: YOU CAN'T GO FORWARD WITHOUT LOOKING BACK

Geography and climate unique to the Niger Delta region, have made it a rich area for numerous extraction resources needed throughout the world. Those same key factors also contribute to the health and security issues faced by the people indigenous to the Niger Delta. It is difficult to move forward without understanding and resolving the past. We will discuss some of these pressing issues.

Dr. Karin Warner, *Nursing*

Posvar Hall 4130

ASSISTING LEGAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA—THE VIS ARBITRATION MOOT

Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the Jones Day law firm have assisted law schools in Africa to develop curriculum, teaching methodology, and skills training through the use of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition. CILE has worked for over 15 years in the Middle East and North Africa, and Jones Day has provided support in particular to law schools throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Brand and John Paul Putney will share their experience in these efforts and discuss the results as well as future plans to continue the progress made to date.

Professor Ronald Brand, J.D., *Law* | University of Pittsburgh School of Law

John Paul Putney, J.D., *Law* | University of Pittsburgh School of Law



11:00 a.m. | ROUND TABLE

Global Hub, Posvar Hall

IMMERSION INTO AFRICAN SOCIAL WORK: CHALLENGES TO THE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

The directors (BASW, MSW, and Field) of the Social Work Program will share highlights from a recent trip to Uganda and Kenya in which they gleaned new perspectives from meetings with NGOs, social work programs, health care workers, diverse academic units, acid attack survivors, and families. They plan to discuss questions such as what culturally responsive approaches are used in East Africa? How can Pitt's School of Social Work partner with organizations in East Africa?

Dr. Tonya Slawinski, *Social Work*

Dr. Toya Jones, *Social Work*

Dr. Yodit Betru, *Social Work*

12 p.m. | ALUMNI WEBINAR

Global Hub, Posvar Hall

CHANGE MAKERS OF AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA

Join this exciting alumni panel of [Dr. Nosakhare Griffin-El](#), *Co-Founder of The Young Dreamers' Bookstore*, [Dr. Fatimah Waziri-Azi](#), *Director General in Nigeria of the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking*, [Dr. Mamothena Mothupi](#) *Project Director of Maternal & Newborn Health, International Rescue Committee* as they discuss their career journey's and the decisions they made to become such extraordinary change makers.

Dr. Nosakhare Griffin-El, *Creator | Dreamocracy Learning Lab in Pittsburgh*

Dr. Fatimah Waziri-Azi, *Director General in Nigeria | National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking*

Dr. Mamothena Mothupi, *Project Director | Maternal & Newborn Health, International Rescue Committee*

1 p.m. | SEMINAR

Posvar Hall 4130

TRAINING HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS IN NIGERIA TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INCREASE CANCER AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS

With rising rates of cancer in Nigeria, it is imperative that the public health community identifies ways to effectively increase access to cancer awareness, prevention, and early diagnosis. In a low-resource setting, digital technologies can play a crucial role in training healthcare professionals to increase screenings and referrals, and to enhance their knowledge of cancer control. eLearning can be used for training healthcare practitioners in Nigeria; further research into the feasibility, challenges and opportunities presented by eLearning platforms in the healthcare sector will be crucial going forward.

Dr. Abimbola Fapohunda, *Public Health | Africana Studies*



Posvar Hall 4217

AFRICAN PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

This panel highlights various popular movements in Africa, putting them in global as well as local contexts. Building on the legacies of anti-colonial struggles, it offers an overview of more contemporary movements in such places as Senegal, Sudan, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and the Western Sahara.

Dr. Mohammed Bamyeh, *Sociology*

Dr. Ronald Judy, *English*

1 p.m. | ROUNDTABLE

Global Hub, Posvar Hall

PITT OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ABROAD OR INTERN IN AFRICA AND LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR TRIP FUNDED

This Round Table provides key information and strategies for students on both the opportunities to study or intern in Africa as well as the scholarships and funding options available.

Leslie Smedley, Molly McSweeney, joined by students who studied abroad, *Global Experiences Office & Nationality Rooms*

2 p.m. | SEMINARs

Posvar Hall 4217

THE AFRICAN WOMAN: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DAILY LIFE OF A WOMAN IN EGYPT, SUDAN, AND SOMALIA

Despite the leading role African women have in the social and economic affairs of their nations, they are the victims of serious issues that majorly derive from patriarchy, and tradition. These problems directly endanger their physical and mental health as well as their sense of self-esteem. To develop and empower Africa as a continent, attention needs to be paid to the challenges faced by its women.

Dr. Amani Attia, *Linguistics*

Posvar Hall 4130

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: GATHERING AT THE WELL OR UNDER THE VILLAGE TREE

Successful community engagement requires inclusion, accessibility, and the building of trust. Reflecting on the wide gaps that separate us, especially in the midst of a pandemic, it is crucial that we create space for discovering deeper connections. In this seminar, we explore connection spaces in an African context that brings people together to engage in problem-solving and collaborative projects that benefit all. We examine the discourse and narrative through which these engagements are conducted and reflect on applications within our own cultures.



[Dr. Abdesalam Soudi](#), *Linguistics*
[Dr. Catherine Koverola](#), *Center for African Studies*

2 p.m. | DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING:

Posvar Hall 1500

KEEP QUIET OR DIE

In October 2015, a few months before the end of his final constitutional term, General Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of Congo, decided to change the constitution in force in the country in order to run for another presidential term after 18 years of being in power. Very quickly, journalists, pro-democracy activists decide to block him. This film chronicles the struggle for democratic governance in the Republic of Congo.

[Aunel Arneth](#), *Pro-democracy Activist, Journalist & Film Maker*

3 p.m. | SEMINAR

Posvar Hall 4130

GENDER EQUITY PROGRAMMING—WHAT WORKS—EXAMPLES FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Despite legislation to make marriage under age 18 illegal and policies governing divorce and inheritance protection, girls and women in Malawi still experience discriminatory customary practices and poverty that perpetuate child marriage. Ending child marriage will help Malawi achieve gender equality, women empowerment and reach goal #5 of the sustainable development goals. Using the activism of Chief Kachindamoto to annul child marriages, promote girl education and women's economic empowerment as a case study, this workshop applies an anthropological lens to analyze the tension between legal frameworks for gender equality, social norms and economic insecurity to arrive at multi-sectoral approaches to address the complex drivers of child marriages.

[Dr. Thuy Bui](#), *Medicine*

[Dr. Martina Anto-Ocrah](#), *Medicine*

3 p.m. | ROUNDTABLE: INTRODUCING AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Global Hub, Posvar Hall

LEARN SOME PHRASES IN AN AFRICAN LANGUAGE: AMHARIC, SWAHILI, & ARABIC

This Round Table introduces attendees to some of the languages of the continent: Arabic, Swahili, and Amharic. These languages are offered by the Less Commonly Taught Languages Center at Pitt. Come and meet our faculty and learn about interesting aspects of the language and a few basic phrases in these African languages.

[Dr. Filippo Lubua](#), *Linguistics*

[Dr. Meshesha Make](#), *Linguistics*

[Dr. Amani Attia](#), *Linguistics*



4 p.m. | SEMINAR

Posvar Hall, 4130

THE FUTURE OF FOREIGN POLICY IN AFRICA

While the Cold War defined U.S.-Africa relations in terms of superpower competition, the post-Cold War era has focused more on health, security, and economic development. This talk will endeavor to predict (from an historical perspective) the medium-term future of those relationships.

Dr. John Stoner, *History*

Posvar Hall, 4217

GIVING BACK/MISSING/REMEMBERING: A HANDS-ON, INTERACTIVE, AND DECOLONIAL SYNTHESIS OF THE STATE OF THE BENIN BRONZES HELD IN COLOGNE'S PREMIER WORLD CULTURE MUSEUM

What does it mean to "repatriate" cultural heritage artwork stolen by colonial regimes? How is a European museum engaging in the process of preparing skeptical citizens to embrace the return of critical African patrimony? Through a hands-on, interactive synthesis we will grapple with the authentic challenges and opportunities of this decolonizing process.

Dr. Maureen K. Porter, *Comparative and International Education Policy*

4 p.m. | ROUNDTABLE

Global Hub, Posvar Hall

THE AFRICAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN PITTSBURGH: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

This Round Table is an opportunity to hear first-hand reflections of the broad range of unique African immigrant experiences in Pittsburgh including those who came as students, scholars, artists, business persons, refugees, or to join family.

Edem Avotri, Aweys Mwaliya, Caroline Akutu, Dr. Abi Fapohunda, Kawthar Albe, Monica Dorue, Pricilla Collins, Chibugo Uwazie, Dr. Abdesalam Soudi, Benedict Killang

5 p.m. | RECEPTION

Frick Fine Arts Atrium

5:30 p.m. | CEREMONIAL DRUMMING BEGINS

Yamoussa Camara, *Ensemble Faculty*

6 p.m. | KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Frick Fine Arts Atrium

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Catherine Koverola, *Director, Center for African Studies*

Dr. Ann E. Cudd, *Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor*



Rich Fitzgerald, *County Executive*

AFRICA'S TRAJECTORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: FROM A HISTORIC PAWN INTO A PLAYER

Dr. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, *Renowned Pan-African Historian* | Case Western Reserve University

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Camera Drum and Dance Performance