GROW

Graduate Research On Worldwide Challenges

25 & 26 April 2024 | Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

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Welcome Message



Welcome to the 2nd annual GROW event.

We are very excited to organise this event again, even bigger and more diverse than last year. Also, as GROW is a brand new community, we need to spend some text on explaining who "we" are. As a visitor to the GROW 2024 event you are considered to be part of "us" as well.

As a community of researchers from all disciplines, societal actors such as industry, NGOs and government, coming from the Netherlands, African nations and other Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), we aim to understand and address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The GROW research concept is Interdisciplinary, Intersectoral and International (Triple I). The GROW concept was created by the Route Management Team from the Dutch Research Council's (NWO) "National Science Agenda" NWA Route 23 on Sustainable Development Goals for Inclusive Global Development. To execute the vision, some grants and activities were generated by the NWA programme since 2016 and also the NWO-WOTRO SDG projects were very much in line with the same vision. Therefore we are truly enthusiastic that we are combining these projects' end symposium with our annual GROW event.

At this moment we are also recruiting 51 PhD students from Africa for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND project that is about to start with the name GROW as well. This project was granted by the EU in October 2023 and is co-funded (50%) by Delft University of Technology, Erasmus University, Leiden University, University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Wageningen University & Research and supported by many highly valued academic and non academic African partners.

Our goal is to keep expanding the African-Netherlands community of researchers, innovators and relevant stakeholders and to jointly create strong

knowledge and innovation ecosystems that contribute to solving our global wicked challenges. With effective collaboration efforts we will come up with SDG oriented ideas, and can support the GROW community in finding budgets to execute new collaborative ideas on research, innovation and implementation.

To be very clear, the GROW community is open to anyone who can contribute to achieving our great mission. The NWA Route Management team has a double function as the Steering Committee for the first Marie Skłodowska-Curie GROW project. In the near future we have the ambition to jointly find new means to fuel our community with manpower, out of pocket costs, and research budgets. So, please consider this an open invitation to be an active member of the GROW community and let us further co-create the GROW research programme !

For now, let us enjoy our two-day meetup with likeminded spirits. I invite you to be curious about each other's backgrounds, networks and visions. We need each other to understand and address the Sustainable Development Goals and truly leave no one behind.

Prof. Nick van de Giesen on behalf of NWA Route 23 and GROW Steering Committee.

GROW Steering Committee

The Dutch Research Agenda (NWA) is supported by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). The aim of the NWA is to utilise knowledge to make a positive, structural contribution to the society of tomorrow, by building bridges today and jointly ensuring scientific and societal impact. The Steering Committee for NWA Route 23: Sustainable Development Goals for inclusive global development aims to bring the Triple-I community together and springboard new collaborative actions.



prof. Nick van de Giesen, Chair (Delft University of Technology)



prof. dr. Joyeeta Gupta (University of Amsterdam)



prof. dr. Jacqueline Broerse (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)



prof. dr. Marleen Dekker (Leiden University)



prof. dr. Erwin Bulte (Wageningen University & Research)



prof. dr. Peter Knorringa (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

GROW Event Partners

This event is powered by the following GROW partners:

NWO | TU Delft Global Initiative | Funded by the European Union

GROW Programme Partners

The GROW Community is made up of the following highly valued partners:



Message NWO



Dear participants of the conference,

A warm welcome to this event. In the coming two days, the GROW community in the Netherlands and far beyond will meet to share insights and to strengthen collaboration for the SDG Agenda. I am proud that in this year's event, we will showcase the findings and learnings from eight international research projects that are part of the Joint SDG programme Tackling Global Challenges through Use-inspired Research. This programme has been funded by Dutch Research Council NWO and Dutch universities.

Since they started in 2018, researchers – especially early career professionals – have been generating and sharing exciting new knowledge on SDG interactions in a plethora of disciplines, sectors and regions, from South Asia and Latin America to Sub-Saharan Africa. Their work has been the GROW's Triple I-philosophy (Interdisciplinary, Intersectoral and International Research) in action.

In particular, the teams took a use-inspired approach for developing tangible solutions to real-life challenges in the Global South. What they achieved is impressive and inspiring. With our top-up SDG Scaling Grants, a selection of researchers will continue to investigate the scaling potential of their outcomes and innovations in the coming two years. I am glad that many researchers are here to share their findings with you on day one, for example about resilience to climate change, innovative global health diagnostics and therapies, inclusive institutions and urban services. They will also have a lot to contribute to the discussions about SDG coherence, impact and innovation ecosystems on day two.

Also on behalf of my colleagues of the NWO programme committee and international advisory committee, I look forward to meeting with you and I wish you a lot of inspiration.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Wieteke Willemen, chair of the Joint SDG Research programme committee

Joint NWO SDG Research Initiative Projects

2018-2024 Granted Projects

Eight projects were selected in 2018 to receive funding in the second call of the joint SDG research programme of NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development and Dutch co-funding research organisations. The projects are aimed at developing accessible, affordable and applicable outputs for practitioners in LMICs. This event will also serve as a closing event for the NWO-WOTRO SDG Call On Tackling Global Challenges through Use-inspired Research. Several of these diverse SDG projects will form the basis for the workshops of the programme. The projects have generated relevant evidence and tangible outcomes for the SDG agenda around the world.

To read more about each project in detail, visit https://tinyurl.com/NWO-SDG or scan the QR Code!

1 Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for India and Bangladesh (EQUIMOB)

Main applicant: Dr Ajay. Bailey (Utrecht University)

This project aims to develop evidence-based insights for affordable, safe and accessible urban mobility for marginalised groups by taking a novel, user-centred intersectional approach.

- Countries targeted: India and Bangladesh
- SDGs targeted: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

2 Invisible children: a rights-based approach to development for children living in areas of ongoing political conflict

Main applicant: Prof. Fons Coomans (University of Maastricht)

This project focuses on the development rights of children in unrecognised states. It has the potential to contribute to the fields of human rights in general and children's human rights in specific, and also to better understand how to operationalise the SDGs from a rights-based framework.

- SDGs targeted: 2, 3, 4, 5 6, 10, 16.

3 Addis Ababa Living Lab: Creating Resilient Dwelling Clusters for Urban Resettlement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [2ALL]

Main applicant: Prof. ir. Marja Elsinga (Delft University of Technology)

The aim of this project is to improve the livelihood of Addis Ababa's urban dwellers using transdisciplinary approaches of analysis, planning and design. A contextually new co-creation model will be used.

- Country targeted: Ethiopia
- SDGs targeted: 3, 4, 6, 8, 11

4 Targeting a climate change hotspot: science to support the SDGs and sustainable water management in the transboundary Indus river basin (SustaIndus)

Main applicants: Dr Walter Immerzeel (lead) & Prof Fulco Ludwig (Utrecht University/Wageningen University & Research)

This project aims to develop sustainable pathways that support decision makers and practitioner to develop science-based policy and climate-smart solutions to provide food, water and energy to all people in the Indus river basin.

- Countries targeted: Indus river basin (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, China, Nepal)
- SDGs targeted: 2, 6, 7

5 INSPiRED – INclusive diagnoStics for Poverty RElated parasitic Diseases in Nigeria and Gabon

Main applicants: Dr Lisette van Lieshout (lead) & Prof. Dr Jan Carel Diehl (Leiden University/Delft University of Technology)

This project aims to improve the diagnosis of three major poverty-related diseases (malaria, schistosomiasis and hookworm infection) and reduce their grave impact in endemic countries.

- Countries targeted: Nigeria and Gabon
- SDGs targeted: 1, 3, 4, 9, 12

6 Diagnosing drought for dealing with drought in 3D: Toolbox for increasing drought preparedness of actors in water and climate governance, starting from north-eastern Brazil

Main applicant: Dr ir. Pieter van Oel (Wageningen University & Research)

This project aims to combine socio-hydrology and water management to gain a better understanding of human influences on drought. Research will be conducted in North-East Brazil and will result in a toolbox.

- Country targeted: Brazil
- SDGs targeted: 6, 2, 3, 10

7 The groundwork for establishing Controlled Human Helminth Infection Models in Africa (Gabon and Uganda) (CHIinAfrica)

Main applicant: Prof. Maria Yazdanbakhsh (Leiden University)

The ultimate aim of this project is to empower the researchers and the communities to conduct a pilot trial, which will pave the way for future testing of novel vaccines and medicines for the prevention of Hookworm, Necator americanus (Na) and Schistosoma mansoni (Sm).

- Countries targeted: Gabon and Uganda
- SDGs targeted: 3, 1, 4, 8, 10

8 Wellbeing, Women and Work in Ethiopia: Creating synergies between SDGs 3, 5 and 8 through Foreign Direct Investment (The "3WE" project)

Main applicant: Prof. Valentina Mazzucato (University of Maastricht)

This project aims to better understand the effects of FDI generated labour on well-being of workers, women in particular. Manufacturing and horticulture in Ethiopia are identified as case studies. It will produce one of the first comparisons between sectors and investors.

- Country targeted: Ethiopia
- SDGs targeted: 3, 5, 8

Programme
Thursday, April 25th

Time	
13:00	**Registration; welcome with lunch**
14:00	**Plenary Opening** *Moderator: Roel Kamerling - GROW Project Office / TU Delft* • **Update Graduate Research on Worldwide Challenges (GROW)** Prof. Nick van de Giesen - TU Delft and Chairman GROW Steering Committee • **Welcome NWO-WOTRO** Prof. Wieteke Willemen - UTwente and NWO-WOTRO Chair Programme Committee Joint SDG Research Initiative • **Keynote: The value of Triple-I research** Prof. Jacqueline Broerse - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Member GROW Steering Committee
15:00	**Interdisciplinary & Challenge based workshops** 1. *Resilience to Climate Change, SDG research on climate, water and society around the world* 2. *Designing Inspiring Global Health Solutions* 3. *Access to the Un-inequal City: Urban Infrastructures, Housing, Rights and Everyday Lives in the Global South* 4. *Inclusive Institutions: bringing social norms and governance structures together* 5. *"Leaving No One Behind?" Where is Africa as the World Races Towards Universal Energy Access?*
18:00	**Networking drinks; check-in hotel room**
19:00	**Dinner**
20:30	**Networking drinks**

Programme
Friday, April 26th

Time	
7:00 - 9:00	**Breakfast**
9:00	**Plenary Opening** • **Inspiring Triple-I Research Story** Victoria Manya - Leiden University • **The AU - EU Innovation Agenda** Nienke Buisman - European Commission • **The African Perspectice**
10:30	**Interdisciplinary & Challenge based workshops** 1. *Discover the founder in you and plan the entrepreneurial journey* 2. *Interdisciplinary Collaboration* 3. *FRAME SDG research: effective project setup and research agenda alignment* 4. *Fostering Capacity Building for Inclusive and Transformative Research through the Triple-I Approach* 5. *New NWO-NWA projects coming in 2024 and 2025*
12:00	**Lunch**
13:00	**Plenary Closure** • **Inspiring Triple-I Research Story** Karlheinz Samenjo - Delft University of Technology • **The Industry Perspective** • **SDG Research and relevant agendas: suggestions for the GROW Community** Prof. Peter Knorringa - Erasmus University-ISS and Member GROW Steering Committee • **Future outlook**
15:00	**Exit**

Workshops

Day 1 - Thursday, April 25th

Time: 15:00 - 18:00

1 Resilience to Climate Change, SDG research on climate, water and society around the world

Contributors: dr. ir. Pieter van Oel (WUR), dr. Wouter Smolenaars (WUR), dr. Hester Biemans (WUR), Khalid Jamil (WUR), Dr. Eduardo Martins (Federal University of Ceará), Sarra Kchouk (WUR).

People's resilience to climate change largely depends on their water, food, and livelihood securities. Lessons from interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research efforts in Asia (Indus basin) and Latin America (Northeast Brazil) are presented and discussed in the context of their relevance for understanding synergies and trade-offs between selected SDG's. In this workshop we explore the relevance of the issues presented to similar challenges in other context throughout the Global South. Similarities and differences with regard to physical, institutional, cultural and other local realities are crucial for the preferred ways of stakeholder interaction, scientific research approaches, learning opportunities, and solutions considered. We will discuss challenges, pitfalls, and opportunities for translating findings into tangible solutions that promote resilience to climate change worldwide. While the projects presented focused on interdependent hydro-meteorological and societal processes in Brazil and Pakistan, we look forward to extend the discussion both geographically and thematically.

2 Designing Inspiring Global Health Solutions

Contributors: Prof J.C. Diehl (TU Delft); Prof Maria Yazdanbakhsh (LUMC) ; Dr. Abena Amoah (LUMC); Karlheinz Tondo Samenjo (TU Delft); Dr. Temitope Agbana (AIDx Medical)

Within this interactive workshop we want to share with you the experiences and insights from the two Global Health Joint SDG Research Initiative. We start with two inspiring introductions of LUMC on the groundwork for establishing Controlled Human Helminth Infection Models in Africa Project. During the second part of our workshop the TU Delft & AIDx Medical team will challenge you to explore and define use case scenarios for cervix cancer diagnostics in sub Saharan Africa. Subsequently you will design conceptual ideas for smart AI-powered diagnostics devices cervix cancer. We will use mapping and design tools as developed within our INSPIRED project.

Website: https://inspired-diagnostics.info

3 Access to the Un-inequal City: Urban Infrastructures, Housing, Rights and Everyday Lives in the Global South

Contributors: Prof. Ajay Bailey (Utrecht University) and the EQUIMOB team; Prof. Marja Elsinga (TU Delft); Ir. Frederique van Andel (TU Delft)

This session offers a dynamic exploration of the interplay between urban infrastructures, housing, rights and entrenched inequalities that preclude an equal access to the city, and is focused on the context of the Global South. Our NWO-WOTRO projects focussed on mobilities and housing (in India, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia) and how city and city-making impacts everyday lives of vulnerable groups. In this session we will present some of our findings, learnings of different methods, and the challenges of conducting research during COVID-19. The goals of the session include understanding the complex dynamics driving urban inequalities in the Global South, and critically examining how intersecting dimensions of inequality (e.g., poverty, gender, race, class) manifest in urban environments and influence access to essential resources. We will use a range of participatory exercises, group discussions, and reflexive exercises. Through these participatory exercises and collaborative dialogues, this session aims to inspire participants to think and reflect on actionable insights and transformative approaches for building more just and sustainable cities, where access to essential urban amenities is a fundamental right for all residents.

4 Inclusive Institutions: bringing social norms and governance structures together

Contributors: Dr. Marieke Hopman (Maastricht University); Guleid Jama (Maastricht University); Dr. Elsje Fourie (Maastricht University); Dr. Konjit Gudeta (Addis Ababa University)

Using insights from studies that explore the well-being of female employees at the bottom of global production networks in Ethiopia and a study on children's development rights in de facto states (specifically Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic/Western Sahara, Somaliland, and Israel/Palestine), our workshop will delve into the intersection of social norms and governance structures for inclusive institutions. We'll explore approaches to ensure that the voices of marginalised groups, such as children and female workers, are not only heard but actively integrated into the governance of public and private institutions, including in our own research projects. We aim to have challenging discussions, explore practical strategies and uncover ways to make governance and research more inclusive, equitable and responsive to the social norms of diverse groups, thereby fostering environments where every voice matters.

5 "Leaving No One Behind?" Where is Africa as the World Races Towards Universal Energy Access?

Contributors: Dr. Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten (Wageningen University & Research); Dr. Henny Romijn, (Eindhoven University of Technology); Maarten Appelman, MSc (University of Twente) ; Dr. Luis Cutz (TU Delft)

The current Global Stocktaking on SDG7 | United Nations estimates that about 10% of the world population will still not have access to electricity and 30% will lack access to clean cooking by 2030. As the 4TU Energy Access Alliance (an interdisciplinary group of scholars from the four technical universities of the Netherlands), we argue that the aggregated data, which measure energy access in a binary (yes/no) manner, gloss over wider gaps shown in more granular evidence on regional, rural-urban, technological and gender experiences. We challenge the extent to which the SDG7 outcome-driven agenda (the number of people with access to energy) has brought about scale (SDG7 targets will not be reached by 2030), sustainability (financial, technical, social, institutional, and environmental), and impact (broader social, environmental and economic effects of energy access, such as on people's health and well-being, economic development, gender equality, and the environment).

At the heart of these access issues are real lives with economic, social, environmental and political needs that are connected to other domains of sustainable human development. In this session, we would like to open up the discussion on energy access assessment in SDG7 and its interrelatedness with energy transition and other SDGs more broadly, to a wider range of scholars and other participants. This will be in addition to contributions that we have received – and will share – from our direct participation at a UN-DESA consultation meeting for experts in March 2024 in advance of the global midterm review summit.

Workshops

Day 2 - Friday, April 26th

Time: 10:30 - 12:00

1 Discover the founder in you and plan the entrepreneurial journey

Contributors: Gerrit Jan van 't Veen (World Startup), Victoria Manya (ASCL Leiden University)

Some of you are entrepreneurs as well as researchers, or perhaps eager to leverage research outcomes for entrepreneurial success. Join us for an interactive workshop where we delve into the potential of entrepreneurship for scalable application of technology and knowledge. Through real-life examples, roadmap exercises, and insightful discussions, we'll explore the common hurdles and catalysts that shape the entrepreneurial journey.

We will help you define your founder type, which is a fundamental step in the beginning of your entrepreneurial journey. We will support you with your roadmap to mix entrepreneurship with research.

After this workshop, you have a better understanding of why and how you should embrace entrepreneurship for the successful application of your research output for a better world.

2 Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Contributors: Prof. Peter Knorringa (Erasmus University Rotterdam – ISS) & Dr. Emmanuel Abbey (ARUA).

In today's interconnected world, many of the most pressing challenges – from climate change to public health crises – require holistic approaches that transcend disciplinary boundaries. But often interdisciplinary collaboration is not as easy to achieve- how can we work together towards interdisciplinary collaboration, where are opportunities, but perhaps also the challenges we run into and how can we overcome those (perceived) limitations?

3 FRAME SDG research: effective project setup and research agenda alignment

Contributors: Prof. Joyeeta Gupta and Paola Fezzigna, MSc (UvA), Prof. Jacqueline Broerse and Dr. Dirk Essink (VU Amsterdam), Milou Derks, MSc (University of Technology Eindhoven)

In the recent two years we researched these two interconnected questions in 3 subprojects. In the workshop we will present the preliminary findings and with the participants we will aim to translate these into concrete recommendations for individual researchers who are responsible for their project and other recommendations for policy makers, funders and senior scientists to use in aligning their (research) budgets and policies.

4 Fostering Capacity Building for Inclusive and Transformative Research through the Triple-I Approach

Contributors: Dr. Emmanuel Ojo (University of Witwatersrand), Dr. Joyce Browne (UMC Utrecht)

Addressing global challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals demands inclusive, transformative research that empowers marginalised communities and amplifies diverse perspectives. This workshop explores capacity-building strategies aligned with GROW's Triple-I (Interdisciplinary, International, and Intersectoral) approach to cultivate equitable collaborations and knowledge exchange between researchers, institutions, local stakeholders, and societal actors.

Guided by the theme "Impact & Inclusive Research Communities, Fairness in the Field, Ownership," we will delve into nurturing inclusive mindsets, inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations, and participation of marginalised groups in research processes and outcomes. Interactive discussions and case studies will provide insights into creating sustainable, inclusive research ecosystems prioritising fairness, ethical conduct, and shared ownership of knowledge.

Jointly facilitated by experts in global health, education, and international collaborations, this workshop aims to equip researchers and practitioners with tools and mindsets to conduct impactful, transformative research resonating with local contexts and amplifying diverse voices, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and sustainable future.

5 New NWO-NWA projects coming in 2024 and 2025

Contributors: Prof. Nick van de Giesen (TU Delft, Chair GROW and NWO-NWA Route 23 on SDGs), Roel Kamerling, (TU Delft, GROW Project Office), Mathijs Kallenberg (NWO Route support NWA Route 23 on SDGs)

NWO commits research budget to National Science Agenda (NWA) at a regular basis. The Route Management team for Route 23 on Sustainable Development for Inclusive Global Development is involved in shaping these programmes and preparing the calls. We would like to engage with the Dutch / Global researcher community to discuss how we can best accommodate available research budget in order to contribute to the Sustainable Development goals. Specifically we shall address the Innovative Projects call (150.000 €) and the 2025-2026 NWA-ORC call (6,5 million €) for which the theme of Public Health is foreseen.

Participants

To view the most recent list of all participants in more detail, please scan the below QR-Code to view an online table, or visit the website manually at www.edu.nl/yudpp

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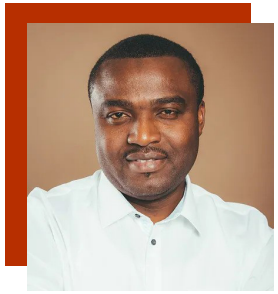
Dr. Emmanuel Abbey

African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)

Consultant



Emmanuel Abbey works with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) as a Consultant, working on the Carnegie-funded Data Gathering and Benchmarking project. In this capacity, Emmanuel analyses institutional Data for ARUA member universities to support advocacy by the ARUA network. He also supports the Secretary-General of ARUA in developing partnerships and collaboration with various institutions. Emmanuel has a teaching position at the Department of Economics, University of Ghana where he teaches Mathematics, Statistics and Econometrics. His area of research interest is in Firm Data Analysis and Industrialisation.



Dr. Ir. Temitope Agbana

AID-X Medical

CEO



Temitope Ebenezer Agbana, obtained a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Electronics Engineering, MSc in Microwave sensing, signals and systems at the Delft University of Technology and joined the Delft Centre for Systems and Controls as a researcher in 2011. His PhD research - Optical Smart Malaria Diagnostics focused on developing affordable, expert-independent, and reliable automated diagnostic devices for use in resource limited settings. Agbana is passionate about the development and deployment of automated optical devices to complement diagnostic gaps in resource-limited settings. LinkedIn profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/temitope-agbana-62a655144/



Ir. Sehouevi Mawuton David Agoungbome

Delft University of Technology

PhD Candidate



In 2019, I joined the Department of Water Management at Delft University of Technology as PhD. My research focuses on analyzing the dynamics of the onset of the rainy season in West Africa with the goal to improve crop water productivity. I use crop simulation combined with statistical analysis to assess different scenari and strategies that help avert critical dry spells during the growing season. I hold a MEng in water engineering from Ecole Polytechnique d'Abomey Calavi (Benin) and an MSc in Mathematical Sciences from AIMS Senegal in 2017.



Dr. Samuel Yaw Akomea

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

Head of Centre for Business Development



Dr. Samuel Yaw Akomea is a Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Entrepreneurship and International Business at the Department of Marketing, KNUST School of Business, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. Sam Akomea is the Head of KNUST's Centre for Business Development (CBD) and Manager of the Kumasi Business Incubator (KBI). Sam holds PhD in International Business from the Aalborg University, Denmark, and MPhil in Marketing (University of Ghana). Sam is a qualified lawyer since 2006. Sam has worked as a Management Consultant since 2001: he shows interest in start-ups, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises development and has a strong networking relationship with the industry.



Dr. Amal Ahmad

Wageningen University & Research

Assistant Professor

I am an Assistant Professor at the Development Economics Group. My research focuses on development microeconomics and political economy. I am particularly interested in how rural populations in developing countries cope with information and resource constraints, as well as in how states navigate conflict and influence development prospects. To this end, my research combines microeconomic theory with a range of applied methods.



Sisay Mulugeta Alemu, PhD

University of Groningen

PhD candidate



I am doing a Ph.D. in the Global Health unit of the University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen. My PhD focuses on why maternal and newborn death is different in different parts of Ethiopia. I am using Geospatial Analysis techniques to identify hotspot areas where death is abnormally higher in the country and why. I will finish my Ph.D. soon and am looking for opportunities to continue in academia. I am especially interested in the application of geospatial analysis techniques in health.



Ayobami Aluko, LLM

Tilburg University

PhD Candidate



Aluko Ayobami Oluwaseun is a doctoral candidate at Tilburg University's Tilburg Law School in the Netherlands and a lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. His research focuses on International Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Humanitarian Law. He is currently working on a Ph.D. dissertation that examines Human Rights and Environmental Protection in Nigeria, with a particular focus on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. As he progresses in his doctoral studies, his research interests are shifting towards climate justice. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing football.



Dr. Abena Amoah

Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC)

Senior advisor / researcher



I am the lead for the HypoVax Global knowledge hub based at Leiden University Center for Infectious Diseases, Leiden University Medical Center. My research interests span from understanding differences in immune responses in different populations in Sub-Saharan Africa to delineating the mechanisms underlying the rise of noncommunicable diseases in low and middle income countries. As lead for HypoVax Global, I am working with others to form a research network to investigate variations in vaccine responses across geographical areas and populations to address the question of why weaker responses to some vaccines ("vaccine hyporesponsiveness") are seen in some regions compared to others.



Frederick Amon-Armah, PhD

University of Groningen

PhD Candidate



Frederick Amon-Armah serves as an Agricultural Economist at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana while pursuing his PhD in the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. With more than a decade of experience as a research scientist, his primary focus lies in comprehending the determinants of smallholder farmers' adoption of best farming practices. Recently, he has delved into assessing interventions aimed at improving the well-being of smallholder farmers. His doctoral research centers on understanding aspirations and savings behavior of smallholder farmers.



Ir. Frederique van Andel

Delft University of Technology

Senior researcher, project manager



Frédérique van Andel (1971) holds a Master's degree in both urban planning and architecture from TU Delft. After working with Mecanoo architecten and DP6 architectuurstudio, she became a researcher and lecturer mentor at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment of TU Delft. She's editor of the international academic book series DASH – Delft Architectural Studies on Housing and member of the scientific committee of ZARCH Journal of interdisciplinary studies in Architecture and Urbanism. From 2019-2024, she coordinated the NWO-WOTRO research project Addis Ababa Living Lab: Creating Resilient Dwelling Clusters for Urban Resettlement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Dr. Frank Annor

TAHMO

CEO



Frank Annor is the CEO of TAHMO and a researcher at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. Frank focuses on hydro-meteorological modelling and water governance covering Agriculture and Early Warning Systems for floods and drought. He has close to two decades of work experience on resilience development in the water sector in Africa, and work in over 23 Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where he leads the TAHMO initiative (www.tahmo.org). He has worked extensively on remote sensing applications for small reservoirs monitoring in the Volta basin in West Africa. He also supports tech-hubs in Europe and Africa to develop sensors and geo-services.



Dr. Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten

Wageningen University & Research

Lecturer & Researcher



Environmental social scientist interested in the implications of environmental sustainability agendas on social, political and economic aspects. I teach and carry out research on topics ranging from energy transition, nature conservation, innovative financial mechanisms and environmental governance. My work includes global-local perspectives and perspectives from Africa. For example, I have carried out studies on Payment for Ecosystem Services in Kenya, Just Energy Transition in South Africa, Impacts of Dutch Development Aid in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions and Funding Strategies of the WWF global network. I hold a PhD in conservation finance from Wageningen University and Research.



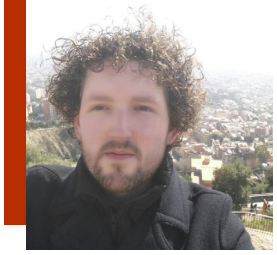
Prof. Kwasi Appeaning Addo

African Research Universities Alliance Climate & Development (ARUA),University of Ghana

Director



Kwasi's research has focused on coastal erosion complex interactions, shorelines and river systems linkages, sea-level rise and subsidence interrelationships, and the blue economy. He is a member of the following: Group of Experts of the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy, Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process), UNESCO Land Subsidence International Initiative, Coastal Changes Monitoring Working Group. He Coordinates the West Africa regional hub of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA): Climate and Development (ARUA CD).



Maarten Appelman, MSc

University of Twente

PhD candidate



Maarten holds a Msc degree in telecommunication engineering and is currently finishing his Msc in philosophy of technology. He is a second year PhD candidate on the topic of Energy Access in which he analyzes technical and social dimensions of access to electricity in the Global South through the lens of energy justice.



Dr. Kakra (Martha Ataa-Asantewaa)

KIT Royal Tropical Institute

Research Associate
Consultatnt



I am currently working on a project that seeks to identify ‘’invisible cocoa farmers” in the cocoa sector in Ghana and the Ivory Coast. This is part of preparations for farmers’ risk assessment for EUDR. This project is sponsored by the Include and Knowledge Platform of the NWO WOTRO in the Netherlands. It is a scoping study but will serve as a stepping stone for a multi-year project with foreign and local implementing partners later this year. I am also leading an NGO called Farmer LIFE (Living Income For Every Farmer) Foundation, which aims to train smallholder cocoa farmers in alternative income-generating activities in Ghana.



Mark A. Aviisah, MSc

University of Groningen

PhD Researcher



Mark A. Aviisah holds a BSc. Community Nutrition from the University of Development Studies, Ghana, and has an MSc. Global Ageing and Policy from the University of Southampton, UK. He is currently researching intergenerational support and subjective well-being in later life in Ghana at the Population Research Center, University of Groningen.



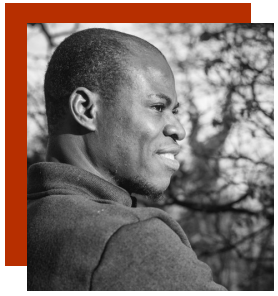
Prof. Dr. Ajay Bailey

Utrecht University

Professor of Social Urban Transitions



Prof. Ajay Bailey is a professor and the Head of the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. He leads the research line Global Migration, Healthy Ageing and Inclusive Transport, working at the interface of anthropology, geography, demography and public health. Dr Bailey currently leads the EQUIMOB project, which researches inclusive mobilities in India and Bangladesh. For more info: https://www.uu.nl/staff/abailey



Jeleel Balyaminu, MSc

Leiden University

PhD Candidate



I have two Master Degrees in Water Management, Specialization in Water Conflict Management, and Sociology. I am a passionate and dynamic natural resources and environment researcher. My current research is based on Natural Resource Governance and Socio-Cultural Conditions in Africa: From Policy to Practice.



Prof. Roxana Barrantes

Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru

Professor



Economist, PhD (1992) and Master's (1989), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Bachelor of Social Sciences (1984), and Economist (1987), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Professor, Department of Economics, President, Board of Directors of the School of Government, Member of the Advisory Committee to the Ombudsman's Office, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, PUCP). Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos. Member of the board of directors of the Peruvian Central Bank.



Dr. Hester Biemans

Wageningen University & Research

Senior researcher



I am researcher using integrated hydrology and crop production modelling to study the impact of changing water resources availability and demand on food production. Subsequently, I study pathways to decrease negative impacts of increasing water scarcity on food security. In recent years I have worked on global assessments as well as projects in Asia. Recently, I started working on projects in Africa as well.



Dr. Robert Borst

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Postdoctoral Researcher



I am a health systems researcher working on the intersection between global and planetary health. My focus areas are knowledge translation and health systems resilience, building on conceptual insights from Science and Technology Studies. I am involved as a senior researcher in the Dutch Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness Center.



Eva Broer

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Head of Research Office & Research Policy Advisor

Experienced Head of Department in Higher Education sector. 10 years work experience in the UK. International oriented. Full LinkedIn profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/eva-broer-3b5a312



Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Broerse

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Professor of Innovation and Communication in health and life sciences



Jacqueline Broerse has a disciplinary background in Biomedical Sciences and Science, technology and society studies (STS). Her research aims to understand how research and innovation can better contribute to solving complex societal challenges in an equitable and sustainable way. She particularly focuses on methodology development for multi-stakeholder engagement in research and innovation (e.g. through Living Labs), and the governance of system transformation in hte domains of food and health. Currently she is coordinator of the EU-funded FoodCLIC project on transforming food environments to ensure availability and consumption of healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food (2022-2027)



Dr. Joyce Browne

University Medical Center Utrecht & Utrecht University

Associate Professor Global Health



Within my global health transdisciplinary research and teaching activities, I apply my background in medicine, social epidemiology and clinical epidemiology. My work focusses on health equity, maternal health, planetary health and equitable partnerships in global health. I work as an Associate Professor in Global Health and Epidemiology at the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMC Utrecht, www.globalhealth.eu) & on the Global Engagement strategy of Utrecht University at Utrecht Center for Global Challenges (UU). I chair the Dutch Knowledge Center Global Health and am member of Supervisory Board (RvT) of Simavi.



Milou de Bruijne, MSc

ZOA

Strategic Learning and Policy Advisor



ZOA is an international relief/recovery organisation, working in settings affected by conflict and natural disasters. Operating in 15 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and South America, we focus on Food Security & Livelihoods, Peacebuilding, Land Rights, WASH and Climate Resilience. Cash/Voucher assistance is an important modality, and gender/diversity/inclusion key themes. As Strategic Learning and Policy Advisor, I facilitate learning and knowledge management of ZOA's programmes. This involves programmatic learning/adaptation, evaluation, and research in line with ZOA's strategic priorities. Past experience includes work in South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, and Madagascar.



Prof. Dr. Erwin Bulte

Wageningen University & Research

Professor of development economics



Erwin is an economist working on institutional change and agricultural development. Where possible his research is based on experimental methods. Bulte studied tropical forestry and development economics in Wageningen. In 1997, he obtained his PhD from the same university. After his PhD, he worked at Tilburg University from 1998, from 2000 as a KNAW researcher. He was also a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation. In 2014, the Dutch trade journal De Economist named Bulte the best economist in the Netherlands. In 2017, Bulte was appointed a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Robert Bwana, MSc

University of Amsterdam

PhD Candidate



I research how technology is used to promote sustainability and responsibility in global value chains, particularly those that are part of the energy transition. I focus on technologies that are active in the African Great Lakes Region to monitor or report on the extraction of energy-transition-minerals from the region.



Rishuai Chen, PhD

Leiden University

PhD Candidate



Rishuai Chen is a PhD candidate at the African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL), Leiden University, whose work focuses on African migration to China. Based on ethnographic insights from China and Senegal, his PhD project examines the role of everyday practices of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in complexifying migratory experiences and dynamic connections across the Global South. He is also currently involved in one of the ASCL Collaborative Research Groups, 'Africa in the World - Rethinking Africa's Global Connections'. Prior to Leiden, he studied social anthropology at London School of Economics and SOAS, the latter where he also received one year training of Hausa.



Florencio Campomanes V, MSc

University of Twente

PhD Candidate



We employ data-centric AI to potentially improve the spatial transferability of slum mapping models in a data-scarce environment for 6 cities in 3 African countries. We will develop a systematic data refinement method to reduce and clean original input data and then train several models for different cities using synthetic imagery labelled using citizen science. From these, we will select the optimal model from all trained models and test it on unseen datasets. Lastly, with the local stakeholders and slum dwellers, we will co-develop communication strategies for the outputs.



Dr. Ir. Luis Cutz

Delft University of Technology

Assistant Professor



Dr. Luis Cutz is an assistant professor at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft). His research group focuses on developing thermochemical technologies to convert waste plastic/ biomass into biofuels, chemicals or new raw materials. These products can serve for power generation, transport purposes, energy storage applications or a source to manufacture new polymers. By using experimental research techniques, his team is able to improve the design of thermochemical processes. His research group collaborates closely with industry and leading academic institutions to scale up these technologies from simulation level to large-scale systems.



Prof. Dr. Jenny Dankelman

Delft University of Technology

Full professor



Jenny Dankelman is professor in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Interventional Techniques at the Delft University of Technology and has a background in Control and System Theory. Currently she develops novel medical instruments, with a focus on affordable, high quality, and reusable multi-functional devices for low-resource settings. For her activities she was awarded the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek chair, the Professor of Excellence award, the Royal award of Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion. She is member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and Netherlands Academy of Engineering (NAE).



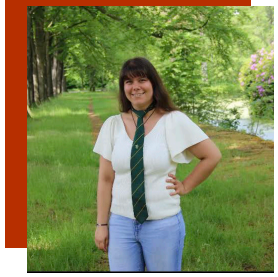
Prof. Dr. Marleen Dekker

Leiden University

Director ASCL



Marleen Dekker is Professor of Inclusive Development in Africa at Leiden University and Director of the African Studies Centre Leiden. She is trained as a human geographer and holds a PhD in Development Economics. Marleen Dekker's research is interdisciplinary in nature and analyses the role of social norms and networks in accessing markets and local socio-economic development. Marleen is member of the NWO-NWA-SDG initiative group and was coordinating the secretariat of the INCLUDE knowledge platform from 2014-2021.



Alyssa Delarosa

University of Twente

Research Assistant, FRAME project (UvA, Delft, Erasmus, and Anchor University, Nigeria)



Alyssa Delarosa is a second-year Master student in Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Society at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands. Her areas of specialisation include urban and geospatial ethics. She has worked on the NWO funded Fair global Research Agenda by Mutual Engagement (FRAME) project led by Dr. Joyeeta Gupta from the Earth Commission. Alyssa is currently writing her Master thesis with a focus on Earth System Justice and plans to conduct further research in the topic.



Dr. Fatima Delgado

Delft University of Technology

Lecturer



Fátima Delgado is an Ecuadorian with an economic/business and sustainable sciences background who has worked with indigenous, small farmers and gender-based grassroots organizations in Latin America for over 14 years. Through her own empirical experience, she defined herself to challenge the "colonial wound" and the voices surrounding the narrative of the work of the "Development & Aid" sector in the Global South, which has led to the contribution of new decolonial courses at the TU Delft educational setting, such as the "Beyond Development: Pluriverse for Sustainable & Impact" course, lectures, workshops and more.



Ir. Milou Derks

University of Technology Eindhoven,Orange Corners (RVO)

PhD Candidate and Programme Manager



Milou Derks is a programme manager at Orange Corners, where she focusses on stimulating entrepreneurship and employment for youth in low-income countries (mainly East and Southern Africa). She is also a PhD candidate at the Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovtion Sciences at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). Her research interests focus on the role of ecosystems in scaling innovations in low-income countries. Her research results are regularly published in journals and conference proceedings.



Prof. Dr. Katrien Descheemaeker

Wageningen University & Research

Professor



My research focuses on farming systems analysis, soil-plant-animal interactions, sustainable development and resource use efficiency, with a special interest in the functioning and dynamics of mixed crop-livestock systems. Current activities combine experimental trial work with simulation modelling to identify and assess options for sustainable intensification and climate-smart agriculture. Across various projects on smallholder farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa, I develop participatory and co-learning approaches that aim to co-design tailored agricultural technologies and practices to improve farm productivity, food security, resilience to shocks, and natural resource integrity.



Dr. Chalachew Getahun Desta

Addis Ababa University

Academic



Chalachew Getahun Desta is Associate Professor of Population Studies, Geography, and Socioeconomic Development Planning at the Center for Population Studies of the College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University.



Prof. Dr. Ir. Jan Carel Diehl

Delft University of Technology

Professor



Jan Carel Diehl is a Full Professor in Design for Inclusive Sustainable Healthcare at the Delft University of Technology and Medical Delta Professor at Erasmus Medical Center. He is currently the co-lead of the NWO project INSPIRED - Inclusive diagnostics for poverty-related parasitic diseases in Nigeria and Gabon and the NWA-ORC project Sustainable Hospitals. His main research aim is to develop interventions towards more inclusive and sustainable healthcare systems.



Olive Dushime, MSc

The SDG Center for Africa

SDGs Senior Advisor



Olive Dushime is an impact-driven statistician and mathematician with a wide range of experience in research, monitoring, learning and evaluation in delivering poverty alleviation and socioeconomic development programmes at country and multi-country level. I have been designing and leading qualitative and quantitative studies on various projects including education, maternal and child health, infectious and tropical disease prevention, water and sanitation, infrastructure, environment, agriculture, and nutrition. Olive also has substantial experience working with a variety of policy, economic, and social stakeholders at local, national, and multi-country levels in Africa.



Tatenda Dzurume

University of Twente

PhD Candidate



Tatenda is a PhD candidate at the University of Twente (Netherlands) in the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Western Cape (South Africa). She has an interest in the application of remote sensing in dealing with food security pest-related issues.



Dr. David Ehrhardt

Leiden University

Associate Professor



I am an associate professor in International Development at Leiden University. My research focuses on institutional innovation in African governance, particularly in Nigeria. I also develop and study educational tools that promote autonomous learning in higher education as part of the Learning Mindset project. My teaching revolves around international development and African studies.



Prof. Samir Eljaafari

Moulay Ismail University

Professor in Biology | Coordinator of the Programme de Coopération Universitaire Institutionnel CUI-UMI



Full Professor of Environmental Health & Genetics at Moulay Ismail University of Meknes (Morocco) with 28 years of training and research experience. Prof. El Jaafari serves as the General secretary for the Ethics Committee on biomedical research. As PI and co-investigator of several university-, national and international-funded grants, he led the groundwork for research by developing effective measures of urban monitoring and sustainable development. He has a strong background in international project management and monitoring and in collaborative research (more than 25 years), with the tuition to bringing together the brightest minds in the various key disciplines, including within Africa



Anna Elias

Erasmus University Rotterdam

PhD Researcher



Anna is a PhD researcher at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research focuses on socio-economic transitions driven by digital platforms, particularly their impact on informal livelihoods. She studies multiple sectors in platform economy which were traditionally thriving informally to illuminate the nuanced realities faced by workers, highlighting the impact of digital platforms in economically disadvantaged, socially hierarchical, and resource-constrained contexts of the Global South. With a background in the social impact sector, Anna's expertise converges at the intersection of evidence-based research, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, digital innovation, and sustainability at large.



Pjotr Elshout

Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Policy Officer

Policy Officer for the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science focussed on South Africa.



Prof. Dr. Ir. Marja Elsinga

Delft University of Technology

Professor of Housing Institutions & Governance



Prof. Marja G. Elsinga holds the Chair Housing Institutions & Governance in the Faculty of Architecture of Delft University of Technology. She teaches housing institutions, policies and markets at bachelor, master and PhD level and emphasizes the fact that housing is a basic need, a social infrastructure and financial asset. She has wide experience in leading policy relevant research for housing providers, consumers, developers and local, national and European government bodies and publishing on these topics. She supervises PhD students from across the globe on the topic of organizing adequate housing for all.



Patrick Samson Udama Eneche

University of Twente

PhD Candidate



Patrick Eneche is a Nigerian and a researcher at the University of Twente's Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC). He is a seasoned expert in urban climatology, big geospatial, and business data analytics. Passionate about Open Science, he champions interdisciplinary collaboration to maximize scientific impact. Patrick is dedicated to promoting FAIR data principles and the practical application of research findings. His commitment extends to making scientific data accessible to diverse audiences. With a focus on actionable research outputs, he strives to enhance decision-making processes for both scientific and non-scientific stakeholders.



Dr. Dirk Essink

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Assistant Professor



Dirk Essink is assistant professor global health, with a focus on health systems and transdisciplinarity, Athena Institute, Fac. of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2017-2022). Dirk obtained his Phd in health system innovation. Dirk his research is amongs others Vietnam, Lao PDR, Ethiopia and South Sudan. His research interest lies with the integration and translation of knowledge for public health policy and strategies for scaling up within health systems. The topics he currently mainly focusses on are: 1) quality of care in humanitarian settings, 2) quality of care in sexual and reproductive health, 3) nutrition sensitive agriculture and 4) agenda setting for research.



Dr. Ir. Jelle Ferwerda

University of Twente

Research Coordinator



An ecologist by training, conservationist in mind, with a strong background in spatial data and earth observation. Currently working as research coordinator for the faculty of geo-information science and Earth Observation, my role has expanded into the domain of building bridges and finding solutions at larger scale than individual research projects. Rather, to connect people and spot opportunities for alignment of ideas.



Paola Fezzigna, MSc

University of Amsterdam

Junior researcher



I am a junior researcher at the university of Amsterdam, investigating inequalities between the global north and global south, in relation to climate change impacts and climate negotiations. Part of my work deals with extreme weather events, impacts on communities, and Loss and damage mechanisms. I am part of the Earth Commission Working Group 4 Transformations, co-led by Joyeeta Gupta, which investigates socio-economic drivers of Earth system changes, as well as synergies and trade-offs between social and environmental goals for sustainability.



Dr. Elsje Fourie

Maastricht University

Assistant Professor of Globalisation and Development



I was a post-doc on the recently-concluded “Wellbeing, Women and Work” (3WE) WOTRO-funded project. Our project focused on the processual and relational wellbeing of women working in Ethiopia’s FDI-funded apparel and horticulture sectors. My role in the project focused on understanding managerial perspectives and perceptions of their workers’ wellbeing. Outside the 3WE project, I have conducted research on the transfer of Japanese productivity methods (kaizen) to Ethiopian enterprises within the remit of Japanese Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). More generally, I am interested in the role that emulation and modernist imaginaries play in the politics of development cooperation.



Dr. Kebede Manjur Gebru

Mekelle University

Associate Professor



Kebede Manjur Gebru is Associate Professor at Mekelle University. He holds PhD in International Development Studies from Utrecht University of The Netherlands, M.Sc. and B.Sc. degrees in Rural Development Agricultural Extension from Haramaya University of Ethiopia. Between 2002 and 2010, he worked at Tigrai Agricultural Research Institute as researcher and manager. Besides, he worked on research and development project and consulting assignments for various local and international organizations. He has published extensively about value chains, inclusive business model, social relation, food security, rural infrastructures, gender, natural resource management, climate change etc.



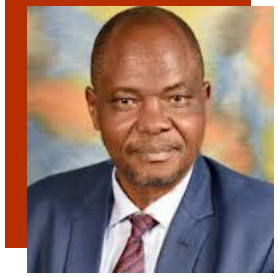
Prof. Dr. Ir. Nick van de Giesen

Delft University of Technology

Professor



Nick van de Giesen is professor at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands, where he holds the “Van Kuffeler” Chair of Water Resources Engineering. After a postdoctoral position with WARDA, Côte d’Ivoire, he was a Senior Researcher at the ZEF, University of Bonn. He received his PhD from Cornell University and his MSc from Wageningen University. He chairs the Delft|Global Initiative and is co-director of the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (www.tahmo.org).



Eng. Prof. Ayub Gitau

University of Nairobi

Dean Faculty of Engineering - UoN



Gitau is a Professor of Mechanization, Energy and Machinery Engineering, Registered with Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) as a Consulting Engineer with over 30 years of academic and practical experience in: Agricultural Mechanization, Power and Machinery Engineering and infrastructure (Water, Irrigation and In- built Environment) Development, Water Harvesting Technologies, Environment and Renewable Energies technologies. Currently he is the Dean, Faculty of Engineering at The University of Nairobi. He has been a Head of Environmental and Biosystems Engineering for 6 years up to 2017. He is a member of numerous professional bodies and has published over 150 in peer reviewed journals.



Prof. Dr. Morag Goodwin

Tilburg University

Professor of Global Law and Development



My work focuses on the role of law in creating exclusion, structuring inclusion and in providing space for participation, resistance and agency. I am particularly interested in how global (development) narratives affect these dynamics. I am currently completing a monograph examining questions of identity and inclusion of Rwanda’s Batwa population at the intersection of globalized narratives of indigeneity, development and conservation.



Dr. Konjit Gudeta

Addis Ababa University

Researcher and Assistant Professor

I served as a post-doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University, contributing to a research project titled “Women, Work, and Wellbeing in Ethiopia: Creating synergies between SDGs 3, 5, and 8 through Foreign Direct Investment.” Currently, I work as an assistant professor at Addis Ababa University, School of Commerce. My primary research interests lie in (women) entrepreneurship, family businesses, wellbeing, global value chains, work-life interface, women’s economic empowerment, and care work. I am actively engaged in international and regional research projects representing Ethiopia, and my work has been published in journals and as book sections.



Dr. Karlijn Haagsman

Maastricht University

Assistant Professor
Globalisation & Development

Karlijn Haagsman is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, and co-director of the Maastricht Centre for Citizenship, Migration and Development. Her research focusses on well-being in migrant families, looking at different actors: children, parents, grandparents and caregivers. She is particularly interested in caregiving practices, intergenerational relations, networks and well-being in transnational families who are separated due to migration. She has also studied mobility trajectories of youth of migrant background in the Global North and of youth in the Global South whose parents have migrated. Read more on: https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rk-haagsman



Lotte van der Haar, MSc

Wageningen University & Research

PhD Candidate

My PhD research at Wageningen University focuses on behavioral development economics, with two primary projects: (1) Investigating the effectiveness of signaling to promote the adoption of an agroecological integrated pest management method, aimed at combating the fall armyworm, among maize farmers in Uganda. (2) Analyzing the impact of trust in and knowledge of an index-based livestock insurance on insurance demand and welfare among pastoralists in Ethiopia and Kenya.



Brook Teklehaimanot Haileselassie, MSc

Delft University of Technology

Researcher

Brook Teklehaimanot is a Delft Global fellow and a doctoral candidate at the Delft University of Technology. Brook did his postgraduate studies at the ETH Zürich, specialising in Urban Transformations in Developing Territories. He has been teaching and preparing academic materials at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction, and City Development (EiABC) for more than a decade. Brook has served as a guest lecturer and researcher at the TU Delft Global Housing Studio in 2015. He is currently studying relationships between housing conditions and spatial practices in Addis Ababa employing visual ethnographic methods in the domain of Architecture and Anthropology.



Prof. Dr. Ir. Doris van Halem

Delft University of Technology

Professor



Prof. dr. ir. Doris van Halem is Professor Drinking Water Quality & Treatment at Delft University of Technology. Her research group focusses on understanding removal mechanisms (pathogens, metals, organic micropollutants) to support a global transition to accessible and sustainable water technologies. She is program leader of TU Delft | Water for Impact (www.tudelft.nl/waterforimpact) and as such highly active in water research projects in and with the Global South. Dr. van Halem received both her MSc and PhD cum laude, and her work has since been widely recognized through awards and grants, including Steven Hoogendijk Award, UNESCO-L'Oreal For Women in Science Award, and NWO VIDI.



Claire Hallewas, MA

Delft University of Technology

Managing Director TU Delft | Global Initiative



Claire Hallewas is the Managing Director of TU Delft | Global Initiative, the platform for education, science & innovation for global development at TU Delft. Before she joined TU Delft in 2013, she lived and worked for several years in Jakarta, Indonesia, and in Brussels, Belgium, where she was involved in various projects in development cooperation. Claire now combines her experience in the field with her expertise in strategic development, lobbying and fundraising. She and her team actively support researchers, students and entrepreneurs working on solutions that contribute to reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia and always in co-creation with local partners. Claire is specifically interested in collaboration with African partners to co-create strategical activities to jointly strengthen the knowledge and innovation ecosystems in Sub-Sahara Africa. She is involved in the GROW programme as programme developer.



Augusto Heras, PhD

University of Amsterdam

PhD Candidate



I'm a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam. My PhD research is part of the project Climate Change and Fossil Fuels (CLIFF, ERC Adv Grant) and focuses on the challenges and opportunities for a just and inclusive energy transition with a focus on Leaving Fossil Fuels Underground in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). My analysis focuses on Bangladesh, Mozambique, Brazil, Colombia and Argentina. Applying a comparative and transdisciplinary case study approach, the project team will combine institutional analysis with an innovative theoretical model for inclusive development. In this regard, I also combine critical International Political Economy approaches (Neo-Gramscian).



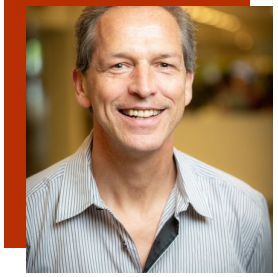
Nina Herzog-Hawelka, PhD

University of Amsterdam

PhD candidate



Nina is currently pursuing her PhD in the Governance and Inclusive Development program group at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, within the University of Amsterdam. She has a background in Cultural Anthropology and International Development Studies. Her PhD is part of a larger ERC-funded project which addresses the role of big investors in leaving fossil fuels underground (LFFU), the North-South implications of LFFU, and the necessary measures to be adopted to equitably allocate and accelerate the responsibilities of shareholders and stakeholders in energy transformation. She works on the role of multinational oil and gas companies and relevant agents of change in LFFU.



Dr. Henk van den Heuvel

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Head, International Relations

I am a political scientist by education and I am head International Relations at VU Amsterdam. We are working on a plan for academic networking with universities, university associations and research institutes on the African continent to facilitate academic collaboration between the Global South and the Global North, based on equity and reciprocity, with the SDGs as an overall umbrella.



Dr. Pytsje Hoekstra

Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC)

Postdoctoral researcher

Pytsje Hoekstra is a postdoctoral researcher in the Clinical Parasitology Group at the Department of Parasitology of the Leiden University Medical Center. Her expertise lies in the evaluation and application of sensitive diagnostic methods for schistosomiasis across various settings, with a specific focus on the detection of circulating antigens via the field applicable point-of-care CCA test (POC-CCA) as well as the laboratory-based CAA test using upconverting particle (UCP) technology.



Dr. Julia Hoffmann

University of Amsterdam

Institute Manager, Institute for Advanced Study

Trained in human rights law and communication science, Julia worked as researcher and lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and The UN University for Peace in Costa Rica at the nexus of human rights, media and conflict studies. After six years of working in international development, creating large scale consortium projects in the field of Transparency + Accountability in Latin America, Eatern Africa and South East Asia she cureently manages the UvA's Institute for Advanced Study.



Marc Holtkamp, MA

Leiden University

Senior Advisor Strategic Collaboration

Over a twenty-year career, I have built up broad international experience in the EU as well as on the ground in Africa. I know the EU institutions inside out, and am passionate about working towards sustainable development. My talents are translating and communicating vision into strategy, action and funding as well as leading multicultural teams with an open and positive attitude. https://www.linkedin.com/in/holtkampmarc/



Dr. Marieke Hopman

Maastricht University

Assistant Professor



Marieke Hopman is the PI of the NWO-WOTRO SDG research project on development rights of children living in de facto states. The main question for the project is: (How) can development rights of children living in de facto states be better realized? To answer this research question, we study: 1) What development rights entail for children living in de facto states from an international law perspective 2) Developing a theoretical framework and methodology to study the different norms related to the protection/violation of children's development rights 3) Empirical research in three de facto states (five case studies): Palestine, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Somaliland.



Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain

Independent University, Bangladesh

Assistant Professor



Academician and researcher involved in university teaching & development consultancy in the areas of socio-economic development and policy studies. Currently an Assistant Professor at IUB and previously led Urban and Climate change cluster at Brac University. Completed PhD in 'International Development and Policy Studies' and M.A in 'Economic Development and Infrastructure", both from Waseda University, Japan. Research focuses in areas of socio-economic development and policy studies, particularly on governance and sustainable development, aging and social inclusion, climate change and energy security, urbanization and political economy, regional integration and resource governance.



Mobina Izadpanah, MSc

Delft University of Technology

Events & Communication officer of Delft Global Student Club

I am a master student at TU Delft majoring in BioMechanical Design. I am the Events & Communication officer of Delft Global Student Club (DGSC), focusing on connecting students to professors, researchers and companies active in the field of global development.



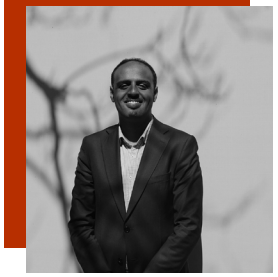
Dr. Selim Jahangir

Equimob Group,Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Postdoctoral Fellow



Selim Jahangir is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Health Demography and Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research Methods, Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka. His areas of specialisation are in Population ageing, Gender and care, Urban mobility in the Global South, Climate change adaptation, and Qualitative research methods. He is the course coordinator of the 'Certificate course in Qualitative Research Methods'.



Guleid Ahmed Jama, PhD

Maastricht University

PhD Candidate



I am a PhD candidate funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in its project on the development rights of children in unrecognised States.



Muhammad Khalid Jamil

Wageningen University & Research

PhD Candidate



I work on assessment of upscaling potential of climate change adaptations for SDG 2 and 6 in Indus river basin. Food production in the Indus basin mainly depends on irrigated agriculture. However, the changing climate poses uncertainty in future water availability. Adapting to Climate-smart agricultural practices (CSA) for irrigation of crops can provide a local mechanism for enhancing sustainable food production. However, to avoid mal-adaptation, CSA needs field scale evaluation, and subsequent upscaling potential assessment for Indus basin. In my PhD research project, I specifically focuses on sustainable upscaling potential assessment of CSA for irrigation in Indus river basin.



Dr. Saakshi Joshi

Equimob Group

Postdoctoral Researcher



Saakshi Joshi is a social anthropologist with research experience in the fields of dam induced displacement, urban water, waste water management & sanitation, and mobility. With EQUIMOB, she has researched women's access to public transport and its impact on their everyday lives in her home city of New Delhi, India. She also writes fiction, doodles, and dances.



Prof. Dr. Ir. Dinis Juizo

Universidade Eduardo Mondlane

Professor at Civil Engineering dept.



I´m currently the Dean of Faculty of Engineering at Eduardo Mondlane University. I have a broad scientific foot print in the area of hydrology, water resources and natural resources management. My work involves modelling of natural systems, scientific leadership, project management and team coordiantion. The research group I lead works with diverse range of topics ranging from pollution control of natural environment from mining and industry, hydraulic infrastructure design, sanitation circular economy, blue economy, environment flows, links between land/catchment manangement and ocean biodiversity, PFAS, antimicrobial resistences and sanitation.



Matthijs Kallenberg, MSc

NWO - Dutch Research Council

Policy Officer

I work at NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development, which is a division of the Dutch Research Council (NWO) that funds and monitors research programmes that are aimed at providing knowledge and skills that contribute to sustainable solutions for social and ecological challenges in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). My academic background is in Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology.



Roel Kamerling, MSc

Delft University of Technology

Project Lead GROW



Extensive experience at Delft University of Technology in connecting researchers across disciplines, sectors and countries. Finding new and effective routes to addressing sustainable development goals with research and developed an international training programme for the Development of Regional Innovation Ecosystems for EIT Health. Raised and coordinated over the years > 200 mio Euro in public-private research funds, including the new Marie Sklodowska-Curie project GROW with 51 new PhD projects who will focus at understanding and addressing SDGs in Africa. Member of the TU Delft | Global Initiative team. Science for the benefit of people. All people. Worldwide.



Sarra Kchouk, MSc

Wageningen University & Research

PhD Candidate



I am partisan of research-action towards rural populations exposed to natural hazards as I am driven by the motivation to study about and for vulnerable populations and connecting natural and social sciences. Within the NWO-funded 3DDD project, I researched how to develop local and contextualised indices of drought impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 6, and 13), which could be embedded in drought early warning systems. Beside that, my international experiences concerned mitigation and adaptation strategies to increase resilience to climate change in Brazil, Tunisia, Lebanon, and France.



Dr. Aalok Khandekar

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

Assistant Professor



Aalok Khandekar is a researcher in the field of Science and Technology Studies. In recent years, two distinct but related concerns have been at the center of his scholarly attention. First, a concern with environmental and climate change governance in 'southern city' settings. Second, understanding and creating the conditions for interdisciplinary collaborations addressing urgent challenges, such as those presented by global climate change. Khandekar also serves as the editor-in-chief of Engaging Science, Technology, and Society (ESTS), the diamond open access journal of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S).



Michael Kimaro, PhD

University of Groningen

PhD Student



Michael is a PhD candidate at the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and his study focuses on the "management of human-wildlife conflict along the hard boundaries of African protected areas through fencing, and the case study is western Serengeti where the electric fence has been installed since 2020". Michael is also the Founder and Managing Director of the Tanzania Research and Conservation Organization (TRCO) which mainly focuses on the conservation of pangolins in Tanzania.



Miguel Avides, MSc

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Graduate Assistant



As a research assistant for the Erasmus University Rotterdam, we are part of the FRAME Project. In our current project we are using the Earth System Justice Framework to look are urban green spaces in both Rotterdam and Lagos. Our team in specific is looking at future and current urban green parks in Rotterdam and how these intersect with issues around justice. Namely, what the impacts of urban green spaces are on communities, generations and animals. We also organised a workshop with key stakeholders in Rotterdam to fully understand the impacts of these urban green parks on justice issues.



Prof. emeritus Robert Kloosterman

University of Amsterdam

Professor Emeritus



My academic work has focused on economic activities in urban settings (migrant entrepreneurship, creative industries), spatial urban configurations and globalisation



Prof. Dr. Peter Knorringa

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Professor Private Sector & Development



Prof. Peter Knorringa is a development economist with over 25 years' experience in research, teaching and advisory work. He is one of the co-founders, and the academic director of the International Centre for Frugal Innovation (ICFI), a Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities initiative in the Netherlands. His present research explores the developmental impacts of frugal innovations and builds on his previous research on clustered small and medium scale enterprises, entrepreneurship, local economic development, the role of trust, networks and social capital in economic relationships, global and local value chain analysis, private governance and the role of sustainability standards.



Caroline Kohlmann, LLM

Delft University of Technology

Project manager



Caroline has over 20 years of administrative and legal work experience within universities. Currently, she works as project manager at the Innovation & Impact Centre at Delft University of Technology. The Innovation & Impact Centre of the university assists in setting up collaborations between industry, government and knowledge institutions to co-work on global challenges and bringing innovations and stimulate the technology transfer to society. She is involved in various Dutch and EU-funded projects and has experience with MSCA COFUND programmes like GROW. Previously, she has worked in the HR field with a focus on talent development and inclusion.



Marleen van der Kooij, MA

IHE Delft

Coordinator



Coordinator Platform for higher education institutes in the Netherlands working in and with the Global South



Ir. Marjan Kreijns

Delft University of Technology

Director



Marjan Kreijns is a Project manager with 25 years of experience in the academic society. In 2011 she joined the Innovation & Impact Centre of Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) working as project manager and teamleader of projects in water and climate, both in NL as well as in Asia and Africa. In December 2012 she became the Head of the Department of Project Management and is leading a team of 40 Project Managers with very diverse project portfolio's. She is the project director of the VPdelta programma for innovations in the water sector (www.vpdelta.nl) and in October 2019 she was appointed as Director of the Green Village, a fieldlab at TU Delft for sustainable innovations.



Robèrt Kroonen

Delft University of Technology

Online Communications Manager & Photographer

I am managing the TU Delft | Global Initiative socials & will make photos during the event.



Dr. Elisabeth Krueger

University of Amsterdam

Assistant Professor



Elisabeth Krueger is an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, University of Amsterdam, with a co-affiliation at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research. Her research focuses on understanding how infrastructure and institutions shape human-environment interactions, as well as potential synergies and tradeoffs between meeting societal needs (e.g., water, food, energy), ensuring resilience to shocks and the sustainability of urban provisioning systems from local to global scales. She uses complex adaptive systems methods and social-ecological-technological systems approaches in her research.



Prof. Dr. Joost de Laat

Utrecht University

Director, Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges (UGlobe)



Joost holds the Chair Economics of Global Challenges at Utrecht University and is Director at the Utrecht Center for Global Challenges. He has worked on the SDGs in a variety of research and non-research roles. For example, as manager for the World Bank's Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, he oversaw a portfolio of impact evaluations in early childhood development (ECD), nutrition, WASH, and education. He has also been a principal investigator on large scale randomized trials in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Bulgaria, and has worked closely with civil society organisation and policy makers to influence policy action. Joost holds a PhD from Brown University.



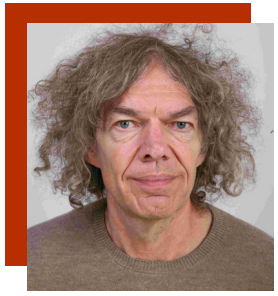
Dr. Monica Lengoiboni

University of Twente

Assistant Professor



Assistant professor Land Administration (land policies and land management practices) at the ITC Faculty - Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Enschede, the Netherlands.



Prof. Dr. Robert Lensink

University of Groningen

Professor of finance



Robert Lensink is a development economist, with specific research interests covering Gender Studies, Impact Analyses, and Financial Inclusion. He is Professor of Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB), University of Groningen (UG), and a "Professor Extraordinary" at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is currently the vice-dean research at FEB, UG. Robert is a Resource Person for the African Economic Research Consortium, and a full member of the European Development Research Network. Robert has published more than 120 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including all major development economics journals



Prof. Dr. Maggi W.H. Leung

University of Amsterdam

Professor in International Development Studies



Maggi W.H. Leung is Professor at the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam. She is a social geographer and migration scholar by training. Her research aims to account for the prevailing uneven socio-spatial impact of the flows that define our interconnected world. Working with multi-scalar (from the global to the body), intersectional and translocal perspectives, her main research interests are: opportunities and challenges of migration with a focus on related injustices, internationalisation of education and knowledge mobilities, as well as 'global China' and its impact on global development.



Prof. Dr. Lisette van Lieshout

Leiden University Medical Centre

Researcher, parasitologist



Dr. Lisette van Lieshout (PhD) is an associate professor in medical parasitology at the Department of Parasitology of the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) in the Netherlands. She has a long track record of diagnostic research, mainly on the immune-diagnosis of schistosomiasis and the molecular detection of parasites in stool, but also on EQAS of diagnostics, including microscopy and digital optical diagnostics of parasites.



Dr. Bishawjit Mallick

Utrecht University

Associate Professor Climate Change and International Development Studies



Bishawjit's background in human geography and planning and 15 years of experience researching climate change adaptation in the Global South have allowed him a proven track record for structuring "people and place interactions" researcher, in particular, environmental non-migration theories to empirical evaluation. He introduced the seminal concept of 'environmental non-migration' to understand why and how people stay in at-risk places, and how this leads to intergenerational climate-cultures. He believes in South-North-South collaboration as the key pathway to sustainable development and employs both socio-spatial approaches and mixed methods in his research.



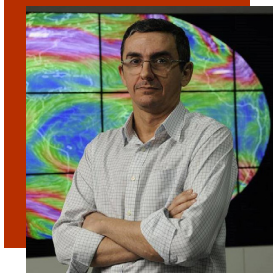
Victoria Ojoagefu Manya, MA

Leiden University

PhD researcher



Victoria Manya, a PhD Researcher at Leiden University's African Studies Center, investigates digitally enabled startup ecosystems in Nigeria and Ghana. Her research covers youth and female employment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and informality, providing insights for sustainable development (SDG 8, 5, 10). As a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Nigeria Startup Act, she fosters innovation and sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9, 11) by facilitating enabling environments for young startup CEOs. Through partnerships and collaboration (SDG 17), she bridges the gap between policy making, research and and policy implementation, promoting inclusive governance.



Dr. Eduardo Sávio Passos Rodrigues Martins

Research Institute for Meteorology and Water Resources

President



Eduardo Sávio Passos Rodrigues Martins, Ph.D. from Cornell University, is President of the Research Institute for Meteorology and Water Resources and Associate Professor at the Federal University of Ceará. He focuses on utilizing climate data for water allocation and planning. With extensive publications and software development, he mentors graduate research and coordinates national and international projects. Dr. Martins serves on various boards, contributes to World Bank drought programs, and delivers keynote speeches globally, including at Harvard University and the World Bank. He has organized numerous events with national and international partners.



Dr. Mwehe Mathenge

Maseno University

Lecturer and Researcher



Dr. Mwehe Mathenge's research focuses on improving food security and livelihoods for smallholder farmers in Africa. His expertise lies in applying earth observation data, Geographic Information Systems and spatial analysis to agricultural development, land use planning, and food security interventions. He examines how land tenure systems impact urban agriculture, while also exploring the role of agribusiness development and sustainable practices in strengthening agri-food systems.



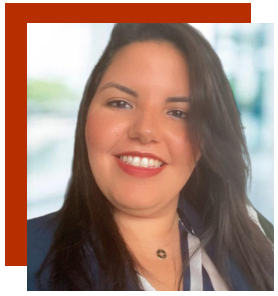
Prof. Dr. Michael McClain

IHE

Professor of Ecohydrology



Prof. McClain is Chair Professor of Ecohydrology. His interests lie broadly in hydrology and the science and practice of ecohydrology to support integrated water resources management (IWRM) and sustainable development. His research focuses on catchment hydrology and water quality, flow-ecology relationships, environmental flows, and land-water interactions. He routinely advises governmental authorities in a science and management context and leads major research and development projects in Africa and South America.



Dr. Aziza Menouni

Moulay Ismail University

Program Manager



Aziza is currently Program Manager of Institutional University cooperation at Moulay Ismail University of Meknes in Morocco. She is also an international consultant with a multidisciplinary background and extensive experience in the design, implementation, and M&E of academic, research, and development projects and strategies. Developing strong international university collaborations is the foundation of her efforts. Her research straddles the intersection of Environmental Sciences, Health, well-being at work, and sustainable development. Her interests include women empowerment, entrepreneurship, leadership in higher education, and science diplomacy.



Karin van Minnen

Delft University of Technology

Chair of Delft Global Initiative Student Club

I am a second-year master's student in Biomechanical Design at the Mechanical Engineering faculty of Delft University of Technology. My personal interests are focused on equality in healthcare, particularly in the area of prosthetics, which is the topic of my graduation project. As a board member of the Delft Global Initiative Student Club, I am attending this event to support the organization with various tasks.



Rezi Moeling

Delft University of Technology

Management & Events Assistant GROW Office

As the Management & Events Assistant at TU Delft | Global Initiative, I am a member of the project team for the GROW programme and this event. It has been my pleasure to ensure a seamless visa process for all our guests from the African continent, maintaining close communication throughout. In collaborating with Hotel Zuiderduin, I have ensured that all facilities are in order. Should you have any inquiries during the event, feel free to reach out to me at grow@tudelft.nl. Happy to help!



Dr. Nelson Mota

Delft University of Technology

Associate Professor

I am Associate Professor of Architecture at the TU Delft. My key focus of interest is the architecture of housing. I have also a passion for architectural drawings and their use in ethnographic research methods. I have co-edited (with Dick van Gameren) "Global Housing: Dwelling in Addis Ababa" and several other publications dedicated to the architecture of dwelling. At the TU Delft, I am the co-leader of the Global Urban Lab programme at Delft Global Initiative, the supervisor of the Global Housing academic group, and leader of the section Public Building and Housing Design. I am also member of the editorial board of the book series DASH- Delft Architectural Studies on Housing.



Syeda Seama Mowri

Utrecht University

PhD Researcher

Seama Mowri is a doctoral researcher at Utrecht University, and her research focuses on inclusive cities and transport inequalities, with a focus on gendered mobilities in public transport spaces of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She specializes in ethnographic and qualitative research, and her research interests are gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, social and political framings of development.



Prof. Thulisile Ncamsile Mphambukeli

University of Johannesburg

Head of Department



Thulisile Mphambukeli, is an Associate Professor and Head of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Johannesburg, is a distinguished scholar acknowledged by the NRF. With a Ph.D. from the University of the Free State and bachelor's and master's degrees from University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, she was previously a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences. She is a recipient of numerous research grants, specializes in social justice in planning, and holds editorial positions nationally and internationally. Her recent research concentrates on 4IR technologies in urban planning, intelligent transport systems, and sustainable agriculture financing, in line with the UN's SDGs.



Prof. Dr. Bruce Mutsvairo

Utrecht University

Professor and Chair of Media, Politics & the Global South

Bruce Mutsvairo is a Professor and Chair of Media, Politics and the Global South at Utrecht University, where he doubles as the UNESCO Chair on Data, Disinformation and Democracy. He has published several scholarly books and special-themed issues in leading peer-reviewed journals focusing mostly on the development of journalism/media in authoritarian and post-conflict states. He worked in journalism practice as a journalist for the Associated Press. He serves on the editorial board of several peer-reviewed journals including Media and Communication, Journalism and Mass Communication Educator, Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly and Digital Journalism.



Prajwal Nagesh, MA

Equimob Group

Doctoral Researcher



Prajwal is a sociologist trained in qualitative and geospatial research methods. He researches emerging urban inequalities using an ethnographic approach. Prajwal has previously worked with the National Institute for Advanced Studies. He earned his Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology from Christ University. Currently, Prajwal is pursuing his doctoral research with the Department of Human Geography and Planning, Utrecht University and the Centre for Study of Social Change and Development (CSSCD) at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. His thesis focuses on older adult's access to transport systems for work and leisure in India.



Dr. Abhishek Nair

Radboud University

Senior researcher and research manager

I am a senior researcher and research manager at the Institute for Management Research, Radboud University. I am an urban and regional planner by training, and my research focuses on climate resilient development, critical climate theory, climate justice, responsible innovation and integrated and operational water management. For this event, I am stepping in for Prof. Natascha Wagner.



Micheline Naude, PhD

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Academic Leader:
Marketing and Supply Chain Management



Prof MJ Naude is an academic in the School of Management, IT and Governance. Her area of expertise is in Supply Chain Management (undergraduate, honours, Masters and PhD level) in the areas of purchasing, operations and logistics management. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience.



Dr. Johnes Obungoloch

Mbarara University

Deputy Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences



I am a lecturer in the department of Biomedical Engineering at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)-Uganda. I have broad experience working with medical technologies. I worked as a medical equipment engineer at Mbarara University Teaching Hospital for 7 years from Nov. 2006 till Aug. 2013 before doing a Ph.D in Bioengineering at the Pennsylvania State University in the United States. I have specific interest in appropriate medical technologies for the developing world and clean and affordable technologies. I am currently working on projects to develop low field magnetic resonance imaging technology and solar cooking technologies.



Mandipa Ndlovu MPhil, MSc

Leiden University

Doctoral Researcher



Mandipa is a seasoned researcher and strategic adviser. She is adept in navigating complex landscapes with a diverse background spanning academia, international development, and political consultancy. She is a PhD candidate at ASC Leiden and Host of the Urban Uncovered Podcast. Mandipa has served as a member of the Ibrahim Index for African Governance Advisory Council and as jury on the ASCL African Thesis Award. She holds a MPhil in Justice&Transformation (UCT) and a MSc Violence, Conflict & Development (SOAS). She is a 2017 Mo Ibrahim Scholar, a 2020 awardee of the Leiden University & University of Edinburgh Joint Studentship, and a recipient of the 2024 African Women in Development Award.



Dr. Ir. Pieter van Oel

Wageningen University & Research

Associate Professor



I am an interdisciplinary researcher who enjoys building collaborations. I strongly believe that climate and water crises involve much more than climate and water alone. They are societal problems with people suffering, but sometimes also making things worse. This means that solutions are in our hands as well. Scientists, engineers, and others need to join forces. Together we can learn from studying people's complex relationships with climate and water worldwide. Currently I am Associate professor the Water Resources Management Group of Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Much of my recent work has focused on water- and drought-related issues in Brazil and Kenya.



Prof. Emmanuel Ojo

University of the Witwatersrand

Associate Professor



Professor Emmanuel Ojo, Deputy Head at the University of the Witwatersrand and Chair of the Faculty of Humanities' Transformation, Internationalisation & Partnerships Committee, excels in interdisciplinary social sciences research, focusing on higher education, economics, and sustainability in Africa. As an External Expert for the EU-funded UNI-T project, he provides strategic insights and promotes international collaboration. Recognised by South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) as a rated researcher, Emmanuel's work advances education, health, gender equality, and economic growth, underscoring his commitment to global development.



Dr. Ir. Roos Oosting

Delft University of Technology

Assistant Professor



As an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Engineering for Global Health at TU Delft I research how medical technology can play a role in increasing access to healthcare around the world. We research for example current biomedical engineering practices in low- and middle-income countries and the development of innovations to increase global access to medical technology. Additionally, we focus on training of both biomedical engineers and clinicians that work in the often challenging settings in many low-resource areas around the world. We collaborate with surgeons, engineers and organizations from all over the world and we are always looking for new partners and projects.



Geoffrey Otim, MSc

Wageningen University & Research

PhD Student



I have been working in development projects focusing increasing access to quality seed of farmer preferred improved varieties of crops in Uganda. My particular attention has been on facilitating the development of sustainable access to quality seed of food security crops of less commercial value (small cereals, sorghum, millet, rice, legumes and oil seed crops) through integrating farmer led seed enterprises as part of seed sector transformation. Currently, I am interested in and working on enhancing productivity and resilience of highland farming systems: Insights from Integrated farm planning by smallholder farmers in Uganda.



Deborah Adeola Oyeku, MSc

University of Twente

PhD Candidate



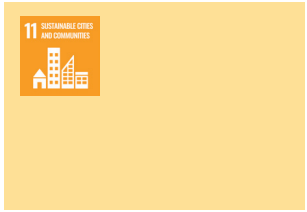
The research provides insight into the institutionalization of geospatial methodology in the planning process - the Spatial Development Framework methodology (the SDF) (https://doi.org/10.1080/13563475.2019.1658571). First, it presented how unplanned changes influence SDF use and embeddedness in practice (https://doi.org/10.1080/13563475.2024.2308867). Second, it investigates how heterogeneous associations among actants' roles and actions provide better insight into SDF institutionalization. Third, it will explore how motivations influence the SDF institutionalization. Last, it will establish mechanisms that shape SDF institutionalization in the planning process.



Ir. Antonio Paoletti

Delft University of Technology

Architect and Filmmaker



Antonio Paoletti is an architect and filmmaker based in The Netherlands. He received a Master's Degree cum laude from the Department of Architecture of TU Delft (2020). In 2021, he is the winner of the hand-drawn category of the international Architecture Drawing Prize with his submission 'Reconfiguring Addis Ababa's Narratives – Storytelling for Architecture' Antonio combined ethnographic research in Addis Ababa in November 2019, to illustrate his graduation project for a dilapidated district in Addis Ababa, using the format of a graphic novel. Since 2021, he combines teaching and researching activities at the TU Delft with his work as an architect and filmmaker at Mecanoo Architecten.



Dr. Divya Sussana Patil

Equimob Group,Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Research Fellow



Dr. Divya Sussana Patil is a Public Health researcher trained in using different methodologies such as qualitative methods and evidence synthesis through systematic reviews, overviews of systematic reviews, scoping reviews, evidence and gaps maps, and realist reviews. She is currently a Research Fellow at Centre for Evidence-informed Decision Making, and pursuing her doctoral research under the EQUIMOB project at Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods at Manipal Academy of Higher Education. Her PhD focuses on understanding the inequalities and barriers that older adults come across while accessing urban mobility infrastructure to avail healthcare services.



Valentin Pret, PhD

Wageningen University & Research

PhD candidate



Valentin Pret is a PhD candidate of the Plant Production Systems group from Wageningen University. He is working on the assessment of sustainable intensification and resilience of farm systems to climatic risk in Zimbabwe. As a system agronomist, his skills focus on agroecological intensification, climate change adaptation and assessment of farm performance. He has been working with farmers, extension services and researchers to test, implement and assess practices at field and farm scale. His toolbox includes on-station and on-farm trials, crop modelling, participatory approaches and agrarian diagnosis.



Koen Rademaekers, MA

ACEN Foundation

Managing Director Trinomics and Chair ACEN Foundation



Koen is the Managing Director of Trinomics and Chair of ACEN Foundation. Before becoming a consultant, Koen began his career as an assistant professor at the University of Brussels (teaching public finance & econometrics), followed by a position as head of the study department of a political party and as as a chief economist of an international bank (BNP-Paribas-Fortis). He then moved into politics as the lead on finance, energy, environment and climate change at the cabinet of the Flemish Minister of Economics. Over the last 15 years, Koen has mainly worked on energy, environmental and climate related topics for European and international institutions.



Dr. Sarju Sing Rai

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Assistant Professor

Dr. Sarju Sing Rai is an Assistant Professor in “Competencies Development for Societal Transformation through Public Engagement in Transdisciplinary Research and Education” with focus on the themes - Global Health, and Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3). He is a Global Health Pharmacist from Nepal, who is interested in research and education that focuses on transdisciplinary discourses for societal transformations. Sarju is involved in research on Global Health topics (health-related stigma reduction and healing, intersectionality, health equity, social justice, loneliness and mental wellbeing, Inclusive living, access and mobility, and systemic transformations).



Sean Geoffrey Richardson, MSc

Erasmus University Rotterdam

PhD Candidate



I am an applied microeconomist researching health-related decision-making in low- and middle-income countries, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa. My work examines health behaviours and how changes in health outcomes impact decisions regarding household formation, educational attainment and labour force participation. Projects: South Africa: Testing the use of a chatbot application in improving treatment adherence among tuberculosis patients. Kenya: Describing household responses to health shocks, specifically examining how this is affected by enrolment in health insurance. DHS data: Describing the impact of being exposed to a natural disaster on propensity to engage in adverse health behaviours.



Dr. Henny Romijn

TU Eindhoven

Associate Professor



Henny Romijn is an Associate Professor of Technology & International Sustainable Development at Eindhoven University of Technology.? She specialised in technological innovation,?entrepreneurship and sustainable development, especially in renewable energy. Her main geographical focus is on Eastern Africa.? Henny’s research is multi-disciplinary and adopts a socio-technical systems perspective, using insights from sustainability transitions research, capacity-building approaches, sustainable business model literature, and development governance. She prioritizes research that can yield tangible positive impacts for disadvantaged people.



Joma Ronden, PhD

Maastricht University

PhD candidate



Joma Edward Ronden is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University. He holds an MA in Globalization and Development Studies from Maastricht University and a BA in Agricultural Science from the University of Ghana. His research is about care matters but who cares relating to the case of remittance houses in Ghana. He is supervised by Dr. Lauren Wagner.



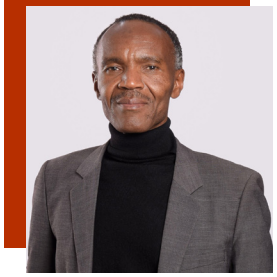
Asmae Rouidi, MSc

Wageningen University & Research

Management assistant



I am employed as a management assistant of the Development Economics Group of Wageningen University. I am involved in all the financial/ administrative tasks related to PhD students, academic staff in general and specific projects.



Dr. Samuel N. Ruhiu

University of Nairobi

Lecturer



Samuel is a lecturer, researcher and innovation mentor at the University of Nairobi (UON). He holds a PhD in Information Systems, and has carried out research in converting ICT community interventions to expand people's freedom to do and to be what they value. He also explores use of digital-enabled Social Innovation for community transformation. His teaching includes Human Computer Interaction, ICTs and Society, Innovation Management in Organizations, Design Thinking and Research Methodology. He coaches innovation teams in design thinking, and is a trainer / facilitator of Problem-Based Learning. He also coordinates startup acceleration at the acceleration and incubation lab at UON.



Prof. Sanghamitra Roy

Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Professor



I am currently working on equitable access to public transport for women particularly in the first and last mile stretches in Kolkata, India. The study aims to understand women's transport mobility barriers and their consequences.



Dr. Tekalign Tsige Sahilu

The SDG Center for Africa

Senior Expert, Water & Energy



Tekalign is currently a Senior Expert in the Water Resources and Energy sectors for the SDG Center for Africa (SDGCA) based in Kigali, Rwanda. The main activities include advisory services and technical support to African countries in developing policies, strategies, and programmes to achieve the SDG targets by 2030 for water, sanitation, and energy. He had previous experience at country and international level, including with UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation programme. He contributed a chapter for the book entitled "Safe Water and Sanitation for a Healthier World- A Global View of Progress Towards SDG 6"- a book published by SpringerNature.



Shozo Sakata, MSc

Erasmus University Rotterdam

PhD Candidate



My research focuses on the development of agricultural technologies and the transformation of food systems in Vietnam. In particular, I have studied the influences of digital technology intrusion into food systems, such as social commerce food sales, digital farm-to-folk platforms, and the use of drones in production.



Lizanne Schepers

Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN)

Programme Coordinator and Developer Global Transitions



In KIN, scientists work side by side with societal parties. Together, we work towards a climate-neutral and resilient world. The KIN removes restrictive conditions and counterproductive incentives in the scientific system, enabling collaboration across disciplinary boundaries and beyond academia. The approach is collaboration rather than competition. We facilitate dialogue and collaboration between researchers, policymakers, businesses, and societal organizations through our programs, networks, and events. Similarly, we collaborate with local partners to accelerate system transitions in countries that are vulnerable to climate change. After all, climate knows no borders.



Ir. Karlheinz Samenjo

Delft University of Technology

Phd Candidate & Director of Inclusive Global Health Lab



Designing healthcare systems and medical devices for low-resource settings in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on gynecological issues such as cervical cancer, paracervical blocks, and female genital schistosomiasis, as well as early childhood growth monitoring and the management of non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension.



Dr. Jana Schmutzler

Delft University of Technology

Assistant Professor



Jana Schmutzler is an Assistant Professor at the Delft Centre of Entrepreneurship of TU Delft, Netherlands, Affiliated Professor of Universidad del Norte, Colombia and Research Fellow at the Jackstädt Center of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany. Her research interest centers on innovation processes and entrepreneurial behavior with a focus on developing countries. Specifically, she explores the role context plays in fostering (or hindering) these vital economic behaviors. She is currently part of the Editorial Review Board of Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice.



Mubita Simataa, MSc

Eindhoven University of Technology

PhD Student



Mubita is a PhD student at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). His research focuses on the role of sustainable business models in the transition towards sustainable farming.



Prof. Thokozani Simelane

University of Johannesburg

Professor of Practice



Professor of Practice in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, also working for Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa. Is a Principal Investigator of South Africa's National Food and Nutrition Security Survey. Served as a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property Right of South Africa (2002-2017). Served as a member of the Research and Publications Committee of AISA (2009-2014). Also served as a member of Research Ethics Committee of Human Sciences Research Council (2014-2017). Previously worked for Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).



Lys-Anne Sirks, MSc

Delft University of Technology

Community Manager & Communications Advisor



Lys-Anne Sirks works at the TU Delft | Global Initiative, where she holds the roles of community advisor and communications manager. TU Delft | Global Initiative actively supports researchers and students working on solutions that contribute to reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia and always in cocreation with local partners. Lys-Anne holds a BA from Leiden University College The Hague, and an MSc in International Development from SOAS. She is project coordinator for the 2024 GROW Event.



Ir. Gerard van Smeden

Unifix Care

CEO



I am passionate about creating a positive impact on society through entrepreneurship with a focus on healthcare and AI. I am the CEO of Unifix Care, where we improve the quality of medical equipment in Africa by data-driven decision-making currently with a focus on surgical instruments. We mostly focus on East-Africa currently but have some presence in West-Africa, being Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Besides that I work at the TU Delft, helping scientists to turn research into impactful businesses.



Dr. Wouter Julius Smolenaars

Wageningen University & Research

Researcher



I am a water management specialist with particular interest in hydrological modelling, global environmental change and climate change adaptation. As an early stage researcher, currently involved in a PostDoc at Wageningen University, my aim is to contribute to the integrated pursuit of the water and food Sustainable Development Goals and the adaptation of food production systems to meet the challenges posed by global environmental change. In addition, I have a passion for supervising and advising students with their own research work and am subsequently involved with numerous educational activities, alongside my research work.



Ir. Anmol Soni

Maastricht University

PhD Candidate



As a doctoral candidate at Maastricht University, my research focuses on exploring how public narratives interact with climate policies and macroeconomic behavior of industries. My initial working paper focuses on the May 2024 floods in Emilia-Romagna, as a case study to scrutinize the impact of extreme weather events on public narratives and climate change discourse. This research juxtaposes micro-level narratives, garnered through surveys, with macro-level narratives as depicted in news media and through social media posts of political actors. The aim is to uncover the interplay between individual perceptions and broader societal narratives.



Marleen Spieker, MSc

University of Amsterdam, ZOA

PhD Candidate / GDI Specialist / DRA Programme Coordinator



Marleen Spieker is a second-year PhD candidate at the University of researching intersectionality and youth empowerment in Liberia. Alongside her academic pursuits, she serves as a Gender, Diversity & Inclusion Specialist, and Dutch Relief Alliance Programme Coordinator at ZOA. With over seven years of experience in humanitarian aid and international development, she is dedicated to advancing social change and justice through transformative approaches and inclusive development situated in contemporary and historically diverse and complex contexts. Marleen's professional journey has been shaped by experiences of living and working in Ethiopia, Liberia, the Netherlands, Sudan and Syria.



Dr. Lekha Subaiya

Equimob Group

Associate Professor



Lekha Subaiya is an Associate Professor at the Population Research Centre of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. Lekha is a social demographer and has experience in teaching and conducting research on issues related to population ageing, gender relations and public health. Her research interests are in gender, family and intergenerational dynamics, and research methods.



Zakia Sultana, MSc

Utrecht University

PhD Candidate



Zakia Sultana is a first year PhD Candidate at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development within the Environmental Governance Group of the Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Her PhD is also a part of the International Development Studies Group of the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning of the Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Her PhD project focuses on the co-governance for heat stress adaptation strategies in diverse geographical locations specifically Dhaka in Bangladesh and Utrecht in the Netherlands. Therefore, this study would enhance the south-north-south learning cycle in terms of heat stress adaptation.



Dr. James Sumberg

Institute of Development Studies

Emeritus Fellow



Emeritus Fellow. Background in agriculture, with particular focus on West Africa. Recent work on youth and children's work in African agriculture.



Dr. Janez Susnik

IHE Delft

Associate Professor



My expertise is in modelling and analysis of the water-energy-food nexus at a range of scales. I seek to incorporate ecosystems, society, and use stakeholder engagement, policy analysis, and machine learning techniques. I was involved in the H2020 SIM4NEXUS project, and am involved in the ongoing ONEPlanET and CONNEXION projects. I coordinate the H2020 NEXOGENESIS project.



Vandy Yoga Swara, MA

Utrecht University

PhD Candidate



A PhD candidate in International Development Studies, Utrecht University, since 2022, researching inclusive and sustainable urbanization in the Global South. By examining the relocation of Indonesia's capital from Jakarta to the hinterlands of Kalimantan, he utilizes water (river and urban water infrastructure) as a critical lens to understand the changing socio-natural dynamics induced by the transformation of the hinterland into a completely new city. Previously, he was a lecturer in the Department of Social Development, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Gadjah Mada University taught and researched rural livelihood, agrarian reform, and political ecology.



Caspar Swinkels, MSc

Leiden University

PhD Candidate

My PhD is about the work and workers of a number of international development interventions in Uganda. Through ethnography of development, using shadowing techniques and sollicited diaries and correspondence, this study tries to understand international development as work, shaped by workers. Special attention is given to how projects as orgnising principle shapes development work, how workers think and feel about their own worklife, and what we do and do not know about the world of work in international development.



Rassoul Sy, PhD

Wageningen University & Research

PhD Candidate



I am a PhD candidate in Development Economics at Wageningen University and Research (WUR). My research spans all of Sub-Saharan Africa and focuses on the impacts of medium and large-scale agricultural farms on livelihoods, labor markets, and women, and children's outcomes. In my work, I combine geoinformation and AI, with the analysis of household survey data using quasi-experimental techniques.



Moataz Yakan Talaat

University of Amsterdam

PhD candidate



PhD candidate researching development banks and a future beyond fossil fuels.



Yeshimebet Ayele Tegenie, MSc

Wageningen University & Research

PhD student



I have a strong background in forestry, natural resource economics, and development economics, with a successful track record in teaching and conducting research. My research focuses on the governance of natural resources, exploring the role of social capital, forest property rights, and incentives in fostering sustainable resource use and climate change mitigation. It also focuses on evaluating the impact of policy interventions on poverty reduction. My expertise includes qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies (e.g., field experiments), particularly in developing countries.



Dr. Anteneh Tesfaye Tola

Delft University of Technology

Post-doctoral researcher



Anteneh T. Tola (PhD) is a Delft Global Initiative (DGI) fellow, currently a post-doctoral researcher at TU Delft, faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. Within Addis Ababa Living Lab, an NWO WOTRO supported project, he is currently developing a policy brief and actionable framework for affordable and participatory public housing development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In addition, together with DGI, he is investigating potentials in developing partnerships and networks of exchange among African research institutes and TU Delft. The ambition of this investigation is a plan to place a TU Delft presence in research, education and exchange within the African continent.



Gerrit Jan van 't Veen

WorldStartup

CEO



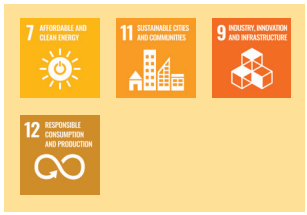
WorldStartup is a support organisation for social and impact-driven entrepreneurs.



Peter Paul van 't Veen

TNO

Business Developer



Trained in Geophysics at the University of Utrecht, Peter Paul van 't Veen has been working at TNO in different positions for over 30 years. Presently he is a business developer within the Innovation for Development program at TNO (www.tno.nl/i4d). Innovation for Development is a dedicated program within TNO with the aim to develop innovations in low- and middle-income countries to improve the lives of people living below poverty level. Within the TNO I4D program he is active in the field of energy, circularity, and construction.



Dr. Kees van Veen

University of Groningen

Associate professor



Focus on Sustainable Food Systems. I organize the internal UG internal network, and work with external (regional) partners to realize steps to realize this goal. For the rest, interested in all aspects of food value chains: from soil to production to consumption to waste. Also specialized in corporate governance and economic elites.



Dr. Saskia van Veen

Rotterdam Municipality

Teamleader research

I am an experienced researcher in the field of evaluation in the development sector, who likes to coordinate large scale, multi-country evaluations and learning trajectories. I worked for eigth years with Oxfam Novib in a global context - coordinating research and learning. Nowadays I lead a team of researchers conducting evaluations and formative research focussing on the social domain in the municipality of Rotterdam. I am passionate about ensuring meaningful participation of participants, partners, policy makers and programme staff. In this way my work contributes to valuable, co-created knowledge that is robust as well as useful for practice.



Dr. Michiel Veldhuis

Leiden University

Assistant professor



Ecologist interested in sustainable human-wildlife coextistence. Michiel Veldhuis is an ecologist trying to understand the drivers of organization of communities and ecosystems, how this is affected by humans and its consequences for ecosystem services and stability. Michiel managed to secure funding for a PhD on the role of ecological autocatalysis on the organization of African savanna ecosystems under supervision of Han Olff and Matty Berg, which he defended in 2016. The major part of the field work was done in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa. Since 2019, Michiel is an Assistant Professor at the CML and teaches on both BSc. and MSc. programmes including Conservation Biology, Ecologie II and Governance of Biodiversity.



Anita Veltmaat, MA

University of Groningen

Institutional coordinator for sub-Saharan Africa



Anita Veltmaat is Senior Policy Advisor International Strategy & Relations at the University of Groningen (UG). She coordinates UG's sub-Saharan Africa strategy and the UG-Stellenbosch strategic partnership, which both focus a.o. on promoting (double/joint) PhDs, educational co-creation, joint research (including on SDG's), expanding internal and external networks, and promoting SSA in the Northern region. Her expertise is in Internationalisation (Strategy, Implementation and Assessment), Policy Development & Implementation, International Relations, Project Acquisition / Management, Account Management, Corporate Marketing & Public Relations, Teaching, Training and Coaching.



Bas Walraven, MSc

Delft University of Technology

PhD candidate



I work as a PhD candidate at the Water Management department of TU Delft on high-resolution space-time rainfall monitoring using 'opportunistic' sensors, particularly commercial microwave links. My research is focused on applying this technique in the Global South where potentially the need and benefit of retrieving accurate precipitation is the highest. In my work I am particularly interested in combing the increasingly available (remote sensing) data with field experiments to address hydrometeorological challenges. I am always eager to learn new things, and looking to share this knowledge with others. My educational background is in Water Management (MSc) and Civil Engineering (BSc).



Dineke Wemmenhove

Wageningen University & Research

Deputy Manager



I work with Amal Ahmad and Erwin Bulte as management support officer. It is part of my job to administratively support the PhD students in our group. That entails making sure that money is made available for field work, travel, subsistance, and all other support that a PhD student needs while staying in the Netherlands. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the GROW Project community.



Dr. Martijn Wienia

NWO - Dutch Research Council

Research Coordinator



Senior programme manager and research coordinator SDG programmes at Dutch Research Council (NWO). Focuses on inclusive global development, global health and promoting research fairness and equity. Martijn holds a PhD in cultural anthropology from Leiden University.



Dr. Lia van Wesenbeeck

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Director



Dr Lia van Wesenbeeck combines a strong background in applied economic modelling, among others focusing on the modelling of the water-energy-food nexus. In addition, she has extensive experience in spatially explicit statistical analysis of survey and map data, and profiling of vulnerable groups.



Ir. Guus Wiersma

Delft University of Technology

Project coordinator



Guus is project coordinator of the African Water Corridor at Delft University of Technology, working on the development of Water Corridors in Sub-Saharan Africa, together with local and international partners. He furthermore works for TU Delft | Water for Impact (www.tudelft.nl/waterforimpact) and as such highly active in water research projects in and with the Global South.



Prof. Wieteke (Louise) Willemen

University of Twente

Chair Spatial Dynamics of Ecosystem Services



Current research includes RS-based ecosystem service mapping and monitoring, impact assessments of integrated restoration, citizen science integration in impact research, and prioritization of investments in land degradation neutrality actions. PhD in spatial modelling from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Worked before at Bioversity International in Colombia, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Italy, Cornell University in the USA. Roles: (Coordinating) Lead Author of the Business and Biodiversity & Land Degradation and Restoration assessments of IPBES, Board of the Executive Committee of Ecosystem Services Partnership.



Yabo Wu, PhD

Maastricht University

Ph.D. Candidate



I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student at Maastricht University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. My research is Shaping the Firm as A Development Actor: The Case of Chinese Businesses in Kenya, embedded in the research group of Globalization, Transnationalism, and Development. This research geographically focuses on Kenya, the East African country that is regarded as a pivot of China's Maritime Belt and Road. My research involves grounded Chinese business operations and the coordination of the Chinese state in the infrastructure, trade, and light manufacturing sectors. It speaks to several SDGs, including Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.



David Wubs - Mrozewicz, MA

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Executive Manager



Executive Manager of the International Centre for Frugal Innovation (ICFI, https://www.icfi.nl/home). ICFI is a multi-disciplinary academic research centre within the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities alliance. At the ICFI we investigate frugal innovation processes and their economic, social and environmental impacts. See also https://www.icfi.nl/home. Another role is to develop the Leiden - Delft - Erasmus Global (LDE Global) initiative further - see also https://www.leiden-delft-erasmus.nl/en/leiden-delft-erasmus-global



Dr. Sanita van Wyk

Tilburg University

Lecturer



Dr. Sanita van Wyk works as a Lecturer at Tilburg Law School (Tilburg University) in the Netherlands. She is a qualified Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, and previously a researcher at the Berlin Centre of Caspian Region Environmental and Energy Studies at Freie Universität Berlin in Germany, as well as a Top 20 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in climate change law at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Her current research focuses on international environmental law, including climate change law.



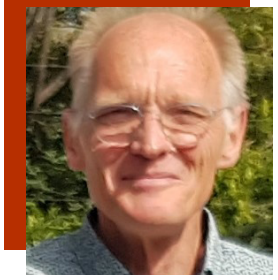
Prof. Dr. Maria Yazdanbakhsh

Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC)

Head of Leiden University Center of Infectious Diseases (LUCID)



Maria heads the Leiden University Center of Infectious Diseases (LUCID), which engages in basic and clinical research. One of the research lines of LUCID focuses on the development and testing of vaccines against parasitic, bacterial and viral infections. The group of Yazdanbakhsh has worked on the profiling of the immune system in populations living in areas endemic for parasitic (co)infections and in controlled human parasitic infection models. The studies have led to in depth characterization of highly specialized molecules that interact with the human host leading to immune modulation and metabolic change. This knowledge is being used to combat the problem of vaccine hyporesponsiveness.



Prof. Pieter van der Zaag

IHE

Professor of water resources management



With our SDG project and other activities I am fascinated by the opportunities provided by nature-based water storage in semi-arid African landscapes for people to enhance their own resilience. How to make this a reality is my quest.



Ivana Zecevic, MA

University of Groningen

PhD Candidate



I have a Master's degree in History and Oriental Studies, curriculum Global Cultures from the University of Bologna. For my Master's thesis, I worked on the historical roots of child labor in Kenya, where I spent three months doing fieldwork in 2021. I am currently doing a Ph.D. at the department of Economic and Social History at the University of Groningen. The aim of my current research and the Ph.D. project is to explore the changes and developments in maternal and child healthcare practices in two missionary hospitals in Uganda and Malawi and communities around them.



Yilin Zheng, MA

Maastricht University

PhD Candidate



I am a PhD Candidate in Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, Maastricht University. My research project focus on optimization of shopping stimulus to the entire customer journey in terms of satisfaction and well-being.



Prof. Dr. Marjolein Zweekhorst

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Professor Innovation and Education in the health and life sciences

Marjolein Zweekhorst is professor Innovation and Education in the health and life sciences at the Athena Institute, VU University Amsterdam. Marjolein wrote her PhD thesis on institutionalisation of an interactive approach to technological innovation. After finishing her PhD, Marjolein worked in various positions at the VU. Since October 2016 she is appointed as Professor. She has expertise in transdisciplinary research, training and development of interdisciplinary courses, participatory research in and with society. Marjolein supervised various PhD students both from Africa and the Netherlands successfully in research on interdisciplinary themes.

Contact Information Event

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www.growinresearch.eu

GROW Kick-off Event workshop outcomes

1. Co-creating the GROW collaborative programme

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Dr. Emmanuel Abbey works with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) on the Carnegie Data Benchmarking Project. As a Consultant to ARUA, Dr. Abbey is involved with institutional data gathering about ARUA Universities. Dr. Abbey was the past Project Coordinator overseeing the 13 ARUA Centres of Excellence. He holds a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Ghana and has worked on various academic projects related to youth unemployment, structural transformation and entrepreneurship in Africa.

Prof. Nick van de Giesen, who received his PhD from Cornell University, after which he was post-doc in West Africa. In 1998, he moved to the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany. Since 2004, he has been with the Water Resources Section of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. His research focusses on the observation of weather, water, and climate in Africa. He is especially looking for innovative and cost effective ways of making these observations. Prof. van de Giesen is chairman of the GROW programme, chairman of TU Delft |Global Initiative and co-director of the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO).

Wicked Problem:

We believe interdisciplinary work is needed to address Global Challenges, yet monodisciplinarity is rewarded in the science system e.g. by publishing in the highest ranking magazines and more possibilities for funding of monodisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary work is difficult though and takes more time and effort then working monodisciplinary.

Operational suggestions:

- Realistic longer timelines needed (10 years, with two 5 years phases)
- PhD's not being multidisciplinary yet, not rigid but broad minded is needed
- PhD training on multidisciplinary skills needed, aligned with current needs and reality (time has changed over the years!)
- GROW can launch a journal/magazine to promote publications of multi/interdisciplinary research
- Special issues of mainstream journals that promote interdisciplinary work are needed
- Not only at publication level, but also enterprise science; impact level
- Political economy limiting collaboration/mobility (visa etc): use neutral venues (SA/Kenya/Ghana)

- What is taught in class is different from what is needed for the grant or what is needed in the field: cross disciplinary support & capacity building for activities in Higher Education is needed
- Create a multi stakeholder platform
- If different discipline members try to solve similar problems, collaboration should be enhanced
- Interdisciplinary is difficult, costs energy, does everyone want this -> cluster with ideology
- Bring interdisciplinary teams together in workshops and make sure everyone is productive and commited. Bring people together for a specific broad theme
- Interdisciplinary approach from the beginning of a project/PhD research
- Private sector involvement (solutions to private sector & funding)
- Strengthen research mobilization to support research *in* Africa
- Create mobility funding
- Show: actively encourage narratives/testimonials, emphasize complementarity (and use this against possible fear for Triple-I approach)
- Start working together, start with quick wins like summer schools
- Lobby and influence policy decision makers to support Triple-I PhD research
- Tapping into EU funding (but this is difficult)
- Enhancing research management capacities
- Start small, not too many partners to start with
- Sand Pit approach
- Include different approaches in executing research (+education on different approaches)
- Start academic training on interdisciplinary research early in career (preferably students/interdisciplinary teams)
- Attention for people management issues with regard to interdisciplinary
- Diversity in epistemic categories (non-academic parties also involved)
- Reforming the educational system to systematically address societal problems. Interdisciplinary education to train students in problem-oriented thinking (university college)
- Valuation of interdisciplinary thinking within departments (not just valuing publications + diversity of journals)
- More joint research and journals on interdisciplinary research
- Participatory research (identifying the 'right' problems and combining knowledge in finding solutions insider-outsider)
- Promoting and encouraging the nexus-approach in the research programmes
- ID research: focuson/invest inTriple-I consortia that focus on a specific problem in a specific area
- Start writing proposals together for EU funding
- Stimulate interdisciplinary PhD projects

Better understanding suggestions:

- Specify of various incentives rather than overgeneralize incentives
- Specify activities of the university staff (what is needed to work Triple-I)
- Provide skills that are not covered in lower levels by linking local with international institutes
- Collaboration with international institutes, what is needed?
- Understanding that funding is related to power, and power is political; think political
- Medium to long-term collaboration between Dutch university and African university (really get to understand each other)
- The African research agenda is determined by non-African research funds. What is needed to reverse this? NWA (Dutch National Science Agenda) as an example?
- Learn from existing South-South collaborations
- Dialogue with donors to provide sufficient flexibility in goals & deliverables/understand donor agenda's better
- How can success rates in funding for this type of research be increased
- Brain drain, what challenges are there?

The Dream(s):

- Hubs for VC/Impact: Investors should invest in research and an innovative idea with private sector partners
- Get a private party on board for financing and execution
- Create a conductive regulatory environment for multi-stakeholder initiatives (top down, policy regulation)
- Incentives for research ideas that are relevant for real-life African issues and that bring tangible impact
- Change the lack of resources and create a strong link between institutes across both continents which will increase impact on both sides
- Stronger policy/government funding for problem solving research
- Fight the system: change recognition and rewards of interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international research and teaching

2. GROW Impact: Stakeholder engagement and open access publishing

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Dr. Mercy Afua Adutwumwaa Derkyi is an Associate Professor at the Department of Forest Science and the Head, of the Centre for Professional Development (CePDev) at the University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana. She graduated with a BSc in Natural Resource Management (Forestry Option) in 2000

from KNUST, Ghana and MSc in Agroforestry from the same University. In 2012 obtained her doctorate in social sciences with a speciality in Forest Governance and Conflict Management at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Prof. dr. Jacqueline Broerse is professor of innovation and communication in the health and life sciences (with focus on diversity and social inclusion) and Director of the Athena Institute, Fac. of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Holding a master's degree in biomedical sciences, she did her PhD research in the field of science, technology and society studies. Her current research is focused on (1) methodology development to facilitate public engagement and multi-stakeholder involvement in science (transdisciplinary research) and policy (deliberative governance), (2) public and patient participation in research, care and policy, and (3) understanding and facilitating sustainability system transformations, in order to contribute to more equitable and inclusive innovation processes that address societal challenges. Her research projects are in the domain of (global) health, food and sustainable development.

Wicked Problem: Engaging relevant stakeholders in a very early stage of your research, makes the outcomes and impact of your research much more likely to be relevant. This is however time-consuming and challenging to execute.

Operational suggestions:

- Facilitate training for GROW PhDs in stakeholder engagement
- Facilitate stakeholder connections via the GROW network
- Have mono-disciplinary PhDs teaming up with transdisciplinary oriented PhDs
- Organize stakeholder engagement at the level of a couple of projects / programme
- Facilitate continuity of the projects' outcome within the research group / GROW consortium after the 4 year project ends.

Better understanding suggestions:

- Is it necessary for all PhD projects to engage with stakeholders? If not, how to decide that?
- How do we deal with powerplay in stakeholder engagement?
- How to capture transdisciplinary research in papers?

The Dream(s):

- African researchers lead the transition of the continent
- Funds are available for follow up after a four year PhD project to implement the outcomes
- Professional science communication support for sharing outcomes with society

3. Food Security

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Prof. dr. Erwin Bulte has a particular interest in economic development and institutional issues in African (post-conflict) countries, and is currently involved in research projects in Ghana, Kenya,

Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda. In addition, our group does work in China and Vietnam. Much of his group's research work is based on behavioural experiments and so-called "randomised controlled trials." Erwin is also a professor at Tilburg University and an adjunct professor at the University of Njala (in Sierra leone). In addition, he is a Fellow of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr. Thokozani Simelane: Principal Investigator of National Food and Nutrition Security Survey of South Africa. Senior Research Fellow at Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation: University of Johannesburg. Senior Research Fellow: DSI/NRF SARChI Research Chair on Science, Technology and Innovation Studies, Tshwane University of Technology. Has published more nine edited book volumes, sixty journal articles and book chapters. Member of the editorial board of Indian Journal of African Studies.

Wicked Problem: In a world threatened by several crises taking place in different regions, Sub-Saharan African countries are challenged by the so-called "the perfect storm" – a food, fuel, and fertilizer crisis exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, scarring effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring inflation, rising debt, and extreme weather. In a contest where a quarter of the population living in extreme conditions, what are the mechanisms to mitigate the effects of recurrent drought events on food production, close the food insecurity gap, and provide in a sustainable way?

Operational suggestions:

- Equity: equality + sufficiency
- Access to water and food resources
- Promote and encourage food production at local scale (households) to meet local needs of the community
- Mutual understanding
- Education: more practicality and encourage critical thinking ("de-brain washing")
- provide necessary support to farmers,

Better understanding suggestions:

- Find new ways to map household nutrition status
- Co-design and co-create
- Revolution: power to the people
- End corruption
- Development goals not enough to capture some aspects of food security such as nutrition (quality of the food)
- Risk management to lessen climate change challenges (drought),
- Increase resources use efficiency + sustainability

The Dream(s): a paradigm (policy) shift from capitalist perspectives and approaches when it comes to basic human needs such as food security.

4. The Migration-Development Nexus

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Prof. dr. Maggi Leung is Professor in International Development Studies at the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies of the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on the uneven geographies of migration, mobilities and development, internationalization of education and labor regimes, knowledge and skill (im)mobilities, Chinese transnationalism, investments and engagements for/by/with newcomers in "shrinking" regions in Europe as well activism against racialised injustice.

Dr. Emmanuel Ojo is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is the Deputy Head of School, Wits School of Education, and the Chair: Transformation, Internationalisation and Partnerships in the Faculty of Humanities. He is a C2 researcher with the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). He was awarded DAAD's Three-Month Research Stay for University Academics and Scientists, which he completed at the University of Tubingen, Germany, in December 2022.

Wicked Problem**:** Contrary to the stance of the European Union on migration as being caused by failed local development, many migration scholars have concluded that development leads to more instead of less migration because it increases people's capabilities and aspirations to move. A much contested question is whether migration contributes to the development of the places of origin or, conversely, hinders it. Conventionally, major themes in the migration- development-nexus debate are notions of remittances, as well as "brain drain", "brain gain" and "brain waste". The focus has been on 'local development impact' in the places of origin e.g. in Sub Saharan Africa, assuming that development works from North to South. This ignores the development impact migration has in the places of transits and destinations.

Operational suggestions:

- Reduce unpurposeful barriers
- Promote enhanced and easier integration
- Develop a more comprehensive understanding and definition of "development"
- Keep humanity centred, do not fall into trap of dehumanizing migrants
- Provide counter-narratives to myths → research/fact-based approaches
- Depoliticize the narrative
- Adequately fund and research into the questions surrounding migration and development especially in Africa
- Involve organisations such as Skill lab BV to help identify skills of migrants

Better understanding suggestions:

- We need better, more comprehensive data (data/research/publication)
- Learning and unlearning preconceived notions on this topic, also among disciplines
- Are we asking the right questions about immigration?
- How do people identify themselves? How does this change over a period of time?

The Dream(s):

- One Global Identity
- Organized Migration Scheme
- A human-centred approach to migration and development

5. FRAME: Creating the GROW research agenda for Africa by Africans

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Dr. Dirk Essink Assistant professor global health, with a focus on health systems and transdisciplinarity, Athena Institute, Fac. of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
Dr. Michiel Veldhuis Assistant professor Environmental Science, Leiden University. Ecologist interested in sustainable human-wildlife coexistence.

Dr. Emily Strange Assistant professor Environmental Science, Leiden University. My research is on conservation of biodiversity with a focus on human wildlife coexistence, invasive species ecology and community led conservation projects.

Wicked Problem:

Developing a continent-wide, inclusive research agenda focussing on multiple sustainable development goals is a complex task. Whilst all SDGs aim to benefit people, planet and prosperity many of them – when combined - bring both trade-offs and synergies. For example, providing more housing and health facilities vs. increased energy access, or agricultural intensification that leads to higher yields in the short term but compromises the diversity of less profitable native species that may threaten biodiversity in the longer term.

How could an inclusive research agenda, directed by Africans for Africa, be developed in such a way that recognises these trade-offs and synergies? Which of these SDG interactions should be priority focus areas?

Operational suggestions:

Most pressing issues ranked by workshop participants as important considerations for upcoming agenda:

- Using structured communication methods (I.e. the Delphi technique) to interview a broad network of African partners
- Climate change and innovation

- Comparative studies of solutions in different contexts (e.g. scale and region)
- Impact of conflicts on interactions (trade-offs and synergies) between SDGs
- How to define economic growth to operationalize at household level?
- For a meaningful agenda, it may be needed to focus on specific trade-offs and synergies

Better understanding suggestions:

- There is a need for better understanding on how synergies and trade-offs differ within and between countries
- The role of migration and conflict in relation to trade-offs and synergies
- Scaling up local knowledge to global issues – how to incorporate local knowledge in fair and just way?

The Dream(s): To develop a GROW research agenda for Africa, developed by Africans, that is built upon inclusive approaches allowing local knowledge to be scaled up to global challenges and that recognises the different trade-offs and synergies between interacting sustainable development goals.

6. GROW Impact: Entrepreneurship and business models

Wicked Problem: When a new product or service for a community in LMICs has a clear benefit, even financially, it can still proof to difficult to kick-off change in a system due to lack of clear ownership. How can we get the ball rolling?

Operational suggestions:

- Design an integrated approach top down with multiple governmental actors working together.
- Make use of local social norms.
- Be as convenient as you can to the users
- Enforce the new product and service with legal means and accountability
- Raise awareness / educate the users

Better understanding suggestions:

- Understand the local norms and cost / benefits of "not having the new service/products"
- Understand the relevant informal, private and public stakeholder network at the local and (inter)national level
- Understand the ownership of the problem. Who owns what part of the problem and the solution?

The Dream(s):

- The government takes ownership in shaping conditions that match local needs, for all private and informal actors to make use of the new product / service so that the societal challenges is addressed / solved, while individual actors have jobs / earn a living.

7. COP 27: finance and energy transition in Africa

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Prof. Nick van de Giesen received his PhD from Cornell University, after which he was post-doc in West Africa. In 1998, he moved to the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany. Since 2004, he has been with the Water Resources Section of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. His research focusses on the observation of weather, water, and climate in Africa. He is especially looking for innovative and cost effective ways of making these observations. Prof. van de Giesen is chairman of the GROW programme, chairman of TU Delft |Global Initiative and co-director of the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO).

Wicked Problem: Financing mechanisms (e.g. carbon bonds) for green energy in Africa, compensation for pollution, EU to AU? Is it needed, just? How to make this operational, etc.

Operational suggestions:

- More stakeholders engagement
- Community participation
- Mediation role for Global North partners in South-South collaboration
- Promote bilateral engagement with other African countries
- Design green energy strategies for countries
- Skills transfer
- Information on global funding & market mechanism for energy transition programmes
- Support capacity to design communities energy transition programmes
- Encourage energy blend instead of transition
- Stopping silo thinking, moving towards integrated approach
- Incentives to the private sector/creating favorable environment
- Opportunities through beneficiation and deployment of value chains
- Acknowledgement of diversity on the continent and that transformation, Renewable Energy will differ among countries
- Awareness & education
- Collaborating & partnering
- Financial incentives for clean energy/destimulate ‘old’ energy sources-taxation
- Transdisciplinary research & development + M&E&V
- Research to show private transitioning

Better understanding suggestions:

- Ask people what they need/want, rather than impose one understanding of transition
- Ask questions from different perspectives
- Showcase examples from the rest of the world where transition has been successful, even in a small way
- Justice, as defined by Africans for Africans = crucial for a transition
- Assessing and mapping the winners and losers of the transition -> how to actively manage it?
- Energy research must be sensitive to the interrelated crises that occur together with it in Africa – food, water, sanitation, gender issues, employment, etc. Can't be impactful if done in isolation!
- Stakeholders inclusion as well as their direct benefits from the transition
- Funding transition to Renewable Energy
- Acceptance of the transition process
- Political will
- Tradeoffs between discoveries of oil and other minerals and the transition
- Continental/national legal framework for transitioning Renewable Energy
- To what extend are governments committed?
- Are people in Africa aware of the need to move towards renewable sources of energy? And what do they need to switch?
- Energy poverty
- Cost implication
- Investment finance

The Dream(s):

- Energy security (instead of transition): availability, affordability, equity, accountability -> to unlock economic potentials
- At what point will the Global North stop imposing their needs as our needs?
- Abolish Bretton Woods system, to find new methods for trade without 'currency implications'
- Bring Africa(ns) to the decision making board for energy transition
- Breaking the chair of exploitation/externalities and moving towards equitable, transformative solutions
- Electrification of the continent through small scale decentralization Renewable Energy Deployment
- Affordable Renewable Energy Technology
- Infrastructure to realize green energy at a large scale
- Encompassing transitioning

- Skills profile: 1) artisans 2) communities
- Promote acceptance Renewable Energy
- Political commitment to the dream of clean energy as the main energy source in Africa
- Justice

8. Technologies for Public Health in Africa

Speakers / Problem Owners:

Prof. dr. Jenny Dankelman is professor in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Interventional Techniques at Delft University of Technology. She was awarded the Royal award of Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion, and is member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). Her research is in the fields of designing novel medical instruments, methods for training, and improving patient safety with a focus on low-resource settings.

Prof. dr. Annemieke Geluk is professor of immunodiagnostics of mycobacterial infectious diseases, leprosy and tuberculosis. Additionally, her research group at the LUMC functions as the national reference centre for routine serological diagnosis of leprosy, and provides this service also in Europe.

Wicked Problem: SDG 3 ("Good health & well-being") requires investments at so many different levels. Especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, investments at the basic level are still highly relevant. There is a need for insurance / funding schemes, medicines, vaccines and sufficiently trained doctors and nurses. Also, there is a need for efficiently operating hospital infrastructure, medical technologies for e.g. surgery and diagnostics. How can we contribute to that with science, innovation and capacity building?

Operational suggestions:

- Make the (healthcare and maintenance) training attractive and contextual
- Public vaccination at school level and birth
- Sustainable funding: use local resources and skills as well as capacity
- Produce a risk map by understanding the risk factors
- Reduce stigma which can lead to technology adoption challenges, sensitize patients and populations
- Do not replace existing devices, but supplement and integrate with existing interventions
- Create a multidisciplinary approach where the technical and social sciences interact and co-operate
- Consider and promote leapfrogging
- Create a bottom-up approach, involving local actors (ngo's, governments) to increase support base

Better understanding suggestions:

- Understand local practices and histories, fears people might have
- Involve local people
- Establish trust and acknowledge the (internal) biases
- Educate people
- Is there a way to reduce pollution while promoting development in the local context, i.e. recycling plants that create employment
- Investigate reasons for why there is public distrust in public health interventions
- Can you create synergy between disease interventions to make them more cost-effective/reduce disease competition

The Dream(s):

- Ending poverty
- Transform our knowledge and economic systems (capitalism)
- Achieve and sustain equity and social justice
- Attracting, educating, and keeping local talent
- Implement government equality standards

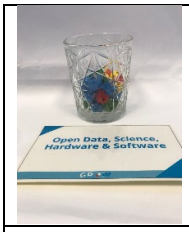
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GROW education / community inventory

Idea Box

- Think about the Logo: Africa, LMIC etc. in the spotlight
- White Privilege etc. Important also for supervisors.
- Meetup day with all supervisors to share best practices
- LDC: All countries inclusion Required
- I suggest that host universities organize an even such as a symposium, workshop, excursion etc. instead of just a guided tour.
- The joint diners could be connected to these events at the host institutions
- Course ideas: a) cross cultural communication (also among disciplines), b) social sciences for engineers, c) engineering for social scientists to understand each others way of looking better.

Course preferences

					
Open Data, Science, Hardware and Software	**Turn your research outcomes into a product, service or policy**	**Artificial Intelligence**	**Effective & Inclusive Fieldwork**	**Interdisciplinary Publishing**	**Research ethics in international context**
5	**1**	**6**	**2**	**4**	**3**

Frequency meetups

11 x Annually and 5 x Quarterly

Social Fabric options:

14	Setup buddy system with older PhD candidates
0	Leave it to the research groups and PhDs themselves. Do nothing
0	Linkedin Group
9	WhatsApp Group
13	Facilitate speed dating with GROW community members from other organisations
17	Every host university organizes a guided tour for PhDs
10	Organize 3 joint dinners in the 1st year

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Existing course topics (from GROW Project Grant Agreement)

- How to work and publish interdisciplinary and intersectoral?
- Research ethics responsible research and innovation, gender & diversity awareness
- Context analysis, cultural, socio-economic and physical context, user/patient journey, product journey
- Data collection, interviewing, existing databases, observation, satellite data, internet of things in the African setting
- Cultural differences and research
- International affairs, Africa and Europe in the world, changing global dynamics, the world in 2025
- Data management, open data & open science in international cooperation
- Entrepreneurship and turning insights into new policies
- Sustainable Production, local production, quality control, logistics, economic dependencies
- Career development in Africa context