

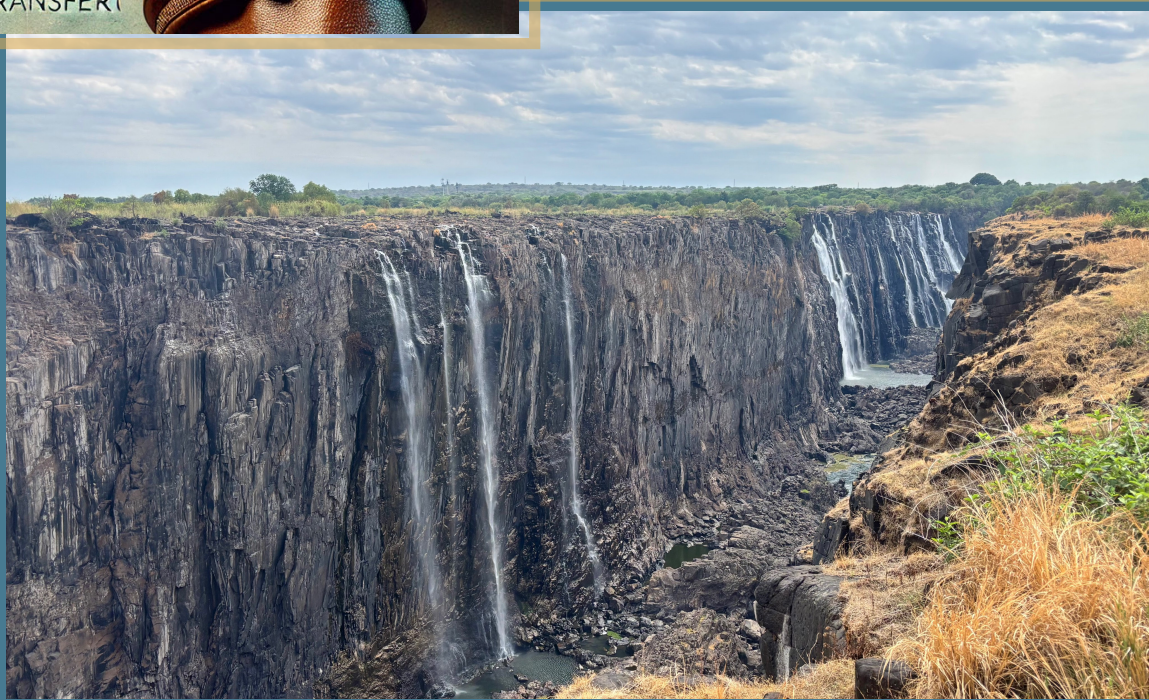


MIFOOD - R2 INCEPTION WORKSHOP

17 FEBRUARY 2025

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WESTERN CAPE



**REMITTING FOR RESILIENCE (R2): ENHANCING
FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION
THROUGH MIGRANT REMITTANCES**

PROGRAMME

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	REGISTRATION
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monwabisi Ralarala, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, University of the Western Cape • Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Labour, Employment and Migration, Social Development Directorate, African Union Commission • Peter Mudungwe, Senior Technical Advisor - Migration Governance & Liaison, African Union Commission • Mulugeta Dinababo, Professor of Development Studies, University of the Western Cape • Jonathan Crush, MiFOOD-R2 Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs
9:00 AM - 10:20 AM	<p>SESSION ONE</p> <p>MIGRATION AND FOOD SECURITY: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES Chair: Daniel Tevera, University of the Western Cape</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migration, Food (In)Security and the Sustainable Development Goals: Insights from the Global South and North, Kavita Datta and Tim Brown, Queen Mary University of London 2. Migration Research in Lusophone Africa: What is Known and What Needs to be Done, Rogers Hansine, Eduardo Mondlane University 3. The Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown Measures on Urban-Rural Linkages: Perspectives from Cameroon, , Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe, Sam Owuor, University of Nairobi 4. Comparative Perspectives of Migration and Remittances in the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on Jamaica and Mozambique, Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, University of West Indies, Mona, and Inês Raimundo, Eduardo Mondlane University
10:20 AM - 11:40 AM	<p>SESSION TWO</p> <p>REMITTANCE TRANSFERS, PATHWAYS, AND PRACTICES Chair: Kavita Datta, Queen Mary University of London</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital Remittances and Remitting Landscapes in Africa, Sujata Ramachandran and Naomi Sunu, Balsillie School of International Affairs 2. Remitting Practices of Mozambican Migrants in South Africa, Godfrey Tawodzera, University of the Western Cape 3. Contemporary Pathways in Cross-Border Remittance Transfers in the South Africa-Zimbabwe Corridor, Sean Sithole, University of the Western Cape 4. Leveraging Diaspora Finance for Climate Action in Africa: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges, Eunice Annan-Aggrey, Balsillie School of International Affairs
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	COFFEE / TEA BREAK

MIFOOD - R2 PROJECT: INCEPTION WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

12:00 PM - 1:20 PM	<p>SESSION THREE</p> <p>GENDERED DETERMINANTS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY Chair: Veronica Mwangi, University of Nairobi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “We Eat Every Day, But I’m Perpetually Hungry”: Interrogating Food System Transformation and (Forced) Dietary Changes in Tamale, Ghana, Issahaka Fuseini, University of Ghana 2. Impacts of the Malawi Social Cash Transfer Program on Household Food and Nutrition Security, Maxton Tsoka, University of Malawi 3. A Gender-Based Analysis of the Role of Remittances in Urban Household Food Security in Nairobi, Kenya, Elizabeth Onyango, University of Alberta 4. Migration and Food Security in Zimbabwean Female Migrants in Cape Town, Joseph Kanyayi and Mulugeta Dinbabo, University of the Western Cape
1:20 PM - 2:20 PM	LUNCH BREAK
2:20 PM - 3:40 PM	<p>SESSION FOUR</p> <p>MIGRATION, REMITTANCES, AND FOOD SECURITY Chair: Mulugeta Dinbabo, University of the Western Cape</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informal Cross-Border Traders and Food Trade during the Global Pandemic in Zimbabwe, Abel Chikanda, McMaster University 2. Refugee Migration, Remittances and Food Security: Somali Migrants in Nairobi, Kenya, Zack Ahmed, Balsillie School of International Affairs 3. Migrant Remittances, Food Security and Multi-Local Households: Ghanaian Labour Migration to Qatar, Bernard Owusu, Balsillie School of International Affairs 4. The role of migrants in remittances, and food security in Africa, Bruk Asmellash, University of the Western Cape
3:40 PM - 5:00 PM	<p>SESSION FIVE</p> <p>CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY, AND MIGRATION INTERACTIONS Chair: Vivienne Lawack, University of the Western Cape</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Intersection of Climate Change, Migration, Food Insecurity, and Bidirectional Remittances: Empirical Evidence from Namibia, 2016-2022, Ndeyapo Nickanor, University of Namibia, and Lawrence Kazembe, University of Namibia & WHO 2. Gender and Livelihoods at the Intersection of Climate, Peace, and Security: Insights from Internally Displaced Communities, Gracious Maviza, University of Free State, Alliance of Bioversity International, CIAT & CGIAR 3. The Aftermath of Cyclone Idai, Social Vulnerability and Food Insecurity in Beira, Mozambique, Naomi Sunu, Balsillie School of International Affairs 4. Assessing the Vulnerability and Adaptation Needs of Mozambique’s Health Sector to Climate: A Comprehensive Study, Lawrence Kazembe, University of Namibia & WHO
5:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS

WELCOME



Monwabisi Ralarala holds two PhDs from Stellenbosch University and the University of the Free State, underscoring his expertise in both African languages and language practice. Prof Ralarala has been instrumental in shaping discourses on linguistic equality, demonstrated by his leadership as Chairperson of the South African Language Practitioners' Council and founder of the African Association for Forensic and Legal Linguists (AAFL). His leadership experience spans several institutions. He has previously held prominent positions such as Director of the Fundani Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Director of the Language Centre at the University of Fort Hare, as well as the Dean (Arts and Humanities) at the University of the Western Cape. His research interests are quite diverse but follow three lines: language policy and multilingualism in higher education; forensic linguistics and translation studies. He has published and co-published journal articles, book chapters and books, mainly in the fields of forensic linguistics and language policy in higher education.



Sabelo Mbokazi holds PhD in Cybersecurity focusing on Public Policy (Walden University, USA) and MCom (University of KwaZulu Natal). He is working for the African Union Commission as Head of Labour, Employment & Migration. He has gained extensive experience in Public Policy formulation, Research, Analysis and Advisory role at Head of State and Minister levels. He is charged with a responsibility to provide strategic direction to advance African Union Migration Policy Framework as well as Labour and Employment policies to advance the Agenda 2063 continental strategic vision. Dr Mbokazi spearheaded several continental initiatives: He took a lead in establishment of Africa Migration Data and Research Centres in Mali, Morocco and Khartoum, Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI), AU-Gulf Labour Migration Dialogue, Africa Co-operatives Centre (ACC), Africa Labour and Employment Council (ALEC), and played technical stewardship in the development of the AU strategy for Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Youth Employment Strategy for Africa (YES-Africa).



Peter Mudungwe has an Honours Degree in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Development from the University of Manchester. He is an international development expert with experience in Africa, and has over 10 years experience working on migration and development issues in Africa. Between 2004 and 2014 Peter worked for the International Organization for Migration and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Migration Facility managing migration and development projects. He has written several papers in the area of migration and development, has been commissioned by the Africa Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), the European Union Commission and the International Organization for Migration to work on migration issues in Africa. Peter sits on the Advisory Board of the University of Coventry's UK Research & Innovation GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub as a representative of the African Union Commission. Peter also sits on the Advisory Council of the Mixed Migration Centre (Eastern and Southern Africa, Egypt and Yemen Hub), a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, and is currently a Senior Technical Adviser – Migration Governance at the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Mulugeta F. Dinbabo is a Professor of Development Studies at the Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape. He is an established researcher whose research trajectories have been influenced by the critical role of Development/Migration Studies and Postgraduate Teaching. He has consulted for the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), African Union (AU), South African Government Departments and others. His major research and consultancy services include migration studies, development management, governance, intergovernmental relations and civil society capacity building.



Jonathan Crush is University Research Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) and a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at WLU and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. He is also an Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape. He is director the Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP), the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN), the Hungry Cities Partnership, and the MiFOOD Network. He has published extensively on migration and food security in Africa, most recently co-editing the Elgar Handbook on Urban Food Security in the Global South, Transforming Urban Food Systems in Secondary Cities in Africa (Palgrave Macmillan), and New Directions in South-South Migration (Springer).

CHAIRS



Daniel Tevera is an Extraordinary Professor and former Chair of the Department of Geography, Environmental Studies and Tourism at the University of the Western Cape. Prof Tevera holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Cincinnati (USA), an MA in Geography from Queen's University (Canada) and a BA in Geography and Education from the University of Sierra Leone. Prof Tevera's research has focused on African migration, African urbanism and urban livelihoods, urban food security, transnational entrepreneurship and informal cross border trade between Zimbabwe and South Africa, Zimbabwean migration and remittance flows, xenophobic violence in South Africa, and short labour migration schemes in southern Africa.



Kavita Datta is a Professor of Development Geography and Director of the Centre for the Study of Migration at Queen Mary University of London. Her research focuses on migration, examining the intersections of money, food, and gender. She has a long-standing interest in remittances, exploring their financial, emotional, and infrastructural dimensions, as well as their impact on migrant well-being. More recently, she has investigated food cultures, insecurities among migrant communities, and food remittances in contexts of severe malnutrition. Dr Datta applies gendered, intersectional perspectives to better understand transnational mobility. Her research spans the UK, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. She has authored *Global Cities at Work: New Migrant Divisions of Labour and Migrants and their Money: Surviving Financial Exclusion in London*, and is co-editor of *Elgar Companion on Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals*.



Veronica Mwangi is a Researcher and Lecturer in Economic Geography at the Department of Geography, Population and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi. She has been a researcher at the Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD), Nanyuki and with the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) and MiFood Network. Veronica has research interests in rural and urban food systems, food security, poverty and livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa and has published journal articles on these subjects. She received her PhD in Economic Geography from the University of Nairobi. She held Research Fellowships at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn, Germany; and at the University of the Fraser Valley, British Columbia, Canada, as a Queen Elizabeth Scholar. She is the chairperson, KAAD Association of Scholars of East Africa (KASEA) and a member of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC); and the Young African Researchers in Agriculture Network (YARA).



Vivienne Lawack is a Professor of Law in the Department of Mercantile and Labour Law in the Faculty of Law at UWC and serves on several boards and councils. She began and advanced her legal career by spending a number of years at the South African Reserve Bank in various capacities, including senior payment system analyst, senior legal consultant and legal consultant and as Senior Legal Counsel for Strate Limited, South Africa's central securities depository.

PRESENTERS



Tim Brown is a Professor of Global Health Geography at the School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London, UK. Since 2017, he has leveraged his extensive expertise in critical health geography to lead a research program addressing child undernutrition, food insecurity, and migration in southern Africa. His work focuses on the intersection of public health interventions and spatial and behavioral reforms, encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to tackling these pressing global challenges. Dr Brown's contributions extend beyond his own research; he is an active member of the international editorial board for Health & Place and serves on the international advisory board for Social Science & Medicine. His research has significantly influenced public health strategies, particularly in understanding how health interventions reshape both social behaviors and spatial dynamics in vulnerable regions.



Rogers Justo Mateus Hansine is a Lecturer and Researcher at the Department of Geography and the Center for Policy Analysis (CAP) at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique. He is also an Associate Researcher at the Centre for Population and Health Research (CEPSA). Dr Hansine holds a PhD in Human Geography from Bayreuth University, Germany, a Master's degree in Development Studies from Erasmus University Rotterdam, and a Bachelor's degree in Geography from Eduardo Mondlane University. His research focuses on demographic dynamics, including fertility, mortality, and migration, as well as population and urban geography in sub-Saharan Africa. He has extensive teaching experience in subjects such as demography, migration geography, research methods, and population development. Dr Hansine's work highlights the relationship between population growth, health, and development, contributing to a deeper understanding of demographic challenges in the region.



Samuel Owuor is an Urban Geographer and Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Amsterdam and has extensive experience in research, publication, and the supervision of graduate students. His research interests lie in urban development and governance, urban poverty and livelihoods, urban food and nutrition security, and urban-rural linkages. Dr Owuor has been actively involved in designing and implementing several funded, collaborative, and multidisciplinary research projects. Notably, he has contributed to the Hungry Cities Partnership Project, focusing on informality, inclusive growth, and food security in cities of the Global South, the Nourishing Spaces Project, which addresses urban food systems governance for the prevention of non-communicable diseases, and the AgriFoSe2030 Project, which explores urban food systems governance in Kenya. His work emphasizes the critical role of urban food security and governance in shaping sustainable cities in the Global South.



Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, M.A. Hons (Aberdeen), M.Sc. (Pennsylvania State), D.Phil. (Oxford), is currently Professor Emerita in the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social & Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, Mona, Jamaica. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) and immediate past President of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (2016-2024). She was a recipient of the Government of Jamaica award of Order of Distinction, Commander Class (CD) in 2015 for her contribution to Caribbean migration and environmental management. Following her earlier academic positions at the Institute of Latin American Studies, London University, and the Department of Geography, Liverpool University, she was appointed to the first James Seivright Moss-Solomon (Snr.) Chair of Environmental Management at the University of the West Indies (UWI). She later established and directed the Postgraduate Centre for Environmental Management at UWI. Her publications include topics in the fields of migration, environment and food security, including *Climate Change and Food Security: Africa and the Caribbean* (ed), Routledge, 2017.

PRESENTERS



Inês Raimundo is an Associate Professor of Human Geography at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique, specializing in migration studies. With over 20 years of research experience, she is an expert on migration dynamics in Mozambique, including international migration, cross-border movements, rural-urban mobility, and forced displacement due to environmental disasters. Her work also explores the intersections of migration, food insecurity, gender, poverty, and informality, making her a leading voice in shaping migration policy in Mozambique. Dr Raimundo's extensive research has been published both nationally and internationally, contributing significantly to the discourse on migration and development. She has been involved in numerous high-profile research projects and policy advisory roles, and her work has influenced decision-making on migration and food security strategies in the region. Her contributions make her a key figure in understanding the socio-economic impacts of migration in Southern Africa.



Sujata Ramachandran is the Project Manager for the NFRF-funded Remitting for Resilience (R2) Project, part of the MiFOOD Network and the Hungry Cities Partnership at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University. Prior to this role, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow with the same research network and remains actively involved in the SSHRC-funded MiFOOD Project (Migration and Food Security in the Global South) and the NFRF-IDRC-funded Women Feeding Cities project. Dr Ramachandran has significant experience researching various dimensions of migration across Canada, Southern Africa, and South Asia. Her research interests encompass migration and development, migrant integration, and migration governance. Among her recent publications are a co-authored article on citizenship rights in India, published in *Comparative Migration Studies*, and an invited commentary on migration and food security for *International Migration*. She is also co-editor of an upcoming volume on South-South Migration for Springer and co-edits the MiFOOD Working Paper Series with Dr Jonathan Crush.



Naomi Sunu is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, contributing to the Remitting for Resilience (R2) Project. She holds a PhD in Sustainability Management from the University of Waterloo, with a background in climate change science. Dr Sunu's research interests revolve around the social-ecological dynamics that shape household food insecurity and climate vulnerability, particularly in cities of the Global South striving for sustainable development. Her work spans multiple countries, including Ghana, Canada, and Mozambique. In her Postdoctoral research, Dr Sunu will focus on the Ghanaian diaspora in Canada and explore climate resilience strategies in Mozambique and Malawi. Her commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change on food security aligns with broader efforts to promote sustainable development in vulnerable communities.



Godfrey Tawodzera is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Social Development (ISD), University of the Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town, South Africa. He holds a PhD in Environmental & Geographical Sciences from the University of Cape Town. Before joining UWC, Godfrey worked at various institutions, including the University of Namibia, University of Limpopo, University of Cape Town, University of Zimbabwe and the Catholic University of Mozambique. He also spent time as a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholar at the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA) in Waterloo, Canada. Godfrey has undertaken various research projects focusing on food security, migration, livelihoods and informality in Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and has published extensively in these fields. He is a member of several international research networks: the Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP); the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN); the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) and the MiFOOD Network.

PRESENTERS



Sean T. Sithole is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Development, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of the Western Cape. His recent work focuses on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded project examining the intersections of the COVID-19 pandemic, food security, and migration, as part of the MiFOOD Network under the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Dr Sithole is also involved in postgraduate lecturing and supervision. He has conducted research on migration, remittances, and food security, collaborating with organizations such as Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa, Statistics South Africa, and the United Nations. He holds a PhD and Master's in Development Studies from UWC, with additional qualifications in Digital and Social Media Marketing from UCT. His research interests include digital remittances, social media, and migration networks, particularly within the global South.



Eunice Annan-Aggrey is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow contributing to the NFRF-funded Remitting for Resilience (R2) Project: Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation Through Gender Inclusive Migrant Remittances. With a deep passion for international development, she has worked extensively with development partners and civil society organizations, including Global Affairs Canada. Dr Annan-Aggrey's research focuses on multidisciplinary applied solutions to contemporary development challenges, with a strong emphasis on amplifying the voices of marginalized groups, particularly women and youth. Her research interests encompass the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), local governance, gender equality, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability. She is committed to using her academic work to drive positive change, influence policy, and contribute to more inclusive development outcomes, particularly in contexts affected by climate change and food insecurity.



Issahaka Fuseini holds a PhD in Geography and Environmental Studies from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and is currently based at the University of Ghana, where he serves as the head of the University Learning Centre in Sunyani. His research focuses on food systems governance, collaborative local-level governance, urban service delivery, and inclusive urban development. Dr Fuseini has been actively involved in researching urban food systems, food and nutrition security, and dietary transitions, particularly in African contexts. He has worked on numerous international projects, including the IDS-led Living Off-Grid Food and Infrastructure Collaboration (LOGIC) Project, the ICLEI-led AfriFOODlinks* Project, and the CUP project led by the African Centre for Cities. Additionally, Dr Fuseini has contributed to the Food Systems Research Network for Africa (FSNet-Africa), a collaboration between the Universities of Leeds and Pretoria. He is currently a Co-Principal Investigator for the Remitting for Resilience (R2) Project, overseeing the Ghana component of the study, which aims to explore the impact of migrant remittances on food security and climate resilience.



Maxton Tsoka is an Associate Research Professor at the Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi. An alumnus of the Universities of Malawi (B.Soc.Sc.), Vanderbilt (MA Economics), and York (PhD, Social Policy and Social Work), his research focuses on public policy, poverty, migration, climate change, food security, and social protection. He has been a key contributor to studies under the Southern Africa Migration Programme (SAMP) and is currently researching labor trafficking, particularly the challenges faced by returnees and how they can be supported. Dr Tsoka has extensive experience in evaluating social protection initiatives, including the Mchinji Pilot Social Cash Transfer Project (2007–2008), the Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme (2013–2015), and its long-term impacts through baseline and midline surveys. His work has also explored the effectiveness of e-payment systems and operational research on targeting methods for social cash transfers. Through his research, Dr Tsoka continues to shape evidence-based policy interventions for vulnerable populations in Malawi and beyond.

PRESENTERS



Elizabeth Onyango is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Canada. She is a health geographer and a social epidemiologist whose research work focuses on migration and food security, intersections of gender, gender-based violence, and the associated health outcomes in minority populations. In her current research program, Elizabeth is exploring barriers and facilitators of migrant community engagement in social support services including access to food security initiatives and in building alternative masculinities for gender-equal migrant communities. She has extensive experience in working with vulnerable populations. Elizabeth is passionate about community service and is a member of Rotary International.



Joseph Kanyayi is currently pursuing his Master's in Development Studies at the University of the Western Cape, within the Institute for Social Development (ISD) department. His expertise lies in migration and food security within the development context. Collaborating with leading experts, Joseph has conducted pivotal studies focusing on migrants' food security, particularly among Zimbabwean and Congolese migrants. He has also explored the critical role of migration integration in Africa, examining its potential socio-economic and political benefits across the continent under the guidance of his research supervisor. In addition to his academic pursuits, Joseph works as an assistant researcher at the University of the Western Cape, contributing to a significant project on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, and migration in Africa. When he's not immersed in his work, Joseph enjoys engaging in political debates, watching soccer, and following boxing.



Abel Chikanda is an Associate Professor in the School of Earth, Environment & Society at McMaster University. Previously, he was an Assistant/Associate Professor at the University of Kansas. He has held a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at Queen's University and was a Project Coordinator at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. His main research interests include migration and development, refugee movement and food security. He has worked with United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and research partnerships such as the Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP), African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN), Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) and the Migration and Food Security in the Global South (MiFOOD) Network. His major book contributions include *New Directions in South-South Migration* (Springer, forthcoming 2025), *Diasporas, Development and Governance* (Springer, 2016) and *Mean Streets: Migration, Xenophobia, and Informality in South Africa* (IDRC, 2015).



Zack Ahmed is a PhD candidate in the Global Governance program at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, where his research focuses on the nexus of South-South migration and food (in)security. He completed his Master of International Public Policy at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) in 2020-2021, during which his interest in food security deepened through a research project exploring the impact of COVID-19 on women in the food supply chain in the Global South. Currently, Zack is involved in two major research projects: a SSHRC-funded study assessing food security among Somali migrant households in Nairobi, and a CIHR-funded project evaluating the household food security of Somali refugees in the Kitchener-Waterloo region. His work reflects a commitment to addressing the critical challenges of migration and food insecurity, with a focus on vulnerable populations.

PRESENTERS



Bernard Owusu is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Bernard holds a PhD in Geography from Wilfrid Laurier University, an MA in Geography from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a BA from the University of Ghana, Legon. Dr Owusu's current research explores migration patterns in the Global South, with a particular emphasis on international migration to and from Ghana and its critical connections to food security. Through his work, Bernard aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how migration impacts food systems and resource sustainability in developing regions.



Bruk Asmellash is a PhD candidate in Development Studies at University of the Western Cape, with a strong focus on migration, the impact of remittances on economic development and food security in Africa. He has gained extensive experience working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office in South Africa, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Mr. Asmellash is also appointed as a Research Associate at University of Pretoria (UP).



Ndeyapo Nickanor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computing, Mathematical, and Statistical Science at the University of Namibia, where she also serves as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Engineering, and Natural Science. She is a research affiliate with the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN), contributing to extensive research on food security across Southern Africa, and is involved with the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP). Additionally, Dr Nickanor collaborates with the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town as part of the IDRC-funded Nourishing Spaces Project. Her research interests are centered on food security, and she continues to expand her work in this critical area.



Lawrence N. Kazembe is a seasoned expert in Biostatistics and Epidemiology with 29 years of experience in public health and academia. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Namibia, where he has served since 2012. He is a keen researcher, with contributions to evidence-based strategies that address the intersections of food security, migration, and public health, focusing on Africa's urban environments and vulnerable populations. Currently the Team Lead for Precision Public Health at WHO's Regional Office for Africa, Dr Kazembe specializes in population health modelling, health surveillance, and data-driven health strategies for disease management. He has published over 130 articles and contributed to numerous health and environmental studies across Africa. Dr Kazembe has also excelled in capacity building, mentoring PhD and MSc students, and implementing data solutions to support informed health policy and intervention planning across diverse settings.



Gracious Maviza is a Research Associate at the University of Free State and the Southern Africa Regional Lead for the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security team at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. A seasoned social scientist, she brings over 15 years of experience conducting qualitative research in areas such as migration and family dynamics, forced migration and displacement, refugee protection, and the climate change–peace–security nexus, with a focus on livelihoods and gender. Dr Maviza holds a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, an MA in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, and a BSc Honours in Sociology from the University of Zimbabwe. She is also the co-founder of the Southern Women Academics Network (SWAN), a platform dedicated to supporting women in academia and making it a viable career choice. Her work reflects a strong commitment to addressing critical issues of migration, gender, and climate resilience in Southern Africa.

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