

APN IRF FELLOWS

The **APN Individual Research Fellowship** (IRF) supports nine months of field-based research, through which recipients produce research-based knowledge that is relevant to and impacts peacebuilding scholarship, policy, and practice on the continent. Since its inception in 2012, the APN has had fellows from over 30 countries and awarded 246 fellowships to over 220 individuals.

This year's cohort of **17 APN IRF fellows** represent 9 African countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The projects listed below display a wide diversity of topics by scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds.



Issahaku Adam | University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Project Title: *Towards Durable Peace: Tourism-Induced Natural Resource Conflict in the Kakum National Park Area of Ghana*

Dr. Issahaku Adam is a Professor Of Tourism Management, The Department of Hospitality And Tourism Management at The University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He has over 15 years' experience in teaching, research, consultancy, and community engagement in tourism management. Dr. Adam's research spans different areas in tourism management including community development issues in tourism, sustainable tourism, climate change adaptation in tourism, tourist behaviour and experience, accessible tourism, inclusive leisure, behaviour change communication, and gendered dimensions of tourism development. He has also worked on valorisation of cultural heritage assets. He has undertaken projects for the World Bank in The Gambia, United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) in Ghana and Nigeria, the National Geographic Society, Global Affairs Canada, USAID, Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust (GHCT), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), UK and GIZ among others on varied issues in tourism and related areas. He is a National Geographic Explorer, and a fellow of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). His current research project, funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) through the African Peacebuilding Network, explores natural resource conflict between park managers, wildlife, and residents of communities surrounding the Kakum National Park in Ghana.



Sani Yakubu Adam | Bayero University Kano, Nigeria

Project Title: *Islamism and Power Dynamics: Contestations over Authority and Religious Conflicts in Northern Nigeria 1980 – 2015*

Sani Yakubu Adam is a lecturer in History at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria. His broader area of interest is the history of Islam in northern Nigeria and the book history of the region. He was a fellow of the All Africa House Fellowship of the University of Cape Town in 2015 and former recipient of the SSRC's 2018 Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship, SSRC's 2019 Next Gen Doctoral Research Fellowship, and SSRC's 2020/2021 Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship. He completed a PhD from the University of Cape Town. His dissertation focused on the formation and expansion of the book market of Kano, the major entrepot of northern Nigeria. Its central thesis revolves around the intersection between the book distribution process and the religious unrest in northern Nigeria.



South East Nigeria.

Benyin Adah Akande | University of Calabar, Nigeria

Project Title: *Separatism And Gender Roles: Exploring Women's Involvement In The Indigenous People Of Biafra (IPOB) Movement In South-East Nigeria*

Benyin Akande is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Calabar, Nigeria. She holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Uyo, Nigeria. Her research interests are in public policy, gender, conflict studies, and decolonization. Benyin Akande was a 2019 Next Gen Dissertation Proposal Fellow, a 2023/2024 African Fellow of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and is a 2024 winter fellow of the University of Michigan's African Presidential Scholars Program. Her current research examines women's involvement in secessionist movements in contemporary Africa based on a case study of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in



focus and disseminate her scholarly work to a global audience. She believes that her interdisciplinary approach and dedication to promoting peaceful coexistence make her well-suited to contribute significantly to conflict management and peacebuilding.

Gloria Longba'am-Alli | University of Jos, Nigeria

Project Title: *Unraveling Historical Threads: Memory, Grievances, and Conflict Resolution in Central Nigeria*

Gloria Longbaam-Alli obtained a Doctorate in History from Makerere University, where she was a recipient of the Gerda Henkel Stiftung Fellowship. She was a recipient of the SSRC's 2022 Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Her research on hybrid strategies for conflict management in Central Nigeria emphasized engaging local communities in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Dr. Alli is presently a faculty member at the University of Jos, where she teaches courses on history, including peace and conflict studies and African security dynamics. She incorporates her extensive fieldwork experience and commitment to fostering peace and stability throughout Africa into her teaching. Her scholarly contributions, including numerous articles and book chapters, have significantly advanced knowledge in her field. Recently, Dr. Alli was awarded the SSRC's 2023 Next Gen Postdoctoral Writing Fellowship, allowing her to expand her research



Economic Development Planning (IDEP, Dakar Senegal), the Africa Program of the United Nations University for Peace (Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia), and the Pan African University of the African Union. She has a good track record of active involvement in gender capacity-building initiatives for local women political leaders and entrepreneurs and advocacy programs on eradicating sexual and gender-based violence in Cameroon.

Justine Etah Ayuk | University of Buea, Cameroon

Project Title: *'Inclusion or Transformation? An African Feminist Approach to the Study of Women-led Peace Movements in Cameroon*

Justine Etah Ayuk is an associate professor of gender studies and a gender and development consultant. She serves as a higher education academic staff at the Department of Women and Gender Studies in the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences of the University of Buea, Cameroon. She holds a PhD in gender and development, a Master of Science in Women and Gender Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Women Studies from the University of Buea. She has over fifteen years of teaching and research experience in feminist thought and criticism, gender peacebuilding and human security, feminist research, feminist frameworks and gender analysis of development planning (policy, programme, and project planning). She is also a visiting consultant on gender issues at the United Nations Institute for



Madinatu Bello | University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Project Title: *Cultures, media and arts of peace: Ghanaian female traditional master drummers in the performance of peace, inclusivity, and strong institutions*

Bello Madinatu (PhD) is currently a lecturer of performing arts at the Department of Theater and Film Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. She studied Theatre Studies both at the undergraduate and master degree levels and majored in Arts Management and Theatre for Development respectively. She focused on Music Education for her doctoral studies where she explored collaborative strategies for building and sustaining the arts market in the Cape Coast metropolis of Ghana. She is a DAAD alumna and a

Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for the African Humanities Program (AHP). Her research interest comprises academia/industry collaboration, gender studies, arts management and marketing, cultural entrepreneurship and arts intermediaries within the broad framework of creative economy. She has contributed to a number of peer-reviewed papers and book chapters in and across disciplines in the humanities and the natural sciences. She is currently researching female master drummers in the performance of gender, decoloniality and sustainability in Ghana.



Fadzai Chipato | Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

Project Title: *Resource Grabbing in the Name of Climate Change? The Political Economy of Carbon Credits in Rural Zimbabwe*

Fadzai Chipato is a lecturer in the School of Social Sciences at Great Zimbabwe University in Zimbabwe. She holds a PhD in International Development Studies from China Agricultural University (Beijing, China). Her doctoral work focused on understanding displacements done in the name of development. She is an early career researcher with a dynamic blend of strategic insight and hands-on expertise in conducting participatory research, in-depth interviews and workshops, and reporting for NGOs and research institutions in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. Her current research is premised on understanding the dynamics underpinning displacements, climate change, livelihoods, rural politics,

mega projects, youth and gender development. Her academic work draws from intersectionality and political economy frameworks. She has published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Review of African Political Economy*. In addition, she is a former fellow of the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China (IPRCC) in Beijing and the Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies (SMAIS) in Harare, Zimbabwe. In addition to her academic experience, she has experience monitoring and evaluating social development projects for donor agencies and research institutions, including the Swedish International Center for Local Democracy (ICLD), among many others.



Thembani Dube | University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Project Title: *"Gukurahundi" genocide, Kalanga communities along the Zimbabwe-Botswana border and the attempt at peace building and healing in Zimbabwe, 1983-2022*

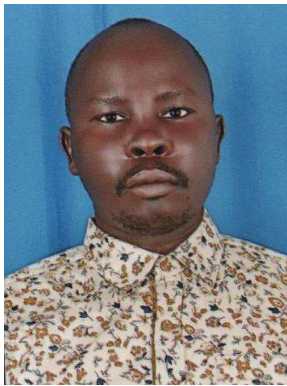
Dr. Thembani Dube is Senior lecturer in the Department of History, Stellenbosch University. She holds a PhD in History from the University of the Witwatersrand, a Masters in African History, Bachelor of Arts Special Honours in History, and a Bachelor of Arts General degree from the University of Zimbabwe. She works on pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Southern African History (Zimbabwe in particular) with special interest in social history, identity and belonging. She is currently working on, *Kalanga: Identity, language and change in Zimbabwe, 1800-2022*, a monograph that explores the (un)making of the Kalanga and how this identity evolved over time, mediated by different institutions such as chieftainship, religion and language in colonial and post-colonial states.



Angela Mathias Kavishe | The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

Project Title: *The Intersection between Technology, Gender and Security: A Study of Perception and Responsiveness to Cyberstalking among Female Students in selected Tanzanian Higher Learning Institutions*

Dr. Angela Mathias Kavishe (PhD) is a Tanzanian woman working as a Lecturer and current Head of the Department of Leadership, Ethics and Governance at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy (MNMA), a higher learning institution in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She specializes in Gender Studies, Sociology and Leadership. Dr. Kavishe holds a B.A obtained in 2004 and a M.A. obtained in 2008 in Sociology from the University of Dar es Salaam; MPhil in Gender and Development at Bergen University–Norway (2009-2012). It was from the research topic for her MPhil on human trafficking in Tanzania that she developed interesting gender and human security. Her PhD (in Sociology) undertaken at the KwaZulu Natal University in South Africa (2019-2021) plunged her deeper into female university students' online security, an area of study which is less explored and which she continues to delve further. Dr. Kavishe's interests in teaching, researching, and consulting revolve around women's economic empowerment, human security, child rights and protection, gender studies, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and women's and children's health. Dr. Angela Kavishe speaks fluent Kiswahili and English.



Aleu Garang Aleu Kuek | University of Juba, South Sudan

Project Title: *Role of Borders as a Source of Conflicts in the Borderland Communities in Nimule Border, South Sudan*

Aleu Garang Aleu Kuek was born in Bor, Southern Sudan. He spent over twenty years in Uganda as a refugee due to the civil war that began in 1983. Despite these challenging circumstances, he was fortunate to attend school and complete his studies. Aleu is deeply engaged in academia and aspires to remain in this field for life. He has taught for at least ten years at the University of Juba and is a researcher specializing in peacebuilding and borderland dynamics. He has conducted various consultancies with NGOs in South Sudan. Aleu holds an MA and a PhD from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He serves as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the School of Community Studies and Rural Development at the University of Juba. In recent years, he has also taken on an administrative role as the Head of the Department of Library and Information Science within the same school.



Malepho Ruth Lephoto | National University of Lesotho, Lesotho

Project Title: *Investigating The Practice Of Peace Education In Lesotho Schools: Towards Creation Of Peaceful And Non-Violent Learning Environments*

Malepho Niko Ruth Lephoto is senior lecturer, teacher educator and a researcher in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, National University of Lesotho. She holds a PhD in Psychology of Education from the University of the Free State, South Africa. Her Doctoral thesis, underpinned by Ubuntu/Botho philosophy and Relational Leadership theory as frameworks, focused on the enhancement of Guidance and Counseling as a critical educational component for creating sustainable learning ecologies. Her research interests and publications driven by Ubuntu/Botho African Philosophy address issues of counseling in schools, psychosocial support provision, peace, non-violence and the building of resilience, teachers and learners' well-being, inclusion of people with disabilities in education and social and emotional learning. Following her training on Peace Education and Education for Peacebuilding in 2021 by UNESCO IICB "Transformative Pedagogy for Peace, Resilience Building and Prevention of Violent Extremism", Malepho became the promoter and coordinator of Education for Peacebuilding Initiatives and Activities. In 2023, she founded a peace and nonviolence youth-led organization "Young

Educators for Peacebuilding and Empowerment Organisation" (YEPEO) based in the Faculty of Education, National University of Lesotho. In April 2024, following her completion of the International Programme on Non-violence and Peace she was declared Non-violence and Peace Fellow by the Sevagram Ashram Pratishthan, India.



Sean Morenakemang Maliehe | National University of Lesotho, Lesotho
Project Title: *Commissioning Peace in Lesotho: The Rise and Fall of the National Reforms Authority*

Sean Maliehe holds a PhD in Economic History from the University of Pretoria, MA in History, and BA in Development Studies & Environmental History from the National University of Lesotho. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Historical Studies at the National University of Lesotho. He is also a Research Fellow at the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. Sean works on the social, political and economic history of Lesotho, the history of the Southern African Customs Union, and the development of Mobile Money in South Africa, Diepsloot. He has held two post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Pretoria's Human

Economy Programme, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, and in the Department of Historical & Heritage Studies.



Thatshisiwe Ndlovu | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Project Title: *Generational talk: The role of storytelling in confronting apartheid trauma, healing, and peacebuilding in South Africa*

Thatshisiwe Ndlovu is a postdoctoral fellow at the Narrative Enquiry for Social Transformation (NEST) program at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research delves into the multifaceted concept of violence, subjectivity, and indigenous cultures. Employing a unique methodological approach that bridges the gap between academic rigor and lived experience, she leverages the power of storytelling in narrative inquiry to illuminate complex social realities. Her PhD project attained in 2022 broadly examined the relationship between culture, tradition, custom and violence to questions of political subjectivity, resistance, patriarchal

violence, and gender. Her research interests include narrative representation and life histories, cultural anthropology, sociology of violence, social inequality, feminist theory, African feminism, and gender studies. Ndlovu has held posts as a Researcher at Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) as well as a Research Fellow at Society, Work and Politics Institute (SWOP) at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her current project explores intergenerational co-construction of memory in present-day South Africa.



Sebastian Angzorokuu Paalo | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
Project Title: *Ambiguous Empowerment? A Feminist Critical Peace Reading of Women's Empowerment in Peacebuilding, Ghana and Sierra Leone.*

Sebastian Angzorokuu Paalo is a lecturer at the Department of History and Political Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. He is the Assistant Director for Research at the Institute of Research and Policy Integration in Africa (IRPIA) and a Fellow of the Brew-Hammond Energy Centre. Sebastian obtained a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Queensland (Australia), after graduating with an MSc. in African Studies (Oxford-UK) and

an MSc. in Governance and Development (University of Antwerp-Belgium). Sebastian's research interests, publications, and policy engagements cut across peace and conflict, governance and politics in Africa, and international relations. He reviews for many reputable, leading social science journals, such as *African Affairs*, *African Security Review*, *Peace and Conflict Studies*, *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review*, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution*, *Security Journal*, and *Contemporary Journal of African*

Studies (CJAS). He also serves as a reviewer for the International Peace Research Association Foundation (IPRA Foundation) Grants and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Research Fund (KReF). Sebastian has worked on several independent and collaborative academic and policy-related projects across the interdisciplinary field of governance, security, and international relations.



Zaid Sekito | Makerere University, Uganda

Project Title: *Youth As Peacebuilders: A Historical Analysis Of Uganda's Response To United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250)*

Zaid Sekito is an early career researcher, a Lecturer in the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, and College Coordinator for Graduate Programmes at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University. Zaid holds a PhD in History (obtained in 2021), and an MA (History) (2016), both from Makerere University. His PhD research project titled 'A Historical Perspective of the Dynamics of Terrorism in Uganda, 1976–2015' examined how contests over the definition, conceptualisation and deployment of the term 'terrorism' in global geopolitics are integrated within the Ugandan state's strategic security position and Uganda's experiences of terrorist violence from 1976 to 2015. Zaid's PhD work was a topical issue given the world's security threats and geopolitical dynamics, the place of the youth in this and the impact it has on development. Zaid's previous awards include Gerda-Henkel Stiftung PhD Fellowship (2017), SSRC's Next Gen 2020 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)-ECR Grant (2022) and The Mellon Foundation-Archiving, Memory and Method Research Grant (2022). Zaid's research interests are Borderlands, Peace Education, Security and Conflict Studies, Terrorism, Counter Terrorism, Human Rights and Identities in the Great Lakes Region of Eastern Africa.



Rosette Sifa Vuninga | University of Cape Town, South Africa

Project Title: *From "Soutien total aux FARDC" to "Force aux Wazalendo!": A path to radical shift in Congolese transnationalism and homeland activism*

Dr. Rosette Sifa Vuninga is a National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cape Town's Historical Studies Department in Cape Town, South Africa. She was also a SSRC 2023 Next Gen Post-Doctoral Writing fellow, a SSRC 2020 Next Gen Doctoral Completion fellow, and a 2016 APN Collaborative Research Completion Group grantee. Her PhD project focused on the ways in which ethnic and regional identities are experienced among migrants with the focus on Congolese people of Cape Town. Dr. Vuninga's research is in the field of migration and explores issues related to transborder politics of identity and belonging, migrating conflicts and violence, as well as gender politics in migrant networks. Her research interest also includes urban networks of violence and economies of insecurity. She has publications including peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, book reviews, and working papers.



Yilkal Ayalew Workneh | Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia

Project Title: *Amhara Nationalism and Its Repercussions in Ethiopia: Designing an Inclusive Peace Settlement and Political System*

Yilkal Ayalew Workneh earned his Ph.D. in Federalism and Governance from Addis Ababa University's Center for Federalism and Governance Studies. He has been working as an assistant professor in the Department of Civic and Ethical Studies and as the research and community service coordinator of the College of Social Science and Humanities at Debre Tabor University. His research interests are post-colonial state-nation building, federalism and nation-building in multi-ethnic societies, and sub-national and local

government. At the moment, he has been teaching various courses in the aforementioned interdisciplinary department, such as "Federalism: Theory and Practice," "Politics in the Horn," "Constitution and Constitutionalism," and "Survey of African Socio-Political Systems." Yilkal has been researching in the above areas and has published research papers and reports in reputable journals and repositories.