

## **NEXT GEN PROPOSAL FELLOWS**

The **Next Gen** program supports tertiary education in Africa by awarding a sequence of 3 fellowship opportunities for promising PhD students to do research and make steady progress toward completing their doctoral degrees.

The **Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowships** supports PhD students working on developing a doctoral dissertation research proposal as well as students who recently completed a master's degree and enrolled in a PhD program. The fellowships support short-term research costs of up to US\$3,000 to develop a doctoral dissertation proposal.



**Kehinde Adebayo Afolabi** | United States International University - Africa, Kenya

**Project Title:** *Examining The Interplay Between The Political Efficacy Of Citizenship And Advancing Democratic Consolidation In Nigeria*

Afolabi Kehinde Adebayo is a young scholar from Oyo State, Nigeria, who exhibits a profound passion for academic excellence and a commitment to making a significant impact in the field. His early fascination with books and the 9pm Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) News ignited his curiosity about the world and Nigerian politics, setting the stage for his academic career. He is pursuing a PhD in International Relations at the United States International University - Africa. Adebayo's journey is a testament to

determination, hard work, and the relentless pursuit of excellence, which has not only fueled his success but also inspired others. As he advances his career, he remains devoted to making a lasting impact through his research and dedication to the betterment of society.



**Robert Birungi** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *The Nexus Between Ethnicity and Land Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of The Banyoro-Bafuruki Violence in Uganda.*

Birungi Robert is a PhD fellow currently pursuing an Interdisciplinary PhD in Social Studies at the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), an Institute under the management of Makerere University, Kampala-Uganda. Birungi's research interests broadly span the areas of Political and Decolonial Thought, Identity Politics, Political Violence, Political History and the Land/Agrarian Question. His PhD working title is "The Nexus Between Ethnicity and Land Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of the Banyoro-Bafuruki Violence in Uganda," where he intends to deploy a historical-political approach to ably understand, explore and historicize the problem and the changes that have taken place over time in the area under study. Birungi

holds a Bachelor's degree in Ethics and Human Rights from Makerere University, and a Master of Philosophy in Social Studies (with a Major in Political Studies and a Minor in Political Economy) from The Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University. He has previously lectured in the Department of Philosophy and The School of Gender and Women Studies at Makerere University. Upon completion of this PhD, he intends to take a post-doctoral position and engage in university teaching.



**Lameck Kachena** | University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Migration, Socioecological and Geopolitical Trajectories along the Great Limpopo and Chimanimani Transboundary Parks*

Mr. Lameck Kachena is an upcoming environmental anthropologist, with hands-on experience in socio-environmental interactions. He holds a Certificate in Climate Change and its Impacts (Brown University-USA), M.Sc. in Social Ecology, and B.Sc. in Sociology (University of Zimbabwe). He is

currently a PhD student at the University of Cape Town in the Department of Environmental Geographical Science. His proposed doctoral research aims to examine the intricate socioecological and geopolitical dynamics evolving at the crossroads of migration and conservation within transboundary parks that link Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. His research toolkit includes a range of methods, including participatory ethnography, semi-quantitative tools, creative visual art-based approaches, and scenario planning. Through these methods, his recent writings have illuminated the injustices and vulnerabilities stemming from prevailing socio-economic, environmental, and cultural structures that impact marginalized social groups in Southeast Africa. Lameck has published in journals such as *Conservation and Society*, *Geojournal*, *Biological Invasions*, and *Mobilities*. Recently, he collaborated with colleagues to coauthor a book titled "COVID-19 Lockdowns and the Urban Poor in Harare, Zimbabwe Emerging Perspectives and the Morphing of a Sustainable Urban."



**Patrick Mutinda** | Kenyatta University, Kenya

**Project Title:** *Modeling the Impact and the Future of the Transitional Communal Land Tenure System on the Livelihood of the Indigenous Pastoralist Communities: Case of Group Ranches in Kenya*

Patrick Matata Mutinda is a Tutorial fellow at the Department of Cadastre and Land Management, School of Survey and Spatial Sciences at the Technical University of Kenya. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Land Administration from the same institution and a Master's in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Nairobi. He is pursuing a PhD in Environmental Planning and Management at Kenyatta University. His doctoral research focuses on Spatial Modeling of the Transitional Communal Land Tenure System and the Future Tenure Needs of Indigenous Pastoralist Communities in Kenya.

A passionate advocate for community land rights, Patrick integrates geospatial technologies with community land policies to promote sustainable access, use, and management of communal lands. His work aims to address the unique challenges pastoralist communities face in Kenya, ensuring their land tenure systems are robust and future-proof. With a solid academic background and a commitment to social justice, Patrick is dedicated to advancing the field of land administration & management and supporting the rights of Indigenous communities through innovative and practical solutions.



**Clemente Jorge Ntauazi** | University of the Western Cape, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Land Politics in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation: Reforms, climate responses and social reproduction in rural Mozambique*

Clemente Jorge Ntauazi was born in Niassa province, north of Mozambique. He is a PhD candidate in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape (UWC). Mr. Ntauazi graduated with the MPhil in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies programme Cum Laude from PLAAS in 2022. For undergraduate qualification, he graduated with a BSc in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Higher School of International Relations, Universidade Joaquim Chissano in Maputo, Mozambique. Currently, he is

working as a programme manager for climate change and renewable energy at Livangingo – a Mozambican non-profit organization. His PhD focuses on the topic "Land Politics in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation: Reforms, Climate Responses and Social Reproduction in Rural Mozambique". His areas of interest include land and agrarian change, land reforms, tenure systems, women's land rights, land governance and wide impacts on climate change and renewable energies.



**Alloice Salex Okumu** | University of Nairobi, Kenya

**Project Title:** *Enhancing community awareness and engagement for trafficking prevention in the context of climate change in Kenya - PEMS project.*

Alloice Salex Okumu is a researcher and PhD candidate at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, holding an MA in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi and a Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from the University of Washington. With over nine years of experience in development work, Alloice has collaborated with international bodies such as the UN Agency for Migration, UNDP, and Save the Children International, making significant contributions to research and development projects. His academic partnerships with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and New York University have led to the creation of a pivotal monitoring and evaluation platform. As an educator at the University of Nairobi, Alloice shares his extensive knowledge in data management and analysis, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods, including SPSS and NVivo. His expertise in project cycle management, training, and capacity building, combined with his leadership and communication skills, has driven successful research initiatives. Alloice's commitment to social and economic development is evident in his efforts to support sustainable development goals in Africa's conflict-affected regions, inspiring global discourse on conflict, migration, and trafficking in persons.



**Sasha Claude Rai** | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

**Project Title:** *What We Do in the Shadows: A History and Culture of Kink in South Africa*

Sasha Rai is currently enrolled at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa as a doctoral candidate in the research stage of her History degree. Her supervisors are Drs. Catherine Burns and Prinisha Badassy. Areas of research interest include intersections of feminism and race, religion, and sexuality. As a South African Indian, her research interests have been informed by both her lived experiences and the histories of her communities. As a scholar of African histories, she is also interested in the political and legal histories of human rights in eugenics, bioethics, artificial intelligence, and the histories of sex and medicine. She currently serves as a Tutor in the School of Electrical and Information Engineering and as the Principal Tutor and Academic Intern in the History Department at Wits University. She has previously produced work on Pakistani diasporas and Islamic feminism in South Africa, and has attended a number of conferences and workshops where she has presented on her work. Before enrolling in her doctoral programme, she worked as an English teacher in Beijing, China, for almost 5 years.



**Patience Shawarira** | University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Project Title:** *"The Revolution shall be televised": Representations of unruly Politics in SA campus protests. A Phenomenological examination of selected documentaries.*

Patience Shawarira is an experienced Research and Communications specialist with a decade of experience working in media Non-Governmental Organizations in Zimbabwe, as well as a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She has authored published research articles for the Association for Progressive Communications and contributed a book chapter to the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. Shawarira holds a Masters in Environmental Education from Rhodes University, South Africa.