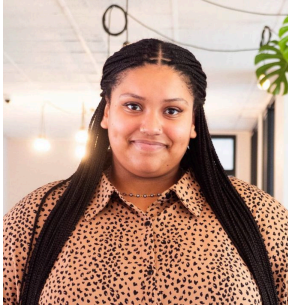


## **NEXT GEN RESEARCH FELLOWS**

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 Research Fellowship** supports 6-12 months of dissertation research costs of up to US\$15,000 on a dissertation topic related to peace, security, and development.



**Tamia Botes** | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Eldorado Park as Demonic Grounds: A social history from the early 1960s-2023*

Tamia Botes is an Anthropology PhD candidate and lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, recognized for her impactful contributions to the field. She won the prestigious 2021 Africa Thesis Award and is the author of the influential book “Where Have the Midwives Gone? Everyday Histories of Voetvroue in Johannesburg.” Her current research delves into the social history of Eldorado Park, examining it as a discursive space for reimagining race and the ‘human’ within the South African context. Beyond this, her scholarly work is deeply committed to issues of gender equity and justice. She investigates reproductive justice and the crucial roles of midwives, while also focusing on raising social awareness about gender-based violence. Tamia is dedicated to promoting gender transformation, aiming to create a more just and equitable society through her research and advocacy.



**Nyasha Blessed Bushu** | University of The Free State, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Beyond chiefly courts: African grassroots justice practices in Southern Rhodesia c.1890-1937*

Nyasha Blessed Bushu is a second-year PhD student in African Studies in the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State in South Africa. He is working on a socio-legal history of Zimbabwe in a thesis provisionally titled, *Beyond chiefly courts: African grassroots justice practices in Southern Rhodesia c.1890-1937*. Nyasha holds a BA Honours Degree in Economic History and an MA in African Economic History from the University of Zimbabwe. His research interests are conflict, violence, and justice in colonial and post-colonial Africa. Notably, in 2022, Nyasha interfaced with the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission of Zimbabwe on issues related to conflict and justice through his participation in the Spirits of Peace: Recovering Zimbabwe’s Heritage of Traditional Reconciliation for Today’s Peacemakers Project that was organised by the University of Liverpool in conjunction with the British Academy. Also, in 2023, Nyasha was nominated for the SSRC Next Gen Proposal Fellowship.



**Freweini Tekle Kidane** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Social Reproduction: The Political-Economy of State and Nation-Building in Post-independence Eritrea*

Freweini Tekle Kidane is a PhD candidate at the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). Her research interest lies on the agrarian question, political economy, social reproduction, gender relations, human rights, state and nation-building etc. Freweini is affiliated with the Research and Documentation Center of Eritrea (RDC), Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) and Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA). Emphasizing on social reproduction, currently she is conducting research on the impact of the political economy of state and nation-building project of the post-independence Eritrea, on

production, social reproduction and gender relations.



**Stanley Elias Kiswaga** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Theatre for Development and the Nation : Rethinking nation-building in "post-socialist Tanzania"*

Stanley Elias Kiswaga is a PhD student at Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Makerere University, Uganda. He holds a BA with education from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, an MA in Literary and Cultural studies from Airlangga University, Indonesia, and an MPhil. in Social Studies from Makerere University, Uganda. His research interests include popular culture and nationalism, literature, and the question of a nation in Africa. His major research interests combine political, historical, and cultural perspectives to engage with the question of nation-building in postcolonial Africa. Mr. Kiswaga is currently working on the project titled "Theatre for Development and the

Nation: Rethinking Nation-building in "post-socialist Tanzania". In the project, Elias seeks to understand the dynamics and complexities of mobilizing bottom-up nation-building from both state and non-state actors in the dynamic environments of "post-socialist Tanzania". In the future, Mr. Kiswaga plans to study the nexus between political culture and ways in which people invent aesthetic strategies to bargain and access public space in Africa. Mr. Kiswaga is also a faculty member at the University of Dar es Salaam where he teaches literature and cultural studies courses.



**Kgomotso Komane** | University of Pretoria, South Africa

**Project Title:** *An intersecting theoretical analysis on the participation of women in peace processes: A case study on the (re)configuration and (re)construction of Basotho women in mediation and peacebuilding in Lesotho*

Ms. Kgomotso Komane is a second-year PhD candidate in International Relations at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is an assistant lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences and works as a Research Assistant for the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (Govinn) and a researcher for the Centre for Mediation in Africa. Her research focuses on understanding the role of women in peace processes using an intersecting theoretical framework. Using Lesotho as a case study, her doctoral research seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of the role of women in peacebuilding and mediation in Lesotho through an intersecting theoretical framework of decolonial peace, decolonial feminism, African feminism and indigenous knowledge systems to explore the complex and integrated challenges Basotho women face.



**Olivia Komuhangi** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Political Discourse in Stand-Up Comedy and Editorial Cartooning in Uganda, 1996-2021*

Olivia Komuhangi is a teacher by profession, currently on study leave, granted by the Education Service Commission on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports which employs her. She has been teaching English Language and Literature at high school level since the year 2000 when she first got her Diploma in Education. She now has a Bachelor of Education Degree and a Master of Education in Language and Literature Education, and has recently added a Master of Philosophy. She is pursuing a Doctoral degree and is very hopeful that undertaking a study on Political Discourse in Comedy and Editorial Cartooning will enable her to dedicate her research skills to studying the role of popular culture on politics. With an interdisciplinary approach, she has written essays on the legacy of colonial education in Uganda, made a critical analysis of African Literature as a means by which the subaltern speaks, and assessed the role of women in post-independence violence in Uganda.



**Jacinta Mwangeli Matheka** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Of History and Representation: Re-imagining the Aftermath of the Anti-Arab Revolt in Abdulrazak Gurnah's Fiction*

Jacinta Matheka is a Kenyan who attained her MA in Literature from the University of Nairobi. Her MA thesis centered on societal disintegration as depicted in literary works of Abdulrazak Gurnah. Currently, she is pursuing her PhD in Literature at Makerere University, Department of Literature. She is part of the 2022 Gerda-Henkel Fellows under the Makerere College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research area is History, Migration and Representation in Abdulrazak Gurnah's oeuvre. Jacinta is focused on examining how literature convenes grounds for writers to articulate historical traumas catalyzed by asymmetrical power relations. Her general research interests are Memory,

Trauma, (Post-Colonial) Literature, History and representation.



**Kagiso Nko** | University of the Western Cape, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Understanding township life: exploring embodied practices of joy, pleasure, and leisure in Munsieville, Krugersdorp*

Kagiso Nko, a Johannesburg-based scholar, studies Black life and life-making. He is currently completing his PhD at the University of the Western Cape, focusing on practices of joy, pleasure, and leisure amidst ongoing precarity and structural violence in a South African township. Nko's research explores how Black people navigate their existence in a world often characterized by anti-Blackness, colonialism, and apartheid. Previously, he investigated Black immigrant traders in Johannesburg and their livelihood strategies (2017) and examined how Black university students understand their Blackness and mental health following the *Fees Must Fall* protests of 2015-16 (2018). Nko believes that Black individuals continuously reconfigure

and reconcile their humanity through various practices that sustain their lives despite systemic dehumanization and anti-Blackness, and his research interests lie in these practices.



**Lerato Nkosi** | University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Unpaid and invisible work in the context of community volunteerism in South African faith communities.*

Lerato Nkosi is a Ph.D. candidate in Theology and Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, specializing in Theology of Work, skills development, and gender development. She holds an Honours degree in Theology and Development, where she explored "Theology of Work and Youth Skills Development as a Response to the Unemployment Crisis in South Africa," and a Master's degree (cum laude) in Theology and Development with a research focus titled "Engaging Gender Inequality in Theology of Work: An African Feminist Theological Critique." Her research addresses critical societal challenges, including youth unemployment, gender inequality, and the intersection of theology with societal challenges.

As an interdisciplinary scholar, Lerato received a scholarship in gender, religion, and health, enriching her understanding with feminist and gender development theories. Currently, she is exploring "Unpaid and Invisible Work in the Context of Community Volunteerism in South African Faith Communities" from a sociological perspective, benefiting from her membership in the International Research Training Group. Alongside her academic pursuits, Lerato serves as an assistant lecturer in the sociology of religion at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, contributing to the discourse in her field.





**Kenechukwu Nwachukwu** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *State Power and the Production of History: Reading Post-Independence Nigeria's Political History through the IPOB Separatist Agitation*

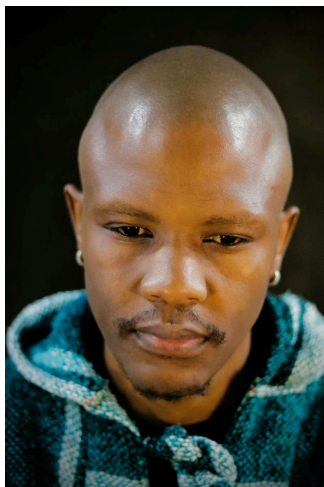
Kenechukwu Peace Nwachukwu is a PhD fellow at the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Makerere University, Kampala. She is a graduate of the University of Ibadan (MSc Political Science) and the University of Nigeria (BSc Political Science). She also holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Social Studies from Makerere University and is interested in the relationship between knowledge (history) production and political violence in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. Her Doctoral Dissertation project titled "State Power and the Production of History: Reading Post-Independence Nigeria's Political History through the IPOB Separatist Agitation" examines the role of IPOB as an epistemic disruptor in Nigeria's politico-historical space and the roles state knowledge systems play in making such resistance thrive. On completing her PhD, Kenechukwu will further investigate various forms of knowledge systems in Nigeria that arise from the Nigeria-Biafra war and how they shape political engagements in Nigeria's fourth republic, including but not limited to expressions of political violence within them. The information derived from her research will be fed back as informed policy tools on knowledge production in Nigeria which will over time curtail the manifestations of political violence, by evolving knowledge processes that predict and address violence in its formative stages.



**Nicholas Odoyo** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Rural Land Struggles and Social Differentiation in Kenya: Contradictions of Post-Colonial Land Reforms*

Nicholas Odoyo is a PhD candidate in Political Economy at the Makerere Institute for Social Research's Interdisciplinary MPhil/PhD program at Makerere University in Uganda. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Nairobi. His thematic research interests focus on development, land, labor and gender relations in Africa. His research aims to contribute to political, economic, and epistemological decolonization in Africa, and is a member of the Agrarian South Network, a tri-continental network of researchers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, with an interest in land, labor, and agrarian questions and the political economy of world development. His previous research on land and agrarian issues in Kenya has appeared as book chapters. He is currently conducting research for his doctoral dissertation on the political economy of rural differentiation and land struggles under neoliberalism in Kenya.



**Zuko Sikhafungana** | University of the Western Cape, South Africa

**Project Title:** *Black aesthetics and theatre: An ethnography of contemporary South African theatre— creators, spaces and institutions*

Zuko Wonderful Sikhafungana, born in Matatiele, Eastern Cape, South Africa, is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and a fellow at the Centre for Humanities Research (CHR). A versatile artist, he is a film and theater maker—playwright, director, and co-founder of Back Stage Theater Production (BSTP). His research explores the intersection of 'community' and mainstream theater, critically examining contemporary post-apartheid theater in South Africa. Sikhafungana's MA dissertation investigated how Black theater artists from marginalized communities navigate theater spaces in Cape Town. His work highlights emerging art forms in Cape Town's theater scene and outreach initiatives like the Zabalaza Theater Festival and the Magnet Theater Culture



Gangs, which provide opportunities for artists excluded from mainstream theater, and redefine the practice of community theater both inside and outside townships.



**Ham Ssenoga** | Makerere University, Uganda

**Project Title:** *Last Becomes First: The Politics of Mwe Abali Mu Kintu and the Nationality Question in Uganda.*

Ssenoga Hamudan is a fifth-year PhD student at Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) at Makerere University. In 2021, he participated in the Mellon Cultural Studies Workshop, presenting a paper titled "A Genealogy of African Debates on Epistemic Decolonization/Decoloniality." In 2022, he took part in the Mellon Cultural Studies Institute, where he presented a paper entitled "Genealogy of African Debates on Decoloniality: A Synthesis of Afrikaans and Kiswahili." This paper was published online in a five-part column series by *The Sword*, based in Uganda, and is accessible via X (formerly Twitter). These works are also featured in online publications on the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) official website. Hamudan's research generally covers political theory, identity, culture, and

decolonization.



**Freedman Delali Woledzi** | University of Ghana, Ghana

**Project Title:** *"Move to Where? Smallholder Farmers Climate Im/mobility Decisions on Household Food Security in the Kwahu Afram Plains North District."*

Woledzi Delali Freedman is an expert in climate im/mobility and food security with a strong background in agricultural management and extension studies. His significant contributions include participating in key conferences and consultations worldwide, such as the first Continental Migration and Youth Consultation in Rwanda organized by IOM, UNECA, and AUC, and presenting at the Environmental and Climate Mobilities Network Conference in Vienna. Delali also served as a panelist at COP27 in Egypt, discussing the critical links between failing crops, fragile peace, and human mobility in Africa's climate hotspots. His work with USAID-funded programs in Ghana, including the TIPCEE initiative, highlights his commitment to advancing agricultural practices and supporting smallholder farmers. As a PhD candidate in Migration Studies at the University of Ghana, he continues to deepen his expertise through fellowships, scholarships, and professional development, building on his MSc in Extension and Livelihoods Studies and BSc in Agribusiness Management.