



## JPS AFRICA WRITESHOP IN CRITICAL AGRARIAN STUDIES & SCHOLAR ACTIVISM



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Institute for Poverty, Land and  
Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)  
University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa



Collective of Agrarian Scholar-Activists from the South  
*CASAS*



International  
Institute of  
Social Studies

Erasmus  
University  
Rotterdam



**Amr Khairy**

Egypt

Amr Khairy attained his PhD in November 2023 at the Department of Human Geography and Human Ecology, Lund University. He is currently affiliated with CEDEJ/Ifao French research institutions under CNRS, where he is conducting a survey of the Nile Delta for material artefacts of 19th-century agrarian-industrial history. His research interests include environmental history, peasant studies, history of energy, history of technology, history of capitalism, and early modern global history. Since completing his PhD, he has published a book review in *Antipode* and submitted three articles, one accepted for publication in *TNI* (July 2025) and two currently under review with *ILWCH* and *Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics*. His monograph, based on his PhD thesis, has been accepted and is forthcoming in September 2026.

Asmaa Bouaamri is a scholar and educator with a PhD in Literary and Cultural Studies. Her research spans cultural anthropology, critical agrarian studies, and feminist epistemologies. Asmaa's work focuses on gendered resistance and epistemic justice in land and power in rural and postcolonial contexts in North Africa. Her work is grounded in scholarship and activist collaboration, exploring how marginalised communities - especially rural women and Amazigh populations - navigate structural violence and assert agency through alternative knowledge practices. Asmaa's current research investigates land politics, ecological knowledge, and gendered labour in Morocco's High Atlas and Souss-Massa regions, where communities face climate change, state-led agricultural reform, and land commodification. She works closely with grassroots cooperatives, agroecological educators, and local storytellers to document traditional environmental knowledge, seed saving practices, and cultural memory as tools of resistance.

**Asmaa Bouaamri**

Morocco

**Augustine Fosu**

Ghana

Augustine Fosu is a PhD candidate in the Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies programme at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape. He holds a master's degree from the same programme at PLAAS, and holds a BSc in Land Economy from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). His research interests focus on the agrarian political economy, customary land governance, and housing in Ghana. His current research is on accumulation and social differentiation in the cashew industry, specifically in Ghana. He has been a facilitator for the NELGA Short course on the political economy of land governance in Africa since 2021. He has presented papers at international and local conferences, and some of these papers have been published in journals. He has worked as a teaching and research assistant at the Centre for Land Studies at KNUST. He has also taught in primary and senior high schools as a teacher and an intern, respectively.

Belinda Makare is a PhD student in the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State. Her research interests lie in the agrarian and socio-environmental history of Southern Africa, with a particular focus on the interactions between rural communities, the state, and the environment. Her MA research titled *The Emergency and Operations of O'Neill Meat Processors Private Limited Company and Its Impact on the Cattle Industry*, examined the relationships between the colonial state, farmers, and the environment. Her current doctoral research focuses on the nexus between African agricultural systems and soil conservation, with particular attention to African initiatives and colonial policies in Lesotho. More broadly, her work interrogates the interplay between state power, rural livelihoods, and environmental transformation, contributing to debates on political ecology, agriculture, conservation, sustainability, and rural livelihoods in Southern Africa and beyond.

**Belinda Makare**

Zimbabwe



**Bernard Ekumah**

Ghana

Bernard Ekumah is a final year PhD candidate in Sustainability Science at Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies. His research critically examines agricultural development and smallholder livelihoods through the lens of agrarian political economy and social movement theory. Bernard focuses on the contradictions within capital-centric models of agricultural development and explores how smallholder farmers, through collective action, can drive transitions toward more just and ecologically grounded alternatives. Drawing on critical agrarian studies, political economy, social movements, and Amartya Sen's capability approach, his work contributes to debates on agroecology, food sovereignty, and collective political action of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Courage Bakasa is a PhD candidate in Political Economy at the University of Witten/Herdecke. His research interests include agrarian political economy, institutional economics, development economics, and authoritarian politics. He completed his basic education in Zimbabwe, where he also earned an Honours degree in Philosophy and Humanities, before pursuing a Master's in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at the University of Witten/Herdecke. His research is strongly shaped by Zimbabwe's political and economic trajectory, particularly themes of authoritarianism, economic collapse, land governance, and land reform. He is especially interested in the experiences of local smallholder farmers and the policy decisions that shape their livelihoods.



**Courage Rodwell Bakasa**

Zimbabwe



**Diane Tapimali**

Cameroon

Diane Tapimali is a consultant in Law and Policy for Natural Resource Management and a lecturer, with a PhD in Mining Law (2023). Her work reflects a strong commitment to environmental, mining, land, and economic issues, and she is involved in numerous successful projects. She currently serves as Lobbying and Advocacy Manager for the ProPFR Project, supported by GIZ and implemented by the Center for Environment and Development, which promotes civil society participation in responsible land policy in Cameroon. Alongside her consultancy work, Diane is an Associate Lecturer at the University of Dschang, where she teaches Ethics and Commercial Law in the Agribusiness Master's programme. She also lectures on Law and Politics in climate change training (YILAA/Erasmus) and supervises tutorials in Law of Torts, Land Law, and Human Rights and Disabilities. As both an activist and academic, she is committed to translating research into practice to improve human well-being.

Jabulile Manyike is an Agricultural Economist and Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Agribusiness at the University of Fort Hare. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Fort Hare. Her academic background is rooted in a commitment to addressing the socio-economic challenges facing rural and agricultural communities. Jabulile's research focuses on the socio-economic impacts of climate adaptation, sustainable food systems, agri-entrepreneurship, gender equity, and rural development. Her doctoral thesis examined the implications of livestock species choices in response to climate change on household welfare, contributing valuable insights into climate-resilient agricultural decision-making among smallholder farmers. She is passionate about using evidence-based research to improve rural livelihoods and promote sustainable agricultural development, particularly in the face of climate variability. Her work has been presented at national and international conferences.



**Jabulile Manyike**

South Africa

**Kwasi Sarfo**

Ghana

Kwasi Sarfo is a PhD candidate at the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town and a lecturer in the Department of Languages and General Studies at the University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana. His research interest includes African political economy, rural development, agrarian studies and land tenure. His PhD thesis, which is currently awaiting examiners' feedback, investigates the outcomes of large-scale land acquisition for communal landholders in the Atebubu Amantin Municipality. Kwasi has published on land tenure, farmer-herder conflicts and agricultural mechanisation. Prior to his appointment as a lecturer, he worked with the Ghana Education Service, a body responsible for overseeing Ghana's pre-tertiary education where he served in different capacities including regional training officer, regional EMIS officer, district statistics officer and a basic school teacher.

**Lucy Anning**

Ghana

Lucy Anning is a distinguished industrial economist, SMEs development strategist, and researcher whose multifaceted expertise shapes China-Africa relations. With two years of service under Ghana's Ministry of Finance, she now serves at the Centre for Africa-China Studies, University of Johannesburg, and as Chief Economist for the Pan African Chamber of Commerce in South Africa, representing the chamber at the AfCFTA Secretariat in Ghana. Recently appointed Southern Africa Coordinator for OSAESSDA, her roles emphasise economic, social, and cultural synergies across the continent. As the current Director of DevAfrica Institute, she bridges academic and practical domains, furthering her research with the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. Dr. Anning, an award-winning leader in Research and Development in Africa, holds advanced degrees in industrial economics, quantitative economics, and economics with mathematics.

**Mamie  
Ratsaramiafara**

Madagascar

Mamie Nuccia Albertine Ratsaramiafara studied Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences at the Université d'Antananarivo. She is currently affiliated with the same university as a teacher-researcher. She obtained her PhD in 2020, her doctoral research focused on the dynamism of peasants' perceptions and adaptation on climate change in central area of Madagascar. She has more than five years of experience of teaching and researching on the field of anthropos-environment and nature-culture interactions. She currently works on the evolution of the social representations and behavior in front of current environmental transformation in which she begins to expand her research across Sub-Saharan Africa area. In a near future she plans to establish a sustainable network and collaboration with colleagues based in Africa and all other the world who work on socio-environmental field in Africa to develop a common and inclusive innovative research and studies.

**Mwangi Chege**

Kenya

Mwangi Chege graduated in May 2025 with a PhD in Geography from Clark University in Worcester. His research interests lie at the intersection of critical agrarian studies and urban geography in the Global South. His dissertation research examined how urban-based actors who are farming on medium-scale landholdings in rural areas are shaping the development of commercial agriculture in Kenya. He is currently developing his dissertation chapters into journal articles.



**Patience  
Chadambuka**  
Zimbabwe

Patience Chadambuka is a Lecturer and Chairperson in the Department of Community Studies, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Midlands State University. She holds a PhD in Sociology with Rhodes University. Patience teaches and supervises undergraduate, Masters and PhD students. She conducts research and has published books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed journal articles on land and agrarian studies, natural resource management, climate change, livelihoods, disability, and gender. She has also received international research grants in the areas of agroecology, climate change, disability and gender, as well as crime.

Patience Sibanda is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. Her research explores food sovereignty amidst agricultural modernisation among small-scale farmers in Binga, Zimbabwe. With a focus on decolonial perspectives and indigenous knowledge systems, her work aims to amplify the voices of marginalised communities in food systems. Patience is a lecturer in the Department of Community Studies at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe. Her research interests include food systems and sustainability, smallholder farming, climate justice, food sovereignty and indigenous knowledge systems, feminist political ecology, gender and sustainable agriculture. Her work explores the socio-political and ecological dimensions of food systems, emphasising decolonial perspectives, smallholder farming and control of food systems. Patience's work aims to contribute to inclusive policies by incorporating indigenous knowledge systems and gender justice into food systems and climate justice.



**Patience Sibanda**  
Zimbabwe



**Prince Muzuva**  
Zimbabwe

Prince Muzuva is a seasoned academic and development practitioner with over 20 years of experience in public service, academia, and civil society. He holds a PhD in Development Science and Policy, complemented by advanced degrees in Development Studies and International Relations. Prince has served as a lecturer in Development Science for more than five years, with teaching and research interests spanning land governance, indigenous knowledge systems, decolonial theory, and rural development policy. His academic journey is rooted in a commitment to decolonizing knowledge and amplifying the agency of marginalised communities, particularly in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. He has also contributed to the design of curricula that foreground indigenous perspectives, including the development of a B.Sc. Honours Degree in Land and Water Resources Management. Currently, he is developing a research project that critically examines indigenous resistance and reinterpretation of land development interventions in contested rural spaces, using comparative case studies in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He brings a unique blend of theoretical insight and grassroots experience to debates on land, power, and justice.

Sa'idu Misbahu is a lecturer in the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Federal University of Kashere -Nigeria. His research interest covers industrialization, infrastructure, agrarian studies, and peace building. He obtained his PhD in Economic History from Ahmadu Bello University in 2022. With over twenty publications, Misbahu also won a number of grants including the Best Graduating Student in History Department (2014);TETFund IBR Research Grant (2018); British Academy Travel Grant, Ibadan(2023);CA/AC Travel Grant, Ghana (2024) and Ibadan Travel Grant of the York University, Toronto, Canada (2024). Recently, he won a travel grant of the Young Scholars Initiative and International Studies Group, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.



**Sa'idu Misbahu**  
Nigeria



**Tapiwa Chatikobo**

Zimbabwe

Tapiwa Chatikobo holds a PhD in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies at the Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape. His doctoral work explored the implications of variability and non-equilibrium rangeland dynamics for processes of agrarian accumulation by different types of livestock owners in the post-land reform landscape in southern Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. He is a post-doctoral fellow at PLAAS where he is currently working with Professor Ian Scoones on the 'Zimbabwe's land reform after 25 years' project.

Valerie Jeché is a Zimbabwean political scientist, academic, and researcher with a strong background in governance, political economy, and agrarian transformation. She is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Governance and Public Management at Midlands State University, where she teaches courses in political science, public management, and international relations. Valerie is completing her Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Political Science at the University of Zimbabwe. Her doctoral research examines the politics of sugar production in Zimbabwe's Lowveld (2000–2017), focusing on land reform, labour, and agro-industrial restructuring. She is the current Vice President of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's Now Generation Network Executive Committee and serves as International Young People's Advisory Chair at The Black Policy Institute and a former research fellow at the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies. Her work reflects a commitment to amplifying marginal voices in rural development and reimagining more inclusive and democratic agrarian futures.



**Valerie Jeché**

Zimbabwe



**Yamikani Makwinja**

Malawi

Yamikani Makwinja is a doctoral researcher in a joint programme between Technische Universität Dresden and United Nations University-FLORES based in Dresden, focusing on resource nexus perspectives of land cover-change for nature-positive regional sustainable development in Southern Africa. His research interests include the economics of rural development, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, application of remote sensing to social economic issues, and adaptive natural resources management. Yamikani has over 15 years of experience in forestry, climate change, and environmental sustainability in Malawi. He also worked as an adjunct lecturer of Geography and Environmental Studies at The Catholic University of Malawi. Yamikani holds an MSc in forestry economics and management from Beijing Forestry University, MSc in rural development and natural resources management from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, post-graduate diploma in environmental management from Technische Universität Dresden, BSc in forestry from Mzuzu University, and a diploma in forestry from Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife.

Yetunde Olasimbo Mary Oladokun is a Principal Research Officer at the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) and a leading expert in agricultural economics, gender-responsive policy design, and rural development. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ibadan, complemented by specialised certifications from Wageningen University (Netherlands) and the University of the Western Cape (South Africa) in food security and land governance, respectively. Yetunde's work bridges academic research and policy action, focusing on asset ownership, welfare dynamics, and environmental sustainability in rural Africa.



**Yetunde Oladokun**

Nigeria



**Zikargie  
Yidneckachew**  
Ethiopia

Yidneckachew A. Zikargie is an Assistant Professor at Hawassa University, College of Law and Governance, and he is editor-in-chief of HUJL. He has studied law, peace and security and international environment and development studies and has specialised in communal land, rural development and pastoral transformation in Ethiopia. His research interests cover the social construction of human rights ideas, power dynamics, modernist development policies, land policies, pastoralism, rural livelihoods, environmental justice, centre-periphery relationships, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.



**Ruth Hall**  
South Africa

Ruth Hall is the Director of the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, where she has worked for over 23 years. She holds a B1 NRF rating. Ruth holds a DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford. She has published extensively on land reform, tenure and governance in Africa, focusing on transnational land investments. She is a partner in the Network of Excellence in Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) and leads training courses for policy makers and professionals on the political economy of land governance in Africa. She has published several books, including *Africa's Land Rush*, *Global Land Grabbing and Political Reactions from Below*, *Another Countryside?* and *The Land Question in South Africa*. She has co-founded and led several regional and global research networks: the Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI), the BRICS Initiative in Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS), the Emancipatory Rural Politics Initiative (ERPI). Ruth served as a member of President Cyril Ramaphosa's Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture and is an Editor of the *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Jun Borras is a professor of agrarian studies at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) and is part of the distinguished university professors program ('Erasmus Professors') for positive societal impact at EUR, Netherlands. He is also a Distinguished Professor at China Agricultural University in Beijing, and an associate of the Transnational Institute (TNI). He was the Editor-In-Chief of *Journal of Peasant Studies* for 15 years, until 2023. He collaborates with JPS, CASAS and others in co-organizing the JPS International Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Scholar-Activism. His latest books are *Scholar-Activism and Land Struggles* (2023, with J.C. Franco) and *Essential Concepts of Land Politics* (2025, co-authored with J. C. Franco) and the edited collection, *The Oxford Handbook of Land Politics* (2025, co-edited with J.C. Franco).



**Jun Borras**  
Philippines / Netherlands



**Faustina Obeng Adomaa**  
Ghana

Faustina Obeng Adomaa is a Critical Geographer whose research is at the intersection of the politics of climate change, agriculture value chain development, and agrarian livelihoods including gender, land, and labour relations. She focuses on unpacking rules in use across multiple domains of the food, land and water system and integrates critical agrarian studies perspectives into value chain and climate change research. Faustina has extensive experience in designing and implementing gender-transformative research in climate smart agriculture. She is currently a Visiting Scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) leading efforts on gender smart and inclusive scaling of climate adaptation solutions. Faustina has PhD in Social Science from Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands, and an MPhil and BA in Geography and Resource Development, from the University of Ghana with specialisation in the Geography of Gender.

David Olanya is a Senior Lecturer, Gulu University, Uganda. He graduated with a PhD from Aalborg University, Denmark in 2020. His doctoral research focused on the critical policy discourse analysis entitled, *Capitalizing on Land—Negotiating Resources and Policies: A Discourse Study of Land Use and Land Ownership in Four Policy Fields in Uganda*. His main research interests are critical policy studies, sustainability, critical discourse analysis, social movement studies and megaprojects in Africa. David is also a Review Editor of *Critical Policy Studies Journal*.



**David Olanya**  
Uganda

Dhouha Djerbi is a PhD Candidate at the International Relations/Political Science department at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Her research is primarily situated in Tunisia and focuses on gender relations in changing agrarian systems, state-society conflicts in the countryside, social reproduction theories, and ethnographic methods. Her work has appeared in *Antipode*, *JPS*, *MELG* and *ROAPE*.



**Dhouha Djerbi**

Tunisia

Kennedy Manduna is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Excellence: Adaptation and Resilience at the University of South Africa. He is an Academic Trustee at the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Fellow at the Just Climate Transitions Network, Associate Fellow at the International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies, and Visiting Scholar and Fellow at the University of Potsdam: Chair of Political Theory. He was awarded a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (IRGAC) of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung. He was hosted by the Wits School of Governance at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he earned a PhD in mineral resource governance. Through praxis-epistemology and Marxist methodology, he researches issues at the intersection of political economy and geopolitics in areas such as ecoauthoritarianism, green extractivism, critical minerals, resource nationalism, illegal and artisanal and small-scale mining, global neoliberal authoritarianism, and uneven development. His monograph, *Extractive Industry Indigenisation in Zimbabwe: Neoextractivism, Resource Nationalism and Uneven Development*, articulates this intersection and is scheduled for publication in September 2025 as part of the *Routledge Studies of the Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development Series*.



**Kennedy Manduna**

Zimbabwe

Loveness Msofi Mgalamadzi is a Malawian agrarian studies scholar. Her research interests span across political economy of agrarian and rural transformation, gender and social differentiation, social reproduction, agricultural extension and education, climate change and livelihoods analysis. She holds a PhD in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies from the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape. Loveness holds an MSc degree in Agribusiness Management obtained in 2012 from National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan. She also holds a BSc. Degree in Agricultural Extension obtained in 2008 from Bunda College of Agriculture. She was an African Women in Agricultural Research and Development fellow from 2013-2015. Loveness is an upcoming researcher who has published in international journals including Springer's *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience*, and *Agrekon*. She has produced several working papers published under the Institute of Development Studies, and Future Agricultures Consortium. She is also a reviewer for the *South African Journal of Agricultural Extension*, and is an internal examiner for postgraduate students at LUANAR, and she supervises postgraduate students.



**Loveness Msofi**

Malawi



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