



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

Where Harvard and Africa meet.

Create. Convene.
Catalyze change.

November 2024

Zoe Marks, Oppenheimer Faculty Director

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Our Mission

CAS is an interdisciplinary, university-wide center that broadens knowledge about Africa and brings African perspectives to bear on research and scholarship at Harvard and beyond.

As the economic and geopolitical importance of Africa continues to grow, understandings of African opportunities, challenges, and experiences continue to be marginalized and discounted. With an international reputation for excellence, the Harvard Center for African Studies has the power to influence perspectives on Africa, to create new knowledge, and serve as a catalyst for transformative change.



Africa & Harvard

With offices in Cambridge and Johannesburg, the Center for African Studies is where Harvard and Africa meet. This year, we are celebrating our **10th anniversary** by launching a new campaign called **The African Century**. This campaign recommits our energy and resources to strengthening Africa-related research and learning at Harvard and expanding its impact internationally. Our goal is to improve lives, catalyze change, and transform the world. We welcome your partnership in elevating African issues, voices, and solutions for the 21st Century.

CREATING KNOWLEDGE

CAS represents all of Harvard's undergraduate and professional schools. We have more than 100 faculty affiliates - **experts in African issues** across diverse fields, from STEM to the arts, from law to business leadership. We **support and amplify faculty research**, through accelerator grants, workshops, and public-facing events.

CONVENING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

CAS provides **mentorship and funding** to more than 40 undergraduate and graduate Africa-affiliated and Afro-diasporic student organizations. We sponsor more than 50 **transformative experiences** annually for Harvard students to serve, study, and intern across dozens of African countries. We mentor and train African **postdoctoral fellows**. And we provide an **Africa-focused intellectual hub** in the heart of Harvard square and through our Africa Office.

CATALYZING IMPACT

We create dozens of **events, seminars, and workshops** each year to amplify an **African-focused agenda** for Harvard and the world. We listen to leaders from Africa's public and private sectors, from presidents, to grassroots activists, in order to shape an African Studies equipped for the 21st Century - and we collaborate to **transform cutting edge research into real-world impact**. Technology and innovation, demographic change and the youth dividend, climate solutions, and African leadership are some of our newest focus areas, joining existing strengths in arts and cultural power, STEM, health, education, religion and public life, and business and entrepreneurship.

10 Years of Impact



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Tom Osborn (Harvard College '20) received CAS research and travel funding in summer 2018 and 2019 to examine and support adolescent mental health through a project he called *Shamiri*. Today, Shamiri Institute trains youth mental health workers in Kenya and Ethiopia, and aims to serve one million African youth by 2027.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Zakhona Mvelase (HKS MPA '22) was a 2020 Harvard South Africa Program Fellow. She works for the National Treasury of South Africa and founded the African Women Against Corruption Network, an independent anti-corruption think tank on a mission to advance women's participation in fighting corruption in Africa.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



John Mugane, African Language Program Director, is the recipient of several CAS research grants for his pioneering work on the use of AI to design an African languages database. His work presents an unprecedented opportunity to improve African life by making African languages easily translated without the need for human translators using AI.

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330

Harvard students
funded for research and
transformative
experiences in Africa

97

Students funded for the
study of African
languages

1,500+

K-14 Teachers trained
through curriculum
development programs

60

Fellows brought to
Harvard with funding
and faculty mentorship

53

Harvard Faculty funded
for Africa-related
research initiatives

Get Involved



CONVENINGS AND CONNECTIONS

\$500 sponsors a Director's Lunch or virtual seminar series on cutting edge research and current events shaping the region. Recent examples include "AI and Tech Governance in Africa", a series on "Conflict and Peace in Africa: Behind the headlines", and the forthcoming "Africa's Agenda for the Next US President".



TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

\$3000 fully funds 2-3 weeks of transformative learning in Africa for Harvard College and graduate students. CAS is the premier sponsor of research and internship opportunities in Africa, giving Harvard's brightest and most motivated students the chance to learn or serve in African businesses, nonprofit organizations, and research institutions.



CATALYZING CHANGE

Consider joining the CAS Director's Circle or creating a *named endowment*, for which Harvard will steward your gift to CAS in perpetuity to maintain Africa-focused programs and knowledge-creation. We would love to work with you to create a named fund, residency, or fellowship that honors and reflects your commitment to Africa's future.

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