

CERM-ESA

East and South African-German Centre of Excellence
for Educational Research Methodologies and Management



Newsletter 1/2017



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Editorial

The year 2017 kicked off with great success for the *East and South African-German Centre of Excellence for Educational Research Methodologies and Management (CERM-ESA)*.

The staff development programme on Research Supervision graduated an additional 29 faculty members from the partner institutions. The scholarship holders were immensely trained on data analysis and interpretation during our second CERM-ESA school in February and are soon submitting their theses at Nelson Mandela University. And as we celebrate the graduation of our first cohort of students, our second cohort of 10 highly motivated Master's students was awarded scholarships in the beginning of the year. The new cohort is enrolled at Moi University in our newly developed and launched Master of Education in Research programme. Our doctoral students are in the field for their data generation. In advancing and expanding our research agenda, several members of staff and students were sponsored to attend international

conferences and present their papers. The project leaders attended the networking meeting that fosters exchange of ideas between all Centres of African Excellence. The Centre will soon be organizing the second capacity building for teachers from the North-Rift region in Kenya and a research management course for deans, top management and research directors.

Moi University saw a change of leadership for the CERM-ESA project as Prof Julius Tanui, who was instrumental in bringing the Centre to Moi University and establishing it, left to work in Nairobi at the end of 2016. We are grateful for all he did for CERM-ESA and are happy that he still feels part of the CERM-ESA community. We had a wonderful evening at his Eldoret home in February when he invited all CERM-ESA students, lecturers, supervisors, project managers and friends from South Africa, Germany, Tanzania and Uganda for a braai and story-telling around the fire. Asante sana!

We warmly welcomed our new CERM-ESA project leader at Moi University, Prof Jonah Kindiki, who is also the dean of the School of Education and we have kept busy right from the beginning with the scholarship selection, CERM-ESA Re-

search School, steering group meetings and the launch of the new Master's Programme.

But we did not only share happy moments. The CERM-ESA community was thrown into shock and disbelief and was united in grief when our scholarship holder Josphat Gamba Wafula left us. His passing on is a strong reminder that nothing is permanent and that we should do the best we can; Gamba left a legacy of hard work, humility and courage.

Please read more on the first half of CERM-ESA 2017 in our newsletter! Thanks to Kholisa for helping to put the newsletter together! We still cannot get used to not having her on our coordination team any longer...

Malve von Moellendorff and
Susan Kurgat
June 2017



A Map of Africa identifying the African states represented at the 7th annual DAAD Scholarship Holders Meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa



Josphat Gamba Wafula

† 18.03.2017

JOSPHAT WAFULA GAMBA fondly referred to as 'big brother' by his colleague students, was our dear scholarship holder and friend. We were hugely saddened by his untimely death on the 18th of March 2017. His passing on is a big blow to CERM-ESA. He was enrolled for a Master's degree from our South African partner university NMMU and he was so close to achieve his goal as he had completed all the work that was expected of him. He was such a resourceful, hard-working, honest and visionary scholar.

His supervisor Prof Logan Athiemoolam in his condolence message had this to

Memorial

say: 'Gamba was just about to finalise his dissertation when the shock of his death hit me with a blow. In the short period that I got to know him he opened up his life, dreams, desires and hopes to me. He was a wonderful soul who touched people's lives in special ways; never judgmental, never angry about his difficult past; but always forever loving, caring, kind, appreciative and thankful for the opportunities accorded to him.... The world has lost a wonderful soul who was not meant for this earth, but who has a higher purpose beyond our worldly understanding'.

He was an excellent student who contributed to our CERM-ESA programme with his wisdom and engagement to bring change to the education sector. What he saw was that teachers need to embrace a humanizing pedagogy that fosters children and young people and empowers them to become self-reliant, free and socially responsible citizens. When he spoke about his academic and educational work, we were always proud to have him on the CERM-ESA programme. He was a shining example and role-model him-

self, always thinking of others and ready to help where he could but not pushing himself to the centre stage. He didn't talk about the good things he did but just did them. In his way, Gamba contributed to the partnership between our universities and our joint programme in so many ways and he leaves a huge gap. One chair is

empty now and this is so painful. It is sad that Gamba is not able to see the fruits of his hard work. He will be remembered as the dear, modest and engaged soul who struggled for ways to make the world become more humane.

Josphat loved his family dearly that he went to great lengths to participate in the



Susan Kurgat reads a condolence message from the CERM-ESA community at the funeral on 28



2nd CERM-ESA school in Moi University in February 2017, a month before his death. He would get up early, travel to the campus, work the whole day, and then a long distance to get home again in the evening and after a short night's rest, he would be up doing the same again... for two weeks.

How we wish we could have another day with him and most importantly witness his graduation and the fruits of his labor. Gamba's supervisors, Prof Logan Athiemoolam (NMMU) and Prof Marcella Mwaka (Moi-U), are working towards realizing Gamba's posthumous graduation: after the final editing has taken place, his piece of work is going to be submitted together with the other seven Master's theses of CERM-ESA's first cohort of scholarship holders. In that way, he will still be part of the CERM-ESA community and his work will be remembered. If all goes well, Gamba's eldest son will receive the Master's certificate on his father's behalf at NMMU in December 2017.

A tribute from his colleague students

*Oh, brother of mine,
Why did you have to go?
We all miss you so much.
I'm sure your heart still glows.
You left so suddenly,
And still so healthy.
God had other plans,
A prayer is now said, silently.
I can't express my sorrow,
Or anyone else's, for that matter.
In your death we will mourn,
Even years after.
If only you could be here,
An unfortunate truth.
You went to heaven,
Still in your youth.
Rest in eternal peace till we meet again, Gamba!*



Gamba with his supervisor, Prof Athiemoolam

Advisory board meeting



Seated from left to right: Prof Jonah Kindiki, Ina Grieb, Prof Laban Ayiro, Prof Birgit Brock-Utne, Prof Jackson Too, Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers

Standing from left to right: Prof Paul Webb, Dr Susan Kurgat, Malve von Moellendorff, Prof Karsten Speck, Dr Eugenia Kafanabo, Prof Gerald Karyeija

Africans say it takes a village to raise a child. It has taken a village to raise our baby, CERM-ESA. CERM-ESA's 'nurturing parents' come from diverse academic fields and consist of the Steering Group and the CERM-ESA International

Advisory Board. On their first official meeting on 09 February 2017, some of these 'nurturers' met for the first time while others looked back on a long history of collaboration and joint engagement. All five members of the advisory board share

in common their long-standing support for CERM-ESA and have again assured their support for years to come.

Acting Vice Chancellor of Moi University, Prof Laban Ayiro, first supported CERM-ESA in his capacity as Director of Quality Assurance and now as Acting VC of Moi University. He expressed his appreciation that the School of Education together with CERM-ESA have successfully launched a Master's by Research Programme in Education, which is unique in Kenya. Prof Jackson Too joined the International Advisory Board recently, after leaving Moi University to work with the Kenya Commission of University Education (CUE). He was instrumental in CERM-ESA's first steps and in planning the Master's by Research programme when he was still the Head of Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Media at Moi University's School of Education. As a current member of CUE, Prof Too has already started giving us valuable advice and will support CERM-ESA by sharing scholarship and research opportunities and by marketing our programmes.

Prof Birgit Brock-Utne worked with University of Oldenburg's late Prof Wolfgang Nitsch, who was the key person to

conceptualize CERM-ESA, on an educational research programme involving East African universities back in the 1990s. Birgit has contributed to CERM-ESA's first International Conference in 2015 and has served the project from the beginning with her vast experience and expertise in research collaboration with universities in East and Southern Africa. She reminds us to look for education that serves and empowers people and the society and not only individual career paths and the globalised economy.

Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers, like Prof Brock-Utne, delivered a keynote at our first CERM-ESA International Conference in 2015 and since then has worked with the scholarship holders to ensure that they take a critical and African-centred perspective on knowledge production, transformation and leadership. Prof Odora Hoppers holds a South African Research Chair in Development Education at the University of South Africa.

Lastly, Ina Grieb was one of the key persons to drive the application process for CERM-ESA and since then has guided its programmes and activities. As a former DVC for Internationalisation and Director of University of Oldenburg's Centre

of Life Long Learning, she has carried out programmes on Quality Assurance and Education Management with East and South African partners for which she has earned the title 'Mama Ina'.

CERM-ESA is proud to have such a distinguished Advisory Board and grateful for its commitment which was underlined during the February meeting. After looking back and reflecting where we are with our 'baby' CERM-ESA, future activities and the role of the Advisory Board to provide guidance and support to CERM-ESA's academic, research and staff development programmes were discussed. Asanteni sana!

2nd CERM-ESA School

It was a happy reunion of all CERM-ESA scholarship holders, supervisors, steering group members and facilitators from Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Uganda and Tanzania when all came together for the 2nd CERM-ESA School in February at Moi University. As the core activity of CERM-ESA's Academic Programme, the annual CERM-ESA Research Schools equip postgraduate students with skills in research methodologies, academic writing and oral presentations of their

research work. They also offer space for thinking and debating about research designs, the students' research work in progress, Africanisation, engagement and collaboration.

The focus of the 2nd CERM-ESA School was on the analysis and interpretation of qualitative, quantitative and mixed data, African knowledge systems and perspectives, academic writing, ethical issues and the discussion and presentation of research results. One of the

highlights was the day the scholarship holders presented their work and talked about their data generation experiences and preliminary results. The audience, consisting of academics, supervisors and fellow students from the partner universities, was very impressed with the well-planned, thorough and thematically exciting Master's and PhD projects and yet, they also provided constructive criticism in order to support and encourage the students.

"The school was of great benefit to me because I have developed confidence in how to analyse both quantitative and qualitative research, which are the areas that used to challenge me," said one student. Another student recounted how they felt that the data analysis process was intimidating and cumbersome, and how after engaging in an organic data analysis exercise, felt that they could apply the skills gained in their own research: "We are now empowered to start the analysis stage of our projects," they said confidently.



Master of Education in Research Programme launched

Moi University in Collaboration with CERM-ESA launched the Master of Education in Research Programme on Tuesday, the 25th of April, 2017. This research oriented Master's programme grounds the students in the philosophical underpinnings of social science research and focuses on cutting-edge, solution-ori-

ented and innovative research methodologies for qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research in educational settings. It offers various fields of specialization and prepares its graduates for pathways into doctoral level research or leadership positions in educational, research and policy making institutions.

It was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Research and Extension, Prof. Isaac Kimengi who was representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Laban Ayiro. Speaking during the launch, the Deputy Vice Chancellor hailed the project together with the School of Education for developing the curriculum and

thanked the partners for their cooperation. He called on the teaching staff and the students to work towards excellence in the programme.

The event was attended by the members of staff in the school of education, directors of the different institutes and students admitted into the programme.



Lecturers and scholarship holders of the Master of Education in Research Programme during its official Launch at the Centre in April 2017



Dean of the School of Education and CERM-ESA project leader at Moi University, Prof. Jonah N. Kindiki and Head of Department Dr Joseph Lelan celebrate the launch of the Master's Programme

The courses offered are as follows:

Courses Year I

EDU 800 Introduction to Research Methods

Lecturers: Prof Catherine Kiprop & Dr Kyalo Wambua Benjamin – Moi University
Prof. Karsten Speck – University of Oldenburg

RME 801 Qualitative Research Methods

Lecturers: Dr Joyce Kanyiri & Dr Emily J. Bomett – Moi University
Prof. Naydene De Lange and Dr. Mathabo Khau – Nelson Mandela University

RME 805 Quantitative Research Methods

Lecturers: Prof John Boit & Dr Sammy Chumba – Moi University
Prof. Karsten Speck – University of Oldenburg

RME 800 Research Colloquium I

Lecturers: Prof David Serem & Dr Felicity Wanjiru Githinji – Moi University
Dr. Euginia Kafanabo – University of Dar es Salaam

RME 808 Mixed Research Methods

Lecturers: Prof Rose Korir & Dr Bernard L. Misigo – Moi University
Prof. Naydene De Lange & Prof. Paul Webb – Nelson Mandela University

RME 806 Action Research

Lecturers: Prof John Changach & Dr Kefa Lidundu Simwa – Moi University
Dr Proscovia Namubiru – Ugandan Management Institute

RME 803 Evaluation Research

Lecturers: Dr Wilson Kiptala & Dr Anne Maiyo – Moi University
Dr Proscovia Namubiru – Ugandan Management Institute

RME 802 Research Proposal Development

Lecturers: Dr Lazarus Momanyi & Dr Zachariah K. Kosgei – Moi University
Prof. Nokhanyo Mayaba – Nelson Mandela University

RME 809 Project Proposal Writing

Lecturers: Dr Joseph Lelan & Dr Susan Kurgat – Moi University
Prof. Paul Webb – Nelson Mandela University

RME 807 Ethical Issues in Research

Lecturers: Dr Violet Opata & Dr Esther N. Kiaritha – Moi University
Dr. Mathabo Khau – Nelson Mandela University

Courses Year II

RME 804 Research Colloquium II

Lecturers: Dr Sammy Chumba & Prof Jonah Kindiki – Moi University
Dr. Euginia Kafanabo – University of Dar es Salaam

RME 810 Computer Applications in Data Analysis

Lecturers: Prof. Laban Ayiro & Dr Charles Too – Moi University

EDU 899 Thesis

Individual supervisors

International Orientation of the Programme

The CERM-ESA international consortium contributes to the Research Master Programme through:

- Curriculum development and co-facilitation of courses

- Annual International CERM-ESA Schools on Research Methodologies
- Scholarships
- offering opportunities for field research abroad
- Co-supervision through partner universities

Applications and enrolment

The MEd Research is a full-time programme. Course contents are delivered through lectures, seminars, tutorials, colloquia and International CERM-ESA Schools. Admission into the programme is done each year and applications can be submitted as soon as the programme is advertised (see www.cermesa.mu.ac.ke). If you are interested and hold a Bachelor's degree in Education or Social Sciences, please contact

Dr Joseph Lelan: lelankip@gmail.com

Dr Susan Kurgat:
kurgatsusan@gmail.com

Meet our new scholarship holders

1. Ida Jaribu Andrew



Upon receiving the award, Ida said: “it is really great that my dream of being an education expert will come to pass. I am thankful to DAAD through CERM-ESA for the wonderful opportunity.”

Ida was born in 1993 in Rwanyango village, Kimuli ward, Karagwe- Kagera in Tanzania. She pursued a Bachelor of Education in Physical Education and Sports sciences. She has been a tutorial assistant at the University of Dar es Salaam and in different leadership positions both in High school and at the University. Ida says she has been a class leader, cleanliness, head prefect in Kagera Regional Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) as well as the Student Club General Secretary. She is a sports lady who has participated in different sport events as a netballer, table tennis player and swimmer. Ida’s research interests are in the area of gender partici-

pation in sports and educational achievement in higher institutions. She wants to find answers to questions like: how far do female students in higher education institutions participate in sports compared to male students? Does sport help in narrowing the gender gap in higher education institutions? Why do female students in higher education institutions isolate themselves from sports?

2. Elizabeth Kamba Murithi



Elizabeth Kamba Murithi is a Kenyan graduate student of Moi University. Upon receiving the award, Elizabeth says she was so excited and overjoyed for the golden opportunity. She added that “*it has always been my passion and dream to acquire knowledge, skills and talents in the field of educational research and management in order to be able to improve, nurture and mentor students in teacher education in the community and the society at large*”.

Her goal is to pursue her Master’s degree in research methodologies and higher education management and then proceed to the PhD program and become a qualified professor in the university. She has been an active student leader during her undergraduate studies. She has a diploma in Education (early childhood) where she acquired some knowledge in research monitoring and evaluation.

3. Ann Wanjiku Mwangi



Ann Wanjiku Mwangi from Uasin Gishu County in Kenya graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Kiswahili and History. Ann is a former student leader at Moi University. She has worked with the community through social engagement since 2007. She has a dream of working with the government education sector to enhance management of schools to contribute to the realization of Kenya’s vision 2030. Ann’s research interests stems from her experi-

ences while studying in Keringet Missionary School which is a community school in her home town. Ann says, “*I want to improve community schools to ensure efficiency and effectiveness*”. Her topic is on “strategies to enhance learner retention in community secondary schools in Kenya and South Africa”. She hopes to completely understand the reasons behind learners not completing their education which could be attributed to internal efficiency in schools, culture interference and poverty. The strategies evaluated will serve as remedies for the challenges that lead to low levels of completions. The research findings and recommendations will hopefully help in decision making during policy formulation and review.

4. David Lagat



David Lagat is proud to have received the scholarship. He said: *“the scholarship award is the best opportunity in my life because I will fulfill my scholarly dream of improving the lives of children with hearing impairment in West Pokot.”* David is a graduate of Moi University with a Bachelor of Education in special needs in hearing impairment. He has been is a special needs teacher in West Pokot and in charge of co-curricular activities, guiding and counseling. He established the first school for impaired hearing in the county. Pursuant to the research programme, he will be equipped with knowledge skills and attitudes to understand more about communities, their cultures in terms of its beliefs, norms, values and practices in order to come up with mechanism to mitigate those negative cultural practices that are retrogressive and detrimental to education of learners with special needs such as cattle rustling, female genital mutilation and the view that learners with special needs are bad omens. David is passionate that the findings will go a long way

to equipping teachers, education officers and other stakeholders working among communities with knowledge skills and attitudes.

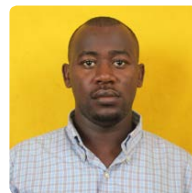
5. Simon Ekiru



Simon Ekiru from Lodwar, Turkana County in Kenya, is a graduate teacher of Kiswahili language and History. He has engaged in Linguistic and Literary research, among other activities aimed at improving and empowering society. His proposed topic is on *“methodologies and mechanisms how we can make global languages to accommodate the Turkana language to become a tool for social-economic empowerment.”* Simon’s passion emanates from his observation that, *“in Kenya, 54 years since independence, the Turkana community is still choked by marginalization and adverse poverty. The community is not exposed to globalization due to linguistic barriers between the Turkana people and other communities. The majority of people living in Turkana is not conversant with global languages such as English and Kiswahili*

which gives them a huge challenge in embracing social-economic transformation in the global world.”

6. Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela is a Ugandan graduate with a Bachelor of Education in English language and Literature from Kyambogo University. Nelson’s research interest is geared towards digging deeper and uncovering the challenges and causes in the leadership and management of community schools. Explaining the motivation behind the study, Nelson said that *“the sustainability of these community schools is vulnerable and I want to find out more about it.”* With the erosion of community schools his research will be focused on finding out if the people have the will and ability to design and implement many of the locally viable and sustainable solutions that will pride them with full ownership of these community schools. He hopes that the findings and recommendations will enhance sustainable and steady progress in social development.

7. Roba Godana



Roba Godana from Marsabit County of upper Eastern in Kenya is an English and Literature graduate teacher. He has been an adjudicator of elocution and in love with basketball and badminton as well. His research interest is in the field of ‘languages, intercultural communication, indigenous knowledge and arts’. Roba is passionate about helping the learners to appreciate the indigenous knowledge and arts to enhance the simplification of the learning process through the practical approach especially literature education. He says *“it will enable the learners to be creative and imaginative by relating classroom experience to the societal experience. We must be alive to the fact that globalization and cultural diversity is a reality and not a fiction and that that we need to be culturally sensitive and appreciative to embrace intercultural communication. A person who is culturally competent belongs to the world because he/she can adapt to different situations.”* His topic will delve into intercultural approaches of different speech communities

in East and South Africa to understand the universality and the variation.

8. Rose Njage

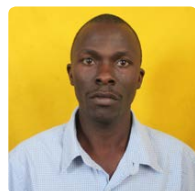


Rose Kanana Njage is an alumna of Moi University and a graduate teacher of Geography and Religion.

She received the award with great joy and says “the scholarship will make me achieve my dream of being an educationist, a researcher and a role model to girls.” Rose’s proposed research topic is on the students’ preparedness for the transition from Secondary School to institutions of higher learning. Commenting on her motivation to carry out the study, she says “It is expected that as students join universities, they are prepared to transition to this world that is different from what they were used to. During their lives in secondary school, students are directed on how to use class time and free time, are in most times confined to the school compound, have to observe rules about waking up and sleeping time, and do not fully control their finances. Yet, at the university students have to fully manage their re-

sources, both financial and time resources. The world turns into one that is full of freedom. My experience has shown that something needs to be done to ensure a smooth transition from secondary school to university to make the life and learning experience at the university meaningful”.

9. Mark Sirimbiri

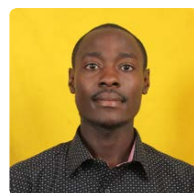


Mark Waya Sirimbiri from Bungoma County in Kenya is a graduate teacher of History and Geogra-

phy. His research interest lies in school leadership and management. Mark says: “my greatest motivation behind the study stems from the fact that community schools play an important role in providing alternative channels for students enrolled in non-formal education systems to join the formal education system. The schools provide education opportunities to children from economically impoverished and disadvantaged families who used to go to street because the nearest public schools were incredibly far. It is therefore important to acknowledge the role that the schools play in increasing access to

and participation in primary education in marginalized groups owing to their location in poor neighborhoods and slums”. The intended outcome of the study is to reinforce the capacity of officers in charge of education management and leadership in ensuring that the quality of basic education provided by evolving community schools is improved.

10. Evans Mos



Evans Mos is from Siaya County in Kenya is a graduate teacher of Early Childhood education in Social Studies and Music.

He has unique skills in mobilization and teamwork and is always enthusiastic in seeking new responsibilities and opportunities in the field of education, arts and research. He made this comment upon receiving the award, “I am completely exhilarated and felt a new dawn had come upon me, giving me the chance to engage my studies in an international realm”. Evan’s proposed study topic is ‘Implementing Character Education through Music and Movement in Early Childhood

settings’. The concept of character education broadly encompasses behavior, morals and meanings as to what is considered good and acceptable. “Character education also advocates that the child subscribes to his/her traditions, which makes him/her indigenous”, comments Evans. “The use music and movement addresses issues like health education, violence prevention, critical thinking, ethical reasoning, conflict resolution and mediation.”

Self-sponsored CERM-ESA students

11. Harriet Ramogi



Harriet Ramogi comes from Suba District in Homa Bay County. She is a graduate in Social Studies, specifically Sociology.

She was very keen to enroll in the programme. Harriet is involved in various motivational talks in schools and her research interest is on how social institutions and forces like peer pressure from friends and parents affect educational processes, outcomes and decisions on career choices. Her proposed research topic is on 'Assessing the retention rate of students on competitive programmes in selected Universities in Kenya'. Harriet says *"I believe that every university programme is marketable and that most students spend a lot of time trying to change their degree programme due to peer pressure. This study outcome would provide an avenue for decision making, guidance and counseling on various programmes."*

12. Jemima Asiago



Jemima Asiago is a graduate teacher in Early Childhood and Primary Education. She is interested in Early Childhood

and her proposed research topic is 'Early Childhood and primary Education in Kenya: Review of issues affecting performance of ECDE children'. Jemima comments that Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) globally and in Kenya in particular has been recognized as a crucial programme that lays a foundation for a child's holistic and integrated education that meets the cognitive, social, moral, spiritual, emotional, physical and developmental needs. This has not been the case in Kenya since little is done to balance the attention given to the different levels of education namely Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and University Education. Based on this, she intends to do research on the real reasons why

there is little improvement on performances of ECDE Children. She is hopeful that the academic programme will allow her achieve her dream of bringing change in the Early Childhood Education in Kenya.

13. Francis Seurei



Francis Seurei is a graduate teacher from Nandi County in Kenya and has been working in West Pokot County. Francis has

served in sports as handball coach and national referee. He is a community mobilizer on environmental programmes of tree planting in schools, annually working with CBO's to plant trees in schools in Transzoia county. He is trainer of trainers on ICT in schools having been posted by TSC to train head teachers in schools. He is engaged in motivating girl children in

Pokot County to remain in school to improve their lives through education and alleviate marginalization and hardship they are going through. Francis proposes to research on issues surrounding transition of children from primary to secondary education in arid and semi-arid areas (ASAL).

CERM-ESA participating in research conferences

My experience at the ATINER International Education Conference in Athens, Greece

I was supported by my supervisor Prof. Dr. Karsten Speck to attend the 19th Annual International Education Conference organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER). The International education conference was held from the 15th to the 18th May, 2017 at Stanley Hotel in Athens, Greece. The conference which is an annual event, attracted more than 250 educational researchers and scholars from 80 countries across the globe. Several papers were presented clustered around the following; educational foundations, language learning, online education, teacher education, bilingual education, science and mathematics education, education technology, educational leadership, information systems development for education, teaching methodologies, distance education, childhood and elementary education and higher education.

My presentation at the conference was on higher education where I presented the preliminary results of my PhD research on opportunities and challenges for higher educational institutions in addressing climate change. In my presentation, I gave a short background about CERMESA and showed how my research fits within the research themes of CERMESA specifically the theme on Science education and Education for Sustainable Development. I then gave an introduction to the research problem, the key research questions, the theoretical framework and methodology used in the study. I also presented initial findings of the study per research question for both cases Makerere University and University of Dar es salaam and the next steps for completing the project. My abstract has been published in the conference Abstract book 2017 edited by Prof. Gregory T. Papanikos, ISBN: 978-960-598-115-0.

The participants of the panel were very excited about the study and gave very useful feedback and commented on the analysis and presentation of the findings which is helping me in writing my analysis chapters for my PhD thesis. I also benefited a lot from the various methodologies and analysis frameworks used by several researchers in the different clusters during the conference presentations especially on higher education and leadership in education which are closely related to my research interests. I made a couple of friends, among them professors and scholars from Texas, Mexico, New York, Austria, Greece, United Kingdom and Italy. We continue to share experiences and ideas on education research.

Part of the conference was 2 days of touring Athens and other incredible heritage sites of Greece which I enjoyed very much. We visited the Historical temple of Apollo and the great Corinth Canal. These

were incredible sites to visit in Greece. Overall the conference gave me a lot to learn and exciting experiences in Greece.



CERM-ESA well represented at AEDA Conference

CERMESA funded colleagues, whose abstracts were accepted, to attend the annual AEDA (Association of Education Development in Africa) conference in Durban from the 3-5 April 2017. The conference, which covered an array of issues relating to education in Africa, included amongst others, issues of access, quality and outcomes, conflict and post-conflict contexts, private education, culture and education, vocational education and employment, poverty reduction, globalization and literacy and was well attended by delegates from across the African continent.

The keynote speaker at the conference from the University of Birmingham, Professor Clive Harber, presented a very insightful paper entitled 'The crux of the issue? Educational outcomes in Africa', in which he highlighted the importance of creating an equitable society so that positive education outcomes could be achieved. He also briefly examined violence in South African schools by referring to the research highlighted in the recently published book entitled 'Violence in schools: SA in an international context' written by both him and Professor V

Mncube. There were also other plenary workshop sessions that focused on the South African Qualifications Association (SAQA) and the strategies involved in writing scientific papers for publication.

CERMESA was represented by colleagues from Moi University, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the Ugandan Management Institute. The following papers were presented by colleagues who attended the conference:

- *An Uncomplicated Schema: Traditional Circumcision of the Boy-child among the Kalenjin of Kenya and the Aspirations of Higher Education* – Prof JK Chang'ach – Moi University
- *Teacher support and school environment factors influencing children's outdoor play in early childhood education in preschools in Kenya* – Dr A Kisilu – Moi University
- *Pre-service student teachers' experiences of drama-in-education as a strategy to teach a third year education module* – Prof L Athiemoolam – Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- *Evidence based teaching in higher education: Experiences from Uganda's Management Development Institute* – Prof K Karyeija – Uganda Management Institute
- *Student involvement and retention: an evaluation of the resident assistants of Uganda Christian University* – Dr FB Sajjabi – Uganda Management Institute
- *Training organized anarchy – the inalienable idiosyncratic evil of higher education institutional arrangements: Lessons from Uganda Management institute* – Mr B Mubende and Dr FB Sajjabi – Uganda Management Institute



CERM-ESA conference participants at AEDA conference 2017 in Durban: Dr Anne Kisilu, Dr Karim Ssesanga, Prof John Chang'ach, Dr Florence Sajjabi and Prof Logan Athiemoolam

During the conference CERMESA colleagues distributed newsletters among the delegates to inform them about the project and the work that already has been accomplished as a result of the collaborative partnership involving the University of Oldenburg, Moi University, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the Uganda Management Institute and the University of Dar-es-Salaam. Delegates were very impressed with the model adopted for this partnership and the collaborative relationships that have been forged across Southern and East Africa as a result of the project.



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DAAD Scholarship holders meeting

As one of the eight Centres of Excellence in Africa, CERM-ESA is proud to have been part of the 7th Annual DAAD Scholarship holders Meeting held on 23rd June -25th June in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Master's and Doctoral students from 16 universities in South Africa and 15 African countries were a part of this life changing networking event. DAAD South Africa, headed by Dr Philina Wittke, invited not only the new South African scholarship holders who were selected together with the National Research Foundation (NRF); but also, for the first time, all the African international DAAD scholarship

holders in South Africa who are studying or doing research at different institutions all over the country.

"This meeting was memorable because on the first day we were invited to a reception at the residence of the German Ambassador, where Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Matthias Hansen made the official opening," says Kholisa Papu, CERM-ESA's PhD scholarship holder at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University who attended the meeting as a delegate. This meeting also boasted of panel discussions on the prerequisites and implications of an inter-

nationalized university system for South Africa and workshops on academic writing, publishing your research, preparing for the doctoral journey and shaping ones academic career path.

The theme for this year's meeting was "interculturality/migration in Higher Education landscapes". Learning from a panel discussion and first hand experiences of two DAAD alumni on the topic of migration and interculturality, the delegates also engaged on how to strengthen synergies and co-operations in higher education across borders, cultures, nations and disciplines. This meeting of scholarship hold-

ers engaging in various research fields, was seen as a step towards discovering new paths of education where internationalization and diversity are considered as important to the success of research projects and to solutions for problems of the future. Reflecting on this meeting, Kholisa said, "migration was understood as occurring both, within and outside the borders of a particular country and that understandings of what it means to belong, of identity, culture and unity have to be curved in a way that embraces humanity, diversity and a yearning to want to 'know' or 'understand' one another".



All African and South African DAAD scholarship holders at the Residence of the German Ambassador in Cape Town.



Left: Mr Matthias Hansen (centre), Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany speaking at the official opening of the DAAD Scholarship Holders Meeting. He is pictured with Drs Lisette Andreae, Head of Education, Research, Science and Innovation at the German Embassy in Pretoria and Dr Philina Wittke, Director of DAAD South Africa.

Education in the context of global transformations

The Special Interest Group 'Interculturally and Internationally Comparative Educational Research' of the German Educational Research Association (DGfE) invited CERM-ESA to present its concept and activities at their annual symposium on the 23rd and 24th of March 2017 at Bayreuth University. Prof Christel Adick of Ruhr-University Bochum had prepared a panel discussion on 'Higher Education and Science in Development Cooperation' with two representatives of state funding organisations and two project leaders of partnership programmes with African universities. The University of Bayreuth has a long tradition of African Studies and collaboration with African partner universities. CERM-ESA project leader Prof Karsten Speck introduced CERM-ESA's three programme lines (research, academic, staff development) which are framed by the concepts of internationalisation and engagement of higher education institutions with a strong focus on South-South collaboration. The discus-

sion afterwards centred on the problem that German funding agencies provide funds for either research or exchange/academic cooperation, which is often not useful in practice, where projects and especially young scientists would benefit from an integration of both aspects in the cooperation projects.

Other topics of the symposium centred around education for sustainable development, cultural diversity and migration and the effects and impact of current global transformation processes on national education and school systems.

8th Networking Meeting of the Centres of Excellence

The 8th Network meeting of the Centres of African Excellence took place between the 5th and the 8th of April 2017 in Taita Taveta University, Kenya. All eight Centres of African Excellence which are funded by DAAD with the support of the Federal Foreign Office were represented. CERM-ESA was proudly represented by

their project leaders Prof Bernd Siebenhüner, Prof Paul Webb, Prof Jonah Kindiki and Dr Susan Kurgat.

The theme of the meeting was 'Creation of perspectives with and for Africa' which its climax was reached when the 8th Centre of African Excellence and newest was inaugurated; the Kenyan-German



From Left: Paul Webb, Susan Kurgat, Bernd Siebenhüner, and Jonah Kindiki

Centre of Excellence for Mining, Environmental Engineering and Resource Management (CEMEREM). The ceremony was presided by the Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany, Mrs Jutta Frasch together with Dr Helmut Blumbach (Director, DAAD Nairobi), Prof. Hamadi Boga (VC-Taita Taveta University), Dr Dorothee Weyler and Governor John Mruttu (Taita Taveta County).

A lot was shared in the Networking meeting and perspectives discussed for the Centre's beyond the initial funding periods. Participants shared their successes and challenges thus enabling each Centre to collect innovative ideas to build on the outreach and uniqueness of their Centre.

We were accommodated in the beautiful tourist hotel Sarova Taita Hills Game Lodge located inside Tsavo National Park and were treated to an exhilarating tour of the wide Park with huge herds of elephants, lions, cheetahs..... We enjoyed the wonderful tour thoroughly!



Participants of the 8th Networking Meeting of the Centres of Excellence in Africa

Our Journey to PE and Preparation towards Submission



Janet Ronoh

With mixed feelings of missing the family again and excited to go to NMMU to write and meet the deadline of thesis completion and submission, the day to travel to NMMU arrives. Thanks to CERM-ESA for proper arrangements and facilitation of all travel expenses. It was exciting meeting again with my colleagues at the airport but not without the sorrow of remembering our departed brother Gamba who would be travelling with us. The journey to SA was another interesting experience all the same.

At Port Elizabeth international airport, amazing! The CERM-ESA team NMMU including the project leader Prof Webb and Kholisa Papu jubilantly received us. I was eager again to settle in Summerstrand, P. E., a place I made home for three months in 2016. After a weekend of settling down, soon updating the NMMU and Moi supervisors on thesis progress and forging a way forward begun. Now as the clock is fast ticking, and in my final lap of the race that begun in 2015, I have increased my pace and directed my fo-

cus in order to finish strong and touch the tape. Thanks so much to DAAD!

Sarah Jemutai

We started our journey at Eldoret International Airport on the 2nd of June, 2017. We had a safe enjoyable flight to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi where we spent our night. We proceeded the following day (3rd of June 2017) from JKIA to OR Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport. After an hour at the Airport, we took another flight to Port Elizabeth and arrived in the afternoon. At PE we received a warm welcome from Professor Paul Webb and Kholisa Papu. They took our luggage into the vehicles and gave us a lift to Avocet guest house in Summerstrand. We took our rooms at Avocet and memories of our departed brother Josphat Gamba could not fade in our minds because one of the rooms included the one he had stayed in last October to November. May he rest in eternal peace. We went shopping after being given weekend allowance by Kholisa and by evening, had already adjusted.

The following day we continued progressing on our chapters. I had collected data both in South Africa and Kenya using



Welcome back, Sarah Jemutai!

Pre-Intervention-Post-tests, interviews and classroom observation which were all successful because I had already analysed my data back in Kenya. I was advised by my supervisor (Prof Paul Webb) to go back to chapter one and change the structure together with the tense which should be past tense. Three chapters are now okay. I am working on my literature chapter and Chapter five which is Discussions, Conclusions and Recommendations. I am determined to submit by end of July. Thanks to the founders of CERM-ESA, project leaders, coordinators my brilliant promoters; Prof Paul Webb and Prof David Serem for their tireless effort to ensure that am on the right track.

Ann Waithera

The journey to PE this time around was quite exciting, unlike last year where by I was a bit anxious being my first time to take a flight. What made the journey even more interesting was the fact that we travelled during the day, we were therefore able to grasp some beautiful geographic features like the Mt. Kilimanjaro located in the border area of Kenya and Tanzania which is the highest mountain in Africa and the Cape ranges fold mountains in



South Africa. On arrival to PE, Prof Webb who has been our greatest mentor along this academic journey was at the airport to receive us in the company of Kholisa who has become like a sister to us down South.

And honestly, the best part of PE is the Avocet guest house where we are residing, I mean it couldn't have been any better. The place is exactly what we need at this time when we are racing against time to submit the thesis by 4th August. At Avocet guest house, everyone has an own spacious room with a kitchen, bathroom, comfortable bed and particularly a reading table where you can comfortably do your studies. The environment is quiet and free from distraction superb for studying. Gratitude to my supervisor Dr Mathabo for being readily available and keeping

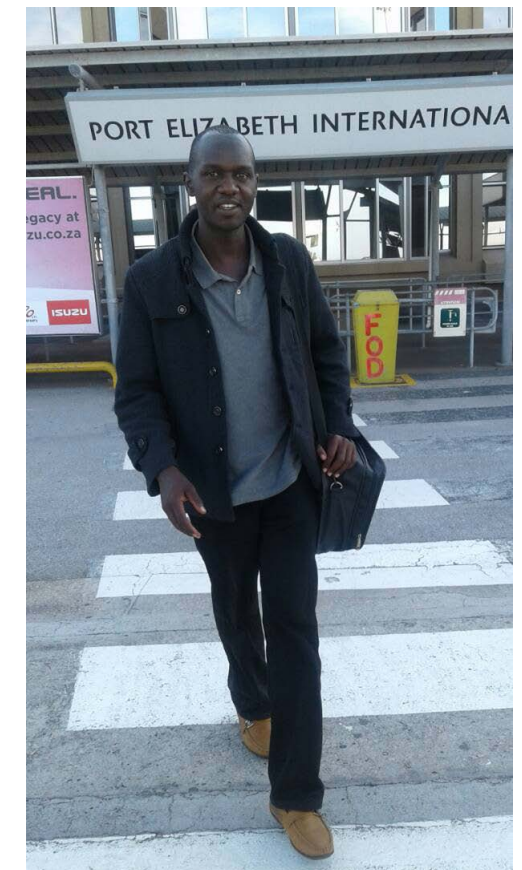
me on toes, having already drafted for me a time table to adhere to with strict deadlines. And now it is a race against time. Working day and night with very minimal time to rest, am positive that I will complete the thesis in good time and have it very well done, THANKS TO CERM-ESA.

Ezekiel Chemwor

The first CERM-ESA School for Educational Research Methodologies at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa) in April 2016 was beyond doubt the best organised and facilitated conference to introduce us into the field of educational research. With lectures and participatory activities that centred on 'Developing research ideas, Research methodologies and Comparative education' among others, we left PE in July 2016 having acquired new research knowledge and skills. The second School at Moi University (Kenya), was outstanding. It nurtured our novice experiences in research as it provided us with an impeccable opportunity to interact and learn from international guest speakers such as Prof Odora Hoppers. The one-on-one sessions with our supervisors also provided the most needed boost in under-

standing and working on the data we had collected.

Soon it was time again to pack our bags and head down south. There was great joy and happiness at Port Elizabeth



Ezekiel Chemwor after arrival in PE

Airport we were warmly received by Prof Paul Webb and Kholisa Papu.

The journey to PE was mainly for two major reasons: firstly, to work closely with our promoters to carry out proper data analysis and interpretation; secondly, to embark on a comprehensive compilation of our treatise chapters. In terms of General Rule G5.6.4 in the 2017 General Prospectus, the final date for the submission of treatises for the purpose of examination is set to be on 4th of August, 2017. As the date draws close fast, so do our hearts beat faster. The final writing of the treatise isn't anything to wake up to in the morning, it calls for burning the midnight oil. Nelson Mandela University marks and grades treatises in line with the examination policy guidelines.

We are currently working collaboratively with our supervisors in ensuring that the treatise will be ready for submission and must be satisfactory with regard to form and literary presentation. With both planned and unplanned meetings at South Campus and our place of residence the forward gear is set to move us with speed and accuracy towards the set targets. We believe that as the universi-

ty adopts its new name, Nelson Mandela University (NMU), we are equally set to reaching new heights in our quest to being professional educational research scholars.

We sincerely are grateful for the great support from our sponsors. LONG LIVE CERM-ESA.

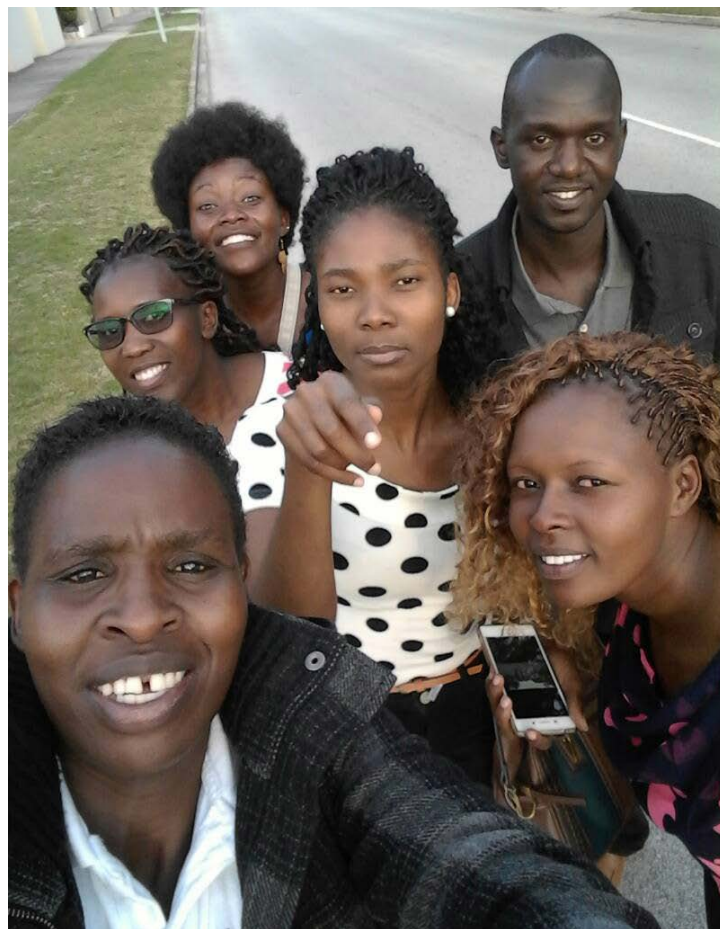
Lily Yego

I knew very little about South Africa during my first visit last year: the great footballers, great musicians like Zahara (my favourite) and the story of Sarafina. This time, unlike last year, I am more confident because by now, I am conversant with the environment. The CERMESA program has given me a global perspective and a deep appreciation for cultural diversity. And your guess is as good as mine, I am never disappointed!

My academic experience is by far the best as I man-

aged to do so much within the few days I have been here. I am geared towards submitting my work in a month's time and therefore racing against time. As an adult

learner, I am able to explore my own research interests while being supported by my two supervisors. Their willingness to help is a show of humility that has me itching to reciprocate by doing the same to my learners now and in future.



Janet, Sarah, Ezekiel, Ann and Lily are waiting for Zainab and Cornelius to join them early July for the final spurt. After submission on the 4th of August 2017, the group will travel back to Eldoret in order to be back for the Kenya general elections. Until graduation in December, more work waits for the students: a workshop on article writing and poster presentation, a reflection task summarizing their experiences with the applied methodologies and preparing an article for publication together with their supervisors. At the graduation ceremony in mid-December 2017, the CERM-ESA community will proudly watch its first graduates to receive their degrees.

Academic achievers honoured at NMMU



Above: Kholisa Papu, third from left, together with fellow recipients of the Rupert Family Trust Award, Kylie Schwegman, Alexander MacFarlane and Regan Christopher.

Congratulations to DAAD/CERM-ESA PhD scholar at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Kholisa Papu for being one of 28 top students honoured at this year's Academic Awards dinner. The university acknowledged academic achievers in each faculty, starting with those who scored top marks overall in their diplomas and degrees, before acknowledging top students in postgraduate degrees.

Kholisa is one of four postgraduate students who have received the prestigious Rupert Family Trust Award. Amongst other criteria, recipients need to have completed their Master's degree cum laude, and be currently pursuing doctoral research whose contribution is seen as having the potential to enhance the lives of South Africans.

Her Master of Education dissertation investigates the effects of using an argument-based laboratory report writing intervention called the Science Writing

Heuristic, in a first year mechanical engineering classroom. Her current PhD topic focuses on the role of metacognitive instruction and its ability to promote reasoning and conceptual understanding of scientific phenomena in multilingual contexts.

Kholisa's study is motivated by her belief that languages such as isiXhosa are underused resources for learning and as a language of instruction. Her hope is that the deliberate use of metacognitive instruction in learning science in multilingual contexts will support a move towards developing isiXhosa as an academic language and as a language of learning science, maths and technology. Kholisa also believes that an examination of the strategic use of metacognition in multilingual science contexts will enable insights on how to cultivate reasoning and critical thinking.

We wish her well in her academic journey!

Another 29 competent supervisors

After CERM-ESA's first Staff Development Programme (SDP) 'Research Supervision of Higher Degrees in Education' had been met with great enthusiasm in 2015, the programme was carried out a second time between May 2016 and February 2017. 23 Moi University School of Education staff members successfully completed the course as competent supervisors in the second cohort. This came at the right time, just before the new research oriented Master's programme 'Master of Education in Research' was launched at the Centre at Moi University in April 2017. In order to carry out a research Master's programme, it needs highly skilled supervisors to competently guide the students in their research projects. Not only Moi University staff benefited from the course, three UDSM staff members, two UMI staff members and one colleague from the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics successfully participated in the course. The certificates were handed over on Tuesday, the 25th April, 2017 at Moi University and proudly received by the participants who had worked hard for it.

We would like to thank our 'highly competent' facilitator, NMMU's Prof. Naydene de Lange and her co-facilitator, Moi University's Prof. Rose Ruto Korir for their lively, interactive, and engaged facilitation. The course was met with much enthusiasm and evaluated as most useful by the participants. Let us hope that many generations of postgraduate students to come will benefit from the competencies gained by the supervisors!



Congratulations!!! Moi University's academic staff are awarded certificates by DVC Academic, Research and Extension Prof Kimengi, on their successful completion of the Short Learning Programme on 'Research Supervision of Higher Degrees in Education'.



How can we advance educational research?

Between September 4-10, representatives of all five CERM-ESA partner institutions will come together to think, share experiences and work on the question, how educational research can be strengthened and managed successfully on Faculty/ School and University management levels. It will be the first on-site phase of CERM-ESA's Staff Development Programme 2017/2018 starting at Oldenburg University, then including an online phase and a second on-site workshop at Moi University in February 2018. Based on a needs assessment carried out at the partner institutions, the programme 'Advancing Education Research and Research Management' focuses on good practices, challenges of translating policies into practice, know-how on successful research proposal writing and institutional models of research management that fit the local conditions and that support PhD students and researchers within the Faculties/Schools of Education. The participants of the programme, VCs/ DVCs, directors of research, post-

graduate education and research capacity development, Deans of the Faculties/ Schools of Education and researchers of the five partners will produce a good practice guide based on the exchange and work done in the 6-months programme. 'Advancing Education Research and Research Management' is funded by DAAD through the CERM-ESA project and by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony where Oldenburg University is situated. Since the mid-1990ies, the Federal State of Lower Saxony has a partnership with the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa and in 2010 Tanzania has become a partner as well. Delegates from UDSM and NMU will therefore be kindly supported to participate by the government of Lower Saxony. Oldenburg University is looking forward to host the first on-site phase of the programme in September!

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Gefördert durch:



**Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Wissenschaft und Kultur**

CERM-ESA calendar of events January – September 2017

Date	Activity	Location
January	Mid-term evaluation: self-evaluation	Centre/Oldenburg
10-11 February	Selection of 10 scholarship holders for the CERM-ESA/Moi-U degree programme 'Master of Education in Research'	Centre
12-13 February	Mid-term evaluation: interviews for external evaluation	Centre
6-19 February	Second CERM-ESA School on Research Methodologies: data analysis and interpretation, Africanisation and academic writing for CERM-ESA scholarship holders and associated students	Centre
9 February	Meeting of the CERM-ESA International Advisory Board	Centre
February	Second cohort of academic staff completes the Short Learning Programme 'Research Supervision of Higher Degrees in Education'	Centre and partners
23-24 March	Conference on 'Education in contexts of global transformation' – CERM-ESA participates in conference	Bayreuth/ Germany
15-17 May	PhD scholarship holder David Ssekamatte presents his research at the Athens Institute for Education and Research	Athens
19 May	PhD scholarship holder David Ssekamatte on a 5-month research visit at Oldenburg University	Oldenburg
3-5 April	5 CERM-ESA researchers present their papers at the Association of Educational Development in Africa (AEDA) 3rd Annual Conference	Durban
5-8 April	Centres-of-African-Excellence Networking Meeting	Voi, Kenya
24 April	Launch of the Master's Programme 2 nd cohort of Master's scholarship holders commence their studies	Centre
June - July	First cohort of Master's students visit NMMU to work with their supervisors and finalise their theses	NMMU
5 August	First cohort of Master's scholarship holders submit their theses at NMMU and return to Kenya	NMMU
25 August	First semester ends for second cohort of Master's students	Centre
4-10 September	'Advancing Education Research and Research Management' course first on-site phase for University management and research staff of all partner universities	Oldenburg
11th September	2nd semester begins for second cohort of Master's students MEd Research Programme	Centre
October	Article writing workshop for scholarship holders	Centre
November	2nd Teachers' and principals' workshop	Centre
22 December	Second semester ends for second cohort of Master's students	Centre
December	Graduation for successful candidates in the first cohort	NMMU

CERM-ESA in brief

Funding period:

August 2014 – December 2018
(first phase)

Funding volume: 1,35 Mio Euro

Funding Agency:

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) with support of the Federal Foreign Office (AA)



Federal Foreign Office

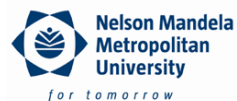
Project Partners



Moi-University, Eldoret and Nairobi

www.mu.ac.ke

The Moi University School of Education is based in Eldoret and offers various undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It plays a vital role in educational development in the region.



The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

www.nmmu.ac.za

The NMMU is one of the leading universities in the field of teacher education and education research in South Africa. It cooperates with universities all over Africa and beyond.



University of Oldenburg

www.uni-oldenburg.de

The University of Oldenburg builds on an almost 200-years long tradition in teacher education and is known for excellent, research-oriented study programmes in initial teacher education and the professional development of teachers.



Networking Partners

<http://www.umi.ac.ug/>

<https://udsm.ac.tz/>

The Uganda Management Institute and the University of Dar es Salaam complement CERM-ESA research, teaching and staff development with specific expertise in educational and management sciences.



CERM-ESA programmes

CERM-ESA has three major programmes that run concurrently.

The first is the **research programme** whose objective is to build research capacity in the partner schools of education for sustainable institution building and excellent, innovative educational research in, about and for Africa.

The second is the **academic programme** which focuses on teaching and training of future leaders in terms of research methodologies, innovative management solutions and instruction techniques on Master's and Doctoral levels.

The third is the **staff development programme** where academic, teaching and administrative/management staff of the partner schools of education and schools in the region are offered opportunities for further education and development.

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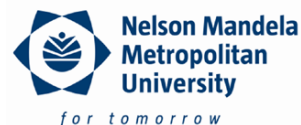


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