

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Director

As we move into the summer months, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on CAE’s activities over the past academic year. As the CAE staff, myself included, settled into our new roles, we enjoyed making connections with students, faculty, and staff across TC and the larger University about the role of the Center and exploring new ideas for collaboration. Our CAE community benefited greatly from events and other engagements with our new friends and colleagues conducting work and research in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda (details below).

Looking ahead, we are hoping to showcase the important work that students and faculty are doing on issues and topics related to Africa and the diaspora. We will share more details about our student affiliates shortly (and feel free to [express your interest here](#) if you haven’t done so already), and will begin reaching out to faculty over the summer as well.

We are also excited to announce a new project—Ubumwe 2.0: Integrating Arts for Education and Psychosocial Support with Children & Youth affected by Displacement in Uganda—[funded by Columbia World Projects](#), which builds on a pilot project. We are equally thrilled to share opportunities to join the CAE team as graduate research assistants, to either support the Ubumwe project or CAE itself (see application details below).

Finally, we would be remiss not to acknowledge the horrendous crises affecting innocent lives and disrupting educational pursuits due to conflict and violence around the world. While the crises in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine understandably demand our attention so too do the ongoing crises in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, and Sudan, to name a few. I hope that we can find ways to bring more attention to these issues through CAE’s work moving forward.

Mary Mendenhall
CAE Director

On Campus Events

Education Amidst Displacement: Reimagining the Roles of Refugee-led Organizations - March 5, 2024 -

In March, the Center held a hybrid symposium in collaboration with the African Studies Working Group and Society for International Education, entitled *Education Amidst Displacement: Reimagining the Roles of Refugee-led Organizations*. The symposium highlighted the work of three refugee-led organizations in East Africa: [Education Action in Crisis](#) (based in South Sudan, represented by Mading Peter Angong), [Tomorrow Vijana](#) (based in Uganda, represented by Kubana Alexis), and [Youth Initiative for Development in Africa](#) (based in Uganda, represented by James Ntakirutiti Gihoma). Elias Jika, a human rights advocate at the [Institute for the Study of Human Rights](#), kicked off the event sharing his experiences supporting communities affected by development projects while working for the [International Accountability Project](#).

The event brought together a diverse group of educators, researchers, and practitioners who engaged in a reflexive, collaborative, action-oriented dialogue during the panel discussion and interactive workshop. Panelists and attendees explored strategies at the individual, organization, and policy levels for dismantling the barriers that hinder meaningful participation by refugee-led and community-based organizations in humanitarian responses to crisis, conflict, and displacement.

If you weren't able to join us, we encourage you to explore the [event resource guide](#) with recommended media, reports, and articles on topics such as equitable partnerships, meaningful participation, and moving from inclusion to shifting power in the global refugee response. We look forward to continuing dialogue on these topics in future CAE events and projects.



Conference attendees and panelists joined us online and in-person at the Smith Learning Theatre at Teachers College for the symposium.



Panelists, Kubana Alexis, Mading Peter, James Gihoma, and Elias Jika engaging in a Q&A session facilitated by Dr. Mary Mendenhall, CAE Director, after the panel discussion.



During the second half of the event, symposium attendees and panelists engaged in small group conversations, reflecting on themes that emerged from the panel discussion and further topics to explore through research and collaborative conversations.


Symposium Event Page



Breaking Barriers: Bridging Educational Gaps with Basic Technology

Featuring Samson Wambuzi

- March 28, 2024 -



Samson Wambuzi, co-founder of [Yiya Solutions](#) and Obama Scholar at Columbia University, presented Yiya's approach to providing STEM learning through radios and flip-phones in Uganda. To learn more about Yiya Solutions, check out this [CNN video](#) that showcases Yiya's approach to remote learning in Uganda.



Samson engaged participants in an Engineering Design Challenge that prompted attendees to create a cell phone holder with materials such as tape, cardboard, and

Kwibuka 30: Understanding the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi Through Storytelling

Featuring Omar Ndizeye

- April 9, 2024 -

The Center was honored to host Omar Ndizeye, an author and scholar holding a Master's degree in Genocide and Mass Atrocities Prevention from Binghamton University. Omar shared his journey as a Genocide survivor and his extensive research on memorials and memorialization in post-Genocide Rwanda. Through his captivating collection of photos, *The Inkuru Collection*, Omar highlighted the power of multimodal storytelling. The event fostered a meaningful dialogue and critical reflection among students, faculty, and staff, emphasizing the importance of memory and storytelling in promoting peace and human rights education. To learn more about Omar, check out his memoir, [Life and Death in Nyamata: Memoir of a Young Boy in Rwanda's Darkest Church](#).



During the event, attendees participated in a gallery walk, exploring "The Inkuru Collection," a series of photographs Omar curated for his forthcoming book, *Journey through Rwandan Memorials*.

Lunch & Learn: Listening and Learning with Human Rights Advocates

Featuring Elias Jika, Imani Kimiri, and Esther Kimani

- April 18, 2024 -

At our final event of the semester, we were honored to host three inspiring human rights advocates from the 2024 cohort at the [Institute for the Study of Human Rights](#): Elias Jika, Imani Kimiri, and Esther Kimani. A delicious lunch was catered by [Massawa](#), an Ethiopian restaurant across the street from Teachers College.



During the lunch and learn session, they shared the journey of their work, their motivations for joining the Human Rights Advocates Program, and the successes and challenges they have encountered in engaging in activist-oriented practice and research. They discussed their plans and next steps as they prepare to return home to Malawi (Elias) and Kenya (Imani and Esther). Learn more about their impactful work by checking out their bios [here](#).

Summer 2024 Travel Grant Recipients

The CAE Travel Grant supports Teachers College Master’s and Doctoral students conducting research, interning, or volunteering in an African country or working for an organization conducting work related to education in Africa or the Diaspora.

This year, the travel grant was awarded to four outstanding students: Paola Abril, Alicia Banks, Theo Ntwari, and Sarita Oré Quispe.



Paola Abril (M.A., International and Educational Development) will be working as a Graduate Intern at the Life & Peace Institute office in Nairobi



Alicia Banks (Ph.D., Anthropology and Education) will be conducting ethnographic research in Brazil on a public history project, "Present Pasts: The Memory of Slavery in Brazil"




Theo Ntwari (M.A., International and Educational Development) will be working as a a volunteer for 2-4-1 CARE. In this role, he will be leading the pilot of sport-centered educational models that aim to promote socio-emotional well-being in children in Kenya and Zambia.




Sarita Oré Quispe (Ph.D., Economics and Education) will continue data collection for an ongoing research project in Mozambique entitled "Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Schools: Experimental Evidence from Mozambique."


Graduate Research Assistant Opportunities

The Center is thrilled to announce the opening of **two Graduate Research Assistant positions** for the 2024-2025 academic year!

 **Position Details:**

- Center for African Education Graduate Research Assistant: [View Job Description and Desired Qualifications](#)
- Ubumwe 2.0 Graduate Research Assistant: [View Job Description and Desired Qualifications](#)

 **Application Deadline:** Monday, July 15, 2024

 For any questions about the roles, feel free to reach out to us at cae@tc.columbia.

Events in the Community

Harlem Family Day with Reel Sisters
- Saturday, June 15 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM -
Maysles Documentary Center



RSVP [here](#) to reserve your spot!

CAE Resources

Having trouble finding scholarly resources about African education? Click on "CAE Library" below to explore books located in the CAE library. Search for what you need by topic, country, or geographical region.

For further support, consider consulting with the Subject Specialists at Columbia University. Librarians specialize in African Studies (both North and South of the Sahara) and African-American Studies. Click on "Main Campus Library Resources: Subject Specialists" below to learn more about each librarian's subject expertise and schedule an appointment to meet with them.

CAE Library

Main Campus Library Resources: Subject Specialists



Contact Us:
cae@tc.columbia.edu
Director: Dr. Mary Mendenhall
Teachers College, Columbia University

525 W 120th Street, New York, NY 10027-6696
Location: Grace Dodge Hall 368, Box 217

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