

**Session 1**

**8 June  
15:00-16:30 (CET)**



**The (un)expected evidence:  
COVID-19 and inequalities**

*#BuildForwardAfrica*

**Building forward more  
inclusively**

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**Martin Munu**

**Mohamed Ali Marouani**

**Thelma Obiakor**

**Adriano Alfredo Nuvunga**

**Akosua K. Darkwah**

**Stijn Janssen**

**Paul Litjens**

**Kassa Teshager**

**Dirk-Jan Koch**

**Githinji Gitahi**

**Folake Olatunji-David**

**Dzodzi Tsikata**

## Martin Munu



**Martin Munu** is a PhD Candidate at the Institute for Globalisation and International Regulation (IGIR), Faculty of Law, Maastricht University. Previously, he worked with the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) in Uganda as Research Analyst, Trade and Regional Integration. He also worked with Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) Uganda as a Programme Officer, Influencing Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiation Systems as well as with Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International, Nairobi as Assistant Programme Officer, Trade and Development.

## Mohamed Ali Marouani



**Mohamed Ali Marouani** is an Associate Professor in Economics at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Representative in Tunisia, Institute of Research for Development and Founding Board Member, Middle-East and North Africa Chair, Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University. He is an ERF Research Fellow. His research focuses on the impact of public policies on firms' and workers' vulnerability to Covid-19 crisis, structural change and skilled labor demand, evaluation of the Impact of policies and shocks and international migration and employment.

## Thelma Obiakor



**Thelma Obiakor** is a Research Fellow at CSEA. She also works as an evaluator in the fields of Economics, Education, and Finance, with a critical lens on inclusive development. Her work is situated in the nexus between research, evaluation, policy and practice. She supports international donor organisations and government agencies in gathering evidence and collecting data to inform decision making and conducts rigorous results-based evaluations to measure the impact of their work. She also offers training in Results-Based Management (RBM), including Monitoring and Evaluation, and has developed and deployed several online and offline RBM systems for NGOs in Africa.

## Adriano Alfredo Nuvunga



**Prof. Adriano Alfredo Nuvunga** is the Director of the *Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento* (CDD), a Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Organization in Mozambique. He is the Chair of the Forum de Monitoria do Orçamento (FMO), a platform of coalitions and organizations focusing on Budget and Public Finance Management. Prof. Nuvunga Chairs the newly established Mozambique Network of Human Rights Defenders. He is also a member of the Board of the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN). Prof. Nuvunga is a member of the Board of the *Africa Centre for Energy Policy* (ACEP), based in Accra, Ghana. Prof. Nuvunga is also a member of INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prof. Nuvunga teaches political science and governance at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. His next book examines the Political Economy of Mozambique's Gas Development and Nation Building.

## Akosua K. Darkwah



**Akosua K. Darkwah** is Associate Professor of Sociology and current head of Department of Sociology at the University of Ghana where she has taught for the last two decades. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses primarily on the ways in which global economic policies and practices reconfigure women's work in the Ghanaian context. To this end, she has explored the impact of structural adjustment policies on traders of global consumer items, the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) and its effect on factory workers, ILO Convention 181 on private employment agencies and its implications for domestic workers, the ramifications of the global financial crisis of 2008 and its attendant land grabs on peasant farmers and most recently, the impacts of gendered electoral financing on women's political participation. A second line of research she has undertaken, as part of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium funded by the Department for International Development, explored the gendered ways in which households are reconfigured as a result of migration.

## Stijn Janssen



**Stijn Janssen** is senior advisor to the Director General International Cooperation and deputy head of the Bureau for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Stijn is a member of the internal network of facilitators within the Ministry and facilitates meetings and teamsessions on a regular basis. She spent over 6 years in Kenya working for the European Union and Netherlands Embassy on UN, political and development issues. Prior to that, she held several other positions in the Ministry, where she started her career in 2006.



## Paul Litjens



**Paul Litjens** is the strategic policy advisor at the Sub-Sahara Africa Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Paul has worked his whole career on economic and political development issues and since 2003 has focused solely on Africa.



## Kassa Teshager



**Kassa Teshager (PhD)** is a citizen of Ethiopia. He is an associate professor of development studies at Ethiopian Civil Service University. He holds a B.A in development management from Ethiopian Civil Service University; M.A in Local and Regional Development from the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, the Netherlands, and PhD in Development Studies from the University of South Africa. He was a deputy dean for research and consultancy service at ECSU. Currently teaches and supervises PhD students at ECSU. He is also an Associate consultant at Ethiopian Management Institute. He is a Multi-method research trainer at PASGR, Nairobi, Kenya. He has published widely in the areas of development and has rich experience in teaching and research. His research interests include: Rural Development, livelihoods, land, agriculture, food security, migration, social protection, value chain, rural and urban development, local economic development, private sector, local governance, decentralization and NGOs development.

## Dirk-Jan Koch



**Prof. Dr. Dirk-Jan Koch** is committed to a sustainable world where everyone has equal opportunities, sometimes as a writer, sometimes as a scientist, then as a diplomat, and preferably all three at the same time. Dirk-Jan Koch is the Chief Science Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also professor by special appointment of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation at Radboud University in Nijmegen.

He was, among others, the Special Envoy for Natural Resources for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Director Africa for Search for Common Ground (a conflict-transformation organization). He was also a professor at the Catholic University of Kinshasa and worked there as a diplomat at the embassy. He obtained his PhD (cum laude) at Radboud University on the theme of international cooperation and wrote 3 books and dozens of peer-reviewed chapters and articles on this topic.

## Githinji Gitahi



**Dr. Githinji Gitahi** is a passionate advocate for pro-poor Universal Health Coverage. Gitahi joined Amref Health Africa as the Global Chief Executive Officer in June 2015. Amref Health Africa, founded in 1957, is the largest Africa-led international organization, reaching more than 11 million people each year through 150 health-focused projects across 35 countries. Until his appointment to Amref Health Africa, Dr Gitahi was the Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, Smile Train International. Prior to that, Dr Gitahi was Managing Director for Monitor Publications in Uganda as well as General Manager for Marketing and Circulation in East Africa for the Nation Media Group. He held progressively senior positions at GlaxoSmithKline and worked at the Avenue Group. Dr Gitahi is former co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee, a global World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) initiative for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He serves on a number of Boards, notably - Board of Directors of The Standard Group in Kenya, Board of Trustees of Safaricom Foundation and Governing Board of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and prevention (Africa CDC). Dr Gitahi holds a bachelor's degree in Medicine from the University of Nairobi, a master's degree in Business Administration from the United States International University; as well as a Certificate for Strategic Perspectives for Nonprofit Management from Harvard University. In December 2018, Dr. Gitahi was bestowed the 2018 'Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear' (MBS) by the President of Kenya, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and commitment to the health sector.

## Folake Olatunji-David



**Dr. Folake Olatunji-David** is a Director in the Educational Planning, Research and Development Department of the Federal Ministry of Education in Nigeria.

She has served for over 30 years in various capacities in the Public sector Management and Administration of Education in Nigeria, working on various national and international projects and programmes in that regard. She is married with children and grandchildren and enjoys reading and travelling.

## Dzodzi Tsikata



**Dzodzi Tsikata** is the director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon. She is also an Associate Professor at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana, where she has worked since 1991. Since 2015, she has been president of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). Dzodzi is on the editorial advisory board of several journals. She is also a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy and of Ghana's National Development Planning Commission. She holds a Ph.D in Social Science from Leiden University, the Netherlands. Her research areas include gender, development, agrarian change, land tenure, and informal work.