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ACEIR
AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR INEQUALITY RESEARCH



ARUA
African Research
Universities Alliance



ACEIR is a research centre of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). With country partners in eastern, western and southern Africa, ACEIR aims to contribute to deep, multidimensional and interdisciplinary understandings of inequality in each country context, and a continental and global understanding of how inequalities can be overcome.



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ACEIR NEWS BULLETIN

October 2022

We are pleased to share the latest news about our work and those of our researchers and partners in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, and South Africa. We focus on a series of capacity building workshops recently hosted for and by members of our

teams. These would not have been possible without the collaboration of key ACEIR partners – DataFirst; the Bristol Poverty Institute, University of Bristol; and the Agence Française de Développement.

Given the importance of such partnerships, we bring you the first in a series of reflections on these valued relationships and how we hope to strengthen them as ACEIR moves towards consolidating its research programme after a successful start-up phase. In this bulletin we focus on the the University of Bristol and, by extension, the Bristol Poverty Institute under the leadership of Prof David Gordon.

Read also about ACEIR's presence at the WIDER Development Conference on inequality that starts today, 5 October 2022; a new global gender equality research project to which a team of ACEIR researchers hope to contribute; recent publications by researchers from ACEIR's three country nodes; and join us in congratulating members of our team on new achievements.

NEWS | WIDER Development Conference on the "great challenge of our time"



*Image: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, by Johnny Miller, <https://unequalscenes.com>.
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ACEIR is hosting a parallel session on African inequality at this week's three-day international conference on reducing inequality. The event is convened in Bogotá, Colombia, by the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) in partnership with Universidad de los Andes (UNIANDES). Several researchers from the ACEIR teams will also contribute to other sessions of the conference which runs from 5 – 7 October 2022.

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NEWS | Data scholarship capacity building



Workshop participants from Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and South Africa, with University of Bristol colleagues Prof Rich Harris (front left) and Prof David Gordon (front second from left).

The vision of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) is “to strengthen African universities through effective capacity building that comes from working together with a view to increasing significantly their research output”. As an ARUA centre of excellence, capacity building through collaboration is one of the core prongs of ACEIR’s work. During the past two months, four capacity building workshops were hosted for and by ACEIR researchers in collaboration with DataFirst; the Bristol Poverty Institute, University of Bristol; and the Agence Française de Développement.

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NEWS | Exploring collaboration on global gender equality research project

Preceding the data training workshops was another knowledge exchange by invitation from Prof Gordon to the ACEIR team. Hosted by the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies as part of their seminar series, it entailed a talk on a new research collaboration on Advancing Gender Equality in Africa and Globally: Strengthening Health and Economic Outcomes by Learning What Works at Scale. This project will bring together an international, interdisciplinary team to develop the evidence on what works at scale by using longitudinal data to evaluate rigorously how national laws and policies focused on gender equality affect health and economic outcomes for women, men, and children across countries.

Prof Gordon presented this initiative together with Dr Amy Raub, WORLD Policy Analysis Center, University of California; and Dr Jody Heymann, WORLD founding director. This

work will also emphasise knowledge translation and mentorship of junior scholars with the goal of moving from evidence to impact. A team of ACEIR researchers who are interested in collaborating on this project have since met with Prof Gordon and colleagues to explore options to join projects on this important work.

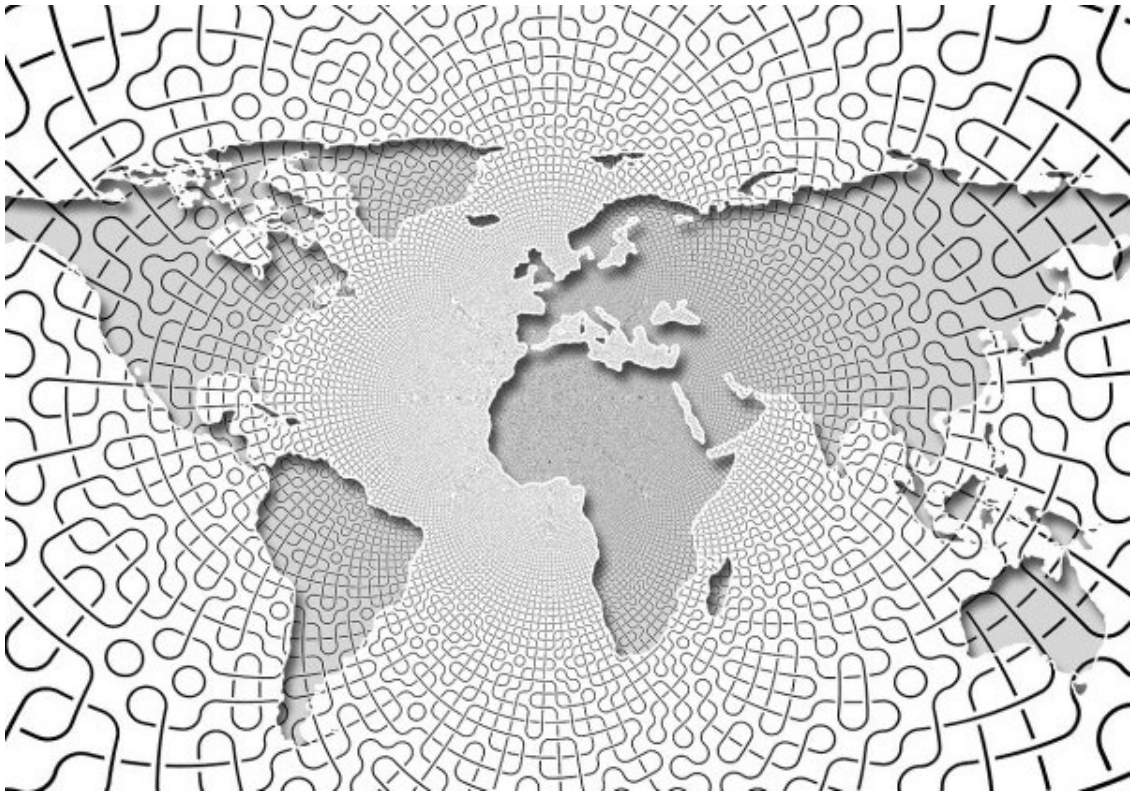
NEWS | Inequality diagnostics training for Mali team



With a small team of French-speaking researchers embarking on an [inequality diagnostic for Mali](#), a training workshop was hosted recently to orient them in the use of a key tool that guides the production of ACEIR’s inequality country reports. The tool, the *Handbook on Inequality Measurement for Country Studies*, was developed by researchers from ACEIR’s South Africa node. It has been used to guide research teams when they produced the first three African country reports on inequality trends in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa, respectively. As with these three diagnostics, the Mali report will also be completed in collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement.

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PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS| The University of Bristol



Over the past months, ample opportunities have been created for meetings and discussions with one of ACEIR’s strategic partners: the Bristol Poverty Institute and, more broadly, the University of Bristol. This comes as these were identified as partnerships to expand as ACEIR embarks on planning strategically for the next five years from 2023 onward. The focus of the Bristol Poverty Institute, a world-class research institute in all aspects of the spatial analysis of well-being, resonates closely with the spatial inequality research theme of ACEIR.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

DataFirst milestone

ACEIR’s data partner,
DataFirst at the University
of Cape Town, is 21



years old this year! DataFirst has provided the world with open access to socio-economic data from African countries and trained African data analysts since 2001. This milestone was celebrated by the DataFirst team and UCT colleagues at a cocktail party at the beginning of September. The event was followed up by a Data Quality Workshop, the latest in a [series of such workshops](#) organised by DataFirst since 2008. [Read more](#)

Conference paper award

Two members of the Ghana node, Dr Nkechi S. Owoo and Dr Monica Lambon-Quayefio, were co-authors of a conference paper which in September received an award at the

Environment for Development (EfD) 2022 Annual Conference. The paper, “Exploring the evidence for inward diffusion of soil practices among farmers in Nigeria: A spatiotemporal analysis”, was co-authored with Ebele Amaechina, University of Nigeria Nsukka. The team received Peter Berck’s Best Discussion Paper Discussion Award. [Read more](#)

New Population Institute fellow

Dr Owoo has joined the Population Institute as a senior research fellow. The Institute aims to improve the health and well-being of people and the planet by supporting policies and programmes that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. [Read more](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | **Journal articles**



Atta-Ankomah, R. 2022. Welfare effects of financial inclusion services in Ghana: A comparative analysis of mobile money and other financial services. *Global Social Welfare*, August 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-022-00234-x>

Owoo, N.S. 2022. Couple’s decision-making power, women’s labour market outcomes, and asset ownership. *Population Research and Policy Review*, July 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-022-09732-4>

Dzanku, F.M., & **Osei, R.D.** 2022. Does combining traditional and information and communications technology-based extension methods improve agricultural outcomes? Evidence from field experiments in Mali. *Review of Development Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12926>

Owoo, N.S., Lambon-Quayefio, M.P., Gyan, S.E., & Oduro, A.D. [Women's earnings and domestic work among couples in](#) Ghana. *African Review of Economics and Finance*,

14(1), 1 June 2022.

Owoo, N.S., & Osei, R.D. 2022. Exploring the dynamics of inter-household consumption inequality in Ghana. *Journal of African Development*, 23(1), 87-111.

<https://doi.org/10.5325/jafrideve.23.1.0087>

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | Research papers & research notes

Asiedu, E., **Lambon-Quayefio, M.**, Truffa, F., & Wong, A. 2022. *Private enterprise development in low-income countries. Research note*. Professional Networks and Female Entrepreneurship.

Karlan, D., Lowe, M. **Osei, R.D.**, Osei-Akoto, I., Roth, B.N., & Udry, C.R. 2022. *Social protection and social distancing during the pandemic: Mobile money transfers in Ghana*. National Bureau of Economic Research working paper no. 30309, July 2022.

Mosomi, J. & **Thornton, A.** (2022) *Physical proximity and occupational employment change by gender during the COVID-19 pandemic*. WIDER working paper 2022/90. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

Munguni, B. 2022. *Socio-economic status and children's schooling outcomes in Mozambique*.

African Economic Research Consortium research paper 511, July 2022.

Osei, R.D., Pirttilä, J., & Rattenhuber, P. 2022. *UNU-WIDER SOUTHMOD Country Report: GHAMOD v2.5, 2013–20*. UNU-WIDER SOUTHMOD country report series. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

Shifa, M., Gordon, D., **Leibbrandt, M.**, & Zhang, M., 2022. *Socioeconomic-related inequalities in COVID-19 vulnerability in South Africa*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(17): 10480.

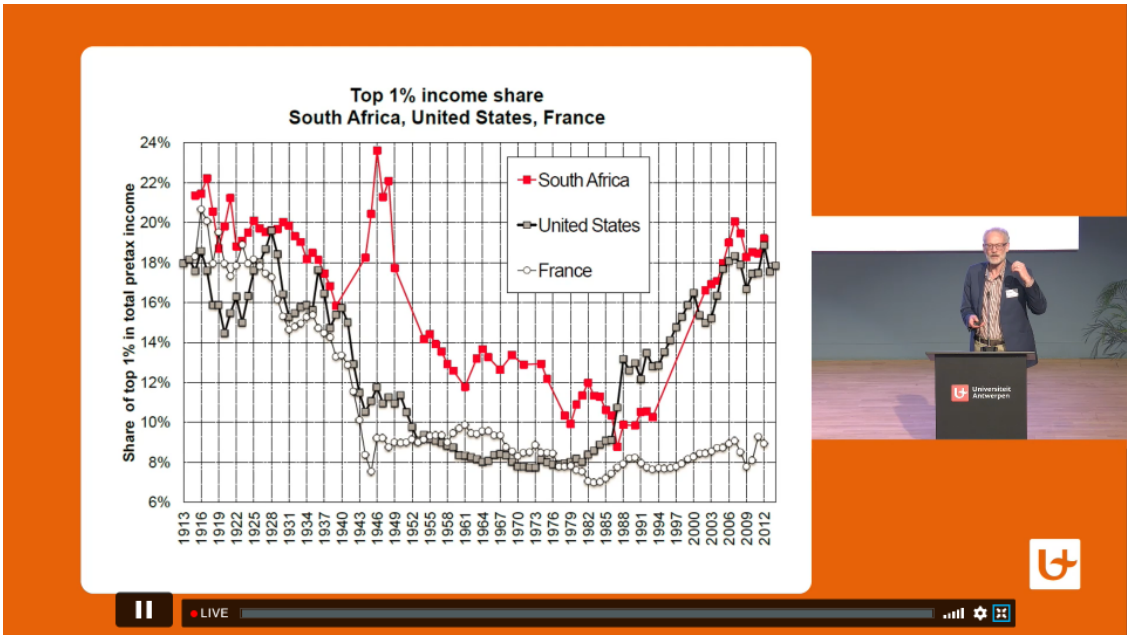
Whitelaw, E., Branson, N., **Leibbrandt, M.** (2022). *Learning in lockdown: University students' academic performance during COVID-19 closures*. Cape Town: SALDRU working paper 289. Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town.

OUR FOOTPRINT | Recent events



International Monetary Fund policy dialogue on inequality

Prof Robert D. Osei was one of the eight presenters at this high-level [policy dialogue](#) which dealt with “Developments and policy challenges in the post-COVID environment” in the context of increasing income inequality and food and fuel price shocks due to the Ukraine war. Discussing these developments, the potential policy responses; and their implementation in a very complex and tight policy environment, the event focused on sub-Saharan Africa and with discussions about the Latin America responses. Prof. Osei’s presented on “Sub-Saharan Africa: Inequality developments and description of policy responses in the region”.



Human Development & Capability Association annual conference

“Is inequality a political choice?” was the provocative title of the closing plenary of the HDCA’s 2022 conference, held in Antwerp, Belgium. The discussions were framed by the latest *World Inequality Report* of the World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics.

Arguing that “inequality is always a political choice”, the report focuses especially on policies with the potential to combine wealth redistribution and investment in a more just and sustainable future. Reflecting on these talking points in the South African and African contexts was ACEIR director, Prof Murray Leibbrandt, from the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town. He pointed out that the lack of implementing structural economic reforms (including land, tax and social security reforms) is maintaining economic inequalities. Wealth inequality exacerbates the situation as it results in multiple income sources for those in the wealthiest segments of the population.

[WATCH RECORDING](#)

Workshop on gender inequalities and economic theory and policies for a post-pandemic world

Prof Abena D. Oduro delivered the keynote at this workshop organised by the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Two colleagues from the University of Ghana who are part of the ACEIR team also made presentations at the three-day event in September 2022. Addressing the session on “Identifying gender inequalities in sub-Saharan Africa” was Dr Nkechi S. Owoo, who presented on “Women’s time poverty and non-adult supervision of children in Ghana”. Dr Monica Lambon-Quayefio spoke at the session on “Gendered paid and unpaid labour in sub-Saharan Africa” where she presented on “Child care and firm outcomes of female entrepreneurs: Empirical evidence from Ghana”. Dr Lambon-Quayefio was also a discussant at the session on “Gendered aspects of Latin American labour market”.

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IN THE MEDIA

[No one-size-fits-all on the path to African regional integration – Fellows’ seminar by Abena Oduro and Andreas Freytag](#)

STIAS News, 14 September 2022

[Cooperation with China helps promote connectivity, poverty alleviation in Africa](#)

The Independent, 19 August 2022

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