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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

December 2022

This last news bulletin of 2022 brings our readers the second in a series of



reflections on valued partnerships and how we are strengthening these as ACEIR's research strategy for the next five years is finalised. In this bulletin we focus on the London School of Economics and Political Science and in particular a new research collaboration with the LSE's International Inequalities Institute that will commence in 2023.

This newsletter illustrates a busy end to the year for the ACEIR teams in our research nodes in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.

We share news about our contributions on African poverty and inequality at recent international gatherings, including:

- The annual Agence Française de Développement International Development Research Conference,
- The second development conference for 2022 of the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research, and
- The World Science Forum 2022.

Also read about a new short video that introduces ACEIR and some members of the team; the Africa early career researchers meeting supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York that three ACEIR members attended; and join us in celebrating new achievements of individual researchers.

We are looking forward to next year with excitement.

On 7 – 8 March 2023, we will host the ARUA Climate Change and Inequalities Symposium as part of the project on Transforming Social Inequalities Through Inclusive Climate Action (TSITICA), a joint research collaboration with the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (ARUA-CD).

And, on 5 – 8 July 2023, the ACEIR hub at the University of Cape Town will host the annual conference of the International Association For Feminist Economics. The call for conference papers, posters, and panel sessions has been issued and the submissions portal will open in the coming week.

We wish our ACEIR colleagues, research and funding partners and other collaborators across the globe a peaceful, restful, and safe end to the year – and an invigorating and rewarding start to 2023.

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**PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS| The London School of  
Economics and Political Science**



Image: creativeart via [Freepik](#)

A new collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) will start in 2023. The study, on “Social mobility from the middle to the top”, builds on research already done as part of the Transforming Social Inequalities Through Inclusive Climate Action project ([TSITICA](#)) project. The new research will form part of the LSE’s International Inequalities Institute work under its research theme of “wealth, elites and tax justice”, led by Prof. Mike Savage. This important research on asset and wealth inequalities that affect social mobility draws attention to how asset stocks in the top half of the income distribution affect broader social divisions. Through this partnership, ACEIR will contribute a much-needed perspective from the Global South to this field of research.

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NEWS | [AFD 15th International Development Research Conference](#)





This year’s Agence Française de Développement (AFD) international research conference was framed by the concept of “strong sustainability”. Several papers on our work were presented at the parallel session on “Multidimensional vulnerabilities, inequalities and climate change in Africa” – including a first-time public presentation on some findings from the TSITICA project in partnership with the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (ARUA-CD).

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NEWS | WIDER development conference on inequality



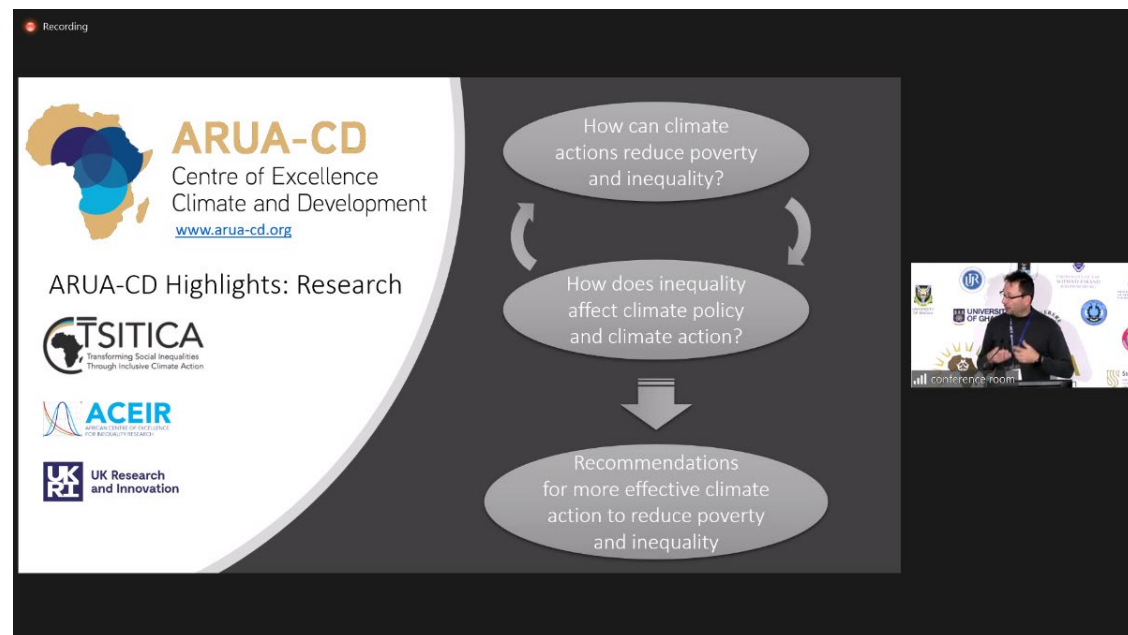
Photo: Chris Kirchhoff via Media Club South Africa

This conference on “Reducing inequality – the great challenge of our time” resonates especially within Africa, home to six of the 10 most unequal countries in the world and, correspondingly, over half of the world’s poor – in particular the extremely poor. With the

event aimed at discussing research on inequality and the policy take-aways, ACEIR partnered with UNU-WIDER's World Income Inequality Database (WIID) project to bring African knowledge and perspectives to this forum.

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## NEWS | ARUA vice-chancellors meet leaders of European research universities grouping



*Photo: Prof. Mark Newman, director of the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (ARUA-CD), introducing the TSITICA project at the meeting on 4 November 2022.*

In early November, UCT hosted a high-level delegation of 16 vice-chancellors from the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and 15 leaders from the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities (The Guild). A media statement described the purpose of the gathering as “to discuss the formation of clusters of excellence with multimillion euros in funding” that will expand on the work of ARUA’s existing Centres of Excellence (CoEs), which have “already played a significant role in fostering collaboration on the continent and providing strong instruments that promote African-centred knowledge”.

At a media discussion following the meetings, the 13 ARUA CoEs were introduced with a short video and presentations from a handful of selected CoEs. One of the centres that were showcased was the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (hosted at UCT), where ARUA-CD director Prof Mark Newman also spoke about a joint project with ACEIR – Transforming Social Inequalities Through Inclusive Climate Action (TSITICA).

[WATCH THE ARUA VIDEO](#)

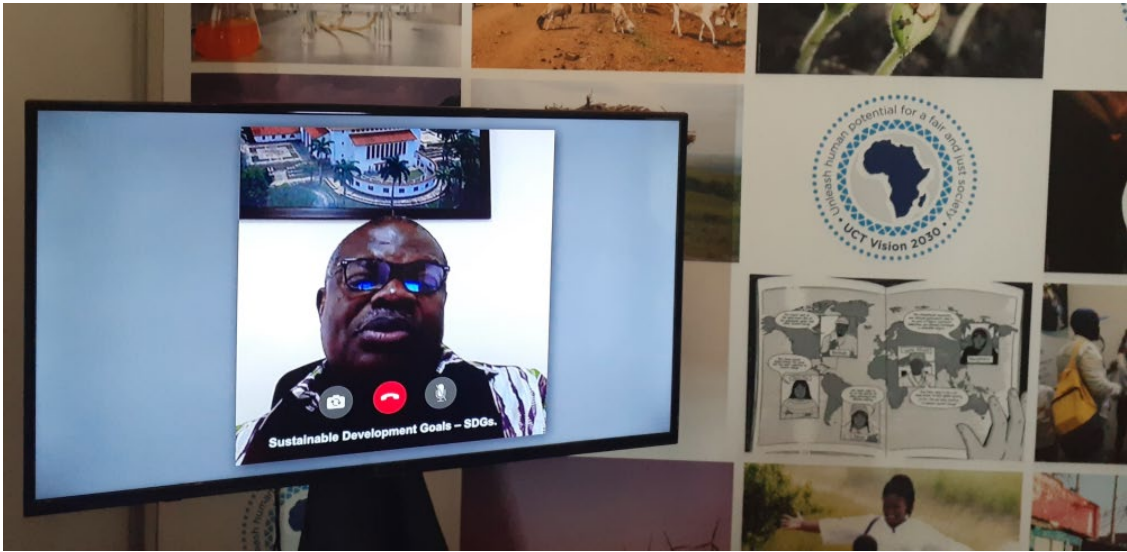


## NEWS | ACEIR @ the World Science Forum 2022

Every two years, hundreds of leading scientists, decision-makers from the world of politics and industry, civil society, and media representatives from over 100 countries gather to talk about the new challenges facing science in the 21st century. The event was staged in Cape Town this year, with exhibition themes on the role of science for climate change, poverty, inequality, and sustainability. We are grateful to UCT’s Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), which led the establishment of ACEIR and hosts the centre at UCT, for showcasing ACEIR’s contributions to the research evidence base on African poverty and inequality at this event.







SALDRU was among a handful of UCT units who were invited by the university's Global Strategy & Visibility team to showcase their work. The exhibition, which focused on themes related to the role of science for climate change, poverty, inequality, and sustainability, presented ACEIR with an opportunity to talk about our work to visitors from around the globe.

*Photos: Dr Omolola Adeola, a post-doctoral research fellow with SALDRU and member of the ACEIR South Africa team; the South African trends diagnostiic on display; Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, secretary-general of the African Research Universities Alliance, speaking in the short video about ACEIR's work.*

## NEWS: Africa early career researchers meeting



*Some of the early career researchers who attended the gathering with one of the facilitators, Dr. David Walwyn from the University of Pretoria. Photo: Francis Otieno*

Between 29 November and 2 December 2022, Dr Kwadwo Danso-Mensah, Dr Rejoice Mabhena and Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabon attended the Africa Early Career Researchers



Meeting supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) at the University of Pretoria. This gathering aimed to facilitate the establishment of collaborative research, capacity building and networking opportunities for early career researchers (ECRs) on the continent. It brought together more than 70 ECRs from Africa to network with their peers and consider the development of transdisciplinary research agendas that can connect the expertise of African researchers and facilitate the co-creation of knowledge that can influence policies and decision-making.

## NEWS: A video introduction to ACEIR



*ACEIR director, Prof. Murray Leibbrandt, being interviewed for ACEIR's first short video. Photo: Charmaine Smith*

We invite you to view our new video that contextualises ACEIR’s work as part of the 13 Centres of Excellence of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and introduce some of our team members. [Watch on YouTube](#) and tell us in the comments section what you think about it and what more you want to know about ACEIR!

[WATCH](#)

## CALL FOR PAPERS: 31st International Association For Feminist Economics Annual Conference



# equality

Image: rawpixel.com via [Freepik](#)

ACEIR is next year’s host to the IAFFE annual conference that will take place at UCT under the theme “Envisioning feminist economics strategies for an equitable and sustainable world”. The call for proposals for conference papers, posters, sessions and panels opened in early December 2022. This hybrid gathering, from 5 – 8 July 2023, brings together academics, practitioners, advocacy groups and policymakers from around the world to present their visions of what a world defined by the principles of feminist economics would look like.

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## CONGRATULATIONS!



*Photo: Syed Mansoob Murshed, Professor of the Economics of Peace and Conflict at the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University; and Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabon.*

**Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabon** received his doctoral degree in Development Studies from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 24 November 2022. His thesis,



entitled “Connecting expressions of discontent. The processes of escalation, de-escalation and recurrence of conflict in Colombia and South Africa” was completed at that university’s International Institute of Social Studies. Dr Diaz Pabon is a member of the ACEIR South Africa team.

**Dr Nkechi S. Owoo** was promoted to Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Ghana, Legon, where ACEIR’s Ghana node is based at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER).

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## OUR FOOTPRINT | Other recent events



### Measuring income, wealth and well-being in Africa

Two researchers who are part of the ACEIR teams recently presented papers at a special conference on “Measuring income, wealth and well-being in Africa”. The event was hosted by the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) in partnership with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics on 11 – 13 November 2022 in Arusha, Tanzania. The aim was to advance the understanding of issues related to measuring national accounts, prices, productivity, income and wealth distribution, poverty, and economic well-being in the countries of Africa by drawing on past measurement of trends in these variables and identifying future measurement challenges.

Dr Monica Lambon- Quayefio (University of Ghana) presented a paper on “[Walking for water and fuelwood: Welfare implications for women in Ghana](#)” and A/Prof Nkechi S. Owoo (University of Ghana) on “[Internalisation of patriarchal attitudes and women’s labour market outcomes and asset ownership in Nigeria](#)”. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a supplementary issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

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## IN THE MEDIA





**Affiliate spotlight: Robert Darko Osei on the intersection of agriculture, technology, and development**

*J-PAL Blog*, 7 December 2022

**Exhibiting at the World Science Forum 2022**

*SALDRU News*, 1 December 2022

**Seven new ARUA centres of excellence mooted for Africa**

*UCT News*, 10 November 2022

**SPREAD THE WORD**



We are encouraging our readers across the continent and beyond to share ACEIR news with colleagues and associates. If they want to stay connected, they also can [sign up](#) for future news from the us.

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