

# **GYAN Updates and Reimagining the Office for Education Abroad**

**ISP Directors Meeting  
October 25, 2022**



# International Youth Day Innovation Collaboratory

International Youth Day 2022

## Innovation Collaboratory

Friday, August 12  
9:00am U.S. EST

RSVP: [bit.ly/IYDCollaboratory](https://bit.ly/IYDCollaboratory)



Global Youth Advancement Network  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY




**2022**  
**International Youth Day:  
Innovation Collaboratory**

Friday, August 12, 2022, 9:00 am -11:00 am  
Virtual Event  
Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/92647058933>

**2022 International Youth Day**

9:00-9:02  
Global  
Connections  
Video Time

9:02-9:15  
Welcome &  
Opening Remarks

9:15 - 10:30  
Breakout  
Sessions

Youth participated:  
Alberto Acosta, Benson Abila, Chelsie Boodao,  
Maria Antonia Desiderio, Bruno Gueddes,  
Atiqah Raduan, Hibah Siddiqui

- Steven Hanson  
Associate Provost and Dean for International Studies and Programs
- Opal Leerman Bartzis  
Executive Director of Education Abroad  
Interim Director of Global Youth Advancement Network

### #1 Youth & COVID-19: Response, Recovery and Resilience

**Moderator:** Atiqah Raduan  
**Discussant:** Anjam Chaudhary, *ISP DEI Program Coordinator*

- Presenter: Tanya Marwaha *Title: Positive mental health during challenging times*
- Presenter: Olaniyi Fatalede *Title: Youths Resilience in Covid-19 Era, Recovery Plan for SDG's actualisation in Nigeria*
- Presenter: Emily Williams *Title: Extending Culture amidst a COVID-19 Pandemic*
- Presenter: Asha Jaffar *Title: Organizing during Covid Lockdown*

### #2 Education: Empower the Youth to Change the World

**Moderator:** Maria Antonia Desiderio  
**Discussant:** Emily Holley, *Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies*  
Rebekah Gordon, *Interim Program Coordinator for American Semester Program and Exchanges*

- Presenter: James Ntakirutiti Gihoma *Title: Covid-19 Resilient and Recovery in Refugee Settlement in Uganda*
- Presenter: Joel Sabal Mwala *Title: How to Steer Emancipation through Capacity Building? A Case of Masambilo Research and Sustainability Action*
- Presenter: Balycia Andrews *Title: The Garifuna University Without Walls: Cultural Sustainability, Education and Innovation at Your Fingertips*

### #3 Enabling Environment: Sustainability in Youth

**Moderator:** Benson Abila  
**Discussant:** Felix Kizame Yeboah, *Director of the Tanzania Partnership Program*

- Presenter: Abraham Kalonga *Title: Mushroom Farming for Food and Nutrition Security, Employment Opportunities, Climate Change Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation*
- Presenter: Johannah Katuma *Title: Empowering Communities to Constrict Homes from Plastic Waste*
- Presenter: Michael Diala *Title: Youth-led Climate Citizenship in PortHarcourt*
- Presenter: Engule Bern *Title: Enabling Reliable Connections Between Most Remote Small Scale Farmers and Engaged Urban Food Retailers Regards*

### #4 Youth & Gender Equality: A Better Future for All

**Moderator:** Hibah Siddiqui  
**Discussant:** Lina Qu, *Assistant Professor of Linguistics Languages and Cultures*  
Rajalakshmi Nadadur, *Assistant Director of the Center for Gender in Global Context*

- Presenter: Maesigea Jonah *Title: Supporting Women @ Sustainable Development*
- Presenter: Ibrahim Kakinda *Title: Ending Child Marriage and Early Unions*
- Presenter: Elizabeth Adikah *Title: Reducing Unemployment Among Women in Rural Communities*
- Presenter: Ngosa Patrick Shu *Title: Give Her A Chance*

### #5 Social Entrepreneurship: Redefining and Amplifying Youth Voices

**Moderator:** Alberto Acosta  
**Discussant:** Danielle Nicole DeVoss, *Interim Chairperson for the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures*, William J. Beal *Distinguished Professor*

- Presenter: Kigundu Samuel *Title: Bridging Intergenerational Gaps through Village Savings and Loans Associations*
- Presenter: Hsu *Title: Resistance Through Promoting Livelihoods of Civil Disobedience Movement Advocates*
- Presenter: Christopher Omosa *Title: Performance & Visual Art: A tool for social change*
- Presenter: Zouina Sarfraz *Title: Will COVID-19 Plunge us from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) to the Fifth (Society 5.0)?*

**2022 International Youth Day**

10:30-10:45  
Networking  
Time

10:45-10:50  
Global Youth  
Portrait Time

10:50-11:00  
Adjourns &  
Closing Remarks

Moderator: Hibah Siddiqui  
Youth Ambassador of Global Youth Advancement Network

Chirwe Effiong  
Chief Program Officer of GlobalLiving



**THANK YOU**

Global Youth Advancement Network  
Michigan State University



# Panel 1 Youth & COVID-19: Response, Recovery and Resilience



Emily Williams  
Jamaica

► Bloom where you are planted, a random line said to me by someone in my life and I have embodied this statement for the entirety of my 19 years on this earth. I am a patriotic Queen for my country Jamaica as I continue to serve in various leadership capacities from a St. James Junior Councillor to a National Youth Parliamentarian. My passion is service and culture so my entire being screams Jamaica and my personality is open to experiencing many more through whatever lens or avenue that appears in my path.

## Panel 1 Youth Moderator & Faculty Discussant

Atiqah Raduan  
Brunei



► Dr. Atiqah Raduan is an aspiring educator and lifelong learner. She graduated with a PhD in Vocational Education from Seoul National University, her research interest revolves around competency development of youth and the working population. She has been involved in several youth empowerment projects around South East Asia and co-lead a project SEALNet Project Youth.RISE in Brunei to improve the employability of young people. Currently, she is doing freelance educational research and teaching English and Korean as a second language in various institutions and self own business.

► Atiqah attended the Global Youth Advancement Summit at MSU in 2019.

Anjam Chaudhary



► Anjam Chaudhary is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program coordinator for MSU's office of International Studies and Programs. She has more than 10 years of national and international experience in academic and administrative education and a passion for intercultural communication competence.

► Before joining MSU, she served in professional development and graduate recruitment at Central Michigan University's Sarah R. Opperman Leadership Institute, where she developed and facilitated leadership workshops and conferences on diversity and interculturality. Prior to that, she was the faculty-led program coordinator in CMU's Office of International Affairs.



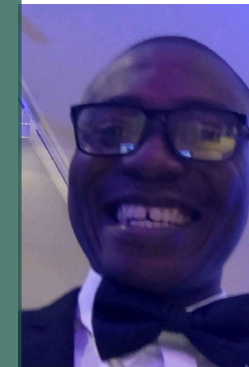
Tanya Marwaha  
United Kingdom

► Tanya is a university student that decided to pioneer youth mental health awareness during the pandemic from her bedroom. In March 2021, Tanya founded youth-led non-profit organization Championing Youth Minds, which provided free online resources, workshops and a safe space to over 500 young people across the UK and internationally. Championing Youth Minds aims to bridge the gaps in our education system surrounding mental health education and shine a light on the topics that affect us young people today. All of this would be youth-led to enable young people to help other young people care for their mental wellbeing daily.



Asha Jaffar  
Kenya

► Asha is a journalist and communications professional. She has contributed to international and local media and in 2014 won the Special Award of the Haller Prize for Development Journalism. Asha has worked as an assistant producer, translator and editor for Clear Water Productions and for the Foreign Correspondents' Association of East Africa. Born and raised in Kibera, Asha is currently managing Kibra Food Drive, an initiative she started to provide food for the needy during these times of Covid.



Olaniyi Ajayi  
Nigeria

► Olaniyi Ajayi, from Nigeria, is the leader of the group called "Youth and Useful" - where we discuss everything that makes youths stand out in Nigeria. He is also a human rights activist and nonviolence advocate, an alumni of St Francis Xavier University/Coady International Institute (Canada) on peace and conflict resolution. A law enforcement officer with a passion to always help youths achieve their dream and cause permanent positive change to their mind and community, very enthusiastic in bringing succor to the less privileged. The power of every nation is in their youth, hence his determination to see them thrive and achieve the SDG's.

## erator & Faculty Discussant

eziderio

he/her) is an Brazil. She is a the University g leader at g World Ambassador and really nd advocating for girls' rights, ductive rights especially for black nd Latin America. She worked as VidaAfrolatina, an emerging d that mobilizes resources and esendant women-led ica that address sexual violence. y, podcasts, Bahia's local music, nt creation.

0 winner of the Global Voices YAN.



### Rebekah Gordon

- ▶ Dr. Rebekah Gordon is an Education Abroad Program Coordinator and Interim Program Coordinator for American Semester Program and Exchanges at MSU.
- ▶ She is an experienced educator with a demonstrated history of working in higher education and government educational exchange programs. She is passionate about facilitating intercultural communication and conducting qualitative research focused on internationalization of education and other global education topics.



### James Ntakirutiri Gihoma Uganda

- ▶ James, Gihoma Ntakirutiri is the founder of the Youth Initiative for Development (YID) organization helping refugees in the Kyaka II refugee Settlement in Uganda. He focuses on Childhood Education and Vocational Training during the total lockdown. He has managed to raise funds for the organization for children aged 3 to 8 who are out of school. He has also created printable learning materials for the organization.
- ▶ James also provides financial literacy training to youth entrepreneurs to help them develop new business ideas through the YID. He also helps Refugee Entrepreneurs of the community can access micro-loans like money remittances.
- ▶ He pursued an Honors degree in Business Management at Glasgow University in Mauritius in 2016-2020. He worked as a branch president for the International Youth Organization (IYO) in Uganda, to help youth access scholarships and projects.

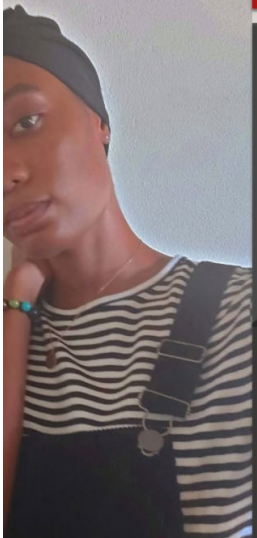


### Joel Saboi Mvula Zambia

- ▶ Joel is the Founder and Executive Director of Masambilo Research and Action, a nonprofit using research to drive sustainable development. He is an alum of Michigan State University and a member of the Advancement Network. He is currently at the Innovation Lab on SDGs at the University of Tübingen. He is also a member of the European Studies and the African Studies Student symposium. He is also the Zambia Ambassador for the World Congress on Undergraduate Research. He is a recipient of the Pretoria Tuks Merit Scholarship from the United People Global School.

### Ralycia Andrews St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- ▶ Ralycia Andrews is a proud Garifuna, Vincentian, aspiring Biological and Cultural Anthropologist, feminist and youth activist. Currently pursuing her Bachelors in Biology with a minor in Cultural Studies at the UWI Cave Hill Campus, Andrews prides herself on partnering with institutions that support diversity, inclusion, equality and cultural sustainability. Having published a number of papers, hosted and participated in panels, engaged in research internships on African-American and black identities and aided youth initiatives and policies, her work is driven by ancestral veneration and a need for sustainable development through servant leadership.



# Panel 2 Education: Empower the Youth to Change the World



**Johnmary Kavuma**  
Uganda

- ▶ Johnmary Kavuma is an Award-winning social entrepreneur from Uganda, the co-founder of Upcycle Africa, Upcycle Impact Tours, and Gewuza Foundation. As a speaker, he has been on different platforms including the One young world, Global Landscapes Forum, Seedbed Conference, Global Advancement Summit among other. His work has been featured on different media platforms include:- Aljazeera, Deutsche Welle, auslands journal, NBS tv, KTN tv, Ntv, spark tv, among others. In 2020 he received the UN habitant scroll of Honor Award and the IET Innovation Award 2019 in the category of sustainability and environmental impact. Fighting plastic waste by creatively finding ways of repurposing it into affordable eco-homes for disadvantaged communities include (refugee communities) and fostering tourism impact on communities are some of the things Johnmary is proud of.



**Engule Bern**  
Uganda

- ▶ Engule Bern is the Founder of Saben Foods. He has trained in the field of agribusiness management and finances. He holds 5+ years experience in agricultural monitoring and evaluation, logistics, marketing, crop value and supply chains.
- ▶ Engule is passionate about distribution and supply chains and working with small scale farmers to improve livelihoods by providing timely end to end solutions in agriculture production.



**Abraham Kalonga**  
Tanzania

- ▶ Abraham Kalonga is a Tanzanian agribusiness and agriculture biotechnology enthusiast with 7 years of experience. He is founder and C.E.O of Mamaland Mushrooms Company Limited, an agribusiness and biotechnology company dealing with the production of mushrooms, mushroom spawns and mushroom business consultation services for food and nutrition security (malnutrition and micronutrients deficiencies), youth employment, climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. Currently he is 2021 Mandela Washington Fellow placed at Iowa university under leadership in business and entrepreneurship.



**Michael Diala**  
Nigeria

- ▶ Michael Diala is an ambitious social innovator whose passion for solution driven impact creation has afforded him progressive learning, volunteering and work opportunities with well-rounded skill sets, including problem solving and first-rate project management. He currently facilitates lectures on Entrepreneurship and waste management at the Enterprise development center of Rivers state university. He identifies youth power as panacea to the actualization of global goals.

### Panel 3 Youth Moderator & Faculty Discussant

**Benson Abila**  
Kenya

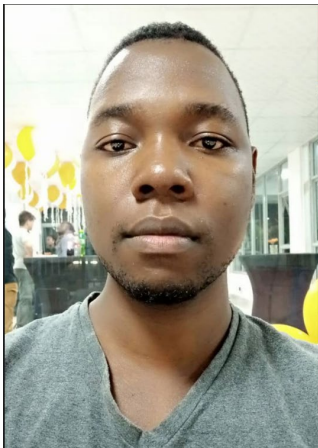
- ▶ Benson Abila is a Mandela Washington 2022 Fellow graduate from MSU.
- ▶ He has over four years of experience in non-profit, fundraising, and partnerships management. He is the founder of Homeless of Kisumu and a Board member at Daline Korando Faith Foundation.
- ▶ Benson holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He is passionate about sustainability and envisions an Africa that is self-sufficient and able to eradicate poverty using tools such as education, research, innovation, and good leadership while embracing collaboration and collective action. Currently, Benson and his team are working on a tech-integrated innovation in waste management, aimed at creating employment and empowering more vulnerable youth and women in Kenya.

**Felix Kwame Yeboah**



- ▶ Dr. Kwame Yeboah is Director of Sustainable Community Partnerships in the office of International Studies and Programs at MSU.
- ▶ For more than a decade, he has provided critical analysis to inform a range of social policies both in the US and in Africa. Notably, his research informed the USAID Kenya Empowered Youth initiative. The MasterCard Foundation's strategies promoting youth employment in Africa's agri-food system; the State of Michigan's effort to reduce non-point source pollution in the Great Lakes; and strategic change initiatives advancing solid waste recycling and energy conservation at Michigan State University.

# Panel 3 Enabling Environment: Sustainability in Youth



**Mwesigwa Jonah**  
Uganda

▶ Mwesigwa Jonah is a statistician by training with a bachelor's degree of statistics from Makerere University Kampala. He is the Co-founder/Team Lead of Kata Marine Innovation Group Ltd and Founder of Upendo Community Action Uganda, a community-based organization building community resilience and environmental protection. Jonah is a proud member of the Global Youth Advancement Network, Eastern African Farmers Federation, Innovation Village Kampala and Youth With A Mission (Ywam)



**Ibrahim Kakinda**  
Uganda

▶ Ibrahim Kakinda is a Youth and Gender Activist, Organizer, Founder and Team Leader at [Access Youth Initiative](#) Uganda. Holding Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Makerere University, am also a fellow of the Young Leaders Program of the New York-based MCW Global.

▶ My passion about Education, Youth Empowerment and Gender Advocacy inspired me to start Access Youth Initiative Uganda a youth and girl-centered Non-profit organization focused on youth empowerment programs with emphasis on supporting the girl-child in Uganda.



**Elizabeth Adikah**  
Ghana

▶ Born to a very poor family, she grew up out due to poverty after her father's death. Later, a member of the National Youth Council, she realized her potential in her and sought for formal education. Currently, she is a student of Public Health at the University of Stirling, U.K. Her dream is to become a public health practitioner to be able to create awareness and serve lives in her community. Elizabeth is the co-founder of Heritage Charity Foundation ([www.hcfghana.org](http://www.hcfghana.org)) which is taking rural women unemployed out of the illegal mining sites by providing them with entrepreneurship training programs using the innovative methods of organic vegetable farming to enable them venture into agribusiness to be able to live financial independent and self-sustainable lives. She is also providing rural children irrespective of their ethnic background with educational supplies and healthcare infrastructure.

## Panel 4 Youth Moderator & Faculty Discussants

**Hibah Siddiqui**  
United States

▶ Hibah Siddiqui is the Global Citizenship Intern at MSU's GYAN, going into her senior year majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in Chinese.



**Rajalakshmi Nadadur**

▶ Dr. Rajalakshmi Nadadur serves as MSU's Center for Gender in Global Context's Assistant Director. In this role, she manages the research team, maintains and builds the existing network comprising of interdisciplinary scholars, various MSU departments and units, external partners, and provides program management support for gender transformative research.

▶ She holds a PhD in Religion and Gender from the University of Stirling, U.K. and her research is in intersectional feminism and social justice with a specific interest in migration.



**Lina Qu**

▶ Dr. Lina Qu is Assistant Professor of Chinese in the department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures.

▶ Qu obtained her doctoral degree in comparative literature from Rutgers University. She specializes in modern Chinese literature and culture and conducts research on women writers and social media influencers.



**Ngwa Patrick Shu**  
Cameroon

▶ My name is NGWA PATRICK SHU. I am a Cameroonian human rights advocate and vice President of the Human Rights Defense Club, a nongovernmental organization. I am a holder of a bachelors degree in human rights from Saint Monica University in Buea in the south west region of Cameroon. I am also a holder of a certificate in peace building from the African peace institute and a certificate in democracy and governance from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Institute in Yaoundé, in the central region of Cameroon.

▶ I have worked as a field inspector with different organizations such as the Cameroon Network of Human Rights organization, More Women in politics, ONG UN MONDE AVENIR, REFUGEE SANS FRONTIERES. I have extensive experience in providing programmatic and technical leadership on gender and capacity building.

▶ I also conducted a research initiative from gender and child's rights perspectives by identifying street children and problems faced by some communities.

▶ I promote, educate, protect and defend human rights in all its forms.

## Panel 4 Youth & Gender Equality: A Better Future for All



Kiggundu Samuel  
Uganda

- ▶ Kiggundu Samuel is the Founder and Operations Director of Bagonvu Elderly Women's Foundation. This community driven, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Rakai district underserved elderly women and men 65 years and above, orphans and youths. This experience has given a great experience in starting & sustaining an NGO and in community participation & empowerment.
- ▶ Samuel holds a BA in social work and social administration and is a member of the Global Social Work Force. He is an alumnus of the US Department of State (DoS) professional exchange program at Michigan State University.

## Youth Moderator & Faculty Discussant

### Alberto Acosta Mexico



- ▶ Alberto Acosta was born in Xalapa, a small city in México.
- ▶ He studied communications, with a specialization in advertising. He was involved

### Danielle Nicole DeVoss



- ▶ Professor DeVoss is the Interim Chairperson for the department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture; a William J. Beal Distinguished Professor; and a Graduate Faculty member.

# Panel 5 Social Entrepreneurship: Redefining and Amplifying Youth Voices

International @ MSU

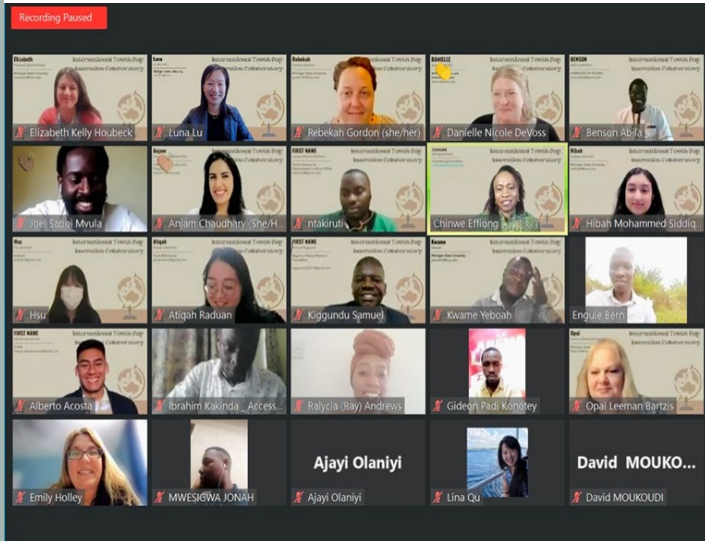


- ▶ Christopher Omowa is a filmmaker and the Creative Director of Chris Charis Concept, an emerging creative social enterprise that leverages performance and visual art to promote social change in underserved communities. His efforts are directed at accomplishing the UN SDGs 3 & 16.
- ▶ Within a year, he successfully produced three short films addressing social issues, as well as stage plays infused in his community



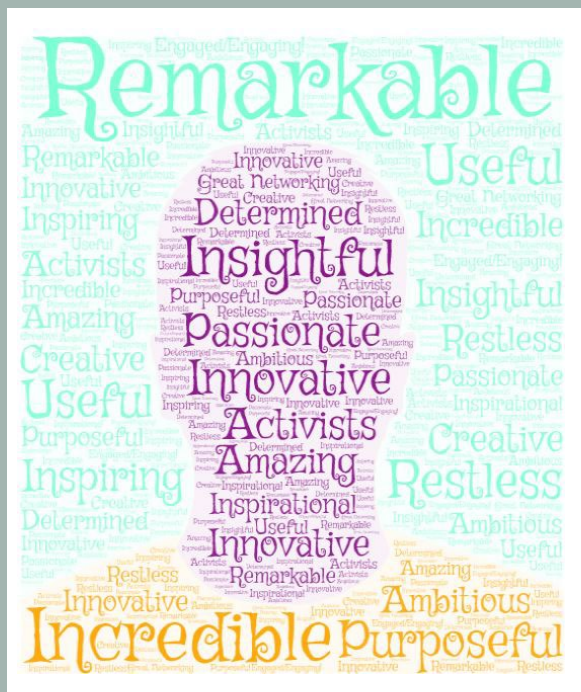
Hsu  
Myanmar/Burma

- ▶ Hsu is from Myanmar and she is currently residing in Thailand. She has been actively resisting the military junta since February 2021, and she is helping civil servants who participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). Together with her partner, she manages an online community that provides a safe place and a system of care for CDM civil servants. Hsu is currently helping CDM civil servants have access to basic necessities by providing them with start-up funding and vocational training to start small businesses.
- ▶ She is the 1st Place winner of the Global Voices Essay Contest 2021 hosted by the Global Youth Advancement Network at MSU.



# Creating a World for All Ages

- Youth Mentoring Program
  - ❖ Facilitating connections
  - ❖ Coaching on presentations
  - ❖ Supporting personal and professional development
  
- Youth Word Collage





# GLOBAL VOICES Webinar Series

GYAN launched the Global Voices webinar series to showcase the work that global innovators at MSU and around the globe are doing in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The series serves as a coordinating platform for research and outreach activities, and it connects young innovators with faculty and industry mentors who can help scale their work.

View the Global Voices Webinar episodes on our YouTube channel!

[Episode #1 Food Security](#)

[Episode #2 Jobs for Youth](#)

[Episode #3 Quality Education](#)

[Episode #4 Peace and Justice](#)



**GLOBAL  
VOICES**



## World Food Day Roundtable

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM ET (Michigan, USA)

Join the Roundtable: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97753162598>

Moderator



**SAM BIGLEY**

Service Program Alumnus, Co-owner of  
Clear Street Farms



**MOLLY SEARS**

Assistant Professor, MSU Department of  
Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics



**ABRAHAM KALONGA**

Founder and CEO of Mamaland  
Mushrooms Company Limited



**MATT HALL**

Researcher at the Center for Community  
Economic Development

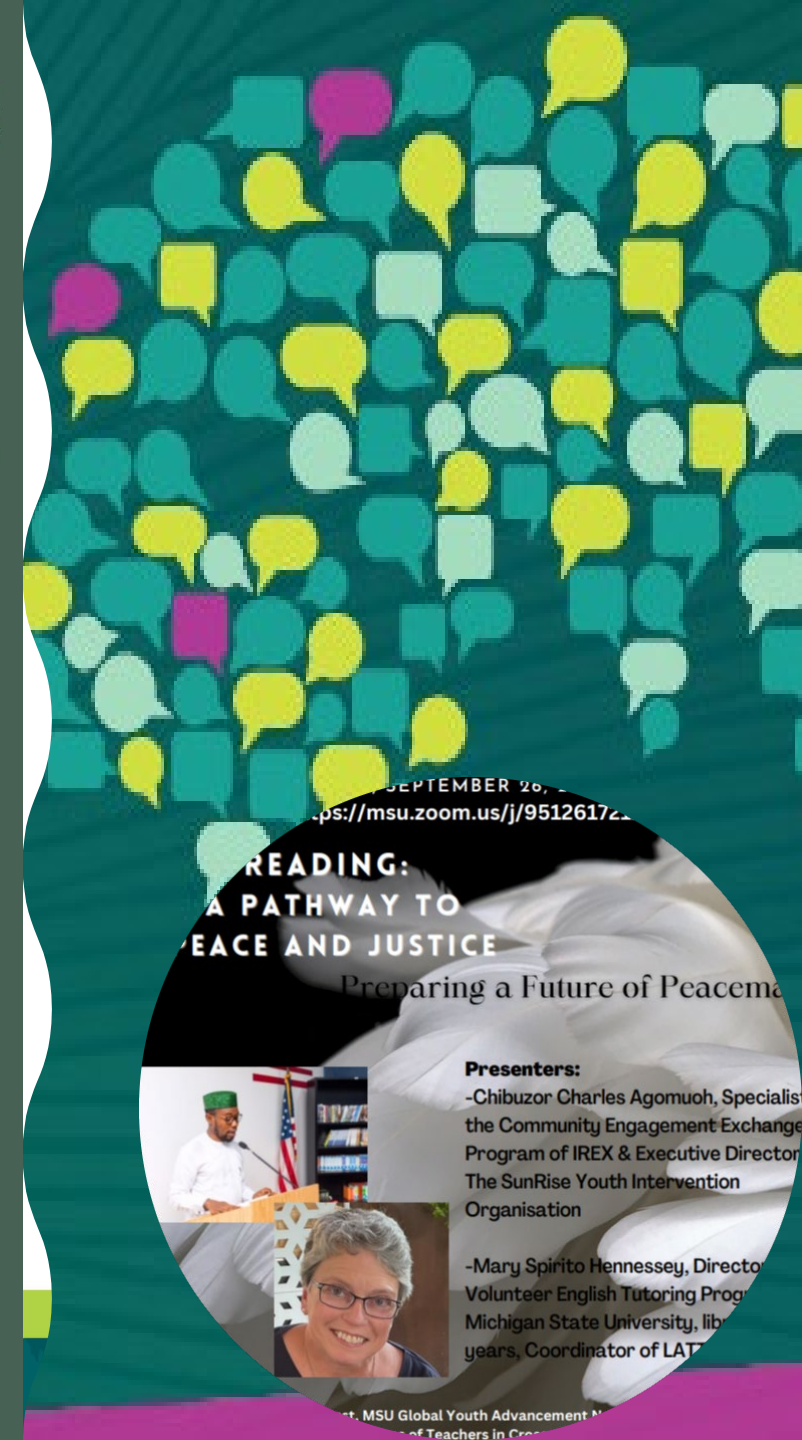


**SAMUEL GYAN**

Founder of JEGS Company Limited



Global Youth Advancement Network  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



SEPTEMBER 26, 2022  
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/95126172>

**READING:**  
**A PATHWAY TO  
PEACE AND JUSTICE**  
Preparing a Future of Peacema

**Presenters:**

- Chibuzor Charles Agomuo, Specialist  
the Community Engagement Exchange  
Program of IREX & Executive Director  
The SunRise Youth Intervention  
Organisation
- Mary Spirito Hennessey, Director  
Volunteer English Tutoring Program  
Michigan State University, 10 years  
years, Coordinator of LAT

MSU Global Youth Advancement Network  
of Teachers in Cross

# GLOBAL VOICES Spotlight Series

- With Dr. Marcy Hessling O'Neil
- With Dr. Peter Glendinning
- With Chibuzor Agomuoh



This series provides a space for intergenerational conversation between young people and professionals devoted to meaningful global engagement and problem-solving via research and outreach activities related to youth.

**GLOBAL VOICES**  
10  
*Spotlight Series*



# International Education Week

Engaged • Resilient • Global

Celebrate the benefits of international education  
and exchange worldwide.

**November 14 – 18, 2022**





# IEW Activities and Goals

2022

- Raise awareness about IEW
- Promote existing activities
- Committee building

2023

- Increase engagement outside of ISP
- Move some events to IEW week
- Pilot programming

2024+

- New IEW programming
- Robust slate of campus-wide events

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF YOUTH SPORTS



YOUTHSPORTS.MSU.EDU

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY

Youth Sport & Sustainable Development Symposium



GLOBAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORK

opportunities and solutions for global youth

[youth.isp.msu.edu](http://youth.isp.msu.edu)



@gyanmsu

International Studies Programs  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# Youth Sport Symposium



- **Platform for MSU Faculty-led research**
- **Program and Admin Support**
- **Youth Engagement**

