



Network for Education &  
Multidisciplinary Research  
Africa (NEMRA)

NEMRA news from memory lane

**PUBLISHED ON 08 SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **NEMRA 3rd anniversary celebration 25/9/2021 Theme: Accelerating quality research capacity building in Africa Keynote speaker and discussants**

NEMRA will celebrate 3 years of existence on 25.9.2021 with a reflection on research capacity building in Africa. The keynote speaker and discussants have been carefully chosen for their skills and experience in researcher training, development and mentorship.

Here is the lineup:.

### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Martin P Ongol



Dr. Ongol is the Ag Executive Secretary at the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology. He holds a PhD in Applied Biosciences from Hokkaido University, Japan and has over 23 years of professional experience. His areas of experience include strategic planning, research management and applied microbiology.

He has held several research related positions including serving as the Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the University of Rwanda.

### **Discussant 1**

Mr. Morrison Rwakakamba



Mr. Rwakakamba is the Board Chairman for the Uganda Investment Authority. He is Harvard Kennedy School alumnus and currently heads a policy think tank; Agency for Transformation.

## **Discussant 2**

Clare Viney



Clare is the Chief Executive Officer at Career research and advisory centre /Vitae UK. She is a Chartered Scientist and Chemist with extensive experience in the science community and not-for-profit sector. She is passionate about investing in future generations and those from diverse backgrounds and experiences, empowering people to realise their potential and achieve their career and development goals.

CRAC manages the Vitae Programme in higher education, strengthening institutional provision for the professional development of researchers through research and innovation, training and resources, events, consultancy and membership.

## **Discussant 3**

Professor Sarah Howie



Prof. Howie is the Director at the Africa Centre for Scholarship and has an appointment as Professor in the Centre for Higher and Adult Education in the Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education.

She has considerable international research experience including serving as national coordinator of a number of international studies in education and serving on international committees to design and implement international education research.

She studied at Stellenbosch, University of Cape Town, Witwatersrand (Masters) and her PhD at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Her field of expertise lies in large-scale international education assessment research as well as research methodology.

**PUBLISHED ON 15 MAY 2021**

## **Excellent Career Opportunities at NEMRA**

***This is an internal advert; only NEMRA members are eligible to apply.***

NEMRA is looking for enthusiastic members to run the network's day-to-day operations. The network provides a rare opportunity to serve others and enrich your profile while at it.

We are an independent group of early career and senior academic researchers as well as postgraduate research students from across several universities and research oriented organisations in Africa and beyond. Formed in September 2018, the network is based in Uganda and operates as a not-for-profit organisation to provide a platform for networking towards quality academic research for societal wellbeing.

Why NEMRA:

- i. The fragmented efforts to teach, carryout, manage and utilise academic research yield very little returns on investments made. The synergy in networking cannot be underestimated.
- ii. Postgraduate schools are looking for ways to boost completion rates of their students. NEMRA was formed to contribute to processes that accelerate this.
- iii. Universities in Africa are heavily inclined to teaching. Although teaching is important, research is core and NEMRA was formed for peer inspiration and support among academics across universities to be more involved in research.
- iv. The quality of postgraduate research programming, coordination, training, management and output could be improved. There is also a lot to be done towards mentoring the early career researchers in Africa.
- v. There is a lot of potential from universities that society is yet to tap through research.

With the help of a team of volunteers, an Executive Committee coordinates the day-to-day activities of the network. Under the leadership of the Managing Director, the committee is responsible for execution of the network's core areas of operation described in [NEMRA's Strategic Plan](#).

If you are passionante about research for and in Africa, you are welcome to apply for any of the following positions on the NEMRA's Executive Committee:

- i. **Managing Director**
- ii. **Coordinator Finance and Administration**
- iii. **Coordinator Training and Mentorship**
- iv. **Coordinator Research Projects and Publications**
- v. **Coordinator Mobilisation and advocacy.**

Details of the job specifications and job descriptions can be found [here](#).

To apply, please fill in the [application form](#) and send it with relevant attachments to [joinatukunda@gmail.com](mailto:joinatukunda@gmail.com) by **Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

**Please note:** *The positions are for part-time engagement (Minimum 4 hours a week). They accrue an honorarium allowance determined by the Board of Directors following availability of funds and performance.*

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**PUBLISHED ON 16 FEBRUARY 2021**

## **Call for Applications to IRIC-ECRU Workshop on Open Science for Research**

We are pleased to announce the second NEMRA Co-creation workshop under the Interuniversity Research and Innovation Community for the Early Career Researchers in Uganda project; IRIC-ECRU

IRIC-ECRU is funded by the government of Uganda through the Makerere Research and Innovation Fund. More Information about IRIC-ECRU can be found [here](#)

This workshop covering a wide array of topics relating to Open Science will take place virtually between the 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It will be the second of the three co-creation workshops planned on the project.

### **Workshop Description:**

The course Open Science for Research introduces basic concepts on open science and its applicability in research. The course will explore branches of open science and zoom in on open data principles for research collaboration and innovation. The goal is to create an enabling environment for collaborative research by empowering early career researchers with knowledge and skills to access, use and share research data.

### **By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:**

1. Explain open science and open data principles
2. Create open data license
3. Clean data
4. Describe challenges and benefits of open data
5. Access and publish open data
6. Apply innovation principles

### **The workshop will address a number of key topics, including:**

1. Introducing Open Science
2. Why Open Data?
3. Open Data essentials
4. Data Quality
5. Data Cleaning
6. Open Data Licensing
7. Metadata for visibility and collaborative environment
8. Challenges and benefits of data sharing
9. Cross organisation collaboration
10. Open Data for Innovation

The 5-day workshop will provide virtual 3 hours live training sessions every day of the workshop.

40 places are offered onto this workshop.

**Please note the following formal eligibility criteria:**

1. Participants must hold at least a master's degree (or equivalent).
2. Participants must be based at an institution in Africa
3. Participants must be proficient in English.
4. Senior lecturers and professors are not eligible to apply.

**About the Facilitators**

Ms. Mahadia Tunga's profile can be found [here](#)

Mr. Charles Bundu's profile can be found [here](#)

**Booking**

To book onto the workshop, we are asking you to fill in an application form [here](#)

For inquiries please email [iricmakrif@gmail.com](mailto:iricmakrif@gmail.com) or telephone +256 703 456854

**Deadline for applications: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**PUBLISHED ON 27 FEBRUARY 2020**

## **NEMRA 's got a home.**

Mutesa 1 Royal University management has offered to host NEMRA indefinitely at the University's Kampala campus in Mengo.

Part of the University's Postgraduate and Research Centre will host the network's secretariat, research clinic and a reading/writing group of 4-5 people twice a month.

NEMRA is grateful to the Vice Chancellor Professor Vincent Kakembo and his team for this huge form of support to our network.

Students and academics may now plan to make use of this facility to support and collaborate with each other.

Question: When can I and my colleagues access the research clinic to offer support/consult others? We would also like to use the facility for our reading/writing retreat; we are a group of 5.

Answer: It will be open 2 days a month; on every last Thursday and Friday of the month 9:00 a.m-5:00 p.m. Book in by contacting <Vincent.vincent.ssekitoaleko@gmail.com>

**PUBLISHED ON 28 JANUARY 2020**

## **NEMRA takes part in evaluating the 1st International Summer School on Survey Methodology in Uganda**

NEMRA is taking part in evaluating activities of the 2019 1<sup>st</sup> International Summer School on Survey Methodology in Uganda (ISSU) and looking into the possibility of the

2nd school in 2021. The week-long workshop running at Bugema University from January Monday 27<sup>th</sup>- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 also includes 2 days training sessions on Institutional Data Management.

The Summer School was the first activity of the East African Scientific Research Network (EASRN); a network of 13 institutions including Muteesa 1 Royal University, Bugema University, Islamic University in Uganda, The Economic Policy Research Centre Uganda, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Kisi University in Kenya, University of Nairobi, Makerere University, Ndejje University, Nkumba University, Wilsken Agencies Ltd, African Union of Conservationists and NEMRA.

The ISSU was held with grant support from the VW Foundation through Dr. Simone R Haasler (GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences PI), Dr. Marlene Mauk (GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Co-Applicant) and Dr. Norman Mukasa (Muteesa 1 Royal University Co-Applicant). It attracted 53 participants from 25 Universities, 8 parastatal bodies, and 5 Private Sector Organisation. The participants were from Uganda, Germany and Kenya.

NEMRA is proudly associated with this network with a vision of establishing a Data Infrastructure in East Africa and Research Capacity Building in the region. Some NEMRA members who participated in ISSU gained skills in Survey Methodology and some will be participating in the Data Management training this week. NEMRA has also formed important networks with the organisers, facilitators, participants and other stakeholders of this capacity building exercise.

**PUBLISHED ON 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

## **NEMRA Executive Committee Gets Advisors**

NEMRA has appointed new advisors and promoters who will be working closely with the Network's Executive Committee. **Professor. Stella Neema** is the advisor for Research and Research Publications, **Professor. William Bazeyo**, the advisor for Resource Mobilization and **Ms. Mercy Kainobwiso** the advisor for Legal Affairs.

Professor Neema is a senior anthropologist at College of Humanities and Social Science Makerere University. She also chairs Makerere University's Research and Ethics Committee. She has over the months been associated with the NEMRA ladies' group as a role model of a successful woman in academia.

Professor Bazeyo is the Deputy Vice chancellor Finance & Administration at Makerere University. He is passionate about research and has richly contributed to furthering research for development of the communities in Uganda and beyond. Professor Bazeyo also has an enduring commitment to supporting the NEMRA Mbarara chapter.

Ms. Mercy Kainobwiso is the Director Intellectual Property at Uganda registration services bureau. She is a qualified, competent and experienced female Advocate of the High Court of Uganda specializing in Business, company law, Oil and Gas basics and law and Intellectual Property Law. Mercy is keen about research and is closely associated with NEMRA.

NEMRA Exec and the entire network is very delighted!

**PUBLISHED ON 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

# Call for Application to the Academic Writing Workshop

We are pleased to announce the first NEMRA Co-creation writing workshop under the Interuniversity Research and Innovation Community for the Early Career Researchers in Uganda project; IRIC-ECRU

IRIC-ECRU is funded by the government of Uganda through the Makerere Research and Innovation Fund. More Information about IRIC-ECRU can be found [here](#)

This programme will take place virtually between the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It will be the first of the three co-creation workshops planned on the project and will be about Academic Writing.

## **By the end of this programme, participants will have:**

1. Obtained access to a pool of online training resources on academic writing and engaged with its content
2. Reviewed their academic writing approach, acquired new skills or ideas to enhance aspects of their academic writing
3. Reflected on their habits and effectiveness in academic writing and identified an action plan to build effective writing habits
4. Gained the opportunity to extensively discuss with other ECR and share approaches & challenges with academic writing
5. Discussed with other researchers from across institutions and disciplines about academic writing through a facilitated process aiming to initiate interactions and collaborations.

## **The programme will address a number of key themes, such as:**

1. Creativity in Research, Identifying and articulating research topics
2. Writing a literature review
3. Critical writing, Analysis, Synthesis, Argument construction
4. Choosing the right journal, Academic writing skills, Peer review
5. Personal development in writing, Writing tools and techniques
6. Developing effective writing habits
7. Creating writing communities
8. Building resilience for writing projects
9. Style consideration in academic writing
10. Academic voice and going beyond academic writing to make your research contribute to society

The key objective in this initiative is to establish a community of early career researchers and academics committed to exchange and support each other with the view of anchoring researchers' professional development as a process to build research collaboration and building research capacity.

## **Why invest a week in your academic writing competencies?**

1. Improving academic writing is a lifelong endeavour that does not just “happen”; it requires commitment, reflection and action.
2. Improving your academic writing does not need to be a lonely process but it can be enriched through exchanges with other researchers.



3. Academic writing and the successful publication of research is essential in building your academic credentials and career. As a cornerstone of academic success, committing time and effort to your professional development will be a great investment.

The 5-day programme will provide a mixture of online recorded lectures, virtual live training sessions and face-to-face writing retreats.

40 places are offered onto this programme.

**Please note the following formal eligibility criteria:**

1. Participants must hold at least a master's degree (or equivalent).
2. Participants must be based at an institution in Africa
3. Participants must be proficient in English.
4. Senior lecturers and professors are not eligible to apply.

**About the Facilitators**

Dr Sandrine Soubes profile can be found [here](#)

.Dr Kevin Byron's profile can be found [here](#)

To book onto the programme, we are asking you to fill in an application form [here](#)

For inquiries please email [iricmakrif@gmail.com](mailto:iricmakrif@gmail.com) or telephone +256 703 456854

**Deadline for applications: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**[PUBLISHED On 27 OCTOBER 2020](#)**

## **Call for Literature Review Concepts**

The Research and Innovation Community for the early career researchers in Uganda ([IRIC-ECRU](#)) project invites teams to submit concepts for desk reviews of literature on Research & Innovation in Uganda.

IRIC-ECRU is a project run under the coordination of an inter-university team of investigators from **Makerere University, Uganda Christian University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology** and **Mutesa I Royal University**. IRIC-ECRU is in its initial stages of creating an inter-university community consisting of PhD students and early career researchers in Ugandan to synergise their research and innovations (R&I) ideas into coordinated and high quality outcomes for engagement and impact. The team operates under the umbrella of the **Network for Education and Multidisciplinary Research Africa** ([NEMRA](#)).

The purpose of the reviews is to identify gaps in multidisciplinary research, R&I ecosystem building as well as knowledge and technology transfer for development in the country.

**Expected outputs of this exercise will be:**

1. Review manuscripts for publication in peer reviewed journals
2. R&I ideas for IRICommunity members to develop further for funding.

**Ideas may cover aspects including but not limited to:**

1) R&I policy formulation 2) Human capacity building for R&I, 3) Intellectual Property Rights, 4) Research funding, 5) Technology and knowledge transfer/uptake, 6) Public engagement and impact, 7) Open science and data for R&I, 8) Academic institutions' role and practice for R&I, 9) National Research Agenda, philosophy and Development

Ideas are welcome from teams comprising of 3-5 PhD students and/or early career researchers (*should have attained the PhD award not earlier than September 2015*). Multidisciplinary teams are preferred.

**Information required:**

1. Team members' full names, email addresses, institution and position.
2. Team members' proof of qualification (Proof of admission for PhD students and a copy of academic certificate for the early career researchers.)
3. NEMRA membership number (*For NEMRA subscribed members*)
4. Proposed topic for review with not more than **100 words** description of the relevance of the topic

For further information and submission email [iricmakrif@gmail.com](mailto:iricmakrif@gmail.com).

**Deadline: 15/11/2020**

**Only 5 successful teams will be contacted by the end of November 2020 for further engagement.**

**PUBLISHED ON 20 OCTOBER 2019**

## **African Scholars and the Pursuit of the Continent's Wellbeing - Professor Elizabeth Bachwayo Speech at NEMRA Anniversary**

Professor Elizabeth Bachwayo gave the NEMRA 1st anniversary speech on the African Scholar and the Pursuit of the Continent's Wellbeing. The anniversary celebrations took place on 21st September 2019 at Uganda Christian University in Mukono.



**Professor Elizabeth Bacwayo giving the anniversary keynote speech**

### **African Scholars and the Pursuit of the Continent's Wellbeing:**

There are basically four forms of scholarship

1. Scholarship as discovery. This is discovery of knowledge. Knowledge is power. Places pure/basic research and pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Scholarship as discovery of new knowledge and publication is highly recognised for postgraduate award and academic promotion in universities.
2. Scholarship as integration. Scholars reach out across boundaries to create new knowledge. Involves synthesis of knowledge from different disciplines to find relationships.
3. Scholarship as practice. Application of knowledge to address national problems in different practice. This is popular outside academia. It is rarely emphasised for postgraduate award or academic promotion.
4. Scholarship as teaching. Almost every academic is involved in this form of scholarship. It builds on the other 3 forms. Quality teaching depends on the quality of the other scholarships that the teacher engages in.

**09 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **The Anniversary Talk: Who made NEMRA great this year?**

A total of 15 research workshops were conducted in Kampala and Mbarara. Here is a list of facilitators.

1. Mr. Alfred Bongomin (Uganda Management Institute)
2. Dr. Loice Natukunda (Makerere University)
3. Professor John Mugisha (Cavendish University)
4. Associate Professor Doris Kakuru (Visiting Professor Carleton University CA)
5. Mr. Konrad Sanyu (Civia Aviation Authority, Uganda)
6. Professor Jude Lubega (Uganda Technology and Management University)
7. Dr. Edgar Nabutanyi (Makerere University)
8. Mr. Joshua Byenkya (Freelance)
9. Mrs Christine Mwebesa (Wits University, Johannesburg SA)
10. Associate Professor Mesharch Katusiime (Kabale University, Kabale)
11. Professor Stella Neema (Makerere University)

Individuals made financial donations

1. Professor William Bazeyo
2. Professor John Mugisha
3. Professor Elijah Mushemeza
4. Mrs Christine Mwebesa
5. Associate Professor Mesharch Katusiime
6. Mr Frederick Etyang
7. Associate Professor Doris Kakuru

Thank you too to NEMRA paid up members. Membership fees went a long way in financing the activities this year.

Institutions hosted NEMRA

1. Makerere University, Kampala
2. Bugema University, Kampala
3. Bishop Stuart University, Mbarara
4. Uganda Technology and Management University, Kampala
5. Uganda Christian University, Mukono (The host for the anniversary celebrations)

People who have been involved in the organisation

1. Dr. Herbert Ainamani (NEMRA Mbarara chapter committee)
2. Dr. Enock Barigye (NEMRA Mbarara chapter committee)
3. Ms. Esther Kirabo (NEMRA Mbarara Chapter Committee)
4. Dr Sazir Mayanja (in charge of membership mobilization)
5. Mr Sharif Mabingo (Company Secretary)
6. Mr Elvis Muyaja (Website)
7. Mr. Colin Agaba (Graphic design)
8. UCU team under Professor Elizabeth Bachwayo – (Anniversary organizers)
9. Ms. Anita Ashaba – Secretariat.

**06 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **NEMRA is one year.**

The Network for Education and Multidisciplinary Research (NEMRA) was founded on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018. **The anniversary celebration event is scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019. It will be held at Uganda Christian University main campus in Mukono starting at 8:00 a.m.**

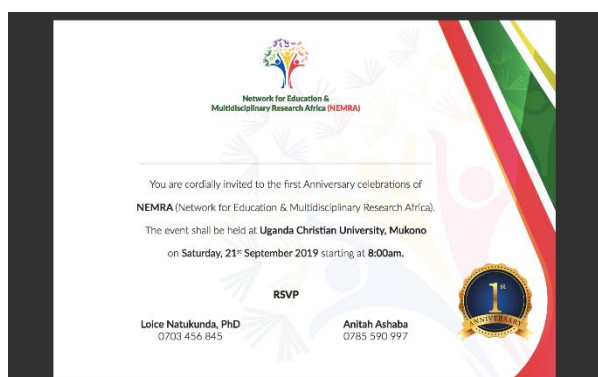
It has been a fruitful one year of existence. The network membership has increased from a handful to hundreds of postgraduate research students and academics in Universities across Africa. These are from different disciplines including Social Sciences and the Humanities, Medicine and Engineering.

Core to NEMRA's existence is research capacity building for Africa-based scholars. 15 research workshops were, to this effect, conducted in the first year in Kampala and Mbarara. These covered a wide array of topics including; Research Philosophy, Academic Writing, Searching for & Managing electronic resources, Effective Defence/Viva, Academic Research & National Development, Making sense of Qualitative Data, and Research Supervision.

NEMRA was also formed to provide a platform for interuniversity networking and collaboration for quality postgraduate education and research in Africa. NEMRA's philosophy is that: "the whole is more than singular parts put together" in the process of demystifying the issues around doing academic research, enhancing professionalism and developing insights across a wide array of disciplines. The social media engagement of members has facilitated this kind of networking and peer support. Testimonies from individuals resonate phrases like "NEMRA has been my academic family...I have through this network gained confidence about my research...the PhD journey is no longer lonely...I have learnt a lot.."

The network has a grant writing team that is currently writing proposals for research funding with some already submitted for evaluation.

A lot more is expected in the second year including strengthening of discipline specific writing groups across regions, attachment of early career researchers to senior academics across the world for mentorship, engagement of stakeholders for uptake of the network's research outputs and establishment of partnership relationships with bodies, agencies and institutions sharing the same or similar objectives.



**PUBLISHE ON 29 AUGUST 2019**

## **Do Not Shy Away From Research – Prof. Neema Encourages NEMRA Women**

[View Comments](#)

"Do not shy away from research and research administration responsibilities," Professor Stella Neema encouraged NEMRA women. This was at a breakfast held at Piato restaurant, Kampala on Saturday, 24th August 2019, to discuss experiences, opportunities and challenges of women in academia.



The breakfast was attended by women from Universities around Kampala and Mukono representing various disciplines including Medicine, Social Sciences & the Humanities as well as engineering. The women will be working on an accountability programme for peer evaluation.

**PUBLISHED ON 06 AUGUST 2019**

## **NEMRA's July 2019 Research workshop Was A 'Double Do'**

[View Comments](#)

Two workshops were conducted under the topic "Research Supervision as a mentor-mentee relationship" this month on Saturday 27th July and Sunday 28th July.



**A group photo of all the participants at the workshop held at RAN Lab in Kololo.**

Professor John Mugisha, the Vice Chancellor of Cavendish University who facilitated the Saturday event took participants through the Anne Lee approach to research supervision (Lee, 2008). The workshop was hosted by Resilient Africa Network of Makerere University School of Public health.

The Sunday event was held at Bugema University where Professor Jude Lubega, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UTAMU shared with participants about the ethical dimension of supervision, the role of doctoral committees and publications resulting from a supervisory relationship.



**Group photo of participants at the Bugema workshop.**

The participants had positive things to say during and after the workshops:

"I thank God for all this generous sharing. This is very helpful to us. I am currently on my PhD journey .

About the subject matter covered in the workshop, I realise that, the supervisor - supervisee relationship that was emphasized is a one to one relationship. But the case of a many-to-one relationship needs to be tackled. That is two or more supervisors knowing each other or not, with completely different philosophical orientations , supervising a student. How can the student get them to agree on a unified thesis theme in the event of continued divergences in their feed back? What about one being very active in reading the student's work and returning feedback while the others taking unbearably too long to reply. What should a student do?"

"The winner was on how to handle sex advances from innocent students not on basis of love but in search for marks. Though a student



can forgive you at a point in time, you as a supervisor you will never forgive yourself for being a predator. Using a personal experience and how the facilitator handled the whole situation indicated why you, Prof. John Mugisha, are a Vice Chancellor. Once again it was a great day!"



**Prof. John Mugisha, Vice Chancellor Cavendish University conducting the workshop.**

"Thank you, professor, for sharing your experiences. Personally, was humbled by your humility despite your vast experiences and levels of accomplishment."

"Thanks Dr. Loice Natukunda for today's event. It has broadened my thinking on my doctoral journey."

**PUBLISHED ON 02 JULY 2019**

## **Bugema University Hosts NEMRA 8th Research Workshop**

[View Comments](#)

Bugema University has commended NEMRA for enhancing capacity building for postgraduate research. This was at the network's 8th research workshop held at the University's Kampala branch in Makerere Kikoni over the weekend.



### **Participants at the NEMRA's 8th workshop held in Bugema University.**

The Dean Graduate School, Dr. Rosette Kabuye commended the network for organizing the workshops and networking opportunities to share knowledge with students and academicians.

“We are excited to have been given an opportunity to host and benefit from the knowledge offered on research and we hope you keep Bugema in the network,” she said.

In her welcome remarks she also appreciated the role NEMRA has taken on in providing a platform for interuniversity collaboration and networking.

NEMRA holds monthly research workshops, seminars and stakeholder engagements to develop insights into research areas, share ideas and develop networks.

“We are targeting universities and non-academic institutions to partner with to improve the academic research output in the region,” said Christine Mwebesa, one of the founders of NEMRA.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Loice Natukunda who engaged participants on making sense of qualitative data using principles from grounded theory.

By the end of the workshop, participants were able to rationalize their choice for using qualitative data and how to apply grounded theory principles to derive meaning from their qualitative data.

The next workshop will be held on 27th July 2019 at Resilient Africa Network (RAN) Lab, Makerere University School of Public Health on Plot 28, Upper Kololo Terrace in Kampala.

**22 MAY 2019**

## **NEMRA Holds First Postgraduate Research Workshop in Western Uganda**

[View Comments](#)

Network for Education and Multidisciplinary Research (NEMRA) held its first ever Mbarara Chapter Postgraduate Research Workshop at Bishop Stuart University in Kakoba on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019.



**Group photo of participants at the workshop held at Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara.**

The workshop organized under the theme: "Critical analysis in postgraduate reading and writing" was attended by academics and postgraduate students from Bishop Stuart University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST).

It was facilitated by NEMRA founders Dr. Mesharck Katusiime and Dr. Loice Natukunda who gave a talk on how to read and write critically.

In attendance was the Director Graduate School, Research and Innovation, Prof. Fina Opio, the Academic Registrar and University Secretary.

Giving closing remarks, Prof. Opio thanked NEMRA for organizing the workshop and requested it to organize subsequent monthly research workshops in Mbarara. The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th 2019 and will cover "Searching for and effective use of e-resources with the help of Zotero".

Bishop Stuart welcomed the idea of networking with other universities.

**PUBLISHED ON 30 APRIL 2019**

## 2019 Annual Plan for NEMRA Events and Activities

[View Comments](#)

The Network for Education and Multidisciplinary Research Africa (NEMRA), is an independent group of early career and senior academic researchers as well as postgraduate students from across several universities in Uganda and Rwanda.

Every month, NEMRA holds research workshops where members, PhD and masters students come together to learn, share knowledge, collaborate and network among academic researchers and scholars.

Below is the Annual Plan for all the events and activities to be held in 2019.

Month	Topic	Facilitator(s)	Host Institution	Resource person(s)
<i>July</i>				
<b>August</b>	The art of scholarly writing	Dr. Edgar Nabutayi	Makerere University	Ms. Racheal Ddungu
<b>September</b>	Designing and managing research projects	Prof. Elizabeth Bachwayo	Uganda Christian University Mukono	Dr. Miriam Mutabazi/ Dr. Michael Masanza.
<b>October</b>	Reflections on a holistic approach to the researcher development process			Dr. Loice Natukunda
<b>November</b>	Researcher Development workshop	Dr. Loice Natukunda in collaboration with Vitae UK	Makerere University	E-CARS members Under Mr. Gerald Ahabwe
<b>December</b>	Follow-up programme on researcher development	Dr. Loice Natukunda/ Mr. Robert Kakuru	All partner institutions	Directors of postgraduate schools.

**PUBLISHED ON 04 MARCH 2019**

## **NEMRA E-CARS Mentorship Program**

[View Comments](#)

NEMRA is working on a mentorship program for those interested in the improvement of the way postgraduate research is done, supervised and examined at Africa based higher institutions of learning. The program is called E-CARS - the Early Career Researchers' Support program.

This program is open to all Africa based PhD students in their final leg (i.e intending to submit by December 2020) as well as early career academics in Africa who obtained their PhDs in or after 2015.

According to Dr. Loice Natukunda, one of the network's founding member, NEMRA is already in the process of developing a database of potential mentees and mentors.

“We are looking for mentors from within and beyond Africa. i.e senior academics with a desire to see this improvement and a commitment to serve towards this goal,” she says.

Those interested and desiring active involvement as a mentee and/or mentor, are requested to kindly send their LinkedIn Url and Whatsapp No. to Asso. Prof. Doris Kakuru by email: [dorismk281412@gmail.com](mailto:dorismk281412@gmail.com). Or to Dr. Loice Natukunda on [loinatukunda@gmail.com](mailto:loinatukunda@gmail.com). Please kindly use NEMRA E-CARS as the subject line.

**PUBLISHED ON 04 MARCH 2019**

## **Excellence at Viva**

NEMRA's 5th research workshop was conducted under the theme "Excellence at Viva". The workshop held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 attracted postgraduate students and academics (some very senior) from universities across Kampala and Mukono district.

Dr. Loice Natukunda, the facilitator of the workshop, ably covered the following:

Comprehending examiners' expectations

- ❖ Tips on pre-viva preparation
- ❖ Conduct during viva
- ❖ Possible viva questions
- ❖ Post-viva expectations

### **Feedback from participants**

“This ought to be presented at the beginning of a PhD programme”.

“The research workshops are very helpful. Keep this up”!

**PUBLISHED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2019**

## **AREN-Ug Changes Name to NEMRA**

The Academic Research and Education Network Uganda (AREN-Ug) has changed its name to Network for Education and Multidisciplinary Research Africa ([NEMRA](#)).

The network says the new brand better reflects its vision of being a solid network of academic researchers advancing a culture of intellectually generated evidence-based policy and [practice in Uganda and beyond](#).

“We are now continental which improves the scope of our activities and opportunities”, says one of the founders.

### **About NEMRA**

This is an independent group of early career and senior academic researchers as well as postgraduate students from across several universities in Uganda and Rwanda.

The group operates as a not-for-profit network with a vision of being a solid network of academic researchers advancing a culture of intellectually generated evidence-based policy and practice in Uganda and beyond.

Its mission is to demystify the issues around doing academic research, develop insights across a wide array of disciplines, share ideas and develop networks.

One of its objectives is to provide a platform for collaboration and networking among academic researchers and postgraduate students.

The network intends to produce relevant, high quality academic research outputs for policy and decision making at every level of society in Uganda and beyond.

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## **Make Use of Academic Networks and Doctoral Committees**

Participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Academic Research and Education Network Uganda were advised to make use of the academic networks and doctoral committees.

Speaking at the workshop, Prof. Jude Lubega the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Uganda Technology and Management University called upon all researchers and PhD students to join academic networks such as AREN-Ug if they want to come up with good research.

“Make use of the academic networks or doctoral committees around you. Supervisors should be able to connect PhD students to those resourceful networks,” said Prof. Lubega.

“Schedule regular meetings, conduct continuous assessment, develop individual progress plans,” he added. Two PhD students Benson Ogwal Stanley and Faith Ahabyoona also presented their papers at the workshop.