

THE DIASPOREAN II: PERSPECTIVES FROM BEYOND SOUTHERN AFRICA

EDITOR:
Stephen Mutula



Alternation African Scholarship Book Series, Volume #16



The *Diasporean I* and *Diasporean II* research project, and two published book volumes, are dedicated to the memory of Katie Mutula (1991 - 2021).

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*The Diasporean II:
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Email: cssall123@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief: Prof J.A. Smit
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Email: smitj@ukzn.ac.za

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Graphic Designer, Corporate Relations
University of KwaZulu-Natal

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Preface

World-historical events such as the fall of the Berlin wall, and the fall of ideologies such as apartheid, opened borders for world travel and the global movements of people, like seldom before. Often driven to move away from drought and disaster-prone geographical areas, some people also move to new countries in search for better education, working, or health opportunities. For whichever decisions people move, and especially when they move with their immediate family, such movements themselves are often perilous, in addition to which one then has to set up a home, and become a member of the population of the new country of adoption.

Conceptualised by the late Katie Mutula, these two volumes of *The Diasporean*, are together, simultaneously, a prime sample of research excellence and, the power of inter-, and multidisciplinary research, focused on such a fluid social and historical phenomenon as human movement, migration, as well as challenges that accompany our diaspora communities of the world. *The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives*, covers five main sections, all together presenting 11 exceptional chapters. The main topics covered are,

- financial integration, that covers issues related to financial development dynamics in both home and host countries, and access to credit;
- xenophobia and Afriphobia in the contexts of increasing forms of local nativisms and populist xenophobia on social media; and family language policies of home country languages;
- feminisation and gendered roles in migration, within transnational relations; how it impacts family life, and how diasporean experiences are also in themselves gendered, in the transnational space; and
- the significance of technology and skills transfer for developing sustainable livelihoods, and also the significance of education, in this context, especially postgraduate education.
- The final chapter in *The Diasporean I*, covers food security challenges that migrants experience in South Africa.

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa, likewise cover five main thematic focuses. These are,

- The study of existing diaspora policy in Africa, including how these determine challenges concerning ‘capital structure’ and the growth of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa, as well as philanthropy in rural areas;
- Foreign remittances bring data and related arguments to the fore, on the impact of COVID-19 on remittances, the nature, size and scale of foreign remittances from elite migrants, and how remittances also impact rural development in home countries.
- Section three develops topics on immigration policy, analyzing how diasporians’ human dignity is harmed in how they are portrayed and framed in the press, how it impacts family structures and careers, and how repatriation or deportation are portrayed by the online press in South Africa and in Britain.
- This is followed by a section on the notion of the ‘brain drain’ and skills transfer related to possibilities for multi-sectoral collaboration in the medical field, and challenges of skills transfer in diaspora contexts.
- The final section on the digital economy, addresses the acceleration of the digital economies world-wide during the COVID-19 pandemic, and investment opportunities that accompany the diaspora movements of peoples.

Each in its own way, but also as a two-volume collaborative research project, *The Diasporian I* and *The Diasporian II*, are comprehensive and are the result of incisive scholarship in a critical field of study both in South Africa and Africa more further afield.

We are thankful, that Prof. Stephen Mutula and the team who was working with the late Katie Mutula, saw the project through to its conclusion. The project itself as well as the quality of the research for the two volumes, stand as a testimony to Katie’s character and a monument in her name on behalf of all those mentioned or not mentioned, who formed part of the project, and too, those who have passed on due to migratory experiences, and the nameless ones, who got lost at sea or in sandy deserts or forests or strange countries.

Prof Johannes A. Smit
Chair: College of Humanities Institute
University of KwaZulu-Natal

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Dr Adelekan Saidi Adedeji is a lecturer in the Department of Business Administration at Lagos State University, Nigeria. He was a senior lecturer and Head of the Department of Management Studies at the Dominican University Ibadan, Nigeria. He was also the Acting Director of the Centre for Apprenticeship and Community Relations at Mountain Top University, Nigeria. Dr. Adedeji obtained his PhD in Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. He has published 52 academic journal articles and seven chapters in local and international journals. His research interests are in social entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education, entrepreneurship and innovation, SMEs, female microenterprises, strategic management, organisation behaviour, and FDI. elevateddeji2@gmail.com; saidi.adelekan@lasu.edu.ng; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7747-6125>

Dr. Everlyn Anduvare is the Deputy University Librarian and an Adjunct Lecturer of Information Literacy Skills at Karatina University in Kenya. She holds a PhD in Library Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; a Master of Information Technology from the University of Pretoria; a Master of Information Science (Knowledge Management); a BA Hons and a BTech in Information Science from the University of South Africa. Her research interests include Information and Knowledge Management, Information Ethics, Information and Digital Literacy, and Research Data Management. varelynn@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5613-0213>

Dr. Robert Stalone Buwule is a Senior Librarian at Kyambogo University. He previously headed the ICT section and the Faculty of Special Needs and Rehabilitation Library at Kyambogo University. He has worked as a consultant on user friendly libraries, ease of information access, knowledge management, and research and development projects. He has presented conference papers and published peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His interests and research work relates to ICT4D, information and information institutions management, culture and society, Easing Information Access, Disability Information Services, Research and Innovation Information Services, SMEs, and Entrepreneurship. burosta@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1233-1053>

Contributors

Dr. Lewis Edwin Chigova is a post-doctoral fellow at North-West University's School of Government Studies in Afrocentric Governance of Public Affairs. Lewis's research interests include public sector innovation, civic crowdfunding, co-production, digital local governance, and diaspora philanthropy. He holds a PhD in Public Management and Governance from the North-West University and a Hons. and an MPA from the University of Zimbabwe. lewisec47@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7357-2091>

Dr. Tawanda Chinengundu is a lecturer at the University of Pretoria and holds a PhD in Curriculum Studies (TVET) from the University of South Africa and an MEd in Technical and Vocational Education, specialising in Engineering Graphics and Design from the University of Zimbabwe. He has over 25 years of teaching experience at Technical High Schools and tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He has several publications in peer-reviewed journals on TVET-related topics. His research interests are Trends in Engineering Graphics and Design Pedagogy, Integration of Technology in Teaching and Learning, TVET Teacher Education, and Blended Learning. tchinex2@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9114-6368>

Dr. Samuel Fikiri Cinini holds a PhD in Criminology and Forensic Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and is a research fellow of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the School of Applied Human Sciences at the same university. He has been a lecturer of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Criminalistics: crime scene investigation and other criminology-related modules. He is also a lecturer of Intelligence and Security Analysis, Arms Control and Disarmament, and Human Security in Post-Conflict Interventions at Accord University in Somalia. His research areas are Crime and Policing, Public Safety and Security, Criminal Justice, Xenophobia, Victim Rights, and migrants. samuelfikiri@gmail.com; cininiS@ukzn.ac.za; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4889-6398>

Prof. Costa Hofisi is a Professor of Public Administration at North-West University, South Africa. He is one of the founders and the current director of the Afrocentric Governance and Public Affairs research entity at North-West University. His research interests centre on public sector innovation issues, such as digital transformation and 4IR. costa.hofisi@nwu.ac.za; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2571-6991>

Dr. Jerald Hondonga is a TVET practitioner with experience spanning over 25 years as a high school teacher and lecturer. He has research interests in TVET Education, Curriculum Studies, Skills Development and Employment, Migration, and Labour. He has presented at conferences and published book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals in his areas of interest. He specialised in Civil Technology and Curriculum Studies. Jerald is a PhD graduate from Tshwane University of Technology in the Technology and Vocational Education department. He is currently the Head of the School of Construction at New Era College in Gaborone, Botswana, and Acting Coordinator for Research Management and Innovation.
jhondonga@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7608-0818>

Dr. Faith Kimathi holds a PhD in Education specialising in teacher development studies, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She also holds a Master of Curriculum Studies from Kenyatta University, Kenya. She is a qualified geography teacher, lecturer, mentor, and qualitative researcher with a distinctive ability to adapt to new instructional skills and contexts quickly. Her research interests include educational issues, social-economic development, migration, and diaspora studies. She previously worked as a part-time lecturer and post-doctoral fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Witwatersrand School of Education. fkkananu@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8885-7994>

Dr. Gyaviira Kisitu is a lecturer at Kyambogo University in Uganda, Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy. His main areas of research include African Theology, Christian Theology in Africa, and Pastoral Theology. He has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters focusing on gender, sexuality, reproductive health, and human rights interfacing leadership, governance, and human development in Africa. Previously he worked as a researcher at the Institute for Religion, Governance, and Environment in Southern Africa and as a post-doctoral scholar in the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. kisitudavis@yahoo.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1084-7638>.

Mr. Joburg Mahuyu is pursuing his doctorate in Development Studies at the College of Human Sciences, Department of Development Studies, University of South Africa, Tshwane, South Africa. Mr Mahuyu is a former lecturer at

Contributors

Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, Zimbabwe. He is a researcher and consultant on developmental and educational issues in Zimbabwe and holds an MSc in Development Studies from Women's University, Zimbabwe. His research interests are peace, conflict and development, poverty and inequality, vulnerability, and livelihood development. jmahuyu@gmail.com;
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6304-4487>

Ms. Haseena Majid is a Global Atlantic Fellow for health equity and social justice, with undergraduate training in Primary Eye Health Care and post-graduate training in Public Health Management, Public Administration and Governance. She has experience nurturing and developing leadership, teaching, training, management, and operations skills. Ms Majid has 14 years of experience in health service delivery, followed by advocacy, governance and research, which have allowed her to connect her skills and training to contribute to governance and civil society programs. Through fundraising opportunities and training within the Global Atlantic Fellowship, she co-founded a civil society organisation USAWA for Learning and Healing, where she is an executive director leading a team toward overseeing the operations and facilitating access to funding and collaboration opportunities. She has received an award for public - private strategies to alleviate a cataract surgery backlog in uMgungundlovu District. The World Council of Optometry nominated her for the Optometry Advocacy and Leadership program. Her research focus and practice are in intersectional public health spaces, primary health access for needy communities, and strategies to advance public service delivery sustainably through interventions that include Public Administration, Procurement, Risk Management, Community Engagement, and Research. Others include integrated people-centred healthcare approaches in disease prevention, health access, migration and health, cataract surgery and interventions to alleviate avoidable blindness.

h.majid@atlanticfellows.org; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1618-9699>

Dr. Albert Makochehanwa is an economist with over 15 years of experience in economics and social science. He has worked extensively in Africa, specifically Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, and Ethiopia. Dr Makochehanwa has published several papers and contributed to several studies on economic issues in Southern Africa. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, an MSc in Economics and an Hons. in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe. Over the years, Dr

Makochekanwa has been a consultant to the following organisations with which he has produced technical and policy documents: World Bank Institute, Washington DC, USA; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Virtual Institute, Geneva, Switzerland; Trade and Industrial Strategies and AusAID; Center for Global Development, Washington DC, USA; United Nations Children's Fund, Harare, Zimbabwe; African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya; Centre for International Governance Innovation, Canada; Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Namibia; Underhill Capital Solutions, South Africa; University of Mauritius, Mauritius; and Trade and Development Studies Centre, Zimbabwe. almac772002@yahoo.co.uk; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4608-0320>

Dr. Sazelo Michael Mkhize is a senior Criminology and Forensic Studies lecturer in the College of Humanities at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Sazelo holds a PhD, Master's, Hons. and BA in the discipline of Criminology and Forensic Studies. The School of Applied Human Sciences awarded him as the best emerging scholar. He has published articles in high-impact and accredited national and international journals and presented papers at reputable conferences. His research areas are Police Culture, Victimisation and Victim, Crime Prevention, Community Violence, and School Violence. Mkhizes1@ukzn.ac.za; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7950-1948>

Dr. Tigere Muringa is a media, communication, and journalism lecturer and researcher focusing on research, teaching, knowledge management, supervision, and consultancy. Thematically, his research interests revolve around Media and Cultural Studies, Corporate Communication, Government Communication, Public Relations, and New and Digital Mass Communication. He is a Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Free State, South Africa and a Director of Research at M&G Research Consultants. Previously, he worked at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (2019 - 2021) and Durban University of Technology (2021 - 2023), where he taught media and journalism modules. He taught Public Relations at Boston Media House, Durban Campus. tigerem589@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3773-4959>

Ms. Katie Mutula (1990 – 2021, posthumous). 'The Diasporean', was the brainchild of Katie Mutula. It provides an exposé of her experiences studying, working, and living for 21 years, in the Diaspora. She passed on in March 2021 at the age of 31. At the time of her passing, she was completing her

Contributors

doctoral degree in economics at the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg campus. Her research focused on international trade under the tutelage of Dr. Vanessa Tang. At the time of her passing, Katie was a part-time lecturer in the BCom foundation program at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She held the following qualifications: a BA in Accounting and Economics from the University of Botswana and a Hons. and an MCom in Economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her research interests were international trade and development economics. She planned to acquire practical skills in data science, e-commerce, and photography. Tributes from her colleagues and students in the BCom foundation program eulogised her as radiant, patient, loving, inspirational, influential, bright, friendly, persistent, a wonderful soul, gentle and caring, full of grace and integrity, calm, warm-hearted, humble, honest, respectable, and creative with a contagious smile. This book is written in her honour.

Prof. Stephen M. Mutula is the Dean and Head of the School of Management, IT and Governance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He also served as the Dean and Head of the School of Social Sciences and interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the College of Humanities at the same University. He has published widely. Mutulas@ukzn.ac.za; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3776-8104>

Ms. Moipone Nkhatho-Muringa is a clinical psychologist at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban, South Africa. She completed her Master of Clinical Psychology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and her Hons. and BSc at the University of Free State. Moipone's research interest is focused on clinical psychologists' experiences of cross-cultural counselling, psychiatry, neuropsychology, mental health challenges and multicultural counselling practices in South Africa. Moipone is dedicated to improving mental health outcomes and supporting those in need. moiponepsych@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-9189-0430>

Dr. Vanessa Tang is a lecturer in International Economics and a Policy Development consultant at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and has consulted for various organisations, including the African Development Bank, African Union, and African Capacity Building Foundation. She has written

several publications for books, journals, and government reports on international trade, welfare, tourism, special economic zones and regional economic integration issues. Her most recent co-edited book is titled *Development and Sustainable Growth of Mauritius* (2019). She holds the following academic and professional qualifications: B.Com (Hons.) from the University of Port Elizabeth, M. Phil from Stellenbosch University, a PhD from the University of Johannesburg, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from UNISA. Her research interests are International Trade, Development Economics, and Regional Economic Integration. TangV@ukzn.ac.za; <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9109-9316>

Ms. Awa Zihindula is currently a postgraduate student and a researcher at Witwatersrand University. Sponsored by the National eScience Postgraduate Teaching and Training Platform, she is pursuing a second Master's in science. She holds a BSc. in Applied Mathematics and Statistics and an MSc. in Population Studies and Demography from the University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. Her recent research focuses on barriers to healthcare services for the elderly in rural South Africa. She is bilingual and provides mentorship and coaching to junior students. awazihindulaonline@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9116-7046>

Ganzamungu Zihindula, College of Health Sciences, School of Public Health Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. g.zihindula@atlanticfellows.org; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9865-4672>

Mr. Gilbert T. Zvaita, currently working at the Durban University of Technology, is an experienced peacebuilding researcher with extensive qualitative and action research skills honed through eight years of work in tertiary environments and four years of freelance consulting with non-profit organisations. His research spans diverse peacebuilding facets, including youth peacebuilding, social entrepreneurship and peace, gender and peace, and African elections. Gilbert holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences, an Hons. and a Master of Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His current research employs a participatory approach, focusing on empowering and mobilising youth to create sustainable peacebuilding solutions through social entrepreneurship practices in post-conflict urban communities in Zimbabwe. gilbert.ramah@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0381-9973>

Contributors

Dr. Hardlife Zvoushe is a lecturer in the Department of Governance and Public Management, at the University of Zimbabwe. He holds a PhD in Public Management and Governance from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, an MSc in Public Administration, a BSc and Honours in Public Administration and a general BA from the University of Zululand. His research interests cover public policy, African public affairs, transformative public governance, public sector reforms, and public service delivery. He was part of a team that trained officials from the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and Ministry of Women Affairs on gender, peace, and security in 2020. He is a co-author of a training manual on gender, peace, and security, which was part of the UN Women's Project on Gender and Macroeconomics (2019 - 2021). zvousheh@sociol.uz.ac.zw; <https://orcid.org/000-0002-3500-2466>



CHAPTER 1

Editorial:

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa

Stephen M. Mutula

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3776-8104>

Introduction

This volume of *The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa*, broadly covers the themes of Diaspora Policy Design, Capital Structure and Infrastructure Development, Foreign Remittances into or within the Southern African Region, Immigration Policies and Press Framing in the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, Brain Drain and Skills Transfer; and the Impact of the Digital Economy on Diaspora Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The ‘United Nations International Organization for Migration’ regularly reports global statistics of migration trends and finance outflows from the global north to the global south, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. These financial inflows significantly contribute to the recipient countries’ GDP, surpassing the official development assistance provided to them. Migrants who have moved to the host countries due to factors such as persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, disasters, education, job opportunities, and natural disasters, amongst others, contribute this money. International migration is a complex global phenomenon that brings great challenges and generates opportunities for the migrants’ home and host countries. The complexity and multidimensional nature of international migration call for robust policy and practical interventions to manage the Diaspora phenomenon responsibly in both home and host countries for the greater public good. There is also a need to develop pragmatic strategies to attract and retain productive human capital in different professional and technical fields.

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa, like *The Diapsorean I*, is conceived and written from an inter-, multi-, trans and cross-disciplinary perspective. This approach recognises the complex problems of international mobility and migration that are not amenable to a single disciplinary perspective. This volume presents theoretical and empirical chapters, each peer-reviewed by at least two experts in the relevant fields. The list of reviewers and their affiliations are provided separately in this volume.

The intellectual scope of the content for *The Diasporean II*, was conceived by the late Katie Musungu Mutula, who was a doctoral student and part-time lecturer in the School of Accounting, Economics, and Finance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. *The Diapsorean II*, has therefore been completed in her honour in recognition of her intellectual thought and input before passing on in March 2021. May her soul rest in eternal peace and her legacy endure.

Diasporean II will appeal to students, scholars, the academe, international organisations, business, civil society, government, industry, and non-professionals who wish to understand or reference their personal experiences in the Diaspora.



This volume of the book *The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa* is divided into five sections containing 13 chapters. Section I contains three chapters covering Diaspora Policy Design, and Capital Structure and Infrastructure Development. The first chapter is titled ‘Towards Effective Diaspora Engagement Policies in Africa: Lessons in Policy Design’, authored by Dr. Hardlife Zvoushe. The second chapter in this section is titled ‘Testing the Pecking Order Theory of Capital Structure on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Africa’. It is co-authored by Ms Katie Mutula (posthumous) and Dr. Vanessa Tang. The third chapter is titled ‘Diaspora Philanthropy for Rural Infrastructural Developmental Projects in Zimbabwe: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities’. Its co-authored by Dr. Lewis Edwin Chigova and Prof Costa Hofisi.

Section II contains three chapters focusing on Foreign Remittances, with the first chapter authored by Mr. Awa Zihindula titled ‘The Impact of Covid-19 on International Migration and Remittances’. This section’s second chapter is ‘Perspectives on Foreign Remittances from Elite Ugandans in the

Diaspora’, co-authored by Dr. Gyaviira Kisitu and Dr. Robert Stalone Buwule. The third chapter is ‘Diaspora Remittance Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Development: A Case of Zimbabwe’. It is co-authored by Mr. Joburg Mahuyu and Dr. Albert Makoche Kanwa.

Section III covers Immigration Policies and Press Framing in three chapters, of which the first is titled ‘The Immigration Policies as an Exclusion Practice: A Serious Threat to Human Dignity among the Diasporas’. Dr. Samuel Fikiri Cinini and Dr. Sazelo Michael Mkhize are the co-authors. The second chapter, ‘Intra-African Migration Impact on Family Structure and Career: A Self-study Inquiry from a Female Migrant in Southern Africa’, is authored by Dr. Faith Kimathi. The title of the third chapter in this section is titled ‘Framing the Deportation of Zimbabwean Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis of South African and British Online Press’ and is co-authored by Ms. Moipone Mamahlomola Nkhatho, Dr. Tigere Paidamoyo Muringa, and Mr. Gilbert Zvaita.

Section IV presents two chapters on the broad subject of Brain Drain and Skills Transfer. The first chapter is titled ‘Multi-sectoral Collaboration: A Proposed Means of Mitigating Medical Brain Drain in South Africa’. It is co-authored by Ms Haseena Majid, and Dr. Ganzamungu Zihindula. The second chapter is ‘Challenges of Skills Transfer for Zimbabwean Migrant Workers in the Diaspora: A Systematic Review’, co-authored by Mr. Jerald Hondonga and Dr. Tawanda Chinengundu.

Section V on Digital Economy presents two chapters. The first is titled ‘The Surge of Africa’s Digital Economy during COVID-19: Impact on the Diaspora Communities’, which Dr. Evelyn Anduvare authored. The second, authored by Dr. Adelekan Saidi Adedeji, is titled ‘Diaspora Investment: Enhancing Opportunities, Growth, and Sustainability in Sub-Saharan African Economies’.

Professor Stephen Mutula
Dean and Head: School of Management, IT and Governance
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Durban
South Africa
Mutulas@ukzn.ac.za