Plenary Speakers

Dr Savita Ayyar
Research Management Consultant
Jaquaranda Tree

Savita Ayyar has over ten years of experience in diverse areas of research management and consultancy. She is currently working on behalf of the Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance to develop IRMI, the India Research Management Initiative.
She began working in research management at the Wellcome Trust in London, UK (2007-2010). She was formerly the Head of Research Development (2010-2017) at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, where she worked to initiate, implement and nurture the activities of the Research Development Office (RDO). Under her stewardship, operations at the NCBS RDO spanned grant management, philanthropic fundraising and endowments, intramural funding and News and Communications. Savita received her initial training in Biochemistry at the University of Delhi and Biotechnology at AIIMS, New Delhi. She completed her doctoral and post-doctoral work in Developmental Biology and Neurobiology, respectively at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Professor Karen Cox
Vice Chancellor and President
University of Kent

Karen graduated from King's College London with a BSc (Hons) and Registered General Nurse qualification. She subsequently held a number of clinical posts in Oxford, Southampton, Gloucestershire and Nottingham, specialising in Oncology and Community Health Care. She completed her PhD at the University of Nottingham, funded by a Cancer Research Campaign. She became a Lecturer at Nottingham in 1999, then Senior Lecturer and was promoted to Professor in 2002. The main focus of her research and teaching has been patients' and families' experiences of cancer clinical trial involvement, cancer trial management and more recently, choice and decision-making in palliative and end of life care. Karen was subsequently appointed to a Pro-Vice Chancellor position in August 2008 and was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor in January 2013, both at the University of Nottingham. She joined the University of Kent in August 2017 as Vice-Chancellor and President.
Professor Philippe De Wilde
deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation
University of Kent

Philippe obtained the PhD degree in mathematical physics and the MSc degree in computer science in 1985. He was Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Imperial College London, between 1989 and 2005. Philippe joined the University in 2014 as Deputy Vice Chancellor, responsible for research and innovation. Prior to that, he was Head of the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at Heriot-Watt University. He works in computational intelligence and cybernetics, using neural networks, fuzzy logic, evolution, and game theory. Research interests: security of machine learning, decision making under uncertainty, games on networks, networked populations, phylogenetic trees. He has published numerous papers on computational intelligence. He has published four books, including Neural Network Models, and Convergence and Knowledge-Processing in Multi-Agent Systems. He has been a research fellow at British Telecom and has advised venture capitalists.

Dr. Jaideep Gupte
GCRF Theme Leader (Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure)
UK Research and Innovation

Jaideep is a Fellow of the Institute of Development Studies, at University of Sussex, where he leads the Cities Cluster. His research interests include the governance and infrastructural implications of violence, poverty and development in the built environment. He has served as a consultant for a variety of donor agencies (including DFID), UN Agencies (including Unicef), several urban local authorities (in South Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa) and a range of NGOs. He has conducted primary research in South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Nepal) and sub-Saharan Africa (Sudan, Nigeria). His research has been funded by the ESRC, DFID, and the EC among others. He is currently the Principal Investigator on ‘Smart Data for Inclusive Cities’ funded by the EC, Executive Director of the ‘Mobile Training Platforms for City Police’ funded by the World Justice Project, and was the Principal Investigator on the recently concluded ‘Informal work and wellbeing in South Asia’ funded by the South Asia Research Hub, DFID. Jaideep has a DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford (St. Antony’s College), an MPhil in Development Studies (Sussex), and a BA (Hons.) in Economics (Simon Fraser). Jaideep’s research has received the Global Development Network Medal for Outstanding Research, Category: Rule of Law. He was formerly Prize Fellow of the Urban Design Research Institute, Mumbai.

Dr. Simon Kerridge
Director of Research Services
University of Kent

Simon has been a research manager and administrator for over 20 years. He is chair of CASRAI, the international Consortium Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information, is the immediate past chair of ARMA, the UK Association of Research Managers and Administrators, and has a passion for developing the profession - he was the PI on the NCURA funded Research Administration as a Profession (RAAAP) project. He also sits on the UK Government Open Standards Board, the UUK Open Access Coordinating Group and was a member of the team that produced the Metric Tide report and has served on a number of other national UK committees on topics such as research impact, open access, grant management systems, research development, research assessment and research information management. Simon holds a doctorate in research management and administration.
**Professor Elena Korosteleva**  
*Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair in European Politics*  
*University of Kent*

Elena came to Kent from Aberystwyth University, where she was Director of the Centre for European Studies. She received her Doctoral Degree in European Politics from the University of Bath (2001), and a PhD equivalent in Political Sociology from the Belarusian State University (1997). Thereafter she served as a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, and is currently a visiting Professor at the Belarusian State University, College of Europe (Natolin, 2015-16), CIFE (2016+) and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (2016+).

Elena is member of the International Advisory Board for the GLOBSEC and Central European Strategy Council; Professorial Fellow of the Dahrendorf Forum at LSE IDEAS, and member of BASEES executive committee.

Elena works closely with the European Commission, EEAS, IRI, and national governments of the Eastern region and Central Asia. In 2017 Elena was awarded a GCRF GROW grant for the £4m COMPASS project, together with colleagues at Cambridge University, ADA University (Azerbaijan), Belarusian State University, National University (Tajikistan) and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan).

**Dr Anthony Manning**  
*Dean of Internationalisation*  
*University of Kent*

Anthony is responsible for the development, review and implementation of international activity across the University. This involves key aspects of education, research and student experience. Anthony’s particular area of academic specialism is in the teaching and assessment of English for Academic Purposes (EAP), Modern Foreign Languages and Academic Skills. Anthony’s recent publications are associated with training for educators in the assessment of EAP, and is one of the principal authors of the Transferable Academic Skills Kit (TASK).

Anthony first joined the University of Kent in 2010 as Director of the Centre for English and World Languages, having previously worked at the University of Reading as Assistant Director to the International Study and Language Centre. During his career Anthony has also taught in France, Germany, China and Japan.

**Dr Andrew Massoura**  
*Grants and Contracts Manager*  
*University of Kent*

Andrew manages the Grants & Contracts Team at the University of Kent, which bridges the pre- and post-award functions of Research Services; supporting academics in the development and costing of research proposals, managing their internal approval and submission.

If the grants are successfully awarded, his team is a main point of contact with the research funders, co-ordinating the acceptance of the award as well as drafting and negotiation any required contracts as well as and providing ongoing support and advice through the lifetime of research projects.

Andrew is a postdoctoral researcher turned professional friend. After completing his PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Birmingham, he was awarded a Medici Technology Transfer Fellowship at the Open University before moving into other innovation and research management roles at the Open University then the University of Oxford before moving to Kent.
Allen Muyaama Mukhwana
Research Systems Manager
African Academy of Sciences

Allen joined AAS in November 2017. She is working with a broad range of partners including researchers, funders, research management professionals and institutions to develop a programme for professionalising research and innovation management in Africa and provide leadership for the transformation of research systems and management.
Prior to joining the AAS Allen was Centre Manager for the Makerere University/UVRI Infection and Immunity Research Training Centre (MUII-PLUS). She joined MUII-PLUS from the Infectious Diseases Institute, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University where she was the Senior Research Administrator and Head of Capacity Building for more than six years. During this period, she established the research support functions and structures and articulated the governance framework. She is passionate about management of the research ecosystems in Africa, from governance and compliance, portfolio tracking, through to dissemination, reporting, and uptake.

Professor Colin Robinson
Professor in Biotechnology and Head of the School of Biosciences
University of Kent

Colin joined the University of Kent in 2013. He studied Biochemistry as an undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh and went on to carry out a PhD studying chloroplast protein targeting with John Ellis at the University of Warwick. This generated a long-standing interest in protein targeting systems which has remained a dominant interest in the research group.
After completing his PhD he spent 2 years at the University of Munich studying mitochondrial protein targeting with Professor Walter Neupert. He then returned to Warwick as a lecturer in 1985 and spent the next 27 years at Warwick as Lecturer, Senior lecturer and finally Professor.
Much of the research in the Robinson lab is focused on the mechanisms by which proteins are transported into and across biological membranes, with a particular focus on the bacterial protein export system, Tat.

Rachael Sara-Kennedy
Head of International Partnerships
Universities UK

Rachael manages the design, implementation and delivery of international partnership agreements and collaborative projects on behalf of the UK higher education sector, in particular those relating to overseas government scholarship programmes and capacity building initiatives, including the Newton Fund.
She is responsible for strategies and operational plans for scholarship and partnership programmes managed by UUKi, and plays a leading role in communicating partnerships and funding opportunities to staff at UK universities.
Rachael holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Nottingham in French and Hispanic studies and a Master's degree in international relations and diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.
Dr Maria Paola Scaparra
Reader in Management Science
University of Kent

Paola moved to Kent Business School in September 2004 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she held a position as a postdoctoral researcher in infrastructure and transportation planning. She earned an MSc in Engineering-Economic Systems and Operations Research from Stanford University in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Applied to Economic Decisions from the University of Pisa, Italy, in 2002. Her research interests include the application of optimization techniques to critical infrastructure protection planning, disaster management and humanitarian logistics among others. She has published many papers and book chapters on these topics in top-ranked operational research and geography journals, and has been involved in several international, multi-disciplinary and consultancy projects, including EPSRC, DSTL, KTP and European projects.

Baroness Alison Suttie
Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Lords

A Member of the British House of Lords since October 2013, Alison worked for over ten years in the House of Commons and worked for ten years in the European Parliament from 1996-2006. She served as Press Secretary to Pat Cox during his time as President of the European Parliament from 2002-2004. She has extensive experience of parliamentary processes, campaigning and advocacy in both London and Brussels. Having been Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, from June 2010 to October 2011 during the Coalition Government, she also has first-hand experience of working in both Whitehall and Downing Street. Since 2012 Alison has worked on capacity building projects in several parliaments – including in Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Tunisia. She is also an active campaigner on raising awareness of tuberculosis, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and is Vice-Chair of the Eurasian Parliamentary Group on TB, which brings together parliamentarians from the wider European region to campaign against TB. Alison speaks fluent Russian and French.

Phil Ward
Deputy Director of Research Services
University of Kent

Phil has been working in research management for more than fifteen years. Before coming to Kent he worked for the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He engages widely within the sector, including leading conference sessions at ARMA and EARMA, and workshops put on by individual universities such as Coventry (on impact) and Open (on interdisciplinarity). As part of this he writes the Research Fundamentals blog, which has been the touchstone of background intelligence, insight and humour for the UK research community since 2009. In recognition of this role it was awarded the ARMA Award for Technological Innovation and Application in 2016, and he was listed as one of the Top 50 Higher Education Social Media Influencers by Jisc in 2015. As well as this he writes for a range of outlets, including a monthly column for Research Professional’s Funding Insight, and guest articles such as those on the f1000 and Piirus blogs. He undertook a secondment as an editor for Research Professional between 2017-18, and continue to have close ties with them.
Dr Carl Wright
Secretary-General Emeritus and Board Member
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

Carl was the founding Director of the Commonwealth Trade Union Group, which campaigned for human and labour rights, and Assistant Director at the Commonwealth Secretariat (1988-94) where he dealt with Commonwealth programmes for South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique.[2] In 1994 he became the founding director of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and its Secretary-General from 1995 to 2016. A key achievement during this time was the adoption of the Aberdeen Agenda, which guides the Commonwealth advocacy and engagement on local democracy and was incorporated into the Commonwealth Charter in 2013. Carl has been a member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Government on Post-2015 and Habitat III representing global local government organisations at the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development and COP21 Paris and chaired key UN consultations on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2013-16). He is also trustee of the United Nations Association, the Ramphal Institute and holds a number of advisory positions, including with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Roundtable and the Kent Business School.
Adrienne Martin
Director of Programme Development
Natural Resources Institute

Adrienne has 40 years’ experience in international research and development in over 30 countries, looking at livelihoods and poverty, agriculture, natural resources and trade. In her early career she spent extended periods in Darfur, Sudan, conducting socio-economic studies for rural development planning, and studying smallholder agriculture, gender roles and household dynamics. She worked for three years in Syria at the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). Her research and development work has focused on participatory research approaches, indigenous knowledge of natural resources, rural and urban livelihoods, gender and social inclusion, agricultural innovation, and value chain analysis. Her most recent work is as a co-investigator on the GCRF funded project, Social and environmental trade-offs in Africa Agriculture (SENTINEL). Adrienne has conducted and led many research project and programme reviews and evaluations for a range of donors, including the CGIAR External Evaluation of the Dryland Cereals Research Programme and a review of European Commission funded research at the international agricultural research centres. She has evaluated development projects on trade and responsible business and sustainability standards. She led the monitoring and evaluation of the Gates-funded project, Cassava: Adding Value for Africa.

Professor John Morton
Professor of Development Anthropology and Head of the Livelihoods and Institutions Department
Natural Resources Institute

John has a BA in Social Anthropology from Cambridge, and a PhD from the University of Hull. John worked for a number of NGOs and development agencies in Sudan, Burundi and Pakistan, where he lived from 1990-93. His work focuses on social, institutional and policy aspects of livestock development, on drought management, as well as climate change and its impact on the rural poor and their opportunities for adaptation. He has worked as a Lead Author or Coordinating Lead Author for three reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He is currently working as the leader of the Quality Support Component of Climate Impacts Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement, a DFID-funded programme involving over 30 African universities. John is strongly interested in the governance of drylands, including new theoretical approaches to governance, and issues of parliamentary representation, local government/decentralisation, the role of the private sector and the interaction between governance and conceptions of risk. John has worked in 19 African countries, as well as countries in South and Central Asia and Latin America, and speaks fluent French, with some Arabic.
Dr Harmonie Toros  
Senior Lecturer in International Conflict Analysis  
University of Kent

Harmonie joined the University in 2011 after lecturing at the University of Queensland, Australia and the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She completed her PhD (“Terrorism, Talking and Transformation: Northern Ireland and Mindanao”) at the Department of International Politics of Aberystwyth University in 2010. Following a BA in Contemporary History (Sussex) and a Maîtrise in History (Paris IV-Sorbonne), she worked as reporter and editor for major international news agencies (The Associated Press and Agence France-Presse) before returning to academia in 2003 to complete a Masters in Conflict Resolution (Bradford).

Her research lies at the crossroads between conflict resolution/conflict transformation, peace studies, and terrorism studies. She has carried out extensive field research in Europe, the Middle East, and South East Asia researching state and non-state armed groups as well as investigating the human experience of war from combatant and non-combatant perspectives. She is an editor of the journal Critical Studies on Terrorism and a member of the International Studies Association (ISA) and British International Studies Association (BISA).

Rod Westrop  
Strategy and Policy Manager, Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy  
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Rod undertook a PhD in Physiology from Kings College, University of London and a BSC in Applied Biology from the University of Hertfordshire. The majority of his working life has been within process development and manufacturing in Industrial Biotechnology, Biologics and Cell based therapy. He is the Strategy and Policy manager within the Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy team within BBSRC.

His team is responsible for running the Networks in Industrial biotechnology and bioenergy (NIBB), Industrial Biotechnology GCRF and Newton Fund related activities and all aspects of bioenergy.
Maria Brighenti
*International Relations Officer*
*Medici con l’Africa*

CUAMM’s mission is to advocate the universal right to health and promote the values of international solidarity, justice and peace. It works to protect and improve the wellbeing and health of vulnerable communities in Africa with a long-term development perspective. To achieve this it aims to improve the health status of communities in Africa, in the firm conviction that health is not a consumer good, but a universal human right, and that therefore access to health services cannot be a privilege, and to promote a positive attitude and solidarity towards Africa. In so doing it hopes to foster interest and hope for the future of Africa, and commitment among institutions and public opinion.

Anne Dawson
*Programme funding officer, Africa*
*Care International*

Anne works on CARE International UK’s Africa programme to develop projects with DFID and the European Commission aimed at finding long-term solutions to poverty, including supporting women and girls to overcome inequality and fulfil their potential. Anne has a particular interest in gender work, which formed the focus of her MSc Development Studies. She spent time abroad in Burundi, setting up a new project to tackle sexual violence, and Burkina Faso, and has delivered surge and systems support across Africa.

Steve Hindle
*Head of Operations*
*AMREF Health Africa*

AMREF Health Africa was officially founded in 1957 to deliver mobile health services and to provide mission hospitals with surgical support. A medical radio network was developed to coordinate the service, and provide communication. In the early 1960s, ground-based mobile medical services were added, along with ‘flight clinics’ for the under-served and remote areas in Kajiado and Narok districts of Kenya. Since then it has moved into community health development. Today its mission is to increase sustainable health access to communities in Africa through solutions in human resources for health, health services delivery and investments in health.

Al Richardson
*International Programmes Director*
*Toybox*

Al joined Toybox in March 2017. She brings strong experience of International Programming including; child-focused programming, ensuring quality programme management, funding acquisition from a variety of institutional donors and building strategic partnerships. She has worked with partners in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe and has worked both from the UK as well as leading programming departments in NGOs in Myanmar, Solomon Islands and Nepal.
Alec Seaman  
*Development Officer*  
*World Bicycle Relief*

World Bicycle Relief is a global non-profit that designs and distributes high-quality, purpose-built bicycles to students, entrepreneurs and healthcare workers in the developing world. With the increased efficiency and productivity that a bicycle provides, individuals are able to accomplish much more every day; students stay in school, healthcare workers visit more patients and entrepreneurs increase profits. World Bicycle Relief is dedicated to helping individuals overcome the barrier of distance through The Power of Bicycles.

Victoria Smith  
*Head of Fundraising*  
*Penal Reform International*

Penal Reform International believes that, in a fair and effective criminal justice system, offenders are held to account, sentences are proportionate, and the primary purpose of prison is rehabilitation not retribution. It wants to see: a reduction in unnecessary imprisonment through greater use of non-custodial alternatives; the improvement of prison conditions and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment; child-friendly criminal justice systems which use detention only as a last resort; proportionate and gender-sensitive responses to women offending; the abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of humane alternative sanctions.

Beth Turner  
*Programme Development Coordinator*  
*Integrity International*

Beth holds a BSc in Biological Sciences. She is working at Integrity Action whilst completing her MSc in Global Health and Development at University College London. Beth has previously worked at the Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination Network in Brisbane, Australia and the Institute of Infection and Global Health in Liverpool, researching how characteristics of certain populations make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases.