



Makerere University, Department
of Sociology & Anthropology



EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2026

"Strengthening Sociology and Anthropology in Eastern Africa: Building Professional Identity, Networks and Social Relevance"

29–30 September 2026 | Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

Day 1 | Tuesday, 29 September 2026

08:00–09:00	Arrival and Registration
09:00–09:45	Opening Ceremony Welcome — Titus James Twesige, USAA President Welcome — Dr. Anthony Mugeere, Dean/Head, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Makerere Remarks — Prof. Bandana Purkayastha, ISA Vice-President, Council of National Associations
09:45–10:30	Keynote: <i>"Where Do We Stand? Sociology and Anthropology in Eastern Africa's Development Landscape"</i> Prof. Edward Kirumira
10:30–11:00	Reactions Panel Dr. Muvawala, National Planning Authority; Hon. Dr. Florence Akiiki; Prof. Mbabazi Pamela, Stephen Birahwa
11:00–11:20	Tea / Coffee Break
SESSION 1: Professional Identity — Chair: Prof. Charles Nzioka, University of Nairobi	
11:20–13:20	A1: Naming the Discipline, Who is a sociologist/Anthropologist?(20 min); Mr. Titus James Twesige A2: Curriculum, Accreditation and Standards (20 min) — Prof. Peter Atekyereza A3: Experience of a practicing sociologist/Anthropologist (15 min).....(to be determined) A4: Experience of a Sociology/Anthropology student (15 min) (just completed undergraduate/graduate student) A Quick Reality Check panel discussion (15 min) , employer/HR representatives react to A1-A4, confirming (or challenging) the naming problem in their own hiring experience; sets up Day 2's full roundtable. Panelists:

	• MLHUD (Mr. Stephen Bogere Mubinzi, Senior Sociologist), • Infrastructure/extractives project (e.g. UNRA, CNOOC/EACOP), • Ssocial-safeguards manager, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Devt/UEDCL Electricity Access Scale Up Project-EASP) • NGO programme director; Plenary discussion (35 min)
USAA Digital Platform Showcase	
13:20–13:45	Official launch/showcase and live demonstration of www.usaaug.org: Member registration and database, publishing repository, social media and forum linkages and the careers portal. Dr. Emanuel Aturinde, Publicity Secretary, USAA, Mr. John Alinaitwe, Membership Secretary, USAA Mr. Brian Achaye – ICT Consultant Mr. Odeke George, Exofficio- ExCo <i>The registration desk opens immediately afterward and stays staffed through every subsequent break, both days.</i>
13:45–14:45	Lunch Break USAA registration desk open
SESSION 2: Talent/Skills & Career Exchange: For students and a scouting opportunity for employers and development partners: Chair to be determined- Students Association President:	
14:45–16:05	Career/Talent Conversations- Plenary(45 min): Employers and development partners in the room engage with students and early-career participants. A chance to scout talent for internships, research assistantships and entry roles, while students get direct access to people who hire. 4–5 practitioners from community needs assessment, social/gender safeguards, qualitative M&E, policy analysis and resettlement planning share brief, honest accounts of their career paths, followed by open floor questions from students. Discussants: • District community development officer; • an SIA/safeguards consultant; • an M&E specialist from an NGO; • a policy analyst from a ministry or NPA; • a recent under or post graduate sociologist/anthropologists now working in the field
16:05–16:25	Tea / Coffee Break USAA registration desk open

SESSION 3: Cross-National Research Collaboration; Networks & Southern Scholarship: Chair: Dr. Ezana Amdework, University of Addis Ababa	
16:25–17:55	B1: Is African Sociology Visible?- Decolonising the canon: (20 min) — Prof. Andrew Ellias State, Makerere University PhD scholars and journal editors debate decolonising the canon, Ugandan sociological thought, and publication pathways in the region (45 min) Panalists (Acadimia) • Kyambogo, • UCU, • IUIU, • Kabale etc) Plenary discussion (25 min) <i>Note: This session goes deeper into scholarship, theory and publishing than most other sessions.</i>
17:55	Close of Day 1

Day 2 | Wednesday, 30 September 2026

08:30–09:00	Morning Tea and Informal Networking USAA registration desk open
09:00–09:20	Recap of Day 1 Key Messages — Dr. Odoi Pascal
SESSION 4 — Social Relevance — Prof. Stella Neema	
09:20–11:00	C1 — Urban Poverty, Informality and the "City Peasant" (25 min) — Dr. Gerald Ahabwe C2 — Health, Culture and Community (25 min) — Dr. Wasike Mangeni C3 — Conflict, Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion (25 min) — South Sudan, Burundi, Tanzania TBC Plenary discussion (25 min)
11:00–11:20	Tea / Coffee Break USAA registration desk open
SESSION 5 —Employers & Development Partners Roundtable — Chair, Mr Wafula, Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Public Service	
11:20–12:50	<i>Building on Day 1's employer reactions, this session turns from diagnosis to action:</i> Are We Getting the Sociologists We Need?" Guiding questions:

	• What competencies do you actually require when you advertise for a "sociologist" and are you getting them? • How satisfied are you with the quality of social assessments, safeguards work and M&E your projects receive? • What would make you more confident hiring, or continuing to hire, trained sociologists/anthropologists specifically? • Would your institution partner with USAA's professional-development or accreditation work and how? Panalists: • <i>MGLSD (Commissioner Everest Tumwesigye),</i> • <i>KCCA- (Ms. Ms. Sheila Birungi Gandhi) ;</i> • <i>World Bank or Cities Alliance social-development specialist;</i> • <i>UNESCO national programme officer.</i> • <i>A tracer-study researcher, if available,)</i>
12:50–13:50	Lunch Break USAA registration desk open
SESSION 6 — Classroom to Career: Curriculum, teaching and tracer studies — Chair, Dr. Bateganya Fred	
13:50–15:10	Guiding questions: • Why is sociology/anthropology largely absent from Uganda's secondary curriculum when other education systems introduce it earlier and what would it take to change that? • Does the current university curriculum match what employers say they need? • What do we know (e.g. from tracer studies or otherwise) about where sociology/anthropology graduates actually end up and how many stay in the field? • What one or two curriculum changes would most improve graduate employability in the next five years? Suggested panel: • <i>Mr. Twine Said); National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC)</i> • <i>Dr. Mugeere, Head, Department of sociology/anthropology- Makerere</i> • <i>Dr. Anita Nshakira, Head, department of Sociology/Anthropology- Uganda Christian University</i> • <i>Dr. Japheth, Head, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Kyambogo University</i> • <i>Mr. Odeke George: Experiences of a secondary-school sociology career-guidance teacher</i>
15:10–15:30	Tea / Coffee Break USAA registration desk open
SESSION 7 — Working Session — Chair: Prof. Robert Kabumbuli	
15:30–16:15	Symposium Recommendations — Dr. Kulabako Christine. Participants work in groups aligned to the day's sessions; outputs presented in plenary.
16:15–16:45	Plenary Presentation of Group Recommendations, Discussion and Adoption

16:45–17:15	Special Session: Publication Planning — Prof. Robert Kabumbuli , on the Symposium Recommendations document and proposed special issue in the African Sociological Review or equivalent
17:15–17:35	Way Forward: Building the Eastern Africa Professional Network — Dr. Marion Mugisha Mutabaazi ; proposed structures, timelines and responsibilities
17:35–17:45	Prof. Robert Kabumbuli: Wrap Up of Symposium Conclusions And Recommendations/Conference evaluation results
SESSION 8 — Closing Ceremony / Networking Reception	
17:45–18:15	Closing Remarks — USAA President Closing Remarks — Department Head, Makerere University Closing Remarks — Guest of Honour (MoGLSD) Vote of Thanks — TBC
18:15	Official Close of Symposium, followed by Networking Cocktail

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