



In partnership with



AFRICAN FELLOWSHIPS FOR
RESEARCH IN INDIGENOUS &
ALTERNATIVE KNOWLEDGES

BOURSES POUR LA RECHERCHE
SUR LES SAVOIRS AUTOCHTONES
ET ALTERNATIFS EN AFRIQUE

DRAFT PROGRAMME

2026 AFRIAK

Induction Workshop

04 – 12 August 2026

Azalai Hotel, Cotonou - Benin

WEEK 1

DAY 1

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026

09:00 – 09:30 REGISTRATION

OPENING SESSION

Welcome Remarks & Meet the Fellows

09:30 – 10:30	WELCOME REMARKS	Godwin Murunga	Executive Secretary (ES), CODESRIA
		Ayemi Lawani	Deputy ES, CODESRIA

Meet the 2026 AFRIAK Fellows

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

OPENING LECTURE

Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Foundations, Concepts, & Contemporary Relevance

11:00 – 13:00	SPEAKER	Paul Awoniyi	Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)
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Q & A Session

CHAired BY *Mshai Mwangola – CODESRIA Executive Committee Member (Kenya)*

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

PANEL I

Reflections from the 2026 AFRIAK Selection Process

14:00 – 16:00	PANELLISTS	Nthabiseng Motsemme	University of Johannesburg (SA)
		Priscilla Santau	Former HOD, Ministry of Health (Kenya)
		Adedoyin Aguoru	University of Ibadan (Nigeria)

Q & A Session

CHAired BY *Ayemi Lawani - CODESRIA*

AFRIAK ROADMAP SESSION I

Group Work Modalities

Fellows are briefed on group composition, expectations and presentation format ahead of Week 2

16:00 – 16:30 CODESRIA

16:30 END OF DAY 1

LECTURE

Ajami Sources - An Underexplored Aspect of Indigenous African Knowledge Systems

09:00 – 11:00

SPEAKER

Fallou Ngom

Boston University (USA)

*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Simphiwe Sesanti — University of the Western Cape (SA)*

11:00 – 11:30

TEA BREAK

PANEL II

Indigenous Knowledge Across the Social Sciences & Humanities: Disciplinary Perspectives & Possibilities *(insights from Members of the CODESRIA Executive Committee)*

11:30 – 13:00

PANELLISTS

Brahim El Morchid

Cadi Ayyad University (Morocco) - EC Member

Khedidja Mokkedem

CRASC (Algeria) - EC Member

Isaac Olawale Albert

University of Ibadan (Nigeria) - EC Member

Jacques Tshibwabwa

University of Kinshasa (DRC) - EC Member

*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Therese Azeng — University of Bertoua (Cameroon) – EC Member*

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

AFRIAK ROADMAP SESSION II

Navigating the Fellowship: The Essentials

14:00 – 16:00

CODESRIA

Q & A Session

16:00 – 16:30

TEA BREAK

**16:30****17:00**

PAVALER TIME I

ENGAGE THE SPEAKERS

An informal networking opportunity for fellows to continue the conversation, one-on-one or in groups, with the workshop speakers, panelists and session chairs. Questions that did not make it into plenary are welcome here.

Bring your curiosity.

17:00

END OF DAY 2

DAY 3

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Africa's Indigenous Knowledge: Present Realities and Future Prospects.

09:00 – 11:00	SPEAKER	Chika Esiobu	Soka University (USA)
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*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Afolayan Adeshina – University of Ibadan (Nigeria)*

11:00 – 11:30	TEA BREAK
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PANEL III

Re-centering Indigenous Knowledge in African Research

11:30 – 13:00	PANELLISTS	Zubairu Wai	University of Toronto (Canada)
		Pinkie Mekgwe	African Health Research Institute (South Africa)
		Workineh Kelbessa	Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)

*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Fallou Ngom – Boston University (USA)*

13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
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INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Mentoring Young African Researchers: An Interactive Dialogue with AFRIAK Fellows

14:00 – 16:00	SPEAKERS	Mshai Mwangola	CODESRIA EC Member (Kenya)
		Simphiwe Sesanti	University of the Western Cape (SA)

*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Zubairu Wai — University of Toronto (Canada)*

16:00 – 16:30	TEA BREAK
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16:30

17:00

PAVALER TIME II

ENGAGE THE SPEAKERS

An informal networking opportunity for fellows to continue the conversation, one-on-one or in groups, with the workshop speakers, panelists and session chairs. Questions that did not make it into plenary are welcome here.

Bring your curiosity.

17:00

END OF DAY 3

PANEL IV

Making Indigenous Knowledge Visible: From Scholarly Publications to Creative and Public Knowledge Outputs

09:00 – 11:00	PANELLISTS	Afolayan Adeshina	University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
		Jane Flora Okuku	Technical University of Kenya

*Q & A Session*CHAIRER BY *Faisal Garba – University of Cape Town (SA)*

11:00 – 11:30 TEA BREAK

PANEL V

Institutionalising Indigenous Knowledge: Lessons from AFRIAK's Intellectual Hubs

11:30 – 13:00	PANELLISTS	Lucy Mandillah	Masinde Muliro University (AFRIAK Kenya Hub)
		Changu Batisani	Botswana Open University (AFRIAK Botswana Hub)
		Mayashree Chinsamy	University of KwaZulu-Natal (AFRIAK South Africa Hub)
		Komi Agboka	WASCAL (AFRIAK Togo Hub)

*Q & A Session*CHAIRER BY *Ayemi Lawani — CODESRIA*

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK



14:00
16:00

PAVALER TIME III

Building the AFRIAK Ecosystem*Mentors – Fellows - Hubs*

16:00

TEA BREAK | END OF WEEK 1

INTERLUDE

The weekend in between



SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

EXCURSION



An excursion has been planned for participants on Saturday. To assist with planning, participants who will not be joining are kindly asked to inform CODESRIA by 3rd August via: afriak@codesria.org



GROUP WORK

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST



Fellows continue to convene independently in their assigned groups to work on their Week 2 presentations.



WEEK 2

DAY 5

MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026

WEEK 2 OPENING SESSION

Recap from Week 1

With a word from the Mastercard Foundation.

09:00 – 10:00 CHAIRED BY Ayemi Lawani - CODESRIA

REMARKS FROM Mastercard Foundation

METHODOLOGIES TRAINING SESSION I

When the Field Refuses our Categories: From Recognizing Indigenous Knowledge to Redesigning the way we Research it

10:00 – 11:30 SPEAKER Antoinette Lamana University of Douala (Cameroon)

Q & A Session

CHAIRER BY Workineh Kelbessa - Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)

11:30 – 12:00 TEA BREAK

METHODOLOGIES TRAINING SESSION II

Feminist and Decolonial Methodologies for Engaging Indigenous Knowledge

12:00 – 13:30 SPEAKER Paul Awoniyi Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)

Q & A Session

CHAIRER BY Fatoumata Hane — Assane Seck University (Senegal)

13:30 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRIAK COHORT 1

Indigenous Knowledge in Practice: Reflections from the Inaugural AFRIAK Fellows

14:30 – 16:00 SPEAKERS
Unifier Tshimangadzo Dyer (South Africa)
Assakal Ezene Bruno (Cameroon)
Naishiye Stanley (Tanzania)
Tinon Néhal Djaouga Mamadou (Benin)
Tinotenda Charlene Chisambiro (Zimbabwe)

CHAIRER BY Nadiatou Boukary Ibrahim (Benin)

16:00 – 16:30 TEA BREAK



16:30

17:00

PAVALER TIME IV

ENGAGE THE SPEAKERS

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Bring your curiosity.



17:00

END OF DAY 3

WEEK 2

DAY 6

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2026

Group Presentations

CHAired BY *Lucy Mandillah — Masinde Muliro University (Kenya)*

09:00 – 10:00 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

10:00 – 11:00 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

11:00 – 11:30 TEA BREAK

Group Presentations

CHAired BY *Changu Batisani — Botswana Open University (Botswana)*

11:30 – 12:30 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

12:30 – 13:30 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

13:30 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

Group Presentations

CHAired BY *Komi Agboka — WASCAL (Togo)*

14:30 – 15:30 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

15:30 – 16:30 **Group Presentation**

Q & A Session

16:30

TEA BREAK | END OF DAY 6

DAY 7

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2026

Group Presentations

CHAired BY *Mayashree Chinsamy – University of KwaZulu-Natal (SA)*09:00 – 10:00 **Group Presentation***Q & A Session*10:00 – 11:00 **Group Presentation***Q & A Session*

11:00 – 11:30 T E A B R E A K

Group Presentations

CHAired BY *Pinkie Mekgwe — Africa Health Research Institute (SA)*11:30 – 12:30 **Group Presentation***Q & A Session*12:30 – 13:30 **Group Presentation***Q & A Session*

13:30 – 14:30 L U N C H B R E A K

ENDNOTE ADDRESS

Ancestral Knowledge as Fertile Seed of Future Harvests

14:30 – 16:30 **SPEAKER** **Kofi Anyidoho** University of Ghana, Legon*Q & A Session*CHAired BY *Godwin Murunga — CODESRIA*

CLOSING

Closing Remarks

16:30 – 17:00 **SPEAKERS** **Mastercard Foundation****CODESRIA**

T E A B R E A K

17:00

E N D O F 2026 AFRIAK INDUCTION WORKSHOP