



JUNE 2024 PLENARY SESSION

AERC Plenary Session Biographies

**Youth, Demographic Dividend, Migration, and
Economic Opportunities in African Economies**



AERC Plenary Session Biographies



Prof. Victor Murinde

Prof. Victor Murinde is the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He joined AERC from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London, where he was serving as an AXA Professor of Global Finance. Prof. Murinde is a distinguished financial economist with more than 25 years of experience post-PhD, mainly involving university research and teaching, but also including senior-level stints in practitioner, policy, and consultancy roles for governments and leading international organizations. He previously served on the AERC Programme Committee and across the research, training, and policy outreach components. In his scholarly endeavours, Prof. Murinde has contributed over 120 research papers on economics, banking, and finance topics. He was also the founding Director of the African Development Institute at the African Development Bank (2011-2014); and carried out major consultancy projects for a range of international organizations.



Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u

Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u is the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury & Economic Planning. Prior to the current appointment, Prof. Ndung'u was serving as the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), a Pan African premier capacity building network of researchers, trainers, students, universities, policy makers and international resource persons. He is an associate professor of economics at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and the former Governor, Central Bank of Kenya. Prof. Ndung'u has been a member of the Global Advisory Council of the World Economic Forum, Visiting Fellow of Practice at Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, Director of Training at AERC, Program specialist at IDRC and Team Leader in Macro-modelling at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis. He holds a PhD in economics from University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He is a Member of Brookings Africa Growth Initiative, Member of the Advisory Committee of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, that coordinates financial inclusion policies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and Senior Advisor for the UNCDF-based Better Than Cash Alliance.



Dr. Patrick Njoroge

Dr. Patrick Njoroge is the immediate former governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK). He served in this position for eight years. Prior to his appointment to the CBK, he worked at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C, first as an economist and later as a senior economist. He also served as the IMF mission chief for Dominica. He worked as the deputy division chief, Finance Department, at the IMF, and later as advisor to the deputy managing director of the IMF. In November 2018, the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres appointed him to the United Nations Task Force on Digital Financing of Sustainable Development Goals. He has stated that the financial technology industry (FinTech) has been a boon for financial inclusion of the general population. Dr. Njoroge has published widely in leading scientific journals and academic books. He graduated from the University of Nairobi with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Arts in Economics. He then studied at Yale University graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics.



Prof. Ahmadou Aly Mbaye

Ahmadou Aly Mbaye is professor of Economics and public policies at the Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), in Senegal, and currently holds the position of Rector (Vice-Chancellor) of UCAD. Previously, he has served as the dean of the School of Economics and Management at Cheikh Anta Diop University and Chair of the Francophone research network in Economics. He has been a consultant for many regional and international organizations. He has numerous publications on development economics and Africa. He is a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Center for Global Development, in Washington DC.



Prof. Andy McKay

Prof. Andy McKay supervises numerous PhD students on a range of development topics at the University of Sussex. His research focuses on development economics, labour issues, inclusive growth, agriculture, and international trade. Andy was an associate director of the Department for International Development (DFID)-funded Chronic Poverty Research Centre from 2005-11, and an active researcher from 2000-2011. He acts as a resource person for the biannual workshops of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), a role he has played since 2005, and served on the steering committee of a collaborative research project on growth-poverty reduction linkages in Africa. He is extensively published and has experience in giving policy advice to bilateral donors including DFID, international organizations, and governments of developing countries. He also has extensive experience of giving short courses, especially for government employees, in the north and south. He has previously worked at the Universities of Nottingham (1992 to 2003) and Bath (2003 to 2006); as well as the Overseas Development Institute (2001 to 2005).



Prof. Peter Muriu



Prof. Peter Muriu holds PhD in Financial Economics from University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. He is an associate Professor at the Department of Economics & Development Studies, University of Nairobi. Besides being an alumni of African Economic Research Consortium, Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP) Scholarship Award for African Scholars, he is also an active member of AERC network and an external reviewer, finance & resource mobilization thematic research. He is also an external reviewer for Oxford Development Studies, Financial Regulation and Compliance and Transnational Corporations Review Journals. For over 20 years he has spearheaded various research projects whose aim is to ignite new policies on financial inclusion; financial stability; climate finance; banking concentration; microfinance initiatives; cross border banking; provisioning behaviour and risk management in the banking industry; development banks as instrument of economic growth and recent developments in capital markets. As a policy analyst he has been engaged by several African governments on matters of financial inclusion, banking and institutional reforms.

Prof. Imran Rasul



Imran Rasul is Professor of Economics at University College London, Director of the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Co-Director of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Centre on Wealth Concentration, Inequality, and the Economy. His research interests include labor, development and public economics and his work has been published in leading journals such as the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica and the Review of Economic Studies. He is past managing editor of the Journal of the European Economic Association (2016-22), and co-editor and director of the Review of Economic Studies (2009-17). He was awarded the 2007 IZA Young Labour Economist Prize, the 2008 CESifo Distinguished Affiliate Award, an ERC-starter grant in 2012, and a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship in 2018. He is President-elect for the Royal Economic Society for 2024 (to serve as President in 2025), and Vice-President for the European Economic Association in 2024 (to serve as President-Elect in 2025 and President in 2026). In 2019 he was jointly awarded the Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics (with Oriana Bandiera). He is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, the Academy of Social Sciences, and the Econometric Society. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire for Services to Social Sciences in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2020.

Prof. Finn Tarp



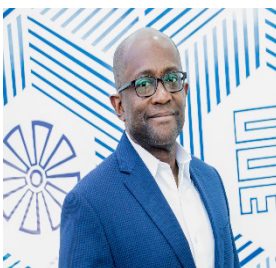
Finn Tarp is Professor at the University of Copenhagen and the former Director of UNU-WIDER (2009-2018). He is a leading international academic on issues of development strategy and foreign aid, with extensive research in poverty, inequality, agricultural sector policy and planning, household and enterprise development, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainability, and natural resources. He has published widely in leading scientific journals and academic books. The number of internationally refereed journal articles is 130+, to which come 7 books, 30 edited book volumes/special journal issues, and 72 book chapters. Professor Tarp has extensive research and policy advisory background in more than 35 low- and middle-income countries and ongoing work in India, Vietnam, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and until recently Myanmar. He was a member of the World Bank Chief Economist's 15-member Council of Eminent Persons from 2013-16; and he is a long-time resource person to the AERC, former member of the programme committee, present Chair of thematic Group A, and now part of the leadership of the AERC collaborative project supporting policy making for the Government of Kenya.

Prof. Lant Pritchett



Lant Pritchett is a development economist from Idaho. He graduated from BYU in 1983 and received his PhD in Economics from MIT in 1988. He worked for the World Bank from 1988 to 2007, living in Indonesia 1998-2000 and India 2004-2007. He taught at the Harvard Kennedy School from 2000 to 2019, and was, intermittently, the Faculty Chair of the MPA/ID Degree program. From 2018 to 2023 he was the Research Director of the RISE Programme at Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government. Having now thrice retired, he is currently a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics, in the School of Public Policy and the co-founder and Research Director of Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP). He has published over a hundred works with over fifty co-authors. His work spans a range of development topics including economic growth, state capability, basic education, labor mobility, development assistance (and more). His work has been, at times, influential, and his publications have been cited over 50,000 times

Prof. Yaw Nyarko



Yaw Nyarko is Professor of Economics at New York University (NYU) and the Director of NYU Africa House and the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED), as well as Co-Director of the Development Research Institute (DRI). He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, Chair of the Econometric Society Africa Regional Standing Committee, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). His research interests focus on the areas of economic development, theoretical economics, models of human capital as engines of economic growth, brain drain and skills acquisition, labor economics, and migration. Nyarko received his B.A. from the University of Ghana and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University.



Prof. Blaise Gnimassou



Blaise Gnimassou is Professor at the University of Lorraine and associate researcher at the University of Paris Nanterre in France. He holds an Accreditation to Supervise Research (HDR) from the University of Aix-Marseille and a PhD in Economics from the University of Paris Nanterre in France. His research themes cover international macroeconomics, development economics, African integration, and applied econometrics. Blaise Gnimassou is the author of more than twenty publications in leading international peer-reviewed journals including Journal of Macroeconomics, Macroeconomic dynamics, Journal of International Money and Finance, Review of World Economics, Annals of Economics and Statistics, International Regional Science Review, Journal of African Economies and Review of International Economics. Several international distinctions have been awarded to him for his research work, including that of the best research paper presented at the African Economic Conference in 2018 and the PhD excellence prize from the CEDIMES institute in 2014. Blaise Gnimassou is also Research consultant at the African Development Bank (AfDB)

Prof. Francis Baye



Francis Menjo Baye obtained a PhD from the University of Reading, UK, in 1991. He is Professor of Development Economics in the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé II – Cameroon, and Senior Economic Advisor at the Prime Minister's Offices, Republic of Cameroon since July 2016. He is Resource Person at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi-Kenya. He has previously been Economic Advisor at the Prime Minister's Office (2005-July 2016), a Research Fellow at the Department of Forecast, Ministry of Finance (1998-2000) - Cameroon and Senior Research Fellow at the Follow-up Committee of Economic Programmes, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development – Cameroon (2000-2005). He continues to exercise his university activities, especially the supervision of research students. His research interest is in Development Economics and has published extensively on Poverty, Inequality, Social Welfare, Labour Market issues, Gender, Conflict, and Education and Health Economics related issues