



June 2021 in review

In this issue

- [Program Director's Corner](#)
- [AROCSA News](#)
- [Derek Chauvin is Sentenced to 22 years for the Murder of George Floyd](#)
- [Spotlight on Nigeria: Federal Government Bans Twitter](#)
- [In Civil Society Research](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Meet... Geline Fuko](#)
- [Contributors](#)

Program Director's Corner

July is a special month in AROCSA's annual calendar as it is usually the month where two key programs are held. These are the Emerging African Scholars (EAS) PhD Workshop, and the Annual Conference respectively.

The PhD workshop is usually a precursor event to the annual conference and seeks to provide guidance to emerging civil society scholars on the path to a successful career, help sharpen their research skills and address the challenges that African PhD students face. This year's workshop holds virtually on July 28th with the participants shortlist already concluded. Building on the success and learning's from last year's event which also held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have an array of speakers including editors of international journals such as **'International Security'** and **'African Affairs'** who will be providing practical guidance and advice on navigating the publication process to participants, in addition to the feedback they will be receiving from other faculty on their research proposals.

And every year since it was founded in 2015 (except for 2020 due to COVID), AROCSA has hosted its annual conference (in partnership with ARNOVA) which is a gathering of civil society scholars and practitioners from all across Africa and the diaspora for networking, learning, and

experts discuss research undertaken by beneficiaries of AROCSA's PhD research grants under its PhD fellowship program. The conference is scheduled to hold on July 29th and the theme for this year is '***Towards a more sustainable civil society in Africa: inclusion, governance and impact***'.

As you can imagine, preparations are in high gear and we are working with local and international partners to ensure both events are highly engaging and productive, in spite of their virtual formats.

More information about both events and how to get involved is provided in subsequent sections of this newsletter, as well as on the AROCSA and ARNOVA websites, and social media handles respectively.

We look forward to having you all in attendance at the conference as we seek to encourage increased interaction between civil society scholars and practitioners on the continent, with a view to generating home grown solutions to Africa's developmental challenges.

In solidarity,



Shaninomi Eribo
Programs Director

AROCSA News

The AROCSA Annual Conference

ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON CIVIL SOCIETY IN AFRICA
With the support of:

ARNOVA FORD FOUNDATION

July 29, 2021 / 1 PM - 6 PM WAT/GMT+1 / CONVENED VIRTUALLY
Towards a more Sustainable Civil Society in Africa: Inclusion, Governance, and Impact

CONFIRMED PANELISTS

 Godfrey Ochieng Okumu Program Officer, Tostan International	 Tina Maria Thiar Director, HGG NPO Sustainability Solutions PTY (Ltd)	 Richard Odenda Lumumba Founder and Co-ordinator, Kenya Land Alliance	 Dr. Steve Ouma Akoth Vice Chair, Judiciary's National Steering Committee	 Mohammed Awal Alhassan Country Chairperson, GUSO	 Nana Nimo Appiah-Agyekum Senior Lecturer, UGBS
 Josephine Nakakande Executive Director, Eco-Agric Uganda	 Obo Effanga Resident Electoral Commissioner, INEC, River State, Nigeria	 Tijani Hamza Oxfam Country Director, Ghana	 Abiy Menkir Gizaw Assistant Professor, Bahir Dar University	 David Barnard Development and Philanthropy Specialist, @AfricanNGOs	 Mzuri Issa Ali Director, Tanzania Media Women's Association, Zanzibar

The annual AROCSA conference is here again!

Now in its 5th edition and against the backdrop of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on CSO/NGO operations in Africa, a major goal of this year's conference is to engage with the question of the sustainability of Africa's Civil Society sector with the associated sub-themes of inclusion, governance, and impact on communities also being interrogated.

The conference presentations will be delivered by recipients of research grants under the AROCSA PhD Fellowship Program and are focused around the issues of sustainability, inclusion, governance, and impact as it pertains to civil society work at both the organizational and community levels.

#AROCSSACONF21 will hold virtually on July 29, 2021. This year, the conference theme is: **"Towards a more Sustainable Civil Society in Africa: Inclusion, Governance, and Impact"**.

For more information and to register, please click the blue button below.

[Register Now](#)

[Call for Volunteer Discussion Panel Moderators](#)



Would you like to be an active participant at the 5th Annual AROCSA conference?

Do you consider yourself skilled in the art of moderating panel discussions?

Would you like to contribute your quota to the development of Africa's civil society sector?

If you answered yes to all three questions above, then this call is for you.

AROCSA is seeking 'volunteer' moderators for its breakout sessions at this years conference. To view the different breakout sessions and determine your competence to moderate any given topic of discussion, please click [here](#).

Once you have identified a session/topic that you feel competent to moderate, please email Amina Banu with the subject 'Volunteer Moderator' at a.banu@arocsa.org to register your interest.

The deadline for indication of interest is Thursday 8th July, 2021.

We thank you as we look forward to receiving your indications of interest.

[Derek Chauvin is Sentenced to 22 years for the Murder of George Floyd](#)



Source: Sky News

Last year, the life of George Floyd was cut short during his encounter with ex-police officer Derek Chauvin in Minnesota, United States. Just over a year later, after protests that rippled across the world and the due legal proceedings, Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22.5 years in prison on Friday 25th June, 2021.

It's a bittersweet victory; ideally 46-year-old Floyd's life wouldn't have been cut abruptly short, marking yet another disturbing statistic in the history of police brutality in the United States that has continued to garner increasing attention over the last decade. Nonetheless, there is comfort in the fact that justice has been served for the Floyd family specifically, and the African American community at large who do not often find this kind of positive outcome to be their experience.

Philip Matthew Stinson - a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University - leads the [Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database](#), established in 2005 to track data on police crimes in the United States. Their data, which is collected from news reports and court records across the country, is by no means comprehensive but certainly indicative of police brutality cases and prosecution of offending law enforcement officers. Since the database's inception, their work has revealed that at least [140 law enforcement officers have been arrested on murder or manslaughter charges related to on-duty shootings in America](#). Only about [a third of these 140 officers were ever convicted](#) on any charges and [only 7 have been convicted of murder](#). Conversely, the [Washington Post's database on police shootings](#) puts the number fatalities from police shootings over the last year alone at 955.

Perhaps our hope for change can lie in the fact that unlike most accused police officers in similar cases who enjoy the support of the 'blue wall of silence' from their colleagues, Chauvin's trial included the damning testimony of the Minneapolis police chief, Medaria Arradondo, who testified that [Chauvin violated department policy and that his use of force was unjustified](#).

Hope grows still as a number of police departments across America want to begin training their officers to deescalate situations and avoid police shootings. Most notable is the [New York Police Department](#) which announced that "it will train all 35,000 of its officers in de-escalation, using the Police Executive Research Forum's Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics approach." The desired outcome of these changes is to reduce fatal police shootings when

system that has been [disproportionately violent towards African Americans](#). But there still remains a lot of work to be done.

However slow or hard fought the change, we must remain comforted by the words of the late great civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.:

“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

In other international news

[Apple Daily: Hong Kong pro-democracy paper announces closure](#)

[AOC condemns Kamala Harris for telling Guatemalan migrants not to come to US](#)

[Myanmar coup: UN calls for arms embargo against military](#)

[Australia’s Victoria reports Delta COVID variant in new outbreak](#)

[German knife attack: Three dead and five wounded in Würzburg](#)

[Trust in Australian development NGOs is on the rise](#)

[Palestinian Authority deploys forces during protest against critic's death](#)

[Anti-Government Protests Grow Again in Thailand](#)

[Can Biden Keep the Peace in Southeast Asia?](#)

[Global community reaffirms solidarity with displaced people in Central America and Mexico](#)

[As pandemic eases, fatal gender violence worsens in Europe](#)

[China allows three children in major policy shift](#)

[Officials begin inspections of nearby buildings after Florida condo collapse leaves at least 9 dead and more than 100 missing](#)

Spotlight on Nigeria: Federal Government Bans Twitter

On June 5th, 2021, the Nigerian government officially placed an indefinite ban on Twitter restricting it from operating in Nigeria after the social media platform deleted tweets from the Nigerian President’s Twitter handle after they were flagged by aggrieved users for ‘warning the south eastern people of Nigeria, predominantly Igbo people, of a potential repeat of the 1967 Biafran Civil War’ due to ongoing calls for secession in the region.

The current Nigerian government has long held concerns over the use of Twitter in the country. The local ‘End SARS’ protest began on Twitter and got amplified in 2020 when it had 48 million tweets in ten days. Prior to banning Twitter, the current government has floated the idea of social media regulation on different occasions and continues to do so. Attempts to pass an anti-social media bill in the past have also failed majorly due to massive outcry on Twitter. Days before the ban, the country’s minister of information called Twitter’s activities in Nigeria suspicious, citing its influence on the End SARS protests.



Source: Getty Images

According to DW, the Twitter suspension has cut off an estimated 40 million users, and the ban, while celebrated by some, has caused a global outcry over freedom of expression and put a spotlight on the nation's north-south political divide.

[NetBlocks](#), an international internet watchdog, estimates that the Nigerian government's Twitter ban has cost the country \$134,251,654.00 since it came into effect on June 5th. "The Twitter ban is certainly taking a toll on e-commerce, and is making things even harder for many young Nigerians who have leveraged technology for their economic empowerment in significant ways." says Fareeda Abdulkareem, a McHenry Fellow at Georgetown University. Fareeda says the ban reflects a clear trend of the government making attempts to heavily regulate sectors that are central to the country's digital economy. Tech, she says, is now responsible for contributing to more than 10 percent of the country's GDP.

Two domestic organizations; the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and the Nigerian Bar Association, have indicated intent to challenge the ban in court. Twitter itself called the ban "deeply concerning". The U.S. also joined the European Union, Britain, Ireland and Canada in criticizing the action by Nigeria's government on June 8th. Amnesty International also condemned the ban.

Many Nigerians have continued to tweet in defiance of government threats to arrest and prosecute anyone violating the ban it imposed on Twitter. Most are using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass the ban after telecommunications companies heeded the government's directive and blocked the micro-blogging site.

A commonly held sentiment is that the Twitter ban worsens Nigeria's reputation as an increasingly volatile political environment.

Many have also criticized the hypocrisy of the current executive who extensively used Twitter and other social media platforms including Facebook during campaigns to unseat then incumbent president Goodluck Jonathan in 2014/2015, which were eventually successful.

[Africa: FAO Director-General Urges G20 - Invest in Rural Areas and Step Up Actions to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty.](#)

[Africa: 'Tech Hub' Aims to Fill COVID-19 Vaccine Gap](#)

[Africa: 33 Former African Heads of State Speak Out Against UK Withdrawal of Neglected Tropical Disease Funding](#)

[Ethiopia: Govt Says Unilateral Ceasefire Ensures Better Humanitarian Access](#)

[Kenya Secures Sh14 Billion From World Bank to Boost Covid-19 War](#)

[Liberia: RAL Wants Abolition of Torture in Liberia](#)

[Nigerian, British, German govts to build museum for returned Benin bronzes](#)

[Nigeria: Biafra Leader Nnamdi Kanu Re-Arrested, Returned to Nigeria](#)

[Rwanda imposes new covid-19 rules as cases rise](#)

[Somalia to hold indirect presidential election October 10](#)

[South Africa: Former President Jacob Zuma sentenced to 15 months in prison](#)

[Swaziland: King Mswati Reportedly Flees Swaziland As Prodemocracy Protests Intensify.](#)

[Tunisia calls on international community to support developing countries](#)

[Zambia: A Missed Opportunity for Inclusion - the Case of Musukwa and Others V Rtsa](#)

[Zimbabwe: States Frustrate Civil Society Efforts to Stem 'Blood Diamond' Sale](#)

In Civil Society Research

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the [Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group \(AGAG\)](#) conducted a survey to gain a better understanding of current funding interests in Africa.

AGAG surveyed public and private funders in North America, Africa and other regions and the report is a snapshot of trends in the field, moving beyond grant dollars to look at the what, how, and why of current funding targeting Africa.

Through the survey, they examined issues such as funder priorities and goals, funder challenges, funder collaboration, and funder outlook.

Learn more and download the full report [here](#).

Opportunities

A list of curated opportunities from around the world for civil society scholars and practitioners in Africa

- [Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation Scholarship](#)
- [University of Glasgow International Leadership Scholarship](#)
- [France - South Africa Scholarship Programme](#)
- [Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies Scholarship](#)
- [The Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund \(IIE-SRF\) Fellowship](#)
- [Rhodes Scholarship](#)
- [2021 Call for Applications The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund](#)
- [Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program](#)

- [The World is Our Lab webinar series](#)
- [Call for proposal: UNOPS Lives in Dignity Grant Facility](#)

Meet...Geline Fuko



Advocate Geline Fuko had aspirations to work in music, so when it came time for a degree she wanted her academic journey to reflect her passion for music producing and performing. However, a conversation with her father provided a new perspective and the inspiration that changed her focus. While thinking about advocating for musicians in Tanzania where she is from, she began to broaden her spectrum, considering all the different communities and subgroups she believed needed an advocate.

You can learn more about Adv. Fuko by reading the full interview [here](#).

Contributors

We are always looking for new and exciting content about civil society in Africa. If you would like to contribute to *Solidarité*, please read our [guidelines](#).

About the Newsletter

opportunities mainly from within, but also from outside Africa's civil society spaces.

Appreciating the recognition at the onset of the founding of AROCSA that there have been and continue to be multiple, stand-alone efforts to encourage research and knowledge-sharing on the 'third sector' in Africa, *Solidarité* seeks to be a resource for pooling together information in order to provide a more holistic view of the sector, as well as insight into what different civil society actors across practice and academia are doing to improve the quality of life across the continent.

So on the occasion of our inaugural issue, we thank you for reading and as always, we appreciate your support.



About AROCSA

The Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa is a platform set up to promote and advance a community of excellence in research and practice on civil society in the service of African development.

Copyright © 2020 The Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa, All rights reserved.
AROCSA is a platform set up to promote and advance a community of excellence in research and practice on civil society in the service of African development.

Our mailing address is:

29 Mambilla Street,
Off Aso Drive,
Maitama,
Abuja.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)