

AFRICA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Thinking and Re-Thinking Africa!

April 11, 2015
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Business Leadership Building, Room 080, UNT Campus

Organized by the UNT Africa Task Force

11:00 to 11:15 a.m. *African Cultural Welcome*

Mr. Gideon Alorwoyie, Professor, UNT College of Music

11:15 to 11:20 a.m. *Welcome Remarks*

Dr. Charles Blankson, Associate Professor, UNT College of Business
Dr. Ami Moore, Associate Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences

11:20 to 11:30 a.m. *Opening Remarks*

Dr. Neal Smatresk, President, University of North Texas

11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. *Keynote Address: Africa in the 21st Century—Challenges and Opportunities and How to Effectively Develop*

Mr. E. E. Okpa, Owner and CEO, The OKPA Company, LLC & Past Mayoral Candidate for the City of Dallas

- Introduced by: Dr. Charles Blankson, Associate Professor, UNT College of Business

12:20 to 12:30 p.m. Break

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. *Lunch Panels: “Opportunities and Challenges of Research Engagement in Africa” and “Challenges of the Ebola Crisis in West Africa”*

Dr. Charles Blankson, Associate Professor, UNT College of Business
Dr. Ami Moore, Associate Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Marc Cutright, Associate Professor, UNT College of Education
Dr. Joseph Oppong, Associate Dean of Research & Professional Development, Toulouse Graduate School & Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences

1:30 to 1:45 p.m. Break

1:45 to 4:15 p.m. *Concurrent Research Presentations and Discussions* (presentation schedule, pages 2-3)

4:15 to 4:30 p.m. Break

4:30 to 4:50 p.m. *Research Award Ceremony*

Dr. Joseph Oppong, Associate Dean of Research and Professional Development, Toulouse Graduate School & Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Bob Insley, Associate Professor, UNT College of Business
Dr. Ami Moore, Associate Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences

4:50 to 5:00 p.m. *Closing Remarks*

Dr. Charles Blankson, Associate Professor, UNT College of Business
Dr. Ami Moore, Associate Professor, UNT College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Marc Cutright, Associate Professor, UNT College of Education

1:45 to 4:15 p.m. *Concurrent Research Presentations and Discussions*

**Session A:
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN SOCIO-CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Room: BLB 035

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Komla Aggor, Texas Christian University

1:45 to 2:15 p.m. — Characteristics of actors involved in social protest: An extension of the social conflict analysis database

- Ms. Kelsey Ann Naughton, University of North Texas

2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — Floor coverings and developing road conditions in Ghana

- Ms. Rachel L. Rebagay, Texas Christian University

2:45 to 3:15 p.m.—Water Initiative project: The case of Nigeria

- Ms. Mandy Sunny, University of North Texas Health Science Center

3:15 to 3:45 p.m.—The information seeking behavior of Cameroonian journalists

- Ms. Jenny Mumah, University of North Texas

3:45 to 4:15 p.m. — Open Discussion

**Session B:
ENHANCING AND BUILDING EDUCATIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA**

Room: BLB 060

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Ami Moore, University of North Texas

1:45 to 2:15 p.m. — Enhancing UNT's presence in sub-Saharan Africa: Building partnership with Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions

- Mr. Daniel Gelaw Alemneh, Librarian, University of North Texas

2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — The Dakar summit on Higher Education in Africa: Three programmatic responses

- Dr. Marc Cutright, Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education, University of North Texas

2:45 to 3:15 p.m.— Reimagining the funding of Higher Education in Uganda

- Ms. Susan A. Namalefe, University of North Texas

3:15 to 3:45 p.m.— Creating Learning Economies: The role of African Universities in Economic Development

- Dr. Lillian B. Niwagaba, UT Southwestern University

3:45 to 4:15 p.m. — Open Discussion

Session C:

**ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN FIRM INNOVATION,
POSITIONING STRATEGY, AND UNDERUTILIZATION OF
CREDIT PROGRAMS IN AFRICA**

Room: BLB 073

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Joseph Oppong, University of North Texas

**1:45 to 2:15 p.m. — Innovation done in frugal fashion:
Evidence from African market**

- Dr. Bin Mai, University of North Texas
- Dr. Mary Jones, University of North Texas
- Mr. Stephen Ozoigbo, IFTIN Foundation-Africa Diaspora Project

**2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — Partnership for human capacity
building in a rapidly aging society: The Nigerian case**

- Dr. Keith Turner, University of North Texas

**2:45 to 3:15 p.m. — Explaining the underutilization of
inclusive credit programs in subsistence markets: The
role of habit under different regulatory environments**

- Dr. Kofi Q. Dadzie, Georgia State University
- Ms. Charlene A. Dadzie, University of North Texas
- Dr. Evelyn Winston, Clark Atlanta University
- Dr. Charles Blankson, University of North Texas

**3:15 to 3:45 p.m. — Positioning strategies of financial
service firms in Ghana: A case study approach**

- Mr. Seth Ketron, University of North Texas
- Dr. Charles Blankson, University of North Texas

3:45 to 4:15 p.m. — Open Discussion

Session D:

**CHINA AND AFRICA—SUSTAINABILITY AND PUBLIC
POLICY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA**

Room: BLB 050

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Bob Insley, University of North Texas

**1:45 to 2:15 p.m. — Public Opinion in Africa: Effects of
China's foreign assistance**

- Mr. Mustafa Kirisci, University of North Texas

**2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — Electoral decentralization in Ghana:
What does Ghana's local government really need for
economic development?**

- Mr. Julius A. Nukpezah, University of North Texas
- Mr. William Asare Bediako, University of North Texas

**2:45 to 3:15 p.m. — Avoiding the resource curse:
Challenges of the policy process in a nascent-oil-
producing country in West Africa**

- Mr. Gordon Akon-Yamga, University of North Texas

**3:15 to 3:45 p.m. — Education for sustainability in Africa:
UNT partnership potential**

- Dr. Stan Ingman, University of North Texas

3:45 to 4:15 p.m. — Open Discussion