



Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies

Bringing together researchers from across all disciplines to deliver ambitious transformative and impactful research

Visiting Fellows Alumni Handbook

Are you looking for new interdisciplinary partners or collaborators?

The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies Visiting Fellowship Scheme enables researchers to build interdisciplinary collaborations with scholars from the UK and beyond. The cohorts create sustainable partnerships responding to the research landscape. There is currently an alumni list of 30 fellows from over 20 countries. LIAS has a distinct focus. Working across all three Colleges and beyond the University, the institute supports challenge-led and curiosity-driven interdisciplinary research to develop Citizens of Change.

The following handbook has been designed to highlight the work of our Visiting Fellows Alumni and will be updated regularly to encourage Leicester staff and alumni to form new interdisciplinary relationships.

To hear more about the fellows ([Spotlight Statements](#)) and their current research interests you can also visit our [website](#). For more information about our Visiting Fellowship and Pump Priming Schemes please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**Name:**

Edris Alam

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Profile:

Edris is a professor at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, in the department of **Geography and Environmental Studies**. He is also engaged as a Professor of Integrated **Emergency Management** at Rabdan Academy (an institution for Emirati public officers and led by Abu Dhabi Police), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Professor Alam is supervising several MPhil and PhD candidates on climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and sustainable development. He is a reviewer of several peer-reviewed high-impact journals, including International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Disasters.

**Research Interests:**

His research interests include climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), sustainability science, business continuity management, public health emergency and integrated emergency management for resilience. Professor Alam succeeded securing research funding from Governmental Organizations, NGOs, INGOs, UNDP, DFID and universities. Whilst working as a lead international consultant on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction cluster of different UN agencies, he identified strategic gaps in program document development and implementation of agendas. Advocating for the mainstreaming of environment, climate change, development interventions and disaster risk reduction consideration throughout all sectors is the utmost thrust of his work.

**Name:**

Kaushalya Ariyaratne

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Profile:

Kaushalya is a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo and the **Department of Social Sciences**, Open University of Sri Lanka. She is also a political activist and a member of the Progressive Women's Collective. She currently works at the **Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Faculty of Law**, University of Colombo as the Sri Lankan Academic Coordinator and a lecturer of the Asia Pacific Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation.

**Research Interests:**

Human Rights, Gender & Sexuality, Queer Theory, Subaltern Studies.

Her current research involves transgender sex workers in Colombo and their encounters with the colonial criminal laws in Sri Lanka.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Yazidhi Bamutaze

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Profile:

Yazidhi is a Professor in the Department of **Geography, Geo-Informatics and Climatic Sciences** (GGCS), Makerere University. He was the Chair, GGCS for four years, 2015-2019 and is currently an elected member of University Senate representing the School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences. He has 25 years education and research experience in academia at university level having joined teaching service as a junior fellow at Makerere University in 1998. He is the Secretary of IALE-African Chapter and also an executive member of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE).

**Research Interests:**

In addition to championing research on **disaster risk reduction and resilience** Yazidhi's interests also include multidisciplinary research covering geomorphic processes, land use and cover change impacts, geospatial based modelling, climate change adaptation among others.

In addition to LIAS he was also funded by the Volkswagen foundation with a research project focusing on land use and climate change impact on sediment and nutrient fluxes and livelihoods in the Lake Victoria Basin. He is also Vice President for Africa of the International Geographical Union (IGU)

**Name:**

Rebecca Biddle

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Profile:

Rebecca is **Director of Conservation, at Twycross Zoo East Midlands Zoological Society**. She oversees animal collection, veterinary, education, conservation and research teams to achieve maximum conservation impact globally.

Rebecca is a conservationist with a broad range of interests, but in particular the **complex relationships between humans and wildlife** and what we can do to mitigate the problems this can cause.

**Research Interests:**

An inspiring zoologist, Rebecca also helps to manage the population of Eastern black rhino across European zoos and was one of a number of experts called upon to enable the reintroduction of five zoo-born Eastern black rhinos back to Rwanda in 2019. Other areas of interest include: Engaging communities with conservation, Societal benefits of zoos and green spaces, Conservation ecology, Ex situ breeding and Amazon parrots.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Dhiren Borisa

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Profile:

Dhiren is a Dalit queer activist, poet, and an **urban sexual geographer**, who is currently employed as Assistant Professor at Jindal Global Law school, India. Currently Dhiren is an Urban Studies Foundation International Fellow, at the University of Sheffield. As a USF International fellow, he will spend nine months working with Prof. Gavin Brown in the Department of Geography. He is also an honorary visiting fellow at the School of Geography, Geology and Environment at the University of Leicester, UK.

**Research Interests:**

Dhiren is a critical human geographer whose work straddles the sub-disciplinary boundaries of social, cultural, and urban geographies, as well as critical and feminist geopolitics. He has an interest in utilizing creative research methodologies in ways which can queer and decolonize knowledge production. His research engages with sexual mappings and makings of cities from an intersectional and decolonial lens both among queer spaces in India and in diasporic queer worldings. The current USF fellowship, based in the UK, will allow me to develop my doctoral research into a monograph, which foregrounds city making through Dalit and queer experiences in India.

**Name:**

Polina Golovátina-Mora

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Profile:

Polina is Associate Professor in **Film and Media in Education**, Department of Teacher Education, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim – NTN. Prior to this she worked for many years in Colombia.

**Research Interests:**

Polina's interests include Art-based research methodologies and pedagogies, new materialism thought, decolonial and indigenous pedagogies and ontologies, critical environmental thought, film studies, media studies, artistic research, urban art and protest movements in Latin America/Global South, urban natures, critical cultural studies, memory studies.

Projects linked to the University of Leicester include:

May-August 2021, GCRF, with Leicester University, UK, The humanitarian crisis among Venezuelan migrants in Colombia: a critical analysis of resilience networks, local aid responses and prospects for long-term integration, co-researcher.

May-August 2020, GCRF, COVID flexible funds scheme, project with Leicester University, UK, Institute of Advanced Studies, "Tell me a story for a greener, cleaner future today: A diagnostic study on data and methods for generating narratives for clean air action".

**Name:**

Bassant Hassib

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Profile:

Bassant is a non-resident scholar with the **Strategic Technologies and Cybersecurity Program** at the Middle East Institute. She is also currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the British University in Egypt. Additionally, she is a consultant with the International Security Program at Chatham House as part of the Gender and Cybersecurity project. In addition to LIAS Dr. Hassib was a visiting researcher at Arnold Bergstraesser Institute of the University of Freiburg. She was also a consultant with the Atlantic Council. Bassant gained her PhD in Euro-Mediterranean Studies from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo.

**Research Interests:**

Her various areas of interest and expertise include **cybersecurity governance** in Egypt and the GCC, (counter) surveillance, gendered cybersecurity threats, the geopolitics of cybersecurity and the digital economy, counterterrorism and civil society, military cyber and AI capabilities, the securitization of cryptocurrencies in MENA, and knowledge production in social sciences. Bassant's thesis analysed the role of the European Union in promoting democracy and human rights in Egypt, with an in-depth assessment of the Civil Society Facility instrument post 2011.

**Name:**

Jiamiao Hu

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Profile:

Jiamiao is Associate Professor in the **College of Food Science** at the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China. He is currently working with Prof Bee K Tan (University of Leicester) as an Honorary Visiting Fellow on research that explores the impact of high blood pressure on pregnant women. We firmly believe that our ongoing collaboration on the topic of pregnancy-related metabolic syndromes will make a valuable contribution to more comprehensive understanding towards the pregnant-related metabolic disorders.

**Research Interests:**

Research interests **include non-thermal sterilization and gestational diabetes mellitus** (GDM) which is the most prevalent metabolic disorder during pregnancy, however, the association between dyslipidaemia and GDM remains unclear.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Naved Iqbal

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Profile:

Naved is a Professor of **Psychology** at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He has mentored over a hundred master students and two dozen Ph.D. scholars. He has also served as the Head of the Psychology Department (2013- 2016), the Honorary Director of the University Counselling and Guidance Centre (2018-2022), and the Dean of Students' Welfare (2017-2019). He reviews papers for several international journals.

**Research Interests:**

His research interests include **child maltreatment, spirituality, wellbeing, mental health problems** and intervention studies.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Hafsa Khalil-Toor

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Profile:

Hafsa is an Assistant Professor in the **department of Psychology** at the Foundation University Islamabad, Pakistan. Her responsibilities include teaching, working as a Staff Coordinator with Dean Academics, Psychological Consultation for Examination Procedures, Workplace Environment and Student Teacher Relationship. In addition to her role at the university Hafsa is also Editor of Foundation University Journal of Psychology. Her previous role involved working with Women Institute of Science and Humanities as Action Researcher. She has won multiple funded projects and has recently completed Foundation University internally funded research project titled "Mother's storytelling practice; Reviving the old tradition and its related outcomes for pre-schoolers.

**Research Interests:**

Hafsa's research interests include **Early Executive Function of pre-schoolers:** Role of maternal, paternal and teachers' mental state. She is currently interested in developing storybooks for visually impaired children.

**Name:**

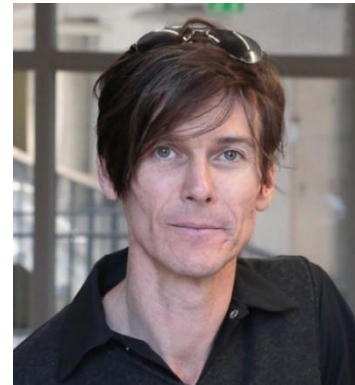
Patrick Laviolette

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Profile:

Patrick is an Assistant in the **department of Sociology** at Masaryk University, CZ. He is also Editor of *Anthro Journal of European Cultures* Berghahn Books. His skills and expertise include cultural anthropology, ethnography, cultural studies, anthropological theory, participant observation, culture and Social Anthropology.

**Research Interests:**

His areas of interest include **Material & Visual Culture**; Landscape; Hitchhiking/Alternative Travel Risk and Adventure Sport; Biography (R. Firth) / History of Anthropology. Patrick has been exposed to the diverse sub fields of human ecology and medical anthropology as well as material, digital and visual culture studies. Much of his research has occurred in quite multi- or transdisciplinary settings, often dealing with the formulation of British and European sociocultural identities. This parallels the interests of many ethnographers who explore the anthropologies of the familiar or even 'at home' topics. Additionally, he spent nearly four years working in New Zealand (2007-2010) and eight in Estonia (2010-2018). The thread that ties this background together has been to focus on the phenomenological and creative understandings of cultural landscapes by exploring various manifestations of the socially embodied imagination.

**Name:**

Laura Lotero-Velez

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Profile:

Laura is an Associate Professor at the **Department of Decision and computing sciences at the faculty of mines**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Laura does research in quantitative models for decision making, complexity science, urban mobility and urban inequalities. Her disciplines include Industrial Engineering and Transportation Engineering.

**Research Interests:**

Laura is interested in understanding, modelling, and helping stakeholders in their decision making regarding **urban mobility and urban inequalities**. She has experience in optimisation models, data analysis, and the analysis of social-technical complex systems, via complex networks, to model, better understand and give insights on how to improve such systems.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Christopher Munyati

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Profile:

Christopher is an Associate Professor in **Environmental Science, Remote Sensing** in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science of the North-West University, South Africa. He teaches Environmental Science and Remote Sensing modules at undergraduate and Honours levels, whilst also supervising postgraduate research (Honours, Masters, PhD).

**Research Interests:**

Christopher's research interests are in the application of remotely sensed imagery in the analysis of environmental phenomena, particularly vegetation characteristics and vegetation distribution.

For more information about this fellow please contact us directly at lias@leicester.ac.uk.

**Name:**

Marion Mutugi

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Profile:

Marion is currently **Commissioner of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in charge of Research, Advocacy and Outreach**. She was formerly Vice Chancellor at the AMREF International University. Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Planning, Research and Development at the University of Kabianga. Director at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (ITROMID) at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

**Research Interests:**

Marion's research interests are **bioethics as well as economic, social and cultural rights** in the following areas: Sexual and gender-based violence, mental health, technology, environment, conservation and climate change, public health and public policy. Research projects include - support for young women affected by gender-based violence, STROMME foundation. Care and support: Scaling up ART use and adherence, Columbia University. Capacity building for forensics in respect to sexual violence, OSIEA. Genetic profiling of sex offenders, JKUAT.

**Name:**

Ipshita Nath

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Profile:

Ipshita is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the **Department of History (History of Medicine)**, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. She is currently working on the **medical and health histories of carceral spaces in colonial India** during the late nineteenth century, as well as on the gendered histories of the Empire in the subcontinent. Her books, *Deadly Diseases of Colonial India* and *Vicereines of the Raj* will be published in 2024 and 2025. Her book, *Memsahibs: British Women in Colonial India* was published in 2022. She also has a collection of short stories, *The Rickshaw Reveries*, which was published in 2020.

**Research Interests:**

Ipshita's work is based on the intersections of medical humanities and literature due to her interdisciplinary background. Her research interests revolve around the British Empire in India, focusing on infectious diseases, carceral health, and women's reproductive health, with side interests in medical literatures of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

**Name:**

Canh Phuc Nguyen

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Profile:

Nguyen is a Senior Lecturer at **School of Public Finance, College of Economics, Law and Government University of Economics** Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), Vietnam. He is also Research Fellow at Health and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (HAPRI), UEH. Dr Canh had overall responsibility for managing, organizing, running and developing the Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies (JABES) as Deputy Editor in Chief from 2017 to 2020, which is published by Emerald, at University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City. He is now Associate Editor of Economics Section – Heliyon Journal (Cell – Elsevier). He has actively participated in researching, organizing workshops, seminars and conferences in UEH for both lecturers and students.

**Research Interests:**

His research focuses on **applied economics through interdisciplinary approaches**. This includes macroeconomic policies (monetary policy and fiscal policy), institutional economics, environmental economics, energy economics, ecological economics, tourism economics. He has over 130 publications in peer-reviewed journals and is part of several research projects such as the research consortium between RMIT, UEH, University of Leicester, VIRI, VICAS, and HAPRI. He also received several internal and external funds from UEH and external funds (*e.g.*, NAFOSTED, Ministry of Education and Training Vietnam, the British Academy).

**Name:**

Linda Theron

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Profile:

Linda is a Professor in the Department of **Educational Psychology**, Faculty of Education, at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is also Extraordinary Professor in Optentia Research Entity, North-West University, South Africa. Linda has an enduring interest in the **resilience of children and youth** who resist the negative impacts of disabling circumstances, experiences or conditions, and the role of situational and cultural dynamics in child and youth processes of positive adjustment.

**Research Interests:**

Linda's research interests include multisystemic resilience, child & adolescent resilience, child & adolescent mental health and visual research methods. In her research she explores the multisystemic drivers of why and how South African youth, who have been placed at risk for negative life outcomes, resile. In their social and physical ecology many young South Africans are placed at risk by multiple challenges (think of poverty, communicable disease, family adversities, ineffective schooling, the climate emergency, and so forth). These challenges are likely to remain with them for many years to come, and so it is imperative that we learn more about how and why some young people beat these odds.

**Name:**

Grace Wamue-Ngare

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Profile:

Grace is an Associate Professor in the Department of **Sociology, Gender and Development Studies** at Kenyatta University (KU), Nairobi-Kenya. She is also a Research Associate at the KU-Women's Economic Empowerment Hub (KU-WEE). Besides being a renowned gender scholar who has published extensively. She's overseeing numerous research projects funded by B&MGF, FCDO, European Union, among others. In these, she mainly guides the gender strategy in the projects for gender transformative research.

Her key role at the hub is to guide researchers in translating and packaging research for uptake by policymakers, implementors, and grassroots communities.

**Research Interests:**

As a gender scholar, her research interests are in: Gender and African cultural discourse; African indigenous community-based models that address FGM; Family and community-based structures to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence; Dynamics in food production and nutritional security; Women's economic empowerment policies, strategies and advocacy.

**Name:**

Dr David Wilkin

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Profile:

David is an Honorary Fellow at the **Centre for Hate Studies, School of Criminology**. He graduated with a BA in Criminology and Psychology and a BSc in Sociology and Human Geography, both from the Open University. Following these David successfully undertook both an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice and a PhD at the University of Leicester; the latter focusing on hate crimes on disabled people occurring on UK public transport. David has spent over thirty years in various roles within the public transport sector; from being a train driver to incident manager and latterly in senior management roles which included capital project work and work to improve the security of railways generally. Entering the training sector, David then led a small group of Equality and Inclusion Trainers - their role being to bring an understanding of diversity to largely sceptical workforces.

**Research Interests:**

Disability Hate Crime. David's passion is to make life better for people who have suffered as victims of hate crimes, specialising in people who have been victimised because of their disability. This included researching previously untold experiences of Disability Hate Crime and exploring the effectivity of safeguarding. Other research interests include the associated topics of vulnerability and also emotionality during research.



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