

# SAPA NEWSLETTER

Section on African Public Administration  
American Society for Public Administration

December 2021 | Issue 2

**Welcome from Madam Chair Dr. Rym Kaki**



Dear SAPA Members & Supporters:

I took a long neighborhood walk to oxygenate my brain and think creatively about this message, as we SAPAns bring closure to 2021! My initial thought was a traditional enumeration of all the incredible milestones the section has realized during this past year. As I walked, the crisp morning air clarified my thoughts. Here is a space for summarizing the section's accomplishments, reflecting on unrealized aspirations and celebrating the wins while we set sail for new horizons.

2021 felt somewhat like an extension of 2020! In that second year as the section leader, I and other SAPA members saw 2020 confronting us with a global health crisis that brought unprecedented disruptions upon individuals, communities, nations and systems. Early in 2021 we realized that this year would be equally challenging, as we took stock of the realities on the ground and tried to make sense of the disruptions, assess the setbacks and adapt our plans. On SAPA's agenda was another virtual annual symposium to organize, institutional partnerships to forge on the African continent, research productivity to promote, new members to recruit and voluntary contributions to activate. All to be realized amid turbulence and disrupted social interactions.

Today, the section's membership is on a steady growth path with 46 members as of this month, a 60% jump from when I assumed the section's leadership in 2019. This growth trajectory owes especially to our dedicated Executive Team and Committee Chairs and several successful collaborative efforts.

In April, SAPA held its second virtual symposium, "**Africa's Post COVID-19 Development Governance Disruptions, Setbacks and Opportunities for An Equitable Socio-Economic Recovery.**" It was launched by a distinguished quartet of keynote speakers: Dr. **John Mary Kauzya**, Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch in DPIDG/UN-DESA; **Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa); **Dr. Margee Ensign**, President of the American University of Nigeria; and **Dr. Sofiane Sahraoui**, Director General of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). They were all warmly welcomed by **Dr. Kendra Stewart**, then ASPA President and staunch SAPA supporter.

Forty participants contributed to a rich pracademic exchange over cutting edge theory and best practice dissemination, attesting to an incredible diversity of perspectives. Deep crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, have long tails. Even if the pandemic itself is bound to subside, most governments, communities and individuals on the continent are not expected to fully recover back to normal, at least not any time soon. From our deliberations emerged concrete recommendations and strategies to strengthen community resiliency approaches, tap into values of social solidarity, support safety-nets, and intensify multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration. The papers submitted and reviewed subsequent to the 2021 Symposium are now on their way to a joint e-publication under the framework of SAPA collaboration with the *African Journal of Public Administration and Management* (AJPAM) Editorial Board under the leadership of **Dr. Ukertor Moti**. For all of these results, I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the 2021 Symposium Organizing Committee members, chaired by **Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura**, as well as of SAPA Editorial Board, for peer-reviewing high quality academic research. (continued on page 8)

**Inside this issue: Mission, Executive Team, Committees, Section Events, Member News, Editor's Note**

Find us at: <http://thesapa.org/>

## MISSION

*SAPA's mission is to advance the science, processes and art of public administration on the African continent, and equality of opportunity all persons through public administration.*

## Leadership & Committees

### SAPA Executive Team:

Rym Kaki (Chair), [rym@price.usc.edu](mailto:rym@price.usc.edu)

Gedeon Mudacumura (Vice Chair), [gmudacumura@iarcpa.org](mailto:gmudacumura@iarcpa.org)

Bakry Elmedni (Treasurer), [bakry.elmedni@liu.edu](mailto:bakry.elmedni@liu.edu)

Simone Martin-Howard (Secretary), [simone.martin@liu.edu](mailto:simone.martin@liu.edu)

### Academic Affairs Committee:

Shin Kue Ryu (Chair), [shinkueryu@isu.edu](mailto:shinkueryu@isu.edu); Richard Gregory Johnson, III; Gedeon Mudacumura; James Agbodzakey; Peter Fuseini Haruna; Rym Kaki; Genevieve Meyers; Jean-Claude Mansanga Ndongo

### Fundraising Committee:

James Agbodzakey (Chair), [jamesagbodzakey@gmail.com](mailto:jamesagbodzakey@gmail.com); Sombo Chunda (Co-Chair) [chundasm@vcu.edu](mailto:chundasm@vcu.edu); Jean-Claude Ndongo (Co-Chair) [jndongo2019@fau.edu](mailto:jndongo2019@fau.edu); Gedeon Mudacumura; Bok Gyo Jeong; Rym Kaki; Debbie Trent

### Practitioners Capacity Building Committee:

Adebayo Adanri (Chair), [adebayo.adanri@gmail.com](mailto:adebayo.adanri@gmail.com); Jessie Rose Mabutas; Ibrahim Abdu Mairiga; Russell Allen Manning; David Bell; Gedeon Mudacumura; Atta Ceesay

### Marketing & Membership Committee:

Sombo Chunda (Chair), [chundasm@mymail.vcu.edu](mailto:chundasm@mymail.vcu.edu); James Agbodzakey; Simone Martin-Howard; Thomas Morelli; Funmi Ebiwonjumi; Fai Cheleuka

### Global Outreach Committee:

Mohamed Abdel-Moneim (Chair), [moneim@feps.edu.eg](mailto:moneim@feps.edu.eg); Frank Ohemeng; Aminata Sillah; Peter Haruna; Elizabeth S. Overman; Rym Kaki

### Communication, Newsletter & Website Committee:

Deborah Trent (Chair & Newsletter Editor), [dtrent@civilstrategies.net](mailto:dtrent@civilstrategies.net); Rym Kaki; Terrence Alladin; Rosa Krewson; Merlene-Patrice Bourdeau-Quispe; Oge Agim

### 2021 Section Events (1/2)

#### SAPA SYMPOSIUM AT THE 2021 ASPA CONFERENCE

### “Africa’s Post COVID-19 Development Governance Disruptions, Setbacks and Opportunities for an Equitable Socio-Economic Recovery”

Presenting to an engaged global audience, both in the US and in Africa, who deliberated for almost six hours and...



#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**John-Mary KAUZYA**

Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch,  
Directorate for Public Institutions and Digital Government,  
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

**Jean Pierre ELONG MBASSI**

Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa); Chairperson of the Cities Alliance Interim Management Board and Deputy Secretary General of the China-Africa forum of local governments

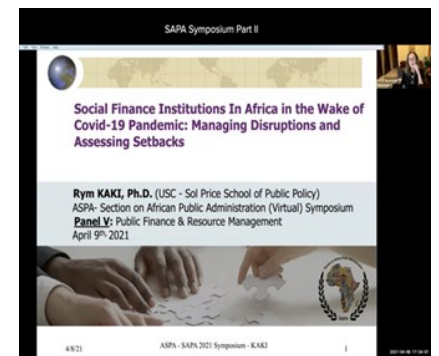
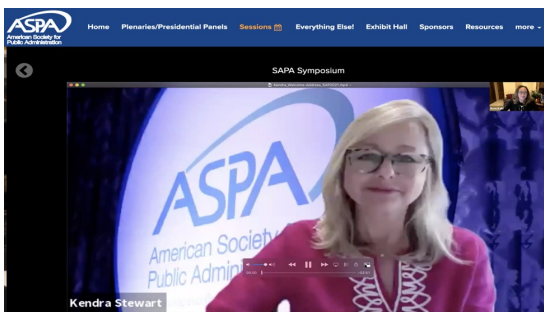


**Margee ENSIGN**

President of Dickinson College, PA, USA; Former President of the American University of Nigeria

**Sofiane SAHRAOUI**

Director General of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)



...Concluding with much deserved recognition to **Dr John-Mary Kauzya**, Chief of the Public Service Innovation Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government/UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who actively participated for the entire symposium.

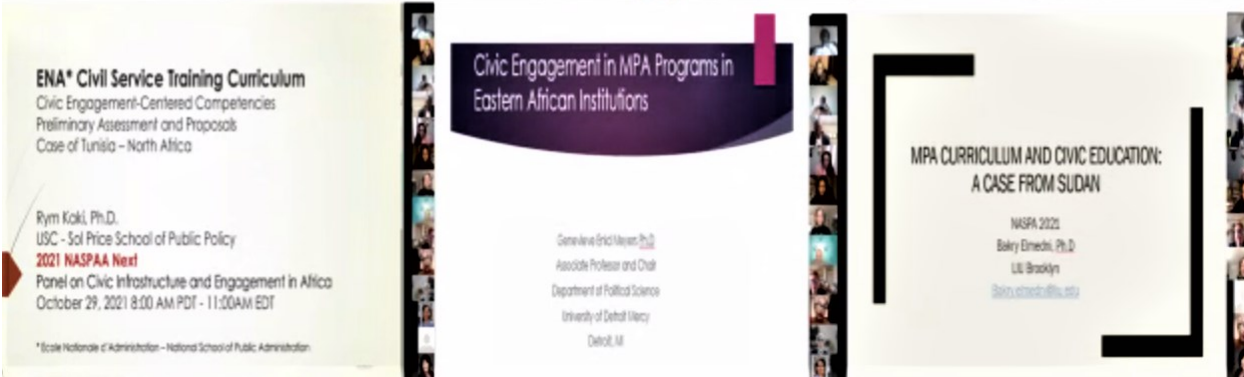
### 2021 Section Events (2/2)

#### AFRICAN PANEL AT THE 2021 NASPAA CONFERENCE

On October 29th, SAPA members, **Drs. Peter Haruna, Aziza Zembrani, Bakry Elmedni, Genevieve Meyers and Rym Kaki** convened the African panel at the 2021 NASPAA Annual Conference. The panel was honored to have **Dr. Lloyd Amoah** (University of Ghana) as its respondent. Themed **“Civic Infrastructure and Engagement in Africa: MPA/MPP Curricular Implications”** and chaired by **Dr. Peter Haruna**, the panel addressed the question of how to strengthen MPA/MPP education and training by drawing upon Africa’s experience with building a civic-oriented infrastructure culture to foster engagement. Using public values frames as theoretical basis, panelists argued that education and training for public service



in the continent could transcend the concerns of physical infrastructure and grapple with civic concerns through dialogue and deliberation. They analyzed sample MPA/MPP curricula and teaching methodologies in African universities and civil service training institutions arguing that there is ample opportunity to embed civic-centered courses to equip public managers with skills for promoting the values needed to foster civic awareness and community engagement. Tapping into Africa’s communitarian ethos and



drawing on “bonding” and “bridging” social capital theories, they proposed a proto-type civic-based MPA/MPP curriculum with a chance for transforming Africa’s public affairs education and training landscape. Overall, the panel facilitated cross-national exchange of ideas, conversation, and learning. **Dr. Peter Haruna**

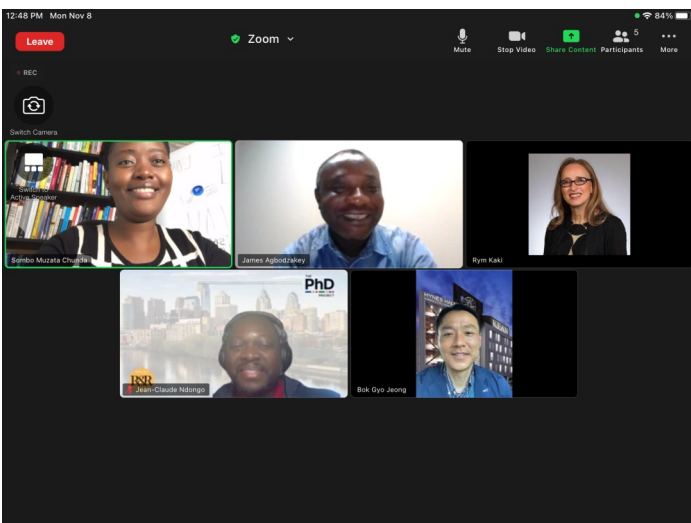
### Upcoming Section Events (1/2)

#### Fundraising Pledge/Support Drive 2021-2022

On December 13, Dr. Simone Martin-Howard, SAPA Secretary, emailed all members an invitation from the Fundraising Committee to support the section's mission to advance the science, processes and art of public administration on the African continent, and the equality of opportunity of all persons through public administration. In this kick-off to the Fundraising Pledge/Support Drive, members who respond by donating will be directly supporting SAPA's Annual Symposium to be held from March 18-22, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville (Florida). Your donation will support symposium activities, fund emerging scholars, grow SAPA's capacity and foster emergent efforts among others in the wider African PA community.

The SAPA Advisory Board welcomes your monetary donation to promote development governance, management and leadership for Africa's greater good. Give whatever amount you can 'til it feels good.

With thanks,  
James Agbodzakey,  
Fundraising Committee Chair  
[jamesagbodzakey@gmail.com](mailto:jamesagbodzakey@gmail.com)



Fundraising Committee meeting on 11/8/21, clockwise from top left: Sombo Chunda, James Agbodzakey, Rym Kaki, Jean-Claude Ndongo, Bok Gyo Jeong

### 2022 Upcoming Section Event (2/2)

#### 2022 SAPA SYMPOSIUM

As part of ASPA Annual Conference, scheduled on March 18-22, 2022, SAPA plans to host its annual Symposium focusing on **Democratic Governance in Africa: Current Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities**. We invite multidisciplinary scholars and practitioners to join the conversation on the ways to accelerate public sector action toward a multi-pillar goal of strengthening African democratic governance, supporting inclusive civil engagement, and mobilizing African workforce and youth talent around creative solutions to surmount the setbacks and reversals brought about by the unprecedented pandemic. Please mark **Friday March 18, 2022** on your calendar. Below please refer to the **call for papers**. Review of SAPA Symposium proposal submissions will begin on **December 15, 2021** and continue through **January 31, 2022**. Notifications of decisions will be made via email on or before **February 28, 2022**. Proposals should be emailed to the 2022 Symposium committee Chair, Dr. Shin Kue Ryu ([shinkueryu@isu.edu](mailto:shinkueryu@isu.edu)). The high-quality papers presented at the Symposium will be considered for publication in either a special co-edited issue of AJPAM (e-edition) and/or an edited volume. AJPAM is the African Journal of Public Administration and Management. Download the Call for Papers [here](#).

**The American Society for Public Administration  
2022 Annual Conference  
March 18-22, 2022 | Hyatt Regency | Jacksonville, Florida**

### **SECTION ON AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SAPA) SYMPOSIUM**



#### **CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS**

**Democratic Governance in Africa: Current Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities**

### Member News

We join **Sombo Muzata Chunda** in celebrating her PhD, earned in August, and the October publication of “Zambia’s Regime Change: An Opportunity for Public Administration Reforms?” in [PA Times](#).



On April 10, **James Agbodzakey** received the ASPA Chester A. Newland Presidential Citation of Merit during the President’s Reception at the [American Society for Public Administration \(ASPA\) National 2021](#) annual conference, from outgoing President Paul Danczyk and incoming President Kendra Stewart. The citation is presented to individuals by the ASPA president for invaluable support during the presidency and tireless service to the Society.

---

*Thanks to readers who are already SAPA members! If not, please consider joining and click [here](#) to learn how.*

---

### Editor’s Note

It has been rewarding to help chronicle SAPA’s progress this year and watch the fruits of the section’s leadership and members yield more ‘people power,’ stronger scholarly and practitioner ties with the African continent and across the globe, and, so importantly — rigorous research and praxis. As Rym Kaki and I have discussed, SAPA has a special intergenerational and intercultural organizational identity. Coupled with intensive energy as global citizens, we hope for increased section attention on the climate crisis and poverty. These must be central themes of SAPA’s work. May the section’s collective wisdom, commitment and diversity shine on, forging professional and public-private partnerships and other synergies that comprise the unique SAPA brand.

Looking forward to receiving your professional news for the July newsletter at [dtrent@civilstrategies.net](mailto:dtrent@civilstrategies.net),

**Debbie Trent, Ph.D.**



### Chair's Message, continued from page 1

As promised in my opening statement, SAPA should be defined by its accomplishments **and** aspirations. SAPA aims to resume the in-person annual symposium format at the ASPA annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida, on March 18, 2022. It will continue building on the monumental effort in 2021. The symposium, “**Democratic Governance in Africa: Current Threats Challenges, and Opportunities,**” will explore public sector governance in Africa, especially, the capacity to address the realities of socio-economic inertia, if not stagnation, and foster adoption of innovations corresponding to domestic capacity and indigenous knowledge. SAPA members, African and global scholars, and practitioners are invited to disseminate research and enrich the existing PA scholarship and praxis on the African continent. **Dr. Shin Kue Ryu** is chairing the SAPA 2022 Symposium Organizing Committee. A call for papers is already out, and with it another exciting event is in store for SAPA members and supporters.

On the resource front, **Dr. James K. Agbodzakey** — SAPA Fundraising Committee Chair, the SAPA Executive Team and the Marketing & Membership Committee — chaired by **Dr. Sombo Chunda**, are currently formulating a targeted sponsorship and fundraising campaign. The Global Outreach Committee, chaired by **Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Moneim**, with the support of past Committee Chair, **Dr. Aminata Sillah**, is putting together an “African-Diaspora Talent” database in addition to incubating a continent-based conference around the localization of Africa’s Development Goals Agenda for 2063 and the UN’s 2020 SDGs. The Communications Committee, chaired by **Dr. Debbie Trent**, has supported the first and this second edition of SAPA’s newsletter, complementing the other primary source of SAPA news, at <http://thesapa.org/>.

A special thank you goes to all the committees’ members and chairs for undertaking such formidable tasks to ensure successful implementation of the SAPA vision and strategy, all done with grace, teamwork, and creativity. I am deeply grateful for SAPA Advisory Board for their critical strategic guidance of the section’s affairs, in particular a special thank you goes to **Dr. Peter Haruna**, **Dr. Genevieve Meyers**, **Dr. Jessie Rose Mabutas**, **Dr. Bok Gyo Jeong**, **Dr. Aminata Sillah**, **Dr. Debbie Trent**, **Dr. Oluwole Owoye**, and **Dr. Atta Ceesay**. Our new supporting partners from the African continent likewise deserve accolades, including: **Dr. George Scott**; AAPAM’s Secretary General; **Dr. Ukertor Moti**, AJPAM Editor; **Dr. Sofiane Sahraoui**, IIAS Director, and **Dr. John Mary Kauzya**, Chief of UN-DESA Public Service Innovation Branch. Deep appreciation goes to ASPA leadership for their support and guidance, in particular **Dr. Kendra Stewart**, **Dr. Allan Rosenbaum**, **Mr. William Shields** and **Ms. Karen Garrett**. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the section newcomers. Since SAPA’s founding, it has been rewarding to witness the rapid expansion of the SAPA circle of members, friends and supporters.

Last but not least, my esteemed colleagues on the Executive Team, **Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura**, **Dr. Bakry Elmedni** and **Dr. Simone Martin-Howard**, thank you for putting up with my incessant emails, texts and phone calls. I am forever indebted to your generous contributions to SAPA. It continues to be an honor leading SAPA affairs and collaborating with you all. I pledge to continue serving the section until the end of my term in 2024. My vision for the section is encapsulated in Nelson Mandela’s quote: “there is no passion playing small – in settling for a life less than the one you are capable of living.” Together we can work on weaving fresh and creative narratives about ethical, inclusive and sustainable development on the African continent. We look forward to your continued active engagement with the SAPA section and ASPA community during our upcoming 2022 symposium.

Wishing you all a restorative and joyful winter break. Happy Holidays!

**Rym A. Kaki, Ph.D.** [rym@price.usc.edu](mailto:rym@price.usc.edu)

