



SAPA NEWSLETTER

Section on African Public Administration
American Society for Public Administration
Issue 3 ~ July 2022



Message from Dr. Rym Kaki, SAPA Chair



Dear SAPA Members & Supporters:

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as SAPA’s re-elected Chair (2021-2024) and build upon my predecessor’s contributions. I take pride in witnessing the section’s fast-growing membership, thriving research productivity, enhanced global outreach, and access to collaborative and supportive partnerships, networks, and sponsors, both in the U.S. and on the African continent. SAPA implements the different bits and pieces of its overarching strategy thanks to the five sub-committee system designed to effectively channel members’ unique interests, talent, skills, and voluntary contributions, in alignment with the SAPA mission. I would like to share the most critical highlights and accomplishments registered by the section during Spring 2022. (continued on p. 11)

Inside: Executive/Committee Leadership; ASPA 2022—SAPA Symposium; SAPA/AJPAM Guest Edition; April 22 Business Meeting; In Memoriam; Member News; Co-Editors’ Note



Executive/Committee Leadership Team

Officers: Rym Kaki (Chair); Gedeon M. Mudacumura (Vice Chair); Bakry Elmedni (Treasurer); Simone Martin (Secretary)

Advisory Board: Genevieve Meyers; Peter F. Haruna; Jessie Rose Mabutias; Oluwole Owoye; Deborah L. Trent; Atta Ceesay; Sombo Muzata; Bok Gyo Jeong; Aminata Sillah

Academic Affairs Committee

Shin Kue Ryu (Chair) shinkueryu@isu.edu; ryushin@isu.edu

Practitioners Capacity Building Committee

Adebayo Andari (Chair) -- adebayo.adanri@gmail.com

Marketing & Membership Committee

Atta Ceesay (Chair) – ceesayaa@buffalostate.edu

Communication, Newsletter & Website Committee

Debbie Trent (Chair) – dtrent@civilstrategies.net

Fundraising Committee

Jean-Claude Mansanga Ndongo (Chair) – jndongo2019@fau.edu

Global Outreach Committee

Mohamed Abdel-Moneim (Chair) – moneim@feps.edu.eg

SAPA Mission & Goals

The American Society for Public Administration's (ASPA) Section on African Public Administration (SAPA) aims to advance the science, processes and art of public administration and governance on the African Continent. It purports to foster opportunities for joint research and exchange between African Public Administration scholars and their international counterparts; provide systematic analysis, commentary, and articulation of on-the-ground plight of Africa's public service; play a leading role in advocating for diverse representation at all levels of government and promote the sense of ethical responsibility focusing on the exploration of professional, democratic, constitutional, and human values in public service.

<http://thesapa.org>

SAPA 2022 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM
**“Democratic Governance in Africa:
Current Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities”**

The American Society for Public Administration
March 2022 Annual Conference



AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT (AAPAM)



[For full program click here](#)

Panel I: Taking Stock of Public Administration Realities

**Panel II: Africa’s Public Sector Work Force Development in
a Post-COVID-19 World: Transitions and Trajectories in
Comparative Perspective**

**Panel III: Political Transitions & Institutional
Consequences**

**Panel IV. ICT Infrastructure & Governance: Gaps &
Opportunities**

Panel V. Collaborative Governance in Turbulent Times

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Sofiane SAHRAOUI

Director General International
Institute of Administrative Sciences,
Brussels



Dr. Liza VAN JAARSVELDT

Associate Professor Department of
Public Administration and
Management UNISA - University of
South Africa



Dr. Ukertor MOTI

Dean of the Post Graduate School
Professor of Public Sector
Management and Governance
University of Abuja, Nigeria AJPAM
Editor in Chief

SAPA 2022 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

The American Society for Public Administration
March 2022 Annual Conference (continued)

MARCH 2022 SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS



SAPA 2022 Keynote Session featuring SAPA Chair, ASPA President **Prof. Allan Rosenbaum**, SAPA Symposium Chair, **Dr. Shin Kue Ryu** and the keynote speakers



SAPA 2022 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**The American Society for Public Administration
March 2022 Annual Conference (continued)**

We asked attendees...What is your best or lasting memory of the Symposium?

“My best memories were meeting colleagues in the field, sharing and learning about PA in the African context, and exchanging great ideas for scholarship.” -- **Varaidzo Zvogbo, Texas A&M International University**

“My major takeaways were the awesome connections and networks made with different scholars from across the world. I got a platform in SAPA to showcase my work, for which I am grateful.” - **Chipiliro Kalonde, Idaho State University**



In summary, the Symposium attracted scholars, practitioners and students from across a variety of disciplines for lively discussion about shared concerns. Many attended for all eight hours, both in-person and remotely. At the end of the day, participants enjoyed the social networking that reinforced a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and community as well as purposeful intercultural exchange. The lasting sentiment is one of maintaining the connections we made, as part of SAPA’s mission to promote research, practice and also leadership.

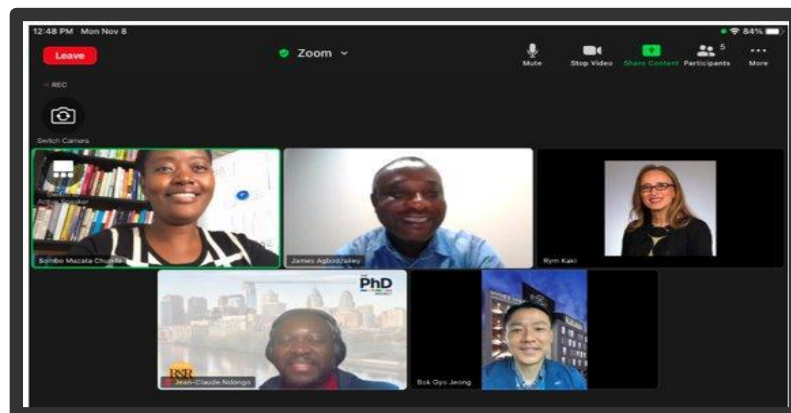
SAPA/AJPAM Guest Edition

The first SAPA guest-edited publication is now accessible via the website of the *African Journal of Public Administration and Management* and the auspices of the Association of African Public Administration. This special edited issue of *AJPAM* (Vol. XXVIII No. 2 July- December 2021) – *Africa's Development Governance Post-COVID-19 Disruptions, Setbacks, Opportunities for an Equitable Socio-Economic Recovery* – is available [here](#). This seminal accomplishment owes in particular to the central role of **Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura** in co-leading with SAPA Chair **Dr. Rym Kaki** the negotiations resulting in a mutually beneficial MOU among the three partners.



April 22 Business Meeting & Social Networking Session

SAPA Chair **Dr. Rym Kaki** reported to 23 other members in attendance at the meeting on SAPA's mission, goals and activities and provided a recap of SAPA 2021-2022 academic activities and global outreach outcomes, emphasizing the fruitful, collaborative, and ongoing partnership with the Association of African Public Administration, in particular with the *African Journal of Public Administration*. **Dr. Shin Kue Ryu** gave a brief overview of the 2022 SAPA Symposium which comprised a keynote session, five panels featuring 20 presentations in total and was delivered both inperson and via Zoom. Dr. Ryu and colleagues are now considering papers for the next joint publication with AJPAM. **The Fundraising Committee** has grown the section's financial resources, thanks to multiple donations, including \$5,00 from the University of North Texas Dallas and individual members' contributions of more than \$1,400.



The Fundraising Committee has reason to smile!

April 22 Business Meeting & Social Networking Session (continued)

It was also reported that, thanks to **Global Outreach Committee** Chair **Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Moneim** and committee members, talks are progressing with the University of Cairo on a joint program for 2023.



Dr. Kaki also advised that plans are underway for the third SAPA symposium in 2023, co-located on the U.S. east and west coasts, as well as the 2024 in-person SAPA conference on the continent.

The meeting was followed by Q&A and social networking, including an initial conversation about how SAPA can facilitate African scholars' research in U.S.-based publications through the Conference of Minority Public Administrators and other organizations.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Joyce Mann – July 2022

SAPA chair Dr. Rym Kaki is sad to share the devastating news of the sudden passing of **Dr. Joyce Mann**, a long-time colleague, SAPA member and staunch supporter of the section since its inception.

Dr. Mann joined USC Sol Price School of Public Policy in 1999 and served as the director of the International Public Policy and Management Program for the past 13 years. Her intellectual prowess, human-centered approach to international education and respect for cultural diversity touched the lives of more than 1,000

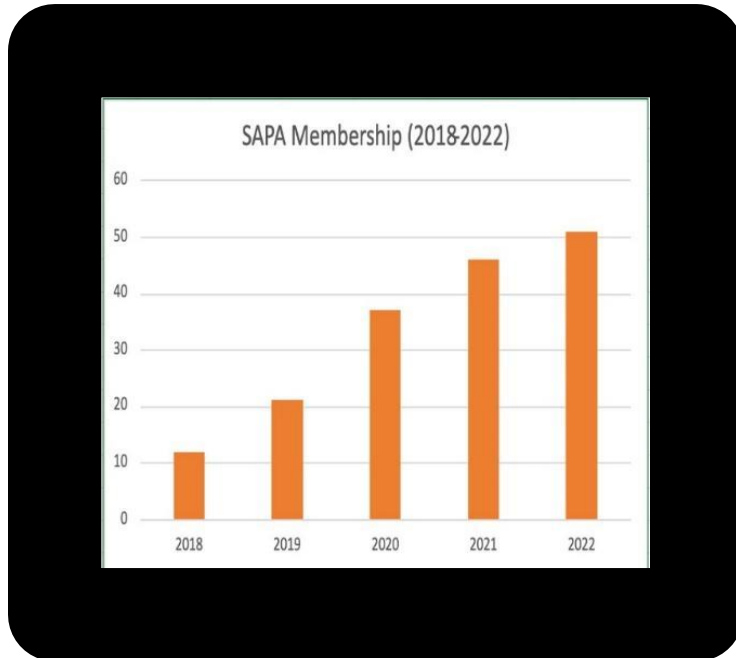


students, both at home and abroad. As a former RAND corporation health policy analyst, Joyce’s research into domestic and comparative health care issues made an indelible impact in the field. To use the words of her colleague, **Dr. Joanna Yu**: “Compassionate and thoughtful as Joyce was, she wouldn’t want to see anyone distressed. Rather, she would want you to remember her joy for life and the rich experiences you shared with her at IPPAM and USC Price.”

It was an honor having collaborated with Joyce all these years. Her generous support to SAPA’s mission and goals will be dearly missed. She is gone too soon, yet she left behind a life well-lived and a legacy to remember for years to come.

We owe it to Joyce to sustain her legacy of championing students’ inclusive access to educational opportunities and facilitating intercultural exchange and collaboration.

MEMBER NEWS



Since 2018, SAPA membership has grown from 12 to 51. In four quick years, the section has attracted new faces and strong voices through one-to-one engagement, mutual professional interests, support, encouragement, and bonhomie.

Here are five recent member highlights...



Atta A. Ceesay, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Administration SUNY Buffalo State, received the Excellence in Public Administration Education Award for the Year 2022.

In June, **Cecilia IdikaKalu** earned her Ph.D. in Global Studies, following her MPA, both from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

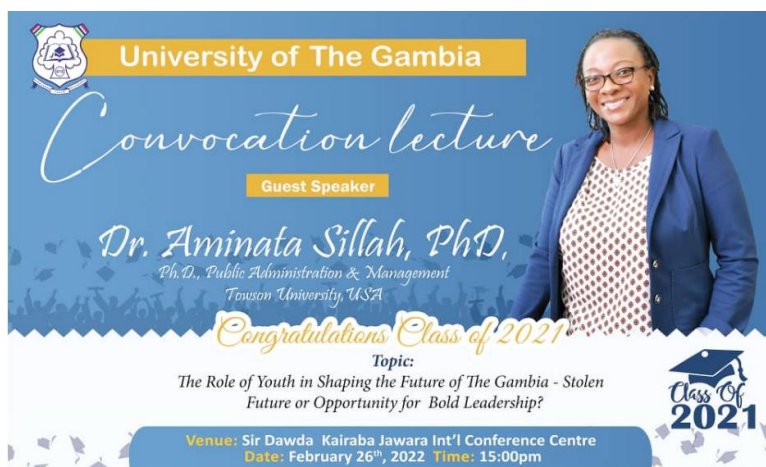


MEMBER NEWS (continued)

Dr. Sombo Muzata, at Virginia Commonwealth University, was selected as a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow for 2022/2023. The CADF is a competitive fellowship program for the African diaspora supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The University of Pretoria will host her as she conducts research in public financial management research. Dr. Muzata has also recently published two articles, "Motivations for Entrepreneurship: New Evidence from Tertiary-level Educated Sub-Saharan African Women," and "Budget systems and post-pandemic economic resilience in developing countries."



Dr. Aminata Sillah delivered the Convocation Lecture to the Class of 2021 at the University of the Gambia.



The Board of Management of the International Association of Administrative Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) has officially welcomed **Dr. Rym Kaki** as a new individual member. IASIA influences the global public administration governance agenda through high impact events targeting and involving both public service and academe; production and dissemination of relevant knowledge on public governance; enabling collaborative and strategic projects with members and partners; and accrediting both academic and professional training programs in line with standards of best practices in public management.



Message from Chair Dr. Rym Kaki (continued from page 1)

On the academic front, SAPA heightened activity around the organization of the SAPA 2022 Symposium as ASPA resumed on-the-ground annual conferences. SAPA's one-day Symposium comprised a multidisciplinary keynote session, five moderated panels featuring 20 presentations. Both were delivered in hybrid format, engaging PA scholars and practitioners from the U.S. and the African continent. There was strong audience participation throughout the day, attesting to a sustained interest in the diversity of topics, case studies, and best practices around the theme of *African Development Governance Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic Recovery Era*. A special thank you goes to the keynote speakers, Drs. George Scott (AAPAM Secretary General, Kenya), Sofiane Sahraoui (IIAS Director, Belgium), Ukertor Moti (AJPAM Editor in Chief, Nigeria), and Liza Van Jaarsveldt (UNISA Associate Professor, South Africa), accompanied by ASPA 2022 President Prof. Allan Rosenbaum, a strong supporter of ASPA's international engagement. The successful implementation of the SAPA 2022 Symposium owes largely to Dr. Shin Kue Ryu, the SAPA 2022 Academic Affairs Chair, who expended boundless energy and many hours along with his committee colleagues and SAPA members at large.

On the fundraising front, I am happy to report the generous sponsorship of the SAPA 2022 Symposium by the University of North Texas (UNT) at Dallas. A big accolade goes to the instrumental effort of Dr. James Agbodzakey, the SAPA 2022 Fundraising Committee Chair, for effectively pitching the SAPA mission, goals, and aspirations to the President and Provost of UNT Dallas. President Bob Mong's articulated vision of educational empowerment and social inclusion during the 2022 Symposium keynote session deeply resonated with SAPA and ASPA guests in the audience.

On the global partnership end, I am happy to share the first fruit of our collaboration with the Association of African Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), namely the launch of SAPA's first guest-edited publication. This special edited issue of the *African Journal of Public Administration and Management* is available via [this link](#). I would like to take a moment to thank both the SAPA and AJPAM editorial teams for ensuring good quality papers through proper review and selection. SAPA Chair-Elect, Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura, played a key role as we co-led the negotiation effort resulting in a mutually beneficial joint publication. Dr. Mudacumura has handed the baton to Dr. Ryu as the latter takes over the 2022 SAPA/AJPAM joint publication process.

There are additional activities to emphasize, such as currently working on forging new partnerships with other ASPA sections and PA organizations on the continent, the launching of a task force to brainstorm the details of a continent-based conference, crafting a bolder fundraising strategy, fostering multidisciplinary conversations about the future of PA on the continent, amongst other goals. The possibilities for SAPA growth, both in the U.S. and on the continent, are boundless. It is my utmost wish that all SAPA members continue to build upon the great momentum realized in such a short time, overcoming the disruptions and setbacks of the past two years. SAPA accomplishments owe especially to the very capable and high-energy contributions of the executive team, to the sound strategic advice of the Board, to the dedicated sub-committees shaping strategy and ensuring distinct spaces for creative contributions, to our encouraging and generous partners, and to our patron organization, ASPA, for disseminating cutting edge knowledge and framing current PA priorities.

Stay tuned for upcoming SAPA activities and events, including the call for papers for the SAPA 2023 Symposium, details on the task force for the continent-based conference, launch of the SAPA Symposium Best Paper Award, and news on partnerships for joint publications. Further information is

available on our website (<https://thesapa.org/>). Please reach out directly if you have creative proposals and/or to voice concerns. SAPA, as any organization, is like a ship: in order to move, it requires a tightly knit crew and favorable winds. I look forward to working with each one of you as we advance SAPA goals.

Sincerely,
Rym KAKI, Ph.D., SAPA Chair

Co-Editors' Note: We want to thank all the members who have contributed photos and text to this newsletter. In addition, we send encouragement to members far and wide to continue sharing content



and spread the word about our collaborative, inclusive, space for scholarship and networking. We will be in touch with short periodic emails to keep the lines of communication open and sustain participation beyond the ASPA conference. As our research products and partnerships expand, this newsletter will continue to be a promotional tool for all of SAPA's stakeholders.



Debbie Trent & Cecilia Idika-Kalu

