

The American Society for Public Administration 2025 Annual Conference

SECTION ON AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SAPA)



SAPA 2025 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**“Keeping African Public Servants in Public Service:
Unleashing the Power of People and Technology on the African Continent”
Washington, D.C. | The Mayflower Hotel | Senate Ballroom
March 28, 2025 | 9:00AM to 5:00 PM**

SAPA Symposium Organizing Committee (2025)

Shin Kue Ryu (Chair), Oluwole Owoye (Vice-Chair), Erika Mamley Osae (Member), Peter Fuseini Haruna (Member), Liza Van Jaarsveldt (Member), James Agbodzakey (Member), Genevieve MEYERS (Member), Cecilia Idika-Kalu (Member), Michael Tunde Ajayi (Member), Kelechi Uzochukwu (Member), Rym Kaki (Member), Frank Ohemang (Member), Richard Johnson III (Member), Elijah Agyapong (Member)

Total Time for Each Panel: 85 minutes
Panel Moderator’s Introduction: 2 minutes (max)
Presentation: 15 minutes (max) per panelist
Audience Q & A Engagement: 10 (max) minutes per panel

Major Event Sponsor: **UNT | DALLAS**
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS



SYMPOSIUM OPENING REMARKS
The Mayflower Hotel | Senate Room |

(9:00 AM to 9:15 AM)

Dr. Rym KAKI

Section on African Public Administration (SAPA), Chair
Associate Teaching Professor
Director, International Public Policy, and Management Program
Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California



Dr. Patria DE LANCER JULNES

American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) President
Rosenthal Endowed Professor of Public Administration
University of New Mexico

Dr. Shin Kue RYU

SAPA 2025 Symposium Committee, Chair
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Idaho State University



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Mayflower Hotel | Senate Room |

(9:20 AM to 10:30 AM)



Dr. Ambassador *Chibamba KANYAMA*
Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the US

Dr. Chibamba Kanyama was appointed as the Ambassador-Designate of Zambia to the U.S. in 2023. The Ambassador embodies significant experience in communications leadership and economics with work at the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. *Daniel Ortega NIETO*

Lead Governance Specialist and Program Manager
Public Sector Innovation and GovTech Program
The World Bank

The Public Sector Innovation and GovTech Program provides direct support to operations and convenes key stakeholders to promote the use of foundational and frontier tools and technologies with the goal of transforming the way governments operate, deliver services, and interact with citizens.



**Panel I: African PA Professionalization in the AI Era –
Human Capital, Leadership, and Public Service**

(10:45 AM to 12:10 PM)

- Who is the public servant in an era of heightened digitalization and automation?
- How different is artificial intelligence-driven public service from the traditional model?
- How can we harness technology in human capital development efforts?
- How can we utilize and leverage technological advancements to rethink public service delivery?
- What is the current state of research and literature on the technology-driven paradigmatic shift in the US, on the African continent, and globally?

Moderator: Oluwole Owoye (Professor, West Connecticut State University)

Presenters:

- **Peter F. Haruna** (Texas A&M International University). *Conceptualizing the Ideal African Public Servant in the Era of Robots.*
- **Laila El Baradei** (American University in Cairo, Egypt) and **Rana Hendy** (American University in Cairo, Egypt). *Generational Divide and Work Engagement in the Egyptian Public Service.*
- **Frank L. K. Ohemeng** (Concordia University) and **Ellen Abakah** (University of Ghana). *Middle Level Managers as Agents of Social Change in the Era of Technological Development in Developing Countries: The Case of Ghana Civil Service.*
- **Michael Kwame Mickson** (University of Professional Studies) and **Erika Mamley Osae** (University of Professional Studies). *Unleashing the Power of People and Technology on the African Continent: Public Administration in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.*
- **Christopher Amrobo Enemuwe** (Idaho State University), **Peter Roubah Daytau** (University of Ghana), **Janet Okailey Okine** (University of Memphis), **Adriana Ewurabena Biney** (University of Ghana), and **Solomon Adewole** (University of Ibadan). *Applying AI technology in the Surveillance of Intimate Partner Violence among Women in Liberia.*



Panel II: Leapfrogging AI Powered Innovations for Service Delivery and Accountability

(1:00 PM- 2:30PM)

- What is driving the supply-side vs demand-side argument for accelerated AI adoptions in enhancing public service? What is the degree of AI adoption in African PA systems?
- How are investments channeled in technological advancement? How are digital AI platforms funded, developed, implemented, and used?
- What can be said about African citizen's adoption readiness for technological advancement?
- How do AI-powered innovations constitute new opportunities and means for advancing public service delivery and improving accountability?
- How does the urban/rural divide impact the era of heightened digitalization and automation?
- Where can things go wrong? Lessons Learned and Comparative Insights.
- What are the pros and cons of large-scale adoption of AI?

Moderator: Genevieve Meyers (Associate Professor, University of Detroit Mercy)

Presenters:

- **James K. Agbodzakey** (University of North Texas at Dallas) and **Sandra Schrouder** (Barry University). *Empowering Africa: People/Communities and Technology Leading Health Emergency Responses.*
- **Ellen Abakah** (University of Ghana) and **Frank L. K. Ohemeng** (Concordia University). *Affirmative Action, Gender Equality, Equity, and Inclusion in the Civil Service in Developing Countries: The Perspective of Ghana.*
- **Sombo Muzata** (James Madison University) and **Samuel Muzata** (Innovative Dynamics). *Leveraging AI for Accountability: An Analysis of AI Critical Input Producing Countries.*
- **Chipi Kalonde** (Idaho State University). *Women, Peace, and Security Agenda: An AI-Inspired Approach to National Action Plans in African Nations.*
- **Jean-Claude Mansanga Ndongu** (Florida Atlantic University) and **Emmanuel Amoah-Darkwah** (University of Ghana). *Harnessing Youth-Spearheaded Innovation to Governance in Africa: AFCFTA as a Launchpad*



Panel III: African Current Regulatory Frameworks and Challenges in the AI Era

(2:35 PM - 4:00 PM)

- What do African legislative and regulatory frameworks say about public service accountability and regulations in the AI era?
- What are the ethical and accessibility challenges associated with increased AI adoption in public service?
- Who may be left behind in the AI era?
- Is artificial intelligence a positive force in democratization efforts? Any challenges?

Moderator: Gedeon Mudacumura (IARC, Executive Director)

Presenters:

- **Rym A. Kaki** (University of Southern California). *Unpacking the Merits, Challenges and Opportunities for AI Adoptions in Public Service Delivery: Comparative Experiences & Lessons Learnt for the Continent*
- **Shin Kue Ryu** (Idaho State University) and **Mohamed Echkaou** (Idaho State University). *Morocco E-Services: Evaluating the Challenges to Full Digitalization.*
- **Bakry Elmedni** (Long Island University). *African PA Professionalization in the AI Era: Human Capital, Leadership and Public Service.*
- **Phil Nyaku** (Idaho State University). *Effectiveness and Accessibility of AI-Powered Chatbots in Municipal Citizen Engagement: A Case Study of Selected Municipalities in Gauteng Province, South Africa.*
- **Frank L. K. Ohemeng** (Concordia University), **Rosina Foli** (University of Ghana), and **Kwame Boateng** (University of Ghana). *Leveraging Technology to Enhance Social Equity in Developing Countries, The Ghanaian Case in Perspective.*

Concluding Remarks

Rym KAKI (University of Southern California), SAPA Chair





SAPA Annual Business Meeting

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM | SENATE Ballroom | The Mayflower Hotel



SAPA Foundational TEAM 2018



Welcome to the
Section on African
Public Administration

Annual Business Meeting
March 28, 2025
Washington DC
The Mayflower Hotel

AY 24-25 Highlights
&
2026 Strategic Plan

Rym KAKI, Ph.D.
SAPA Chair



Section on African Public
Administration (SAPA)
Continental
Conference

LOCALIZATION OF AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES, LESSONS
LEARNED, & OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS

June 6-7, 2023
1:00 PM - 9:30 PM Cairo Time
Mary Orosa Hall, AUC New Cairo



Presiding Section Chair: Rym KAKI

Social Co-mingling at the Annual Dinner Reception (RSVP)

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Venue: TBA

Major Event Sponsor:

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