The American Society for Public Administration 2026 Annual Conference

SECTION ON AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SAPA)

SAPA 2026 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Continuity and Change in Public Administration:
Building a Bridge to Africa's Futures
Hollywood, CA| In-person | March 20, 2026|9:00AM to 6:00PM
Hancock Park Room| Loews Hollywood

SAPA Symposium Organizing Committee (2026)

Shin Kue Ryu (Chair), Oluwole Owoye (Vice-Chair), Erika Mamley Osae (Member), Peter Fuseini Haruna (Member), Liza Van Jaarsveldt (Member), Shamsul Haque (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: 90 minutes
Panel Moderator's Introduction: **2** minutes (max)
Presentation: **15** minutes (max) per panelist
Audience Q & A Engagement: 30 (max) minutes per panel

SYMPOSIUM OPENING REMARKS AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

(9:00 AM to 9:15 AM)

Dr. *Rym KAKI*
Section on African Public Administration (SAPA), Chair
Professor (Teaching) of Public Policy & Management
Director, International Public Policy, and Management Program
Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

Dr. *John BARTLE*
American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) President
Distinguished Professor of Public Administration
Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dr. *Shin Kue RYU*
SAPA 2026 Symposium Committee, Chair
Associate Professor and Department Chair
Department of Political Science
Idaho State University

Ms. *Terri* **L.** *BATCH***, MPA**
Founder & Principal of *Batch Global Strategies* (BGS)
President and CEO of *Global LA*
Former Senior International Trade Specialist
U.S. Department of Commerce

Mrs. Terri L. Batch is the Founder and Principal of *Batch Global Strategies* (BGS), a strategic advisory firm dedicated to advancing inclusive international trade, investment promotion, and global market expansion. Advising public, private, and nonprofit organizations on cross-border economic development with a with a strong focus on equity and support to underserviced communities. In addition to leading BGS, Mrs. Batch serves as President & CEO of *Global LA*, a public-private partnership committed to positioning Los Angeles as a premier global hub for business, innovation, and international collaboration. Mrs. Batch spent over 20 years at the U.S. Department of Commerce, most recently serving as the Director of the Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) within the U.S. Commercial Service. Throughout her federal tenure, she co-led the White House Initiative on HBCU's International Affairs and pioneered a groundbreaking GDEI trade mission to Africa, producing numerous global trade and investment events aimed at economic inclusion on the African continent. She holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Spelman College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Brian Levy
Professor of the Practice of International Development
University of California, Los Angeles
Former Founding Academic Director of the Nelson School of Public
Governance at the University of Cape Town, South Africa

Brian Levy currently teaches at the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles. Between 2012 and 2023, he was Professor of the Practice at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and the founding Academic Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town. He worked at the World Bank from 1989 to 2012, where his work focused on interactions between governance and development – including four years as head of the Secretariat responsible for implementing the Bank's governance and anti-corruption strategy. He has published widely on the interactions among institutions, political economy, and development policy, including *Working with the Grain* (Oxford U Press, 2014). He received his Ph.D in economics from Harvard University.

Panel I: Redefining the Concept of "Development" for African Public Administration

(10:30 AM to 12:00 PM)

- How have we understood and defined the concept of development in the context of the continent of Africa, both in scholarship and in practice?
- How can we reframe "development" through context-sensitive, indigenous, and decolonial lenses for epistemic justice?
- How are the current changes in international, multilateral, and bilateral development impacting global cooperation on PA systems in Africa?
- How can we produce PA theories and curricula that better match African realities and improve policy legitimacy?
- How does the African PA scholarship and practitioner community integrate sustainable development agendas?
- How is democratic participation and partnerships integrated in sustainable development initiatives in Africa?
- What quality of life indicators are African PA systems succeeding on, and what still are lagging relative to the world that requires greater attention?
- How do we integrate climate adaptation/mitigation, food security, and environmental justice into PA practice?
- What local government leadership and participatory approaches operate in Africa that align with Agenda 2063 and SDGs?

Moderator: Gedeon Mudacumura (Emeritus Professor and IARCPA, Executive Director)

Presenters:

- **Peter F. Haruna** (Professor, Texas A&M International University). *Exploring Public Service Ecosystems in Development Settings: Resilience and Robustness in African Public Administration.*

- **Shin Kue Ryu** (Associate Professor, Idaho State University). *Untangling and disciplining "development": Examining the need to bridge theoretical and normative discussions with practical realities.*

- **Jean-Claude M. Ndongo** (Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University School of Public Service) and **Emmanuel Amoah-Darkwah** (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Ghana). Has the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement's (AfCFTA) Implementation Impacted Africans' Views on Climate Change?

- **Aminata Sillah.** (Associate Professor, Towson University). *African Public Administration: Building Adaptive African Bureaucracies in the Era of Megatrends (Climate and Digital Transition).*

Panel II: Public Service Delivery & Collaborative Governance in Disruptive Contexts

(1:00 AM to 2:30 PM)

- How do bureaucrats navigate governance disruptions while practicing accountability? How do street-level bureaucrats respond and adjust under crisis conditions, especially considering reversals/challenges/retractions in democratic governance?
- What replicable models are in Africa that maintain essential services amid conflict, pandemics, and climate shocks? What and how do socio-cultural factors, such as social capital, manifest or get triggered during times of emergency in Africa?
- How do we elevate innovation and adaptive accountability that preserves state legitimacy in crises?
- What, and how, do state-society-private sector partnerships harness local knowledge and foster trust networks in the African continent? How is community/collaborative governance situated in development dialogues within Africa?
- What scholarly lessons can be derived from a better understanding of how collaborative governance unfolds on the African continent?
- How do community/collaborative public networks shape the renewal and resilience dialogue in Africa?

Moderator: Jessie Rose Mabutas (United Nations Federal Credit Union Internal Audit Department and Experts Panel Member of ADB Institute Advisory Board to the Office of the Auditor General)

Presenters:

- **Simone Martin-Howard** (Associate Professor, John Jay City University of New York). *North African Migration to Malta: Understanding Factors that Impact Healthcare Access According to Migrant Mothers and Government Officials.*

- **Genevieve Enid Meyers** (Associate Professor, University of Detroit Mercy). *Configure regimes of accountability, contracting, performance management, and scrutiny in African public services.*

- **Bakry Elmedni** (Associate Professor, Long Island University). *Sudan's Emergency Response Rooms as a tool for service delivery and community-based collaborative governance.*

Panel III: Public Administration in the Digital Governance Era

(2:35 PM - 4:05 PM)

o What is the status of African governments' adoption of technology with ongoing innovations in the Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) sector?

o What opportunities, barriers, and risks exist for African countries in harnessing and building partnerships on developments in ICT, recognizing the urban-rural disparity?

o What is the role of civil service academies and universities in talent development, i.e., are there similar Friedrich-Finer debates in Africa?

o What technology management models operate in Africa, particularly with AI technologies and expanding digital governance? What can be said about the current African governance frameworks for data protection, accountability, and digital equity?

<u>Moderator</u>: **Genevieve Meyers** (Associate Professor, University of Detroit Mercy)

Presenters:

o **Rym A. Kaki** (Professor, University of Southern California). *Revisiting the Role of African Universities & Civil Service Training Academies in Preparing Technology – Competent & Future-ready Public Servants to Effectively and Ethically Lead the Common Good in the Digital Era*.

o **Gedeon M. Mudacumura (**Professor Emeritus & IARCPA Executive Director). Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Strengthen Efficiency, Effectiveness, Accountability, and Transparency in African Public Administration

o **Faith Çelik** (Assistant Professor, Osmaniye Korkut Ata Üniversitesi) and **Rym A. Kaki** (Professor, University of Southern California). *Comparing the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) Artificial Intelligence Governance Frameworks: Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations.*

o **Mohamed Echkaou** (Doctoral Student, Idaho State University) and **Shin Kue Ryu** (Associate Professor, Idaho State University)**.** *Toward a National AI Vision: Morocco's Digital Strategy, Governance Challenges, and Regional Ambitions.*

Concluding Remarks
Rym KAKI (University of Southern California), SAPA Chair

SAPA Annual Business Meeting
(Open to all SAPA members)

4:15 PM to 5:30 PM |Hancock Park Room| Loews Hotel, Hollywood

Presiding Section Chair: Rym KAKI

SAPA Symposium Sponsor:

SAPA 2026 Symposium – ASPA Annual Conference, Hollywood, California