**8th Annual EASST Summit: Agenda**

Sarova Panafric (Nairobi, Kenya)

July 22-23, 2019

The [East Africa Social Science Translation](https://cega.berkeley.edu/initiative/east-africa-social-science-translation-collaborative/) (EASST) Collaborative, managed by the [Center for Effective Global Action](https://cega.berkeley.edu/) (CEGA) at UC Berkeley, is holding its 8th Annual EASST Summit in Nairobi, Kenya on July 22-23, 2019. Over the past eight years, EASST has built a robust network of over 30 talented East African scholars conducting rigorous impact evaluations of social programs in the region. The summit provides a forum for showcasing this locally-generated research alongside the research of U.S.-based academics in East Africa, while facilitating a dialogue between policy makers, practitioners, and researchers on opportunities for evidence-informed policymaking in East Africa.

This year, the summit will highlight work related to economic development across East Africa, inspired by President Kenyatta’s “[Big Four](https://big4.president.go.ke/)” policy agenda and more broadly the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Day 1 of the summit (July 22) will feature a keynote address from UN Resident Coordinator to Kenya, [Siddharth Chatterjee](https://www.siddharth-chatterjee.org/), who has served with the UN for over 20 years. The keynote will be followed by a talk from the government’s perspective on integrating evidence into policymaking by Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Michael Onyango. This will be followed by presentations on policy relevant research, a roundtable discussion on the data systems and indicators governments in East Africa need to measure Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and a session on new directions for the EASST fellow alumni-led organization, the [Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa](https://nieraglobal.org/). A cocktail reception will follow, featuring behavioral games led by [the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics](https://www.busaracenter.org/).

Day 2 (July 23) will feature early stage research on Education and Employment, Health, and Economic Development + Political Economy. It will also feature two panels: 1) A panel of practitioners sharing insights on research capacity building in East Africa, 2) A moderated panel of donors sharing their perspective on the best ways to support African impact evaluation capacity. After the close of Day 2, there will be two optional sessions: 1) A research transparency training facilitated by the [Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences](https://www.bitss.org/) (open) and 2) A researcher-policymaker matchmaking workshop (invitation only) facilitated by [Innovations for Poverty Action](https://www.poverty-action.org/) (IPA.)

EASST is excited to collaborate with local partner institutions including IPA, sUN Kenya’s SDG Partnership Platform/Innovation Lab, the [African Population Health Research Center](https://aphrc.org/) (APHRC), the [United States International University](https://www.usiu.ac.ke/) (USIU), and [the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics](https://www.busaracenter.org/).

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| **Monday, July 22: Health and Economic Development in East Africa**  |
| 8:30—9:00 AM | **Registration** |
| 9:00—9:10 AM | **Opening Remarks** *(Carson Christiano, CEGA Executive Director)* |
| 9:10—9:40 AM | **Keynote Address** *(Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Kenya Resident Coordinator)* |
| 9:40—10:05 AM | **Integrating Evidence into Policy Making** *(Michael Onyango, Advisor, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT)* |
| 10:05—11:05 AM | **Evidence on Community-Based Health Interventions** Impact of Amref Model of Alternative Rite of Passage on Health Outcomes in Kenya **(Samuel Muhula, EASST fellow)**The Weakness of Bottom Up Accountabilityin Uganda **(Dan Posner, CEGA affiliate)**  |
| 11:05—11:25 AM | **Coffee Break** |
| 11:25 AM—12:25 PM | **Evidence on Infectious Disease**Girls’ Education and HIV Risk in Uganda **(Marcella Alsan, CEGA affiliate)**Impact of Insecurity on the Ebola Response in the DRC **(Vedaste Ndahindwa, EASST fellow)** |
| 12:25—1:45 PM | **Lunch**  |
| 1:45—2:35 PM | **Data Systems for Universal Health Coverage: Roundtable***The African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC) will conduct a roundtable discussion on the data systems and indicators governments in East Africa need to measure Universal Health Coverage (UHC).* *Panelists:* ***Abdhalah Ziraba*** *(Head of Health Systems for Health, APHRC);* ***Caroline Kabaria*** *(Associate Research Scientist, APHRC);* ***Hermann Donfouet*** *(Associate Research Scientist, APHRC). Moderated by Damazo Kadengye, APHRC, EASST fellow.* |
| 2:35—3:35 PM | **Economic Growth and Development**Growth-Oriented Agricultural Program and Impacts on Poverty in Ethiopia **(Tigist Melesse, EASST fellow)**The Welfare Impacts of Internal Migration on Remaining Household Members: Evidence from Ethiopia **(Dagim Belay, EASST fellow)** |
| 3:35—3:50 PM | **Coffee Break** |
| 3:50—4:20 PM | **Economic Growth and Development** *(cont’d)*Banking the Group: The Impact of Linking Savings Groups to Banks in Uganda **(Alfredo Burlando, CEGA affiliate)**  |
| 4:20—4:50 PM | **Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa: Future Directions** *(Amos Njuguna, EASST fellow, NIERA Chair)**This presentation will discuss results from a 5-country scoping study on impact evaluation capacity and demand within governments, and future directions of the EASST fellow alumni-led network.* |
| 4:50—5:00 PM | **Closing Remarks**  |
| 5:00—6:30 PM | **Cocktail Reception on Terrace** *with behavioural games facilitated by the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics* |

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| **Tuesday, July 23: New Research and Capacity Building** |
| 8:30—9:00 AM | **Registration** |
| 9:00—9:10 AM | **Introduction to Day 2** *(Maya Ranganath, EASST Senior Program Manager)*  |
| 9:10—9:55 AM | **Research Capacity Building in East Africa: Current Landscape and Opportunities** *This presentation will invite representatives from various research capacity building programs, to speak about their respective model and its advantages and disadvantages.*Panelists: **Joy Kiiru** (Deputy Board Chair, Mawazo Institute); **Aimee Hare** (Policy Associate, J-PAL Africa), **Evelyn Gitau** (Director of Research Capacity Strengthening, APHRC); **Constantine Manda** (ESRF and EASST fellow) *Moderated by Carson Christiano, CEGA.* |
| 9:55—10:40 AM | **Donor Perspectives: Supporting African Impact Evaluation Capacity** *This panel will invite representatives from various donor organizations to offer their perspectives on supporting IE capacity.* Panelists: **Norma Altshuler** (Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation); **Flaubert Mbiekop** (Senior Program Specialist, International Development Research Centre); **Diva Dhar** (Senior Program Officer,Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation); **JPR Ochieng’-Odero** (Team Leader, DFID’s East Africa Research Fund).  *Moderated by Maya Ranganath, CEGA.* |
| 10:40—10:55 AM | **Coffee break** |
| 10:55—11:30 AM | **New Research on Education and Employment**Getting Girls Back in School: The Returns to Alternative Education in Tanzania **(Ketki Sheth, CEGA affiliate)**Meet your Future: Job Search Efforts and Aspirations of Young Jobseekers **(Livia Alfonsi, UC Berkeley)** |
| 11:30 AM—12:20 PM | **New Research on Health**Impact of an Instructional Video for TB Case Detection in Tanzania **(Grace Mhalu, EASST fellow; Rain Mocello, UC Berkeley, Marcella Alsan, CEGA affiliate)**Using Observational Data Analysis to Understand the Impact of TB Treatments **(Werner Maokola, EASST fellow; Chad Hazlett, CEGA affiliate; David Ami Wulf, UCLA)** |
| 12:20—1:40 PM | **Lunch*****OPTIONAL: Q&A for******Prospective EASST fellows******from 12:20 to 12:35 PM in main room)*** |

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| 1:40—2:40 PM | **New Research on Economic Development and Political Economy**The Effect of Labeling and Modern Depositing Mechanisms on Savings Behaviour in Ethiopia **(Tewodros Tesemma, EASST fellow)**The Cost of Political Alignment on the Quality of Public Services: Evidence from Kenya **(Michael Mbate, EASST fellow)**Using iBeacons to Track the Distribution of Fertilizer in Kenya **(Muthoni Ng’ang’a, EASST fellow; Jennifer Hamilton, UCLA)** |
| 2:40 -2:45 PM | **Closing Remarks** *(Apollo Maima, EASST Fellow)*  |
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| 3:00–5:30 PM | **OPTIONAL SESSION: RSVP REQUIRED****Research Transparency Training, led by Soazic Elise Wang Sonne***This workshop will introduce junior researchers, research practitioners, and policy analysts to the “open science toolkit.” Participants will learn about and discuss the open science movement, the benefits and how-to’s of pre-registration, pre-analysis plans, and other tools for a reproducible and transparent research workflow.* | **OPTIONAL SESSION: INVITE ONLY****Policy Opportunity Matchmaking Workshop, facilitated by Innovations for Poverty Action***This workshop will bring together EASST fellows, CEGA affiliates, policy makers, and partner organizations. It will aim to start new scale-up and impact evaluation consulting opportunities that will be partially funded by EASST through its “Policy Engagement Grant” program.* |
| 5:30–7:30 PM | **Cocktail Reception on Terrace** |