

Twaweza Research & Evaluation Advisory Group 2017-18

Members' short biographies



Leonardo R. Arriola is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for African Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the current chair of the African Politics Conference Group, an organized section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the African Studies Association (ASA) in the United States. His research focuses on democratization and governance in developing countries. He has conducted field research in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, and Zambia. His work has been published in journals such as the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *World Politics*. He is author of *Multiethnic Coalitions in Africa: Business Financing of Opposition Election Campaigns* (Cambridge University Press). He currently serves on the editorial boards of *African Affairs*, *Comparative Politics*, and *Comparative Political Studies*.



Alex O. Awiti is the Founding Director of the East African Institute (EAI) of Aga Khan University. The EAI is a regional platform for policy research, performance and public engagement, which focuses on the consequential drivers of socio-economic, environmental and institutional change. The EAI is currently focusing on youth, urbanization, economic growth, food systems and the extractive resources. Prior to joining the Aga Khan University, Awiti was a postdoctoral fellow at the Earth Institute at Columbia University in the City of New York. He was also an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. Under his leadership, the EAI conducted one of the most authoritative studies on East African youth. Country reports for Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania released between January and October 2016 have generated unprecedented engagement, with over 200 news stories, feature articles, and opinion commentary in both print and electronic media. This study has brought the youth issue to the centre of the debate about East Africa's present and future. Awiti is a transdisciplinary scholar, whose research intersects ecology, society and the economy. He maintains an active blog (www.envidevpolicy.org), active Twitter and Facebook accounts. As one of Kenya's leading public intellectuals he has written over 500 opinion articles published in leading Kenyan newspapers and international publications, including the International Policy Digest.



Irene Guijt recently joined Oxfam Great Britain as Head of Research. She has worked for 25 years in rural development, natural resource management, collective action and social justice. She is a keen advocate for making the less heard voices more audible and influential in shaping policy and practice. Recent work includes pioneering the SenseMaker® stories-at-scale approach in international development for (impact) evaluation on issues including girls' empowerment, inclusive agri-business, accountable democracy, and youth leadership. Irene has been active in global evaluation capacity building through BetterEvaluation (particularly participatory work in evaluation) and working on theory of change for transformational development with Hivos. She has pushed debates on the politics of evidence as co-convenor of the Big Push Forward, including co-editing the best-selling book The Politics of Evidence and Results. She has co-hosted the annual 'M&E on the Cutting Edge' series for six years, including themes on complexity and on responsible innovation. She has worked with the Overseas Development Institute on its Methods Lab around impact evaluation, and has been piloting Participatory Impact Assessment and Learning Approach for IFAD and BMGF. Irene holds a BSc and MSc in land and water use engineering from Wageningen University and Research Centre, the Netherlands. Her PhD examined how messy partnerships among civil society, government and research can lead to learning and innovation when seeking transformational change in food systems.



James Habyarimana is a development economist with interests in education and health policy and political economy. His work uses credible research designs to identify barriers to better health and education outcomes. His work in health includes an examination of the impact of HIV/AIDS and ARV treatment on firms and household, an evaluation of interventions to improve road safety, school and household sanitation and water supply and the role of health worker absence on the service provision. His work in education focuses on evaluations of a wide range of reforms including performance incentives, public private partnerships in secondary school provision, the use of digital technologies and cash transfers to encourage school participation in East Africa and Nigeria. His publications include a book, *Coethnicity: Diversity and the Dilemmas of Collective Action* (with M. Humphreys, D. Posner and J. Weinstein: Russell Sage Foundation) that explores the link between ethnic diversity and collective action using experimental methods. His primary regional focus is Africa. His other work has been published in *PNAS*, *AIDS*, *The Lancet*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of International Development* and *Foreign Affairs*. Habyarimana teaches regression methods for policy analysis and courses on the history of economic development and education and health policy in developing countries.



Ellen Lust is the Founding Director of the Programs on Governance and Local Development at Yale University (est. 2013) and at the University of Gothenburg (est. 2015), and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. She also serves as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Project on Middle East Democracy in Washington, DC. She received her M.A. in Modern Middle East and North African Studies (1993) and PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan (1997). She held faculty positions at Rice University and Yale University, and was a visiting scholar at the Institute of Graduate Studies (Geneva, Switzerland) and the Straus Institute at NYU. Ellen has conducted fieldwork and implemented surveys in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. She has authored numerous books and articles, including most recently, *Trust, Voice and Incentives: Learning from Local*

Successes in Service Delivery in the Middle East and North Africa (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2015) in collaboration with Hana Brixi and Michael Woolcock. Her current research is aimed at developing local governance indicators and examining the role of social institutions in governance. She was a co-founder of the Transitional Governance Project, a founding associate editor of *Middle East Law and Governance*, and has served as an advisor and consultant to such organizations as the Carter Center, Freedom House, NDI, UNDEF, UNDP, USAID, and the World Bank. Foundations such as the Moulay Hicham Foundation, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, and the Swedish Research Council have supported her work. More at <http://gld.commons.yale.edu/> and <http://transitionalgovernanceproject.org>



Connie Nshemereirwe is a Ugandan Civil Engineer turned Educator, with 15 years' experience as a University academic. Her main research interests are the evaluation of the performance of the Ugandan Education System in various respects. In the past, this has focused on investigating the validity of the Uganda National Examinations as the main criteria for university selection, and how this predicts academic performance at universities. This has involved hundreds of hours of designing, administering, and analyzing the results from surveys of university students.

She has also carried out secondary analysis of large national databases of student performance in the national examinations to determine the school and student-level factors that account for examination performance, as well as estimating the relative difficulty of the examination subjects. As a result, she is well-versed with a whole array of quantitative analytical tools, including Item Response Theory (IRT), multilevel analysis, and structural equation modeling; this in addition to proficiency with SPSS and MPLUS. Finally, she is well versed with educational policy and practice at national, continental and international level, and has engaged widely with actors at various levels within Uganda's education system. She is also active in civil society through the Kigo Think Tank, and also

periodically engages in providing leadership and research training for academics. Her current appointment is the Director of Quality Assurance at Cavendish University in Uganda.



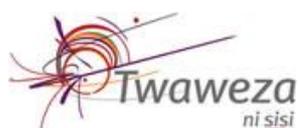
Smita Singh was the founding director of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Global Development Program. While she was director, the Program carried out extensive international grant-making and started several new initiatives, including the Think Tank Initiative, the Transparency and Accountability Initiative, and the partnership for Quality Education in Developing Countries. She helped create the International Initiative in Impact Evaluation (3ie), a new international agency devoted to improving the measurement of results in development interventions. She also initiated the Foundation's efforts to reform development assistance policy and practices which included seeding the Modernizing Foreign Assistance

Network (MFAN) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Before joining the Foundation, she was a scholar at the Harvard Academy of International and Area Studies. Her research interests focus on the comparative political economy of developing countries, and she has lived and worked in several countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. She has also worked for the Commission on National and Community Service (now called Corporation for National Service), where she was responsible for developing higher education initiatives and funding strategies for dispersing grants to community service and service-learning projects at over 200 colleges and universities. Before joining the commission, she worked at ABC News "Nightline" and prior to that, with community-based women's organizations in India. Ms. Singh sits on the governing boards of Oxfam America, the Natural Resource Governance Institute, Twaweza, International Budget Partnership and the Center for Global Development. She is a member of the Aspen Strategy Group and served on the US President's Global Development Council under Barack Obama.



Lily L. Tsai is Faculty Director of the MIT Governance Lab (MIT GOV/LAB) and Associate Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research focuses on accountability, governance, and political participation in developing contexts, particularly in Asia and Africa. In 2014, she founded MIT GOV/LAB, a group of political scientists that works to develop and test innovations in citizen engagement and government responsiveness. By focusing on how and why citizens become active in engaging their governments, Tsai aims to bridge researcher and practitioner communities by developing learning

collaborations that can respond to governance challenges using empirical evidence in real time. In 2015, MIT's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences awarded Tsai the James A. and Ruth Levitan Prize for innovative and creative scholarship. Her book, *Accountability Without Democracy: Solidary Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China*, was



published in Cambridge University's Studies on Comparative Politics and received the 2007-08 Dogan Award from the Society of Comparative Research for the best book published in the field of comparative research. Tsai has also published articles in The American Political Science Review, Political Behavior, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, and World Development. Tsai earned a BA from Stanford University, an MA from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD in government from Harvard University.



Deus Valentine is an independent development and governance advisor with a keen interest in supporting state and non-state actors to realize the value of innovation, collaboration and comparative strengths through partnerships and investments. Deus is passionate about innovation in civil society and engagement with government. He has worked with various bilateral, private and multilateral funders in supporting programs in Tanzania and the Eastern Africa region applying best practices in grant making, capacity building, program management and social and policy research. A master's of Science in Development Studies, Deus has extensive experience working in human rights, governance, electoral support and advocacy in Tanzania and the Eastern African region. In the last five years Deus worked to build a national civil society coalition on constitutional reform in Tanzania while in October 2015 Deus worked with the Foundation for Civil Society to deploy the largest contingent of domestic election observers with over 10,000 observers across the country in effort to enhance the credibility of the electoral process using a data driven election observation approach. Deus has also been involved in the evaluation of a number of donor basket funds in Tanzania including the Legal Services Facility, the Policy Forum and the Foundation for Civil Society. Currently, he is the local researcher of the Open Government Partnership Subnational Pilot for Tanzania. A self-starter, results-oriented and team player passionate about building teams, institutions and networks that promote meaningful participation of citizens in improving the state of the world. Deus's clientele has included the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development, The Canadian Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Global Affairs Canada), the Swedish International Development Agency and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency. Deus has worked with international NGOs and funders including International Budget Partnership, Hivos, the Open Society Foundations and Making All Voices Count.