



# RESEARCH METHODS PROGRAM

Advancing Research with a Social Impact



Leaders of Africa Institute • 2025



Bridging inquiry and creativity  
is the future of development  
research and advocacy

# ABOUT THE LEADERS OF AFRICA INSTITUTE

The Leaders of Africa Institute (LoAI) is a special and life-changing place to upskill, engage in international networking, build personal and collaborative relationships with professors, and amplify one's voice in research, academia, international development, and business. LoAI provides Scholars & Fellows with the tools and platform to creatively transform knowledge production and society.

There are many things that make LoAI unique. We value personal relationships and collaboration, creativity and experimentation, rigor, engagement, and a mission-driven approach to skills, knowledge, and career development.

We cultivate well-rounded faculty members, graduate students, civil society, government, entrepreneurial, and emerging professionals. Everyone at the LoAI is bound by the highest standards of ethical thought leadership enshrined in our Leaders of Africa Pledge and Leaders of Africa Institute Honor Code. To learn more about our values, kindly visit: <https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/about/>

We encourage you to explore the ongoing and future programming at LoAI and the Leaders of Africa. We also invite you to reach out to us at [institute@leadersofafrica.org](mailto:institute@leadersofafrica.org), so that we may match your interests with your program offerings.

The Leaders of Africa Institute is a special institution with a distinctly international community and a personal approach to teaching and learning.

**Knowledge  
Production and  
Advocacy for  
the Good**

# RESEARCH METHODS PROGRAM 2025

## CONFRONTING CHALLENGES WITH IMPACT RESEARCH

Disruptions to global food and energy systems, economic instability, increasing burdens on public health systems, education achievement gaps, significant changes in the foreign aid landscape, the acceleration of climate change, persistent political polarization, and conflict are just some of the challenges we face in 2025. Any local or global solution requires advanced research and engaged researchers who seek to make an impact. This year the Research Methods Program celebrates the importance of designing, conducting, and translating research into social impact and amplifying researchers' voices. Researchers are called to extend the scope of their work and become influencers in local and global communities. Shaping our world for the better begins with producing cutting-edge research and crafting innovative solutions to existing and real challenges.

## ABOUT RMP 2025

The Research Methods Program is the flagship program of the Leaders of Africa Institute. To date, we have welcomed over 500 Scholars and Fellows over the course of seven years. The Research Methods Program offers personalized mentorship, rigorous and advanced methodological skills, and a supportive international research community. The program is open to all fields and from all countries internationally.

We invite you to learn about the program and our Scholars and consider whether this just might be the opportunity to further your research career and answer the call to address some of the most pressing health, political, economic, social, and development questions. Our international and multidisciplinary research community stands ready to support each other and lead.

Click below to access the program page (<https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/program/research-methods-program/>):

**PROGRAM  
PAGE**

Applications Open  
LEADERS OF AFRICA INSTITUTE

## Research Methods Program 2025

[bit.ly/ResearchMethods2025  
www.institute.leadersofafrica.org](https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org)

Create Research with a Social Impact

## IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

**Applications Deadline:** April 18, 2025

**Program Dates:** May – August 2025 with continuing mentorship through April 2026

**Program Format:** Live Virtual Cloud Classroom (~3 hours per week) for four months that include three separate courses:

- Research Design
- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Survey Research, Advanced Techniques, and Design Thinking
- Personal meetings with professors, followed by a workshop series

## BENEFITS

Official Leaders of Africa Certificate

Professional Portfolio with Capstone, including an Impact Project

Transcript with Qualifications (If Required)

Reference Letter (If Required)

# RESEARCH METHODS PROGRAM 2025 SKILLS



## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ADVANCED METHODS & TOOLS



The Research Methods Program provides cutting-edge training in research methods, including qualitative and quantitative data gathering and analysis. We encourage feasible community-based research designs that allow the researcher to work with one's community to facilitate evidence gathering. This approach lowers the barriers to extensive research and democratizes scholarship. We cover (1) crafting research questions and framing research, (2) mixed-methods research designs, including qualitative fieldwork methods and quantitative frameworks, (3) case study and observation selection techniques, (4) data analysis and visualization in R and Python statistical software, (5) survey and surveillance design and implementation, (6) the use and analysis of major public opinion survey data, including the Afrobarometer, (7) writing for publication, and (8) design thinking for social impact.



## ACCESS TO LOA RESOURCES

Conducting impactful research requires substantial technical and outreach support. The LoA Research & Innovation Lab, Media Lab, and Tech Lab provide support to you to help your research and impact project be successful.



## PREPARATION FOR GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Research Methods Program is taught at the Master's, PhD, and Post-PhD level, with many Scholars using the program to supplement ongoing graduate work or as a stepping stone for advanced studies. The program also supports faculty with research and offers support for career advancement. Scholars have received opportunities and contracts related to their research methods training. Our faculty support Scholars with finding opportunities.



## AN EMPHASIS ON YOUR RESEARCH

At the beginning of the program, you propose a research agenda and pursue it over the course of the program. For the Capstone Project, you will gather original data and use advanced tools for analysis. The purpose is to craft one analytical blog post, a rigorous publication, and an impact project that will engage the broader public in your research. The Research Methods Program puts an emphasis on translating research into social impact and sustainable ventures. Select Capstone Projects will receive additional support in the Institute's Research Accelerator.



## PERSONAL MENTORSHIP

The program offers career-long mentoring and a personalized relationship with instructors. The program also offers a framework for international networking and building research relationships that span the globe.



## ATTACHMENTS & COLLABORATION

In select cases, Research Methods Scholars have the opportunity to participate in research collaborations and projects with major international institutions through the Institute's Research Exchange.

## IMPACT SCHOLARSHIPS

The total fee for the program is 7,000 USD. However, **every accepted applicant receives an Impact Scholarship** worth approximately 6,750 USD. This leaves only a small fee of 250 – 350 USD for most accepted applicants.

# ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS APPROACHES

## CRAFTING RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND FRAMING RESEARCH

Scholars learn to refine broad topics into precise, testable research questions while ensuring relevance to academic and policy discussions. They explore how to identify research gaps, align their work with real-world challenges, and select appropriate methodologies. This foundation ensures a strong, credible, and impactful study.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

Scholars receive hands-on training in data cleaning, statistical analysis, and visualization using R and Python. They learn to create compelling, clear visualizations that effectively communicate research findings to academic, policy, and public audiences.

## ADVANCED METHODOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

Scholars develop expertise in quantitative approaches like statistical modeling, experimental, and lab testing design alongside qualitative methods such as interviews and ethnography. They learn how to integrate these techniques effectively, ensuring their research is both contextually rich and empirically sound.

## SURVEY & SURVEILLANCE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scholars learn to construct effective survey and surveillance instruments, minimize bias, and select appropriate sampling methods. They also explore best practices for survey administration across different formats, ensuring high-quality and reliable data collection.

## CASE STUDY AND OBSERVATION SELECTION TECHNIQUES

Scholars explore methods for selecting cases and observations based on theoretical and methodological considerations. They gain skills in comparative case studies, single-case analysis, and systematic observation, ensuring their research is insightful and generalizable.

## USE AND ANALYSIS OF MAJOR PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY DATA

Scholars gain experience working with large public opinion datasets. They learn statistical techniques for cleaning, analyzing, and interpreting data, allowing them to draw meaningful, evidence-based policy and research conclusions.

## WRITING FOR PUBLICATION AND DESIGN THINKING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Scholars develop writing skills for academic publications, policy briefs, and public engagement. They also apply design thinking to translate research into real-world impact, influencing policy and fostering tangible social innovation.

# INTRODUCING OUR SCHOLARS PAST & PRESENT

We have welcomed Scholars and Fellows from over forty-five countries and provided over 1.5 Million USD worth of Impact Scholarships. To learn more about some of our Scholars and Fellows visit our program page at [institute.leadersofafrica.org/program/research-methods-program/](https://institute.leadersofafrica.org/program/research-methods-program/) or at [institute.leadersofafrica.org/scholars-fellows](https://institute.leadersofafrica.org/scholars-fellows). We present some of the many impactful research leaders from Research Methods Programs past and present.

## FEATURED



### DR. ROSE OPIYO

KENYA, RMP 2024

I am a behavioral scientist-practitioner specializing in Early Childhood Education and Development, with expertise in training, consulting, mentorship, research, and teaching. As Head of Strategic and Institutional Planning at Masinde Muliro University and a Senior Lecturer, I have secured major research grants and received international accolades from DAAD, Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship, ISSBD, and the Templeton Foundation. My Capstone Project explores exclusionary cultures in Kenyan universities and their impact on non-traditional students' sense of belonging using a mixed-methods approach.

### INCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### ROLAND MADY

COTE D'IVOIRE, RMP 2021

I am a public health researcher at Johns Hopkins University and formerly a statistician engineer from Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA). I have contributed to the National Council for Nutrition, Feeding, and Early Childhood Development, under the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN). The project is a European Union initiative that provides evidence to support the development of public policies in several sectors in Côte d'Ivoire.

### NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

2 ZERO HUNGER



### RUAA AHMED

SUDAN, RMP 2024

I am a public health professional specializing in health systems policy and management, with experience at WHO and Gavi in monitoring, evaluation, proposal development, and system strengthening. Holding an MPH, I focus on enhancing healthcare delivery through strategic project management. My Capstone Project examines the resilience of the Sudanese health system amidst conflict, analyzing its ability to maintain services, adapt, and implement responses to strengthen health systems in conflict-affected regions.

### RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



# SCHOLARS PAST & PRESENT CON'T



## DEBORAH EKUSAI SEBATTA

UGANDA, RMP 2023

I am a bioethicist and social scientist working at the interface of public health and international development. Presently, I am a doctoral student studying bioethics at Makerere University in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University. My Capstone Project in the Research Methods Program examines the creation and implementation of data-sharing frameworks for genomics research. Ultimately, I aim to develop and disseminate impactful guidelines that lead to a more equitable approach to sharing genomics research worldwide.

### BIOETHICS

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## DR. GLORY NJA

NIGERIA, RMP 2023

I am a university lecturer and researcher in public health with a specialization in health services management and health policy. I am passionate about combating sexual harassment and school-related gender-based violence against women and girls in higher education institutions in Nigeria. To combat the "silence norm" of under-reporting, non-reporting, and fear of reporting sexual harassment among campus students, my Capstone Project aims to develop and utilize a digital-tech app to improve reporting and monitoring school-related gender-based violence in higher education institutions in Nigeria.

### PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## OLUWATOSIN OPEYEMI AJIBOLA

NIGERIA, RMP 2024

I am a Nigerian Legal Practitioner with an LLM in Health, Law, and Society from the University of Bristol, specializing in public health law, human rights, and social justice. My research focuses on health inequalities, including the feasibility of Nigeria's National Health Insurance Authority Act for Universal Health Coverage and racial disparities in maternal health in England. My Capstone Project examines how laws shape racial disparities in maternal health for Black migrant women in England and their potential for reform.

### COMBATING HEALTHCARE INEQUITY

**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



# SCHOLARS PAST & PRESENT CON'T



## DR. SAID KHAMIS

TANZANIA, RMP 2024

I am an academician and international development consultant specializing in youth entrepreneurship and business development, with 20 years of experience across public, nonprofit, and educational sectors. My passion lies in interacting with youth entrepreneurs and business startups to unleash their potential and innovation. My Capstone Project investigates the systemic challenges hindering the growth of business startups in Zanzibar using a mixed-methods approach to provide data-driven recommendations for policymakers and support organizations.

### PROMOTING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



## VICTORIA HAUWANGA

NAMIBIA, RMP 2024

I am the Founder and CEO of Transformative Peinge Investment CC, specializing in agricultural consulting, sustainable farming, and academic mentorship. With an MBA in Natural Resource Management from the University of Namibia, I am also a smallholder farmer, a facilitator at IUM Centre for Distance and eLearning (CDeL), and a member of the Communal Land Board, dedicated to improving higher education and food security. My Capstone Project investigates the impact of climate change on crop productivity among subsistence farmers in the Omusati Region of Namibia, focusing on yields, crop choices, cultivation methods, and adaptation strategies.

### ACCELERATING AGRICULTURE

2 ZERO  
HUNGER



## DR. PENJANI HOPKINS NYIMBILI

ZAMBIA, RMP 2024

I am a Lecturer and researcher at the University of Zambia with over 16 years of experience in geomatics engineering, project management, and consultancy. My research focuses on geospatial technologies, geo-AI, and remote sensing to address challenges in disaster management, climate change, and urban planning for sustainable development. My Capstone Project develops and evaluates an AI-driven acoustic monitoring system to detect and differentiate forest sounds in Lusaka National Park, enabling real-time interventions against illegal logging and poaching.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

15 LIFE  
ON LAND



# SCHOLARS PAST & PRESENT CON'T



## ELEANOR DUNEE

GHANA, RMP 2022

I am an architect interested in environmental architecture, sustainability, and ecological restoration. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Landscape Studies, and my research involves reclaiming lands degraded through laterite soil excavation. The project leverages remote sensing data to monitor the extent of the environmental impact and identify approaches for more environmentally sustainable methods of development.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

15 LIFE  
ON LAND



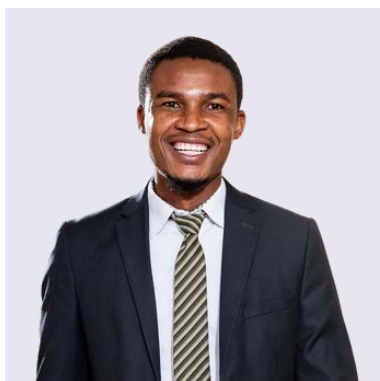
## CHOTA CLAVEL MUSONDA

ZAMBIA, RMP 2023

I am a lifelong learner who brings with him more than six years of professional experience in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL). I am passionate about influencing impactful change in socially marginalized communities and enhancing the capacity of both internal and external program staff in MEAL process and systems. My Capstone Project explores culturally responsive evaluation practices in public health programs in Zambia. I am conducting this study to ensure that evaluation practices reflect the local cultural context and yield culturally-relevant insights.

### EVALUATION EFFECTIVENESS

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



## MOREBLESSING MANDITSERA

ZIMBABWE, RMP 2022

I am working to improve household economic livelihoods to disrupt the HIV/AIDS causal pathway. I have a keen interest in rural development, financial inclusion (especially for women), and economic improvements at the household level. Most recently, I was the Chief of Party for the USAID-funded Young Entrepreneurs Zimbabwe Arise initiative. My research project identifies the barriers to microfinance access and determines policy approaches to expand access.

### FINANCIAL INCLUSION

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**Conducting and implementing  
multidimensional research**

# SCHOLARS PAST & PRESENT CON'T



## SUSAN BANDA

MALAWI, RMP 2022

I am a physiotherapist and public health professional. My passion lies in conducting non-communicable diseases (NCDs) research aimed at improving the quality of life of people in our communities and finding solutions aimed at providing the population with direct access to health care. My research project focuses on the association between health insurance and maternal healthcare service utilization among women in Malawi.

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## DR. EMMANUEL OFORI

GHANA, RMP 2023

I am a medical doctor at the Internal Medicine Directorate, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana. I am passionate about research and data analytics with the utmost goal of positively impacting Africa and the world at large. My data visualization Capstone Project examined HIV cases and antiretroviral coverage in Africa, and my research project examines how uric acid levels in the blood are linked to stroke survival. I examined stroke patients in Ghana over a period of five years by tracking various health factors and outcomes.

### CREATING PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## DR. BASIRA KANKIA LAWAL

NIGERIA, RMP 2022

I am a pharmacist, working as a lecturer and currently the Head of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management at Kaduna State University, Nigeria. I am passionate about improving pharmacy education and practice, and building capacity for research. My research project explores ways that community pharmacies could be integrated and utilized in enhancing the performance of primary healthcare service delivery.

### HEALTHCARE SERVICE DELIVERY

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**Translating research into innovative solutions**

# A GLOBAL NETWORK OF IMPACT LEADERS

Through the global network of mentors and alumni, the Leaders of Africa Institute and the Research Methods Program offer a worldwide network of research leaders and opportunities to enhance international exposure for research and social impact. To date, the Leaders of Africa Institute has welcomed Scholars and Fellows from over 45 countries.



Leaders of Africa Institute Scholars and Alumni

# APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

To complete the application, you will need the following materials:

- Curriculum vitae/ resume (one PDF of up to 5 MB)
- Statement of Interest (500 words maximum).  
Your Statement of Interest should include:
  - What are your research, thematic, and professional interests and relevant professional background?
  - What shaped your interests?
  - What do you hope to learn from the Research Methods Program at the Leaders of Africa Institute?
  - What are your career goals?
  - How will the Research Methods Program help you achieve your career and educational goals?

**DEADLINE:  
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025 AT  
11.59 PM UTC**

**APPLICATION  
PORTAL**

Application Portal Link:

<https://zfrmz.com/37FiGPTheZorSmlO3oGC>

The Research Methods Program is open to all fields and from all countries internationally. If you have any questions, reach out to the Leaders of Africa Institute at [institute@leadersofafrica.org](mailto:institute@leadersofafrica.org).



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