



# Meet the Ambassadors Event

Celebrating 15 years of AUGent Africa Platform

**THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2022**

**HET PAND // GHENT UNIVERSITY // ONDERBERGEN 1 // GHENT**

## Programme

- 14h00 Opening by the Rector of Ghent University
- 14h10 General outline AUGent Africa Platform and achievements over the last 15 years
- 14h30 AUGent Faculties presenting their engagement with Africa
- 15h30 Coffee break
- 16h00 Ambassadors' round table on the interaction between academia and the policy level
- 17h30 Reception + networking



# Rencontre avec les Ambassadeurs

Célébration des 15 ans de la Plateforme Afrique AUGent

**JEUDI 24 NOVEMBRE 2022**

**HET PAND // UNIVERSITÉ DE GAND // ONDERBERGEN 1 // GAND**

## Programme

- 14h00 Discours d'ouverture par le Recteur de l'Université de Gand
- 14h10 Présentation générale et réalisations de la Plateforme Afrique AUGent durant les derniers 15 ans
- 14h30 Engagement des facultés de AUGent avec l'Afrique
- 15h30 Pause café
- 16h00 Table ronde avec les Ambassadeurs sur l'interaction entre l'académie et les programmes gouvernementaux
- 17h30 Réception

# MEET THE AMBASSADORS

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF AUGENT AFRICA PLATFORM



# OPENING BY PROF. RIK VAN DE WALLE RECTOR OF GHENT UNIVERSITY



# AFRICA PLATFORM AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

PROF. KAREN BÜSCHER, CHAIR AFRICA PLATFORM



THE AFRICA PLATFORM OF  
GHENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

More than 15 years of building academic collaboration with Africa



## GAP – HOW IT ALL STARTED

- Established on January 10th, 2007 (bottom-up)
- Initiated by colleagues at the Department of African Languages and Cultures



## GAP – IN GENERAL

### Initial central objectives:

- Mapping all Africa expertise at Ghent University Association
- Making that expertise available to academic and non-academic stakeholders
- Facilitating and enhancing academic collaboration with partners in Africa

### Has indeed resulted in:

- Increased numbers of research projects & joint PhD's
- More student mobility and bilateral agreements
- Visibility of AUGent expertise on Africa



### Over 450 members from

- Each of the 11 UGent-faculties
- Hogeschool Ghent/Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen  
/Arteveldehogeschool

**Centralised mapping** of all academic Africa-expertise is unique in Belgium

**Incoming students from Africa:** 1000 per year (PhD and Ma)

**Outgoing students to Africa:** 150 per year

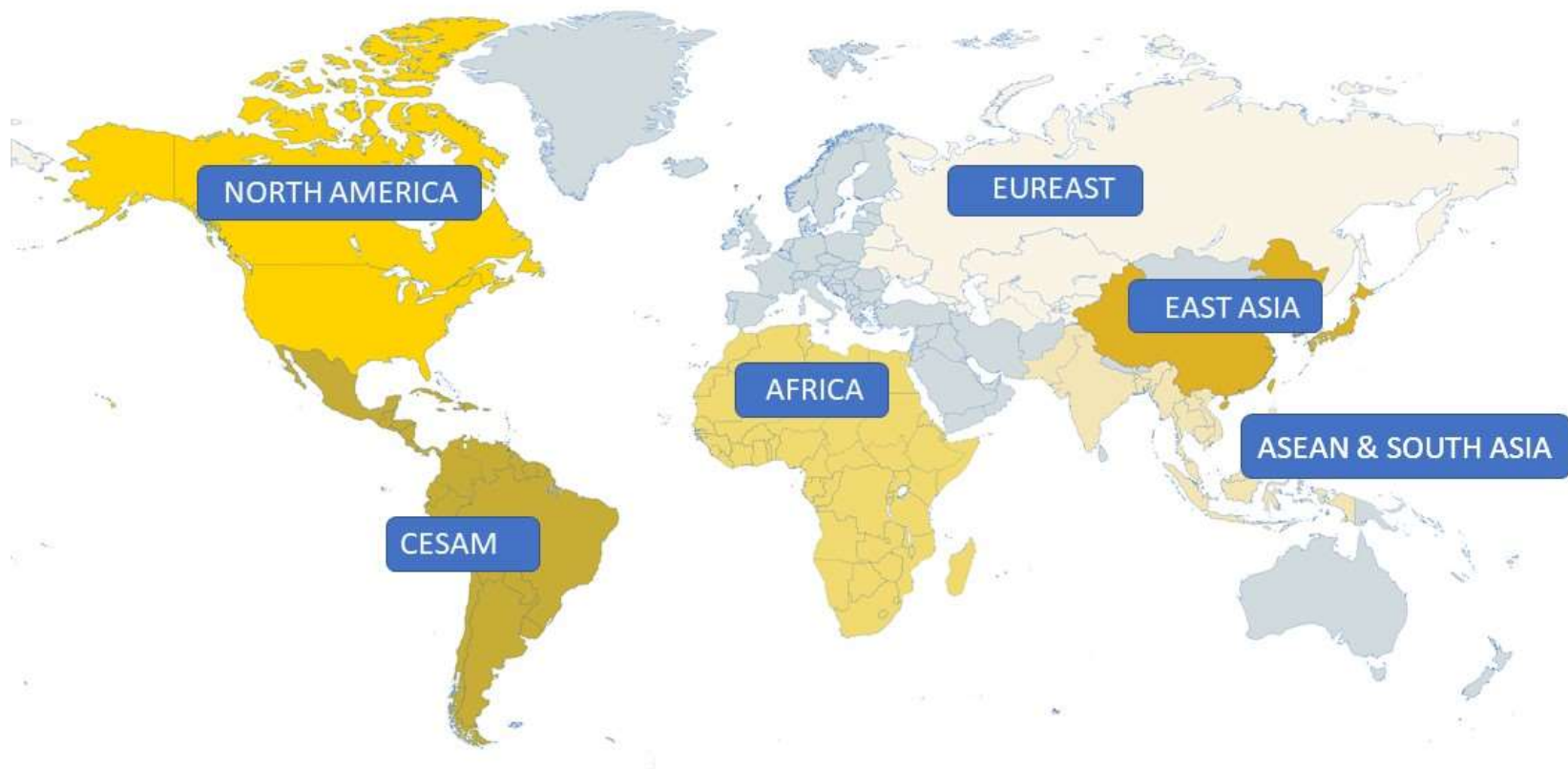
**Bilateral agreements:** 55

**Active research projects with African partners:** >420



# THE UGENT REGIONAL PLATFORMS AS A FORMAL TOOL FOR INTERNATIONALISATION

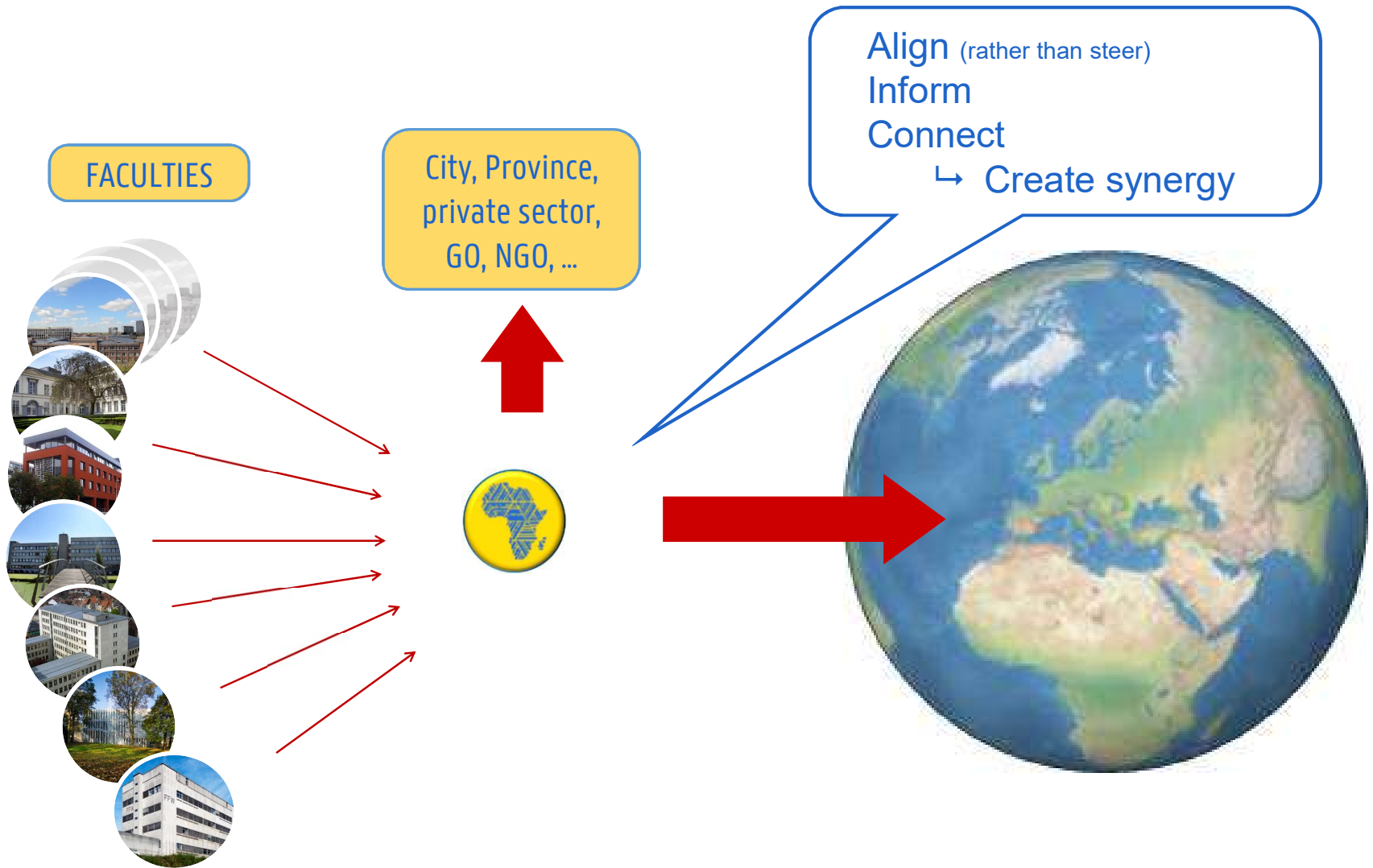
## 6 REGIONAL PLATFORMS



# CENTRAL MISSION OF THE UGENT REGIONAL PLATFORMS

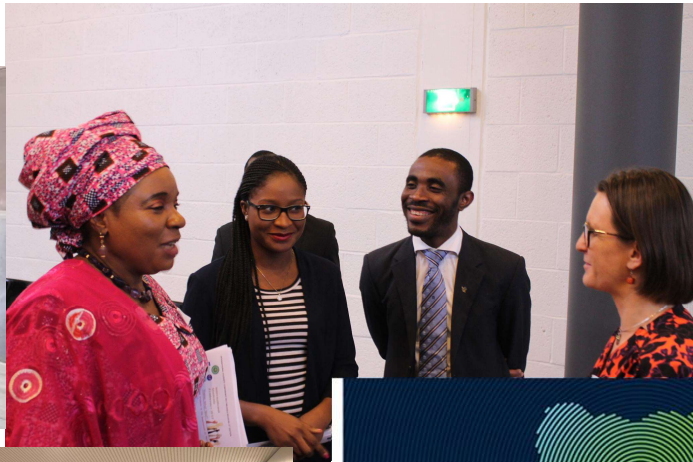
**BOOST** academic collaboration  
**ACT AS** center of expertise  
**FORMULATE** advise on Ghent University's internationalisation policy  
**ADDRESS** partner management  
**FORM A** bridge to non-academic partners  
**ASSURE** Ghent University's impact & visibility

# RATIONALE




# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Host visiting delegations to AUGent, organise UGent missions to Africa, promote AUGent expertise in Africa



**INVITATION**




**Meet & Engage with the Kenyan embassy**


TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022 // 4-7PM  
HET PAND // GHENT UNIVERSITY // ONDERBERGEN 1 // GHENT

With:

- Pitching UGent research in Kenya
- Presentation by HE the Ambassador
- Informal meeting
- Drinks & snacks



Please confirm your presence:  
Annelies.Verdoolaege@UGent.be

**Showcasing Ghent University in Nigeria**

on Thursday 9 June 2022 @ noon  
National Universities Commission, Abuja

**Programme**

- Presentation NUC & TETFund
- Presentations by Ministers & Ambassadors
- Presentation Ghent University and research in Nigeria at UGent
- Testimonies UGent alumni in Nigeria
- Reception & networking

Registration by 8 June 2022 @  
<https://webapps.ugent.be/event/Manager/events/SeminarUGentNigeria>



# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Matchmaking and networking, making AUGent-expertise on Africa available to non-academic stakeholders: Chambers of Commerce, Flanders Investment & Trade, City of Ghent, Province of East Flanders, cultural organisations, NGOs, press & media houses



The AUGent Africa Platform and Flanders Investment & Trade present – “Annual Networking Event: investing in and collaborating with West Africa”

FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2019  
ROOM RECTOR VERMEYLEN | HET PAND | ONDERBERGEN 1, GHEENT

- presentation by the ambassador of Nigeria
- contributions by the corporate sector, the NGO sector and the academic world on collaboration with West Africa
- information on public-private partnership and EU funding in West Africa
- panel discussion with Claire Tillekaerts (CEO FIT), Deaan Schalck (CEO North Sea Port), Jean Van Wetter (Director Belgian Development Agency Enabel) and Wim Van Camp (TechTrade)
- free net

Admission is free  
<https://web>



## Flemish trade mission to Nigeria

Lagos, Abuja



November 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019



# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Monitor **funding opportunities** & manage travel grants for research fellows





# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Organise academic seminars, conferences, workshops where researchers share expertise

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**China in Africa and Africa in China**  
 Impact on local societies, economies and cultures

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 12TH, 2019 - 20:00

Public event: meet the author with Stefan Blommaert and Lieve Joris

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 13TH 2019 - 9:00

Conference with panel sessions and international guest speakers


Venue: Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, Ghent  
 Registration required before December 10th:  
<https://www.africaplatform.ugent.be/events>



**GHENT AFRICA PLATFORM**

**AFRICA AND ITS ECOLOGIES: PEOPLE AND NATURE IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

GAPSYM14- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
 10th December 2021 - Ghent University




**ENLIGHT**

**WEBINAR SERIES**  
**DISCUSSING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND RACISM**

(U)Gent and decolonisation - a critical perspective  
 GHENT UNIVERSITY  
 Thursday 21 October 2022  
 16:00 - 17:30

Towards a socially safe academic environment  
 UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN  
 Tuesday 9 November 2022  
 16:00 - 17:30

Reflecting diversity globally - Imageries of the Global South  
 GÖTTINGEN UNIVERSITY  
 December 7, 2021  
 13:00 - 14:30

Information on the three webinars taking place in 2022 will be made available soon



**THE 8TH BIENNIAL AFROEUROPEANS CONFERENCE**  
 22-24 SEPTEMBER 2022 | BRUSSELS

**INTERSECTIONAL CHALLENGES IN AFROEUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**KEYNOTES**  
 OLIVETTE OTELE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY OF SLAVERY AND MEMORY OF ENSLAVEMENT SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
 KEHINDE ANDREWS PROFESSOR OF BLACK STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
 MIREILLE-TSHEUSI ROBERT PRESIDENT OF BAMKO - BELGIUM

**STREAMS**  
 INTERSECTIONALITY AS THEORY, PRACTICE AND MOVEMENT • STRUCTURAL RACISM, SEGREGATION AND DESEGREGATION • POLICY, ACTIVISM AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION • AFROEUROPEAN LITERATURE, ARTS AND CULTURE • AFRICAN POLITICS • HEALTH, RACIAL INEQUALITIES AND INTERSECTIONALITY • DECOLONISING SPACES, INSTITUTIONS • CONTEMPORARY BLACKNESS AND BLACK HISTORIES IN URBAN EUROPE • RELEVANCE OF PAN-AFRICAN CONCEPTS TO EUROPE

**PROGRAMME AND REGISTRATION** WWW.AFROEUROPEANS2022.COM




SAVE THE DATE

Ugent Doctoral Schools Transferable Skills Seminar

**Doing research in Africa: funding, ethics and integrity**

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2019 // 9H-17H

ROOM RECTOR VERMEYLEN / HET PAND / ONDERBERGEN 1 / 9000 GENT

With information on:  
 • funding opportunities for research in Africa  
 • ethical commissions at UGent and doing research ethically  
 • insurance and security issues when travelling to Africa  
 • research integrity (plagiarism, co-authorship, informed consent, data management, conflict of interest)

17:00 Closing reception and book launch:  
 "Africa Focus Special Issue - Decolonizing African Studies: celebrating and rethinking 10 years of GAP"

Admission, lunch & reception are free but registration is required at <https://eventmanager.ugent.be/AfricaFundingEthics>




**GAPSYM11**  
**Health in Africa**  
 an interdisciplinary approach


FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2017

Room Rector Vermeylen, Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent

Sub-topic 1 Health care, space and materiality in Africa, past and present  
 Sub-topic 2 Health system challenges for donor darlings: perspectives from the ground  
 Sub-topic 3 Childhood malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa

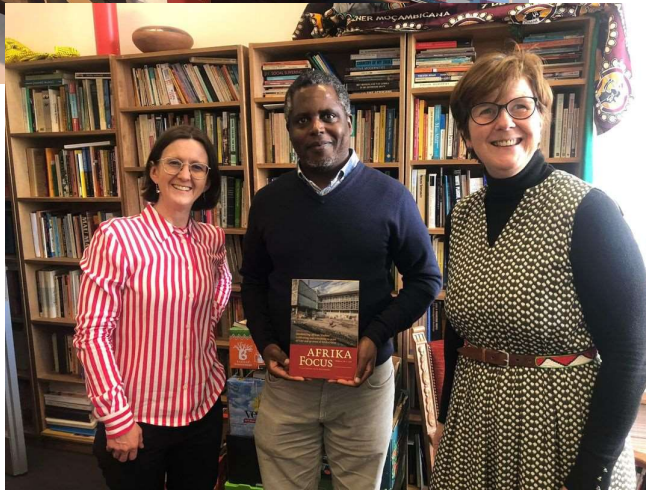
Keynotes:  
 • Ms. Achlieng Renish, Organization Hope for Kabondo  
 • Prof. Paul Wenzel Geissler, University of Oslo

REGISTER BEFORE 10 DECEMBER AT [WEBAPPS.UGENT.BE/EVENTMANAGER/EVENTS/GAPSYMHEALTHINAFRICA](http://WEBAPPS.UGENT.BE/EVENTMANAGER/EVENTS/GAPSYMHEALTHINAFRICA)




# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Publish an international, accredited journal on Africa – important publication channel for scholars at African partner universities (volume 35)



**BRILL** *Over three centuries of scholarly publishing*

**Afrika Focus**

Afrika Focus promotes critical and worldly debates with Africa at the centre. It accepts scholarly contributions dealing with current trends and new developments at both empirical and the theoretical levels, and encourages the submission of work from new generations of researchers based in the continent. The articles should offer original research and address the interdisciplinary readership of this well-established journal. The editorial committee decides on acceptance following international and double-blind peer-review. The main languages of publication in Afrika Focus are English and French, but African languages (including Portuguese, Arabic, and Afrikaans) are also accepted where editorial expertise allows. Apart from papers, the journal publishes book reviews, reports on noteworthy intellectual events concerning Africa, exhibitions and artistic interventions with strong conceptual focus. Submissions should adhere to the general guidelines for authors (including abstract, key words and reference

Available Formats:  
[Online](#)  
[Print Only](#)  
[Print & Online](#)

Language: English  
 ISSN: 2031-256X  
 Doi: ISSN: 0772-084X

**BOOK LAUNCH**

**Afrika Focus Special Issue – Decolonizing African Studies: celebrating and rethinking 10 years of GAP**

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2019 // 17H

ROOM RECTOR VERMEYLEN // HET PAND // ONDERBERGEN 1 // 9000 GENT

Admission and reception are free but registration is required at <https://eventmanager.ugent.be/AfricaFundingEthics>





# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Negotiate/facilitate **agreements, partner management**, give advice to the AUGent-community on collaboration with Africa



# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

Establish an **African Students Association AUGent**, set up information sessions for outgoing AUGent students travelling to Africa for internship or fieldwork



**African Cultural Event**  
organized by the African Students Association  
AUGent & the Ghent Africa Platform

**SATURDAY 11 MAY 2019**  
Therminat: Hoveniersberg 24, 9000 Ghent

- 15h00 - doors open
- Country presentations: Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Rwanda
- African Food
- Fashion show
- Dances from different countries
- Drama

**EVERYBODY WELCOME!**  
CONTACT: [GAP@UGENT.BE](mailto:GAP@UGENT.BE)



# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

## Alumni networks and student recruitment



INVITATION

### SAVE THE DATE

Official start of the UGent Alumni Chapter in Tanzania



Given the long tradition of students from Tanzania studying at Ghent University, the International Relations Office, in cooperation with the Africa Platform, kindly invites you to the kick-off event of the UGent Alumni Chapter in Tanzania.

The Ghent University Tanzania Alumni Chapter engages our alumni and friends to build and strengthen relationships and networks and foster their commitment to Ghent University

**When?** Friday 11 May 2018  
**Where?** Dar es Salaam  
**Programme?** Will be confirmed later

Please confirm your participation by sending an e-mail to [Mrs. garde.picavet@ugent.be](mailto:Mrs. garde.picavet@ugent.be)



INVITATION

### SAVE THE DATE

Monday 1 October 2018

#### OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE UGENT ALUMNI CHAPTER IN SOUTH AFRICA

Ghent University has enjoyed a long tradition of welcoming South African exchange and degree students through internships, various undergraduate, PhD and research programmes and bilateral agreements with other institutions.

The Ghent University South Africa Alumni Chapter aims to engage our alumni and friends to build and strengthen relationships and networks and foster their commitment to Ghent University.

**When?** Monday 1 October 2018  
**Where?** University of the Western Cape Programme? To be confirmed

The University's International Relations Office, in collaboration with the Africa Platform, University of the Western Cape and the General Representation of the Government of Flanders kindly invite you to the launch of the UGent Alumni Chapter in South Africa.

Please confirm your participation by sending an e-mail to [carole.picavet@ugent.be](mailto:carole.picavet@ugent.be)




### QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH SHOWCASING THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT GHEENT UNIVERSITY AND SOUTH AFRICA

Thursday 2 December 2021, 14:00 Central Africa Time  
 Virtual webinar

**PROGRAMME**

14h00	<b>Word of welcome</b> Flavia Zita Francies President of the Ghent University South Africa Alumni Chapter	14h30	<b>The Children's Worlds Survey on Children's Well-Being: Results from South Africa and Belgium</b> Professor Shazly Savahl Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Children, Families and Society University of the Western Cape
14h10	<b>Addiction, recovery and quality of life: an impossible combination?</b> Professor Wouter Vanderplasschen Department of Special Needs Education Recovery & Addiction research cluster Ghent University	15:00	<b>Round table</b>
		15:10	<b>Closing</b>

Please confirm your participation via email to [alumni@southafrica@ugent.be](mailto:alumni@southafrica@ugent.be) by Tuesday 30 November 2021




# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

**Public events:** debates, book presentations, film festival - challenge dominant perceptions and stimulate critical debate



# GAP – THE REALISATIONS

## Public events: Mandela Lecture - reflect on the legacy of Nelson Mandela on the African continent

**MANDELA LECTURE**  
**ALBIE SACHS IN CONVERSATION WITH EVA BREMS (UGENT)**

Albie Sachs recently watched the Constitutional Court of South Africa, on which he had served as a Justice for fifteen years, declare the conduct of the President, who had been his comrade in the struggle, to be unconstitutional. What does this example of judicial independence say about the future of democracy and Mandela's legacy in South Africa?

**ALBIE SACHS**  
 South Africa

Monday October 2 2016 / 20:00h / Reffer - Het Pand / Onderbergen 1, Gent  
 Free entrance & reception afterwards

Registration required before October 1  
[webapps.ugent.be/eventManager/events/MandelaLectureSachs](https://webapps.ugent.be/eventManager/events/MandelaLectureSachs)

**MANDELA LECTURE**  
**Tom Lanoye in conversation with Antjie Krog about the role of Nelson Mandela in South Africa and the world today**  
 (in English, Dutch and Afrikaans)

Moderator: Katrien Vanderschoot (VRT Nieuws)

**TOM LANOYE** **ANTJIE KROG**

10 October 2017 - 19h30  
 Aula Ghent University, Voldersstraat 9, Ghent

Music by Sioen  
 Free reception afterwards  
 Please register before 4 October: [webapps.ugent.be/eventManager/events/MandelaLezing](https://webapps.ugent.be/eventManager/events/MandelaLezing)

**GAP PRESENTS THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MANDELA LECTURE**  
**'Nelson Mandela - the legacy'**  
 by Zeldla la Grange (former private secretary to Nelson Mandela)  
 Moderated by Katrien Vanderschoot (VRT journalist)

Monday 26 November 2018 at 20h  
 Reffer, Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent  
 Music by Tutu Pupane

Free reception afterwards  
 Please register before 20 November:  
<https://webapps.ugent.be/eventManager/events/MandelaLegacy>

**THE AFRICA PLATFORM OF AUGENT PRESENTS THE 2019 Mandela Lecture with Breyten Breytenbach**

Discussant: prof. Margriet van der Waal (University of Groningen)

Where: Aula UGent, Voldersstraat 9, Ghent  
 When: Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 20h  
 Music by Filip Kowlier

Registration@ <https://eventmanager.ugent.be/MandelaBreytenbach>

**Mandela Lecture 2022**  
**human rights and social rights in an international perspective**

on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 20h00  
 Zaal De Blauwe Vogel in De Krook, Miriam Makebaplein 1, Ghent

with:

- Navi Pillay, South African jurist & human rights activist, Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Eva Brems, UGent Professor Human Rights
- Luc Cortebeek, Former President of the International Labour Organisation

Moderator: Gie Goris

- with free reception afterwards

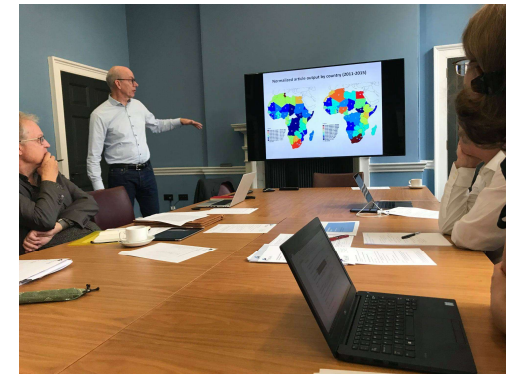
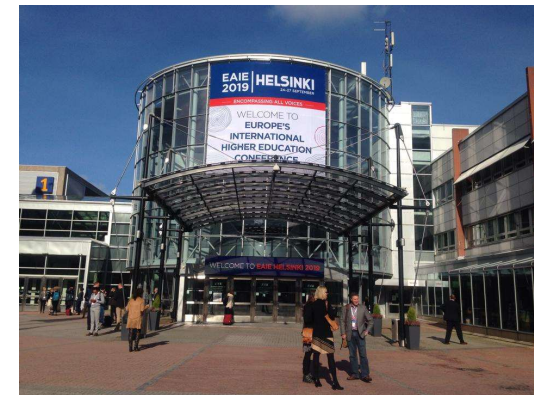
Reservation required by 15 February @ <https://eventmanager.ugent.be/MandelaLecturePillay>



## GAP – THE REALISATIONS

GAP plays an active role in (inter)national forums – to network, share expertise and represent AUGent

- Member of AEGIS (Africa Studies Network in Europe)
- Member of the Think Tank for Africa of the SGroup
- Member of the North-South Working Group of The Guild
- Founder of the U4 Africa initiative (now ENLIGHT)
- Member of the Advisory Council on Gender and Development (Belgium)
- Member of the Advisory Council on North South Collaboration (Ghent)



## GAP – WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

- Strengthen our visibility as a Platform - function as a point of reference for academic knowledge on Africa (intern AUGent & extern)
- Extend networks/increase impact in Africa
- Attract more external research funding (EU and African)
- Strive to be a keyrole player in international policy on academic EU-Africa collaboration



[www.africaplatform.ugent.be](http://www.africaplatform.ugent.be)

AUGent Africa Platform

GAP

[Annelies.Verdoolaeye@UGent.be](mailto:Annelies.Verdoolaeye@UGent.be)





# AUGENT REPRESENTATIVES TESTIFYING ABOUT THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRICA



# COFFEE BREAK



# ROUND TABLE

## INTERACTION BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD



# RECEPTION + NETWORKING

