



**3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ONLINE,
DIGITAL AND DISTANCE EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA - RESEARCH WEEK 2022

24th October 2022

CONFERENCE MODE: BLENDED

THEME

**‘Optimizing Online and Blended Learning for Sustainable Development in the 21st
Century’**

Zoom Link for the Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwod-igpjltHNThyf4uku979AzQ7KNEdFSq>

Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Remarks



Prof. Stephen Kiama,
BVM, MSc. (Nairobi), PhD (Bern).
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi and to the **3rd Annual International Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education**. This is part of Research and Innovation Week of the University of Nairobi which runs from 24th to 28th October. The conference provides a platform for us to come together and deliberately have a discourse on how to shape the future of online, digital and distance learning in higher institutions of learning in Kenya and beyond.

The future of online, digital and distance education is now brighter and more pronounced as institutions and organizations embrace Distance learning in a larger scale.

As a World Class University dedicated to academic excellence, the University of Nairobi has been in the forefront embracing use of technology in teaching and learning. This was tested during the COVID-19 pandemic when the university was able to transit smoothly to online, digital and distance learning when most other learning institutions were closed down. This was only possible because the University was already well established in distance education framework and had experts in this field. Coupled with staff from ICT staff, we made great gains developing content for online learning, preparing virtual learning platform and training staff and students, all aimed at ensuring online learning was well implemented.

In our endeavor to maintain online, digital and distance education, we maintained the Department of Educational and Distance Studies in the Faculty of Education to ensure learners' continued access to education whenever and wherever they are.

Despite the fact that the Department of Educational and Distance Studies has existed in the University for over 50 years, the challenge of digital divide among the learners and the faculty is real and the University of Nairobi has put a lot of effort to mitigate

This conference with the theme: ***'Optimizing Online and Blended Learning for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century'*** aims at achieving to provide a forum for educators to meet and deliberate on aspects of online, blended and distance learning approaches for changing times; share mitigation strategies on challenges experienced; and create a network to spearhead utilization of online, digital, blended and distance learning at all levels of learning.

The forum will help in consolidating the gains made in distance and digital learning at the University of Nairobi and complement the University's leadership role in adopting online, blended and flexible learning in Kenya and overcoming the challenges to increase access, equity and relevance for sustainable development in line with Sustainable Development Goals.

The conference further explores ways of optimizing distance learning in universities at time when one does not have to be in the confines of four walls to learn, a time when a mobile learn is not only a communication gadget but a teaching and learning tool, and a time when collaborations and creating of communities for learning goes beyond our geographical boundaries or our classrooms. Our Institution values research uptake and dissemination. I highly appreciate the efforts that the researches, students and other stakeholders have put in place to prepare twenty-two papers to be presented in this conference.

I also highly appreciate our keynote speakers led by Prof. (Dr). Agnieszka (Aga) Palalas Associate Professor, Distance Education at Athabasca University; Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Sule, Director, Distance Learning Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria; Professor Helen Ochuko Kwanashie, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria; and Kukubo Barasa, Department of Educational and Distance Education, University of Nairobi.

Finally, I appreciate all participants, both physical and virtual and the organizers of the conference. I wish you a very fruitful engagement.

To all our speakers and guests from different Countries and regions feel most welcome to the University of Nairobi and Kenya.

I therefore, now, declare the 3rd Annual International Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education officially opened.

Thank you and wish you well.

University of Nairobi Research Week Committee Chairperson



Prof. M. Jesang Hutchinson
Associate Vice- Chancellor
Research, Innovation, and Enterprise

I wish to welcome you all to Research and Innovation Week of the University of Nairobi which runs from 24th to 28th October 2022. As the Chairperson of the University of Nairobi Research Week Committee, I am very happy for the effort which has gone into making this event a success. The **3rd Annual International Conference on Online Digital and Distance Education** with the theme: *‘Optimizing Online and Blended Learning for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century’* is an important part of the Research week as it provides an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, scholars and students to evaluate the gains made and look ahead to our trajectory path in this critical field of online, digital and distance education.

There has been a lot of work put in promoting and ensuring that as a the University of Nairobi is not left behind when the world is embracing distance and online learning. Together we managed to enable learning synchronously and asynchronously in our institution with ease.

I appreciate our Vice Chancellor for finding time from his busy schedule to be with us and to launch this conference; I also appreciate our key note speakers led by

- Prof. (Dr). Agnieszka (Aga) Palalas, Associate Professor, Distance Education at Athabasca University, Canada.
- Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Sule, Director, Distance Learning Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria.
- Professor Helen Ochuko Kwanashie, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria
- Kukubo Barasa, Department of Educational and Distance Education, University of Nairobi, Kenya

From where I sit, the discipline of online, digital and Distance Education is critical and more research uptake is needed in this field as it is becoming the new way of learning preferred in most disciplines and by scholars.

Finally to all our participant. You are most welcome.

It is my hope that, as we all gather here for the Research Week 2022 edition, we will come up with clear pathways and strategies on how to get to our desired future in online, digital and distance education.

I now take this opportunity to humbly welcome the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama to address you and to officially open this conference.

Thank you.

Message from the Director, Research and Enterprise



Prof Justus M. Munyoki
Director, Research and
Enterprise
University of Nairobi

This week the University of Nairobi is once again hosting a series of conferences during the University Research Week that runs between 24th and 28th October, 2022. During the Week, we have thirteen conferences cutting across six Faculties. The theme of this year's Research Week conferences is '**Emerging Research and Technologies for Sustainable Development in Society**'.

This theme is very appropriate in our times as the world is recovering from Covid19 effects, and is a clarion call to all researchers and practitioners to focus on the important role of research and technology towards sustainable development in Society. The conferences have attracted high-quality papers on different topics related to the specific themes of the respective conferences, and I call upon the attendees to actively participate and see what they can learn from the research findings. The Research Week has attracted very eminent Guest Speakers both local and international, and it will be interesting to listen to their presentations.

I wish to thank our guest speakers, key note speakers, paper presenters, staff, students and all delegates, who have taken time off their busy schedules to all tend our conferences, either physically or virtually. We truly value your time and hope that this is not the last time you are joining us in the conferences. We will continue to collaborate with you and invite you in our future conferences and any other areas where we think your input is needed.

Message from Chairperson, Department of Educational and Distance Studies -Anne Aseey PhD



**Anne Aseey, PhD
Chair, Dept. of Educational and
Distance Studies,
Faculty of Education, University of
Nairobi**

Once again welcome to the University of Nairobi Research Week 5th Edition taking place from 24th to 28th October. The conference provides a platform for scholars, students, staff and other stakeholders to come together and deliberate a cross board on issues that need due attention in our continent and beyond.

The **3rd Annual International Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education** hosted by Department of Educational and Distance Studies is one of the 13 conferences being hosted in this year's Research and Innovation Week of the University of Nairobi.

The 3rd Annual International Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education conference provides a forum for distance education practitioners, researchers, scholars and students to have an opportunity to share new insights and paradigm shifts on Blended and Flexible learning.

COVID 19 brought the education sector to a standstill. The only way of learning that people adopted was distance and online learning. This was done hurriedly by institutions of higher learning and others hence the need to more debate and explorations on the way forward.

It is in this context that this conference today is quite critical to distance and online learning practitioners from diverse settings and spaces to discuss and deliberate on best practices that can work for institutions and organizations as they think of best practices.

The department of distance studies I has existed in the University for over 50 years working with various institutions and organizations locally, nationally and globally to embrace distance learning at various levels and in diverse discipline.

The department has produced over 30,000 professionals in Youth and community development, adult education, education, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of commerce, religion and philosophy, project planning and management and other courses offered at the University of Nairobi.

The department continues to offer courses using online and distance courses at certificate, Diploma, Degree level, masters and PhD level.

The Department also collaborates with various individuals, institutions and organizations, government and state/County governments, NGOs and other stakeholders in offering and

understanding how distance and online education can be embraced in a more refined way without disruptions and strain on the part of those concerned.

Thank you for honoring our invitation and being with us today.

Message from the Conference Convener - Dr. Naomi Mwangi (PhD)



On behalf of the Organizing committee, I wish to welcome you to the 3rd Annual International Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education organized by the University of Nairobi. The conference forms part of the University's 5th Annual Research Week 2022 activities. The conference gives us an excellent academic platform for researchers and practitioners in the field of distance education to share and exchange new ideas and experiences; establish relationships and networks for partnerships and collaborations in optimizing online and digital learning for sustainable development in the 21st century. The conference will be blended. A book of abstracts and a certificate will be available for all the presenters.

Looking forward to a gainful engagement by all participants

Keynote Speaker: 3rd Annual Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education



Prof. (Dr) Agnieszka (Aga) Palalas

Associate Professor, Distance Education at Athabasca University, Canada and President and Founding Director of the International Association for Blended Learning (IABL)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Athabasca University, Canada

Prof. (Dr) Palalas has two-decade-long practice of mindfulness and research on mindfulness-informed practices for online learning and digital well-being.

Keynote Speaker: 3rd Annual Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education



Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Sule, Director, Distance Learning Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Prof. M. I.Sule was a former Head of the Department, Dean Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Director of Academic Planning and Monitoring all at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna State, Nigeria. His title of presentation will be ***"Open Distance and E-Learning in Nigeria, our experience at ABU DLC"***.

Keynote Speaker: 3rd Annual Conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education



Professor Helen Ochuko Kwanashie,
Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN),
Abuja, Nigeria
hkwanashie@noun.edu.ng

Helen Ochuko Kwanashie is a Professor of Pharmacology and a Guidance-Counsellor. She obtained her PhD Pharmacology from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria; undertook postdoctoral training at the University of Dundee (in the UK), and attained Full Professorship of Pharmacology in 2004. She had also earned two Education qualifications from ABU, namely: Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) and Higher Diploma in Guidance and Counselling Education (High.Dip.Guid.Couns.Educ.). A career academic, Kwanashie has been teaching and researching in the university setting for over four decades (from 1982 and mostly at ABU); but is now at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) since 2021. Her expertise had been in Perinatal Biochemical Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacology Education; and more recently, in Open and Distance eLearning (ODeL). Kwanashie is a Past-President/Member of the West African Society for Pharmacology (WASP), Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) and a Councilor on the 2018-2022 Executive Committee of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). In the last two years, Kwanashie has switched her research model from mammalian systems (principally mice and rats), to the highly versatile fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*; for which purpose, she established Kwanash Droso Lab (KDL). Her current research, teaching and advocacy interests deal with interphasing *Drosophila* and ODL, gender concerns within ODL institutions as well as mitigating distance-learning student attrition via online counselling. In today's presentation, she hopes to share some of her experiences as a science professor operating in the distance learning domain within the broader context of the challenges we face in Africa and the opportunities available to us with respect to lifelong learning.



Prof Sharon Thabo Mampane

Department of Educational Leadership and Management

College of Education, Office: SNR-6: 102.

1 Preller Street, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: 012-429-6542

Orcid: <http://orcid.org/000-0003-3789-600X>

University of South Africa



In compliance with the POPI Act 4 of 2013, students should

only contact the University through their myLife email accounts.

Optimizing online and digital learning for sustainable development in the 21st century

Conference Objectives

1. To provide a forum for educators to meet and deliberate on aspects of online, blended and distance learning approaches for changing times.
2. To bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Online, Digital, Blended and Distance learning.
3. To share ideas and experiences on Learning Strategies and Online Learning.
4. To provide a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns on Online, Digital, Blended and Distance learning.
5. To share mitigation strategies on practical challenges encountered in adaption and adoption of Online, Digital, Blended and Distance learning.
6. To create a network of scholars from various universities, institutions and other related organizations that will spearhead the process and utilization of Online, Digital, Blended and Distance learning.

Subthemes:

1. Transformative Online Pedagogies
2. Education and automation
3. Online Education for Better Futures
4. E-learning platforms, portals ,learner support
5. Expanding Access, Equity, Openness, Flexibility, Diversity and inclusion
6. Online learning and content development
7. Innovative Learning Designs for Student Success
8. Open Pathways , new Credentials and micro credentials for Lifelong Learning
9. Blended learning for Healthy Lives and Communities of Practice
10. Global Challenges and Local Solutions to Education
11. Role on partners in Online, Digital and Distance education
12. Technology, Digital wellness, mental and Psychological wellbeing

13. Synchronous and asynchronous learning
14. Online Assessment and new test theories, Quality Assurance, Policy and Governance
15. Virtual labs, virtual classrooms and virtual spaces for future learning
16. Social media and online learning
17. Digital libraries for e-learning, OERS,MOOCs
18. Emerging issues in Online, Digital and Distance education

About Department of Educational and Distance Studies

The Department of Educational and Distance Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Nairobi, Kenya, is a leader in online, digital and distance education. The Department has been leading in using distance and blended learning modes for over 40 years to offer courses at different levels to various clients in Kenya and beyond. The department will hold a Two-day online conference on Online, Digital and Distance Education during the University of Nairobi Research week in October, 2022. The conference aims to share expertise and allow for knowledge exchange.

PROGRAMME

3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ONLINE, DIGITAL AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

24TH OCTOBER 2022

SESSION 1: OPENING CEREMONY			
Time	Opening Ceremony	Moderator	Rapporteur
8:30-9:00AM	Joining and Registration Opening Ceremony a. Anthems b. Devotion and Prayer	Dr. Naomi Mwangi	Anne Njoroge Stephen Ruga
9:00-9:10AM	Introductory Remarks – Chairperson of the Conference- Dr. Naomi Mwangi		
9:10-9:20AM	Chairperson Department of Educational and Distance Studies - Dr. Ann Aseey	Dr. Anne Aseey	George Meroka
9:20-9:30AM	Dean- Faculty of Education		
9:30-9:40AM	AVC – RIE-Prof. Margaret Jesang Hutchinson		
9:40-9:55AM	VC – Prof. Stephen Kiama Gitahi Opens The Conference		
	Key Note Address and Discussion		
9.55:00-10.30am	Keynote Address 1- Professor Helen Ochuko 'Online, Digital and Distance Education in Africa: Past, Present and Future'	Dr. Joyce Otieno	George Meroka
10.30-10.55	Keynote Address 2 – Prof Sharon Mampane		
10.55- 11.25	Key Note address 3- Kukubo Barasa		
11:30-11:10AM	HEALTH BREAK		
SESSION II: Paper Presentations – Room 1			
TIME	Presentation	Moderator	Rapporteur
11:15-11:30AM	<i>E-Moderation And Uptake Of Post Graduate Diploma In Education (Pgde) Online Programme At The University Of Nairobi, Kenya.</i> Dr. Otieno Joyce O.	Dr. John Mbugua	Anne Njoroge Stephen Ruga
11:30-11:50AM	<i>Factors fostering the use and disuse of digital libraries For agricultural education: a case study of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria</i>		

	Onuka, A. U. & Ubah, N. G.		
11:50-12:10	<i>Information and Communication Technology Preparedness and the Implementation of Competency Based Curriculum: The Case of Public Primary Schools in Murang'a County, Kenya</i> Irungu J. , Gatotoh, A.M., Ndiritu A.N. Nyonje R.	Dr. John Mbugua	Anne Njoroge/Stephen Ruga
12:10-12:30	<i>Incorporation of Wet Laboratory Practicals in Open and Distance Learning Enriches the Learning Experience of Students in National Open University of Nigeria</i> Saliu, O.A., Ebhodaghe, F.E., Eya, C.P., Okolo, M.C. and Idowu, O.A. National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja Nigeria		
12:30-12:50	<i>Harnessing pedagogical skills and effective communication</i> <i>In teaching-learning of agriculture in high schools in Eswatini</i> Busisiwe S. Khulu		
12:50-1:10	<i>Virtual collaborative system: An alternative platform to reconnect students with teachers.</i> Okuntade J. O., Abiodun O. P, Ebimomi O		
1:10-1:30PM	<i>Transforming Digital Lifelong Learning Spaces in Universities: Challenges and Opportunities</i> Dr. N. Mwangi & Dr. A. Aseey		
1:30-2:00PM	HEALTH BREAK		
ROOM 2			
		Dr. Peter Nzuki/Joseph Awino	Anne Njoroge/Stephen Ruga
11:10-11:30am	<i>Online entrepreneurship training for successful youth projects in Kenya</i> Ndiritu C.N, Ndiritu, A.W., Gikonyo, N.W. & Gatotoh A.		
11:30-11:50am	<i>Causal Model and Research Productivity of Academic Researchers in Kenya: Lessons from Recent Literature</i> Dr.Joash Migosi		
11:50am-12:10pm	<i>Expanding access, retention and success of students in education Through digital guidance and counselling: a case of primary Schools in Kikuyu sub-county, Kiambu County in Kenya - Anne W. Njoroge</i>		
12:10-12:30pm	<i>Covid 19 and the lockdown in kenya: challenges and</i>		

	<i>Opportunities of online teaching in public secondary schools in Wajir county - Mohamed, Halima Ibrahim and Anne Aseey</i>		
12:30-12:50pm	<i>Impact of covid-19 on student academic performance: a study of High school students in bomet county, kenya EVELYN SEIN TENTENIK</i>		
12:50-1:10pm	<i>Planning and Implementation of Effective Distance Education for Future Skills Development Anne Achieng Aseey</i>		
1:10-1:30pm	<i>Factors influencing effective provision of learner support Services in distance education: the case of B.ed (arts) programme of the University of Nairobi. Ruga, SN, Dr. Bowa O, Dr. N. Gikonyo, Prof. D. Kyalo</i>		
1.30-2.00pm	HEALTH BREAK		
2.00 – 2.15pm	<i>Factors influencing provision of learner support to students with visual impairment in distance learning programs in Kenya. - Lilian Kavulu and Dr. Naomi Mwangi</i>	Dr. Peter Nzuki/Joseph Awino	Anne Njoroge/Stephen Ruga
2:15-2:30pm	<i>Learning environment and students' academic performance in Chemistry in public secondary schools in Kajiado West Sub-County, Kenya SERAPHINEH KASEMBELI BARASA</i>		
2:30-2:45pm	<i>Factors Influencing The Execution Of The Digital Literacy Program In Kenyan Primary Schools: The Case Of Isinya Sub-County, Kajiado County MUKERA GEORGE KURIA</i>		
Keynote Speakers			
2.45- 3.15	<i>Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Sule</i>		
3.15- 3.45	<i>Prof. (Dr). Agnieszka (Aga) Palalas</i>		
Closing Ceremony			
	Conference organizing team Naomi Mwangi Anne Aseey	Joyce Otieno	Joseph Awino