

The COVID-19 Pandemic as a world-historical event

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Speaker Bios

Olutayo Charles Adesina is a history professor at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Professor Adesina currently holds the position of British Academy Global Professor of History at the University of Manchester. A distinguished Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (FNAL), the highest body of humanistic scholars in Nigeria, Prof Adesina has taught for over thirty years at the University of Ibadan, is the current editor of *Africa Review*, an interdisciplinary academic journal of the African Studies Association of India, published by Brill, the Netherlands.

Samuel Adu-Gyamfi is an Applied Historian in KNUST. He is the former head of the Department of History and Political Studies and currently, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of the same University. Through Applied History, he makes explicit attempt to illuminate current challenges and choices by analyzing historical precedents and analogues. His current interests include applied history of epidemics, pandemics, education, politics, security and development.

Darez Ahmed, who hails from Manjeri, Kerala, graduated in medicine from Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore and in 2005 joined the Indian Administrative Service. As Mission Director, National Health Mission for Tamil Nadu, he played a major role in the strengthening of the state's public health services, and in organising the government response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2025 he won the Keshav Desiraju Award for Outstanding Public Services for Mental Health. Since February 2025, he is serving as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guidance Tamil Nadu.

Ruben Andersson is a professor of social anthropology at the University of Oxford. His next book, *Age of Security*, is being published by HarperCollins in 2026.

Ana Lucia Araujo is a Professor of History at the historically Black Howard University in Washington, DC. She is the author of 15 books. In 2025, she was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2024, she was one of eight scholars in the United States to receive the and inaugural ACLS HBCU Fellowship.

El Hadji M F Diallo Ba is a lecturer and researcher at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. Since 2023, he has been an expert in communication and journalism for ECOWAS. Deeply involved in the COVID-19 crisis, he has been a prominent figure in Senegalese media, participating in debates surrounding the pandemic.

Muriel Blaive is a socio-political historian of communist and post-communist Central Europe, in particular of the Czech Republic, whose recent work engages with questions of biopolitics and democratic governance. She is currently a grantee of an Elise Richter Fellowship at the University of Graz (2022–2026).

Garrett Wallace Brown is Chair of Global Health Policy at the University of Leeds. He is Co-Lead of the Global Health Research Unit. His research focuses on global health

governance, health financing, health system strengthening, health equity and estimating the costs and funding feasibility of pandemic preparedness and response. He has conducted policy and research collaborations in global health for over 25 years and has worked with NGOs, governments in Africa, the DHSC, the FCDO, the UK Cabinet Office, WHO, G7 and G20.

Caitjan Gainty is a historian of science, technology & medicine at King's College, London. Caitjan's work is primarily focused on the logics and processes of 20th century healthcare, and, most recently, the distrust, dispossession and dis-ease that healthcare systems reflect and create. Her new book *Healthy Scepticism*, which examines the history and contemporary of health scepticism and the potential it holds for a healthier system of healthcare, will appear in June 2026.

Linda Gibson is Professor of Global Health at Nottingham Trent University, and is a public health specialist with over 25 years of experience in health promotion and community engagement across the UK and internationally. She co-founded the NTU–Makerere University collaboration, and co-chairs the Pan-African Mental Health Network and leads the NTU Eastern Africa PhD Hub.

Toby Green is a Professor of African History at King's College, London and a historian of inequality. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, and a member of the advisory board of the Global Africa Institute (Lagos), as well as the Global North representative of the Pan-African Epidemic and Pandemic Working Group. His work on Covid includes collaborations with the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, Collateral Global, and the Royal United Services Institute. He is the author/coauthor of *The Covid Consensus*.

Ingrid Hoofd is an Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Culture, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Her research interests are issues of representation, feminist and critical theories, philosophy of technology, and information ethics. She is the author of *Higher Education and Technological Acceleration: the Disintegration of University Teaching and Research* (2016), and *Ambiguities of Activism: Alter-Globalism and the Imperatives of Speed* (2012).

Dr. Yogesh Jain is a public health physician who earned his MD in Paediatrics from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He founded and led the community health program Jan Swasthya Sahyog (People's Health Support Group) which operates in rural Bilaspur, India. Yogesh served as a Commissioner in The Lancet Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries (NCDIs) among the poorest billion, as well as a steering committee member of the NCDI Poverty Global Network set up by the Harvard Medical School's School for Global Health Equity.

Joel Lim is an undergraduate student in History and Political Economy at King's College, London.

Laurent Mucchielli is a French sociologist, Director of research at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). He used to work mainly on crime, criminal justice system and security policies, and works on public health and health policies since 2020. Very committed during the Covid crisis, he has published *La doxa du Covid* (2 vol., 2022) and *Défendre la démocratie* (2023).

David Musoke is an Associate Professor in Environmental and Public Health at Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda. Dr. Musoke has recently carried out research on Covid-19 and Ebola as part of Uganda's response to the outbreaks. Dr. Musoke is an Affiliate Member of the African Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Senior Visiting Fellow at Nottingham Trent University (UK), and President Elect of the International Federation of Environmental Health.

Reginald M.J. Oduor is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nairobi. He is the first person with total visual disability to be appointed to a substantive teaching position in a public university in Kenya. He is sole Editor of the Choice Outstanding Academic Title [*Africa beyond Liberal Democracy: In Search of Context-Relevant Models of Democracy for the Twenty-First Century*](#) (Rowman and Littlefield 2022). He is also Co-Founder of the Nairobi-based [Society of Professionals with Visual Disabilities \(SOPVID\)](#), Member of the [Pan-African Epidemic and Pandemic Working Group \(PEPWG\)](#), and Member of the International Health Review Project (IHRP).

Suzan Nakalawa is a member of the Nottingham Trent University–Makerere partnership and currently a PhD student at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Wahome Ngare is a Member of the Kenya Medical Association, Kenya Obstetric and Gynaecological Society, Kenya Christian Professionals Forum, and Kenya Catholic Doctors Association. He is a Board Member in Mercy Health Services Limited, Kenya Christian Professionals Forum, Mediequip East Africa Limited, Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital, Archdiocese of Nairobi Family Board, Kibconnect Limited, and Mary Help of Christians SACCO.

Polona Petek is the Head of Film and Television Studies at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television, the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In addition to continuing her research on securitisation and the audiovisual media, her recent work has two foci: reconsidering the idea of Slovenian national cinema through the prism of decolonial approaches, and developing intergenerational pedagogical approaches for film (teacher) education in a long-lived society.

Juliette Rouchier is a French modeller at CNRS, with an initial degree in mathematics. She applied her Agent-Based models to study markets, the spreading of ideas in society, and now the dynamics of argumentation. She is director of research in Economics and Environment at the CNRS, and has worked on the Covid crisis on two topics: first a critique of the epidemiological models, and second on the processes of silencing of scientists while the crisis management evolved on an authoritarian path.

T. Sundararaman has been a member of the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission of India and a member on many national and international policy committees and commissions. He is a former Chair of the People's Health Movement, and currently sits on the Steering Group of PHM.