

**Writershop in a broader thematic areas of Development
Studies (April 28 – May 2 2025),
Mzumbe University, Sokoine University of Agriculture and
University of Dar es Salaam**

Call for Applications

Mzumbe University, Sokoine University of Agriculture, University of Dar es Salaam and the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands (ISS-EUR) are jointly organizing a five-day Writershop on 28th April – 2nd May 2025 in broader thematic areas of agrarian studies and development studies. The Writershop is designed for PhD students, recent graduates, and young researchers based in Tanzania. Eligible applicants must have either completed their PhD fieldwork or finished their PhD studies within the last five years. Exceptions are made for recent graduate assistants holding an MA degree from one of the three universities involved.

The Writershop is designed to equip young researchers with strategic knowledge and practical skills to enhance their access to and acceptance in high-impact international peer-reviewed academic journals. Successful applicants will gain insights into techniques and methods in academic publishing, including positioning in contemporary debates, understanding state of the art and going beyond it, conceptualizing and framing manuscripts, selecting appropriate journals, preparing and submitting journal articles, addressing peer review feedback, and other critical aspects of the publication process. It will also include insight and discussion on the social structures and institutions of the global circuits of knowledge production, attribution, circulation and use – or knowledge politics – as a key context for the challenge of publishing, especially for those in/from Global South. The Writershop will include sessions by leading academics, covering key debates and the broader literature in development studies, with a particular focus on critical agrarian studies, rural development initiatives and the intersection of globalization and development. Additionally, participants will engage in peer-reviewed discussions of their draft manuscripts in small groups, guided by experienced mentors and facilitators.

Mzumbe University will host this Writershop in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture, University of Dar es Salaam, and ISS-EUR, and it will take place at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro. After the Writershop, participants will be better positioned to frame their research within two key frameworks. In agrarian studies, they will strengthen their analysis of land governance and access, migrant labor and rural livelihoods, the intersections of agriculture, pastoralism and conservation, and development interventions and outcomes. In economic perspectives on globalization and development, participants will enhance their understanding of trade policy and international trade, FDI and economic growth, export promotion and competitiveness, economic diversification and productivity, and trade-development relationships. Integration of rural development initiatives with health improvement strategies, addressing gender disparities in access to healthcare and nutrition in farming communities and enhancing access to healthcare facilities in agrarian areas. The Writershop will use a specific Global South lens to understand global knowledge structure, institutions and politics.

Through this enhanced theoretical and analytical positioning, participants will develop the skills needed to engage effectively with international academic publications and finalize their

manuscripts for submission to selected journal outlets. The ultimate aim is to support participants in developing publication-ready manuscripts contributing to scholarly debates while maintaining practical relevance for development policy and practice.

We are looking at a maximum of 30-40 workshop participants with a *minimum requirement of completing doctoral fieldwork*.

No fee is required. Participants from the collaborating Universities are encouraged to apply and consult their universities for any support for travel and accommodation, depending on the availability of funds. Independently funded participants are highly encouraged to apply. Successful applicants *must* circulate a draft manuscript (based on their accepted abstracts) of 8,000-10,000 words before the Writeshop.

For applications, please submit the following:

1. An abstract of 500 words related to the thematic areas outlined above
2. A short bio of 250 words
3. Names and contact information of 2 academic referees.

Applications should be sent to sopam@mzumbe.ac.tz (Mzumbe applicants), cssh@sua.ac.tz (SUA) and udsoe@udsm.ac.tz (UDSE).

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with:

- Dr. Idda Lyatonga Swai for applicants from Mzumbe through sopam@mzumbe.ac.tz
- Prof. J.S. Kabote for applicants from SUA through cssh@sua.ac.tz
- Dr. Onesmo Selejio for applicants from UDSE through udsoe@udsm.ac.tz

Timelines:

- Deadline for applications: 21st of February 2025.
- Application results will be announced in the week of March 3rd – 7th, 2025.
- Successful applicants will be asked to confirm their acceptance of a place at the Writeshop.
- Those selected will be invited to submit a complete draft manuscript of 8,000 -10,000 words. This is due on the 11th of April 2025.

The Writeshop is organised by:

SOPAM: Mzumbe University, Tanzania.

CSSH: College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.

UDSE: School of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

ISS-EUR: the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands.



International
Institute of
Social Studies

Erasmus
University
Rotterdam

Writeshop Team Resource persons and facilitators:

ISS/EUR, Netherlands:

[Jun Borras](#) is a professor of agrarian studies at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), part of the [Erasmus Chairs](#) (for societal impact) programme of EUR, a Distinguished Professor at China Agricultural University in Beijing, an associate of the Amsterdam-based Transnational Institute (TNI). He was the Editor-In-Chief of the [Journal of Peasant Studies](#) (*JPS*) for 15 years, until 2023. His latest publications include [The Oxford Handbook of Land Politics](#) (2025, co-edited with Jennifer Franco), [Essential Concepts of Land Politics](#) (2025, co-authored with Jennifer Franco) and [Scholar-Activism and Land Struggles](#) (2023, co-authored with Jennifer Franco). He is currently co-guest editing two journals, Special Issues: *Agriculture and Human Values* (Migrants, Farmers and Farmworkers) and *Globalizations* (The Spectacular Land Rush and its Consequences). He co-coordinates the *JPS* International Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Scholar-Activism for early career researchers from/in the Global South which has been held 5 times since 2019, with more than 250 participants. The International Writeshop is co-organized with the Collective of Agrarian Scholar-Activists from/in the South (CASAS) – www.casasouth.org.

[Tsegaye Moreda](#) is an assistant professor of critical agrarian studies at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). Starting January 2025, he is an Associate Editor of the [World Development](#) journal. His research interests are in the political economy and sustainability of agriculture and natural resources governance (land, water, forests, sub-soil minerals) – examined in the era of the global resource rush (various forms of land grabbing, the rise of extractivism, agro-extractivism, large-scale development interventions, neoliberal developmentalism) and environmental and climate change (focusing on narratives of and responses to them, including politics around mitigation and adaptation) – with special emphasis on understanding how contemporary politics around natural resources links to broader questions of social justice, socio-economic transformation, and ecological sustainability.

[Binyam Afewerk Demena](#) is an assistant professor of development economics at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). His research interests include impact evaluation, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, applied econometrics, international trade, FDI and spillover effects, economic integration, and the formalisation of informal enterprises. In addition to his research endeavours, Binyam has substantial experience as a teacher, primarily in Economics, research methodology, and critical assessment of scientific literature. He is currently an Academic Editor of [PLOS ONE](#) and [Sage Open](#) journals.

Mzumbe, SUA and UDSM: Tanzania

[Idda Lyatonga](#) is a senior lecturer, researcher and the dean of the School of Public Administration and Management at Mzumbe University. She is responsible for coordinating teaching-related activities, research, consultancy and three journals housed in the school. She conducted over ten research projects and authored and co-authored over 20 articles in internationally accredited [journals](#). Her research was enhanced through her role in various projects, including [\(MWOTAJI\)](#) and [NISHATI](#) projects. Idda has also organised the Annual Health Monitoring and Evaluation

Best Practices Conferences for three consecutive years from 2017 to 2019 <http://coehme.mzumbe.ac.tz/conference/> and <https://icglst.mzumbe.ac.tz/>.

Kim Abel Kayunze is a professor of rural development at the Department of Development and Strategic Studies, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro, Tanzania. His research interests and areas of publication are rural development; agricultural development; poverty analysis; food security; public and health policies; socio-cultural aspects of HIV/AIDS; project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation; rural finance; and farm and non-farm linkages. He teaches social research methodology, gender and development, rural finance, and poverty analysis to undergraduate students. Moreover, he teaches design, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of development projects; project finance; food security; and qualitative social research methods to postgraduate students. He has published fifty two journal articles, some of them alone and others in collaboration with other authors; two articles in bulletins; and six book chapters. For three years, he was Assistant Chief-Editor of the *Tanzania Journal of Development Studies* published jointly by the University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Mzumbe, and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania. Currently, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the *African Journal of Accounting and Social Sciences* that is hosted by the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy Dar es Salaam.

Christopher Paul Mahonge is a Research Professor in governance of social-ecological systems at Sokoine University of Agriculture. His research is specialised on, among others, the role of and interactions among stakeholders, including the state, non-state and community actors and formal, informal and hybrid institutions in the governance of social-ecological systems (e.g., fisheries, livestock, forestry, crops systems and wetlands). He has authored and co-authored publications in various peer-reviewed journals, including PLoS ONE, Sustainability Science (Springer), Aquaculture (Elsevier), World Policy, and Land Use Policy.

Godfrey Kacholi is a senior lecturer in health systems management at Mzumbe University. He has authored and co-authored articles and books in a peer-reviewed publishing house. His primary research interests include quality improvement in the health sector, international health, monitoring and evaluation, health systems research, hospital management, and strengthening the health and social welfare system. He served as Secretary of the *Journal Policy and Leadership* from 2013-2015 and the *East African Journal of Applied Health Monitoring and Evaluation* from 2019 to 2022 and is currently the Chief Editor of the same journal. He is currently an Academic Editor of *PLOS ONE*.

Rosemary Taylor is an economics lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Economics (UDSE) and holds a PhD in Economics. She previously worked with the Fair Competition Commission in Tanzania and has extensive research expertise in natural resources, environmental economics, development economics, international trade and finance, and gender economics. Dr Taylor actively engages in sustainable clean energy transition projects as a research fellow and policy interaction coordinator at the Environment for Development Tanzania (EfDT). She also supervises master's and PhD students in related fields. Her scholarly contributions include numerous peer-reviewed publications that inform policies on investment, trade, natural resource management, and youth employment in Tanzania. She serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of African Review (TARE) hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam and is regularly invited as a

reviewer of journals such as *TARE* and the *Natural Resources Forum (NRF)*, a United Nations Sustainable Development journal.