



CAMBRIDGE 2024 AFRICA CONFERENCE AYATUTU



In 2023, FitzWilliam Museum's temporary exhibition *Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance* confronted the university and museum's connections to the transatlantic enslavement trade. Upon entrance you are faced with two portraits, one of young Fitzwilliam embellished with the gold gown he wore for his Cambridge graduation, and the other of a Black man in a red suit whose true identity remains unknown. This pair of portraits juxtapose the recorded and unrecorded, the remembered and the 'lost' highlighted, interrogating whose stories get told.

In the spirit of uncovering the lost history of Cambridge's complicated history and connections with Africa, we celebrate the unknown Africans who studied before us. Since the 18th century, Black students, although few in number, have studied at the University of Cambridge. The first Black student with an existing full university record to graduate from the university, at Queens' College, was Alexander Crummell, the son of a freed slave, a preacher and abolitionist pamphleteer from New York City. In 1953, at his graduation he experienced racist heckling from a classmate before another condemned this chanted "Shame, shame! Three groans for you, Sir!" and immediately afterwards, "Three cheers for Crummell!" The cheers filled the room, and the racist offender had to hide himself from the bombardment of groans and hisses that followed him. Crumble left a powerful legacy of altering the exclusive halls of learning at Cambridge, paving the way for African students to continually transform a site of exclusion into one suited for them and their needs.

Since the nineties, the African Society of Cambridge University (ASCU), a student organization with a mission to be a focal point for people who share an interest in and commitment to Africa, has supported Black and African students at the University of Cambridge through fellowship and other scholarly initiatives. Our society creates an atmosphere that engenders excellence in our members and directs us towards meaningful and impactful careers. The ASCU is the pioneer of the diasporic and continental, African oriented agenda among students at the University of Cambridge. A decade ago, African students united to establish a constant African presence at the University, and in 2014 we held our inaugural conference to demonstrate that "the University of Cambridge is more than a world renowned institute of learning; it is also home to a group of passionate young Africans who are keen to ensure their continent is showcased in more diverse, meaningful and powerful ways." The Cambridge Africa Conference became more than just an annual gathering—the student-run conference team became an African home away from home, and the event itself became a movement of hope, a space for growth and leadership, a hub for learning, and, most crucially, a platform to challenge societal norms.





For the past decade, the ASCU's Cambridge Africa Conferences have been a shining beacon, fostering pride in African culture and development, with 2024 marking the 10th year celebration of African excellence at the University of Cambridge. Under the theme **Ayatutu Ka Uno: Celebrating A Decade Of Interconnectedness And Growth**, *Ayatutu* (a Tiv word understood as a call to unity of action or purpose) expresses this year's conference as a call for unity in remembering, reflecting and marching forth in collective action towards Africa's future. Mirroring the growth African students experience to become Cambridge graduates, our four conference sub-themes are:

Community => acknowledging the unwavering strength of African communities on the continent and across the diaspora, we aim to deepen our understanding of **community** along Pan-African lines.

Education => believing in the power of education to change communities, and reflecting on the past (and present) injustices around Africans and education, we seek to radically reimagine inclusive, resilient and quality African education systems. (This theme falls in line with the AU ECHO 2024 Edition, themed 'Educate an African fit for the 21st Century').

Development => highlighting the ongoing growth and development of our continent, we aspire to shed light on crucial areas for enhancement, encompassing improved representation, economic and social development, and intentional leadership for Africa.

Celebration => we seek to celebrate past Cambridge Black students , and their outstanding achievements whilst at Cambridge and thereafter. We want to commemorate their legacy and reflect on how to pave the way for another decade of African excellence at the University.

African students at Cambridge have continuously excelled and found belonging amongst each other, creating African spaces to *Take Back Control* (CAC theme 2022) and *Forge Our Path* (CAC theme 2023) in collectively curating authentic solutions for Africa's challenges. In celebrating a decade of Cambridge Africa Conferences, we honor those who walked before so we could run and our children, soar! Ayatutu...

Tanatswa Chikaura

PRESIDENT

Esther Wadzanai Mana

CONFERENCE CHAIR

African Society of Cambridge University



Program of Events

Ubuntu Night:

(3 May 2024)



Time	Activity	Duration
18:30-19:30	Guests arrival	1 hour
19:30-19:40	Welcome Address by Conference chair-Esther Mano	10 mins
19:40-19:45	Spoken word- Chike Pilgrim	5 mins
19:45-20:10	Networking	25 mins
20:10-20:15	Introduction of Theme address speaker by Angela	5 mins
20:15-20:30	Theme Address by Dr Shadrach Iornem Kohol	15 mins
20:30-20:50	Dance performance by Lillie Musical display by Dr Ngoni	20 mins
20:50-21:40	Networking	50 mins
21:40	Closing address by Conference chair Esther	5 mins



Program of Events

Ayatutu Day: Before Lunch

(4 May 2024)



Time	Activity	Duration
8:45- 9:30	Guests arrival and registration	45 mins
9:30-9:45	Opening by MCs	15 mins
9:45-10:00	ECOWAS video display	15 mins
10:00- 11:00	PANEL SESSION ON EDUCATION Learning in Crisis: Resilience and Adaptation	1 hour
11:00- 11:30	Tea Break	30 mins
11:30-12:00	Keynote Speech + Q&A - Nancy Adimora	30 mins
12:00-12:05	Spoken word by Esther Wavinya	5 mins
12:05-13:00	PANEL SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT/MEDIA Boundless Voices: Speak Up, Speak Out	1 hour



Program of Events

Ayatutu Day: After Lunch

(4 May 2024)



Time	Activity	Duration
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	1 hour
14:00-14:30	Keynote Speech + Q&A - Simbarashe Mhungu	30 minutes
14:30-14:35	Entertainment by Black Boys of Cambridge	5 minutes
	AFROFUSION PANEL SESSION	
14:35-15:35	Rhythm and Roots: Exploring Afro fusion and Afrobeat	1 hour
15:35- 15:40	Musical display by Dr Ngoni	5mins
15:40- 16:10	Keynote Speech + Q&A - SMADE	30 mins
16:10	Conference Team intro/ Closing	10 mins



Program of Events

Ayatutu Evening: Afro Gala Dinner

(4 May 2024)



Time	Activity	Duration
18:45-19:30	Guest Arrival	45 mins
19:30	Dinner (3 courses)	1 hour 30 mins
	Dinner Speaker	
22:00	Thank you message/Dinner Closes	
After Party (Students Celebration) @ Lola Lo		
23:00- 04:00	Student Celebration	5 hours



Program of Events

Iwa Lewa Day

(5 May 2024)



Time	Activity	Duration
13:15-14:30	African Students Research Showcase + Tea/Coffee	45 mins
14:00- 14:30	Speech/ Africa Over Coffee - Chido Mpemba	30 mins
14:30-16:03	Documentary Show	93 mins
16:03-17:00	Student Led Documentary Discussion	27 mins

