

The 12th Africana Post-Graduate Academy (APGA) on-Line Training

The 12th Post Graduate Academy (APGA) on line training held on 27th April from 8.30 AM-4.30 PM at this COVID-19 lock-down time. The 12th APGA was organised along with the African/Ethiopian Scientific and Academic Network (ESAN) (<https://esannet.com>). The theme of the training program was **“Conducting Quality and Innovative Research Amidst the Lock-Down”**. The training program was well participated by more than 200 participants from all over the globe.

The online training program was moderated by Prof. Mammo Muchie, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) & Prof. Nnamdi Nwulu from university of Johannesburg (UJ). The session started at 8.30 AM with the welcome remark by Prof. Mammo Muchie, the coordinator of the training program. Prof. Muchie stressed on the need of conducting such online training due to the difficulties arising from the current global Corona virus outbreak. Prof Muchie further introduced the need and the basic themes of the 12th African Post Graduate Academy (APGA) virtual training.

Prof. Mammo Muchie delivered the keynote lecture on *“Decoding the Research Journey to Create High Quality Output”*. Prof Muchie stressed on practical and innovative methods of conducting postgraduate level research. This includes writing of research proposal, key methodological and technical requirements for research proposals, dissertations and research publications. Prof. Muchie further put emphasis on the distinction between research methods and research methodologies; the benefits of partnership with research and academic institutions, commonly used research approaches to be used in postgraduate level research; key requirements for Ph.D. level research, areas of specialisation that are helpful to industry; how to produce knowledge distinction and originality when doing research; how to conduct an in-depth and critical review of the literature in the course of writing up a research proposal for a postgraduate level research ;and finally the production of the expected high quality output by making clearly contributions, recommendations and evaluations to keep the research knowledge value chain moving forward.

Prof. Sunday Ojo of Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Pretoria discussed about the impact of the ‘Covid 19’ outbreak on academic and research activities globally. Prof Ojo provided methods that are helpful for coping with the limitations and challenges arising from the outbreak of the virus.

Prof. U. I. Ogbonnaya from the University of Pretoria presented on *“Theoretical and conceptual frameworks in Research”*. The presentation covered areas such as how to choose a research topic and how to write a research proposal. Prof. Ogbonnaya described theoretical frameworks as structures based on proven theories that are used to explain why the research problem under study exists; which help to explain the relationships among the variables in a research study. The presentation further covered how to produce sections of a research proposal such as the abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, results of the study, discussion of results and conclusion. The presentation was well received. He also explained a conceptual framework as a logical structure which the researcher believes explains the phenomenon being studied. Likewise, he clarified that a theoretical framework is based on a proven theory or theories, while a conceptual framework is the researcher’s logical hypothesis of the relationships among the variable of his/her study. The researcher’s logical hypothesis is not a wild guess, but it should be derived from experience or findings of other studies (literature). The research study’s theoretical or conceptual framework helps to locate the study among existing knowledge in the

field of study and guides the entire research process; from posing of research questions to the research methodology, and to the discussion of the findings of the study. He concludes on what clarity is required to develop an appropriate framework for a research study, as the researcher needs to critically examine the research problem and extensively review studies and theories that relate the key variables of the study.

Prof. Amevi Acakpovi, Dean of Engineering, Accra Technical University, Ghana & Senior Research Associate, UJ presented on “Leveraging modelling and simulation in conducting your research”. The presentation covered areas such as simulation, modelling, concepts and approaches that are vital for conducting research. Prof discussed on how to use simulation and modelling based on past and historical data sets, and challenges in modelling and simulation. Simulation modelling offers a unique tool for synthesising and leveraging existing evidence, data and expert local knowledge to examine, in a robust, low risk and low-cost way, the likely impact of alternative policy and service provision scenarios.

Prof. Khumbulani Mpofo of the Faculty of Engineering at TUT presented on the topic “A primer on avoiding plagiarism”. His presentation covered areas such as what plagiarism is, how to avoid plagiarism, how to paraphrase, how and when to quote from other authors, how to cite and reference sources, and how to adhere to referencing and citation guidelines with clear demonstration to avoid the risk in undertaking successful research..

Prof Kofi Poku Quan-Baffour from Department of Adult Education, University of South Africa presented on “How to write an excellent journal article and publish in accredited journals”. Prof. discussed the technique on writing research paper in scholarly journals that inspired those who followed his presentation to receive his power point.

Prof. Clinton Aighavboa presented on how to write book or monograph. The presentation covered areas such as what a book or monograph is, how to transform a research report into a book or monograph. He also presented a discussion on how to write an excellent journal article and publish articles in peer-reviewed and DHET-accredited journals. The presentation included issues such as fundamental steps needed for writing up good journal articles, how to conduct a review of the literature, and how to cite and reference journal articles based on commonly used referencing and citation styles that are used for publishing research articles.

Followed by the all Prof.’s presentation doctoral students registered in different universities of South Arica presented their works in progress. The following students made their presentations Omolola Ogbolumani, from UJ, Jaravaza Kefas, from MSU University, Zimbabwe; Happiness MA, from Wits University; Fortune Sibanda from Namibia University; Ammar Siddiqui, Wits University.

Post-Doctoral researchers from the SARChI Innovation studies research groups shared their experience while doing their PhD. Dr. Kofi Quan-Baffour Dr. Swapan Kumar Patra, Dr. Abigail Chivandi, Dr. Ajobush Argaw, Dr. T. Getachew, Dr. Yemisi Abisuga, Dr. Yohannes Worku shared their own experience of the process from the start to finish research value chain in completing their PhDs. SARChI research associates Dr. Emmanuel Ojo, Dr. Thokozani Simelane and Dr. Gino TRAORE attended the conference.

The conference was highly successful and greatly appreciated by all participants of the conference. The Zoom conference of the 12th African Post Graduate Academy (APGA) ended at 4:30 PM on Monday, 27 April 2020.

Feed back from the participants globally was very well received. These are the following comments from the participants received by Prof. Mammo Muchie from this Facebook as well as WhatsApp groups:

*Mornin Prof, thank you for the informative presentation... I'm one of your last year's masters student.... kindly forward me your slide... by email or WhatsApp----bhekimdhluli@yahoo.com
Hi Prof Mammo, this meeting was very informative and helpful, I really enjoyed it. Another good thing about it is that you can join the meeting from home and save traveling time and cost. Thank you*

Yes Mammo, that was a genius idea and great symposium. Well done!

*I share the same sentiment, I would dearly love to be part of this going forward....highly appreciate everything you have done for an African child.... may you and your team be blessed
Thank you Dearest Prof. I and Socrates have attended your wonderful online conference...*

Thank you so much my brother from my side too.I was able to attend it from Gonder - Ethiopia.Great vision and mission.

Thanks Prof and your team for organizing such a successful network of great minds, I have learnt a lot and....this is history on its own on a freedom day 2020...Im glad I'm part of it and I would love to be part of this in future...Africa will never be the same.

Appreciation ,appreciation and appreciation

.It was great pleasure for me to be part of the APGA online training yesterday. i thank you so much for organising this for post graduate students

I learnt so much from various presentations and hope to keep in touch for future training and exposure in the field of research and education in general

I have downloaded 5 presentations you sent through the the we transfer link. please it will do me a lot of good if the recorded audio /video of the online training is also sent to me.. thank you once again..

-----The report compiled by Dr. Kofi Quan-Baffour Dr. Swapan Kumar Patra, Dr. Abigail Chivandi, Dr. Ajobush Argaw, Dr. Yemisi Abisuga, Dr. Yohannes Worku, Otioma Chuks and Dr. Gino TRAORE