

# St Andrews Global Challenges Forum



University of  
St Andrews

## 'Sustainable Futures' Online Symposia Series

*The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum will host a four-part symposia webinar series with the overarching theme of 'Sustainable Futures'. An inspirational set of symposia with both St Andrews and global partners represented.*



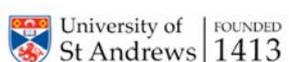
## Welcome to the Social Justice Symposium (21 October 2021, 14:00-16:30 BST)

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum will host a four-part symposia webinar series in October 2021 on the overarching theme of 'Sustainable Futures'. We are aiming for an inspirational set of symposia with both St Andrews and global partners represented. Chaired by Professor Thomas Meagher, each session will welcome three or four speakers and focus on one of the cross-cutting impact topics of:

- Equality Matters
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Social Justice
- Evidence-based Policy

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum was formed in 2018 and builds on the University's commitment to the Global Challenges agenda. The forum supports the University's extensive Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) challenge-led research base, funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) GCRF QR Grant and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our vision for these themed sessions is that each will consist of two to three paired talks from St Andrews researchers and their ODA partners. Followed by a panel presentation and discussion. These topics are applicable to the SFC-funded GCRF projects portfolio as underlying issues are being addressed with more discipline-specific research. We intend that they will form the basis for substantive interdisciplinary discussions.



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## Social Justice Symposium Agenda

- 14:00 – 14:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks by Professor Thomas Meagher
- 14:10 – 14:25 Bennett Collins, Abdikarim Salad Hersi and Yahye Mohamed
- 14:25 – 14:40 Dr Bernadette O'Hare
- 14:40 – 14:55 Ronald Martinez-Villarreal and 'Malau' María Laura Villalobos Pacheco
- 14:55 – 15:10 Dr David McCollum and Slyamzhar Akhmetzharov
- 15:10 – 15:20 Comfort Break
- 15:20 – 15:25 Welcome Back
- 15:25 – 15:40 Robert Anderson  
Managing Director, African Lakes Company
- 15:40 – 15:55 Stephen Gethins  
Professor of Practice in International Relations, University of St Andrews  
Former Member of Parliament (MP) for North-East Fife
- 15:55 – 16:25 Discussion with Q&A
- 16:25 – 16:30 Closing Remarks by Professor Thomas Meagher

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## Zoom Registration

You need to register via [<https://bit.ly/3swF5aP>] to participate in this symposium. Zoom will send you an automatic email with the direct link to the symposium. If you encounter any issues, please email: [RIS\\_GCRF@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:RIS_GCRF@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## Chair, Speakers and Panellists



### Chair

Professor Thomas Meagher  
School of Biology  
University of St Andrews

Professor Thomas Meagher is the Director of the St Andrews Global Challenges Forum, working in close collaboration with the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) team in Research and Innovation Services (RIS) at the University of St Andrews.

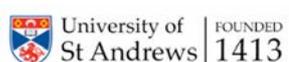
A strong advocate for the University's Global Challenges agenda, he has held an active role in the Forum's Steering Committee. His expertise in the field of plant biology, combined with his enthusiasm for engaging at a 'Global' scale, are reflected in his research interest in the urgency of development challenges in Amazonia. He is committed to the need for interdisciplinary approaches to find solutions to the many problems affecting communities across our planet.



### Panellist

Stephen Gethins  
Professor of Practice  
in International Relations  
School of International Relations  
University of St Andrews

Stephen Gethins is Professor of Practice at the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He was previously a Member of Parliament at Westminster and served for two terms on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and was the SNP's spokesperson on International Affairs and Europe. Stephen previously worked in the EU and for international NGOs and was a Special Adviser to the First Minister of Scotland working on Energy, Climate Change, EU and International Affairs. Earlier this year he published his first book Nation to Nation: Scotland's Place in the World.



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### Panellist

Robert Anderson  
Managing Director  
African Lakes Company Limited (ALC)

Robert Anderson is the Managing Director of the African Lakes Company Limited (ALC) and has shaped their mission to displace aid dependence with investment discipline. In 2020-21 ALC completed investments of £1.5m in macadamia farming in Malawi and Robert sits on the board. He has strong philanthropic interests through his consultancy company Philanthropy Scotland and the Scottish Malawi Foundation.



### Speaker

Bennett Collins  
Third Generation Project

*"GCRF-funded Aamusnaan Maya Initiative: Qualifying the Socio-Economic Needs of Digaale Internally Displaced Persons Camp during the Outbreak of COVID-19"*

Bennett Collins is a PhD student in the School of International Relations, and co-founder of the Third Generation Project, a community-centred climate justice education think tank, based at the University of St Andrews. His research interests centre around settler colonial and environmental studies forced displacement, and transitional justice structures. Bennett's field research has been conducted in long-term collaboration with local communities and justice-based organizations in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somaliland, Kenya, the United States (Louisiana and Maine), and Canada. His work has received funding from National Geographic Society, the British Academy, Russell Trust, Aegis Trust, and the Global Challenges Research Fund.

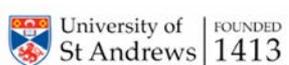


### Speaker

Yahye Mohamed  
Third Generation Project

*"GCRF-funded Aamusnaan Maya Initiative: Qualifying the Socio-Economic Needs of Digaale Internally Displaced Persons Camp during the Outbreak of COVID-19"*

Yahye Mohamed is the founder of Som-act organisation, a human rights journalist organisation that amplifies the voices of vulnerable communities in Somaliland. He is the former Executive Director for Somaliland Journalists Association and was renowned for protection of human rights in Somaliland. Yahye Mohamed is also a member of Third Generation Project, a community focused climate justice education think tank, based at University of St Andrews.



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### Speaker

Abdikarim Salad Hersi  
Third Generation Project

### *"GCRF-funded Aamusnaan Maya Initiative: Qualifying the Socio-Economic Needs of Digaale Internally Displaced Persons Camp during the Outbreak of COVID-19"*

Abdikarim Salad Hersi is a Freelance Legal and Security Consultant. He works closely with various organisations such as Transparency Solutions, Horn Risk Management in Puntland and South Central Somalia, NAGAAD Network, Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum (SONSAF) and criminal lawyer in legal firms in Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland where he provides to his clients qualified legal advice.



### Speaker

Dr Bernadette O'Hare  
School of Medicine  
University of St Andrews

### *"Government Revenue and Development Estimations (GRADE) Longitudinal Estimation (Malawi)"*

Dr O'Hare is a senior lecturer in Global Health. She is also a senior lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, Malawi and consultant paediatrician. She has worked in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa as a paediatrician and public health doctor, most recently in Malawi since 2010. Dr O'Hare is a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), sits on the Working Group on Climate Change and chairs the International Strand. She was seconded to the Scottish Global Health Co-ordination Unit where she initiated the Active Global Citizenship strand of work and currently is the lead champion of academia. Dr O'Hare studies the global influences on government revenue in low- and middle-income countries, and the impact this has on development and fundamental rights.



### Speaker

Ronald Martinez-Villarreal  
Museo Nacional de Costa Rica

### *"The experience of indigenous communities in Costa Rica"*

Ronald Martinez-Villarreal is the Facilitator for the Regional and Community Museums Office of the *Museo Nacional de Costa Rica*. He leads participatory processes in cultural heritage management, advising committees of community museums such as the Network of Community Museums of Costa Rica. He has two bachelor's degrees in education and studies in Sociocultural Animation, History and Museology. The scope of his work focuses on non-formal education and socio-cultural development for participatory community museums. He was the Costa Rican Principal Investigator for the award-winning bi-regional EU-LAC Museums research project, which investigated; 'Museums and Community: Concepts, Experiences, and Sustainability in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean'. He is the Co-Investigator on the St Andrews-led GCRF-funded Community Crafts and Culture project.

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**Speaker**

'Malau' María Laura Villalobos Pacheco  
Museo Nacional de Costa Rica

### *"The experience of indigenous communities in Costa Rica"*

María Laura Villalobos Pacheco, also known as Malau, is an Anthropologist at the *Museo Nacional de Costa Rica*. She holds a degree in Archaeology, has participated and directed projects in the different archaeological regions of Costa Rica. Since 2010 she has worked as an independent consultant carrying out socioeconomic studies, inspections, evaluations and archaeological rescues, both in the private sphere on environmental impact studies and in projects with the *Museo Nacional de Costa Rica* and other public institutions. With experience as an entrepreneur, yoga teacher, healthy eating and living coach, and graphic design. Her interests include being passionate about food sovereignty and cultural heritage issues. She is a Researcher on the St Andrews-led GCRF-funded Community Crafts and Culture project.



**Speaker**

Dr David McCollum  
School of Geography and  
Sustainable Development  
University of St Andrews

### *"StAKz Hub - A research centre for strategic technological capacity building for the primary resource sector in Kazakhstan"*

Dr David McCollum is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development in the University of St Andrews.

Led by the University of St Andrews, StAKz Hub is made up of several research topic "spokes" designed to yield time-efficient multidisciplinary research results. Since February 2019, our team has successfully held five international workshops to stimulate knowledge exchange between the UK and Kazakhstan. StAKz Hub facilitates collaboration between academics, industry and early career professional to put innovation into practice in an ODA primary resources sector. Building domestic capacity for technological innovation through knowledge exchange strategies lies at the heart of this international effort.

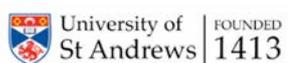


**Speaker**

Slyamzhar Akhmetzharov  
Nazarbayev University

### *"StAKz Hub - A research centre for strategic technological capacity building for the primary resource sector in Kazakhstan"*

Slyamzhar Akhmetzharov is completing his doctoral studies at the Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University. He previously worked as a researcher at Kazakhstani Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS). His research interests include informal relations in the public sector, legal reforms, protest actions, and labour relations. Currently, he works on a project related to the identification of the factors for the occurrence of labour conflicts in extractive industries in Kazakhstan.



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## Top Tips for a Successful Symposia



Good Internet  
Connection



Remember to  
mute



Try to speak for  
your time limit



A quiet  
environment



Raise your camera  
to eye level



Good lighting



Speakers and  
Panellists may  
share their screen



Ask questions via  
the Chat feature

## Recording

The Global Challenges Forum intends to document this symposia series via recording the audio, video and shared presentations. We will host the recordings on the Global Challenges Forum website [<https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/gc-forum/>].

If you do not wish to be recorded, please do not turn on your camera or microphone. You can still watch and listen to the presentations, if you wish to participate by asking a question or commenting please use the chat box.

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## Share and continue the conversation

The St Andrews Global Challenges Forum invites you to continue the conversation via social media using the following hash tags:

#GlobalStAndrews

#GCSustainableFutures

#GCRF

Remember to tag the following Twitter handles:

@GCRFstandrews

@UStAresearch

@univofstandrews

## Join us for the symposia series

 Equality Matters

 [bit.ly/3sxRScY](https://bit.ly/3sxRScY)

 Thursday 7 October

 14:00-16:30 BST

 Sustainable Livelihoods

 [bit.ly/3szREIF](https://bit.ly/3szREIF)

 Thursday 14 October

 14:00-16:30 BST

 Social Justice

 [bit.ly/3swF5aP](https://bit.ly/3swF5aP)

 Thursday 21 October

 14:00-16:30 BST

 Evidence-based Policy

 [bit.ly/2UEeE6A](https://bit.ly/2UEeE6A)

 Thursday 28 October

 14:00-16:30 BST

For more information please visit: [<https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/gc-forum/>].

