

The Guild and ARUA panel discussion (11am – 12:30pm CET) – 14 February 2022

Universities as gateways between Africa and Europe: promoting a sustainable EU-AU partnership through university collaboration



Hugues Abriel, Vice-Rector for Research and Professor of Molecular Medicine, University of Bern

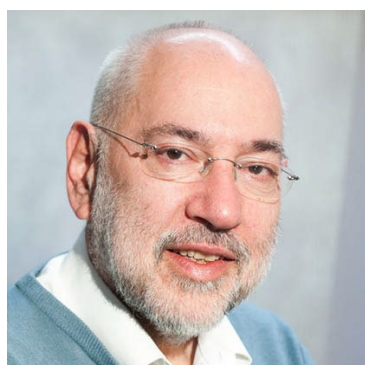
Hugues Abriel, MD PhD, is a biologist (ETH Zurich, 1989) and physician (University of Lausanne, 1994). He completed his PhD in medicine and life sciences (specializing in medical physiology) at the University of Lausanne in 1995. Since 2009, Hugues Abriel has been a Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Bern. He headed the Department for BioMedical Research between 2009 and 2016 until he was appointed Managing Director of the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine (2016-2017). Since 2015, he has also been the Director of the NCCR TransCure, based at the University of Bern. From 2012 to 2020, he was a member of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation, and from 2018 to 2020, he chaired its Biology and Medicine division. He is since 2022 one of the members (vice-rector for research) of the executive board of the University of Bern. Hugues Abriel is particularly interested in the molecular and genetic aspects of medicine. He has been in close contact with young doctors and researchers from French-speaking African universities for several years. He has just finished an academic sabbatical spent at the Universities of Kinshasa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Fez (Morocco).



Hilde Bras, Aletta Jacobs Professor of Economic and Social History, University of Groningen

Hilde Bras is Aletta Jacobs Professor of Economic and Social History, with special attention to Global Demography and Health at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Bras is an elected member of the Social Sciences Council and an alumna of the Young Academy of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a Senior Research Associate of the Global Data Lab (Radboud University), chair of the Nominating Committee of the Social Science History Association (2020-2021), board member of the Groningen Centre for Health and Humanities and the Historical Sample of the Netherlands, and editorial board member of The History of the Family. She has published widely on marriage

and fertility, nutrition and health, gender and social inequalities, and long-term shifts in family and kinship relations. Bras has been awarded two large personal grants for her research on fertility and life courses via the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme of the Dutch Research Council. Since 2016, her research has mostly focused on reproductive and child health in the Global South, most notably in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). She has studied gender relations and unintended birth in SSA, exclusive breastfeeding in Tanzania, child malnutrition in Ethiopia, and women's childbearing trajectories in Senegal. Currently, she is starting a new research project on White Sisters, nursing practices, and reproductive health in East Africa, 1890-present. Together with a PhD student from Nigeria, she will investigate the changing discourses and practices of missionary nursing from a critical intersectional perspective, disentangling underlying gender, racial, and cultural tensions between nurses and doctors, nurses and patients, and colonial and indigenous nurses. The project also examines the relationship between changing nursing practices and reproductive health using archival sources, oral history, and (historical) maternity registers from four hospitals in Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi.



Barry Dwolatzky, Emeritus Professor in Electrical and Information Engineering and Director of Innovation Strategy, University of the Witwatersrand

Barry Dwolatzky is an Emeritus Professor in the School of Electrical & Information Engineering at Wits University. He is the founder and Director of the University's Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE). He is also the founder of Wits University's Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct in Braamfontein, Johannesburg. While he remains the Director of the JCSE, in July 2021 he was appointed as Director of

Innovation Strategy in the Office of the Wits Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation.

Barry's undergraduate (BSc(Eng)) and postgraduate degree (PhD) are in Electrical Engineering and are from Wits. In 1979 he left South Africa and worked in the UK as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), Imperial College, London and at the GEC-Marconi Research Centre. Over this period, he worked on a number of large software research and development projects.

Barry Dwolatzky returned to Wits from the UK as a Senior Lecturer in 1989. He became a full professor in 2000. In December 2017 he officially retired from Wits and was appointed an Emeritus Professor. His primary focus over the past 30 years has been the growth and development of the South African software engineering sector.

In 2005 Barry Dwolatzky was the major driver in setting up the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE) at Wits. The JCSE aims to grow skills, promote the adoption of best practices and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in South Africa's digital economy. In 2007 he became Director and CEO of the JCSE.

Addis Ababa University • University of Cape Town • University Cheikh Anta Diop • University of Dar es Salaam
University of Ghana • University of Ibadan • University of Kwa-Zulu Natal • University of Lagos
Makerere University • University of Mauritius • University of Nairobi • University of Pretoria
Rhodes University • University of Rwanda • University of Stellenbosch • University of the Witwatersrand

In 2013 Dwolatzky spearheaded an initiative at Wits to establish a major digital innovation hub in the Braamfontein area of inner-city Johannesburg. Called the “Tshimologong Precinct” the project has attracted significant support from government and a range of major local and international companies. IBM Research has established their 12th international laboratory in Braamfontein as an integral part of the Precinct.

In recognition of his contribution to the South African IT industry Barry Dwolatzky was named the “South African IT Personality of the Year” in 2013 and received an award for “Distinguished Service to IT” from the Institute of IT Professionals of South Africa (IITPSA) in 2016. Also, in 2016 Wits University presented him with the “Vice Chancellor’s Award for Academic Citizenship”.



Nana Ama Browne Klutse, Senior Lecturer in Physics, University of Ghana

Nana Ama Browne Klutse is a senior lecturer at the Department of Physics, University of Ghana. She is also a Lead Author in Working Group 1 and a Member of Task Group on Data Support for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report. She is a member of the Scientific Board of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO. She is an AIMS-Canada Researcher in Climate Change Science with AIMS Rwanda/Ghana. The project she is embarking on is focused on understanding the climate dynamics of Africa, climate observations and projections for climate services. She holds a PhD in Climatology from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her research generally focuses on climate modelling and impacts. She was a Senior Research Scientist at the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. She was the Manager of the Remote Sensing and Climate Center at the Institute. She has worked on both national and international projects and consultancies including the climate and health project in Ghana and the ongoing global CORDEX experiment. She has co-authored a good number of journal article publications and academic books to her credit. Courses she teaches include General Physics, Cloud Physics, Atmospheric Physics, Climate dynamics of Africa, Regional Climate modelling. She supervises students’ research in Ghana and abroad at masters and PhD levels. She also serves as an external examiner for universities in Ghana and abroad. She dedicates her life for community services and mentors young men and women for education pursuits, self-confidence and self-motivation. She also trains professionals in etiquette and assertiveness. As part of her service to give back to society, she is a motivation speaker and articulates effectively on all platforms. At her leisure time, she spends time with children with learning disabilities.



Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies, University of Oslo and Extraordinary Professor, Stellenbosch University

Peter Maassen is a professor in Higher Education Studies and deputy head/research coordinator at the Department for Educational Research, Faculty of Education, University of Oslo, where he also is the academic coordinator of an Erasmus Mundus joint master's degree programme. Previously he has been the director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, the Netherlands (1997-2000). His areas of academic specialization include the public governance (including policy reform and institutional change) of higher education; university leadership and management; organisational change in higher education; and the economic role of higher education institutions, in OECD countries, as well as in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is a member of the Executive Board of the University College Oslo (Høyskole i Oslo), and of the Board of the Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung (CHE). He has been a member of the international panel evaluating the Danish university reforms (2009), and of the Norwegian governmental commission on higher education (Stjernø Commission – 2007/08), as well as of OECD review teams of Japan and Finland.

About The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)

Composed of sixteen leading universities in Africa, ARUA aims to enhance research and graduate training in member universities through a number of channels, including the setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at its member universities. Addressing key challenges of Africa's sustainable development, ARUA CoEs are intended to be focal points for aggregating world-class researchers from member universities and elsewhere to undertake collaborative research in priority thematic areas while providing opportunities for graduate students from the region and elsewhere to work with the researchers.

About The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

Founded in 2016, The Guild comprises twenty-one of Europe's most distinguished research-intensive universities in sixteen countries and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers, and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.

Addis Ababa University • University of Cape Town • University Cheikh Anta Diop • University of Dar es Salaam
University of Ghana • University of Ibadan • University of Kwa-Zulu Natal • University of Lagos
Makerere University • University of Mauritius • University of Nairobi • University of Pretoria
Rhodes University • University of Rwanda • University of Stellenbosch • University of the Witwatersrand