

# Strategic Narratives of Technology and Africa

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# **KEYNOTES**

#### **Achille Mbembe**



Achille Mbembe is a Research Professor in history and politics at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He is the author of many books on history, politics and critical theory. His work has been translated in various languages, including

English, German, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. His latest book, Politiques de l'inimitié, was published in 2016.

## Nanjira Sambuli



Nanjira is a researcher, policy analyst and advocacy strategist interested in and working on understanding the unfolding impacts of ICT adoption and how those impact governance, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal culture, with a keen focus on gender implications.

She is currently the Digital Equality Advocacy Manager at the Web Foundation, where she manages advocacy efforts to promote digital equality in

access to and use of the Web, with a particular focus on the Foundation's Women's Rights Online work. She was previously the Research Lead at iHub, Nairobi, where she provided strategic guidance for growth of technology research in the East Africa region and supported the team to surface information useful for the emerging technology ecosystem in Africa. With iHub Research, Nanjira developed a framework for assessing the Viability, Verification, and Validity of Crowdsourcing, an online dangerous speech monitoring project, Umati, currently running in Kenya, Nigeria and South Sudan, and a publication on ICT and Governance (Civic Tech Landscape) in East Africa. Nanjira is also the editor of Innovative Africa: The new face of Africa, a series of essays on the emerging African technology landscape. She is an avid writer and commentator on technology and society, writing a column for the Daily Nation newspaper in Kenya and occasionally for international press, as well as publishing papers on a range of issues, from Social Media and Journalism in Kenya, to Cybersecurity and Net Neutrality considerations for the African ICT Policy space.

Nanjira is also a Trustee at mySociety (UKCOD), sits on the Advisory Board (Africa) for Sum of Us, and is also a board member at Kenya's Media Policy Research Centre, with whom she has published a working paper on the changing media landscape in the country as impacted by social media. She is supporting the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment by working with various leaders to demonstrate high-level leadership and renewed commitment and action towards making women's economic empowerment a reality in our lifetime.

### **Sarah Nuttall**



Sarah Nuttall is Professor of Literature and Culture and Director of WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is the author of Entanglement: Literary and Cultural Reflections on Postapartheid, editor of Beautiful/Ugly: African and Diaspora Aesthetics, and co-editor of many books including Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis and Loadshedding: Writing On and Over the Edge of South Africa. For four years she has directed

WiSER, the largest and most established Humanities Institute across the Global South. In 2016 she was an Oppenheimer Fellow at the DuBois Institute at Harvard University.