

Jonathan Harle

Executive Director

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Biography

Jon is INASP's Executive Director. Jon leads our global team, working with our partners across the world to deliver high impact programmes that generate new knowledge, enable young people to thrive, and that build more equitable knowledge ecosystems. Jon is responsible for developing and implementing INASP's overall strategy, leading our business and partnership development, and ensuring the overall quality and impact of our programme delivery. He has worked at the intersections of research capacity, higher education and international development for the last 18 years and has advised bilateral and multilateral agencies and programme evaluation teams. Jon previously led the DFID-funded Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa partnership – working with four universities and 500 academics to re-design over 200 undergraduate courses to improve learning for 3,800 students. Jon has degrees in politics, anthropology and archaeology from SOAS, London and the University of Oxford.

Languages: English (native speaker), German (advanced), French (basic),

Main country experience: Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone, South Africa.

Key skills and expertise

- Programme strategy and management
- Project design and development
- Partnership development and management
- Financial management
- Team and programme leadership
- Research and analysis

Specialist thematic areas

- Higher education and development
- Higher education policy
- Research and knowledge systems
- Inequity in knowledge systems
- Capacity development in higher education and research
- Teaching and learning in higher education

Posts held

2024 - current	Executive Director, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2018 – 2023	Director of Programmes, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2015 – 2018	Senior Programme Manager, Research Access and Higher Education, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2013 – 2015	Senior Programme Manager, Research Access and Availability, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2011 – 2013	Programmes Manager (Research Capacity), Association of Commonwealth Universities (London, UK)
2007 – 2011	Programme Officer (Research), Association of Commonwealth Universities (London, UK)



2007	Research Assistant, Association of Commonwealth Universities (London, UK)
2005 – 2006	Research Intern, HIV/AIDS & Governance, Justice Africa (London, UK)
2005 – 2006	Information Officer, University College London (UK)
2004 – 2005	Information Assistant, University of Oxford (UK)
2001	English Teacher, Kwemaramba Secondary School (Lushoto District, Tanzania)

Qualifications

2024	New Chief Executives, Centre for Charity Effectiveness, Bayes Business School, University of London, UK
2010	MSc African politics (Distinction), SOAS, University of London, UK
2004	BA (Hons) Archaeology and Anthropology (1 st class), University of Oxford, UK

Project experience

2025 – present	Science Diplomacy for Global Research Publishing Reform. Senior Advisor/Project Director. Funded by FCDO.
2024 – present	Development and leadership of an early career development programme for researchers in Africa. Funded by Norad.
2023 – 2024	Preparation of a business plan, value proposition and pitch decks for the African Capacity Building Academy. (client: African Capacity Building Foundation/Haus).
2023 – 2024	Advice to the FCDO Chief Scientist and production of policy paper on open access to research as an input to the India G20. Centre for Global Development (client: FCDO)
2023 – 2024	Evaluation of UK PHRST. Partnership and Capacity Development Advisor. HMG.
2023 – 2024	A review of equity in knowledge systems related to economic advisory work (with OTT; client: Open Society Foundations).
2022	British Council Going Global Partnerships Group. Member of advisory group.
2022	Understanding the Impact of Development Research through REF2021. UKCDR. Member of expert group.
2021 – 2022	Africa-UK Physics Partnerships programme working group. Working Group member. Institute of Physics.
2021	Digital Universities in Africa (research project), Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria. Co-lead. Funded by British Council.
2021	Science, Perceptions and International Trust (research project). Advisor to Research Consulting. Funded by British Council.
2020	Member of BEIS working group on research capacity strengthening. Department of Business, Enterprise, Innovation and Skills and panel member for Newton Fund Value for Money pilot.
2020	Higher Education Pedagogy in Developing Countries. Lead researcher. Funded by Asian Development Bank.
2019 – 2020	Challenges and Opportunities for Open Access in LMICs. Consultancy for DFID, DHSC, UKRI to inform development of UK policy. Team leader. Funded by DFID.



2019	Global Health Research Programme “Financial Assurance Fund”, National Institute of Health Research. Peer reviewer. Funded by Department of Health and Social Care.
2019 – 2023	Global Platforms for Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems (GPEKE), global with focused work in Uganda, Ethiopia and Cambodia. Project Director. Funded by Sida.
2018 – 2021	Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa (TESCEA), Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Project Director. Funded by DFID.
2018 – 2021	South Asia Self-Harm Initiative (SASHI). Advisory Board Member. Funded by UKRI.
2015 – 2016	Evaluation of DFID Online Research Portals and Repositories, UK. INASP Consultant for Mott MacDonald. Funded by DFID.
2015	Swiss National Science Foundation. Reviewer.
2014	Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development. Reviewer. Funded by Austrian Development Cooperation.
2013 – 2018	Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems (SRKS), Africa, Asia and Latin America. Programme Director 2015-18, Senior Programme Manager 2013-15. Funded by DFID and Sida.
2013	Evaluation of the second phase of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (Africa, Asia and Latin America). Consultant to ITAD. Funded by DFID, Norad and Sida.
2013	The Humanities World Report, UK. Consultant. Funded by Swedish Research Council, Swedish Riksbankens Jubeliumsfond, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.
2012	Review of the international knowledge and information programme of the British Library of Development Studies, London and Brighton. Consultant. Funded by Institute of Development Studies.
2012	Wellcome Trust centres for global health research, engaged to advise on the approach to capacity development of proposals. Reviewer. Funded by the Wellcome Trust.
2012	Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa, UK, Kenya and South Africa. Technical Advisor. Programme development and planning. Funded by DFID.
2011 – 2012	‘Research and Innovation Management for Africa and the Caribbean’ project, Africa. Consultant on project management processes in African universities. Funded by EU/ACP.
2011	Analysis of the impact of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission’s master’s funding programmes, UK. Consultant. Funded by Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (DFID).
2011	Australia-Africa Research Partnerships Programme, Kenya and South Africa. Consultant on the design of the programme. Funded by AusAID.
2010 – 2012	The needs of African early career researchers and opportunities for UK support. UK and South Africa, Consultant. Funded by British Academy.
2009 – 2010	Accessing and using online research information, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Malawi. Lead researcher and project manager. Funded by Arcadia Fund.
2009 - 2010	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research, UK and Kenya. Consultant on the design and inception phases, including scoping studies on postgraduate training and research support. Funded by DFID.
2007 – 2016	Council Member and Trustee, African Studies Association of the UK.



2007 – 2009

Strengthening research capacity in African universities and opportunities for UK-Africa partnerships. UK, Kenya and Ghana. Consultant. Funded by British Academy.

Selected Publications

- 2025 Ndege, N., H. Md. Irfanullah, J. Harle, T. Drake. (2025). [Africa's research publishing landscape: examining journals, publishers, and the infrastructure behind them](#). [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review] *Open Res Africa* 2025, 8:20
- 2025 Chadwick El-Ali, A., R. Johnson, K. Fraser, J. Harle, T. Drake. (2025) [A review of open access policy options for development research funders](#). INASP.
- 2024 Gulliver, S., J. Harle, T. Drake. (2025) [How the G20 could champion access to evidence: South Africa 2025](#). INASP.
- 2024 Gulliver, S., A. Demeshko, J. Harle and T. Drake (2024) [How Science Diplomacy Can Reshape Global Research Publishing: A Theory of Change](#). Center for Global Development & INASP.
- 2024 Demeshko, A., L. Boeira, S. Gulliver, J. Harle, T. Drake (2024) [Why and How the G20 Should Supercharge Research Publishing Reform](#). Center for Global Development, INASP, Instituto Veredas.
- 2024 Echt, L. and J. Harle (2024) [A narrowed perspective: A review of \(in\)equities in knowledge systems related to economic advisory work](#). OTT/INASP.
- 2023 Fabian, F., J. Harle, P. F. Nzegwu et al 'Collaboratively reimagining teaching and learning in East Africa', in L. Czerniewicz and C. Cronin (eds) [Higher Education for Good: Teaching and Learning Futures](#). London: Open Book Publishers
- 2023 Drake, T., S. Gulliver, S. and J. Harle, [Research Publishing Is an Under-Recognised Global Challenge: Opportunities for the G20 to Act](#). Washington DC & London: Center for Global Development.
- 2023 Harle, J. [How TESCEA made learning more relevant and built new partnerships for employability and social impact](#). Oxford: INASP.
- 2022 Harle, J., F. Nzegwu, J. Wild. 'Introduction', in F. Nzegwu and J. Wild (eds) [Digital Technology in Capacity Development: Enabling Learning and Supporting Change](#). Cape Town: African Minds
- 2022 Harle, J, F. Nzegwu, J. Wild. 'Setting the scene', in F. Nzegwu and J. Wild (eds) [Digital Technology in Capacity Development: Enabling Learning and Supporting Change](#). Cape Town: African Minds
- 2021 Harle, J. et al (2021). [Creating digital content and delivering digital learning in African universities: Stories of innovation from Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria](#). Oxford: INASP.
- 2021 Harle, J. (2021) 'Bangladesh - Centers of Excellence in Teaching and Learning' and 'United Kingdom - The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework', in S. Meekyung et al [Teacher Professional Development Case Studies: K-12, TVET, and Tertiary Education](#). Bangkok: Asian Development Bank.
- 2020 Harle, J. and Warne, V. (2020). [Open Access: challenges and opportunities for Low- and Middle-Income Countries and the potential impact of UK policy](#). London: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.
- 2020 Harle, J. (2020). [\(In\)equitable knowledge systems: before, during and beyond a pandemic](#). Oxford: INASP.



2016

Harle, J. and Bottomley, R. (2016). [Understanding research and knowledge systems in the Somali regions: Report of a roundtable convened by INASP and the Rift Valley Institute](#). Oxford: INASP.



- 2014 Stackhouse, J. and J. Harle (2014, June). [The Experiences and Needs of African Doctoral Students: Current Conditions and Future Support](#), Higher Education Policy, 27:175. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1057/hep.2014.2>.
- 2014 Harle, J. (2014, January). Dazzled by digital? Research environments in African universities and their implications for the use of digital resources, in [Dis/Connects? African Studies in the Digital Age](#). Leiden: Brill.
- 2013 Harle, J. (2013). [Strengthening research in African universities: reflections on policy, partnerships and politics](#) in Policy & Practice: A Development Education Review, issue 16. Belfast: Centre for Global Education.
- 2012 Harle, J. (2012). [Foundations for the Future: Supporting the early careers of African researchers](#). London: British Academy and Association of Commonwealth Universities.
- 2011 Harle, J. [The Availability of Academic Journals in Africa](#). International Higher Education, (64).
- 2010 Harle, J. (2010, November). [Growing Knowledge: Access to Research in East and Southern African Universities](#). London: Association of Commonwealth Universities.
- 2009 Harle, J. (2009, March). [The Nairobi Report: Frameworks for Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities](#) London: British Academy and Association of Commonwealth Universities.
- 2007 Harle, J. (2007, January). [Frameworks for Africa-UK Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities: African University Perspectives](#). London: British Academy/Association of Commonwealth Universities.

