



Africa Bioethics
Network



Research



Governance



Training



Scholarly Infrastructure



Continental Engagement



Africa Bioethics Network

Quarterly Newsletter

Q1 2026 | Special Expanded Edition

Connecting ethical research, governance, and practice across Africa

1,300+ members • 42+ African countries • africabioethicsnetwork.org

Building Ethical Futures Across Africa

This special expanded edition captures a significant period of growth, engagement, and institutional development across the Africa Bioethics Network. From research and governance engagements to mentorship, scholarly publishing, and continental collaboration, the first months of 2026 reflected ABN's growing role in strengthening ethical research, policy, and practice across African contexts.

6

Working Groups
Launched

100+

Climate Ethics
Workshop
Participants

10

Articles in AJB
Volume 3 Issue 1

40+

Country Reps at Q1
Meeting

About This Issue

Q1 2026 | Special Expanded Edition

This issue documents major developments across the Africa Bioethics Network during the first quarter of 2026, including continental workshops, governance engagements, scholarly publishing initiatives, research activities, mentorship programmes, and infrastructure development efforts.

It reflects ABN's growing role in strengthening ethical research, governance, and knowledge systems across African contexts.

Q1 2026 at a Glance

● Continental Climate Ethics Workshops

5 regional workshops, 100+ participants, WHO-funded

● ABN Working Groups Launched

6 thematic groups across Africa now active

● Country Representatives Q1 Meeting

40+ CRs from across Africa convened

● NACOSTI Engagement

Formal courtesy visit; MOU pathway opened

● AI Academic Integrity Dialogue

Launched ABN's 2026 programme on AI ethics in higher education

● AJB Volume 3, Issue 1 Published

10 articles; first issue under Pluto Journals partnership

● AJB Peer Review Academy Launched

6-session continental programme; Session 1 held 14 May 2026

● Global Governance Engagements

Bermuda Principles BP30, NEC Forum, GA4GH, ORCID, DORA, Crossref

● Bioethics Mapping Exercise

Phase 2 active; 4 Research Fellows appointed; 300+ Phase 0 responses

● African Bioethics Dialogues Series

Monthly webinar series launched; 7 sessions running March–September 2026

Table of Contents

[Message from the Executive Director](#)

[Quarter Highlights](#)

[Featured Member](#)

[Global Governance, Ethics & Scholarly Infrastructure](#)

[African Bioethics Dialogues Webinar Series](#)

[Research & Knowledge Development](#)

[ABN Working Groups](#)

[African Journal of Bioethics & Scholarly Publishing](#)

[AJB Volume 3, Issue 1 — Article Listing](#)

[Training, Mentorship & Capacity Development](#)

[Upcoming Opportunities & Looking Ahead](#)

[Membership & How to Get Involved](#)



AFRICA BIOETHICS NETWORK

Q1 2026 | Expanded Institutional Edition



RESEARCH



GOVERNANCE



TRAINING



SCHOLARLY
INFRASTRUCTURE



CONTINENTAL
ENGAGEMENT

Message from the Executive Director

Dear ABN Community,

The first quarter of 2026 has been one of the most active and consequential periods in ABN's history, not because of any single milestone, but because of what the accumulation of work across this quarter represents.

We have seen our research programmes move from design to active implementation. Our Working Groups have transitioned from structure to action. Our journal has published its third volume under a new international publishing partnership. Our fellows and interns are producing work of genuine quality. And our network, through its Country Representatives, is increasingly functioning as a living continental infrastructure, not simply a list of names.

At the same time, ABN has been present in global governance conversations in ways that reflect growing recognition of African bioethics as a substantive force in shaping how research and science are governed worldwide. From Copenhagen to the Bermuda Principles anniversary to WAREN, the argument we have consistently advanced, that African ethical frameworks and contexts must be part of how global governance is designed, not just consulted after the fact — is finding audiences and taking hold.

Closer to home, a formal engagement with Kenya's National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) this quarter opened a meaningful pathway for ABN to contribute to national research ethics infrastructure — a reminder that our continental work is grounded in and strengthened by national partnerships.

Taken together, this quarter reflects a broader shift: from participation in conversations to contributing to how ethical systems are shaped across research, policy, and practice in Africa. This work cannot be done in isolation, and it is not. I am grateful to every member, fellow, intern, co-chair, Country Representative, and partner who has contributed.



"This quarter reflects a broader shift: from participation in conversations to contributing to how ethical systems are shaped across research, policy, and practice in Africa."

— [Mercury Shitindo](#), Executive Director, Africa Bioethics Network

In This Issue

[Quarter Highlights](#)

[Featured Member](#)

[Global Governance,
Ethics & Scholarly
Infrastructure](#)

[Research & Knowledge
Development](#)

[African Journal of
Bioethics \(AJB\)](#)

[Scholarly
Infrastructure & Open
Research Systems](#)

[Training, Mentorship &
Capacity Development](#)

[ABN Working Groups](#)

[Upcoming
Opportunities &
Looking Ahead](#)

Quarter Highlights

Continental Climate Ethics Workshops

In January 2026, ABN convened approximately 100 stakeholders across five regional workshops — including French and English-speaking West Africa sessions — to review ABN's Ethical Integration Framework for Environmentally Sustainable Health Research in Africa, developed as part of a project funded by WHO.

Participants examined the framework's clarity, practical usability, contextual relevance, and adaptability across diverse African settings. The workshops are part of an ongoing continental engagement process.

[Learn More>>>](#)

ABN Working Groups Launch

ABN formally launched its thematic Working Groups across six strategic areas in February 2026:

- Environment & Climate Ethics
 - Genomics & Biotechnology
 - AI Ethics & Digital Health
 - Mental Health & Vulnerable Populations
 - Regulatory, Policy & Sustainability Engagement
 - Conference, Convening & Strategic Engagement
- Co-Chairs have begun mapping thematic priorities and preparing to onboard Working Group members.

[Learn More>>>](#)



The Africa Bioethics Network (ABN) launches thematic Working Groups to advance bioethics research, policy, and practice across Africa.

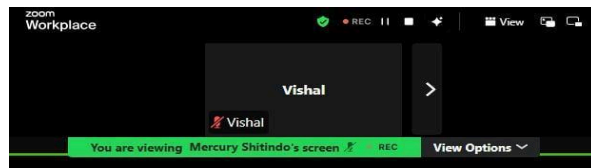
AFRICA BIOETHICS NETWORK

AFRICA BIOETHICS NETWORK

AI Academic Integrity & Ethics Dialogue

On 18 March 2026, ABN convened its first AI Academic Integrity and Ethics Dialogue in collaboration with Prof. Janice Moodley (University of South Africa | Hastings Center Fellow).

Panelists included Rev. Dr. Fr. Pascal Mwambi Mwakio and Prof. Alaa Abouelfetouh. Topics spanned AI and academic integrity, equity and access, faculty responsibilities, and African ethical frameworks for governing AI in higher



18 Principles Organized in 4 Clusters



Cluster 1: Justice & Equity in Climate-Vulnerable Contexts

- Protecting climate-vulnerable populations
- Fair distribution of benefits and burdens
- Addressing root causes of inequity

Cluster 2: Environmental Stewardship & Research Sustainability

- Minimizing research environmental footprint
- Long-term ecological impact assessment
- Accountability for environmental harms

Cluster 3: Community Engagement & Knowledge Systems

- Meaningful participation (not tokenistic)
- Respecting indigenous/local knowledge
- Community ownership of processes and data

Cluster 4: Data Governance & Digital Ethics

- Environmental data sovereignty
- Responsible climate-health data management
- Digital infrastructure environmental impact

Courtesy Visit to NACOSTI

On 11 March 2026, ABN held a formal courtesy visit to Kenya's National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Discussions highlighted how ABN's expertise in genomics ethics, climate-health ethics, AI ethics, and mental health research complements NACOSTI's national mandate.

Concrete collaboration areas identified include: joint ISERC training, co-hosted webinars, ethics framework piloting, engagement around the 2026 World Congress on Bioethics, and formalisation through an MOU.

[Learn More>>>](#)



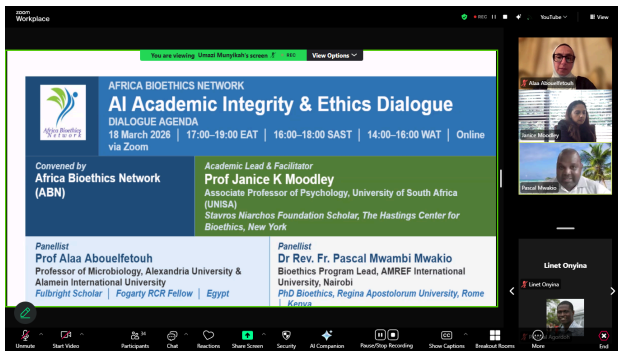
ABN at WAREN2026

ABN presented at WAREN2026 on integrity in collaborative research across networks — addressing the structural and relational dimensions of how large, multi-country research networks can build and sustain cultures of ethical integrity beyond procedural compliance.

education. This dialogue launches a sustained ABN programme on AI ethics in African higher education.

[Watch Dialogue>>>](#)

[Learn More>>>](#)



Country Representatives Q1 Meeting

In March 2026, ABN held its Q1 Country Representatives meeting, bringing together 40+ CRs from across the continent. The meeting focused on what success looks like in practice at country level — drawing on early experiences of representatives embedding ABN's presence in their national ecosystems.

Country Representatives also continue national-level outreach, institutional engagement, and network building activities across several countries.

CARE-CRC Dissemination Workshop

On 24 March 2026, the Africa Bioethics Network (ABN), alongside CREATES, Strathmore University, the Kenya Ostomy Association, through funding from the National Cancer Institute of Kenya, convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in Nairobi focused on colorectal cancer survivorship in Kenya.

The workshop brought together survivors, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and patient advocates to reflect on findings from the CARE-CRC study, which highlighted systemic challenges including delayed diagnosis, fragmented care pathways, financial burden, and limited psychosocial support for survivors.

ABN co-developed and presented the draft Kenya Colorectal Cancer Survivorship Guide — a practical, context-responsive resource designed to support survivors, healthcare providers, caregivers, and health system stakeholders.

KIPRE Seminar — Ethics as Infrastructure

ABN contributed to a seminar at the Kenya Institute of Primate Research, presenting on ethics not as a compliance requirement but as the foundational infrastructure underpinning research quality, institutional trust, and governance. The engagement opened a pathway for ongoing collaboration between ABN and KIPRE.



Stakeholder feedback gathered during the workshop will inform the next phase of refinement and implementation discussions.

[Learn More>>>](#)

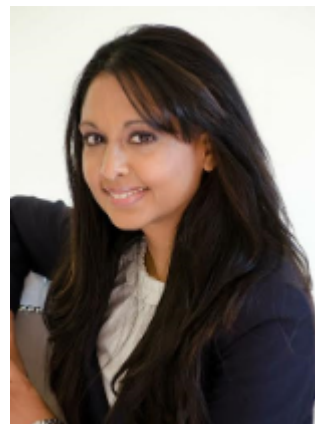
Featured Member: Prof. Janice Moodley

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of South Africa (**UNISA**)
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Scholar, The Hastings Center for Bioethics, New York
Research Lead & Co-Chair, **ABN** Working Group on Mental Health & Vulnerable Populations

External Expert, **University of Johannesburg Senate Research Ethics Committee**
Editorial Board Member, **African Journal of Bioethics**

Prof Moodley is advancing the conversation on bioethics, academic integrity, and mental health in African higher education. Her work addresses crucial challenges at the intersection of ethics, technology, and education — including the ethical use of AI in African universities and supporting mental health and vulnerable populations in academic contexts.

She spearheaded the ABN AI Academic Integrity & Ethics Dialogue — the launching point for the 2026 Working Group initiatives. Her research is multidisciplinary and critically oriented, interrogating the intersections of psychology, health, gender, racial inequalities, and politics in the Global South.



Global Governance, Ethics and Scholarly Infrastructure

ABN's work increasingly includes engagement within international governance, scholarly infrastructure, and ethics ecosystems shaping how research, data, genomics, AI, and emerging technologies are governed globally.

Through its leadership engagements, institutional collaborations, and governance contributions, ABN contributes African perspectives to discussions on equitable data governance, genomic ethics, scholarly infrastructure, research integrity, open science, implementation ethics, predictive modelling, and responsible innovation.

ABN's approach emphasizes that ethics is not only a compliance process, but part of the infrastructure through which research systems, partnerships, technologies, and knowledge ecosystems are designed and governed.

Bermuda Principles 30th Anniversary Conference

February 2026

ABN contributed to discussions marking the 30th Anniversary of the Bermuda Principles (BP30), including discussions on genomic data privacy, openness, global collaboration, and the future of responsible data sharing.

The engagement revisited the historical legacy of the Bermuda Principles within today's evolving scientific, ethical, geopolitical, and governance landscape. Discussions examined how genomic data governance systems can move beyond "open data" approaches toward more equitable, context-responsive, and globally inclusive governance models.



National Ethics Councils (NEC) Forum

ABN continued its engagement within the National Ethics Councils (NEC) Forum ecosystem through participation in both the 35th and 36th NEC Forum meetings in Europe.

These engagements contributed to ongoing discussions on governance design, implementation realities, equitable participation in global ethics systems, and emerging ethical challenges associated with rapidly evolving technologies and research systems.



ABN's contribution emphasized the importance of ensuring that governance systems are shaped with substantive input from implementation contexts, particularly from African institutions and research environments. Discussions also

Emphasis on equitable participation in global data ecosystems requires more than access to data-sharing systems — it also requires meaningful participation in how those systems are designed, governed, and operationalized.

The discussions also highlighted broader questions relating to data sovereignty, implementation ethics, infrastructure asymmetries, and responsible global collaboration in genomics research.

Research Integrity, Open Science and Scholarly Governance



ABN continues to contribute to international discussions and

governance initiatives relating to research integrity, responsible research assessment, metadata governance, and open science systems.

These engagements include contributions within:

- the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) ecosystem;
- Crossref integrity and scholarly record discussions;
- researcher visibility and attribution systems;
- and broader conversations on equitable participation in global scholarly communication systems.

ABN's work in this area increasingly focuses on how scholarly infrastructure, metadata systems, and visibility mechanisms shape participation, recognition, and equity within global research ecosystems.

[Learn More>>>](#)

ORCID Governance and Scholarly Infrastructure



Through leadership engagement within ORCID governance structures, ABN contributes to international discussions on scholarly infrastructure,

researcher visibility, metadata governance, persistent identifiers, and equitable participation of African researchers and institutions within global knowledge systems.

ABN's broader scholarly infrastructure work includes:

- ORCID–OJS integration;
- researcher visibility and attribution systems;
- open repository development;
- reviewer recognition systems;
- metadata governance;

explored the concept of “design parity” — the recognition that governance systems frequently struggle when implementation realities are excluded from the original design process.

The engagements further strengthened dialogue around African participation in international ethics, integrity, and governance ecosystems, particularly in relation to research governance, emerging technologies, public trust, and responsible innovation.

[Learn More>>>](#)

Advancing Equitable Partnerships in Global Research

ABN contributed to discussions at the Second Conference on Equitable Partnerships, focusing on how research collaborations can move beyond stated commitments to equity and address structural realities that continue to shape global research partnerships.

The discussions highlighted challenges including:

- externally driven research agendas;
- unequal decision-making structures;
- one-directional knowledge flows;
- implementation asymmetries;
- and limited sustainability beyond project funding cycles.

ABN emphasized that equitable partnerships require more than goodwill statements — they require governance structures, institutional continuity, implementation support, and shared responsibility across research systems.

[Learn More>>>](#)



Crossref Advisory Group on the Integrity of the Scholarly Record



ABN has representation to contribute to international discussions within the Crossref

- and institutional engagement around open science infrastructure in African contexts.

ABN is also engaging journals, universities, libraries, and research institutions interested in ORCID integration, repository collaboration, and scholarly infrastructure strengthening.

[Learn More>>>](#)

Africa CDC Bioethics Governance Consultation

ABN contributed to the Africa CDC Consultative Workshop on the Terms of Reference and Operational Procedures of the African Continental Bioethics Committee for Health Research during Epidemics and Public Health Emergencies, held in Kigali, Rwanda.

The consultation focused on operationalising the African-Centered Ethics Framework for Health Research during Epidemics and Public Health Emergencies and strengthening continental coordination for ethics oversight, joint review mechanisms, capacity building, and coordinated responses to emerging ethical challenges.

The engagement brought together stakeholders from national ethics committees, institutional review boards, and regional ethics initiatives to examine governance structures, operational procedures, and mechanisms for strengthening ethical governance systems across Africa.



ABN's participation contributed to broader continental discussions on collaborative ethics governance, emergency research oversight, implementation realities, and strengthening African-led governance systems for health research.

Genomics Governance and Ethical Data Sharing Consultation

As part of its broader genomics governance work, ABN coordinated a multi-country expert consultation examining implementation challenges associated with the GA4GH Consent Clauses for Genomic Research in African settings.

The consultation brought together experts from Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the United Kingdom to examine how global genomic governance tools intersect with African ethical frameworks, implementation realities, and community contexts.

Advisory Group on the Integrity of the Scholarly Record, which examines challenges relating to research integrity, metadata governance, correction systems, retractions, transparency, and trust within scholarly publishing ecosystems.

The engagement contributes African perspectives to broader conversations on how scholarly infrastructure systems can better support accountability, discoverability, responsible correction practices, and integrity across global research communication systems.

[Learn More>>>](#)

Ethics of Predictive Modelling for Health

ABN contributed to the Wellcome "Ethics of Prediction for Health" Workshop, which brought together interdisciplinary experts from 13 countries to examine ethical challenges associated with predictive modelling for health.

The workshop explored how predictive models increasingly shape decision-making in areas including infectious disease response, climate-health forecasting, clinical risk prediction, and health systems planning.

Discussions highlighted that predictive models are not value-neutral, but are shaped by decisions relating to:

- data selection;
- variable construction;
- representation;
- uncertainty;
- model evaluation;
- and assumptions about what outcomes matter.

The workshop further examined ethical questions relating to:

- equity and distributive justice;
- trustworthiness and accountability;
- privacy and data governance;
- Indigenous and local knowledge systems;
- actionability and uncertainty;
- and the broader societal implications of predictive technologies.

ABN's engagement contributed African governance and implementation perspectives to emerging international discussions on predictive modelling ethics, responsible innovation, and the ethical governance of data-intensive and AI-enabled health systems.

GA4GH 2025 — Governance and Genomic Data Sharing Engagements

ABN contributed to discussions at the 13th Plenary Meeting and Connect Working Sessions of the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH), which brought together stakeholders from the international genomics and health community to advance development work around data sharing and genomic governance.

The consultation identified several important governance challenges relating to:

- relational and communal approaches to consent;
- benefit-sharing and reciprocity;
- language and comprehension barriers;
- genomic privacy and data governance;
- infrastructure limitations;
- and the need for more context-responsive approaches to global standards.

ABN's contribution emphasized that African ethical frameworks such as Ubuntu should not be viewed as peripheral adaptations, but as substantive contributions to global genomic governance discussions.

This work forms part of ABN's broader engagement on equitable data governance, implementation ethics, genomics governance, and responsible research systems.

GA4GH Connect 2026 — Governance Tools for LMIC Contexts

Deborah Ekusai Sebatta presented her doctoral research on a prototype governance checklist for genomic data sharing in LMIC contexts at [GA4GH Connect 2026](#). The session, co-chaired by Prof. Wafaa and Mercury Shitindo, examined implementation gaps between global genomic governance frameworks and African research realities, generating discussion on enforcement mechanisms, benefit-sharing, and the conditions for equitable data sharing.

Public Health Genomics and Data Governance

ABN also engaged within the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE) conference and governance ecosystem, contributing to discussions on public health genomics, responsible data sharing, ethical governance, and implementation realities in genomic epidemiology.

These discussions explored ethical dimensions of genomic surveillance, public health data systems, interoperability, equitable governance approaches, and responsible use of genomic and epidemiological data in African and global contexts.

This engagement contributes to ABN's broader work on ethical governance of genomic and health data systems, particularly during public health emergencies and rapidly evolving health contexts.

ABN's contribution focused on genomic data governance, implementation realities, equitable approaches to data-sharing systems, and ethical challenges associated with applying global governance frameworks across diverse contexts.

The discussions explored tensions between global governance standards and implementation realities in African contexts, including:

- data sovereignty;
- benefit-sharing;
- relational and communal approaches to consent;
- infrastructure asymmetries;
- implementation ethics;
- and ethics-by-design approaches to genomic governance.

ABN emphasized the importance of ensuring that governance systems are developed with meaningful participation from implementation contexts rather than adapted retrospectively after development.



“African ethical frameworks must not only respond to global systems, but actively contribute to shaping them.”

Research and Knowledge Development

ABN's research portfolio reflects its growing role as a knowledge-producing institution contributing original research, ethical frameworks, governance tools, and policy-relevant scholarship across African contexts.

Current work spans bioethics governance, environmental sustainability, genomics, reproductive ethics, scholarly infrastructure, health systems ethics, and equitable research partnerships.

African Bioethics Mapping Exercise

The continental African Bioethics Mapping Exercise is being implemented under the research leadership of Roseline Dzekem Dine, with support from the ABN research and programmes team. The initiative seeks to better understand the evolving bioethics landscape across Africa — including institutional capacity, ethics governance, training, and emerging thematic priorities.

As part of ABN's commitment to research capacity strengthening, four Research Fellows have been appointed to support analysis, synthesis, coordination, and writing activities.

- Ludovick Lopa — Quantitative Analysis Support
- Agatha Magombo — Qualitative Analysis Support
- Fidelis Anumu — Synthesis & Writing Support
- Millicent Njiru — Coordination & Qualitative Support

[Learn More>>>](#)

Research Spotlight: The African Bioethics Mapping Exercise

What does the bioethics landscape look like across Africa — who is working in it, where, on what, and with what resources? ABN's continental Mapping Exercise is the first systematic attempt to explore these questions at scale..

The study is expanding beyond research ethics into broader bioethics domains including health systems, AI, genomics, climate and environmental ethics, and governance.

Researchers, practitioners, ethics committee members, students, and policymakers across Africa are encouraged to participate. The survey is anonymous and takes approximately 30–45 minutes.

Participate in the African Bioethics Mapping Survey

ABN invites researchers, practitioners, REC members, students, policymakers, and others working in bioethics-related fields across Africa to participate in the continental Mapping Exercise and share the survey within their networks.

[Take Survey>>>](#)

SHARE Kenya Study

Global Health Justice Initiative — British Academy

ABN's partnership with King's College London under the British Academy Global Health Justice Initiative continues into 2026, supporting publication capacity, manuscript development, mentorship, and equitable research visibility for researchers across African contexts.

The project combines in-person writing workshops, mentorship support, and ongoing collaborative engagement aimed at strengthening sustainable research publication ecosystems.

[Learn More>>>](#)



Participate in the Reproductive Technologies Study

ABN is currently leading a multi-country study examining the ethical, legal, governance, access, and sociocultural dimensions of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The study explores how reproductive technologies are governed, accessed, experienced, and understood across diverse healthcare, cultural, regulatory, and policy contexts, with particular attention to:

- ethics and reproductive decision-making;
- governance and regulatory frameworks;
- access and affordability;
- equity and inclusion;
- sociocultural and religious perspectives;
- and healthcare system preparedness for reproductive technologies.

The quantitative survey component is currently being conducted at a continental level across Sub-Saharan Africa, while the qualitative component focuses more deeply on experiences and governance realities within selected country contexts, including Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa.

The project engages healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, regulatory stakeholders, and individuals with

The SHARE Kenya study has entered active recruitment following ethics approval.

Part of a broader international initiative spanning Kenya, Ghana, India, Brazil, and the United Kingdom, the study explores how environmental sustainability is understood, practiced, and governed within health research systems.

The research examines how researchers, laboratories, institutions, and data-intensive health research environments engage questions relating to:

- environmental responsibility;
- energy and infrastructure use;
- digital and computational sustainability;
- research waste and procurement;
- implementation realities;
- and ethical governance of environmentally sustainable health research.

The study contributes to wider international discussions on sustainable health research systems, implementation ethics, and climate-conscious approaches to research governance.

[Learn More>>>](#)

APPRENDRE — Inclusive Education in Senegal

ABN is co-leading a new research and co-design initiative in Senegal in partnership with Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Dakar.

Led by **Dr. Oumy Ndiaye** as Principal Investigator, the project focuses on developing inclusive and gender-responsive educational approaches within Senegalese school contexts through participatory and culturally grounded methods.

The initiative works with educators, communities, and local stakeholders to co-design teaching practices that draw on local cultural knowledge systems, oral traditions, communal pedagogies, and context-responsive educational approaches.

The project also explores broader questions relating to equity, inclusion, cultural knowledge systems, and the role of locally grounded pedagogies in strengthening educational practice and participation.

[Learn More>>>](#)

experience relating to fertility care and assisted reproductive technologies.

The study contributes to broader discussions on reproductive ethics, healthcare governance, access to fertility services, and context-responsive policy development across African health systems.

[Take Survey>>>](#)

Governance and Ethical Considerations in Mental Health Research Involving Children and Adolescents

ABN is contributing to a multi-country qualitative study examining governance frameworks and ethical considerations in mental health research involving children and adolescents in Nigeria and Kenya.

The Nigeria component is currently ongoing under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Ojeahere, with the Kenya phase planned subsequently.

The study explores how regulatory systems, ethics governance structures, and research practices shape mental health research involving children and adolescents, particularly in contexts where policy guidance and implementation frameworks remain limited.

The research engages multiple stakeholder groups, including:

- children and adolescents with lived experience;
- caregivers;
- mental health professionals;
- researchers;
- and ethics committee members.

Key areas of focus include:

- consent and assent processes;
- vulnerability and participant protection;
- governance and accountability mechanisms;
- implementation gaps between ethical guidance and practice;
- and culturally responsive approaches to mental health research governance.

The project aims to contribute evidence-informed recommendations for strengthening ethical governance, inclusion, and participant protection within child and adolescent mental health research across African contexts

Scholarly Infrastructure: ORCID, OJS & Open Repository

What is complete

The OJS–ORCID integration for the African Journal of Bioethics (AJB) is complete and fully tested. Authors can now connect and verify their ORCID identifiers directly through the journal submission workflow — strengthening attribution, discoverability, metadata quality, and researcher visibility across global scholarly systems.

This work forms part of ABN's broader contribution to equitable scholarly infrastructure and ethical open science systems in African contexts.

What is in progress

ABN is currently developing practical support and training materials to strengthen institutional adoption and implementation of ORCID and related scholarly infrastructure systems.

Materials are being developed for:

- journal editors and publishing teams;
- universities and research offices;
- libraries and repository teams;
- early-career researchers and authors;

What we are launching

ABN is currently preparing for the launch of VETT (Visible. Ethical. Traceable. Trusted) — a research visibility, ethics, and governance infrastructure platform designed to strengthen transparency, discoverability, accountability, and trust across African research ecosystems.

VETT is being developed to support:

- structured research visibility;
- ethics and governance documentation;
- researcher and institutional discoverability;
- repository and metadata interoperability;
- and broader trust-centred approaches to research governance and scholarly infrastructure.

The platform is currently in its refinement and testing phase ahead of phased rollout and institutional pilot implementation.

This work will also be featured at [Open Repositories 2026](#) through a [roundtable discussion](#) examining trust-centred research repositories in low-resource and high-risk contexts. The discussion positions repository systems not simply as technical tools, but as governance infrastructures shaped by ethics, trust, and implementation realities.

VETT forms part of ABN's broader commitment to strengthening ethical governance infrastructure, visibility systems, open scholarly ecosystems, and African participation within global knowledge infrastructures.

Ethics as Infrastructure

ABN increasingly frames ethics not only as review and compliance, but as the infrastructure through which research systems function, whom they serve, and how trust is built across institutions, communities, and borders. The OJS–ORCID integration, open-access publishing partnerships, repository infrastructure, and ethics visibility initiatives are all practical expressions of this principle.

- and institutions interested in improving researcher visibility, metadata quality, and discoverability.

Additional work is also ongoing around repository interoperability, reviewer recognition pathways, and open infrastructure support for African research ecosystems.

Institutional collaboration and pilot opportunities

ABN is currently inviting institutions interested in collaborating on:

- ORCID–OJS implementation pilots;
- Open Repository pilot testing and institutional engagement;
- repository and metadata interoperability;
- scholarly infrastructure strengthening;
- metadata and discoverability improvement;
- and ethical open science support systems.

Potential collaborators may include:

- journals and scholarly publishers;
- universities and research offices;
- libraries and repository teams;
- and institutions interested in strengthening visibility, discoverability, and integration of African scholarly outputs within global research systems.

Institutions interested in learning more or exploring collaboration opportunities may contact: [Africa Bioethics Network](#)

“Visibility without ethics can reproduce harm. Ethics without visibility can reproduce exclusion.”

Training, Mentorship and Capacity Development



BEACON Mentorship Programme

The 2025 BEACON cohort of 14 mentees is approaching the final stage of their programme. The 2026 cohort recruitment will open shortly. We particularly encourage applications from professionals in under-represented regions and thematic areas including AI ethics, environmental ethics, and genomics governance.

Watch for the announcement at: africabioethicsnetwork.org

Contemporary Bioethics in African Contexts

The 2025 cohort of 26 participants is implementing capstone projects across diverse themes, each paired with a mentor for support through completion.

AJB Scholarly Publishing & Peer Review Academy

ABN Internship Programme

The inaugural 2026 cohort has launched across eight roles spanning five tracks — Bioethics Research, Community Engagement Research, Digital Health Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Communications and Outreach, Training and Development, and Partnerships and Collaborations — representing twelve African countries.

Launching in 2026 and running April–November, this structured programme builds a sustainable, Africa-led community of skilled reviewers and contributors. Grounded in Ubuntu, Igbo, Akan, Yoruba, Shona and related intellectual frameworks.

Participants who complete the capstone review exercise may qualify for AJB Certified Reviewer recognition. Details: africanjournalofbioethics.org

We acknowledge Faridah Abdullahi (Research & Programme Support) and Patricia Humura (Communications, Bioethics focus) for their sustained contributions in 2025.

Faculty Collaboration — Universidad Anáhuac

ABN continues to benefit from its academic partnership with the Faculty of Bioethics at Universidad Anáhuac (Mexico), coordinated through Dr. María Inés Girault, with guest sessions in training and mentorship programmes.

“Continental collaboration becomes meaningful when ethical reflection remains connected to lived realities.”

Join an ABN Working Group

ABN [Working Groups](#) are now open to members and collaborators. They are action-oriented — producing research outputs, policy guidance, and thematic dialogue. We welcome researchers, academics, ethics committee members, policy and regulatory professionals, and early-career scholars across all six thematic areas.

[Join a Working Group](#)

ABN Working Groups are not simply discussion spaces. They are designed as platforms for collaborative research, policy guidance, continental publications, and thematic engagement across disciplines and sectors.

Co-Chairs:

Environment & Climate Ethics

Mr. Sidney Engelbrecht (South Africa)

Prof. Caroline Mulinya (Kenya)

Dr. Badara Cissé (Senegal)

[_Learn More>>>](#)

Mental Health & Vulnerable Populations

Prof. Olufunmilayo Adejumo (Nigeria)

Prof. Janice Moodley-Marie (South Africa)

Dr. Margaret Isioma Ojeahere (Nigeria)

[Learn More>>>](#)

Genomics & Biotechnology

Prof. Charles Ntungwen Fokunang (Cameroon)

Dr. Mohamed Alimohamed Zahir

[Learn More>>>](#)

Regulatory, Policy & Sustainability Engagement

Prof. Veronica P.S. Njie-Carr, (Gambia)

Ms. Birungi Caroline (Uganda)

Mr. Onyeka Kingsley Nwosu (Nigeria)

[Learn More>>>](#)

AI Ethics & Digital Health

Rev. Dr. Pascal Mwambi Mwakio (Kenya)

Dr Christine Wasunna

In collaboration with UNESCO (Strategic Partner)

[Learn More>>>](#)

Conference, Convening & Strategic Engagement

Prof. Samuel Asiedu Owusu (Ghana)

Rev. Dr. Pascal Mwambi Mwakio (Kenya)

Prof. Alaa Abouelfetouh (Egypt)

[Learn More>>>](#)

AJB SPECIAL ISSUE — CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The African Journal of Bioethics (AJB) has launched a Special Issue titled:

Decolonizing Bioethics in Africa: Confronting Epistemic Injustices

The issue explores how African ethical traditions, lived realities, indigenous knowledge systems, and context-responsive governance approaches can contribute more substantively to global bioethics scholarship and practice.

Submissions from researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and interdisciplinary scholars engaging African contexts are encouraged.

Submission Deadline: 31 July 2026

Diamond Open Access — No publication fees

Guest Editors: **Prof. Janice Moodley** and **Faith Fletcher**

[Submit Now >>>](#) | specialissue@africanjournalofbioethics.org | [Learn More>>>](#)

AJB SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING & PEER REVIEW ACADEMY

The African Journal of Bioethics (AJB), in partnership with the Africa Bioethics Network (ABN), officially launched the AJB Scholarly Publishing & Peer Review Academy in May 2026. The Academy is a six-session continental programme designed to strengthen peer review, scholarly writing, research integrity, open science, and research visibility within African bioethics scholarship.

Structured across two phases from May–November 2026, the programme combines reviewer development, publication ethics, manuscript evaluation, authorship support, open science training, and scholarly infrastructure components including ORCID and research visibility. Participants who complete the reviewer pathway and capstone exercise will be recognised as AJB Certified Reviewers, with pathways toward ORCID-linked reviewer recognition and advanced reviewer excellence certification.

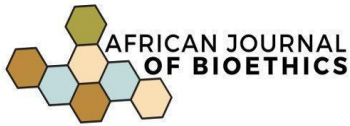
The Academy reflects AJB and ABN's broader commitment to strengthening African-led scholarly publishing systems and building sustainable reviewer and editorial capacity across the continent. The programme is open to researchers, reviewers, editors, early-career scholars, ethics committee members, and practitioners across Africa.

[May–November 2026](#) | [Virtual](#) | [Certified Reviewer pathway](#) | [open to researchers across Africa](#)

TRAINING 1: Foundations of Peer Review in Bioethics Publishing

The African Journal of Bioethics (AJB) officially commenced the AJB Scholarly Publishing & Peer Review Academy on 14 May 2026 with its first session: Foundations of Peer Review in Bioethics Publishing. The session marked the beginning of a six-session continental programme designed to strengthen peer review, scholarly writing, research integrity, open science, and research visibility within African bioethics scholarship. The Academy brings together researchers, reviewers, editors, and early-career scholars across Africa as part of AJB and ABN's broader effort to strengthen African-led scholarly publishing ecosystems. Session 2 will continue in June 2026.

[Training Date](#) : 14 May 2026 | [9:00 AM WAT](#) | [8:00 AM UTC](#) | [Mode: Virtual](#)



Volume 3, Issue 1 is the first issue published under our new partnership with Pluto Journals — enhancing the journal's capacity to reach wider audiences, strengthening visibility of published work, and aligning AJB with international scholarly publishing standards.

The African Journal of Bioethics operates as a diamond open-access journal — meaning neither authors nor readers are charged publication or access fees. Articles are published in partnership with Pluto Journals on ScienceOpen under a CC BY 4.0 licence.

Published by the Africa Bioethics Network in partnership with Pluto Journals, with indexing and discoverability support through ScienceOpen and scholarly infrastructure integrations including ORCID.



Contents — Volume 3, Issue 1

[Vulnerability, Context and Ethical Practice: The African Journal of Bioethics at Volume 3](#)

Mercury Shitindo

[Translating and Adapting Research Bioethical Principles to the African Socio-Cultural Contexts: An Integrative Review](#)

Veronica P.S. Njie-Carr et al.

[Social and Cultural Factors Influencing Adherence to Institutional Quarantine and Isolation during Multi-Country Disease Outbreaks in Southwest Nigeria: A Quantitative Study](#)

Sola Aluko-Arowolo et al.

[Magnitude and Associated Factors of Dignity Preservation Among Hospitalized Patients. A Cross-Sectional Study of Bugando Medical Centre and Mwanza Regional Referral Hospital, North-Western Tanzania](#)

Ndakibae Gabriel Mabega et al.

[Nature and Management of Perceived Researcher Vulnerability at Makerere College of Health Sciences, Uganda](#)

Regina Namusisi et al.

[Knowledge and Attitude of Correctional Officers and Inmates About Research Ethics in Nigeria](#)

Abdullateef Adeniyi Onanbanjo et al.

[A Scoping Review on Ethical Considerations during Nipah Virus Disease Outbreak Response in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

Noel Oduor et al.

[Children's Participation in Protest in Nigeria: Ethical Implications and Concerns](#)

Chitu Womehoma Princewill et al.

[The Licensed Sex Predator Exposé — Stories for Moral Decision-making in Healthcare Delivery in Ghana](#)

Anthony Gyening-Yeboah et al.

[Ethics of Chronic Degenerative Disease Management in Lifestyle Medicine Practice: Some Preliminary Considerations in Nigeria](#)

Obatunde Bright Adetola et al.

Upcoming Opportunities and Looking Ahead

ABN Annual Conference 2026

November 2026 • Nairobi

African Bioethics in Practice: Governance and Responsibility. ABN's inaugural Annual Conference brings together scholarship, practice, policy, and community perspectives to examine how ethical principles are interpreted and operationalised in real-world African contexts. Registration and call for abstracts to be announced shortly.

AJB Special Issue — Submissions Open

Decolonizing Bioethics in Africa: Confronting Epistemic Injustices. Diamond Open Access — no author fees. Deadline: 31 July 2026. africanjournalofbioethics.org

Upcoming Webinar — African Bioethics Dialogues

The ABN African Bioethics Dialogues is a monthly continental platform bringing together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and emerging voices to engage critically with ethical questions shaping health, science, and society across Africa. Each session produces a named output — including AJB commentaries, policy briefs, and BEACON mentee pieces.

Speakers :

Upcoming: AI in African Healthcare: Innovation, Governance, and the Question of Extraction | Rev. Dr. Pascal Mwakio | Dr. Marietjie Botes | Francis Crawley | Virtual | Date TBC — registration link to follow

ABN Membership

Join a growing continental network of 1,300+ researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and institutions across 42+ African countries. Student (USD 10), Professional (USD 20), and Institutional (USD 100) tiers. Members receive: Working Group access, training programmes, African Journal of Bioethics access, BEACON mentorship connections, priority webinar question slots, a digital membership certificate and official ABN Member ID, and visibility on the ABN member network.

Register at: africabioethicsnetwork.org

To subscribe - [Click to subscribe](#)

Get Involved - [Click to learn more...](#)

CSIDNet East Africa Regional Convening

ABN has been selected to co-host a [Climate Sensitive Infectious Disease Network](#) regional convening on CSID tools, ethics, and data governance

The East Africa convening will bring together researchers, public health practitioners, policymakers, laboratory and surveillance actors, and data scientists to engage with climate-sensitive infectious disease tools, data systems, and governance challenges. Through tool demonstrations, practitioner exchange, and structured dialogue, the convening will explore how CSID tools can be responsibly adapted within regional contexts.

The convening will support the development of an East Africa Regional Priorities Statement on CSID data governance. The working language of the convening will be English.

Phase 2 Bioethics Mapping Survey — Open Now

Take the survey (30–45 min, anonymous, save and return):

<https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/JstZjEKU>

In-depth interview participation:

<https://forms.gle/qwqjPUHEcNkC7UZj6>

Reproductive Technologies Study — Open Now

Take the survey (30–45 min, anonymous, save and return):

<https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/JstZjEKU>

In-depth interview participation (Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria):

Email: research@africabioethicsnetwork.org

Why Support ABN

ABN's growth is increasingly driven by demand for ethics training, mentorship, governance support, scholarly publishing, and African-led ethical frameworks across research and policy spaces. As the Network expands, sustained support is essential to:

- strengthen continental coordination
- support early-career scholars and mentorship
- maintain open-access scholarly resources
- build ethics and governance infrastructure
- support African-led research and policy development
- expand regional participation and collaboration

ABN welcomes collaboration, institutional partnership, technical expertise, volunteer support, and funding partnerships aligned with its mission.

Coming Soon

Get Involved

Interested in contributing to ABN?

- ✓ **Join a Working Group**
- ✓ **Participate in ongoing studies**
- ✓ **Become a member**
- ✓ **Volunteer as a mentor, trainer, or technical contributor**
- ✓ **Explore partnership opportunities**

- [ABN Annual Conference 2026](#)
- [BEACON Mentorship Programme 2026](#)
- [AJB Special Issue — Decolonizing Bioethics in Africa](#)
- **AJB Academy — Session 2 (June 2026)**
- [Working Groups](#)
- ORCID/OJS pilot partnerships
- Open Repository pilot testing and institutional engagement
- Upcoming continental webinars

Join the Africa Bioethics Network

ABN continues to grow as a continental community of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and institutions committed to strengthening ethical practice across Africa.

[Register your membership](#) · [Join a Working Group](#) · [Contribute to our research](#) · [Get Involved](#) · [Subscribe](#)

africabioethicsnetwork.org | secretariat@africabioethicsnetwork.org