

Strengthening Doctoral Training
LSE-Africa Consortium Workshop, University of Cape Town, 2-9 July 2014

The Director, School of Economics, Prof. Jane Mariara coordinated participation of the University of Nairobi in a workshop on strengthening doctoral training in Africa that took place in Cape Town on Wed 2- Wed 9 July 2014. The workshop was intended as a forum for the exchange of experiences, knowledge, best practices and ideas for doctoral training. It was designed by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for a mix of PhD student and PhD coordinators/directors participants from the universities of Cape Town, Ghana, Makerere, Ibadan, Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi. The workshop, facilitated by the Department of Methodology of the LSE included taster sessions of various (existing) LSE quantitative and qualitative methodology courses, plus a range of sessions to elicit discussions about experiences and suggestions for strengthening doctoral training in the social sciences. The anticipated benefits for PhD programme directors/coordinators were to provide a setting for: (i) Gaining a shared knowledge of PhD training arrangements in place (and/or planned) in Consortium partner Universities. (ii) Generating a forum for exchange of ideas and potential future collaborative activities. The anticipated benefits for PhD students were to provide: (i) an overview of some key topics in research methods and data analysis, both qualitative and quantitative (ii) A forum for exchange of ideas and perhaps future collaboration with PhD students in Consortium Universities.

Other participants from the University of Nairobi were Ms. Josephine Misaro, PhD. student, Department of Sociology and Mr. Peter Magati, PhD. student, School of Economics. The team learnt a lot from the workshop. Prof. Jane Mariara (University of Nairobi), Prof. Charles Opolot-Okurut (Makerere University) and Dr. Abel Yamwaka Mreta (University of Dar es Salaam) made a joint presentation on recommended way forward for the consortium, focusing on student, faculty as well as institutional needs.