

MODERATOR AND PANELISTS

Webinar 1: The science and practice of relationality in community engagement

Tuesday 8 April 2025, 2pm-3:30pm CEST



Moderator: Megan Seneque

Megan Seneque is currently Honorary Research Fellow with the Susanna Wesley Foundation, University of Roehampton, and is an Associate with the Presencing Institute, Cambridge MA. She is Associate with Orange Compass, an organisation that works with change makers on their journey to transform systems and build better futures. She has a PhD in Systems Science from the Centre for Systems Studies, University of Hull

In her work across the private, public, education and NGO sectors - in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, the UK , and other global contexts - Megan has continued to bring together research as systemic intervention, supported by systemic design and facilitation. During 2021/2022 she accompanied WHO to incorporate a complexity-informed, relational approach to community engagement, prototyping alternative engaged research approaches in three countries in the Western Pacific Region. These were intended to create the conditions for systems change and relational health and flourishing. She is currently contributing to praxis-based work funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation, building a Network of Networks for a global flourishing ecosystem.



Panellist: Stanley Nyoni

Stanley Nyoni is a master facilitator and trainer in personal and leadership development, with deep expertise in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability and systems transformation. He has led organizational culture change programs across Europe, Asia, and Africa, collaborating with executives to foster participatory leadership and team synergy. Drawing on tools at the intersection of science and spirituality, Stanley supports individuals in developing self-awareness and building trusting relationships—foundational to high-performing teams. He is a faculty member of the Ubuntu Lab and has contributed to the AAYMCA Facilitators' Training and the Mastercard Transformative Leadership Programmes.

Currently, Stanley is engaged with The Swedish Institute Global Executive Programme for the Green Transition, working with 100 executives from 24 countries. He recently facilitated a global gathering of indigenous spiritual leaders in Zimbabwe, focused on peacebuilding and planetary wellbeing. Known for his creativity in designing brave spaces for learning and transformation, Stanley

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combines systems thinking, coaching, mindfulness, and behavioral science to develop and deliver tailored curriculum for diverse international audiences. He holds a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe, a Master's in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Infrastructure from KTH-Sweden, and a certificate in Cross-Sector Partnership Facilitation from Cambridge University, UK.



Panellist: Dr Nicole Redvers

Dr. Nicole Redvers, DPhil, ND, MPH, is a member of the Deninu K'ue First Nation (Canada) and has worked with Indigenous patients, scholars, and communities around the globe her entire career. She is an Associate Professor, Western Research Chair, and Director of Indigenous Planetary Health at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University.

Dr. Redvers also currently serves as the Vice President Research at the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC). She has been actively involved at regional, national, and international levels promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in both human and planetary health research and practice.

Dr. Redvers is the author of the trade paperback book titled, 'The Science of the Sacred: Bridging Global Indigenous Medicine Systems and Modern Scientific Principles'.



Panellist: Dr Rory Truell

Rory Truell is the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). IFSW is the global body representing professional social work practice, comprising 153 national associations of social work and holding consultative status with the United Nations.

Dr Truell works directly with national social work associations, frontline services, government leaders and international development agencies. He frequently speaks and writes on the importance of building community engagement in social protection systems, challenges for the profession, and the social work contributions to sustainable development.

Dr Truell is an Honorary Professor at Essex University and a visiting professor or keynote speaker in many institutions globally.

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Panellist: Dr George Thompson

Dr. George Thompson is a child psychiatrist specializing in the residential treatment of traumatized youth and polyvagal-informed crisis response. As Medical Director of crisis services for ReDiscover's psychiatric urgent care center in Kansas City and two psychiatric residential programs in Kansas, he focuses on creating emotionally safe, curious, coherent, and collaborative healthcare cultures. As neuroscience lead for SonderWorx, he trains community responders in trauma-informed and nervous system-informed care. Additionally, as a certified DDP therapist, Dr. Thompson develops parenting strategies that nurture a child's heart-felt knowledge that their lives matter to their families, community, and future generations, regardless of the challenges they have faced. He is founder of [The](#)

[Listening Parent Community](#), an online support for parents based on DDP, Polyvagal Theory, and his 30+ years' experience.

Dr. Thompson was appointed Chairman of the Polyvagal Institute's board of directors in June 2024, and also serves as a core faculty member for PVI's certificate course. He is Treasurer of the board of directors for the Kansas Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness. He was on the board of the DDP Institute from 2014 to 2020, serving as Treasurer for that board as well.

Dr. Thompson is the co-author of *Polyvagal Theory and the Developing Child* as well as *Working with Relational Trauma in Children's Residential Care*. He is working on a third book, *The Polyvagal Parent*. He is a volunteer Clinical Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, where he teaches compassionate doctor-patient communication, and the University of Kansas School of Medicine, where he supervises adult and child psychiatry residents. Dr. Thompson's research in medical education, particularly on medical professionalism, has been published in *Academic Medicine* and recognized with awards. He also teaches the Avatar® Course, promoting personal empowerment and compassionate service.



Panellist: Professor John Parrish-Sprowl

John Parrish-Sprowl PhD currently serves as the Director of the Global Health Communication Center (GHCC) of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts as well as professor of Communication Studies and adjunct professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Prior to this position, he was the Chair of the Department of Communication Studies and a founding member of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community Health Engagement Program in the IU School of Medicine. In addition, he is a member of the IU Center for Global Health, University College, and Russian and Eastern Europe Institute faculties of Indiana University.

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Professor Parrish-Sprowl has been elected to the legislative Assembly of the National Communication Association, twice as Chair of the Applied Communication Division. He serves as a research associate of the Center for Intercultural New Media Research (CINMR), the CMM Institute and is on the WHO roster of experts for social and behavioral change.

Dr. Parrish-Sprowl has worked with WHO and various Ministries of Health in the areas of risk communication, radiation emergency response guidelines, the development of communication strategy to increase influenza vaccine uptake, and in the development of complex approaches to community engagement. Dr. Parrish-Sprowl has served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist and has been honored with awards from various organizations as well as his current, and past universities, including the Indiana University Bicentennial Medal, John W. Ryan award for international service, The University Gold Medal and the Scholar of Distinction in Social Sciences from the University of Wroclaw (Poland).



Panellist: Ms Asiya Odugleh-Kolev

Asiya Odugleh-Kolev is responsible for the World Health Organization's (WHO) initiatives on community engagement for quality, people-centered health services within the Department of Integrated Health Services (IHS) at WHO Headquarters.

In the aftermath of the 2015 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, Asiya has been at the forefront of collaborating with practitioners and researchers in pathfinder countries to deepen and apply the science and evidence base underpinning WHO's approach to community engagement. These efforts are paving transformative pathways to enhance the quality and people-centredness of health services globally, challenging existing paradigms.

Previously, Asiya served as team leader for behavioral and social interventions for epidemic readiness and response. In this role, she was deployed to support national and local response efforts, training and counseling medical, clinical and public health staff, in how to build trust with local communities as essential partners in stopping and preventing the further spread of infectious disease outbreaks. Before joining WHO, she worked for UNICEF Somalia in Programme Communication and Social Mobilization.

Asiya's educational and professional background includes: qualification as a Registered General Nurse from the Sheffield School of Nursing, a BA (Hons) in Third World Studies with Anthropology from the University of East London, a Postgraduate Diploma in Print Journalism from the University of Westminster, and a Master of Science in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.