



DAAD KIWi

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

[DAAD-Kompetenzzentrum Internationale Wissenschaftskooperationen \(KIWi\)](#)

KIWi Connect: Strengthening Equitable Academic Partnerships - Insights from the Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations

1. July 2026, 14:00-16:00 CET

- 14:00 (CET) **Welcome**
[Michael Hörig](#), Director of the DAAD Brussels Office
- 14:05 (CET) **Keynote: Origins and Principles of the Africa Charter**
[Prof. Isabella Aboderin](#), Professor at the University of Bristol and Chair of the Perivoli Africa Research Centre
- 14:20 (CET) **From Equity to Practice: How to Apply the Charter**
[Dr. Herbert Grieshop](#), Director of International Affairs at Freie Universität Berlin
- 14:35 (CET) **Discussion**
- 15:00 (CET) **The Charter in Practice: CISPA's and WITS Approach to Collaboration**
[Faith Blakemore](#), Head of International Affairs and Science Relations at CISPA Helmholtz Centre for Information Security
&
[Helen Robertson](#), Lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand
- 15:15 (CET) **Discussion and Q&A**
- 15:40 (CET) **Closing Remarks: Insights and Outlook from the DAAD Brussels Office**
[Michael Hörig](#), Director of the DAAD Brussels Office
- 15:50 (CET) **Q&A and Wrap Up**
- 16:00 (CET) **Afterwards: Opportunity for individual exchange and networking**



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Moderation:



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Michael Hörig

Director of the DAAD Brussels Office

Inputs and Discussion:



© University of Bristol

Prof. Isabella Aboderin

Chair, Perivoli Africa Research
Centre (PARC)



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Dr. Herbert Grieshop

Director of International Affairs,
Freie Universität Berlin



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Faith Blakemore

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Infor-
mation Security



© University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Helen Robertson

Lecturer, University of the Witwa-
tersrand



CVs:

Michael Hörig:

Michael Hörig is the Director of the DAAD Brussels Office and has held this position since January 2022. He is responsible for representing DAAD towards the institutions of the European Union, partner organisations and German representations in Brussels. Furthermore, he is coordinating DAAD's EU-funded project portfolio.

Since 2011, Michael has held different positions at DAAD headquarters in Bonn, covering a broad range of topics from Strategic Planning to Develop Cooperation and Higher Education Projects in Africa and Asia. Before joining DAAD, Michael worked for the European University Association and the National Union of Students in Flanders. Michael has a graduate degree in political science and international relations from Ghent University, Belgium.

Prof. Isabella Aboderin:

Isabella is Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships, Founding Director and Chair of the Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC); and Professor of Gerontology at the University of Bristol. Her research focuses on issues of ageing, intergenerational relations and care in Africa, and the politics of international collaborative knowledge production in, on, with and 'for' Africa. Building on the latter, Isabella has been centrally involved in the development of - and co-leads the core facilitating team for the Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations.

In other roles, Isabella is extraordinary professor at North West University (South Africa), co-chairs the advisory board of the Berlin Center for Global Engagement, and serves as member of the Lancet Commission on Long-term Care for Older Persons; the National Academies of Science Global Commission on Healthy Longevity; the advisory board of Future Africa, University of Pretoria, and the editorial board of Bristol University Press.

Prior to joining the University of Bristol in 2020, Isabella spent eight years at the African Population and Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi where, as senior research fellow, she established and led a research and policy engagement unit on Ageing and Development in Africa. Her work brought together major academic, practice and policy constituencies in the region- and shaped major continental policy frameworks on the issue. In earlier positions Isabella served as Associate Professor, Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton and Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford; and scientist at the World Health Organization Ageing and Lifecourse Unit.

Dr. Herbert Grieshop:

Dr. Herbert Grieshop started his career with Freie Universität Berlin as Director of the newly founded strategic Center for International Cooperation (CIC) in 2009; since April 2015 he has been in charge of the university's division for International Affairs within the Central University Administration.

Among the tasks of the division are the strategic planning and organization of all university-wide international activities, mobility programs for students, staff and scientists, the responsibility for a global network of strategic partnerships and four liaison offices in Cairo, Delhi, Tbilisi and Sao Paulo, as well as the programs for threatened scholars, refugee students and the preparatory courses of the university's Studienkolleg. Since 2018 a major task of the division has been the



development of the European university network “Una Europa” which now comprises of 11 high profile research universities all over Europe and which received its second round of funding from the EU commission in 2022. Since 2020 Dr. Grieshop has been Freie Universität’s representative of the Steering Committee International for the Berlin University Alliance and since January 2024 he is also an elected member of the board of the DAAD.

Faith Blakemore:

Faith Blakemore is Head of International Affairs and Science Relations at CISPA, leading international strategy development and collaboration with academic and political stakeholders across the globe. She strengthens research and talent development capacities through the creation of new and innovative joint programmes, seeking to ensure equitable relationships with mutual benefits. The CISPA Africa Strategy was launched in January 2025 through the signing of the Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations, which has laid the ethical foundations for all subsequent activities.

Helen Robertson:

Helen Robertson is a Lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), where she coordinates the research projects of postgraduate students who come from a wide range of personal and academic backgrounds and who are at the foundational stages of their research. With an emphasis on guided learning, she develops capacity by ensuring that these students are equipped with the core skills needed for research. Since the launch of the Joint Career Path Programme in February 2026, an outcome of the signing of the Africa Memorandum of Understanding for Research Collaborations, these students have had the opportunity to take part in three-way collaborative projects under the co-supervision of CISPA and Wits researchers, collaborations that she has helped to facilitate.