

UNICAF[®]

RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

CONTENTS

CEO & Founder

Dr Nicos Nicolaou

Editor's Note 2

Principal Editor

Dr Elena Papadopoulou

Unicaf Master's Conference 2023: An Academic Triumph! 3

Editor-in-chief

Dr Athanasia Kavadia

Research activities at Unicaf University in Zambia 6

Production Assistant

Mr Sebastian Heller

Unicaf Online Journal of Education – 1st Call for Papers 8

Design

Mrs Maria Kountoureti

RECENT UNICAF PUBLICATIONS
New peer-reviewed publications by our students and faculty 9**Student Registration**info@unicaf.orgFUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
If you have the idea; We can help you with funding opportunities 10**Student Support**support@unicaf.orgFELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS / COURSES -
List of fellowships, awards and courses 11**Alumni Support**alumni@unicaf.orgCALLS FOR CONFERENCES AND
EVENTS (WORKSHOP / WEBINARS)
Upcoming conferences and events 12

Cyprus Administrative Office

Old International Airport

7130, Larnaca, Cyprus

PO BOX 42572, 6500

Larnaca, Cyprus

Tel: +35724747500

OTHER NEWS - What we think might interest you 13

Emailresearch.office@unicaf.org**Website**www.unicaf.org

Editor's Note

Dear students and colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to the latest edition of the Unicaf Research Newsletter. We're thrilled to have you on board as we embark on another exciting journey through the realms of groundbreaking research and innovation.

This issue features comprehensive coverage of the Unicaf Master's Conference, a research dissemination event that drew participation from over 1360 delegates representing 105 countries. The accomplishments of our Universities and collaborators in research are showcased in the segment discussing ongoing research endeavours at Unicaf University in Zambia. Notably, this is complemented by the inaugural call for papers for the Unicaf Online Journal in Education.

In this edition, we've curated a diverse selection of articles that delve into the frontiers of knowledge, spanning disciplines from education and public health to business. Our aim is to keep you informed about the latest trends, discoveries, and debates shaping the landscape of current research.

As we navigate the vast sea of research, we're committed to bringing you content that is not only informative but also thought-provoking. Whether you're an avid researcher, a curious student, or a professional seeking to stay ahead in your field, we believe there's something for everyone within the pages of the Unicaf Research Newsletter.

We also encourage you to actively engage with us. Your insights are invaluable, and we're always eager to foster a community where ideas can be exchanged and conversations can flourish.

Thank you for being a part of the Unicaf Research community. Together, let's explore the frontiers of knowledge and ignite the spark of intellectual curiosity.

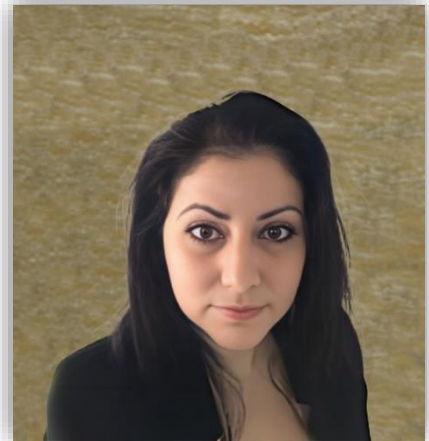
Kind regards,

Dr Elena Papadopoulou

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Doctoral Studies and Research

Principal Editor, Unicaf Online Journal

Principal Editor, Unicaf Research Newsletter



The Unicaf Research Newsletter provides information on research activities, events, publications and funding opportunities that you could apply for. If you need any support during the application stage or want to promote a funding opportunity, conference, event or a new paper in the newsletter, email the Research Office at research.office@unicaf.org.

Unicaf Master's Conference 2023: An Academic Triumph!

We are thrilled to share the remarkable success of the Unicaf Master's Conference 2023, which stands out as the largest academic conference organized by Unicaf to date. Over the course of five days, a total of 1,360 delegates, united from 105 countries, creating an enriching and diverse academic environment.



Key Highlights:

Impressive Attendance: 1,360 delegates, comprising 1,298 attendees and 62 esteemed panelists, attended the conference. This high percentage underscores the enthusiasm and engagement of our global academic community.

School-Specific Participation: Across the three schools, the conference featured a total of 32 oral presentations. 9 from the School of Business, 7 from the School of Sciences, Health Sciences, Technology, and Engineering, and 16 from the School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Global Collaborations: The conference showcased the international collaboration that defines



Unicaf, with 15 presenters from Unicaf in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, 7 from Unicaf University in Zambia, 4 from Unicaf in partnership with

University of East London, 4 from Unicaf Université, and 1 each from Unicaf in partnership with University of Suffolk and Unicaf University in Malawi.

Diverse Program: Attendees were treated to a rich program, including 1 keynote speaker, 4 plenary presentations, 1 interactive session, and 3 presentations by doctoral graduates.

Intellectual Exchange: A vibrant atmosphere of academic inquiry prevailed, with a staggering 978 questions posed during the conference, reflecting the active engagement and curiosity of our global academic community.

Dr Kevin Andrews, the Vice Chancellor of Unicaf University Federal, opened the conference with the reflection that the Unicaf Master's Conference "has sprung from the same stable as the award-winning Unicaf University Graduate Conference (UGraC) that grew from a 2-day event to a 5-day event". That the Unicaf Master's conference is already a 5-day event, is "a testament to the high volume of excellent work that is being done across the partnerships and the



portfolio of Master's programmes". Dr Andrew highlighted the importance of research being done at the Master's level and its relevance to improving and shaping the communities in which Unicaf operates. "At Unicaf we firmly believe in supporting research that seeks to have a significant influence and impact," he said.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of Doctoral Studies and Research, Dr Elena Papadopoulou, expressed profound gratitude to all students, faculty, and senior management for their enthusiastic participation in the conference. In addition, she emphasised the importance of current research by stating that "While watching all presentations it was apparent that the topics presented were in line with Unicaf's environmental, social and corporate governance in being community driven research aiming at enhancing inclusiveness and equity in education, supporting public health and providing instrumental support to the economic growth of the presenters' community".

In acknowledging the significance of this newsletter's dedication to the conference, we extend a special mention to express our heartfelt gratitude to each distinguished speaker who contributed to the resounding success of this event. Your insights and expertise have truly enriched the academic tapestry of the Unicaf Master's Conference 2023.

Introduction

- The aim of this research was to examine the correlation between the service quality dimensions and the satisfaction of citizens with land transfer services.
- In Rwanda, service delivery is associated with state obligation to enhance citizens' welfare

Research Topic: Service Quality Factors and Citizens' Satisfaction with land services in Rwanda.

Presented by: Dr. Edward Kalisa

DBA Graduate: UNICAF University (Zambia)

Relationship between centralized organizational structure and employee job satisfaction: The moderating effect of servant leadership

MOHAMMED JAMIL MOHAMMED AMIN SOKWALLA
UNICAF UNIVERSITY (MALAWI)

FOR UNICAF MASTERS CONFERENCE

Drivers of Vaccine Hesitancy and Underimmunization among Children of Hoima and Wakiso Districts of Uganda

OLIVER OMBEVA MALANDE
UNICAF UNIVERSITY MASTER'S CONFERENCE (UMC)
15TH November, 2023, 14:00-15:00 CYPRUS TIME

This year's conference featured three impactful presentations by our esteemed Unicaf University doctoral graduates, namely Dr Edward Kalisa, Dr Oliver Ombeva Malande, and Dr Mohammed Jamil Mohammed Amin. Their presentations not only showcased their individual achievements but also served as a source of inspiration for our current Master's students, offering a glimpse into the true nature and transformative power of a doctoral degree.

A doctoral degree, as exemplified by our graduates, transcends being a mere framed document on the wall. It is a journey that rigorously tests, assesses, and ultimately rewards the doctoral student. It embodies a vision that provides personal fulfillment on one hand and social commitment and responsibility on the other. It is a transformative experience that molds individuals into a new version of themselves.



We were also, honored to have Dr Ivan Olier-Caparosso, the Head of the Data Science Research Centre at Liverpool John Moores University, deliver the keynote speech, focusing on 'Artificial Intelligence in Medicine.'

Apart from the Keynote speech the plenary presentations further enriched the conference.

Dr Masebo Wilfred, Associate Professor and Acting Dean of the School of Business and

Management, Unicaf University in Malawi, explored 'Kayelekera Uranium Mining and Economic Development in Malawi – Missed Opportunity.'

Dr Mary Mandiringana, Dean of the School of Business Management and Law, Unicaf University in Zambia, shared insights on 'Copreneurship (Couples in Business) on Business Performance.'

Dr Daphne Kleopa, Programme Leader of the School of Sciences, Health Sciences, Technology, and Engineering, Unicaf University, Federal, delved into the 'Assessment of the Physical, Built, and Social Community Environment using Systemic Social Observation Development of the "Cyprus Neighbourhood Observational Tool for Urban Community Environments" – CyNoTes.'

Dr Daniel Mpolomoka, Dean of the School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Unicaf University in Zambia, delivered a thought-provoking presentation, on 'Variability in Research rigor: Insights from Theses Examiners Reports'.

Following the conference, the committee organised a ceremony awarding the best presentation from each school. Winners received a \$150 voucher, and the ceremony, held online on November 29th, witnessed high participation. The winners were:

School of Business: Mr Bright Odion Okunkpolor from Unicaf in collaboration with University of East London.

Bright Odion Okunkpolor is a seasoned maritime professional with over twelve years of experience and a diverse educational background, holding a bachelor's degree in maritime studies, a master's degree in marine operations and a second master in Business Psychology at Unicaf. His presentation at the UMC conference on "Positive Psychology Interventions in the Workplace: A Systematic Review of post-Covid Effectiveness and Sustainability using the DIEM Framework" aims to share valuable insights and



strategies for implementing effective workplace interventions in the post-Covid era.

School of Sciences, Health Sciences, Technology and Engineering: Mrs Masego Mabotho from Unicaf University in Zambia.



Masego Mabotho is a healthcare professional from Botswana with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Botswana. After completing her bachelor's, she pursued short courses and later enrolled in the Master of Science in Healthcare Management program at Unicaf University in Zambia in September 2021, graduating with Merit on October 12, 2023. Masego's academic journey reflects her commitment to healthcare excellence and continuous learning.



School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences: Mr Ashwell Glasson from Unicaf in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University.

Ashwell Barrett Glasson is the Registrar and Wildlife Crime Policy Specialist at the Southern African Wildlife College. Ashwell is actively engaged in program development, specializing in Ranger Leadership, Human Rights for Conservation Practitioners, Paramilitary capabilities, and Monitoring and Evaluation. He holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from Liverpool John Moores University and is dedicated to countering illegal wildlife trade through research, training, and collaboration with various organisations.



The awards were presented by the deans of the respective schools, namely Dr Christos Peristianis, Dr Georgia Sakka-Vronti and Dr Margarita Olympiou.

We extend our sincere appreciation to each speaker for their valuable contributions, making the Unicaf Master's Conference 2023 an intellectually stimulating and enriching experience.

The Unicaf Master's Conference 2023 has truly set a new benchmark, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and intellectual growth on a global scale.

Stay tuned for more insights and updates on upcoming academic endeavors!

Research activities at Unicaf University in Zambia

The 3rd International Dilemmas of Humanity Conference: Unveiling Perspectives and Initiatives for Global Change

From October 14th to 18th, the 3rd International Dilemmas of Humanity Conference unfolded in the vibrant city of Johannesburg, South Africa, marking a pivotal gathering that drew more than 500 delegates. Among the participants were distinguished figures, including political leaders, impassioned activists, and esteemed intellectuals hailing from 72 countries. The overarching goal of the conference was to generate profound reflections and establish a unified platform for concerted action against the backdrop of prevailing challenges stemming from the neoliberal order and the escalating climate crisis.

One standout attendee was Clement Kasonde, a dedicated Law lecturer and researcher affiliated with Unicaf University. Kasonde not only participated in the deliberations but also emerged as a discerning voice that carried the perspectives of Southern African Communities and delved into the rich tapestry of the Zambian tradition of solidarity. His presence underscored the importance of engaging academics and scholars in the discourse surrounding global challenges.



Upon returning to Lusaka, Kasonde did not merely absorb the insights gleaned from the conference; rather, he transformed them into tangible actions. Initiating a constructive dialogue, he collaborated with the faculty team to dissect the conference resolutions and strategise ways to contribute to the construction of a more equitable society. This dynamic engagement reflects Kasonde's commitment not just as a lecturer but as an active participant in the pursuit of solutions to the pressing economic and social dilemmas confronting the world today and beyond.



1st International Conference on Making Sense of Educational Systems for Sustainable Development organised by The Open University of Tanzania held at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership (MJNLS) – Kibaha Kwa Mfipa, 27th - 29th September, 2023.

Dr Christine Mushibwe Phiri, the Vice-chancellor of Unicaf University in Zambia and Dr Daniel Mpolomoka, the Dean of School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, played a significant role in the 1st International Conference on Making Sense of Educational Systems for Sustainable Development, held from September 27th to 29th, 2023. Organized by the Faculty of Education at The Open University of Tanzania and hosted at the Julius Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership College in Tanzania, the conference brought together more than 150 delegates from 14 countries and universities. Dr Mushibwe and Dr Mpolomoka, representing Unicaf University in Zambia, delivered three impactful presentations on “Promoting Health and Well-being of Pupils in Selected Secondary Schools in Kitwe District”, “Narratives by parents of what early childhood learners were doing during Covid-19 in communities in western and eastern provinces, Zambia: a post-mortem and binoculars lens”, and “Strategies teachers use to establish attachment with first-time Pre-schoolers in Lusaka District, Zambia”. Their contributions underscored the conference's commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and advancing educational practices.



Ongoing Projects

Dementia Project: A collaborative project between the University of Huddersfield, Unicaf University in Zambia, and Kanyama General Hospital focused on identifying challenges to implementing the Focused Intervention Training and Support (FITS) dementia program in Zambia. The two-phase project involved training potential Dementia Care Coaches and evaluating the effectiveness of FITS. Data collection on challenges and program evaluation is complete, with the principal investigator and co-PI Dr Marirajan Thiruppathi, the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research & Innovation at Unicaf university in Zambia, is currently engaged in data analysis, marking progress in addressing dementia care challenges in Zambia.

Bioethanol Project: An experimental research study explored the potential of producing bioethanol from Nshima waste through fungi digestion. Results showed a 47% ethanol concentration in the fungi-digested sample, indicating the viability of converting Nshima waste into renewable biofuels. The final draft report is pending review for dissemination through stakeholder workshops and publications, highlighting the environmental benefits and waste reduction potential.



Unicaf Online Journal of Education – 1st Call for Papers

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of the inaugural call for papers for the Unicaf Online Journal - Education.

Our special issue, titled "Teaching and Learning in Modern Multilingual and Multicultural Classrooms," explores the intricate interplay between multilingualism, multiculturalism, and education, highlighting their pivotal roles in advancing all aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The issue aims at showcasing research and insights that illuminate the ways in which embracing linguistic and cultural diversity in educational settings can effectively align with, and contribute to, each SDG.

To learn more and submit your work, kindly access the call here: [UNICAF Online Journal in Education Call for Papers](#)

Questions may be directed to the Special Volume Editor-in-Chief Dr Lupiya Daniel Mpolomoka and Associate Editor Dr Isaak Papadopoulos: info@uoj.unicaf.org



Deadline for paper submission: February 1st, 2024

For guidelines on submissions please visit [Author Resources](#), [UoJ Paper Template](#) and [Submissions](#).

We thank you for joining us on this editorial adventure, and we look forward to receiving your submissions.

RECENT UNICAF PUBLICATIONS

New peer-reviewed publications by our students and faculty



STUDENTS

Awodiji, O., & Magogodi, C. (2023). Nexus between soft skills and technical vocational education and training graduate employability. *INVOTEC*, 19(1), 35-46. doi: <https://doi.org/10.17509/invotec.v19i1.56340>

Chiumia Mwale, E. G. (2023). Inclusion of learners with disabilities in higher education: An investigation of the enrollment of learners with disability in higher education in Malawi. *International Journal of Social Sciences: Current and Future Research Trends*, 18(1), 43–48. https://ijsscfrtjournal.isrra.org/index.php/Social_Science_Journal/article/view/1161

Josiah B.O and Ncube F. (2023). The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health: A Scoping Review. *The Nigerian Health Journal*, 23(1), 524–559. Available at <https://www.tnhjph.com/index.php/tnhj/article/view/644>

FACULTY

Ashraf, S., Kousar, M., & Chambashi, G. (2023). Identification of mental disorders in South Africa using complex probabilistic hesitant fuzzy N-soft aggregation information. *Scientific Reports*, 13, 20091. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-45991-7>

Beheshti, M., ZareRavasan, A., Amoozad Mahdiraji, H., Jafari-Sadeghi, V., & Sakka, G. (2023). An overview of the consumer-centric disruptive technology research: Insights from topic modelling and literature review. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*, Special Issue Article. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cb.2204>

Lone, S. A., & Chambashi, G. (2023). THE THREE VITAL STEPS TO VALIDATING A PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION MODEL. *Results in Nonlinear Analysis*, 6(4), 40–46. Retrieved from <https://nonlinear-analysis.com/index.php/pub/article/view/127>

Mandiringana, M., Nkowane, B. J., & Ncube, M. (2023). Comparative Analysis on Male versus Female Entrepreneurial Performance. *European Journal of Science, Innovation and Technology*, 3(3), 188-197.

Nale, J. Y., Chan, B., Nnadi, N. E., Cheng, J. K. J., Matts, S., Nezam-Abadi, N., ... Clokie, M. R. J. (2023). Novel *Escherichia coli*-Infecting Bacteriophages Isolated from Uganda That Target Human Clinical Isolates. *PHAGE*, 4(3), 141-149. <http://doi.org/10.1089/phage.2023.0012>



International Development Grant

Deadline: 7 February 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: behavior analysis

[Nestlé Foundation](#) (for PhD, Researchers)

Deadline: 10 January 2024 / 10 May 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: research in human nutrition with public health relevance

[Rosetrees](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 31 January 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Bio medical

[Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grant](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 7 February 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: psychology, education, behavioral science

FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS / COURSES - List of fellowships, awards and courses



[Combe Trust Fellowship](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 23 February 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: public theology, religion and religious education, physiology and health, Scots law, peacebuilding, prison reform, psychiatry, psychology and neuroscience, moral philosophy, natural sciences or the arts

[EMBO - Early Career Lecture Courses](#) (for PhD students and Researchers)

Deadline: 1 February

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Life sciences

[ERCIM – Alain Bensoussan Fellowship Programme](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 30 April 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Computer Science, Information Technology and Applied Mathematics

[F. J. McGuigan Dissertation Award](#) (for applicants who have completed doctoral candidacy)

Deadline: 5 June 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: contemporary behavioral or brain science

[Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit - MARS Awards 2024](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 30 June 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in Women Health and Infertility and Reproductive Care.

[Messel Travel Bursary](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 31 March 2024 / 31 October 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Chemical Science, Life Sciences, Engineering and Technology

[Virchow Prize for Global Health](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 24 February 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: improve global health, through scientific, societal, technological, political, or economic innovations, and by applying concepts of social, educational, behavioural, environmental, economic, commercial and/or policymaking-related determinants of health

[Wellcome Early-Career Awards](#) (for Researchers)

Deadline: 15 February 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: any discipline as long as it has the potential to improve human life, health and wellbeing, and aligns with our funding remit.

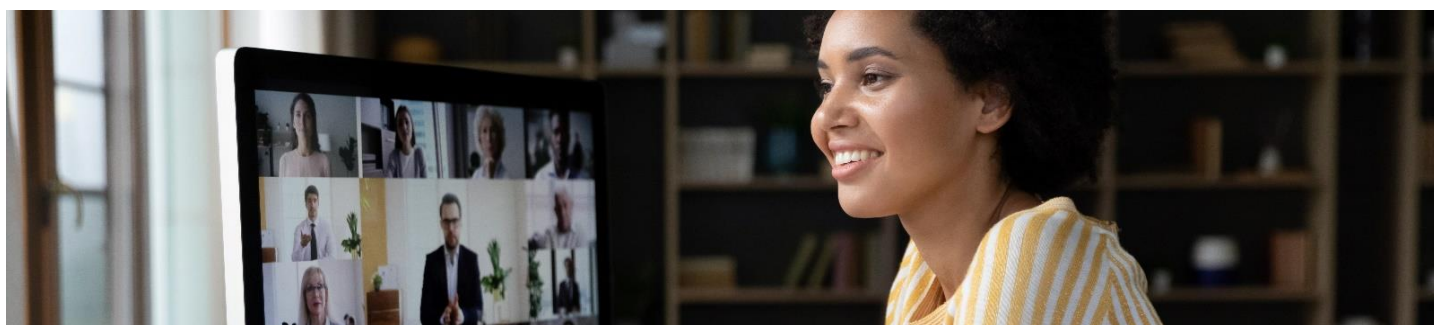
[Yidan Prize](#) (for members of government bodies, non-governmental organizations, professional associations or professional educators)

Deadline: 31 March 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Education Research, Education Development

CALLS FOR CONFERENCES AND EVENTS (WORKSHOP / WEBINARS)

Upcoming conferences and events



New dates

[Unicaf Graduate Conference](#) (for Doctoral Students)

Dates: 15 – 19 April 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Education, Social Sciences, Law and Politics, Business, Humanities, Public Health, Technology

Unicaf University Doctoral Research Groups (for Doctoral Students)

The Doctoral Research Groups (DRGs)' s aim is to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and feedback provision between doctoral researchers and faculty, with a view of advancing original and rigorous research. The initiative is aimed at Unicaf University doctoral researchers and faculty, during which doctoral researchers present ideas and share expertise that can enhance their research. The open dialogue between doctoral researchers working on similar subjects will facilitate information exchange and will be a vibrant forum in which students can receive feedback on their work.

The next Doctoral Research Groups are held on:

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Business, Accounting and Finance, and Marketing

Dates: 18 January 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Dates: 14 December 2023

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Public Health

Dates: 4 January 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Law and Politics

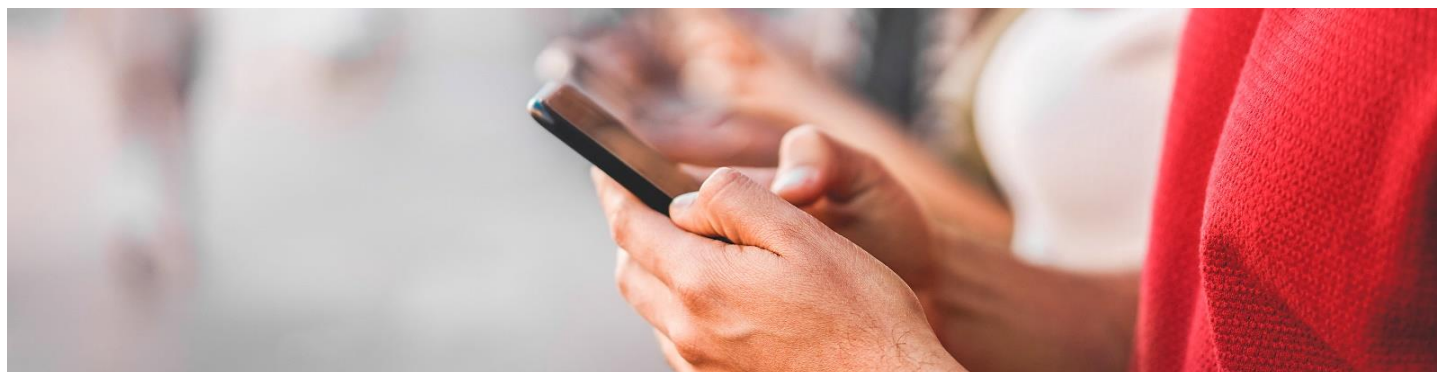
Dates: 4 January 2024

Area/Disciplines/Themes: Information Technology

Dates: 4 January 2024

More information regarding the Doctoral Research Groups can be found via the [Unicaf University in Zambia Help Centre](#) and the [Unicaf University in Malawi Help Center](#).

OTHER NEWS - What we think might interest you



We would like to take this opportunity to kindly remind everyone that we welcome doctoral and Master's students (or graduate) who have already published, or are in the process of publishing their work to share their peer-reviewed publications with us by utilizing the following link: <https://forms.gle/u6jyfopDaCyUfvbY8>. Additionally, please mention whether the publication is affiliated with Unicaf / Unicaf University or not.

Moreover, we extend the same invitation to faculty members who have publications to share. If you are a faculty member, please send us your publications (with correct reference or DOI) to research.office@unicaf.org. Kindly indicate whether the publication is affiliated with Unicaf / Unicaf University or not as this information will assist us in accurately registering your publications in our database.

Connect with us on social media

