

1. Personal information

Head, Geographies of Sustainability Department; Research group: Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management

Researcher ID: <http://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=r5PznT0AAAAJ>
<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1927-7635>

Work address: Institute of Geography (GIUB), University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12,
3012 Bern, Switzerland
Tel: +41 31 631 38 60; e-mail: chinwe.ifejika.speranza@giub.unibe.ch

Languages: Ibo (mother tongue), Very good: German; English; Basics: French;
Kiswahili

2. Education

2006 PhD in Geography, Faculty of Science, University of Bern,
Switzerland.

1995 MSc in Geography, University of Zürich

1989 BSc (Hons.) in Geography, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

3. Employment history

Since Feb 2019 **Deputy Director**, Institute of Geography, University of Bern,
Switzerland

Since Feb 2016 **Professor of Geography and Sustainable Development**, Research group
Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management, Institute of Geography,
University of Bern.

Jan 2016-Dec 2016 **Visiting Professor**, Sustainability Research Institute, Univ. of Leeds, UK

Sep 2015-Jan 2016: **Senior Research Scientist**, United Nations University, Institute for
Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany

Oct 2013-Sep 2015 **Professor of Geography** with focus on environmental risk- and
vulnerability research, Dept. of Geography, University of Bonn, Germany

Jan 2010 - Jan 2016 **Senior Research Scientist** (fulltime / part-time), Centre for Development
and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland.

May 2008 - March
2012 **Senior Researcher** (100%; worked 40% in 2010-3.2012), Department of
Environmental Policy and Management of Natural Resources, German
Development Institute, Bonn, Germany

2002 – April 2008 **Senior research associate**; Group Leader (4-6 Persons), Geo-information
and Surveys Department, Canton Lucerne, Switzerland.

2002 – June 2006 **PhD researcher**, National Centre of Competence in Research - North-
South Programme, Centre for Development and Environment, Institute of
Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland.

1998 – 2001 **Head Geodata-Management Unit** (80% position, 2000-2001 Acting
Department head), GIS Coordination Office, Surveys Department.
Government of the Canton of Lucerne, Switzerland.

1996 – 1997 **Research associate**, GIS-Coordination Office, Canton Lucerne,
Switzerland.

4. Institutional Responsibilities

- Since Jan 2020 **Director**, Institute of Geography, University of Bern
- Since Feb 2019 **Deputy Director**, Institute of Geography, University of Bern
- Since Feb 2016 **Unit Leader**, Sustainable Land Management, Institute of Geography

5. Approved Research Projects (ongoing projects as from March 2020 only)

- Sustainable governance of food systems: optimising the coexistence of large- and small-scale food producers in South America and Africa. (<http://www.r4d.ch/modules/food-security/food-sustainability>). Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development - r4D; Phase 1, 2015-2020: ca. CHF 3.04 million; Co-PI, Co-lead WP4 Social-ecological resilience and environmental performance
- Exploring the interlinkages between specialty coffee farms' biodiversity and farmers practices in Bolivia. Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Seed money grant 2019: CHF21,700 (PI)

6. Supervision of junior researchers at graduate and postgraduate level

- Ongoing PhDs (according to university co-supervision policy)
 1. Mr. Pascal Bircher: Erosion risk modelling and monitoring, Switzerland (finalising 03.2020);
 2. Ms. Donia Jendoubi: Land degradation in Northwest Tunisia (finalising 03.2020);
 3. Ms. Franziska Mohr: Historical analysis of landscape change in Europe (2019-2022);
 4. Mr. Ademola Adenle: Land Degradation and Its Impacts on Ecosystem Services in Nigeria (2017-2020);
 5. Ms. Emily Mutea: Livelihoods and food security (2017-2020);
 6. Mr. Simon Oberholzer: Monitoring sustainable soil management in Switzerland (2019-2022)
- Current Post-doc researchers:
 1. Dr. Chidiebere Ofoegbu (forest governance);
 2. Dr. Md. Sarwar Hossain Sohel (Marie Curie Fellow: System dynamics modelling);
 3. Dr. Desirée Daniel (Land tenure and blockchain)
- Concluded BScs/MScs/PhDs:
BScs: 19; MScs: 14; PhD: 2

7. Teaching activities (summary information - Full teaching load 8 h/week)

- PhD Geography
PhD Colloquium
- Master Level Geography
Lecture Sustainable Land Management and Land Systems; Seminar Sustainable Land Management and Land Systems; MSc Colloquium; Challenges in Geography: Risk and Resilience; Sustainability Forum; System dynamics modelling of social-ecological systems
- Bachelor Level Geography
Global development and environment issues; Integrative Geography and Sustainability; Bachelor colloquium; Pro-seminar Sustainable Land Management; Excursion Emmental

8. Memberships in panels, boards and review activities

Service to the scientific community (A selection)

- Membership:
 - 2019 - : Member of the Independent Steering Committee, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS);
 - 2019 - : Member of the Board of Directors of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS);
 - 2014 - : Member of the Scientific Committee of the Future Earth core-project, the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS).
- Editor:
 - Senior: *Regional Environmental Change*; Subject editor: *Land, Geographica Helvetica*
 - Guest: Special journal issues. (2013: Vol. 13:3) *Regional Environmental Change*: “Adaptation to climate change in Africa”; (2010: Vol. 22:5) *European Journal of Development Research*: “New avenues for pastoral development in sub-Saharan Africa”. (2018) *Land*
- Reviews:
 - Paper reviews for ca. 15 journals:
 - E.g. *Env. Science & Policy*; *Regional Env. Change*, *Mount. Research & Development*; *Env., Development & Sustainability*; *European J. of Development Research*
 - Review of research proposals:
 - E.g. Swiss National Science Foundation; Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; Global Change System for Analysis, Research & Training (START); International Foundation for Science- IFS- Sweden; UK Economic and Social Research Council

Service to policy (A selection)

2018-19: Member, European Commission Task Force Rural Africa, 24. May 2018:
https://www.geography.unibe.ch/e39603/e39613/e426042/e789634/e789639/report-tfra_mar2019_en_ger.pdf

9. Active memberships in scientific societies, fellowships in renowned academies

2019 - : Board member - Bern Society of Natural Sciences (Naturforschende Gesellschaft in Bern NGB)

10. Organisation of sessions, workshops and conferences (A selection)

2019: Towards the sustainable management and governance of land resources and land systems, 17th Swiss Geoscience Meeting (SGM);

2018: Co-organiser 16th SGM;

2018: Session convenor: Session 23: Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems: From Local to Global Challenges, 16th SGM