

Gianluca Iazzolino

Global Development Institute
School of Environment, Education and Development
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Present appointment

Lecturer in Digital Development 01 September 2022
Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

Previous employment and appointments held, including dates

University of Oxford, UK – Centre for Socio-Legal Studies 03/2021 – 08/2022
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

London School of Economics – International Development Department 01/2018 – 12/2021
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK – Centre for Socio-Legal Studies 03/2016 – 09/2017
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Education and Qualifications

University of Edinburgh, UK 2011 – 2016
• PhD in African Studies

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2009 – 2010
• MSc Politics - Conflict Resolution and Governance:
Distinction

University of Turin, Italy 1995 – 2001
• Laurea (BA+MSc) Media and Social Sciences: 109/110

Université de Liege, Belgium 1997 – 1998
• Erasmus Fellowship, Department of Communication

Memberships of academic and professional bodies

Development Studies Association (DSA)

Co-convenor DSA “Digital Technologies, Data and Development” Study Group

Publications

Authored Books

Iazzolino, G. (2015) *Following Mobile Money in Somaliland. The Rise of Telesom Zaad and the implications for hawala MTOs* Rift Valley Institute Nairobi.
<http://riftvalley.net/publication/following-mobile-money-somaliland#.XStAX-gzbb0>

Academic Journal Articles

Iazzolino, G. and Stremlau, N. (Under Review) “Depoliticization through datafication The corporate capture of AI for development in Africa”, *World Development* [Lead Author]

Iazzolino, G. and Varesio, A. (2023) “Gaming the System: Tactical Workarounds and the Production of Antagonistic Subjectivities among Migrant Platform Workers in Italy”, *Antipode*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12917> [Lead Author]

Iazzolino, G. (2021) “Going Karura’: colliding subjectivities and labour struggle in Nairobi’s gig economy”, *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*. doi: [10.1177/0308518X211031916](https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X211031916).

Mann, L. and Iazzolino, G. (2021) “From development state to corporate leviathan: historicizing the infrastructural performativity of digital platforms within Kenyan agriculture”, *Development and Change*, 52: 4, 829-854. [Second Author]

Iazzolino, G. (2021) “Infrastructure of compassionate repression: making sense of biometrics in Kakuma refugee camp”, *Information Technology for Development*, DOI: [10.1080/02681102.2020.1816881](https://doi.org/10.1080/02681102.2020.1816881)

Iazzolino, G. (2020) “Power Geometries of Encampment. The Reproduction of Domination and Marginality among Somali Refugees in Kakuma”, *Geoforum*, 110, 25-34

Iazzolino, G and Hersi, M. (2019) “Shelter from the Storm. Somali Migrant Networks in Uganda between International Business and Regional Geopolitics”, *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 3,13, 371-388 [Lead Author]

Iazzolino, G. and Stremlau, N. (2016) “New Media and Governance in Conflict”, *Third World Quarterly*. 10, 38, 2242-2257 [Lead Author]

Iazzolino, G. (2010) “Digital *shahid*: from broadcast media to citizen journalism in Palestine”, *Arab Media & Society*, 12, Winter.

Book chapters

- Iazzolino, G. and Stremlau, N. (2020) Gateways and Gatekeepers: Social Media and the (Re)Defining of Somali Identity in Kenya's Security Operations. In Moyo D. and Mporu, S. (Eds.) *Mediating Xenophobia in Africa. Unpacking Discourses of Migration, Belonging and Othering*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Iazzolino, G. (2019) Beyond Eastleigh. A New Little Mogadishu in Uganda? In Carrier, N. and T. Scharrer (eds.) *Mobile Urbanity. Somali Presence in Urban East Africa*. Berghahn Books: Oxford
- Iazzolino, G. and Stremlau, N. (2019) Hybrid governance, strategic communication and the quest for institutional Legitimacy. In Voltmer, K., Christensen, C., Neverla, I., Stremlau, N., Thomass, B., Vladisavljevic, N., Wasserman, H. (Eds.) *Media, Communication and the Struggle for Democratic Change. Case Studies on Contested Transitions*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Professional Journal Articles

- Iazzolino, G. and Wasike, N. (2015) "The Unbearable Lightness of Digital Money", *Journal of Payments Strategy & Systems*. 9, 3 [Lead Author] Google Scholar: 24

Official Reports

- Iazzolino, G., McGeer, C., and Stremlau, N. (2022) Seeing is Predicting: Anticipatory Action in Violent Conflicts. University of Oxford's Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. <http://pcmlp.socleg.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Seeing-is-Predicting-Report-16-Dec.pdf>

Working Papers

- Iazzolino, G., Ouma, M. and Mann, L. (2020) *A Digital New Deal Against Corporate Hijack of the Post-Covid 19 Future*. IT for Change. <https://itforchange.net/digital-new-deal/2020/10/29/a-digital-new-deal-against-corporate-hijack-of-the-post-covid-19-future/>
- Mann, L. and Iazzolino, G. (2019) *See, Nudge, Control and Profit: Digital Platforms as Privatized Epistemic Infrastructures*. IT for Change, March. https://itforchange.net/platformpolitics/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Digital-Platforms-as-Privatized-Epistemic-Infrastructures-_5thMarch.pdf

- Iazzolino, G. (2018) *The Lure of the City. Synthesis report on rural to urban migration in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda*. Rift Valley Institute Nairobi EU Trust Fund REF synthesis report. https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/euetfa/files/rvi_2018.02.20_-_rvi-ref_synthesis_report.pdf
- Iazzolino, G. (2018) *Digitising Social Protection Payments: Progress and prospects for financial inclusion*. Bath Papers in International Development and Wellbeing Series, N. 57. Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath. http://www.bath.ac.uk/cds/publications/bdp_57.pdf
- Watson, C., Iazzolino, G., Okech, M. (2017) *EFI Ethnographic Research Uganda Country Report*. Catholic Relief Service. December. https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/tools-research/final-uganda-country-report-efi-ethographic-research-dec-2017_0.pdf
- Watson, C., Iazzolino, G., Thioye, M. (2017) *EFI Ethnographic Research Senegal Country Report*. Catholic Relief Service. December. <https://mangotree.org/files/galleries/FINAL-SENEGAL-COUNTRY-REPORT-EFI-ETHOGRAPHIC-RESEARCH-DEC-2017.pdf>
- Iazzolino, G. and Hersi, M. (2017) *A Shelter or a Springboard? Somali migrant networks in Uganda between crisis and opportunities*. EU Trust Fund REF Working paper 1, June. <https://www.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/working-papers/file122002.pdf>
- Stremlau, N. and Iazzolino, G. (2017) *Communications, power and governance in democratisation conflicts*. MeCoDem Working Paper, April. http://www.mecodem.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Stremlau-Iazzolino-2017_Communications-power-and-governance-in-democratisation-conflicts.pdf
- Iazzolino, G. and Stremlau, N. (2017) *Comparative analysis of political communication and media strategies in conflict*. MeCoDem Working Paper, March http://www.mecodem.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Stremlau-Iazzolino-2017_Communications-power-and-governance-in-democratisation-conflicts.pdf
- Iazzolino, G. (2014) *A safe haven for Somalis in Uganda?* Rift Valley Institute Nairobi. Briefing paper. August http://www.riftvalley.net/publication/safe-haven-somalis-uganda#.U-x9r_ldWSo
- Iazzolino, G. (2014) *Contingency Routes: Somali Financial Flows and Transnational Spaces between Kenya and Uganda*. IMTFI Final Report.

Other Publications: Research Equivalent

- Heeks, R., Ezeomah, B., Iazzolino, G., Krishnan, A., Pritchard, R., and Zhou, Q. (2022) *Development Transformation as the Goal for Digital Transformation*. 13 December. <https://ict4dblog.wordpress.com/2022/12/13/development-transformation-as-the-goal-for-digital-transformation/> [10% contribution]
- Stremlau, N. and Iazzolino, G. (2021) *The fieldwork shutdown is damaging both research and equity*. Times Higher Education, 26 August,

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/fieldwork-shutdown-damaging-both-research-and-equity> [Second Author]

Iazzolino, G. (2021) *Renegotiating Disciplinary Boundaries in Socio-Legal Studies of the Gig Economy: Evidence from Kenya and Italy*. Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford. 14 July.
<https://frontiers.csls.ox.ac.uk/disciplinary-boundaries/#continue>

Iazzolino, G. (2021) *What about the crates? Rethinking digital farming in Kenya*. *Africa at LSE*, 25 March. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2021/03/25/what-about-crates-rethinking-digital-farming-agriculture-agritech-kenya/>

Iazzolino, G. (2021) *The digital advance into rural Kenya has a social cost for a ‘new’ type of farmer*. *Africa at LSE*, 08 April, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2021/04/08/digital-advance-into-rural-kenya-has-social-cost-new-type-farmer-entrepreneur/>

Iazzolino, G and Mann, L. (2019) *Harvesting data: Who benefits from platformization of agricultural finance in Kenya? Developing Economics. A Critical Perspective on Development Economics*. 29 March.
<https://developingeconomics.org/2019/03/29/harvesting-data-who-benefits-from-platformization-of-agricultural-finance-in-kenya/> (Lead Author)

Other audio-visual Media: Research

Iazzolino, G. and Kimani, M. [Script], Maddo & Cartoon Network [Art] (2022) *Hustling Day in Silicon Savannah*. UKRI-funded cartoon.
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/africa/assets/Documents/Hustler-for-a-Day.pdf>

Research grants awarded

Award start and finish date	Role <i>PI/joint PI/Co-PI/RA etc.</i>	Project title	Funder	Amount awarded (and amount attributable to UoM)
26/10/2022 31/07/2023	PI	Hustling Day in Silicon Savannah – Translation in Swahili and Sheng	SEED Impact Fund	GBP 2500
26/10/2022 31/07/2023	PI	Conversational AI for Development: Assessing the State of the Art and Building Partnership for Interdisciplinary Research	SEED Early Career Strategic Research & Scholarship Fund	GBP 4000
01/2020 – 03/2021	PI	Datafication and Digital Rights in East Africa <u>Outputs</u>	Global Challenges Research Funds UKRI	GBP 130,000

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iazzolino and Kimani, 2022, Audio-Visual Media • Iazzolino, 2021a, Academic Journal Article 		
09/2012 – 09/2014	PI	<p>Financial infrastructures in the Somali Diaspora</p> <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iazzolino, 2021b, Academic Journal Article • Iazzolino, 2020, Academic Journal Article • Iazzolino and Hersi, 2019, Academic Journal Article 	Institute of Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI), University of California Irvine	USD 20,000
09/2011 – 08/2015	PI	<p>Standing on One Leg. Negotiating Solidarity through Finance in the Somali Diaspora in East Africa</p> <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iazzolino, 2021b, Academic Journal Article • Iazzolino, 2020, Academic Journal Article • Iazzolino and Hersi, 2019, Academic Journal Article 	Doctoral Scholarship ESRC	
02/2010 – 07/2010	PI	ICT and community mobilisation during 2008 post-electoral violence in Kenya	STUNT Scholarship, University of Amsterdam	Euro 1000

Lectures and conference activity

Academic invitations for the presentation of external plenary lectures

Guest lecturer in the course unit Information Communication Technologies and Socio-economic Development (Convenor: Prof. Shirin Madon), International Development

Department, London School of Economics, 15 February 2022 – 16 February 2021 – 11 February 2020

Guest Lecturer in the course unit Digital Humanitarianism (Convenor: Dr Peter Chonka), Department of Digital Humanities, King's College, London, 5 February 2020

Presentation of academic conference papers in the UK and internationally

“Gaming the System: Tactical Workarounds and the Production of Antagonistic Subjectivities among Migrant Platform Workers in Italy” – ECREA Pre-Conference, Aarhus, 18 October 2022

“Inclusion of the Fittest: Uberization, Indebtedness and the Future of Work in Africa” – Critical Finance Studies, Virtual Conference, 7 September 2021

“Gaming the System: Strategic Subjectification and Tactical Subversion among Migrant Food Delivery Workers in Turin, Italy – 33rd Annual SASE Meeting Virtual Conference 3 July 2021

“Harvesting data for digital credit Emerging trends in the platformisation of small-holder finance in Kenya” – 8th European Conference of African Studies, Edinburgh, UK, 12 June 2019

Selected other presentations of note

“The Datafication of Humanitarianism – Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, 18 August, 2022

“From mobile money to data ecosystems” – TOAfrica Summer School, University of Turin, 21 June 2022.

“Digital Solutions for Social Protection” – Economic Policy Research Initiative (EPRI), Global Webinar, 05 May 2021.

“Contesting the Digital Economy in Kenya” – Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, 16 August, 2019

“Behind the Mobile money hype” – Innovation in Africa Seminar, Polytechnic, Turin, 20 June 2018

“An African Digital Structural Transformation” – UNCTAD eCommerce Week, Geneva, 19 April 2018

“Financial inclusion and the role of mobile money” – European Parliament, Bruxelles, EPP Hearing on digitalisation for development, 11 April 2018

“Informal financial infrastructures” – Warwick Business School, London, PayTech 2016: Technologies of Exchange in a Digital Economy, 05 February, 2016

“Bitcoin, New Currencies and Mobile Money Platforms” – iHub, Afrikoin, Nairobi, 04 December 2015

“Mobile money and informal financial infrastructure in the Somali Horn of Africa” – Institute of Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI), University of California Irvine, US; 10 December 2014 *

Academic Enterprise and Knowledge Transfer

Interview for the feature story “Silicon Savannah: The rise of Africa's tech scene”, by Tom Hoggins and Hasan Chowdhury, Telegraph, 2 January 2020 (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2020/01/02/silicon-savannah-rise-africas-tech-scene/>)

Interview for the special report “Behind the refugee crisis, families in the West willing to pay and pay”, by Selam Gebrekidan, Reuters, 24 February 2016 (<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europe-migrants-eritrean-special-repo/special-report-behind-the-refugee-crisis-families-in-the-west-willing-to-pay-and-pay-idUKKCN0VX14W>)

Consultancies

Rift Valley Institute (RVI), Nairobi	2017
Research coordinator of the EU REF Project: Rural to Urban Mobility in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia: Drivers, Dynamics and Challenges	
Catholic Relief Service	2017
Researcher on the project MasterCard Expanding Financial Inclusion (EFI) in Senegal and Uganda.	
UN Capital Development Fund	2017 - 2021
Consultant	
FAO Somalia	2016
Kenya, Somaliland: Cash-based Interventions Mobile cash transfer specialist	
Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) – Nairobi	2014
Kenya: CiFi Cash lite Ethnographic Study Researcher	
Rift Valley Institute – Nairobi	2014
Somaliland: Rift Valley Institute Research leader of the Project: Following Mobile Money in Somaliland: the impact of Telesom Zaad service on local financial institutions Researcher	