

### RESEARCH

#### MAKERERE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

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##### Introduction

Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), formerly East African Institute of Social Research (EAISR), was established in 1948. Along with the Western Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER), University College of West Indies, Jamaica and the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research (WAISER), University College of Ibadan, Nigeria, EAISR was one of the three institutes founded before and shortly after the Second World War on the recommendation of the Colonial Social Science Research Council, London, England. EAISR served Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, as well as Somalia and the Sudan. These institutions facilitated the development of social science research in the British colonial territories. They co-coordinated the planning of research on regional basis, organised comparative studies of particular problems within each region, undertook studies of practical interest to governments and business firms, tested research techniques, provided teaching materials for the local Universities, and provided a centre to which students from overseas were attached: EAISR institute provided a base for social science research and an academic forum for debate and publication while at the same time influenced policy.

##### Vision

Becoming the premier centre of excellence in research by imparting knowledge and influencing policy.

##### Mission Statement

The Makerere Institute of Social Research is founded on over fifty years of continuous work. In the new millennium the goal is to achieve excellence and equity through multi-disciplinary research to improve academic knowledge, to inform public policy and to contribute to economic and social development. Recognizing the need for competitive competence and sustainability, MISR will

serve the needs of society through an ethical approach to research in the academic integrity of an innovative Makerere University.

##### Mandate

##### Research

- To initiate and conduct basic and applied social research.
- To undertake research commissioned by the government and other authorised national and international institutions and organisations.
- To provide a base for short term assignments to individuals from Government and associated institutions. In addition, MISR provides a base for visiting scholars from within and outside Uganda, including staff of associate schools, faculties, and institutes.

##### Publications

- To provide a forum for dissemination and publication of research findings.
- To act as a data bank for social science research and archival materials.
- To be a branch library for the social sciences.
- To develop teaching materials and provide research feedback to its associate faculties and institutes.
- To conduct conferences, seminars, and workshops.

##### Training

- To train Ugandans and others interested in academic careers in acquiring basic and practical skills in research development and management.
- To support the University's teaching programmes through supervision of postgraduate students and other activities whenever requested by associated institutions and faculties and in accordance with the resources and capacity of the Institute.

### Key Priorities for 2000 – 2005

- To undertake quality research work linked to socio-economic development.
- To attract funding for MISR research and development programmes and projects.
- To develop and conduct specialized short-term courses in Development Research.
- To facilitate the teaching programmes while bridging Makerere University with the larger communities.

### Broad Research Areas

In the next five years, MISR will concentrate on multidisciplinary research in the following five areas:

- **Governance and Civil Society:** Uganda is undergoing transformations in all sectors countrywide. This is an opportune time for MISR to merge theoretical and applied socio-political research. The issues to be addressed in this area include capacity building, planning, societal needs assessment, decentralisation, governance, gender equity, political process, and human rights.
- **Health and Education:** Health and education are pivotal to government development policies and strategies: the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan and Vision 2025. At the same time, the socio-economic and behavioural aspects of diseases such as malaria and HIV remain a big challenge to health service providers, policy makers and the communities. The promotion of primary health care faces constraints beyond the means of most developing countries including Uganda. Education policy and implementation of the Universal Primary Education is yet another challenge. Quality, access, financing, and equity issues continue to be the most significant puzzles to both health and education, thus requiring appropriate research and understanding.
- **Environment and Natural Resources:** Political and economic liberalization expose ecosystems to the profit motive. Thus research into the proper role of

government in the preservation and conservation of the environment and natural resources becomes paramount. In addition, the land reform in Uganda is still inconclusive. Research is needed to inform the process.

- **Macroeconomics and Microeconomics:** Government and donor policies centred on de-regulation, decentralization, and liberalisation have made market forces central to socio-economic development. Macroeconomic growth has been impressive; however, poverty continues to be prevalent among the majority of the population. Issues of micro financing, marketing strategies, taxation, and the relationship between micro and macro policies deserve further investigation.
- **Resettlement, Migration, and Urbanization:** Within the Great Lakes region, wars as well as economic, ethnic, and social dynamics have contributed to involuntary internal displacement and resettlement. Understanding the economic, social-cultural, and gender implications of this resettlement is critical for the future of the country, especially for public policy formulation and resource allocation.

### Training Programs in Research

#### Methodologies

##### i. Short-term courses: Objectives

The proposed courses have four general objectives:

- To acquaint participants with research concepts.
- To maximize knowledge of methodological research tools in different fields.
- To enhance the participants' ability to formulate research questions and design research proposals.
- To equip participants with the tools necessary for analyzing data and writing effective reports, theses, and other documents.

##### ii. Content of the courses

MISR offers five levels of research courses. The course numbers begin with MISR to distinguish them from other courses offered

elsewhere. Hence the five course levels are MISR 100, MISR 200, MISR 300, MISR 400, MISR 500, with lower numbers reflecting lower levels of sophistication.

Only one course, MISR 101, is offered at the entry-level. It introduces research methods. Unless exempted by the course instructor, this course is compulsory for all participants in the MISR short-term course program. The MISR 200 - 400 level courses are more specialized. They deal with paradigms, perspectives, strategies of inquiry, and data collection and analysis. Participants can take more than one course at these levels simultaneously.

It is also highly recommended that all participants continue to take a course or several courses at the MISR 500 level. Hence the MISR 500 level courses are open to participants who have taken the introductory course and one or more courses at the MISR 200 - 400 levels.

**MISR 101:** This is a compulsory introductory course. This course introduces the participant to research methods. It gives the participants the history of both qualitative and quantitative research methods. This course does not exceed 4 weeks.

**MISR 200:** Courses at the 200 level introduce participants to major paradigms and perspectives in qualitative and quantitative research. Courses in this range are:

201. Research Ethics
202. Feminist Research Methodologies
203. Ethnography
204. Participatory Research Methodologies (e.g. VIPP)

**MISR 300:** Courses at the 300 level introduce participants to strategies of inquiry. Courses in this range consist of:

301. Introduction to Participatory Research Approaches (PRA)
302. Designing Qualitative Research
303. Applied Health Research

304. Bio-graphical Research Methodologies
305. Historical Social Science: Methods and Meanings

**MISR 400:** Courses at the 400 level deal with methods of collecting and analyzing empirical material. Courses at this level are:

401. Data Management and Analysis Methods
402. Using Computers in Qualitative Research
403. Interviewing: The Art of Science

**MISR 500:** Courses at the 500 level focuses on interpretation, evaluation, and presentation of research results. Courses at this level are:

501. Writing and Reviewing a Research Report.
502. Influencing the Policy Process
503. The Art and Politics of Interpretation.
504. Preparing Research Proposals.

### **iii. Summary of levels and pre-requisites.**

**Course levels:** MISR 100, MISR 200 -400, MISR 500

**Target audience:** In addition to Makerere University graduate students and faculty, MISR courses are appropriate for individuals who wish to make research an important aspect of their career development. Because MISR is an interdisciplinary institute, these courses take a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on a number of contemporary and historical problems. This broadens MISR target audience to include, but not be limited to:

- Makerere University graduate students
- Makerere University faculty and staff
- Research officers in the field
- NGO Programme staff
- Public health professionals
- International scholars
- Central and local government personnel

**Teaching Staff:** The course instructors are drawn mainly from MISR pool of research fellows and research associates. Scholars of international repute are periodically invited to facilitate in the training programmes.

**Teaching Resources:** MISR has equipped its

library with the materials necessary for the proper teaching of these courses. Reading kits for each course are also produced at the Institute. These can be consulted or purchased through our library system for a nominal fee.

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## PROCEDURE FOR AFFILIATION TO MISR

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There is an arrangement for formal affiliation to enable a scholar to become an Associate of the Institute and part of the community of Social Science research workers in Uganda. Established scholars and lecturers from other institutions and Universities are accorded Senior Associate status, while postgraduate students registered for Higher Degrees in other universities are usually conferred Junior Associate status. The following are the benefits of acquiring an affiliation with MISR.

1. While research is being planned, consideration is given to research proposals, and comments are made on them in the light of other current research in the field. Each Junior Associate is assigned an adviser with whom he can discuss the progress of his research, and who is in contact with the supervisor in the home University.
2. The Institute makes formal arrangements with the government and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) on behalf of the Associates. MISR also gives a status to the Associates as bona fide visiting scholars. In addition, the Institute can take matters at Government level concerning the conduct of research.
3. It is generally most convenient for visiting scholars to obtain visitors' visas for Uganda from the Uganda embassies in their home countries. On arrival, the Institute can then deal with immigration formalities for obtaining the appropriate passes to remain in Uganda for the duration of the research or study.
4. Short-term accommodation can usually be provided on arrival, during break

infield studies and before departure. Such accommodation may be in Makerere Guest House (with meals), bookings can be done through the Research Secretary.

5. Members of the Institute who want to have the use of the Main Library facilities will be required to get a letter of introduction from the Research Secretary. The institute also has a Library that has rare materials not available in the Main Library.
6. Fellows, Associates and members of the teaching staff may present papers on their current research in one of the series of the bi-monthly seminars. These seminars are a valuable way of clarifying research issues, publicizing the significance of research conducted.
7. Secretarial facilities for production of conference papers, etc., are available.

An Associate undertakes the following obligations:

1. To pay a non-refundable fee of US \$ 300 or its equivalent for the status of an associate.
2. To keep in touch with his academic adviser about the progress of research and submit reports to his adviser and to the research Secretary in May each year.
3. To present at least one paper to an Annual Conference or Seminar.
4. To deposit at the Institute Library a copy of dissertation or thesis. The Institute requires confirmation from the associates' University that permission has been granted to do this (or that no permission is necessary).

5. To be willing to give lectures or seminars on research work one is carrying out at one of the departments of the University. This teaching is planned in such a way that it does not interfere with a researcher's schedule.
6. To act discretely and with consideration towards the people and governments of East Africa countries.

If you wish to apply for affiliation you should write to:

Research Secretary,  
 Makerere Institute of Social Research,  
 P. O. Box 16022, Kampala Uganda  
 Fax: 256 41 532821  
 E-mail: misrilib@imul.com

And send the following:

- (a) A detailed research proposal (6 copies)
- (b) A detailed curriculum vitae with all names in full, with early secondary, and higher education, with detailed working experience and with passport and citizenship information in full.
- (c) Six passport size photographs;
- (d) Three letters of recommendation from Senior Scholars;
- (e) A signed Statement committing to deposit with the Library of this Institute copies of all your proposed research soon after completion or publication;
- (f) A statement of the sources of your funds and an assurance that you have adequate financial support for your proposed research;
- (g) A statement of the expected period of research, places of research in East Africa, type of enquiry, e.g. interviews with government officials, members of the public or examinations of national archives.

Research can only be carried out in Uganda after the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) has approved it and cleared by the Management Information Services, Office of the President. A fee of US 200 is charged by UNCST.

The relevant forms and information about procedures at UNCST are available in the Research Secretary's Office.

Please apply at least four months ahead of the proposed date of your arrival.

#### **Completed Projects in Year 2000/2001**

1. Extension of Health Partners Supported Health Cooperative in the Central Region of Uganda
2. Decentralization: Human Resource Demand Assessment from the Perspective of the District
3. IRIS Research Study on Decentralization, Governance, and Delivery of Public Services
4. Gender Budget Analysis in Local Government: the Case of Luwero District Administration
5. Resettlement of Displaced Persons in Uganda in Light of Israel's Planned Settlement.
6. A study on Ecosystem Approach to Health and Well-being from a Gender Perspective in Iguli Parish in Northern Uganda.
7. Determinants of Caretaker Behaviour in the Management of ALRI/Pneumonia: An Exploratory Study of Mothers with Under fives in Uganda
8. Community Drug Use, in Uganda.
9. Land Act Monitoring and Extension (Phase I)

#### **On-going Projects**

1. Study on Efficiency and Incentives in Health Care Provision in Uganda.
2. Land Conflicts in Uganda: Incidence, Impact and Possible Solutions
3. Pan-African Multi-Purpose Community Telecentre Study (Uganda Component).
4. Family Planning and Sexual Behaviour in the era of HIV/STDs.
5. UNFPA Baseline Survey on Sex and Reproductive Health.
6. Development of a Computerized Data Base Management System for Acacia Community Telecentres in Uganda.