



Today's African Repats

As Africa's middle class starts to emerge, propelled by growth and urbanization, many diaspora Africans are choosing to return to the continent. Many of these returnees, known as "repats," are highly educated and skilled, and while they choose to take a chance on new opportunities back "home," the process of adjusting to mentalities and business practices can be brutal.

Thurs, Feb 4, 2016

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

E14-648 | 75 Amherst St, Cambridge

Moderator & Speakers



Moderator: Claude Grunitzky, a serial entrepreneur and MIT Sloan Fellow, is the founder of TRACE, and co-founder and editor-in-chief of TRUE Africa, a new media platform. He was raised between Lomé, Togo; Washington, DC; Paris and London. Growing up, Grunitzky, who speaks six languages and carries three passports, was exposed to many different cultures. These foreign interactions shaped his transcultural philosophy and informed the creative energy of his media ventures. He has curated groundbreaking international exhibitions, and co-produced a documentary for the BBC. He is the author of *Transculturalism: How the World is Coming Together*.



Joelle Itoua-Owona was born and raised in Douala, Cameroon. She moved across France, the UK and Germany in order to complete three Masters degrees focusing on management and strategy. Following her passion for traveling and new cultures, she joined the banking sector as an International Manager, the leadership elite program of HSBC. After working in the UK, France, Malta, and the US in project management, strategy and sales, she joined MIT Sloan to complete her MBA program. During her time at Sloan, she focused on developing entrepreneurial skills and sharpened her financial knowledge with a focus on the FinTech space. She is currently president of the Africa Business Club at MIT Sloan.



Devon Maylie spent three years in Johannesburg as a writer for the *Wall Street Journal*. She covered the region during a period of renewed optimism about Africa's outlook from foreign investors and the diaspora alike. Her reporting ranged from the oil and gas exploration boom to retail expansion across the continent by major multinationals to the rise of new African fashion houses. She is currently a Master's of Public Policy student at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Gbemi Munis is currently in the Sloan Fellows MBA program at MIT. Prior to Sloan, she worked in the tech industry in US and Nigeria developing technical business solutions for enterprise customers in financial services, oil and gas, and consumer goods industries. Her expertise is in software quality assurance, technical sales and customer engagements. She has a BS in electrical engineering and MS in computer engineering. Munis is passionate about the African continent and plans to return to Nigeria to pursue entrepreneurship in agriculture and technology.



Jacques Jonathan Nyemb is a lawyer and policy advisor. He is currently at the Harvard University Kennedy School where he co-chairs the Africa Caucus. He was formerly attorney-at-law at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, advising on project finance with a focus on infrastructure, energy, oil and gas and mining sectors. He has also advised a coalition of 17 sub-Saharan African governments on policy-making relating to the reform of corporate laws across West and Central Africa. He is co-founder of OmenaLab, a pioneering accelerator hub in Africa dedicated to cultural entrepreneurship and holds an LLM from the London School of Economics and also graduated from the Paris II Pantheon-Assas University.