

Jonas L. Kgomo

AI Governance Researcher | Research Engineer | Strategist | Founder
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Summary

AI governance researcher, responsible AI strategist, and technology policy entrepreneur focused on ensuring that AI advances safely, equitably, and inclusively across Africa and the Global South. Experienced in building research institutions, developing governance frameworks, working with international organisations, and translating technical AI concepts into practical public policy.

Education

MSc Advanced Computer Science, University of Sussex (UK) 2021 – Aug 2023
Thesis: Thermodynamic Computing and Algorithmic Energy Complexity
BSc Mathematics, Istanbul University (Turkey) Sep 2012 – 2016
Graduated in the 95th percentile

Founded Initiatives

Equiano Institute (Nairobi, Kenya) April 2023 – Present | 3+ years
Founder; AI Safety Research Engineer

- Founded and lead a pan-African research institute advancing responsible AI, governance, and alignment through regionally grounded policy and technical research.
- Lead collaborations with 20+ researchers, civil society, policymakers, and international organisations; delivered projects for UNDP, London City Intelligence, and the Tony Blair Institute.
- Design 10+ research projects, training for 100 candidates, and
- Developing capacity-building programmes covering AI systems, model training and fine-tuning, and compute governance.

Fair Work AI Kenya

Responsible AI Research Lead, Equiano Institute initiative and spin-off

- Led initiatives on governance, responsible AI, and the effects of AI systems on digital and gig workers.

Explore Policy

2026

Founder; Scenario Planning & Foresight Researcher

- Lead three engineers and policy researchers building an interactive AI policy simulation and governance explorer.
- Translate policy scenarios into computational simulations that support the exploration of governance choices, institutional responses, and societal impacts.

Atlas of Progress

2024 – Present | 2+ years

Founder; Development Research Manager

- Lead a progress-studies initiative documenting institutional development and policy trajectories in developing nations.
- Synthesize evidence on policy effectiveness, state capacity, and institutional innovation through data-driven analysis.

Research, Policy & Engineering Experience

Research Engineer, Harvard Ash Center & University of Cambridge March 2024 – Present | 2+ years

- Harvard Ash Center: conduct interdisciplinary research on emerging-technology governance, institutional accountability, technology ethics, and societal impact.
- Cambridge (with Fields Medalist Timothy Gowers): develop verification infrastructure for human-compatible automated theorem proving and AI-assisted proofs using Lean and Coq.

AI Safety Research Mentor

Cohere For AI; SPAR AI Alignment; Orion Fellowship; Algorverse; AI Safety Camp

- Led AI safety talks and developed research on AI diffusion and responsible adoption in low- and middle-income countries.
- Mentored early-career researchers and supported technical AI safety, alignment, and governance programmes.

Software Engineer, Tribe Community Platform (Remote)

April 2021 – August 2021 | 5 months

- Developed reusable web components using React and Next.js; established component library used across 5+ customers.

Founder In Residence, Entrepreneur First (London, UK)

August 2022 – December 2022 | 5 months

- Selected as 1 of 50 founders from 1,000+ applicants for top-tier tech talent accelerator.
- Worked with leading advisors and entrepreneurs to develop, test, and pitch technology ventures.

Program Lead, VR First, Bahçeşehir University

2016 – 2018 | 2 years

- Led university-industry VR initiatives, developer education, and community programs focused on immersive technology.

Software Developer, Bohr Technology (Poland)

December 2018 – April 2019 | 5 months

- Researched and implemented quantum optimization algorithms for the Travelling Salesman Problem using ProjectQ framework and ETH libraries.

Invited Talks & Mentoring

- **First South African Workshop on AI Safety and Governance:** presented *A Guided Walk Through the African AI Safety Landscape*.
- **Frontier Model Forum, India AI Impact Summit 2026:** panelist on AI and cybersecurity for *Securing the Future of AI: Harmonizing Frameworks and Approaches*.
- **Africa Just AI Conference 2026:** presented *The Redress Clause for Transitional AI Impacts*, proposing a justice mechanism for AI's societal impacts.
- **London Data Week, King's College London (2024–2026):** organised workshops on AI and City Intelligence.
- **Additional talks:** Oxford Summit, AI Action Summit (France), and UN Digital Compact.

Selected AI Governance & Technology Research

- *AI4Policy: AI-Enabled Scenario Planning for Policy-Making in the Age of AI.*
- *Case Studies of AI Policy Development in Africa.*
- *Uhura: Evaluating Scientific Question Answering and Truthfulness in Low-Resource African Languages.*
- *Large Language Models Are More Persuasive Than Incentivized Human Persuaders.*
- *The Grand Illusion: The Myth of Software Portability and Implications for ML Progress.*

Skills

AI Governance & Policy: Responsible AI, AI regulation, national AI strategies, readiness assessments, risk assessment, public-sector AI, international technology governance, AI safety and alignment

Development & Institutions: Digital public infrastructure, AI for development, digital public goods, institutional design, emerging markets, responsible innovation

Research Leadership: Multidisciplinary programme design, policy simulation, multi-stakeholder collaboration, capacity-building, research mentoring, technical and policy writing

Technical: Python, Go, Rust, TypeScript, model training and fine-tuning, LLM systems, data pipelines, formal methods (Lean, Coq)

Languages: English, Turkish, Afrikaans, Northern Sotho