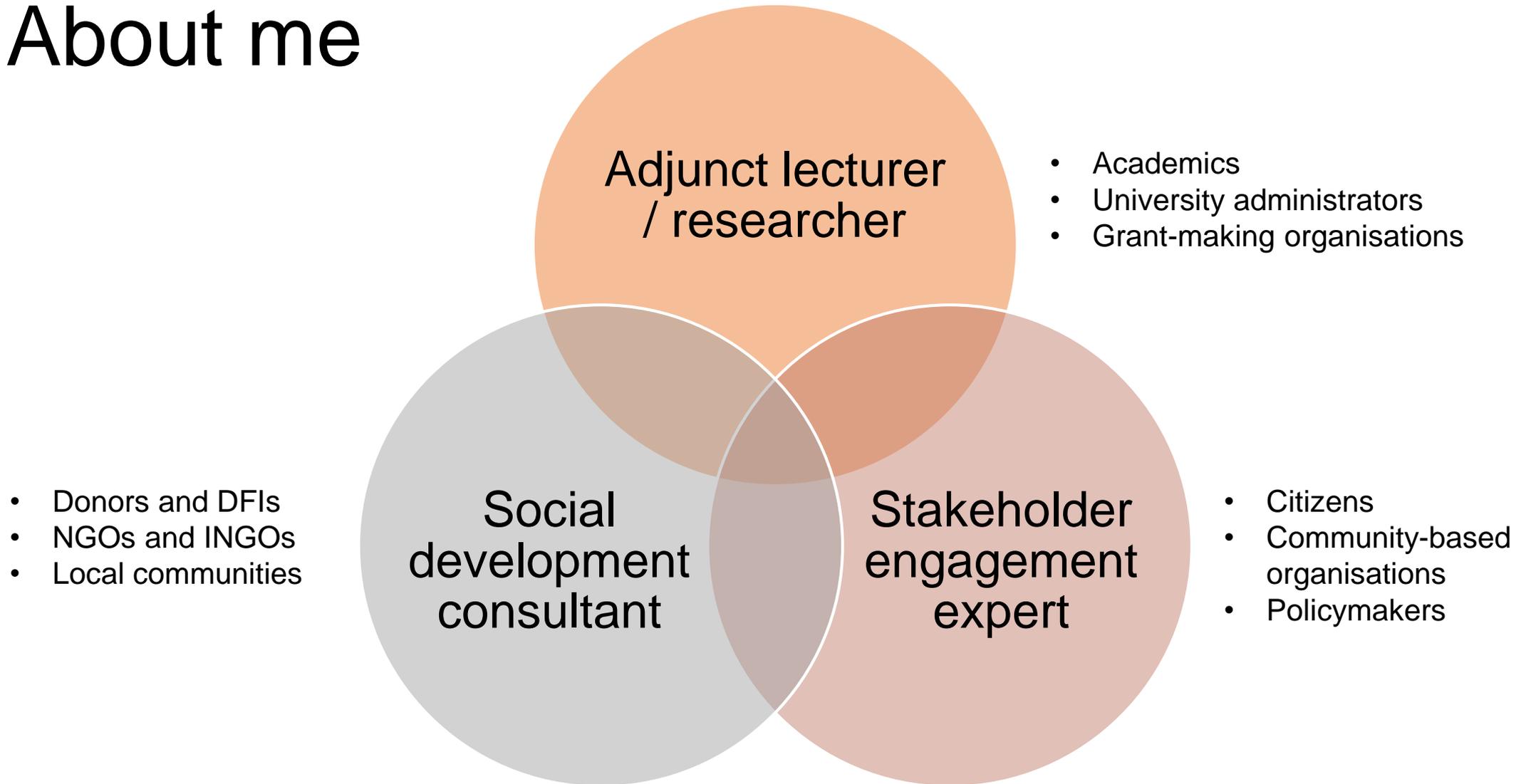


# **Evidence-informed policy: Learning from researcher-policymaker engagements in Nigeria**

Temilade Sesan

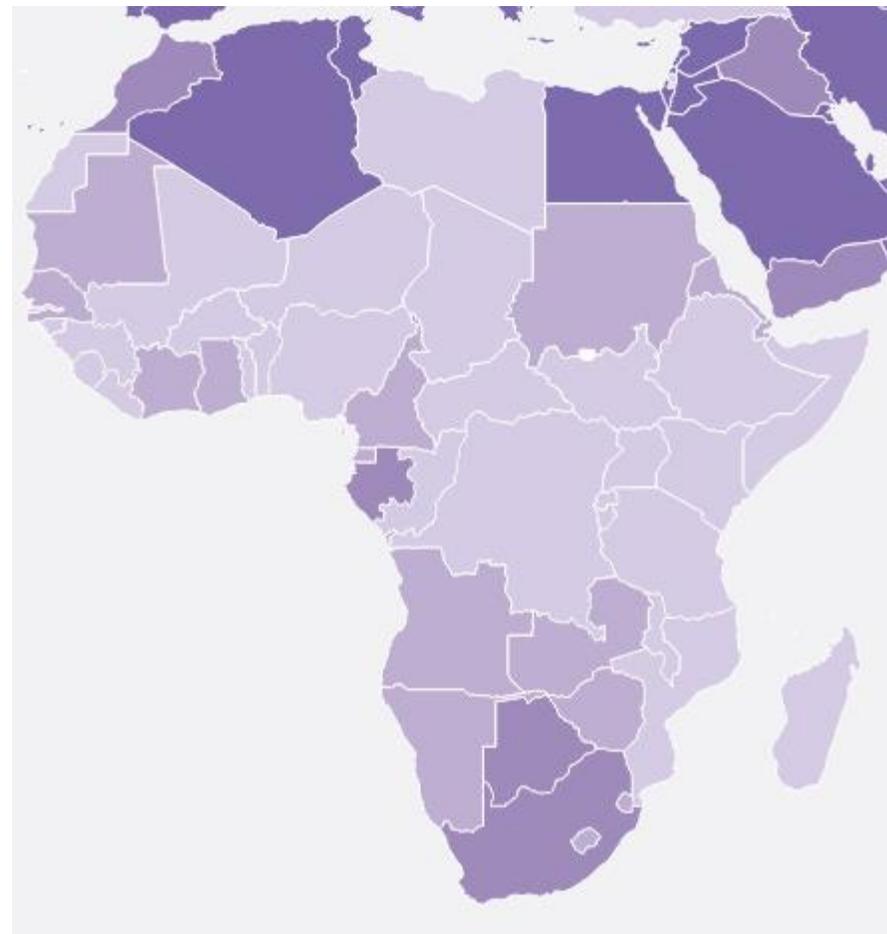
October 4, 2022

# About me



# The Nigerian / SSA context

- Diminished status for academia in policy (q.v. ongoing ASUU strike)
- Uncomfortable relationship between academia and industry – a disadvantage given the influence of the private sector in public policy
- Limited funding for research, further weakening the influence of academia



# Why EIPM?

- Evidence still figures far too little in public policy-making, despite the reputation of science for methodological rigour
- **The value addition of EIPM is far from self-evident**
- A concerted push is required from academics, especially in the face of competing priorities for policymakers
- However, traditional academic training does not emphasise the themes of **power** and **transdisciplinarity** that are central to EIPM research

# 1. LG-level policy: Badia project

**Objective:** How can informal and community-based waste management solutions be integrated into local government policies and processes for sustainable outcomes?

Activities	Platforms	Partners	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviews &amp; FGDs</li><li>• Pilot project</li><li>• Policy dialogue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peer-reviewed articles</li><li>• Multimedia</li><li>• Weekly radio segment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rethinking Cities</li><li>• ACI</li><li>• FIWON</li><li>• ASWOL</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Model for integrating informal and formal processes</li><li>• Evidence of political will</li></ul>

# Badia project: ToC

- Presenting tested community-level solutions to LG officials as proof of concept will facilitate their integration into mainstream waste management processes
  - What assumptions underlie this theory of change, and how effective do you think it can be?
  - What is gained and what is lost by this approach?



## 2. State-level policy: 'Lagos Way Forward'

**Objective:** How can aspiring politicians in Lagos be supported to develop evidence-based manifestos for waste management in a non-partisan and potentially transformative way?

Activities	Platforms	Partners	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-depth interviews</li><li>• Policy workshops</li><li>• Community engagement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion paper</li><li>• Film screenings</li><li>• Radio talk show</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heinrich Boell Stiftung</li><li>• Rethinking Cities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy proposals for inclusive waste management</li><li>• Citizen participation</li></ul>

# Lagos Way Forward: ToC

- Engaging with aspiring politicians *before* they get into office provides an opportunity to introduce evidence-informed proposals into pre- and post-electoral discourses
  - What assumptions underlie this theory of change, and how effective do you think it can be?
  - What is gained and what is lost by this approach?



# 3. National-level policy: INGSA project

**Objective:** How can scientific evidence be gathered, translated and applied for better outcomes in household energy access, climate protection and women's empowerment in Nigeria?

Activities	Platforms	Partners	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-depth interviews</li><li>• Policy workshops</li><li>• Private sector dialogue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mainstream media</li><li>• YouTube documentary</li><li>• Peer-reviewed article</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NAS</li><li>• AIHPHS</li><li>• ANU</li><li>• CERD</li><li>• ICEED</li><li>• PLAC</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gained entry &amp; recognition in state depts, e.g., REA</li><li>• Potential audience with NASS</li></ul>

# INGSA project: ToC

- Went from addressing a policy gap to focusing on what was of immediate interest to policymakers – to get a foot in the door as well as change the culture
  - What assumptions underlie this theory of change, and how effective do you think it can be?
  - What is gained and what is lost by this approach?

Green group/	TECHNOLOGY	PROJECT	POLICY
	Tech.	Project	Policy
Factors	COST CAPACITY (Human) TERRAIN SUSTAINABILITY: (Legal concerns) Aesthetics	COST 1 TIMESPAN 3 Objective 2 Impact 4	International Commitment Funding Low hanging fruit Capacity Geographical Spread/Reach
Sources	? Internet Reports of mkt Survey Newspaper OEM brochures EXPERIENCE from other COUNTRIES	Organisation's Website Reports Internet	Existing laws, Policies Focus of govt in POWER Int'l best practice EXPERIENCE Results of Pilot Survey
3 Experiences	use of real world for Energy Plans	model output use demand projections	Int'l Energy mix in the EAP
4 EVIDENCE IN THE FUTURE	FOR Decision Making	POLICY Formulation	FOR RECORD purposes
			FOR REFERENCING.



**Q & A**

**Break**

# Lessons learned

- **Power**

- The higher you go, the more difficult influence seems
- Need to identify incentives for policymakers to engage, especially in supply-led scenarios

- **Transdisciplinarity**

- Partnerships within and outside academia are crucial, e.g., PLAC, ICEED, AIHPHS, NAS
- The degree of power/agency that academics have to shape the agenda in these cases may vary

- **Temporality**

- Even in difficult contexts, demand for evidence can build over time
- Take the long view as the influence on policy making may not be immediately clear

# Discussion

1. Which of the three approaches described above resonates best with the work you are doing?
2. What do you think is the optimal locus of influence for you as a researcher, and why?
3. Think of a project and/or platform that you can launch to 'supply' evidence to policymakers on a relatively neglected issue in your research area
4. How might you go about identifying partners (and funding) for this project?