

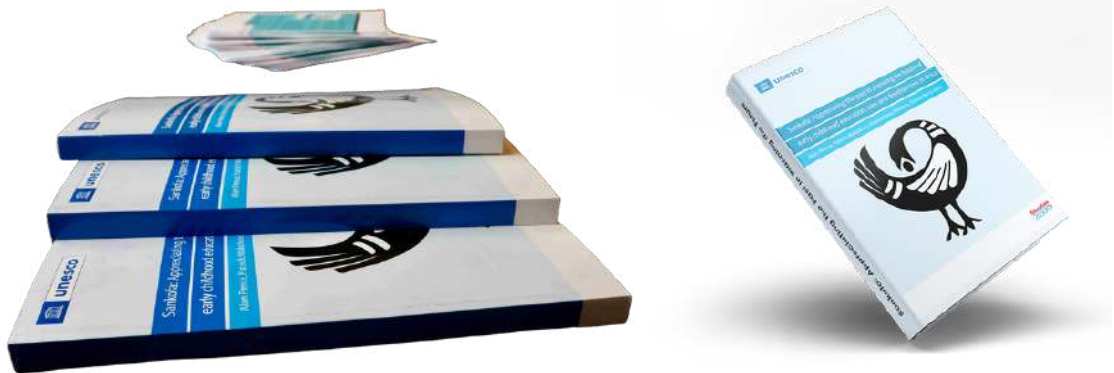
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UNESCO TRI-CHAIRS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

The UNESCO Tri-Chairs for Education Care and Development (ECD) in Africa was established at UVic in 2008 with Alan Pence as Chair. It was renewed as a Co-Chair in 2017 with Prof. Hasina Ebrahim at the University of South Africa (UNISA), and in 2021 as a Tri-Chair with Prof. Oumar Barry at Universite' de Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Senegal.

While each of the Tri-Chairs has accomplishments associated with their own institution and location (see some below, and at ecdinafrica.org), the Tri-Chairs, with CFGS Associate, Dr. Patrick Makokoro, have been working together with 30 colleagues to complete, and now promote, an important historical and African-inclusive volume: *Sankofa: Appreciating the past in planning the future of early childhood education, care and development in Africa* (Pence, Makokoro, Ebrahim and Barry). The volume has 34 authors, 85% of whom are African citizens.



Sankofa Appreciating the past in planning the future of Early Childhood

A key activity for 2024 was the Canadian Launch of *Sankofa* held at UVic on April 15th. Following a Welcome from Elder, Dr. Skip Dick, President Kevin Hall opened the event with a brief Overview of UVic's UNESCO related activities, and a welcome to international attendees: UNESCO's Global ECCE lead, Rokhaya Diawara, and Elizabeth Lule, Executive Director of the lead international ECD organization, ECDAN. (see photo)



Canadian Launch of Sankofa

UNESCO Co-Chair Prof. Hasina Banu Ebrahim received the prestigious South African Education Research Association Recognition Award in September, 2023, and the UNISA Research Recognition Award in July, 2024. Most recently she was a Keynote Presenter at the Childhood, Education and Society's Conference held in Turkey, June 27-29, 2024. Her title was: Changing Early Childhood in Polycrisis Times: Insights from Africa. In addition, Prof. Ebrahim is the lead researcher for the Project on Professionalisation of the Early Childhood Workforce in South Africa. Her article on Complexities of men's engagement in early childhood care and development in Africa was selected by Taylor Francis for inclusion in the annual Directions and Provocation in the African Studies Collection.

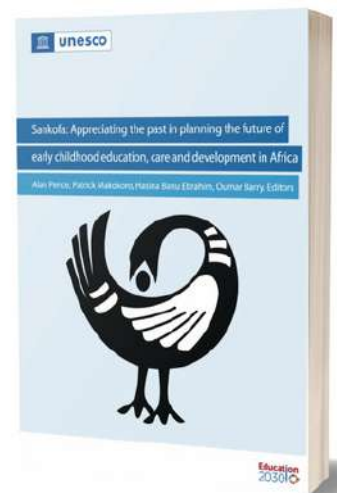
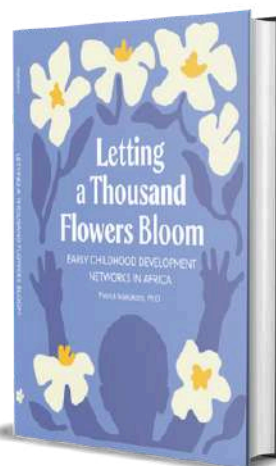
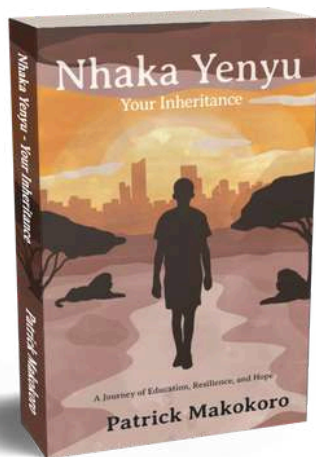
UNESCO Co-Chair Prof. Oumar Barry is Chair for Psychology at UCAD. His Department is planning a new Masters program next year in Developmental Psychology, and he has just concluded a feasibility study for opening training for early childhood professionals at the Bachelor's level within the Higher Institutes of Vocational Training. Prof. Barry is a co-PI with Canadian Universite' de Trois Rivieres UNESCO Chair Prof. Carmen Dionne, for the research project: "Social innovation for inclusive educational environments in early childhood: Contribution of digital technology".



Dr. Patrick Makokoro, a CFGS Associate, played a central role in planning the 2024 World Forum on Early Care and Education held in Vancouver, B.C. in April. Dr. Makokoro was pleased to publish two books in 2024:

- Nhaka Yenyu – Your Inheritance. A Memoir. Tellwell Publishers.
- Letting a Thousand Flowers Bloom: ECD in Africa. Amazon.

The Tri-Chairs look forward to another very active year in 2024/2025.



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UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development

