

Astrid is an Austrian-Ugandan urban economist, based in Hong Kong, with over 15 years of experience, working across research and practice, supporting cities around strategy generally and specifically to strengthen their financial systems, with a focus on unleashing new opportunities for sub-national financing. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the School of Cities, University of Toronto, Extraordinary Lecturer at the African Tax Institute at the University of Pretoria, a Research Associate at ODI and the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. In addition, Astrid has worked extensively with city governments across Africa and Asia in her diverse roles, including previously as an urban economist with the African Development Bank and Policy Director at the International Growth Centre. She holds an MSc in Public Financial Management from the SOAS in London and an MA in International Economics and International Development from Johns Hopkins University. In 2016, she was nominated by the University of Cape Town as one of Africa's Young Leaders and in 2020 she received Johns Hopkins University's Outstanding Recent Graduate Award, for her work on urbanisation.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ODI Research Associate	London, United Kingdom October 2023 - Present
School of Cities, University of Toronto Adjunct Professor	Toronto, Canada September 2023 - Present
African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town Lecturer and Research Associate	Cape Town, South Africa January 2023 – Present
Africa Tax Institute, Department of Economics, University of Pretoria Extraordinary Lecturer	Pretoria, South Africa July 2022 – Present
Urban Advisor / Researcher / Independent Consultant Various (Selected Examples Below)	Uganda and Hong Kong January 2020 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team Lead, Evaluation UKNIAF programme, Nigeria - Montrose• Expert, Municipal Climate Finance, Washington DC – World Bank• Expert, Intermediary City Finance, Paris - OECD• Expert, Land and Housing Finance, Nairobi - UNHabitat• Senior Researcher, Municipal Finance, – African Development Bank and BigWin Philanthropy• Expert, Land Value Capture, Egypt – UNHabitat• Expert, Municipal Finance, London – ODI• Urban Finance Expert, Research Sub-Committee – African Cities Research Consortium• Expert, Local Finance for SDGs in Africa - UNDP• Lead, Prime Ministers Fellowship Programme on Urbanisation, Bahrain – Prince's Foundation• Expert, Municipal Revenue Reform, Iraq – UNHabitat• Expert, Land Value Capture, Africa – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy• Project Coordinator, Training and Coaching cities for access to Climate Finance for ComSSA – FMDV• Governance Advisor, Secondary Cities Institutional Programme Uganda – Espelia• Urban Economist, African Development Bank – Urban and Municipal Development Fund• Senior Advisor, African Property Tax Initiative – University of Sussex/University of Toronto• Urban Economist, London School of Economics – International Growth Centre• Urban Specialist, Cities, Infrastructure and Growth Programme, Uganda – Cardno• Advisor, Urban Infrastructure: Data and Evidence Review – Vivid Economics (for CDC Group)	
International Growth Centre (LSE and Oxford University) Policy Director Head of <i>Cities that Work</i> initiative Senior Country Economist for Cities and Manager for <i>Cities that Work</i> Senior Country Economist for Uganda Country Economist for South Sudan and Uganda	Kampala, Uganda December 2019 – December 2020 October 2018 – December 2019 March 2017 – October 2018 October 2016 – March 2017 June 2015 - September 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led IGC's country programmes, flexible engagements and initiative teams across Africa and Asia as well as in the London Hub, including managing senior policy professionals, budgets, and strategy• Providing a national and global leadership role in translating IGC's research into policy impact	

- Directly managing a team of 21 people, with a wider staff remit of over 60 people
- Developed and led the *Cities that Work* programme in the IGC, working in over 34 cities, in 26 countries with significant reputation for delivering accessible evidence-based advice
- Secured new external funding for Cities that work, and led the delivery of these contracts from diverse funders, including DfID, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and European Commission
- Partnered with leading academics in frontier, policy relevant research on urbanisation

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) / Evidence ActionDeputy Country Director (interim)
Manager, East Africa Expansion**Kampala and Mbale, Uganda**December 2014 – June 2015
August 2012 – July 2014

- Under IPA: Led and managed a country office of over 100 staff and a budget of 4.5 million USD per year carrying out a diverse portfolio of research
- Data collection and analysis for randomized control trials including, contributing to academic articles and policy presentations
- Under Evidence Action: Establishing a full new organisation including developing operations, HR and financial management systems for Evidence Action in Uganda including, recruiting, developing, and managing a team of over 40 staff and managing program budgets of 1.6 million+ USD
- Scoping and start up work for Evidence Action in Uganda, Rwanda, and Malawi
- Developing innovative financing mechanisms, including setting up carbon crediting program.

The FARM Project / Abt Associates

Analyst

Central, Western and Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan

July 2011 – July 2012

- Designing and programme management of 6000 on-farm demonstration trials across three states
- Collecting and analysing data and capacity building of national staff on statistical techniques
- Rural agricultural policy development with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Ministry of the East African Community, Government of Kenya

Economist /ODI Fellowship

Nairobi, Kenya

September 2010-July 2011

- Technical support for Kenyan government on the EAC monetary union and common market
- Speech writing for the Prime Minister, Minister and Permanent Secretary and Speaker of Parliament
- Representing the Kenyan Government in inter-ministerial as well as regional EAC meetings.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- Mawazo Institute, Board Member (2023 – Present)
- Local Government Revenue Initiative (LoGRI), Advisory Board Member (2022 – Present)
- Local Public Sector Alliance, Board Member (2022 – present)
- University of Bergen, Global Research Programme on Inequality, Research Affiliate (2021-2023)
- University of Lagos, ARUA Centre for Excellence for Urbanisation and Habitable Cities (2019-2023)
- International Growth Centre *Cities that Work* Council (2015-2021)
- C40 Cities, Finance Advisory Group (2021- 2022)
- Makerere University Business School, Economics Association (2016-2018)
- Johns Hopkins University Bologna Centre Advisory Council (2010-2014)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES**SOAS, University of London**

Master of Science, Public Financial Management

London, United Kingdom

December 2022

Johns Hopkins University, SAIS

Master of Arts, International Development and International Economics

Washington DC, USA and Bologna, Italy

May 2010

University of Warwick

Bachelor of Science, Economics, Politics and International Studies

Coventry, United Kingdom and Madrid, Spain

July 2008

- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain (October 2006-June 2007);

SELECTED TEACHING

- University of Oxford, MSc Sustainable Urban Development (January 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019)
- Science Po (November 2023)
- University of Toronto (November 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- University of Cape Town, MA Sustainable Urban Development (July 2023)
- University of Witwatersrand, TU Berlin, University of Lagos (December 2021)
- University of Lagos, Nigeria (September 2020)
- African Leadership University, Rwanda (September 2020)
- University of Pittsburgh, USA (August 2020)
- EPFL and Makerere University, Innovative Governance of Large Urban Systems (January 2018)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

(full list can be found on www.astridrnhaas.com)

- *Financing and Funding Secondary Cities* in “[Dynamics of Secondary Cities in Africa](#)” (2022)
- [Can we do informal housing better?](#) New York University (2021)
- [Shaping African urban areas to withstand future pandemics](#), The Conversation (April 1 2020)
- with Bird, J., et. al, (forthcoming) Cost Effective Panel Data Surveying for African Cities
- (2020) [Setting Water Tariffs Right: Considerations and Approaches](#). London: IGC
- with Kriticos, S. (2019) *Recouping the Value: Land Value Capture Considerations for Amman*
- [Women are at the heart of African cities. The continent needs urban policies that empower them.](#) with Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, Mayor of Freetown and Jennifer Musisi, City Leader in Residence at Bloomberg Harvard City Initiative, CityMetric (08th March 2019)
- with Kopanyi, M. (2018) [Taxing vacant urban land in Kampala](#). London: IGC
- (2018) [An Overview of Municipal Finance for the City of Hargeisa, Somaliland](#). London: IGC
- [Data: The first step to improving finance in African cities](#). OECD Development Matters (September 2018)
- with Collier, P. (2017) [Financing Fast Growing Cities](#). IGC Growth Brief. London: IGC
- with Andema, F. (2017) [Efficient and Effective Municipal Tax Administration: A Case Study of Kampala Capital City Authority](#). London: IGC
- with Lustig, N., Jellema, J., and Wolf, S. (2016) [Commitment to Equity Assessment: Uganda](#). Brookings, Washington D.C.

SELECTED RECENT SPEAKING AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

(full list can be found on www.astridrnhaas.com)

- 11/2023 Africa Investment Forum, Presidential Mayoral Initiative, Keynote Presentation
- 06/2022 – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (selected):
 - Keynote Presentation – [Future Cities: Sustainable Urbanisation](#)
 - CNBC Africa – [Why Urbanisation is Africa's Biggest Opportunity](#)
- 22/05/2022 – Davos World Economic Forum, Presenter – *Cities, Not Camps*
- 11/11/2021 – COP26 (selected)
 - Commonwealth and Prince's Foundation – [Call to Action for Sustainable Urbanisation](#)
 - AfDB – UCLGA [City Action for Climate Finance and Resilient Infrastructure](#)
 - Nordic Development Fund [Green and Liveable Cities in Africa](#)
- 29/09/2020 – [African Centre for Cities panel on Political Economy of Urban Transformation](#)
- 10/07/2020 – [Voice of America What is Africa's Next Normal?](#)
- 26/06/2020 – [BBC World Service The Real Story: How will COVID-19 change our cities?](#)
- 02/04/2020 – [Skoll World Forum - Urban Innovation in Africa](#)

LANGUAGES

- English, German (Native)
- French (Spoken, Reading: Working Proficiency, Writing: Limited Working Proficiency)
- Spanish (Limited Working Proficiency)