CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: “STORIES FOR IMPACT” A VIRTUAL SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Deadline for Applications: 9th August 2021

The Mawazo Institute, a non-profit research institute based in Nairobi, Kenya, is seeking applications from African female scientists working on COVID-19 pandemic responses to take part in a virtual science communication workshop. We are seeking female scientists, whose current area of work helps the public and decision-makers navigate the current COVID-19 crises and who would greatly benefit from effective science translation skills.

Eligible scientists include individuals currently working on research into the virus and its vaccines, as well as those engineering policy solutions and/or community responses that help mitigate the bio-medical, socio-economic and political effects of the pandemic. Applicants’ current work will showcase the role and influence of science in society by adding to timely and credible discussions on the impacts of the pandemic on the region, contributing to evidence-based decision making, and increasing understanding of issues surrounding COVID-19.

For this call, Mawazo defines ‘science’ as inclusively as possible, acknowledging the diverse ways in which science is applied and practised in our society. To us, science encompasses the broad fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) as well as the Social and Behavioral Sciences (including fields such as sociology, economics, geography, psychology, anthropology and political science). This list is not exhaustive, so we encourage you to submit your application if you feel that your work meets our other criteria. Scientists must be working on the continent at the time of application. We invite all eligible scientists to apply.

Fifteen (15) participants will be competitively selected to take part in a science communication workshop that introduces them to best practices for communicating with non-expert audiences. Inspired by The Moth, the workshop is designed to build the ability of scientists to share information and deliver science advice by adapting a storytelling for impact approach which merges technical information with personal stories.
Nomination forms are available online here. Nominations close on Monday 9 August 2021 at 5:00 PM (East African Time).

Eligibility:
Nominees must be:

- Scientists
- Citizens of an African country
- Women
- Working in a COVID-19 relevant field

Benefits:
Workshop participants will:
- Gain new science communication skills
- Receive a small honoraria (US$100) for their participation
- Have an opportunity to develop their stories into a short podcast episode or short video feature
- Receive assistance in developing other tangible outputs, which may include; blogs, op-eds, policy briefs, social media content, press briefs, easily accessible public data sets, fact checking series, or more
- Receive assistance in identifying opportunities to put their training into practice and share their expertise. This includes leveraging Mawazo’s existing media relationships to secure media appearances, interviews, and other features where beneficiaries can provide accurate information on the pandemic

All media outputs resulting from this workshop will be shared on Mawazo’s digital and social media platforms, giving scientists an opportunity to attract new audiences to their work and raise their public profiles.
**Selection Process:**
Workshop participants will be selected by the Mawazo Institute. **Successful applicants will be notified by September 2021.**

**About Mawazo Institute:**
The Mawazo Institute is a non-profit research institute based in Nairobi, Kenya. In Kiswahili, “mawazo” means “ideas”. Our mission is to support the next generation of female scholars and thought leaders in East Africa, and to get policymakers and the general public engaged with their work. We envision a world in which the ideas and voices of African women are amplified to shape the future of the continent.

Our programmes equip young African women to conduct high quality research on issues affecting the continent’s development, prepare them to launch successful careers in their field, and position them to be thought leaders with influence both within and outside academia. Visit [https://mawazoinstitute.org/](https://mawazoinstitute.org/) for more information about our work.

**Application Form:**
Application forms are available online [here](#). Applications close on **Monday 9 August 2021 at 5:00 PM (East African Time)**. Incomplete application forms or applications that do not adhere to the requirements specified below will not be considered.

If you have trouble accessing the form, kindly send an application with the following information to contact@mawazoinstitute.org.

1. Applicant first & last name (*required)
2. Applicant email address (*required)
3. Applicant social media handles, if any (e.g., Twitter, LinkedIn)
4. Applicant website (if any)
5. Applicant field of profession. (For example journalism, medicine, biochemistry, public health, virology, etc.) (*required)
6. In 500 words (or less), tell us how your current work is contributing to a better understanding of COVID-19 and its impacts on your community, or on society at large (*required)

7. In 250 words (or less), share one example of how science communication can improve your ongoing work around COVID-19 (*required)

8. Answers to the following questions (*required):

   - Is the applicant of any African citizenship?
   - List country of citizenship
   - List their country of residence (if different from above)
   - Does the applicant currently live in Africa?
   - Is the applicant above the age of 18?
   - What is the applicant’s gender

9. The Stories for Impact Workshop will take place online and requires a commitment of 4-6 hrs per day, over the course of 2-3 days. Are you able to make this time commitment? (*required)

10. The Stories for Impact Workshop will be offered in three separate sessions with a maximum of five (5) participants in each Workshop. Please indicate your preferred session below. Applicants may select more than one option (*required)

   - August 2021
   - October 2021
   - January 2022