



Office of the Director Research, Publications & Innovations

IUIU RESEARCH AGENDA & DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH THEMES

The RCC identified interdisciplinary research themes that would improve on, the quality of and increase, research output at IUIU. These themes will enable IUIU to establish its identity at the national and international levels. The themes are expected to change as the IUIU's department of research expands. The rationale behind such interdisciplinary themes is to postulate a platform that would nurture collaborative research as well as strengthen staff academic growth as together they confront multifaceted research tasks. The identified themes are listed below along with their broad meanings.

1. Islam and Development

The theme on Islam and Development seeks to bring together researchers to work together on various issues including the vast history of Islam and its peoples, the socio-economic development of the Muslim populations, Muslim education, Islamic law, Islamic Financing and Banking, etc.

2. Development and Environment

The theme on Development and Environment seeks to highlight the harmony between the two seemingly conflicting subjects. Protecting the environment and sustainable development are highly recognized today because of the inter-relationship that these two concepts convey on the subject of environmentally and ecologically sustainable development. Researchers at IUIU will have the opportunity to illustrate how development and the environment should not be in opposition but rather should complement one another.

3. Climate Change

IUIU's location in Eastern Uganda and the current land slides in the region position the university near a contemporary challenge. The Climate Change theme seeks to enhance researcher enquiry about weather and climatic changes, how these influence and/or are influenced by human activities and what evidence based solutions can be advanced to minimize their negative impact on human development.

4. Biodiversity

The Biodiversity theme seeks to galvanize the efforts of researchers on this important global issue. In line with the Development and Environment theme well as the Climate Change themes, researchers will focus on the biological diversity of planet earth including plant and animal species, microorganisms, and diversity of genes in these

species, the deserts, rainforests and the tropical forests. Researchers' focus will be in the areas of seeking alternative strategies to preserve, conserve, and sustain this diversity.

5. Waste Management

While there is need to preserve, conserve, and sustain diversity on earth, researchers need to also focus on the collection, transportation, disposal, managing and monitoring waste materials from diverse co-existence. This theme seeks to address the health problems in the developing countries that emanate from waste and its resultant effects on the environment and aesthetics.

6. Pollution Control

The Pollution Control theme seeks to bring researcher's attention to other forms of effects of waste and to seek alternative cost-effective ways to control pollution of air, water, and land.

7. Food and Agriculture

The Food and Agriculture theme seeks to direct researcher's attention toward the challenges of poverty that is particular driven by hunger and lack of sustainable agricultural activities and production. Investments in creative modern Agricultural techniques as a means of sustainable development and poverty eradication are critical.

8. Value addition to Agriculture

This theme seeks to challenge researchers not just to investigate ways for sustainable agriculture but rather take African agriculture to manufacturing processes that would increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. Ugandan small-scale agricultural practices will benefit from research that continuously targets rural development strategy.

9. Risk management

The Risk management theme seeks to direct research attention towards the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks. The need to minimize losses and to maximize opportunities has never been underestimated. We live in a world full of risks and uncertainties. The desire to predict and minimize such risks is central to this research this theme.

10. Information Technology

This theme seeks to bring the attention of IUIU's researchers to the complex world of information technology. The need for efficient production and delivery of services through the use of gears that effectively stores, retrieves, transmits and manipulates data is important to the development of any organization including Higher Institutions of Learning.

11. Educational Research

The Educational Research theme seeks to enable researchers to exploit scientifically based research methods that would address the community's most pressing education needs. Topics in this area (among others) include curriculum development; effective school management; vocational education to address the massive youth unemployment in the region; effective pedagogical strategies to enhance student achievement; quality assurance in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions; educational technology; distance learning; educational measurement and evaluation; and Muslim education.

12. Community Participation

The Community Participation theme seeks to direct the attention of researchers to pursuing alternative ways to empower the community. IUIU values the connection that higher education institutions must establish with the communities. Researchers will be encouraged to collaborate with communities on research projects that are focused on solving community needs such as health prevention and care, literacy improvement, efficient energy sources, micro-financing that is Islamic and non-predatory, family empowerment, and marriage counseling.

13. Business and Management Science

The challenge of poverty and unemployment is on the increase in all our societies including the immediate societies around the University. This Research theme seeks to make inquiries on how best business organizations both private and public can be managed to maximize wealth and create jobs. It also seeks to find solutions to the existing challenges of the communities failing to create its own jobs and find employment for its people even when it has graduates from Colleges and Universities.