



14 September 2020

Cambridge University vice-chancellor to give open lecture on role of universities on world's most pressing challenges

16 September 2020 | 17:30 | Microsoft Teams | [Register online](#)

As creators, curators and communicators of knowledge, universities have an indispensable role in tackling some of the planet's most pressing challenges – from the consequences of climate change to the scourge of infectious disease.

The second virtual UCT Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture for 2020 will be presented by Professor Stephen J Toope, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, under the title "Global partners, global leaders".

The Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture series was established to enable anyone in the community, whether they are connected to the university or not, to have the benefit of hearing first-hand from academics, researchers and innovators who have distinguished themselves in their areas of expertise.

Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, the lecture will highlight the indispensable role played by universities in tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Phakeng said: "Professor Toope will look at how institutions of higher learning are creators, curators and communicators of knowledge and whether they are able to carry out their essential mission in today's world of complexity with quick communication and deliberate disinformation.

"He will argue that global collaboration, specifically collaboration with, and between, African universities is key to addressing some of the great issues of our age. Reflecting on some of Cambridge's recent experiences of working with African partners, he will explore the possibilities and the limitations of cooperation between universities and will suggest that only through partnership and collaboration can universities truly take a leadership role in serving their societies."

Toope publishes in global journals on human rights, international dispute resolution, international environmental law, the use of force, and international legal theory, and has lectured at universities around the world. His book, *Legitimacy and Legality in International Law*, co-authored with Professor Jutta Brunnée, won the ASIL's 2011 Certificate of Merit for Creative Scholarship.

Toope's academic interests are in international law, human rights, international legal theory and international development.

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