SHORT BIO – CATHERINE NGUGI

Catherine Ngugi is the Project Director of **OER Africa** an exciting initiative headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, under the auspices of SAIDE, the South African Institute for Distance Education. **OER Africa** seeks to facilitate the creation and use of OER by African academics and thereby contribute to the improvement of teaching and learning within the continent's institutions of higher education. Prior to this, Catherine established the African Virtual University's Research & Innovation Facility, with responsibility for various Pan-African pilot studies on the use of OER in African universities.

Catherine has worked in the private sector in Kenya, in the development sector in Francophone West Africa where as a program officer for the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), she initiated and coordinated a grants management system and designed the CODESRIA Endowment Plan. She has also conducted regional training (in Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania) for Oxfam, on project sustainability.

Catherine holds an MA from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and is a Rockefeller Foundation Associate of the African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town. She has co-edited various publications including the eight -country report on *Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Higher Education in Africa*, commissioned by the Centre for Educational Technology (CET) for the Educational Technology Initiative of the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa (PHEA). Other works have been published in *Kwani* and in the *Journal of African Cultural Studies.*

More recently, Catherine has spoken about the practical application of OER in Africa, at various fora including giving the Key Note (http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/1971271) at the 2009 Open Educational Resources annual conference in Vancouver, Canada.