

NASHWA EASSA

Associate Professor of Physics, Al Neelain University, Sudan
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Google scholar <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=NN5eqaEAAAAJ&hl=en>

Research Gate; <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/N-Eassa>

OWSD; <https://owsd.net/executive-board>

NuvaCycle Tech; <https://www.nuvacyclotech.com/en>

Profile Summary

Physicist, researcher and academic leader recognized for advancing women's participation in STEM and driving higher education policy and strategic planning reform in Sudan during the post-revolution transition period (2020–2022). Currently a Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara) Fellow at Imperial College London, continuing research and teaching in exile. Dedicated to rebuilding higher education systems disrupted by conflict and empowering the next generation of scientists and especially women to lead in science, innovation, and education

Academic &

Professional

Appointments

Associate Professor of Physics, Al Neelain University, Sudan (2018–Present)

- Teach and supervise undergraduate, MSc, and PhD research in condensed matter physics and materials science.
- Mentor students and early-career researchers in STEM disciplines.

Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) Fellow, Department of Physics, Imperial College London, UK (October 2024– October 2026)

- Conduct research on nanophotonic structures and random laser systems based on nanostructured materials.
- Continue academic work in exile through online teaching and supervision

General Director of Planning and Policies, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan (2020–2022)

- Led national higher education reform initiatives during Sudan's transition period.

- Developed strategic frameworks and policy plans aligning university priorities with post-revolution educational goals.
- Promoted institutional accountability, gender inclusion and policy transparency.

**Dean, Deanship of Scientific Research, Al Neelain University, Sudan
(2019–2020)**

- Established the university’s first five-year research strategy.
- Promoted interdisciplinary collaboration and built a framework for research evaluation and funding.

**Selected
Leadership Roles &
Awards**

**Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) Fellowship, Imperial College
London, 2024 to present**

- Supporting continued research and teaching in exile amidst the ongoing war in Sudan.

Founder of NuvaCycle Tech 2024

- Initiated a project that transforms recycled materials into educational and practical products. The initiative empowers youth and displaced individuals through hands-on training, entrepreneurship and environmental awareness.

Vice President, OWSD – Arab Region (2016 - 2021)

- Elected to the Executive Board of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), a UNESCO- and TWAS-affiliated body promoting women’s participation and leadership in science across developing countries.

President, Sudanese Women in Science Organization (SWSO) 2013

- Leads initiatives supporting women scientists, mentoring programs, and science-policy dialogue in Sudan.

**Board Member, African Materials Research Society (AMRS) (2024 –
present)**

- Advances regional collaboration in materials science and capacity building across Africa.

Founder, Together Against Rape and Sexual Violence Campaign

- Established a national campaign to document cases of conflict-related sexual violence and advocate for survivor protection and justice.

Co-Founder, Sudanese Women Movement (SWM) 2019

- Initiative advocating for gender equality, peace, and education during Sudan's political transition.

Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists, 2015

- Recognized internationally for contributions to nanotechnology research and STEM advocacy.

Honorary Doctorate, Linköping University, Sweden, 2019

- Awarded for leadership in science and education in Sudan.

Education

- Ph.D. in Physics, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa (2013)
- M.Sc. in Materials Physics and Nanotechnology, Linköping University, Sweden (2007)
- B.Sc. in Physics, University of Khartoum, Sudan (2004)
- Honorary Doctorate, Linköping University, Sweden (2019)

Statement of Risk

Due to the ongoing war in Sudan, I am currently displaced and unable to return to my home institution. Despite these challenges, I continue my academic work in exile through online teaching and international collaboration. My commitment is to sustain education and research networks for Sudanese scholars, strengthen women's participation in science, and contribute to rebuilding the higher education system after the conflict.