Kweku Adoboli  
Former Trader, UBS Global Synthetic Equities

Kweku's Investment Banking career began as an operations analyst, but his contributions to the bank earned him a place on the equities trading floor. In 2007, with just 10 months experience, he was asked to take joint responsibility for the bank's US$50bn ETF, Index Swap, Index Futures and Single Stock Futures trading book. Through the global financial crisis and since, the UBS ETF Desk manned by a very small team, was a central driver of the Equities Business' post-crisis recovery strategy.

In 2011 under pressure to accelerate trading profits through complex client and proprietary trading strategies, the desk incurred a $2.3bln trading loss to the bank. In 2011 Kweku took sole responsibility for the trading loss and systems employed by the desk. Subsequently convicted of fraud but found not guilty of false accounting, he served half of a seven-year prison sentence.

Since his release from prison in June 2015 Kweku has worked with students, academics, regulators, multi-disciplinary corporate institutions across the UK. He's also worked with the UK Government - including the Counter Terrorism Unit of the UK Special Forces alongside Tony Blair and General Sir Peter Wall, the Bank of England, and ironically the UK Home Office - to help deliver valuable lessons on risk management, ethics, complexity and failure, from his experiences.

Kweku has gained a unique understanding of the geopolitical links between global financial systems, the UK Criminal Justice and immigration system, and our wider societies. He is a staunch advocate for cultural and systemic change in the finance industry with a practical and academic focus on ethics, responsible leadership and purposeful – rather than extractive – financial activity. Controversially deported from the UK in November 2018, and as the West endeavours to build its wall to keep out the populations of the Global South, Kweku is now determined to share his lessons across Africa.

"Photo Credit: Joseph Khakshouri"