



CODESRIA

GENDER INSTITUTE 2018 SESSION

Feminist Scholarship, Universities and Social Transformation in Africa



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Director: Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika

- Prof, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta, Canada
- Director, Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE), University of Alberta

Resource Persons:

- Dr. Awino Okech, Lecturer, Center for Gender Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London
- Dr Oumou Kouyate, University of Alassane Dramane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire

Dakar / Senegal, 14 - 25 May 2018

WEEK ONE: MAY 14-18

Day 1: 14/05/2018 CODESRIA Secretariat Welcome

Rapporteur of Day 1: Shingirayi CHAMISA

8:30 – 9:00 Participants Arrival and Registration

**9:00 –11:00 Opening Session
Chair: Ibrahim Oanda(TGF)**

- A brief Welcoming Note
- Welcome Address by the Executive Secretary(CODESRIA).
 - A brief history of CODESRIA, institutional mandate and mission
 - CODESRIA Intellectual Agenda and the place of the Gender Programme
 - Introduction of the Director, the Resource Persons and Laureates of the 2018 Session by the Executive Secretary
- Self-introduction and introductory remarks on the 2018 Session theme by the Director;
- Self-Introduction by the Resource Persons of the 2018 Session;
- Self-Introduction by Laureates to the 2018 Session and Statement of Motivation for their participation: Name, Institution, Statement of Motivation and Expected outcomes.

11:00 – 11:30 Group Photo & Coffee break

11:30 – 1:00 Presentation of CODESRIA Programs

- Research Programme
- CODESRIA Publication Policy and Expected Publications Outcome of the 2018 Gender Institute
- CODICE and its services
- The Training, Grants and Fellowships Programme(TGF)
- Brief discussion of laureates' research program and current research work/project
- Operational tips for Institute Participants (Programme Manager, TGF).

1:00 – 2:30 Lunch break

2:30 – 4:30 Signature of Contracts

Visit to the Documentation Centre and the CODESRIA Bookshop

4:30-5:00 Coffee Break

Day 2: 15/05/2018 Back to Bases – Researching Our World ... from a Feminist Lens

Rapporteur of Day 2: KEVIS KOSSI Narcisse Landry

We will begin our conversation on feminist scholarship, Universities and Social Transformation in Africa with two workshops: 1) the basic principles of scientific inquiry, and 2) Going about scientific research from a feminist perspective. We will go through the basic steps of scientific inquiry – from social problems to research projects. Isabel Allende's story is an inspiring opening into this conversation.

9:00 – 10:00 **Lecture 1: *Engaging Feminist Research and Scholarship*, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

Isabel Allende – Tales of Passion (Ted Talk-Video)

https://www.ted.com/talks/isabel_allende_tells_tales_of_passion

10:00 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 **Group Discussions with Laureates 1:** Exploring the Teleology of Africa's Contemporary Intellectual Feminism: The Contributions of Amina Mama, by **Okoli Al Chukwuma**

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:30 **Group Discussions with Laureates 2:** Higher education and research: an Africa-Asia comparison according to the gender approach, by **Gema Mabounda**

2:30 – 3:30 **Group Discussions with Laureates 3:** Feminist epistemology and gender mainstreaming in Post-Colonial Zimbabwe, by **Chadambuka Patience**

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00 One-on-One

Day 3: 16/05/2018 African Feminism – Histories, Feminist Political Thought and Scholarship

Rapporteur of Day 3: Okoli Al Chukwuma

9:00 – 10:00 **Lecture 2: *Locating women and men in postcolonial African contexts*, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

We will explore a few configurations of gender and gender relations in pre-colonial Africa and how they are reflected in colonial and post-colonial social relations.

10:00 – 11:00	Discussion
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture 3: <i>Disciplining Gender</i>, by Awino Okech This lecture traces the trajectory of gender and women’s studies in different contexts and the intellectual tensions that surround making gender a discipline within institutions of higher learning.
12:30 – 1:00	Discussion
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:00	Group Discussions with Laureates 4: Feminist scholarship and the social integration of women in the workplace, by Chamisa Shingirayi
3:00 – 4:00	Group Discussions with Laureates 5: Interrogating the contributions of women towards academic and institutional transformations of the public universities in Ghana, by Dominic Degraft Arthur
4:00 – 4:30	Coffee Break
4:30 – 5:00	Group Discussions with Laureates 6: The gender issue: a scientific concern for the University of Bangui?, KEVIS KOSSI Narcisse Landry
5:00 – 6:00	One-on-One

Day 4: 17/05/2018 Theorizing feminist Relations and Spaces in Africa

Rapporteur of Day 4: Gema Mabounda

9:00 – 10:00	Workshop 1: <i>Why do I need theory in my research?</i> by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika This workshop provides a basic grounding into theory as an integral facet of critical inquiry – with a focus on feminist and gender-responsive theoretical approaches to studying Africa social problems. <i>Chimamanda, Ngozi Adichie (TedTalk) – The Danger of a Single Story</i> https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en
10:00 – 11:00	Discussion
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture 4: <i>Feminist Political Thought</i>, by Awino Okech

This lecture offers some grounding on the diverse ways in which to think about the development of African feminist political thought and knowledge in Africa.

12:30 – 1:30

Discussion

1:30 – 2:30

Lunch Break

2:30 – 3:30

Group Discussions with Laureates 7: University and Social Transformation: the Gender issue in Guinean Higher Education. The Case of the University of General Lansana Conté of Sonfonia in Conakry in the Republic of Guinea, by **Oumar Doumbouya**

3:30 – 4:30

Group Discussions with Laureates 8: Is African feminism a brainchild? Gender relations and feminism in the school of Women and Gender studies (SWGS)- Makerere University, by **Jackline KIRUNGI**

4:30 – 5:00

Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:00

One-on-One

Day 5: 18/05/2018 Doing Feminist Research and the Politics of Knowledge Production

Rapporteur of Day 5:

Chadambuka Patience

9:00 – 10:00

Lecture 5: *Feminism and the Politics of Knowledge Production*, by **Awino Okech**

This lecture offers a foundation to thinking about the politics of knowledge production. Who speaks? Whose voices are heard? How does knowledge travel and under what circumstances? What role do colonial histories and geo-political politics today play in what we understand knowledge to be and the processes through which that is validated.

10:00 – 11:00

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

1:30 – 12:30

Lecture 6: *Researching ‘How’ in African Contexts - Feminist and Gender-responsive Methodologies*, by **Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

Chimamanda, Ngozi Adichie (TedTalk) – The Danger of a Single Story
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

12:30 – 1:30

Discussion

1:30 – 2:30

Lunch Break

- 2:30 – 3:30 **Lecture 7: *The Gender concept methodology*, by Oumou Kouyaté**
- This methodology lecture on the gender approach, integrated into a post-conflict situation in French-speaking Africa, aims to familiarize the laureates with the gender approach in terms of tools, programs, etc. as part of a concrete example.
- 3:30 – 4:30 Discussion
- 4:30 – 5:00 Coffee Break
- 5:00 – 6:00 **Group Discussions with laureates 9: Wangari Maathai's Autobiography and the Paradigm Shift in Feminist Scholarship in Kenyan Universities, by Stephen Muthoka MUTIE**

WEEK TWO: MAY 21-25

Interrogating Feminist Research and Scholarship: Contributions, Limitations and Prospects of Feminist scholarship in Africa

Day 6: 21/05/2018

Rapporteur of Day 6: Dominic Degraft Arthur

- 9:00 – 10:30 **Plenary 1: *Scoping review on feminist scholarship in Africa's higher education*, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

This plenary is based on a recently completed systematic review of literature on feminist scholarship in Africa. In addition to identifying the gaps in the current state of knowledge and directions for future research, the presentation also explores important issues related to knowledge production and access to existing literature.

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

- 11:00 – 12:00 **Lecture 8: *Figures and women's paths during the emancipation struggles under colonial occupation in French West Africa (AOF)*, by Oumou Kouyaté**

This lecture will allow us to analyze the female figures and trajectories in AOF long obscured in traditional literatures; these updated fights will allow us to understand these feminine resistances through some figures such as the women who walked on Grand Bassam in Ivory Coast; Aoua Keita in Mali; Aline Sitoe Djata in Senegal, etc.

12:00 – 1:00 Discussion

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:30 **Round Table with Laureates**

3:30 – 4:00 **Coffee Break**

4:00 – 5:00 **Group Discussions with laureates 10:** Feminist Post-proverbials and the Idea of an African Feminist Philosophy of Language, by **Olayinka Adebimpe OYELEYE**

5:00 - 6:00 One-on-One

Day 7: 22/05/2018

Rapporteur of Day 7: Oumar Doumbouya

9:00 – 10:30 **Plenary 2: *The African Academy, Women and Feminists*, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

This plenary is based on a recent publication that interrogates women's place in the African universities and the implications of gender inequities to feminist scholarship and practice.

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Lecture 9: *Feminism / gender and social change in Francophone Africa: example of sub-Saharan Africa*, by Oumou Kouyaté**

This lecture will focus on the significant social changes in West Africa where women have, through their collective mobilizations, put the human at the center of the debate as sometimes they have done so with efficiency and humanism.

12:00 – 1:00 **Discussion**

1:00 – 2:00 **Lunch Break**

2:00 – 3:30 **Round Table with Laureates**

3:30 – 4:00 **Coffee Break**

4:00 – 5:00 **Group Discussions with laureates 11:** In our Own Worlds: The Legacy of the “Struggle” on South African Gender Politics, by **Nontsasa NAKO**

5:00 – 6:00 **One-on-One**

Day 8: 23/05/2018 Feminist Futures - Graduate training in African Universities

Rapporteur of Day 8: Jackline KIRUNGI

9:00 – 10:30 **Plenary 3: *Building support systems for feminist scholarship and practices – African Female Graduate Students Speak*, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika**

This plenary is based on a recently completed pilot study funded by the Carnegie Corporation, CODESRIA and the University of Alberta. It identifies some basic challenges that graduate students face (particularly women), in African universities and their implications for graduate training.

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Round Table with Laureates
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch Break
2:00 – 2:30	Workshop 2: <i>Clear Writing</i>, Phil Okeke-Ihejirika
2:30 – 4:00	Workshop 3: <i>Accessing online resources for graduate studies</i>, Phil Okeke-Ihejirika
4:00 – 4:30	Coffee Break
4:30 - 5:30	Group Discussions with laureates 12: Feminist scholarship in Cameroonian universities: evidence of socialization and economic, social and educational transformations, by Christophe BIYIDI
5:30 – 6 :00	One-on-One

Day 9: 24/05/2018

Rapporteur of Day 9: Stephen Muthoka MUTIE

9:00 – 10:30	Plenary 4: <i>Feminism as a viable entry point into collaborative, meaningful interdisciplinary interactions</i>, by Phil Okeke-Ihejirika
	This plenary explores the prospect of building research communities in Africa through collaborative scholarly projects. It brings to attention a gradual shift in scholarship towards the 5 th space. Gender, it argues, is a viable entry point into 5 th space and graduate training in the 21 st Century.

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Workshop 4: <i>Knowledge Translation – Publishing/Impacting Policy and Practice</i>, Phil Okeke-Ihejirika
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:30	Group Discussions with laureates 13: What feminist and / or "gendered" scholarship for an economically and socially transformed Africa: an example from the University of Kinshasa, by Jenny BETU KUMESO

2:30 – 3:30 **Group Discussions with laureates 14:** Marginalization of Feminist and Gender Studies in the University Curriculum in Cameroon, by **Vanessa ABOUDI**

3:30 – 4 :00 Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00 Group Discussions with laureates 15: Feminist scholarship, universities and social transformation in Africa: examining gains and challenges-case of university of Buea, Cameroon, by **Ndive Epeti epse Kofele LIKOWO**

5:00 – 6:00 One-on-One

Day 10: 25/05/2018 Final Evaluation and Distribution of Certificates

Rapporteur of Day 10: Olayinka Adebimpe OYELEYE

GENDER INSTITUTE PEDAGOGICAL TEAM BIOS:

1. **Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika** is a Professor in the Department Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta. She began her career as the first African female full-time faculty of the university. Her research program is transnational, community-based and interdisciplinary, with a focus on gender relations in African populations within and outside the continent. At the University of Alberta, Prof. Okeke-Ihejirika currently heads the Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE; <http://pace.ualberta.ca>). She is also a founding member of the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE), an advisory board on gender issues to the Mayor and council. In Africa, Prof. Okeke-Ihejirika has gained wide acclaim as an expert in program planning, curriculum development, and graduate training. She is an adjunct professor in several African universities, including Durban University of Technology, South Africa and the Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria. As a gender analyst, Prof. Okeke-Ihejirika has served as a consultant in many international research projects. She is also a collaborating researcher at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva. She has carried out numerous research projects and published widely in her areas of expertise. Prof. Okeke-Ihejirika is a Rotary Scholar, a Carnegie Fellow, and a member of CODESRIA's College of Mentors to African universities.
2. **Dr. Awino Okech's** teaching and research interests lies in the nexus between gender, sexuality and nation/state making projects as they occur in conflict and post-conflict societies. In addition, Dr Okech sees the processes through which knowledge production occurs as critical to transforming and re-thinking academic practice today. The politics of knowledge production, research and research(ing) form a central part for her teaching and researching focus. Prior to her appointment at the Centre for Gender Studies, she contributed to knowledge production and transfer through an adjunct teaching position with the African Leadership Centre at Kings College London where she co-convened the Gender Leadership and Society module as part of the MSc in Security, Leadership and Society.
3. **Dr. Oumou Kouyaté** is a researcher at IMAF, EHESS / Paris, France. She is a teacher in Anthropology / Ethnology at the University Alassane Ouattara Bouake and at the University Felix Houphouet Boigny of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Founder of the Comoe Network platform, she is currently President of the Collective of Ivorians of France for Democracy and Human Rights and also Organizer of the Women Leadership Conference in Africa and elsewhere at the University Felix Houphouet Boigny Abidjan in April 2017. She made several communications at International Colloquiums of Francophone Feminist Scholarship since 2010 and also at the Université Laval of Quebec Canada. Her current research focuses on the

traces of Manduca women and cantatrices, spaces of feminine powers, but also on women's rites and rituals: ways of circumventing power to assertions of self: example of Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Guinea and Mali.