

Dialogues for Responsible Gender and Queer Studies – Experiences from the South of Africa and Germany

Summer School 23 – 24 June 2023 at Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

Centre for interdisciplinary Women and Gender Studies (ZFG) at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Germany) in cooperation with the Centre for Women and Gender Studies (CWGS) at Nelson Mandela University Gqeberha (South Africa)

Abstracts and Bionotes

WORKSHOPS June 23, 2023:

PROF. DR. MATHABO KHAU

Rethinking Sexuality Education in Higher Education Institutions: A decolonial approach

Workshop: African people have been constructed as oversexed and hyper-sexualized through the Western gaze. Their sexualities and practices have been pathologized and labeled as pagan, backward, or uncivilized. In this presentation we look at the practice of inner labia elongation as a right of passage into adulthood for many African girls, and how this practice is constructed in different scenarios. The aim of this presentation is to rethink the teaching of sexuality education in higher education institutions, towards an acceptance of knowledges that have been on the periphery and misunderstood.

Keywords: genital beauty, shaming, womanhood, sexuality education

Presenter: Mathabo Khau is an Associate Professor in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Faculty of Education, at Nelson Mandela University. Their research areas are Teacher Education, International, and Higher Education, focusing on Sexuality Education, Social Justice in Education, Participatory visual methodologies, (auto-)ethnography in Lesotho, and ethical research.

Facilitating Ethical Participatory Visual Research in Taboo Spaces. In: Burkholder, C., Schwab-Cartas, J., Aladejebi, F. (eds): *Facilitating Visual Socialities. Social Visualities.* Palgrave Macmillan 2023 [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25259-4_8]. *Being and Becoming a Woman in Lesotho. An Autoethnography of Belonging.* In: Lambertsson, E.B., Eschenbach, J., Wagner, J.M. (eds): *Women and Fairness: Navigating an Unfair World*, Münster/New York: Waxmann 2021. *Women Teachers Talk Sex: Experiences of Teaching Sexuality Education in Rural Schools in the age of HIV and AIDS*, London: LAP Lambert 2010.

NAMUPA SHIVUTE

Interactive educational work on German colonialism in Namibia/ Interaktive Bildungsarbeit zum deutschen Kolonialismus in Namibia by Namupa Shivute

Workshop: Namupa Shivute has been instrumental in the development of educational modules on German colonialism in Namibia (1884-1915) in 2022. The modules focus on the Herero and Nama Genocide (1904-1908) for which German colonial rule is responsible. German colonial rule and settler

colonialism thus also shaped the later occupation of Namibia by South Africa with an Apartheid system that was legislated in 1948. Although Namibia gained independence in 1990, the structures of colonialism and apartheid have not yet been eliminated. Serious inequities between different groups of people still exist at many different levels. The modules are aimed at young people living in Germany and are suitable for schools or for extracurricular use. The topics of the interactive, digital, and freely accessible modules are studied through five lenses: Politics, Economy, Social Culture, Law and Gender. Fundamental to this, however, are the links between these different lenses and their intersecting axes of oppression. This also implies the associated colonialities, i.e. the structures of colonial thought and action that remain effective in present times and include today's cultures of memory.

The workshop will also discuss how the content can be made applicable to higher education.

Presenter: Namupa Shivute (non-binary, they/them) is an African storyteller, researcher, and freelance journalist from Namibia. They work on LGBTIQ* and refugee rights alongside the re-appraisal of colonial history and its mediation. They are currently building an education centre for queer children and youth in a township in Swakopmund.

How Afrofeminism Guided Me to My Identity as a Black Nonbinary Person, Well + Good March 29, 2022 [<https://www.wellandgood.com/nonbinary-feminism/>]. *For LGBTIQ+ refugees, UNHCR's Kakuma Camp is no refuge*, gal-dem February 25, 2020 [<https://gal-dem.com/kakuma-lgbtq-refugees-attacks-kenya/>]. *Exporting Homophobia to Africa*, Documentary 2019 [https://archive.org/details/ns-exporting_homophobia_to_africa-full].

LECTURE June 23

PROF. DR. MARIA DO MAR CASTRO VARELA

The art of unlearning in postcolonial times

Lecture: The imperial past is in many ways our present, which is why unlearning can hardly mean forgetting. Unlearning is an art to be learned in order to take on the confusions of the history(s) of ideas. It is a practice that does not retreat from the multiplex traumas that tower before us. Rather, it is an abandonment of the space that gives us security; a departure from the homely and homey territory of belonging. Unlearning is a journey that takes us directly to Freud's uncanny place: "the old familiar, the long familiar." In this lecture, unlearning will be presented and unfolded as a postcolonial concept.

Presenter: Prof. Dr. María do Mar Castro Varela holds a degree in psychology, a degree in education and a doctorate in political science, and is a professor of general pedagogy and social work at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. Her research and interests focus on Postcolonial Theory and Holocaust Studies, Social Justice, Critical Pedagogy.

KEYNOTES June 24

PROF. DR. PUMLA DINEO GQOLA

Decolonising Gender Studies, Confronting Intellectual Apartheid

Presenter: Prof. Dr. Pumla Dineo Gqola holds the NRF SAR-Chair for African Feminist Imagination at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies at NMU. Prof. Gqola was appointed to the DHET Ministerial Task Team on sexual harassment and gender-based violence in South African public universities and sits on the Board of Trustees of the African Feminist strategic litigation firm, Women's Legal Centre. She was the inaugural Chair of Judges of the Etisalat Literature Prize, the first fully funded and run Pan African literary award, and the inaugural Chair of Judges for the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Fiction panel. In the field of Literary and Cultural Studies, Prof. Gqola researches postcolonial and African literature, African and postcolonial feminism, Black Consciousness literature, African and Caribbean writers, South African visual and musical artists, and post-apartheid public culture.

Female Fear Factory: Gender and Patriarchy under Racial Capitalism. La Vergne: Melinda Ferguson Books, 2021; *Rape: A South African Nightmare.* Johannesburg: MF Books, 2015; *What is Slavery to Me? Postcolonial/Slave Memory in Post-Apartheid South Africa,* Johannesburg: Wits University Press 2012.

JPROF. DR. JULIA WURR

Postcolonial Gender Studies in Germany

Presenter: JProf. Dr. Julia Wurr is a Junior Professor of Postcolonial Studies at the Institute for English and American Studies (UOL). Her current research project, entitled *Surrogate Fictions: Genre, Gender and the Postcolonial*, focuses on the nexus between literary, social, and biological reproduction in Anglophone representations of surrogacy in times of biocapitalist globalization. She has also published on Neo-Orientalism in Western European literature.

Literary Neo-Orientalism and the Arab Uprisings: Tensions in English, French and German Language Fiction. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022. *Science and Biocapitalist Reproduction: Commercial Surrogacy in Joanne Ramos' The Farm'*. In: Kirchhofer, A., Levihn-Kutzler K., Science, Culture, and Postcolonial Narratives. Heidelberg: University Publishing. (forthcoming.)

WORKSHOPS June 24

QHAMA NOVEVE and SIPHOKAZI TAU

African feminisms and the impact on Higher Education Transformation

Workshop: Qhama Noveve argues that the transformation of higher education institutions is not only about changes in the composition of staff and students, or changes in governance structures or course content. It is about the transformation of the organisational culture and the development and acceptance of new, shared values. However institutional change in post-1994 South African higher education has unfortunately occurred or coincided with the epoch of globalization and in conjuncture with the dominance of the ideology of neoliberalism.

Siphokazi Tau makes a case for Black women leaders in the South African higher education landscape and suggests that these women rely on memory – a memory of self, of blackness, and of womanhood – to establish and lead institutional cultures.

Presenters: Qhama Noveve is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Researcher at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies, at Nelson Mandela University. Her research interests are in higher education, and gender and feminist studies.

Siphokazi Tau is an African feminist. She is the Programmes Coordinator at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies at Nelson Mandela University and is currently reading for her Ph.D. study on higher education, gender, and institutional cultures at the University of Johannesburg. Her MA research looked at the intersection between African feminism(s) and women leadership in the South African higher education landscape. Siphokazi is also part of the coordinating team of the Social Consciousness and Sustainable Futures course (SCSF), a decolonial and student-centered course that aims to humanise pedagogy to foreground students as central to the knowledge production process.

SIMRAN JUGLAL and TUMI MAMPANE

Feminist Imagination and Cultural Practices in South Africa

Workshop: In this workshop, Simran Juglal employs a decolonial and intersectional feminist lens to address the skin colour hierarchies and tensions that render Black or dark skin as flesh without humanity - even years after independence. Owing to several transnational Black feminist solidarities and movements, the nefarious nature of colourism and skin-lightening has gained greater attention in recent years. The yearning for a whiter or lighter skin tone remains rife in post-colonial and post-Apartheid South Africa and this is evinced by a highly-profitable local and global skin-lightening industry.

Tumi Mampane argues for the telling of African stories by African women in a responsibility for engagement and change, and to illuminate the meaning of township women's everyday experiences as a legitimate source of knowledge. Black African feminist autoethnography also takes seriously the foregrounding and offering of Black women's voices to transform the anthropological canon so that it reflects the richness and validity of Black feminist thought.

Presenters: Simran Juglal is a researcher at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies (CWGS) at Nelson Mandela University. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Media Studies (Research) and her areas of research include cultural, gender, and film studies - with a specific focus on colourism and skin-bleaching practices in the South African and Indian community. Simran also works as a ghostwriter and has written over ten books on history, politics, and social justice.

Tumi Mampane is an African feminist scholar, and a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Communication and Media at the University of Johannesburg. She is also affiliated to the NRF SARChI Chair in African Feminist Imagination at Nelson Mandela University. Her research interests include cultural and media studies, township femininities, popular culture, African Pentecostalism, discourse analysis, narrative analysis, ethnography, and feminist theory.

ROUNDTABLE

PUMLA DINEO GQOLA (*NMU*), MATHABO KHAU (*NMU*), NAMUPA SHIVUTE (*journalist*), DEBORAH NYANGULU (*University of Bremen*), KARIN ESDERS (*University of Bremen*)

Moderation: KÜBRA GÜMÜŞAY (Hamburg, writer, political scientist)

Additional participants:

Dr. Karin Esders is a senior lecturer at Bremen University where she teaches Cultural History of the English-Speaking World. Her research interests are in the areas of classical and independent film, intersectional theories and representations of gender, race, class and sexuality in popular culture. She has published on American film, literature and new media.

Plotting against Modernity. Critical Interventions in Race and Gender (ed. with Broeck, S., Haertel, I., Junker, C., Frankfurt: Ulrike Helmer Verlag 2014. *Engendering Feminist Media Theories: Stereotypes, Looking Relations, Gender Trouble*. In: Houswitschka, C., Knappe, G., Müller, A. (eds.) Proceedings of the Anglistentag 2005, Bamberg. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2006.

Dr. Deborah Nyangulu is working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Training Group Contradiction Studies – Constellations, Heuristics, and Concepts of the Contradictory at the University of Bremen with the project *Contradiction, Hashtag Activism, and Pluriversal Knowledge Production*. She is a member of the DFG funded network *Bridging Black Freedom Struggles: German and U.S.-American Perspectives* as well as of the *Worlds of Contradiction Lab, Digital Diaspora: Imagined Communities in Cyberspace*. Deborah is teaching and researching in the fields of literary and cultural studies, African studies, critical theory, new media, and history of (trans)nationalism. She also worked as a journalist in Malawi.

Locating African European Studies: Interventions, Intersections, Conversations, eds. Together with Garrido, E.F., Koegler, C., Stein, Mark U., New York: Routledge 2020 [DOI 10.4324/9780429491092].

Big Men and Performances of Sovereignty in Contemporary African Novels. In: Research in African Literatures 49, No.3 2018 [doi:10.2979/reseafrilite.49.3.07]

Moderation: Kübra Gümüşay, multiple award-winning writer, political scientist, and initiator of numerous feminist campaigns and associations; currently Senior Fellow at Mercator Foundation. Her work focuses among other areas on sexism and racism, the power of language and currently on alternative futures and real utopias.

Sprache und Sein, München: Hanser 2020 (*Speaking and Being. How Language Binds and Frees Us*, London: Profile Books 2022). *Erzähl Einmal – Von Mut und Menschlichkeit*. In Richter, F. (eds): Traum/aland – Wer wir sind und sein könnten Identität & Zusammenhalt in Ost und West, Dietz Verlag 2021. *ein-fremdwoerterbuch.com*, blog 2008-2019.

