



**APRIL 2019**

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## **ISTR/WITS Africa Regional PhD Seminar**

**May 14 - 15, 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa**

ISTR and the newly launched [Africa Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment](#) at Wits Business School are co-hosting an African PhD Seminar May 16-17, 2019, two days prior to the First Annual Conference on Philanthropy. We were thrilled to have received 43 applications, far exceeding expectations! Of these, a diverse group of 23 were accepted into the program. Of the accepted students: half of female, 5 are from West Africa, 4 are from East Africa, 8 are from Southern Africa, and 6 are from outside of Africa – 2 of these are Africans studying abroad.

Six core faculty have been recruited to facilitate the small group discussions and lead professional development workshops that will offer the state of the art in research methodologies, writing, and publishing in third sector studies. The faculty committee includes senior scholars from both Africa, the US, and Europe, including ISTR and ACPSI board members.

ISTR's PhD Seminars are designed to both support students in the Third Sector and to strengthen the network for the next generation of scholars. Building on the success and increasing popularity of the PhD Seminars we host at our international conferences, ISTR is expanding access to these PhD Seminars for emerging scholars across the globe. We are grateful that together with ACPSI we have raised enough funding to support the travel of all 23 students attending the African PhD Seminar.

**Related content:** [Read the reflections](#) of Titilope F. Ajayi (Ghana) and Albert Kagande (South Africa) on their experience participating in our International PhD Seminar in Amsterdam.



## **ACPSI A MEETING OF MINDS: THE JOURNEY TO A NEW FIELD OF STUDY**

**The official launch in New York of the African Centre on Philanthropy and Social Investment (ACPSI) in January was a milestone in a long and exciting journey through unexplored territory.**

It all started about twenty years ago when a group of African foundations started talking about the need to create a platform that would bring together pan-African voices in philanthropy. They recognised that philanthropy - and the practice of 'gifting' in Africa - is as old as the continent itself, but that there was no formal body of knowledge on the subject.

As Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo, Director of the ACPSI, says: "In Africa there are many, many people with a wealth of experience in philanthropy, but the knowledge is in their heads. This is a field that has not been studied or researched anywhere in Africa. It is imperative that we ensure that this information, these experiences, are documented so that we can understand the role that philanthropy can play in both the economic and ethical transformation of our continent."

Another milestone in this journey took place back in March 2016, when a group of academics and practitioners met at a symposium at Wits Business School in Johannesburg to discuss, for the first time, a new centre for research in the fledgling field of 'African philanthropy.'

This meeting gave rise to the first Chair in African Philanthropy, a collaboration between the University of the Witwatersrand ('Wits' University) and the Southern Africa Trust, with Professor Alan Fowler as interim director.

Fast-forward nearly three years to New York City and the official launch of the ACPSI, hosted by funding partner the Carnegie Corporation. The launch, which took place on 17 January 2019 drew together participants from all over the globe: academics, funders, non-profit organisations and policy makers. By then the field of African philanthropy has been widened to include social investment, in all its guises.

"In Africa, it is uniquely befitting that philanthropy be studied alongside social investment," says Moyo. "The private sector is a key player as an engine for economic growth and, as is normally the case, philanthropy gets its financial muscle from this sector. It will be the role of this Centre to influence how this money gets ploughed back into communities."

Africa is poised for an exciting period of convergence of opportunities and challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, along with unprecedented growth in urban populations, as well as a substantial increase in the number of high net worth individuals (HNWIs) on the continent. At the same time, extreme poverty and inequality are on the increase in sub-Saharan Africa. This begs the question: how effective is philanthropy, and by extension social investment, in Africa? How can philanthropists give to communities in more effective and innovative ways?

"No doubt this century belongs to the African philanthropists, whose capital, influence, local knowledge, and moral authority have the power to address these pressing challenges," says Moyo. "Philanthropy, in all of its various forms, engages stakeholders from the private, public, non-profit,

and religious sectors. It nimbly cuts across geographies, social classes, and demographic groups in a way that governments and businesses often cannot. But what is the impact of African philanthropy? And what role can academia play in helping to facilitate more effective giving?"

In a nutshell, the ACPSI, which is housed at the Wits Business School, aims to advance the field of African philanthropy by filling the current gaps in teaching, research, and publication. Dedicated to interpreting the philanthropic and donor landscape in Africa, it is both a teaching/research platform and a repository of recorded knowledge.

"It is the first institution on the continent that will bring together business and public policy makers, academics and practitioners, to identify solutions to challenges affecting the continent. In this way, it is where academia meets practice," says Moyo.

The next milestone in the Centre's journey takes place on 16 and 17 May 2019 with the first annual ACPSI Conference at WBS. This will be a two-day workshop which aims to explore key themes in African philanthropy and social investment and to formulate a coherent framework for the future. The Conference will address a number of themes, including private sector giving, impact investing, sustainable development goals, philanthropy and civil society.

Alongside the conference is a PhD Seminar, co-hosted with ISTR, taking place on 14 and 15 May for more than 20 PhD students at all stages of their doctoral research related to the Third Sector, i.e. civil society, the non-profit sub-sector, philanthropy, social investment, venture philanthropy and corporate social investment (CSI). Candidates chosen to participate hail from all parts of Africa as well as other parts of the world, including the UK and Australia.

For more information on the Conference or the PhD Seminar, please contact: Katiana Sandra Ramsamy, email: [katiana.ramsamy@wits.ac.za](mailto:katiana.ramsamy@wits.ac.za)

## **EPIC-Africa Civil Society Organisations Excellence Awards Shortlist**

The African CSO Excellence Awards is a joint initiative between EPIC-Africa and the Rockefeller Foundation. The Awards highlight the importance of organizational capacity to achieve program impact. The African CSO Excellence Awards reward organizations that demonstrate excellence across eight key elements of organizational capacity: Strategic Ability and Adaptability, Leadership and Governance, Financial Health and Management, Human Resources and Staff Development, Operations, Communications, Partnerships and Alliances, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The shortlist of 16 CSOs represents the best African organizations in each of the 8 categories. They have distinguished themselves by the quantity and quality of the information they have shared with us and truly represent best practice today in each of these categories. A panel of judges will select the top winners: one from each category of assessment and an overall winner who exemplifies African CSO Excellence. See the list here: <https://awards.epic-africa.org/>

## DEADLINE - ROLLING

### West Africa Civil Society Series (WACSeries)



WACSeries are analytical periodic write-ups on topical themes and issues relevant to West Africa. It emphasizes the contributions of civil society organisations (CSOs) and actors to the promotion of democracy, good governance and the socio- economic development of West Africa by deepening discourse on matters affecting civil society in the region. The write-ups provide experts, researchers and practitioners a space to reflect, develop and share analyses and posit views and recommendations on emerging issues

and debates.

WACSI has four platforms through which we document knowledge to educate and inspire civil society actors and organisations. These are:

- 1) Blogs: short articles with a maximum of 1000 words which are published on WACSI's blog hosted on the website.
- 2) Editorials: a compilation of several (up to 5) blog articles published by the same author and focusing on the same topic.
- 3) Op-Eds: More detailed and structured articles of between 1500 to 2000 words. These are well designed and published on the website
- 4) Issue Papers: In-depth research papers on topical issues in line with our strategic themes and other topical issues in the region. Issue papers can be in the range of 4000 to 6000 words. They are well designed and published on the website.

More details can be found by [clicking here](#).



African Studies Association of Africa

## The 2019 African Studies Association of Africa Conference

**United States International University-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, October 24-26, 2019**

**Deadlines:**

**May 15, 2019 (Individual Submissions)**

**May 30, 2019 (Panel Submissions)**

See the call for papers in English, Portuguese, and French on the [ASAA website](#).

The theme of ASAA's 3rd Biennial Conference 2019 is ***African and Africana Knowledges: Past Representations, Current Discourses, Future Communities.***

The aim of this year's conference is to invite and initiate a scholarly stocktaking of the knowledge produced by Africans in Africa and the Diaspora in o

Although Africa has contributed more human and material resources to global welfare, it is ironic that it continues to be regarded as the poorest continent intellectually and materially. Besides, the 'African condition' today is a result of those past representations and the production of a knowledge that still represents Africa in popular media and scholarship as hopeless, poor, dark and devoid of knowledge. Obviously, the multifaceted crises facing contemporary African societies are rooted in and stem from old structures of knowledge production. As a result, a disconnect has ensued between academic knowledge, often produced from an outsider's vantage point, and African lived realities.

As academic debates intensify about the possibility of producing theoretical knowledge with bearings on transformational praxes in Africa, it is an important time to rediscover and benefit from the Afrocentric canon and kinship between African and Africana Studies. These two different perspectives on African ontologies have been pitted against each other—separated by historical, political, geographical, and economic trajectories as if they were competing disciplines, and yet they complement each other. It is ASAA's hope that this politically-motivated dichotomy introduced between African and Africana studies can be overcome.

To this end, and against existing hegemonic discourses, this conference invites scholars, artists and activists to look at old representations, Afrocentric counternarratives, and the futures that Africans and Africans in the Diaspora imagine and want for themselves. With a view to contributing toward the canonization of new perspectives emerging from both African and Africana scholarship, we invite interdisciplinary scholarship using empirical, theoretical and methodological approaches, including those highlighting African emancipatory traditions. It is an opportune time to critically challenge both dominant discourses on Africa and the inherited structures of knowledge production that still constrain our African imaginations.

The ASAA executive committee and the local organising committee welcome the submission of paper and panel proposals addressing the theme: African and Africana Knowledges: Past Representations, Current Discourses, Future Communities under the following subthemes. The list is not exhaustive and the conference co-chairs welcome other proposals.

Subthemes:

- The politics of knowledge production on Africa
- Reuniting Africana and African knowledges
- Celebrating and canonizing African and African Diaspora Thinkers
- Decolonizing pedagogy in education in Africa and diasporas
- Higher education in Africa

- Emerging digital counternarratives on Africa
- African agency and perspectives in international relations
- The politics of museums and African artifacts restitution
- Pan-African consciousness and identity production
- Belonging: Space, race, and culture
- Africa's historiographies and Africa's intellectual histories
- African philosophy and theology
- Sex, queer and African sexualities
- African and black masculinities and feminisms
- African anthropocenae
- Invention and science in Africa
- Security, conflicts and African resolution perspectives
- Development and development politics in Africa
- Ethnomusicology and African music performance
- Afrocentric perspectives and indigenous knowledge systems in the disciplines
- African languages and emerging languages
- African cinema and film
- African democracies
- African literatures

The conference will present distinguished African/a and Africanist keynote speakers, award-winning films, inspirational performances and the opportunity to join pre-conference workshops.

## **Call for Papers: Edited Book on Contemporary Movements Around Black/African Women's Bodies**

**Deadline: 17th May, 2019**

Current scholarship has not been able to keep up with on the ground mobilizing around Black women's lives on the African continent or in the African Diaspora. Grassroots movements have increasingly emerged around ending gender-based violence (GBV), confronting sexual harassment, addressing female victims of police violence, challenging social & structural violence against queer women, and ending female genital cutting and other harmful practices. Although African feminist activism has evolved tremendously post-independence, there remains a gap in literature on feminist activism in the digital public sphere. In recent years, on social media platforms, hashtags like #SayHerName, #JusticeForLiz, #BlackGirlMagic, #WomensMarchUG, #BringBackOurGirls, #TheTotalShutdown, #LifeInLeggings have indexed online conversations around social movements happening on the ground. These movements are interconnected and framed in very similar ways. These movements are often framed around the impacts of patriarchal systems, structural racism, and the devaluing of African women.

We are seeking contributions from scholars and activists across Africa and the African Diaspora that will contribute to current conversations around African women's bodies in Africa and in the

African Diaspora. We encourage a diverse representation from Africa and the African Diaspora, this includes Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. We look for scholarly essays, poems, and creative writing submissions that contribute to African and Black feminist thought by building on existing frameworks, while also using those frameworks to help analyze contemporary movements being carried out or led by African (queer) women. We are also seeking contributions that examine how the Black diaspora has utilized digital tools to facilitate activism in social movements, as well as the linkages in transnational activist work and the ways in which activists in the Black diaspora build linkages, and develop tools for activism and facilitate activism in the era of new media.

The editors of the project are:

- Msia Kibona Clark, Associate Professor of African Studies at Howard University
- Wunpini Fatimata Mohammed, Ph.D. Candidate in the Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State University
- Jherane Patmore, Jamaican Feminist and Activist

Please send a 300-word abstract, and short bio to the editors at [msia.clark@howard.edu](mailto:msia.clark@howard.edu)