

WELCOME TO THE VIRTUAL SEMINAR SERIES IN AFRICA STUDIES

A SPACE FOR THEORETICAL-METHODOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGE IN THE FIELD OF AFRICAN STUDIES

The Virtual Seminar is part of the Sida-funded research training programme “STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ON GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT” between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Eduardo Mondlane University (EMU) in Mozambique, and the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University (UU) in Sweden.

The Virtual Seminars primarily target sandwich PhD students and researchers enrolled in this programme, but they are also open to other students and researchers with an interest in the seminars’ topics. Two seminars are organized each semester.

REPRESENTATION IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Representation is crucial within gender and development. Whether seen through narratives of difference that foster exclusion and invisibility, or based on the evidence of numbers and policies, discussions around representation of women as *out of place*, contribute to identifying the challenges that hinder constructions of subjectivities and substantive change. In this seminar, Dr. Diana Højlund Madsen (Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala) and Dr. Sandra Manuel (University of Eduardo Mondlane) will discuss women’s representation from two perspectives: politics and sexuality. Most welcome!

PROGRAMME

Gender and sexuality research and the impact of the international development regime. **Dr. Sandra Manuel** (UEM)

Gendered Institutions and Women’s Political Representation in Africa **Dr. Diana Højlund Madsen** (NAI)

Chair: **Dr. Oulia Makkonen** (UU)

WHEN: March 7 at 15-17-30 (CET), 16-18.30 (CAT)

ZOOM LINK: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/67555611663>

Each presentation will be followed by a plenary discussion. A longer, plenary discussion will take place at the end of the seminar. For more information send an email to Oulia Makkonen (oulia.makkonen@antro.uu.se) and/or Fernando Manjate (f.manjate17@gmail.com)

REPRESENTATION IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gendered Institutions and Women's Political Representation in Africa

Dr. Diana Højlund Madsen (NAI)

During the course of the past three decades, efforts of democratization and institutional reforms have characterized the African continent including demands for gender equality and women's political representation. As a result, some countries have introduced affirmative action measures – either in the aftermath of conflicts, or as part of broader constitutional reforms – whereas others are falling behind the fast-track to women's political representation. The talk has a specific focus on Ghana as one of the less successful countries in terms of women's political representation but will also be drawing on other examples from Africa. Some perspectives on how an African feminist institutionalism could look like will also be given, 'Gendered Institutions and Women's Political Representation' is a title on a relative new book in the Africa Now Series by ZED Books / Bloomsbury shedding light on how both formal and informal institutions influence women's political representation. The book is available as open access via the homepage of the Nordic Africa Institute www.nai.uu.se

Gender and sexuality research and the impact of the international development regime

Dr. Sandra Manuel (UEM)

I aim to discuss the impact of the international development regime into the teaching, learning and research production on gender and sexuality in the Global South. The interest emerges from the acknowledgement of an underlining discursive construction of an "Other" in the international development regime. In the field of gender and sexuality such otherness is personified in the body of the "third world" woman and girl. It is widely believed that girls in the global South are unable to partake in modernity's offerings, which include not only consumption products (such as sanitary pads and tampons), but also enlightened ideas and values about sexuality. Thus, the third world woman and girl are viewed by the international development regime as being in misstep with modernity thus stopped in a different temporal zone or backward time. Such understanding, which anchors a colonial gaze on the conditions of these women and girls is the backdrop for the development of policies and interventions but also informs academic writing and reflection. I am interested in discussing challenges and creative responses for the production of rigorous research on gender and sexuality through a critical reflection on the impact of the development regime. Additionally, I am interested in dialoguing about how knowledge production from the Global South can amplify, question as well as debate concepts and perspectives in the global social world, rather than narrow and provincialize it to the South.