Decolonizing the University, Knowledge Systems and Disciplines in Africa
Recent Titles in the
CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
AFRICAN WORLD SERIES
Toyin Falola, Series Editor

Africa, Empire and Globalization: Essays in Honor of A. G. Hopkins
Edited by Toyin Falola and Emily Brownell

Authority Stealing: Anti-Corruption War and Democratic Politics in Post-Military Nigeria
Wale Adebani

The Bukusu of Kenya: Folktales, Culture and Social Identities
Namulundah Florence

Contemporary African Literature: New Approaches
Tanure Ojaide

Contesting Islam in Africa
Abdulai Iddrisu

Converging Identities: Blackness in the Modern African Diaspora
Edited by Julius O. Adekunle and Hettie V. Williams

Decolonizing the University, Knowledge Systems and Disciplines in Africa
Edited by Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Siphamandla Zondi

Democracy in Africa
Edited by Saliba Sarsar and Julius O. Adekunle

Diaspora and Imagined Nationality
Koleade Odutola

Èsù: Yoruba God, Power, and the Imaginative Frontiers
Edited by Toyin Falola

Ethnicities, Nationalities, and Cross-Cultural Representations in Africa and the Diaspora
Edited by Gloria Chuku

Gendering African Social Spaces: Women, Power, and Cultural Expressions
Toyin Falola and Wanjala S. Nasong’o

Ghana During the First World War: The Colonial Administration of Sir Hugh Clifford
Elizabeth Wrangham

Globalization and the African Experience
Edited by Emmanuel M. Mbah and Steven J. Salm

Globalization: The Politics of Global Economic Relations and International Business
N. Oluwafemi Mimiko

Monday Yakiban Mangwvat

Horror in Paradise
Edited by Christopher LaMonica and J. Shola Omotola
Ifá in Yorùbá Thought System
Omotade Adegbindin

Imperialism, Economic Development and Social Change in West Africa
Raymond Dumett

In Search of African Diasporas: Testimonies and Encounters
Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

The Indigenous African Criminal Justice System for the Modern World
Olusina Akeredolu

Intercourse and Crosscurrents in the Atlantic World: Calabar-British Experience
David Lishilinimle Imbua

Julius Nyerere, Africa’s Titan on a Global Stage: Perspectives from Arusha to Obama
Edited by Ali A. Mazrui and Lindah L. Mhando

Life Not Worth Living
Chima J. Korieh

Local Government in South Africa Since 1994
Alexius Amtaika

The Muse of Anomy: Essays on Literature and the Humanities in Nigeria
Femi Osofisan

Narratives of Struggle
John Ayotunde Bewaji

Pan-Africanism in Ghana: African Socialism, Neoliberalism, and Globalization
Justin Williams

Perspectives on Feminism from Africa
Edited by ‘Lai Olurode

Satires of Power in Yoruba Visual Culture
Yomi Ola

The United States’ Foreign Policy in Africa in the 21st Century
Edited by Adebayo Oyebade

The Vile Trade: Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa
Edited by Abi Alabo Derefaka, Wole Ogundele, Akin Alao, and Augustus Babajide

The Women’s War of 1929: A History of Anti-Colonial Resistance in Eastern Nigeria
Edited by Toyin Falola and Adam Paddock

The Yoruba Frontier
Aribidesi Usman

Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa
Edited by Toyin Falola and Nana Akua Amponsah
Decolonizing the University, Knowledge Systems and Disciplines in Africa

Edited by

Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni
Siphamandla Zondi

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
Durham, North Carolina
## Contents

Series Editor’s Foreword xiii  
Notes on Contributors xv  

**Chapter 1 · Introduction: The Coloniality of Knowledge: Between Troubled Histories and Uncertain Futures**  
*Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Siphamandla Zondi*  
Introduction 3  
Organization and Scope of the Book 14  
Conclusion 21  
Notes and References 22  

**Part I**  
**Modernity, Knowledge, and Power**  

**Chapter 2 · The Imperative of Decolonizing the Modern Westernized University**  
*Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni*  
Introduction 27  
Africa in the Present World Order 32  
The Trajectory of the Modern Westernized University 35  
The African University 39  
Conclusion 42  
Notes and References 43  

**Chapter 3 · Reversing Epistemicide and the Quest for Relevant Social Sciences and Humanities**  
*Teboho J. Lebakeng*  
Historical Precedents 47  
The State of the Art in the Social Sciences and Humanities 50  
Asserting the Right to Be an African University 55
Conclusion
Notes and References

Chapter 4 · Sovereignty, Equality of States and International Law: A Critique
Serges Djoyou Kamga
Introduction
The Concept of Sovereign Equality: An Overview
Sovereign Equality of States and Western Hegemony
Sovereign Equality of States and Law-Making Processes in Global Organisations
Reflections on How to Give the Principle of Sovereign Equality a True Meaning
The Role of Third World States
The Role of Intellectuals
The Role of Civil Society
Concluding Remarks
Notes and References

Part II
Decoloniality, Disciplines, and Ideology

Chapter 5 · Devil on the Cross: Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Politics of Decolonization
William Mpofu
Introduction
Eurocentric Fundamentalism
Beyond Marxism: a Decolonial Theoretical Reading of Devil on the Cross
Ngugi’s Decolonial Epistemic Disobedience
Conclusion
Notes and References

Chapter 6 · A Decolonial Critique of Multi-Inter-Transdisciplinary (MIT) Methodology
Tendayi Sithole
Introduction
The Case for Decoloniality
The Haunting Presence of Disciplinarity
The Epistemic Order of Worldly Things
Multi-Inter-Transdisciplinary Decadence
Part III
Methods, Methodology, and Subjectivity

Chapter 10 · Decolonising African Political Science and the Question of the Relevance of the Discipline for Development 181
Fidelis Allen
Introduction 181
On the Question of Development 185
Broader Implications of Epistemic Alienation 187
What Is to Be Done? 189
Decolonise Orientation and Methodology 189
Social Character 191
Conclusion 191
Notes and References 192

Chapter 11 · Telling Our Own Stories: Narratology as a Decolonial Methodology 195
Nontyatyambo Pearl Dastile
Introduction 195
Epistemic Silencing of an African Being 195
Narratology as Decoloniality 199
Narratology and African Centeredness 200
Democratising Knowledge through Narratology 202
Narratology as a Tool to Liberate Knowledge: A Case Study of Incarcerated Women in South African Correctional Centres 207
Conclusion 210
Notes and References 210

Chapter 12 · Researching the African Subject in African Politics 213
Tendayi Sithole
Introduction 213
The Problem of the Problematic People 214
On Decolonial Meditations 215
Method against Method 218
On the Locus of Enunciation 220
Ontology and the Lacking African Subject 225
Against the Repressive and the Case for the Emergent 229
The Decolonial Turn and Options 231
Conclusion 233
Notes and References 234
# Contents

Chapter 13 · Decolonial Turn and the Case for an Afrocentric Analysis of African Integration 239

_Siphamandla Zondi_

Introduction 239

Fragmentation and Subjection: The Eurocentric Prism on African Affairs 241

Neoliberal Turns in the Global Coloniality Project 248

Africa-Centredness: Methodological Possibilities 252

Unmasking Coloniality 253

Delinking from or Unthinking Eurocentrism 254

The Agency of the African Centre 255

African Integration and Agency 255

Conclusion 259

Notes and References 259

Index 265
Series Editor’s Foreword

The *Carolina Academic Press African World Series*, inaugurated in 2010, offers significant new works in the field of African and Black World studies. The series provides scholarly and educational texts that can serve both as reference works and as readers in college classes.

Studies in the series are anchored in the existing humanistic and the social scientific traditions. Their goal, however, is the identification and elaboration of the strategic place of Africa and its Diaspora in a shifting global world. More specifically, the studies will address gaps and larger needs in the developing scholarship on Africa and the Black World.

The series intends to fill gaps in areas such as African politics, history, law, religion, culture, sociology, literature, philosophy, visual arts, art history, geography, language, health, and social welfare. Given the complex nature of Africa and its Diaspora, and the constantly shifting perspectives prompted by globalization, the series also meets a vital need for scholarship connecting knowledge with events and practices. Reflecting the fact that life in Africa continues to change, especially in the political arena, the series explores issues emanating from racial and ethnic identities, particularly those connected with the ongoing mobilization of ethnic minorities for inclusion and representation.

Toyin Falola
University of Texas at Austin
Notes on Contributors


Siphamandla Zondi researches Africa’s international relations with an interest in promoting African renaissance in a world that must decolonise. His
recent publications cover issues of African agency in international diplomacy, peace diplomacy in Madagascar and Zimbabwe, SA’s Ubuntu diplomacy and NATO’s imperial designs over Libya. He is the executive director of the Institute for Global Dialogue, a Unisa-associated foreign policy think tank based in Pretoria. Zondi teaches African renaissance at Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute and Africa and international organisations at University of Johannesburg, while he also guides MA and PhD students at the Universities of North-West and Kwazulu-Natal. He completed his undergraduate studies at University of Durban-Westville in South Africa and his MPhil and PhD at Cambridge University, UK.

Skype: siphamandlazondi. E-mail: s.zondi@icloud.com.

Tendayi Sithole is Associate Professor for African Politics at the University of South Africa. He holds a doctorate in African Politics and his research focused on the political thought of Achille Mbembe. His research interests are black radical thought, decoloniality, Africana existential phenomenology, and Black Consciousness. He is completing a book on the meditations of Steve Biko.

Serges Djoyou Kamga is Associate Professor at the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI), UNISA. He is a member of the ‘building committee’ of the Cross-Cultural Human Rights Centre, a consortium of ten Chinese and four African universities aimed at bringing Southern concepts and ideas in the area of human rights to Northern audiences. His areas of interest include the African renaissance, good governance, the African human rights system, development and human rights, socio-economic rights, disability rights, gender justice as well as well human rights from a cross-cultural perspective. He publishes in these areas. Professor Kamga holds an LLD from the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

Teboho J. Lebakeng obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Limpopo, South Africa; MA in Sociology from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; MS in Human Service Management at Springfield College, USA; and BA in Sociology from the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Dr Lebakeng has published numerous academic and popular articles in journals, newspapers and book chapters. Although currently with the South African Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, Dr. Lebakeng continues to contribute scholarly and popular works, especially on the impact of epistemicide and valuecide on education in general and the social sciences and humanities in particular.

Nontyatyambo Pearl Dastile is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminology and Security Sciences at the University of South Africa. Her re-
search interests include female criminality, gender and crime, decolonial school of thought and African centred paradigms.

**Fidelis Allen** is Associate Professor and Acting Director of University of Port Harcourt Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies. He has published fairly well in local and international journals. Allen is the author of Implementation of Oil-Related Environmental Policy in Nigeria: Government Inertia and Conflict in the Niger Delta (Cambridge Scholars Publishing London).

**Nokuthula Hlabangane** was awarded a PhD in Anthropology in 2012 by the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Her doctoral thesis is titled “The political economy of teenage sexuality in the time of HIV/AIDS: The case of Soweto, South Africa.” Her research interests include Knowledge and power, sexuality, gender and reproductive health, religion and ritual, urbanization, violence and transition, and anthropology of community. So far, her research interests have directed her towards home—she chooses to be a student in her own community—the reasons have been both ideological and practical. Her ethics are about redress and restoration and as such she has a vested interest in decolonizing Anthropology by painting pictures of strength and resilience where others have left bleak images of savagery and inferiority. Her research practices shy away from delving into cultural pluralism, a fascination with the thick description of the mundane-made-exotic. Rather, she attempts to interpret micro-practices through macro-systems. She is aware of meditations that speak to “African anthropologies” as her thinking is informed by decolonial meditations that places a responsibility for African(ist) intellectuals to see Africa from within. She also gravitates towards inter/a-disciplinarity in her thinking and research. Hlabangane teaches at the University of South Africa.

**Morgan Ndlovu** is a lecturer in the Department of Development Studies at the University of South Africa. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Monash University (Australia), an MSc in Social Research Methods from Sussex University (United Kingdom) and an MA from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa). He has published a number of journal articles and book chapters on identity, culture and development in Africa. He is currently editing book entitled: “Simulating Identity in the Age of Modernity/Coloniality in South Africa.”

**Zodwa Radebe** holds a BA (Hons) and MA in anthropology, both from Wits University. She is a PhD candidate in the department of anthropology at UNISA, her thesis focusing on informal economy. She teaches at UNISA in the department of Anthropology and Archaeology. She is an artist, an activist and a decolonial scholar that is imagining a different world. Her contributions are through storytelling performances and scholarly work.
William Mpofu holds a Masters in Communication Science. His research interests are in Political Communication, African Literature, Semiotics and Philosophy of Liberation. He is presently a researcher at the Unisa College of Human Sciences, reading for a PhD in the Philosophy of Liberation.

Puleng Segalo is Associate Professor in Social and Community Psychology at University of South Africa. She holds a Masters and PhD in psychology from City University of New York. Her areas of specialization include Community Psychology, Social Psychology and Gender and Feminism in Psychology. Her research work and publications cover a wide range of areas including gendered experiences of women in various aspects of life, Critical Participatory Research Practices and Knowledge Production, Power and Decoloniality. Professor Segalo has won several performance awards, the latest being Young Woman Scientist Award won in 2014.