



**PennState**  
College of the Liberal Arts

# **African Feminisms around the World: Cartographies for the 21st Century Conference**

Hosted by the

**African Studies Program and  
African Feminist Initiative**

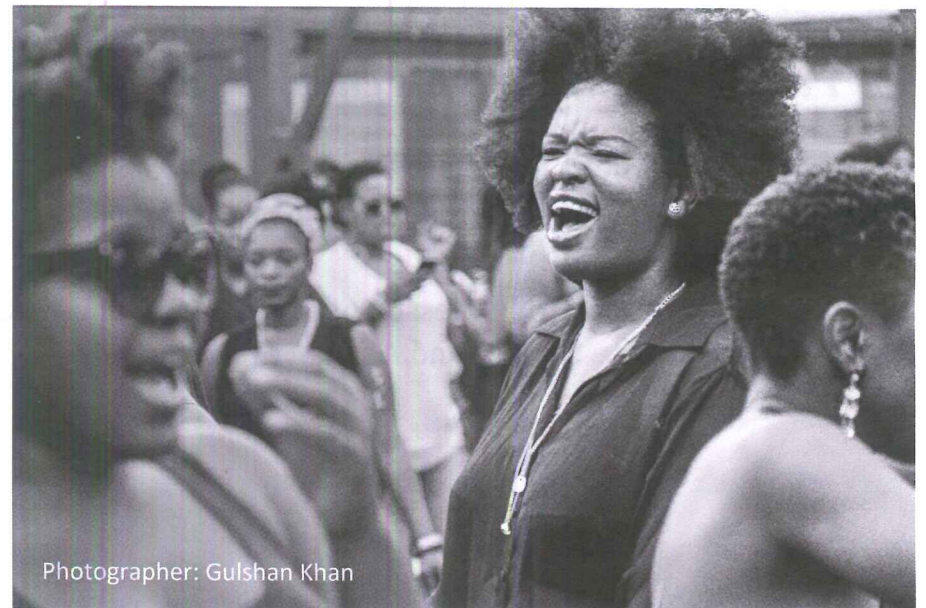
**September 23 - 25, 2016**

Co-sponsored by the Africana Research Center, The Center for Global Studies, the Office of International Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Rock Ethics Institute, the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, University Park Allocation Committee (UPAC), The University Libraries, and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

# **African Feminisms around the World: Cartographies for the 21st Century Conference**

Organized by Alicia Decker and Gabeba Baderoon

Penn State's African Feminisms around the World: Cartographies for the 21st Century Conference brings together scholars, activists, and graduate students interested in the burgeoning field of African feminist studies to share their work. Scholarly and artistic presentations that highlight the state of the art of feminist theory, activism, and practice on the continent and beyond will be explored and discussed.



Photographer: Gulshan Khan

# **Keynote Panel: Mapping the Field of African Feminism**

**Friday, September 23, 2016**

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library**

## ***Welcome***

**William J. Dewey**, Director, African Studies Program,  
Penn State

## ***Opening Remarks***

**Susan Welch**, Dean, College of the Liberal Arts,  
Penn State

## ***Conference Overview and Introduction of the Panelists by the Conference Organizers***

**Gabeba Baderoon**, Associate Professor of Women's,  
Gender, and Sexuality Studies and African Studies

**Alicia Decker**, Associate Professor of Women's, Gender &  
Sexuality Studies and African Studies

## ***Keynote Panel Presentations***

**Akosua Adomako Ampofo**, Professor at the Institute of  
African Studies, University of Ghana (Legon)

**Mary Hames**, Director of the Gender Equity Unit,  
University of the Western Cape

**Margo Okazawa-Rey**, Faculty at the School of Leadership  
Studies at Fielding Graduate University in  
Santa Barbara, CA and Elihu Root Peach Fund  
Chair in Women's Studies at Hamilton  
College, Clinton, NY

## ***Open Discussion***

## ***Concluding Address and Thanks***

## About the Panelists:



**Akosua Adomako Ampofo** is Professor of African and Gender Studies, and Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. An activist-scholar, she is a member of, and has worked with many organisations in Ghana and abroad, addressing African Knowledge systems; Identity Politics; Gender-based Violence; Women's work; Masculinities; and Gendered Representations in Popular Culture (music and religion). She seeks to understand where some of our "gender trouble" has come from and the new "gender troubles" being invented. Earlier work looked at reproductive health issues, critiquing Euro-centric notions (that infantilized African women).

Dr. Adomako Ampofo received her BSc Architecture and MSc Development Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and her PhD in Sociology from Vanderbilt University, TN. Her recent publications include: *Discourses in African Musicology*. J.H.Kwabena Nketia Festschrift. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press (with Kwasi, Ampene, Godwin Adjei and Albert Awedoba, 2015); *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women's and Gender Studies in Africa and the Diaspora*. Lanham, MD, Lexington Books (with Cheryl Rodriguez and Dzodzi Tsikata, 2015); "Changing Representations of Women in Ghanaian Popular music: Marrying Research and Advocacy" *Current Sociology* (60): 258-279 (with Awo Asiedu, 2012); *African Feminist Politics of Knowledge – Tensions, Challenges and Possibilities*. Uppsala: Nordic Africa Institute (with Signe Arnfred, 2010).



**Mary Hames** has been the longest serving head of the Gender Equity Unit at University of Western Cape. She holds an MPhil in South African Political Studies. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Gender Studies at the University of Cape Town. Through her vision and commitment to women's and gender issues the university and wider community have benefited from the innovative programmes and projects initiated under her leadership. She has started an Edudrama programme that speaks out against violence against women and has produced five very successful and highly acclaimed productions called "Reclaiming the P...Word"; "Ekhulelekani Emakhaya (Freedom in the Home)"; "Reclaiming Body...Reclaiming Self"; Words 4 Women, and most recently, Sister Sister Sister. She regards the creative arts as an important vehicle to address continuous inequities in the South African higher education environment and to shift paradigms and stereotypes. She regards herself as a proud intellectual feminist activist. .



**Margo Okazawa-Rey** is currently on the faculty of the School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California. She is also Elihu Root Peach Fund Chair in Women's Studies at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY and Professor Emerita at San Francisco State University.

Dr. Okazawa-Rey has held distinguished visiting positions at Mills College,

Distinguished Fellow in Research Justice, 2013-2014 and Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair in Women's Leadership from 2008-2009. She was also the Feminist Activist Scholar in Residence at Scripps College (2006) and the Jane Watson Irwin Co-Chair in Women's Studies at Hamilton College (1999-2001).

Dr. Okazawa-Rey's primary areas of research and activism are gender, militarism, and feminist activist research. Her work focuses specifically on militarism, armed conflict, and violence against women.

She is the author of numerous publications. Her chapter, "Critical Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies: Education for Justice, Transformation, and Progressive Social Change," appears in *The Race Controversy in American Education* (2015). An article published in *Asian Journal of Women Studies*, "Amerasian Children of GI Town: A Legacy of US Militarism in South Korea," was among the first research articles that discussed the situation of mixed-race children abandoned by US military fathers in South Korea. *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives* (6th ed., 2013) co-edited with Gwyn Kirk (former Irwin Co-Chair), is an intro to women's studies textbook used widely across the US, and, with Julia Sudbury, *Activist Scholarship: Anti-racism, Feminism, and Social Change* (2009) has influenced thinking about the relationship between research and activism among scholars. She also co-authored, with Amina Mama, "Militarism, Conflict and Women's Activism in the Global Era: Challenges and Prospects for Women in Three West African Contexts," published in the *Feminist Review* (2011).

## Closed Workshops of Papers and Panel Discussions

### ***Feminist Historical Research: Nationalism, Militarism and Activism:***

**Abosede George (Barnard College):** #BBOG and Histories of Feminist Activism in Neoliberal Nigeria

**Jill Kelly (Southern Methodist University):** "The burden is heavy, we need the men": Zulu Women and the 1959 Rebellions in South Africa

**Wunpini Fatimata Mohammed (Penn State University):** #WearYourDrossNow: Reconciling Feminism with Religious and Social Values in Ghana

**Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué (Baylor University):** Women's Day Rallies and Anglophone Nationalism in 1960s Cameroon

**Rachel Sandwell (University of the Witwatersrand):** "The time has come that we can't win through peace": African Women's Militant Thought and Action in 1950s South Africa

**Respondent: Fungai Machirori (Her Zimbabwe)**

### ***Alternative Literacies at the Nexus of African Literary Studies and African Feminisms: A Co-Panel of the ACLx and the African Feminist Initiative Conferences***

**Susan Andrade (University of Pittsburgh):** Feminism, the Cold War and Southern Africa: Rereading The Golden Notebook

**Kanika Batra (Texas Tech University):** Worlding Sexualities under Apartheid: From Gay Liberation to Queer Afropolitanism

**Njeri Githire (University of Minnesota):** Through a Woman's Eyes: Contemporary African Cinema and Women's Vision

**Kimingichi Wabende (University of Nairobi):** Deconstructing Gender Myths through Participatory Educational Theatre

**Respondent: Rose Jolly (Penn State University)**

### ***Panel: Mapping the Field of African Feminism, Part II***

**Bibi Bakare-Yusuf (Cassava Republic Press)**

**Patricia McFadden (Independent Scholar)**

### ***Feminist Methods across Africa: Transnational, Regional and Diasporic Views on Teaching Research, Media and Policy***

**Nada Mustafa Ali (University of Massachusetts- Boston):** Feminisms in Contemporary North Africa

**Msia Kibona Clark (Howard University):** Representations of African Feminism in Hip Hop

**Monique Kwachou (University of Buea):** Leaving it to Chance: How a Cameroonian University Is Unintentionally Producing African Feminists, and Why It Needs to Be More Intentional

**Selina Makana (University of California- Berkeley):** Feminist Ethnography and Transnational Politics in Africa

**Charmaine Pereira (Independent Scholar and activist):** Crafting Feminist Methodology for Researching Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in Nigerian Universities

**Respondent: Esther Ajayi-Lowo (Texas Women's University)**

### ***Queering African Feminisms: Gender, Sexualities and Reproduction***

**Malvern Tatenda Chiweshe (Rhodes University):** "Most African languages don't even have a way of phrasing having an abortion that means anything good": Is Abortion Un-African?

**Ashley Currier (University of Cincinnati):** Solidarity's Limits? The Possibility of Feminist-Queer Activist Alliances in Malawi and Namibia

**Corrie Decker (University of California-Davis):** De-Sexualizing the African Girl: Child Marriage Debates in Colonial East Africa

**Anne Moraa (Zana Africa):** Girls at the Core: A Practical Example of Centering Feminine Adolescence in Development and Feminist Discourse

**Julie Moreau (Northern Arizona University):** Precarious Equality? Queering the Gender Equity Paradigm in Democratization Theory

**Respondent: Chika Okoye (Rutgers University)**

## African Feminisms around the World: Cartographies for the 21st Century Conference faculty organizers:



**Gabeba Baderoon** Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and African Studies, and holds a courtesy appointment in Comparative Literature. She co-directs the African Feminist Initiative at Penn State with Alicia Decker, and is a member of the Steering Committee of

the Global Approaches to Intersectionality project and the Advisory Committee of the Weiss Chair of the Humanities. Among her honors are an Extraordinary Professorship of English at Stellenbosch University and fellowships at the African Gender Institute, the Nordic Africa Institute, and the University of Sheffield. Baderoon received a PhD in English from the University of Cape Town, and has held Post-doctoral fellowships in the Africana Research Center at Penn State and the "Islam, African Publics and Religious Values" Project at the University of Cape Town. She writes on representations of Islam, slavery, race and sexuality and her articles appear in *Feminist Studies*, *Social Dynamics*, and the *Journal for Islamic Studies*, among other venues. She has received fellowships from the Future of Minority Studies/Mellon Summer Institute on "Queer Studies in Transnational Contexts" at Cornell University, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Sainsbury/Linbury Trust. With Dr Sa'diyya Shaikh and Dr Nina Hoel, she co-organizes a transnational project on "Theorizing Gender and Islam," which has hosted two international conferences and led to a special issue of the *Journal for Islamic Studies*. Baderoon is the author of *Regarding Muslims: from Slavery to Post-apartheid* (Wits, 2014, which was long-listed for the 2015 Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for Non-fiction, and the poetry collections *The Dream in the Next Body* and *A hundred silences*.



**Alicia Decker** is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and African Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in Women's Studies from Emory University. She also has a master's degree in Gender Studies from Makerere University in Uganda and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. Her research and teaching interests include gender and militarism, African women's history, and global feminisms. She is the author of *In Idi Amin's Shadow: Women, Gender, and Militarism in Uganda* (Ohio University Press, 2014), and

co-author with Andrea Arrington of *Africanizing Democracies: 1980 to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2014). Her scholarly articles have appeared in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Women's History Review*, *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, *History Teacher*, and *Afriche e Orienti*, as well as various edited book collections. She has been invited to present her research at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia), the University of Zadar (Croatia), the Bellagio Center (Italy), the University of Bologna (Italy), the University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Makerere University (Uganda), and the University of Roskilde (Denmark), as well as numerous universities and conferences throughout the United States.

## About the African Studies Program Director:



**William J. (Bill) Dewey**, is the Program Director, African Studies Program and Associate Professor of Art History and African Studies. In addition to serving as the director of the African Studies Program, Dr. Dewey also teaches courses in African and African Diaspora in the College of Arts and Architecture. He grew up in Zimbabwe and spent his junior year abroad at the University of Lagos,

Nigeria. His research interests center on the arts of southern and eastern Africa, African iron arts and iron smelting. He has curated and written the accompanying catalogues for exhibitions such as *Africa Celebrates the Art of Living* at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in 2006; “*The World Moves – We Follow*”: *Celebrating African Art* for the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee in 2003; *Legacies of Stone, Zimbabwe: Past and Present* at the Musée Royal de L’Afrique Centrale in Tervuren, Belgium, in 1997; and *Sleeping Beauties: The Jerome L. Joss Collection of Headrests* at UCLA’s Fowler Museum of Cultural History in 1993. The latter exhibition was shown at the Palmer Museum of Art in 1995. Recent articles and chapters include “The Stone Birds of Great Zimbabwe: An unending fascination and obsession” in Gerald Brisch (editor), *The Travel Chronicles of Mrs. J. Theodore Bent. Volume II: The African Journeys*. Oxford: Archaeopress of Oxford (2012); “Blacksmiths and Kings and Their Work in Iron,” for the Taipei National Museum of History’s exhibition, *Fatal Beauty: Traditional Weapons of Central Africa* (2009); and “Zimbabwe” in the *Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion* (2010). He recently had a Fulbright Fellowship working with the National Museum of Swaziland, and he has served as the president of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association of America.

## Notes:

*A special thank you to the Africana Research Center,  
The Center for Global Studies, the Office of  
International Programs in the College of Agricultural  
Sciences, the Rock Ethics Institute, the LGBTQA  
Student Resource Center, University Park Allocation  
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the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
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not have been possible.*

***Thank you for joining us.***

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