

**The Africa Multiple Cluster Gender and Diversity Office
presents an ICDL Round Table on**

AFRICAN MASCULINITIES



**Date: Thursday 21 Dec
2023**

Time: 2 – 4 PM

Venue:

**RW I, Room S58, UBT Campus,
Germany**

This is a hybrid event.

Link: <https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/66815848399?pwd=bFAyQ0Uyb1RNOFdvT09oRVc3MXoyUT09>

Meeting ID: 668 1584 8399

Passcode: 897688

The Round Table participants are:

- **Prof. Olajamuke Yacob-Hailiso, Brandeis University, Boston, USA**
- **Dr. Gavaza Maluleke, University of Capetown, South Africa**
- **Dr. Christabel Sam, University of Cape Coast, Ghana,**
- **Sabelo Mcinziba, Independent Scholar, Artist, Activist, South Africa**

Very often an unmarked ‘universalist’ androcentric, masculinist lens is deployed as the generic, normative, ‘objective’, qualitatively superior knowledge production perspective and criteria of best practice in African Studies. Indeed a frequent approach citing ‘the African man’ as the template for African citizenship and African humanity elides and erases the realities of African women’s lifeworlds. The question of ‘women’s issues’ however clearly stands in complex relation to men’s matters – be these in heteronormative or non-normative contexts, where cis-heteropatriarchal power should be part of the relational equations examined in the complex purview of African Studies research agendas. Questions around the identities of - and identity politics - of African men, as (un)belonging citizens, marginal vulnerable persons, indigenous continental and diasporic subjects, decision-makers, family and community members are rendered in greater relief in their complexities through robust gender studies approaches, alongside other disciplinary methodologies.

The planned Round Table aims to facilitate a broader conversation between African masculinity studies with a view to generating necessary visions of reconfiguring African Studies (Doing African Studies with African Scholars) for the 21st century. The Round Table will focus on shared intersectional concerns including, among others:

- interrogations of modes of African patriarchy through recognition of colonial and neo-colonial influences on African masculinities
- available modes and models of masculinity for young Africans (children and adolescents, girls and boys),
- potentials for decolonising African masculinities
- indigenous and diasporic impacts on continental masculinities across religious, class and socio-economic backgrounds as well as heteronormative and non-normative sexual orientations

The conversation is not envisioned as an exhaustive tour de force – rather it hopes to implement a more conscious mobilizing of the Cluster’s principles of relationality and reflexivity, while providing impulses for thicker scholarship through fruitful implementations of critical gender lenses.

The event will be chaired by Dr. Christine Vogt-William, Director, GDO, Africa Multiple Cluster, University of Bayreuth, Germany.



Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso is Associate Professor of African and African American Studies at Brandeis University. She previously taught Political Science and International Relations at Babcock University, Nigeria. Her interdisciplinary research bestrides International Relations, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and African Studies.

Gavaza has a PhD from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Her most recent postdoctoral work was in the Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery Unit at the Human Science Research Council. She has also worked as a postdoc in the Becoming Men Research team at the University of Amsterdam and as a research consultant at United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. Her research interests include Women in Politics, Islamic Family Law and Gender Development, South-South Migration, and Xenophobic Narratives in South Africa.



Christabel Aba Sam holds a PhD in Literary Studies, MPhil in English Language and a Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana where she currently works as a Lecturer in the Department of English. Her research interests include African Women Writers, Masculinity Studies, Postcolonial Futures, Spatial Politics and Comparative Literature. Christabel is a fellow at the African Multiple Cluster of Excellence, Lagos ACC.

Sabelo 's intellectual work is inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary, addressing question of power, violence, trauma, land, death, freedom, aesthetics, space, modernity, identity, heritage, memory etc. He is currently Research Lead for two projects working towards a people's history: one in Soweto, Johannesburg, Gauteng and the other in Zwelethemba, Worcester, Western Cape, both in South Africa. Sabelo will soon begin an Artist's Fellowship (project: *These Hands – A Photo-Essay Exhibition*) in 2024 at with the Africa Multiple Cluster, University of Bayreuth.

