

The GDO ICDL Lecture Series

Cluster Knowledge Lab ZOOM Event

Thursday 1st July 2021, 2-4 PM

Featuring

Prof. Dr. Iyiola Solanke

Chair of EU Law, Leeds University School of Law, UK

Intersectional Interrogations of the Impact of COVID-19 on Black Asian Minority and Ethnic Groups

Professor Iyiola Solanke has established the Consortium on Practices for Wellbeing and Resilience in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME Families and Communities (Co-POWeR). As of February 2021, the 18-month project explores how the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting people from BAME backgrounds, as regards mental and physical health. Sociocultural and economic factors during this moment of crisis have been found to have considerable impact on these particular groups, especially in the areas of care politics and care work.

The project is framed using a double-virus metaphor currently affecting the UK: the COVID-19 viral pandemic and discrimination, whereby COVID-19 is exacerbating structural inequalities. Thus while new strategies have been developed in these communities to promote their own wellbeing and resilience, official governmental interventions are also needed to support and ensure the wellbeing of those subject to the two viruses. The multidisciplinary methodology mobilises integrated, intersectional approaches to understand challenges raised by structural inequalities and systemic injustice. The data elicited from the project will be implemented toward policy recommendations designed to aid, support and empower BAME communities subject to a complex tapestry of structural and sociopolitical challenges in everyday life.

The lecture will address the Cluster's annual theme of *Modalities* in locating sites of intersectional interrogation where modes of relationality, based on specific situated knowledges and standpoints, will be elucidated. These relationalities, circumscribed by power dynamics pertinent in racial, gendered and classed perceptions about and from vulnerable communities, shape life realities that are entangled with greater questions of citizenship and democracy which contain meshings of colonial historical relations and contemporary racialised views on Black and Asian socio-political belonging in a Britain newly exited from the European Union.

Discussants:

Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime (Professor for Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth)

Ms. Percy Madhuku, (BIGSAS PhD Junior Fellow, University of Bayreuth)