

**The African Multiple Cluster Gender and Diversity Office  
presents an ICDL Lecture Title**

**SPEAKERS: Dr. Ismahan Soukeyna Diop  
Dr. med. Christiana U. Udeogu-Gözalan (Discussant)**

# **Applying a decolonial feminist lens to clinical psychology in Africa: a case study in Senegal**

**Thursday, 26 June 2025  
12-2 pm, CEST**

**Location**

**FZA S145/46 (0.07/0.08)**

**This is a hybrid event**

**Link:**

**[https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/2929815113?  
pwd=9a5jN0BJF6DaZJCv43jkuWKf8mBR4v.1&omn=62176964669](https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/2929815113?pwd=9a5jN0BJF6DaZJCv43jkuWKf8mBR4v.1&omn=62176964669)**

**Meeting ID: 292 981 5113  
Passcode: 119262**

## **Abstract**

Since its development and evolution in the global North, clinical psychology has built its theories on peoples from this particular geographical perspective, in developing key concepts such as wellbeing and happiness. Thus far representations of womanhood and femininity in Africa have not been explored in the construction of these theories, even though these representations are highly significant in the construction of gender and sexual identities (Diop, 2019, 2023). Notably, such concepts are influenced by the entanglement of social, cultural and individual factors. African women find themselves at the intersections of several modes of representation, influencing their lifeworlds. The actual conceptualization of agency, independence and emancipation may sound alienating when applied to African contexts. However, there are other models of agency, which African women can mobilise in order to create conditions for themselves and their families to thrive. Research on African mythology and the development of decolonial theories in social sciences, have facilitated the inclusion of indigenous knowledges and paved the way to setting up decolonial feminist lenses in clinical psychology. Using a case study of a Senegalese woman, this presentation demonstrates how these specific lenses are applied in narrativity, so that storytelling may allow better ways of self-expression and the development of agency.

**Dr. Christine Vogt-William  
Director of the GDO will  
chair the event**



## Dr. Ismahan Soukeyna Diop



Ismahan S. Diop (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal) is a psychologist and a psychotherapist. She is an Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology, in the graduate program of Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology. Her work on African mythology and storytelling has allowed the development of Tampsy a psychotherapeutic tool using a Decolonial approach to mental healthcare. In addition to several publications in French in peer-reviewed journals, her contribution of two books (African mythology, femininity, and maternity (2019), Adornment, masquerade and African femininity (2023) to the collection Panafrikan Psychologies of Palgrave Macmillan had a very good reception. Ismahan's participation in the Global Psychology Alliance of APA has allowed various international partnerships for the Senegalese association of psychologists of which she is a founding member and past president. As the director of an international Publication team, she coordinated the publication of a toolkit on Indigenous psychology aimed at professional psychologists, working in multicultural settings. She is currently leading a team of clinical psychology and psychopathology academics from 10 universities located in 6 francophone African countries for the writing and publication of their course handbooks promoting an interafrican curriculum in clinical psychology.

## Dr. med. Christiana U. Udeogu-Gözzalan



Christiana Udeogu-Gözzalan is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist with extensive clinical experience in Germany and Nigeria. She holds a Degree in Medicine (Dr. med.) from the Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, where she also contributed to the COMPARE Study at the Psychotherapeutic University Clinic. Her expertise includes general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, addiction therapy, and ethnopsychiatric care at Charité Campus Mitte in Berlin. Since 2024, Dr. Udeogu-Gözzalan runs her own private practice in Wiesbaden and serves as an external conflict consultant at the University of Bayreuth. Her academic work focuses on transcultural differences in the perception, diagnosis, and treatment of depressive disorders, which she also explored in her doctoral dissertation. Her recent publications include contributions to the understanding of racism and mental health, highlighting the intersection of cultural factors and psychiatric care. Dr. Udeogu-Gözzalan is dedicated to promoting culturally sensitive approaches in psychiatric treatment and continues to engage in research and advocacy in this field.